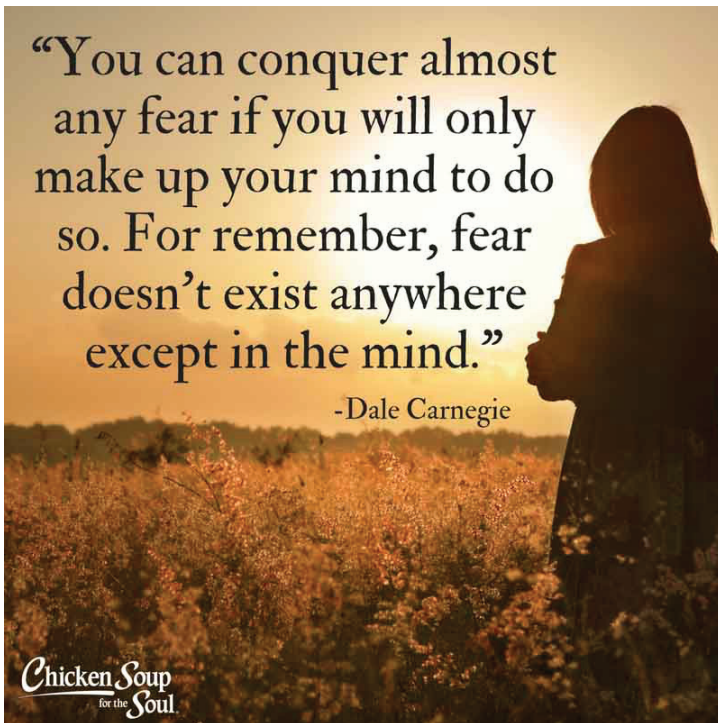


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Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

Erik Dean
402 N Main St
Aberdeen, SD 57401
605.229.0123
dakoutdoors@midconetwork.com

Calendar

Tuesday, August 28, 2018

Volleyball Action in Groton
Hosting Ipswich Tigers
7th and 8th Grade matches at 5 p.m.
Junior varsity at 6 p.m. followed by varsity
match
Pool Hours: 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

It's Volleyball Action on GDILIVE.COM



**Ipswich
Tigers**

VS



Groton Area Tigers

Tuesday, Aug. 28, 2018
in Groton, 7:30 pm



Payton Maine gets 1,000 digs

Payton Maine got her 1,000th dig at the first game against Ipswich at the Milbank Tournament on Saturday. According to Coach Chelsea Hanson, Maine will be honored with a banner presentation tonight. From what records have shown, Maine is the first GHS volleyball player to hit 1,000 digs.

TIMED ONLINE

9445 State Line Road, Frederick, SD 57441

AUCTION

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

TRACTORS

2003 Case STX440 4WD
2005 John Deere 8420 MFWD
Allis Chalmers 7040 2WD

COMBINE & HEADS

2009 John Deere 9770 STS
2006 John Deere 635 flex head
2009 John Deere 612C chopping corn head

DRILL

Great Plains grain drill, 20', 6" spacing, 3 pt., mounted gauge, rubber press wheels

FERTILIZER CADDY

Pattison CB1600 fertilizer caddy w/pump

DISCS

John Deere 235 disc
Sunflower disc
John Deere 712 disc chisel

OTHER TILLAGE EQUIPMENT

Landoll 7430 VT-Plus vertical tillage
John Deere 726 mulch finisher
Rite Way landroller, 42'

GRAIN CART & GRAVITY BOX

Brent Avalanche 1084 grain cart
Minnesota 260 gravity box

TRUCK

2004 Freightliner Classic XL tri-axle flat top sleeper 60"

TRAILERS

2013 Featherlite 8270 aluminum livestock trailer
2010 Timpte hopper bottom trailer
1996 Timpte hopper bottom trailer
1999 Doonan 502DB14 step deck trailer
EZ-Trail 680 header trailer

LIVESTOCK EQUIPMENT

1993 IHC 4900 truck
(3) Vern's creep feeders 150 bu.
Wheel loader livestock water tank

ATTACHMENTS

MDS pallet forks for John Deere 840 loader
Snow/silage bucket
John Deere material bucket



PREVIEW: August 13-28 from 8AM-5PM
LOADOUT: Thursday, August 30 from 8AM-5PM

TIRES & PARTS

(4) Skid steer loader tires
Landoll disc blades & bearings
John Deere grill guard
(10) John Deere suitcase weights

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

THINKING ABOUT HEALTH

Choosing Health Insurance in a Confusing Marketplace

By Trudy Lieberman, Rural Health News Service

Anyone buying health insurance this fall faces a daunting task: having to choose among multiple, often-complex options that offer widely varying degrees of protection.

For starters, association health plans are back, allowing small businesses to band together to buy insurance. So are the short-term policies that may last from only a few months to a year. Then there are plans offered by church ministries that look like insurance but really aren't. Plus, multiple and complex options remain from the Affordable Care Act.

And to complicate matters further, if a bill just introduced in Congress passes, it would require insurers to sell policies to people with preexisting conditions and not use health status in determining the premium. But here's the catch: Although an insurer could insure a person with preexisting conditions, the carrier would still be allowed to exclude coverage for those specific conditions. It could, however, cover you for other illnesses you might get in the future.

Prior to the Affordable Care Act, the insurance industry used this tactic for avoiding claims from sick people. They would sell the policy but would waiver or "rider out" coverage for any preexisting condition. That meant someone with asthma would not be able to get coverage for asthma-related illness. Some companies went even further: They would cover no diseases of the respiratory system at all.

But in general, before you comb through the fine print in an insurance policy, think about these major factors.

The more you pay in premiums, the more you get in benefits. Many of the new options don't have to cover all of the Affordable Care Act's 10 essential benefits, and most insurance experts believe that in order to offer cheaper premiums, many of them won't.

At first glance, a low premium and fewer benefits may seem attractive. Those essential benefits that are part of an Affordable Care Act policy include mental health and maternity coverage, which many older people have squawked about, arguing they don't want to pay premiums for coverage they would never need.

The essential benefits, however, also include prescription drug coverage, generous hospital coverage, emergency services, and rehabilitative services that are important to older people. But those coverages get little attention in stories about 60-year-old women being forced to buy maternity coverage.

Look for some of this fall's new policies, for example, to limit hospital coverage to a certain number of days, or they might limit radiology services or drug coverage. The new so-called short-term policies will come with few if any regulations from the federal government or state insurance regulators.

After understanding the relationship between premiums and coverage, the next big decision is how much risk you want to assume if you become seriously ill. In other words, how much can you afford to pay out of pocket? For a large portion of Americans, the answer is not much. The Commonwealth Fund recently found that nearly half of working-age adults could not pay an unexpected medical bill of \$1,000 within 30 days.

Over the years, I've heard too many families say they are healthy, aren't going to use the insurance, and might as well buy the cheapest policy possible – or none at all. I've interviewed many people who took that position only to end up later in bankruptcy court when unforeseen illness struck because they had no insurance and not enough money to pay the bills.

How large a bill can your family assume? If you have a large pool of resources to weather a serious illness, then skimpy benefits might work. If you don't, think carefully before buying a policy with few benefits. Families tend to underestimate how much coverage they'll need.

Once you understand these two basic principles, the next step is to look at the offerings on your state's insurance exchange. Obamacare polices have gotten a bad rep almost since the beginning because they tend to be pricey for families that don't receive an income-related subsidy to help cover the premium. About 87 percent of people who buy on the exchanges do get a subsidy.

If you are eligible, see if you also qualify for a second subsidy the law provides—the cost sharing subsidies that are available only for those with very low incomes who buy certain Obamacare policies. Those subsidies help pay for the deductibles and coinsurance that many of the policies require.

People not eligible for subsidies must brave the new confusing marketplace. For instance, the Texas Medical Association just reported that it is carefully watching the health care sharing ministries, which are not insurance but are organizations that allow those with similar beliefs to share each other's health care costs. The ministries, which I'll explore in a future column, may be confusing consumers into thinking they have real insurance, according to the medical association.

For 2019, there's no longer a tax penalty for not buying health insurance. But before rejoicing at that prospect, think about what it would mean for you and your family to be totally on your own when it comes to paying for health care.

What trade-offs are you prepared to make this year? Write to Trudy at trudy.lieberman@gmail.com.

Pheasant Survey Indicates 47% Increase for South Dakota's 100th Hunting Season

PIERRE, S.D. – According to the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP), this year's pheasant brood survey shows a 47 percent increase over last year. The 2018 statewide pheasants-per-mile (PPM) index is 2.47, up from the 2017 index of 1.68.

"A substantial increase in the pheasants-per-mile index is an exciting prospect for South Dakota's 100th pheasant hunting season this fall," stated Kelly Hepler, GFP Secretary. "Weather conditions continue to play a significant role when it comes to bird numbers and better weather helped this year with the average pheasant brood size increasing 22 percent over last year."

From late July through mid-August, GFP surveyed 110, thirty-mile routes across the state's pheasant range to estimate pheasant production and calculate the PPM index. The survey is not a population estimate, but rather compares the number of pheasants observed on the routes and establishes trend information. Statewide, 85 of the 110 survey routes had a higher PPM than 2017.

"We are pleased to see pheasant numbers improve across the state; particularly in the far eastern part of the state where hunters will have more opportunities to harvest birds than in recent years," stated Hepler. "The full report provides an overview of upland habitat; which remains a concern for all wildlife across the state. Just as changes in landscape-level habitat conditions have produced peaks and valleys in the pheasant population for 100 years, habitat will again be the key to preserving pheasant hunting for another century."

The Walk-in Area (WIA) program added 39,000 new acres in addition to 8,000 new acres last year. With 1.1 million acres of public hunting land within the heart of South Dakota's pheasant range, great opportunities remain for public access to pheasant hunting. Hepler said hunters should notice far fewer disturbed CRP fields compared to last year when emergency haying and grazing was authorized in response to severe drought conditions.

The annual hunting atlas and a web-based interactive map of public lands and private lands leased for public hunting can be found at <https://gfp.sd.gov/hunting-areas/>. In addition to printed and interactive maps, hunters can utilize GPS downloads and smartphone applications to locate public hunting lands throughout the state. Hunters are again asked to hunt safely and ethically, respect private landowners and those public hunting areas scattered across the state.

"Challenges exist to maintain habitat, desirable pheasant population levels, and to recruit a new generation of hunters to preserve this truly special sport of pheasant hunting. Take time this fall to celebrate the hunt, the sense of community and comradery while appreciating how deeply rooted the tradition of pheasant hunting has been for the last 100 years," concluded Hepler.

South Dakota's traditional statewide pheasant hunting season opens on Saturday, Oct. 20, 2018, and runs through Jan. 6, 2019.

Gov. Daugaard Calls For Flags At Half-Staff To Honor Sen. McCain

PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Dennis Daugaard is asking that all flags in the state be flown at half-staff immediately to honor the life of Sen. John McCain.

“From his service in Vietnam, to his years in Congress, to his two campaigns for President, John McCain distinguished himself as a true American hero and a statesman,” said Gov. Daugaard. “I ask all South Dakotans to fly their flags at half-staff this Saturday and Sunday in honor of Senator McCain.”

In accordance with the President’s proclamation, the Governor asks that flags remain at half-staff until sunset on Sunday, Sept. 2. McCain’s funeral service will take place on Saturday, Sept. 1, at Washington National Cathedral. He will be interred the following day at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.



Getty Photo

DPS Officials Urge Public to Stay Safe During Labor Day Weekend

PIERRE, S.D. – Officials of the South Dakota Department of Public Safety are encouraging motorists to end summer on a safe note by being safe on the road.

The Labor Day weekend is considered the end of the summer. That means more people are expected on the road as they head to the South Dakota State Fair in Huron, athletic or school events and those final family summer gatherings. This year’s 78-hour Labor Day holiday period for reporting motor vehicle traffic crashes starts at 6 p.m. Friday, Aug. 31, and continues until midnight, Monday, Sept. 3.

“As we know, motor vehicle crashes can happen at any time of the year, holiday or no holiday,” says Lee Axdahl, director of the Office of Highway Safety. “The important thing is that motorists remember those basic safety rules – wear a seatbelt while in a vehicle or helmet on a motorcycle, slow down, watch out for others, don’t drink and drive and don’t get distracted by electronic devices. We ask motorists and passengers to make smart safety choices.”

When traveling on South Dakota highways this holiday weekend, motorists will likely see the Highway Patrol as well. Highway Patrol Superintendent Col. Craig Price says the Patrol will conduct its standard high visibility operation.

“Fatality crashes in South Dakota are up this year when compared to last year. It will take all of us, citizens, visitors and public safety officials alike, to reverse this trend,” Col. Price says. “To kick off Labor Day weekend all available troopers, including me, will be out enforcing our traffic laws. I hope you all have a safe weekend.”

During the 2017 Labor Day reporting period, there were 133 motor vehicle crashes resulting in one fatal and 32 injuries. Out of the 32 injured, 22 were occupants of motor vehicles and 18 were reported to have worn safety restraints.

Both the Office of Highway Safety and Highway Patrol are part of the Department of Public Safety.

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Today in Weather History

August 28, 2011: Several thunderstorms tracking southeast across the region brought large hail along with damaging winds to parts of the area. Golf ball hail broke some windows on several homes and the church in Herried in Campbell County. Colossal hail up to three inches in diameter caused some vehicle and siding damage in Tolstoy, in Potter County. In Redfield, seventy mph winds downed a tree along with many large tree branches. Also, the metal on a roof was peeled back.

1898 - Torrents of rain accompanied by a furious wind upset the rain gage at Fort Mohave AZ. However, water in a wash tub set out on the mesa, clear of everything, measured eight inches after the 45 minute storm. (The Weather Channel)

1911 - Saint George, GA, was deluged with 18.00 inches of rain in 24 hours to establish a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1959 - Lieutenant Colonel William Rankin bailed out of his plane at a height of 46,000 feet into a violent thunderstorm, and lived to write about the 45 minute journey (which normally would have been a thirteen minute descent). He described it as one of the most bizarre and painful experiences imaginable. (The Weather Channel)

1971 - Heavy rains from Tropical Storm Doria caused devastating floods in central and northeast New Jersey resulting in 138 million dollars damage. In southeastern Pennsylvania, high winds downed trees and power lines, and in New York City, heavy rains flooded streets and subways. (David Ludlum)

1973: An F4 tornado touched down near Canaan, New York, and moved to western Massachusetts. Three people were killed in West Stockbridge, Massachusetts when a truck stop was destroyed, and another person died in a ruined house nearby.

1986 - The temperature at Apalachicola, FL, dipped to 62 degrees to shatter their previous August record by four degrees, having tied their August record high of 99 degrees on the 2nd of the month. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Severe thunderstorms broke the heat in the southeastern U.S. and the Gulf Coast Region, but not before seven cities reported record high temperatures for the date. The severe thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 80 mph downing large trees around Horse Shoe NC, and pelted southeastern Meridian MS with hail two inches in diameter. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Tropical Storm Chris spawned a tornado near Manning, SC, which killed one person, and spawned three tornadoes in North Carolina. Chris produced one to two foot tides, and three to six inch rains, over coastal South Carolina. Severe thunderstorms in New York State and Vermont, developing ahead of a cold front, spawned a tornado which killed one person at Hector NY, produced tennis ball size hail at Brandon VT, and produced wind gusts to 80 mph at Lyndonville VT. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Early morning thunderstorms in Nebraska produced 4.50 inches of rain around McCook, and 4.65 inches near Auburn and Brownville. Showers in Montana pushed the rainfall total for the month at Havre past the previous August record of 3.90 inches. (The National Weather Summary)

1990: Between 3:15 p.m. and 3:45 p.m. a devastating F5 tornado ripped a 16.4 mile-long path through portions of Kendall and Will counties in northern Illinois. A total of 29 people were killed, and 350 more were injured. An estimated \$160 million in damages occurred. The tornado's path width ranged from 200 yards to half a mile. A total of 470 homes were destroyed, and another 1000 homes were damaged. Sixty-five thousand customers lost power.

2005: Hurricane Katrina attained Category 5 status on the morning of August 28 and reached its peak strength at 1800 UTC that day, with maximum sustained winds of 175 mph and a minimum central pressure of 902 mbars (26.6 inHg).

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Today

Tonight

Wednesday

Wednesday
Night

Thursday



Partly Sunny

High: 64 °F



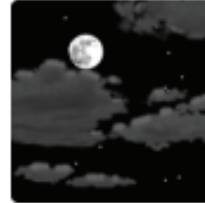
Decreasing
Clouds

Low: 44 °F



Sunny

High: 76 °F



Partly Cloudy

Low: 58 °F



Mostly Sunny

High: 82 °F

Cool Temperatures Today

Weather Forecast Office
 Aberdeen, SD
 Issued Aug 28, 2018 5:16 AM CDT

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD
8/28/2018 5:40 AM

Mostly Cloudy Skies Today

High Temperatures
~15°F Below Average

3 Day Forecast

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
72-83°	77-93°	78-88°

Published on: 08/28/2018 at 5:45AM

Today will feature mostly cloudy skies, along with cool temperatures. High temperatures will reach the mid to upper 60s, which is 15 degrees below average for this time of year. Warmer temperatures are expected for the rest of the work week.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 74.6 F at 12:00 AM

Heat Index:

Low Outside Temp: 55.3 F at 11:36 AM

High Gust: 27.0 Mph at 11:30 AM

Precip: 0.04

Today's Info

Record High: 104° in 1937

Record Low: 31° in 1893

Average High: 79°F

Average Low: 53°F

Average Precip in Aug: 2.12

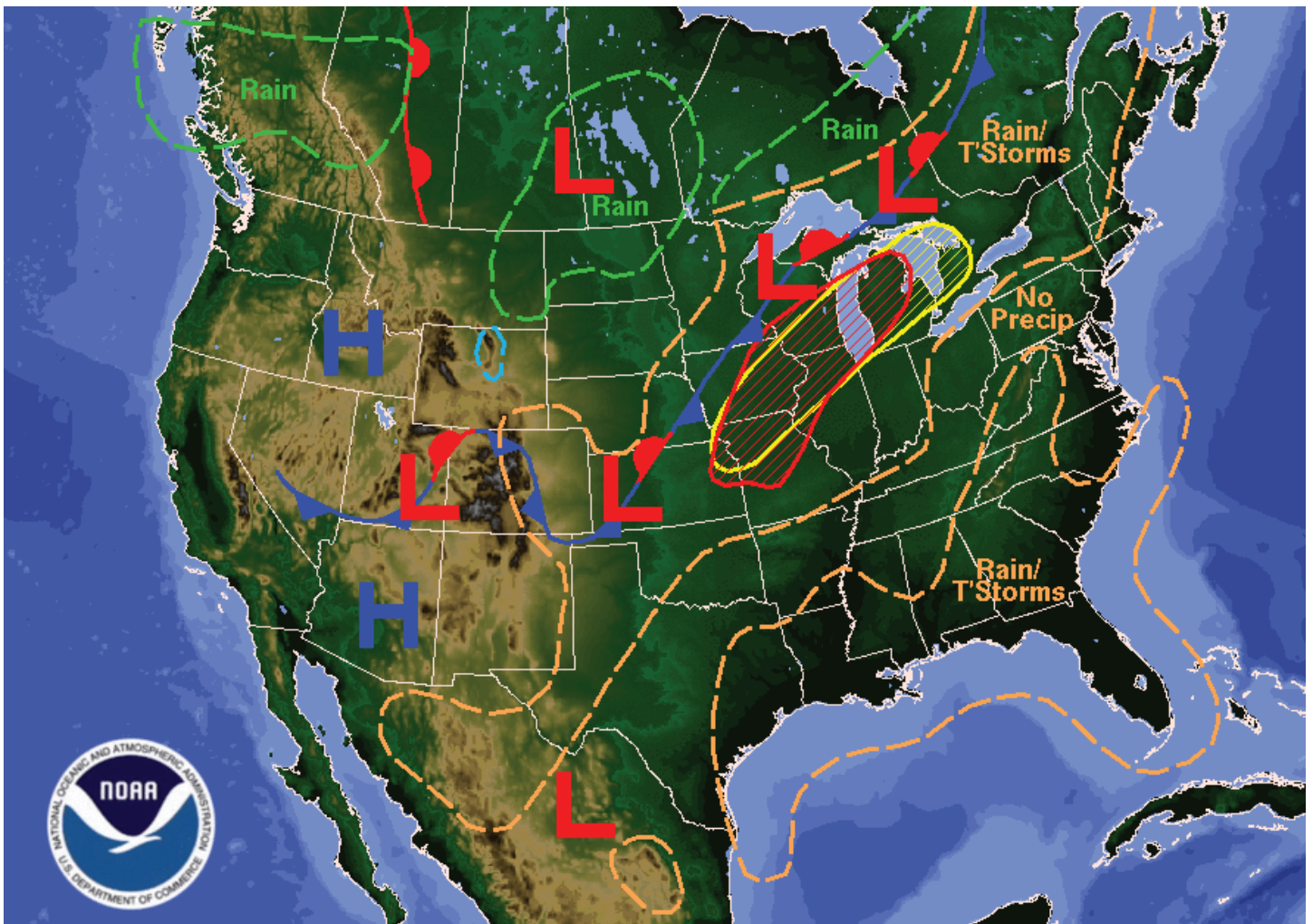
Precip to date in Aug: 1.37

Average Precip to date: 15.98

Precip Year to Date: 11.26

Sunset Tonight: 8:19 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:52 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Aug 28, 2018, issued 4:29 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain

Rain and T'Storms

Rain and Snow

Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)

Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)

Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)

Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

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GREAT ESCAPES

Jet away from it all was a successful advertising campaign of a major airline a few years ago. If you need to get away from it all, we can help you make it happen was the intent of their message.

Many people, however, spend their entire life trying to get away from it all. But is it the problem? Some move from one job to another. Others, from one spouse to another. Then there are many who bar hop - looking for the perfect drink and a place to make friends and find counsel. Confused minds and broken hearts often cause people to seek help from others who have no hope to offer.

Whats going on? we might ask.

Its like a person who has been injured and is in so much pain that he cant be still. He tries to walk it off only to discover that the pain and injury are inside and follow him wherever he goes.

So it is with life. Whats going on is that we cannot run away from ourselves or our problems! They follow us wherever we go.

If we want relief from the pain and problems of our past, it is possible. If we choose to carry the guilt and grief, shame and sorrow, that troubles our mind and disturbs our peace, it is because we want to. Life is choice.

The Psalmist wrote, Where can I go from Your Spirit? Where can I flee from Your presence? The guilt and grief, pain and problems that trouble us during the day and keep us awake at night are Gods Spirit convicting us of our need to repent from our sinful ways. It is Christ pursuing us wherever we go - calling us to come back. Let Me rescue you!

Prayer: Thank You, Father, for loving us so much that You refuse to give up on us. Teach us to hear Your voice. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 139:7 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Where can I flee from Your presence?

2018 Groton SD Community Events

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

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

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News from the Associated Press

Monday's Scores By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Aberdeen Christian def. Iroquois, 25-22, 25-14, 25-13

Langford def. Waverly-South Shore, 25-22, 25-18, 20-25, 25-14

McCook Central/Montrose def. Mt. Vernon/Plankinton, 25-19, 25-19, 25-19

Viborg-Hurley def. Bon Homme, 25-23, 26-24, 18-25, 25-19

Waubay/Summit def. Tri-State, N.D., 25-14, 25-22, 25-15

South Dakota Volleyball Polls By The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) - Here is the final South Dakota media volleyball poll for the 2018 season. Teams are listed with first place votes in parenthesis, record, points and previous ranking.<

Class AA

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. R.C. Stevens;(19);2-0;99;1

2. S.F. Washington;(1);4-1;75;2

3. S.F. O'Gorman;-;3-1;49;3

4. S.F. Roosevelt;-;2-0;46;RV

5. Mitchell;-;3-1;20;5

Others receiving votes: Huron (4-0) 8, Watertown (2-3) 3.<

Class A

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. S.F. Christian;(20);5-0;100;1

2. Dell Rapids;-;5-0;57;5

3. Miller;-;4-1;50;2

4. Dakota Valley;-;1-1;47;3

5. Winner;-;2-0;33;RV

Others receiving votes: Parker (2-0) 5, McCook Central-Montrose (2-3) 4, Wagner (4-1) 3, Madison (1-1) 1.<

Class B

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Northwestern;(20);6-0;100;1

2. Warner;-;3-0;79;2

3. Chester Area;-;1-0;61;3

4. Ethan;-;0-0;35;4

5. Phillip;-;1-0;19;5

Others receiving votes: Burke (1-0) 2, Arlington (1-3) 1, Deubrook Area (1-0) 1, Waverly-South Shore (5-0) 1, Wall (2-0) 1.<

South Dakota deals with struggling natural gas project

BUFFALO, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota may have to spend \$1.2 million to plug 40 wells that have been idle since a natural gas project fell dormant amid a series of problems.

Texas-based Spyglass Cedar Creek LP's project drilled 40 natural gas wells near Buffalo from 2006 to

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2010. The South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources started proceedings to revoke the project's permits last month, The Rapid City Journal reported .

Spyglass has until Aug. 31 to respond or the revocations will occur automatically. A public hearing will be held in October by the state Board of Minerals and Environment if the company meets the deadline.

Department officials have declined to comment on the revocation proceedings, so it's unclear what will happen to the wells after the process concludes.

Republican Sen. Ryan Maher, of Isabel, said he's concerned that landowners may be forced to pay for the dormant wells. Landowners in some cases have the surface rights at well sites but don't own the mineral rights, he said.

"I think the state has 100 percent responsibility in this and has a responsibility to clean up and make the landowners whole," Maher said.

Spyglass undertook the project with Colorado-based New Frontier Energy Inc. The project ran into multiple issues, including a drop in natural gas prices, a lender's bankruptcy, at least four lawsuits and a tax-fraud indictment against a New Frontier official.

Landowners have complained to state regulators about the project's decline, including deteriorating wells, leaking gas, excessive weeds, poorly maintained fences and erosion problems.

"I will not lease my ground to anyone after dealing with this company," said Landowner Donn Hett.

The state received almost \$800,000 in royalties when some of the wells were in production from 2009 to 2012, according to state Department of Environment and Natural Resources documents. Nine of the wells never went into production.

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

Custodian charged in loaded gun found at Sioux Falls school

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police have arrested a custodian at a Sioux Falls high school for allegedly planting a gun that he claimed to have found hidden in a bathroom ceiling at the school and then lying to investigators during questioning.

Police said there was never any danger to students at the Career and Technical Education Academy, which serves more than 800 students from nine districts. However, the incident led to heightened security at Sioux Falls schools on Monday before the arrest of the custodian, Joseph Croal.

Croal, 25, allegedly told police on Friday that he found a Ruger handgun in the ceiling of a men's bathroom, along with .22-caliber rifle bullets under a garbage can in the restroom.

Croal told detectives he had been asked by a school principal to thoroughly search the school, and that he remembered washing a footprint off a wall and finding two fingerprints on the ceiling. He told detectives he used a ladder to remove a ceiling tile, revealing the gun, according to court documents obtained by the Argus Leader.

Using Croal's timeline, police took cheek swabs from the 25 to 30 students and staff who used the restroom. They then asked Croal to take a polygraph and he agreed. After that, Croal's story allegedly changed, with him telling police he had found the gun in a vehicle in the auto shop, panicked because he had touched it, and hid it in the bathroom.

Croal was arrested following an investigation over the weekend that involved reviews of security cameras at the school. He was charged Monday with possessing a firearm in a school and false reporting to law enforcement. He was in custody on \$5,025 bond, according to jail documents. It wasn't immediately clear if he had an attorney, and a home phone listing couldn't be found. Calls to the jail Monday rang unanswered.

Police Capt. Blaine Larsen did not discuss a possible motive, but he said, "We think it was just some bad decisions on this employee's part."

Croal has worked with the school district since November 2015 and with the academy since April 2016, Superintendent Brian Maher said.

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

Car crashes into Aberdeen house; 2 people inside home are OK

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Two people inside an Aberdeen home escaped injury when a car crashed into the house.

The American News reports the incident happened about 8 p.m. Sunday. It wasn't immediately clear what led to the crash, or whether anyone inside the car was hurt.

Officials with the local fire and police departments and the state Highway Patrol responded to the scene. Electricity and natural gas to the home had to be turned off because of the damage.

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

Suspect in Spearfish restaurant holdup pleads not guilty

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City man has pleaded not guilty to robbing a Spearfish restaurant at gunpoint.

The Rapid City Journal reports that 19-year-old Daniel Beck Jr. is accused of holding up the Pizza Ranch restaurant on July 30. A juvenile also has been charged in the case.

Police say two masked males wielding a gun entered the restaurant and demanded money, fleeing with about \$420.

Beck also faces a grand theft charge related to a stolen vehicle recovered during the investigation. He could face up to 65 years in prison if convicted.

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

Pine Ridge woman accused of killing man with a tire iron

PINE RIDGE, S.D. (AP) — A Pine Ridge woman is accused of killing a man with a tire iron.

The Rapid City Journal reports that Jeffrey Janis Sr. was pronounced dead at a hospital after the Aug. 11 incident in Wanblee.

Thirty-four-year-old Krystin Spotted Calf is facing a second-degree murder charge that carries the prospect of life in prison. It wasn't immediately clear if she has an attorney. She could stand trial in federal court in late October.

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

Motorcycle driver dies in weekend Pennington County crash

HILL CITY, S.D. (AP) — A weekend crash in Pennington County involving a motorcycle and a sport utility vehicle killed the driver of the motorcycle.

The Highway Patrol says the 57-year-old man lost control of the bike on U.S. Highway 385 north of Hill City on Sunday afternoon and it went into the oncoming lane. The SUV ran over both the motorcycle and the driver.

The victim's name wasn't immediately released.

The two people in the SUV suffered minor injuries.

Mission man, Pierre woman sentenced for officer assaults

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A Mission man and a Pierre woman have been sentenced for assaulting federal officers in separate cases on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation.

The U.S. attorney's office says 39-year-old Peter White Feather was recently sentenced to seven months in federal prison for spitting in an officer's face while being arrested for disorderly conduct in February 2017.

Twenty-one-year-old Toni Ladeaux (luh-DOO') was sentenced to two years for kicking and biting officers while being arrested following a domestic dispute last February.

Experts: UAE, Saudis may have committed war crimes in Yemen

By JAMEY KEATEN, Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — Three experts working for the U.N.'s top human rights body say the governments of Yemen, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia may have been responsible for war crimes including rape, torture, disappearances and "deprivation of the right to life" during 3½ years of escalated fighting against rebels in Yemen.

In their first report for the Human Rights Council, the experts also point to possible crimes by rebel Shiite militia in Yemen, who have been fighting the Saudi-led coalition and Yemen's government in a civil war since March 2015.

The experts have also chronicled the damages from coalition airstrikes, the single most lethal force in the fighting, over the last year.

They urged the international community to "refrain from providing arms that could be used in the conflict"— an apparent reference to countries including the United States and Britain that help arm the Saudi-led coalition, as well as Iran, which the coalition has accused of arming the Houthis.

The experts visited some but not all parts of Yemen as they compiled the report.

"(We have) reasonable grounds to believe that the governments of Yemen, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia are responsible for human rights violations," the report said. It cited violations including unlawful "deprivation of the right to life," arbitrary detention, rape, torture, enforced disappearances and child recruitment.

Saudi, Emirati and Yemen officials did not immediately respond to requests for comment Tuesday. On Twitter, Emirati Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash wrote that the UAE "must review it, answer its merits and review what it says about the horrors of the Houthis."

The Associated Press reported last year that the UAE and its allied militias were running a network of secret detention facilities, beyond the control of Yemeni government. In June, the AP revealed that hundreds of detainees had been subjected to sexual abuse and torture.

The U.N. report accused the "de facto authorities" — an allusion to rebel leaders that control some of the country's most populated western and northern areas — of crimes including arbitrary detentions, torture and child recruitment. Human rights advocates have faulted the Houthis for laying land mines and targeting religious minorities and imprisoned opponents.

Kamel Jendoubi, a Tunisian human rights advocate who chaired the group of experts, said they compiled a "confidential list" of people suspected of committing international crimes, which was being handed over to the office of the U.N. human rights chief on Tuesday. His team refused to indicate how many or which people or groups were on the list — whether on the government or rebel sides.

"Despite the gravity of the situation, we still note a total disdain for the suffering of the Yemeni people," Jendoubi told reporters in a briefing on the report Tuesday. "This crisis reached its peak with light appearing at the end of the tunnel. This conflict has in effect fallen into the void."

Since March last year, the U.N.'s humanitarian aid agency has said Yemen — already the Arab world's poorest country — is facing the world's worst humanitarian crisis. The report says three-fourths of its population of over 29 million need humanitarian assistance. The war has devastated the country's health system and provided the breeding grounds for the world's largest cholera outbreak last year.

The experts cited some 6,475 deaths from the conflict between March 2015 and June this year, but said the "real figure is likely to be significantly higher." Other groups have estimated that more than 10,000 people have been killed.

They also sharply criticized work by the coalition's Joint Incidents Assessment Team, which was set up as a bulwark against possible rights violations. They questioned the JIAT's explanations for the airstrikes that have killed civilians, and challenged its "independence and its ability to carry out impartial investigations."

The experts also said nearly a dozen deadly airstrikes they investigated over the last year "raise serious questions about the targeting process applied by the coalition." They chastised some in-the-field coalition combatants for "routinely" failing to seek information about targets on official "no-strike" lists that should have been avoided.

Even getting the experts up and running was an accomplishment for the U.N.-backed Human Rights Council, which passed a resolution creating the team last September. Largely due to the objections of Saudi Arabia and its allies, the council failed several times to authorize a more intrusive investigation into possible war crimes in Yemen. The 47-member body only last fall reached a compromise to bring in the experts.

Associated Press writers Sam Magdy in Cairo and Jon Gambrell in Beirut contributed.

Kavanaugh's support for surveilling Americans raises concern

By DAN SEWELL, Associated Press

CINCINNATI (AP) — Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh has frequently supported giving the U.S. government wide latitude in the name of national security, including the secret collection of personal data from Americans.

It's a subject Democrats plan to grill Kavanaugh about during his confirmation hearings scheduled to begin next Tuesday. Beyond his writings as an appeals court judge, some senators suspect Kavanaugh was more involved in crafting counterterrorism policies during the George W. Bush administration than he has let on.

Kavanaugh stated in past congressional testimony that he wasn't involved in such provocative matters as warrantless surveillance and the treatment of enemy combatants in the years immediately after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

But legal experts say he could shift the court on national security issues, if he is confirmed to replace retired Justice Anthony Kennedy.

Stephen Vladeck, a University of Texas law professor whose expertise includes national security and counterterrorism, cites opinions he says show Kavanaugh "is a lot less willing (than Kennedy) to look at international law as a relevant source of authority and constraint." He said on matters such as Guantanamo detention, Kavanaugh is "much more deferential to the executive branch in this context than Kennedy would have been."

Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, calls Kavanaugh "incredibly well-qualified." The former U.S. trade representative and White House budget director knows Kavanaugh from their time together in the Bush administration. He said Kavanaugh "believes strongly in the Constitution" and the Bill of Rights.

"I think he's in the mainstream with regard to these issues, and frankly, I don't think it's a difference with any meaning between where he is and where the court is currently," Portman said.

Democrats facing an uphill battle in blocking Kavanaugh's nomination have focused less on his judicial counterterrorism record than whether he misled senators about his role in Bush policies while testifying in 2006 confirmation hearings.

Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin and Vermont Sen. Pat Leahy are among Democrats who want to see more records from Kavanaugh's White House days, saying news media accounts after he was seated on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia raised new questions.

White House spokesman Raj Shah said Durbin has been doing the misleading by taking Kavanaugh's answers out of context.

"As several colleagues have stated, and Judge Kavanaugh accurately said in his 2006 testimony, he was not involved in crafting legal policies that formed the rules governing detention of combatants," Shah said in an emailed statement.

After meeting recently with Kavanaugh, Durbin said the judge "acknowledged that he was involved in conversations involving enemy combatants."

Shah responded with a tweet saying Kavanaugh was truthful, and that the conversations Durbin referred to "were about public litigation, not the legal framework or policies that formed the rules governing detention of combatants."

Kavanaugh's confirmation got past a potential obstacle when libertarian-leaning Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., endorsed him last month.

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Paul had cited Kavanaugh's 2015 defense of the National Security Agency's widescale secret collection of telephone metadata — records of callers and recipients' phone numbers and times and durations of the calls. But after meeting with Kavanaugh, Paul said he's confident Kavanaugh will "carefully adhere to the Constitution and will take his job to protect individual liberty seriously."

The NSA program didn't include capturing conversations themselves, and Kavanaugh wrote that it served "a critically important special need — preventing terrorist attacks on the United States ... In my view, that critical national security need outweighs the impact on privacy occasioned by this program."

Larry Klayman, founder of the conservative group Freedom Watch and lead plaintiff in the NSA case, said Kavanaugh approved what a U.S. district court judge had called government use of "almost Orwellian technology."

Kavanaugh defended the NSA program in an opinion attached to a procedural ruling in which he and his colleagues agreed not to rehear the case, so there was no pressing need for him to weigh in .

University of Louisville law professor Justin Walker, a former Kavanaugh clerk, said that's not unusual for the judge. For example, Kavanaugh added his opinion to a procedural ruling in a case that led to a Supreme Court decision for a drug suspect who had a police-placed GPS tracker on his car.

The high court found in *USA vs. Antoine Jones* that Jones' Fourth Amendment rights were violated, with a majority opinion that incorporated Kavanaugh's observation that police intruded on the defendant's personal property: his car.

"I've been surprised that his one short opinion (in Klayman) has not been seen in a broader context with more perspective," Walker said, adding that when senators study Kavanaugh's complete record on civil liberties, "they're going to like what they see."

But Cindy Cohn, executive director of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a San Francisco-based organization dedicated to digital privacy rights, worries that "he has a very broad view of the government's ability to do mass surveillance and specifically in the context where the government is claiming national security."

Cohn has pursued a lawsuit alleging illegal NSA surveillance of "millions of ordinary Americans," among cases she said could eventually reach the Supreme Court. She questions whether Kavanaugh supports "real checks and balances on the power of the executive branch" on privacy issues.

Kavanaugh discussed judicial restraint on national security in an 87-page 2010 opinion. That one went against a Yemeni citizen U.S. forces captured in Afghanistan.

"Put simply, Congress knows how to limit the executive's authority in national security and foreign policy; there is no reason or basis for courts to strain to do so absent such congressional direction," Kavanaugh wrote.

Vladeck pointed to such cases as Kavanaugh's 2011 ruling for turning over a U.S. citizen linked to al-Qaida terrorism in Iraq to Iraqi authorities the man said were likely to torture him, and in 2009 joining in a 2-1 vote against plaintiffs who wanted to sue private contractors they accused of beatings, dog attacks and other abuse at the notorious Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

There are still 40 detainees at the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, U.S. naval base, with the possibility of more .

In a 2013 lecture , Kavanaugh talked about his appeals court's rulings in cases involving Guantanamo detainees and counterterrorism, saying he disagreed with people who believed "the courts should be creating new rules to constrain the executive — that this new kind of war requires new rules created by the courts."

"He's incredibly smart; he's a thoughtful and thorough judge," said Vladeck. "He just has pretty exceptionally conservative views about the role of the federal courts in the kinds of cases that I work on."

Find AP's reporting on the Kavanaugh nomination at <https://apnews.com/tag/KavanaughNomination>

Follow Dan Sewell on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/dansewell>

After cascade of criticism, Trump honors McCain's service

By CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Glowering in public and near-silent for two days, President Donald Trump relented under pressure by tersely recognizing Sen. John McCain's "service to our country" and re-lowering the White House flag.

While much of the nation remembered McCain's record as a war hero, longtime senator and presidential nominee over the weekend, Trump had nursed his grievances. McCain had been an infuriating foil in a long-running feud over style and policy that did not end with the senator's illness and death.

Trump's reluctance to participate in the national remembrance was awkward and uncomfortable, even by the standards of a leader who acknowledges he doesn't act like a typical president. The episode highlighted the outsider president's impulse to harbor personal resentments regardless of political repercussions.

Before Trump's Monday afternoon statement, his only commentary on McCain's death had been a perfunctory tweet Saturday. The lack of a formal statement — combined with the fact that White House flags were flown at half-staff only briefly — drew strong criticism from Republicans and veterans' groups as well as Democrats.

When he finally did comment, in a printed statement, Trump was sparing with his praise for the six-term senator: "Despite our differences on policy and politics, I respect Senator John McCain's service to our country."

Later, at an evening dinner honoring evangelical leaders, he said "our hearts and prayers" are going to the family "and we very much appreciate everything that Senator McCain has done for our country."

Earlier in the day, a stone-faced Trump sat mute as reporters at several photo sessions invited him to comment on McCain. As he was peppered with questions about McCain's legacy, the usually talkative president made no response.

Publicly, Trump has frequently railed against McCain's dramatic thumbs-down vote against the president's efforts to repeal President Barack Obama's health care law. Privately, he has groused about such slights as his belief that McCain did not appreciate his endorsement in the senator's 2016 re-election bid. McCain, for his part, recently slammed Trump's Helsinki meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin as "one of the most disgraceful performances by an American president in memory."

Against that backdrop, the flag above the White House spoke volumes.

The Stars and Stripes were briefly lowered to half-staff over the weekend, then went back up to full height Monday while flags at the U.S. Capitol and elsewhere stayed at half-staff. Shortly before Trump issued his written statement, the flag was lowered again to half-staff.

That was after complaints had risen all day from both right and left, and then from a group the president assuredly does not want to offend.

"On the behalf of The American Legion's two million wartime veterans, I strongly urge you to make an appropriate presidential proclamation noting Senator McCain's death and legacy of service to our nation, and that our nation's flag be half-staffed through his interment," said a statement directed to him from Denise Rohan, the organization's national commander.

While the president's statement sought to defuse the controversy, the upcoming weeklong celebration of McCain's life is likely to bring new awkwardness. Former presidents will speak at McCain's funeral Saturday, but the senator's family made clear they did not want Trump to attend.

Trump said he had asked Vice President Mike Pence to speak at a ceremony honoring McCain at the Capitol on Friday and said other administration officials would attend memorial services. He also said he'd agreed to the McCain family's request for military transportation of the senator's remains from Arizona to Washington. Burial will be Sunday at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

In death, McCain himself had more to say. In a final letter released Monday, McCain appeared to repudiate Trump's politics one last time, saying, "We weaken our greatness when we confuse our patriotism with tribal rivalries that have sown resentment and hatred and violence in all the corners of the globe."

Republican Sen. James Inhofe of Oklahoma allowed that McCain "was partially to blame" for the rift with

Trump, saying, "He was very outspoken that he disagreed with the president in certain areas and wasn't too courteous about it."

As Newsmax CEO Chris Ruddy, a Trump friend, put it, "I think there's a lot of hard feelings on both sides."

Just a few weeks ago the president signed into law a defense bill named in honor of the senator without a single mention of his name.

Back in 2015, McCain had gotten under then-candidate Trump's skin by saying he had "fired up the crazies" at a rally in Phoenix. Trump later told a crowd in Iowa that McCain was only a war hero "because he was captured. I like people who weren't captured."

McCain said Trump owed veterans an apology for that, but he continued to back the celebrity businessman as the Republican nominee. He later withdrew his support after the release of the infamous "Access Hollywood" tape in which Trump bragged about groping women.

After Trump took office, McCain established himself as a leading critic, opposing Trump's immigration-limiting order, warning him against coziness with Moscow and lecturing him on the illegality of torture.

Friction increased earlier this year after word surfaced that a West Wing aide had been dismissive of McCain during a closed-door meeting. The aide told colleagues they should disregard McCain's opposition to Trump's CIA nominee because "he's dying anyway."

In death, McCain attempted a last word in his farewell letter.

"Do not despair of our present difficulties," he wrote. "But believe always in the promise and greatness of America, because nothing is inevitable here."

Associated Press writers Laurie Kellman and Jill Colvin contributed to this report.

Iran president fails to appease lawmakers in economic crisis

By NASSER KARIMI, Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani failed to convince parliament on Tuesday that his plans will pull the country out of an economic nosedive worsened by America's withdrawal from the nuclear deal, further isolating his relatively moderate administration amid nationwide anger.

For only the second time in its history, parliament ordered a sitting president to appear before it to answer questions, the last time coming amid widespread discontent in 2011 over Western sanctions in the government of hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

While Rouhani warned that "painting a bleak picture of people's lives will lead to further darkness," lawmakers voted four separate times to say they were unconvinced of his answers about Iran's recession, its cratering currency, unemployment and smuggling. Those questions now could go to Iran's judiciary for further review, serving as a warning to the cleric his political stature is slipping.

"Certainly, we made and we have made mistakes," Rouhani acknowledged at one point.

Since Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution and subsequent takeover of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, it has faced American sanctions. Those measures only increased in the 2000s over Western fears Iran's nuclear program could allow it to build atomic bombs, something Tehran always denied wanting.

Under the 2015 nuclear deal reach between Iran and world powers including the U.S. under President Barack Obama, Tehran agreed to limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of sanctions. That allowed banks to re-connect Iran's financial system to the world and brought foreign firms from airplane manufacturers to oil companies back into the country.

But in May, longtime deal skeptic President Donald Trump pulled America from the accord. That only fanned the flames burning through the country's economy from chronic unemployment, high inflation and drastic drops in its currency. Those problems sparked nationwide protests in December and January across Iran that started in strongholds of Rouhani's opponents, as well as sporadic, leaderless protests to today.

Lawmakers already have fired Rouhani's labor and finance ministers this month amid the economic crisis.

Speaking Tuesday before parliament, Rouhani said those protests only strengthened Trump's hand to pull out of the atomic accord.

"This lured Trump into saying . that he will not remain in the deal," Rouhani said.

Lawmakers did, however, narrowly support Rouhani's answer regarding sanctions facing Iran's banks.

Rouhani also made a cryptic remark that Iran has a "third way" to deal with ongoing crisis other than simply abandoning or staying in the nuclear deal. He did not elaborate, but said he mentioned the idea to French President Emmanuel Macron on Monday.

Marcon in a speech Monday mentioned speaking to Rouhani, though only saying that France in coordination with Britain, Germany and the EU will keep working on "preserving" the deal.

Rouhani's growing political weakness has been a boon to hard-liners within Iran's Shiite theocracy. Those pressures have only been growing.

A demonstration last week saw hard-line clerics waving a placard calling the Rouhani's negotiations with the West his "swimming pool." That's a reference to long-swirling rumors surrounding the death of former Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, a political godfather to Rouhani whose body was found in a swimming pool.

"If I am threatened with assassination, I'm OK with it. I don't think of it as a big deal," Rouhani said. "We all know that it is our dream to be killed in the path of God."

Associated Press writers Sylvie Corbet in Paris and Jon Gambrell in Beirut contributed to this report.

McCain's death shadows Republican primary in Arizona

By **JULIE PACE** and **NICHOLAS RICCARDI**, Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Shadowed by the death of six-term Sen. John McCain, Arizona voters are nominating candidates to replace his seat-mate in a primary contest that lays bare the fissures in a Republican Party dramatically remade by President Donald Trump.

Three Republicans are vying Tuesday to replace Sen. Jeff Flake, who is retiring after his fierce criticism of Trump made his political future in the state untenable. All three, including establishment favorite Rep. Martha McSally, have embraced Trump and distanced themselves from McCain — a sign of how far the late senator's status had fallen with conservatives who dominate Arizona's GOP primaries.

The outcome of the primary will be closely watched by Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey, who must name a replacement to fill McCain's seat for the next two years. McCain died Saturday after a yearlong battle with brain cancer.

Arizona is one of three states holding elections Tuesday. Voters participating in Florida's primary will tap nominees for governor, a position that will give the winner's party an advantage in a key political battleground heading into the 2020 presidential campaign. A diverse Democratic field includes candidates who are hoping to be the state's first female or first black governor. Trump appears to have tilted the Republican race toward Rep. Ron DeSantis, whom he endorsed late last year.

Trump reiterated his support for DeSantis on Twitter Monday, calling the congressman a "special person" who is "Strong on Crime, Borders and wants Low Taxes."

In reliably Republican Oklahoma, two GOP candidates in a runoff race for governor have been battling over who is more supportive of Trump.

McCain's death has highlighted anew the shift in the Republican Party since he captured the GOP nomination for president in 2008. With a consistently conservative voting record, McCain was elected to the Senate by Arizonans six times, including in 2016. But his more moderate stance on immigration and his deciding vote last year against Trump's efforts to repeal President Barack Obama's health care law turned off many GOP voters.

A national poll from June highlighted the shifting views on McCain. The CNN survey found that 67 percent of Democrats had a favorable opinion of McCain, while just 33 percent of Republicans had a favorable view of the GOP senator.

Among those on the ballot in Arizona is former state Sen. Kelli Ward, who tried unsuccessfully to unseat

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McCain in 2016. When McCain's family announced last week that he was discontinuing medical treatment, Ward speculated in a later-deleted Facebook post that it was intended to hurt her campaign for Flake's seat.

On Monday, Ward tweeted, "Political correctness is like a cancer!"

Also running for the Senate nomination is former Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio, a controversial immigration hardliner. Trump spared Arpaio a possible jail sentence last year by pardoning his federal conviction stemming from his immigration patrols.

McSally, a fighter pilot turned congresswoman in the McCain mold, is hoping Ward and Arpaio split Arizona's anti-establishment vote. While Trump hasn't endorsed a candidate in the Senate race, he's spoken favorably about McSally and she's appeared alongside the president at the White House.

The winner of the GOP primary is likely to face Democratic Rep. Kyrsten Sinema, who faces only token primary opposition. Sinema announced that she was pausing her campaign Wednesday and Thursday, when McCain's body will lie in Arizona's Capitol.

Sinema and McSally's Senate runs also create House openings in Arizona, a fast-growing and increasingly diverse state where Democrats are eager to gain a foothold. McSally's district in particular is expected to be one of the most competitive House races in November's general election.

Democrats are also eyeing pickup opportunities in Florida as they try to flip control of the House. One of their best chances is in South Florida, where Republican Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen is retiring in a district that should favor Democrats.

Nine Democrats are vying to succeed Ros-Lehtinen, including Donna Shalala, who served as President Bill Clinton's Health and Human Services secretary, and Bettina Rodriguez Aguilera, a former city councilwoman who claims she was abducted by space aliens as a child.

Florida also has a pair of marquee statewide races that will be closely watched for signs of how the state might swing in the 2020 presidential election.

Gov. Rick Scott, a close political ally of Trump, is expected to coast through his primary bid for Senate, setting up a showdown with Democratic Sen. Bill Nelson. Scott's decision to run for Senate has sparked a scramble for the governor's mansion in the nation's third-largest state.

Republican Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam, who has held elected office in Florida since 1996, quickly built up establishment support and raised millions of dollars. But Trump's surprise endorsement of DeSantis in December appears to give the congressman an edge heading into Tuesday's contest.

The Democratic field is the most crowded since 1978, the year Bob Graham eventually won the governor's race. Graham's daughter, former Rep. Gwen Graham, is on the ballot this year and has been polling favorably leading up to the primary.

"There's a pink wave building alongside Florida's blue wave," Graham, who would be Florida's first female governor, told supporters in Sarasota Monday. "Women's rights are on the ballot and we're going to make the difference in this year's election."

Graham leads a diverse field. Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum could become the state's first black governor, and either former Miami Beach Mayor Philip Levine or billionaire Jeff Greene could be the state's second Jewish governor.

In Oklahoma, the race for governor between former Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett and businessman Kevin Stitt could hinge on which candidate voters believe is more loyal to Trump. Stitt has attacked Cornett as not being supportive enough of Trump or his immigration policies, while the former mayor has cast Stitt as a newcomer to Republican politics.

Pace reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Brendan Farrington and Gary Fineout in Tallahassee, Florida, and Sean Murphy in Oklahoma City, and AP polling editor Emily Swanson contributed to this report.

Follow Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC> and Nicholas Riccardi at <http://twitter.com/NickRiccardi>

Preliminary US-Mexico trade deal leaves trail of uncertainty

By PAUL WISEMAN, LUIS ALONSO LUGO and ROB GILLIES, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's declaration of victory Monday in reaching a preliminary deal with Mexico to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement raised at least as many questions as it answered.

Can Canada, the third member country in NAFTA and America's No. 2 trading partner, be coaxed or coerced into a new pact?

If not, is it even legal — or politically feasible — for Trump to reach a replacement trade deal with Mexico alone?

And will the changes being negotiated to the 24-year-old NAFTA threaten the operations of American and foreign companies that have built sophisticated supply chains that span the three countries?

"There are still a lot of questions left to be answered," said Peter MacKay, a former Canadian minister of justice, defense and foreign affairs who is now a partner at the law firm Baker McKenzie.

Trump was quick to proclaim the agreement a triumph, pointing to Monday's surge in the stock market, which was fueled in part by the apparent breakthrough with Mexico.

"We just signed a trade agreement with Mexico, and it's a terrific agreement for everybody," the president declared. "It's an agreement that a lot of people said couldn't be done."

Trump suggested that he might leave Canada out of a new agreement. He said he wanted to call the revamped trade pact "the United States-Mexico Trade Agreement" because, in his view, NAFTA has earned a reputation for being harmful to American workers.

But first, he said, he would give Canada a chance to get back in — "if they'd like to negotiate fairly." To intensify the pressure on Ottawa to agree to his terms, the president threatened to impose new taxes on Canadian auto imports.

Talking to reporters, the top White House economic adviser, Larry Kudlow, urged Canada to "come to the table."

"Let's make a great deal like we just made with Mexico," Kudlow said. "If not, the USA may have to take action."

Canada's NAFTA negotiator, Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland, is cutting short a trip to Europe to fly to Washington on Tuesday to try to restart talks.

"We will only sign a new NAFTA that is good for Canada and good for the middle class," said Adam Austen, a spokesman for Freeland, saying that "Canada's signature is required."

MacKay added, "There is still a great deal of uncertainty — trepidation, nervousness, a feeling that we are on the outside looking in."

Critics denounced the prospect of cutting Canada out a North American trade pact, in part because of the risks it could pose for companies involved in international trade. Many manufacturers have built vital supply systems that depend on freely crossing all three NAFTA borders.

Noting the "massive amount of movement of goods between the three countries and the integration of operations," Jay Timmons, president of that National Association of Manufacturers, said "it is imperative that a trilateral agreement be inked."

Trump has frequently condemned the 24-year-old NAFTA trade pact as a job-killing "disaster" for American workers. NAFTA reduced most trade barriers between the three countries. The president and other critics say the pact encouraged U.S. manufacturers to move south of the border to exploit low-wage Mexican labor.

The preliminary deal with Mexico might bring more manufacturing to the United States. Yet it is far from final. Even after being formally signed, it would have to be ratified by lawmakers in each country.

The U.S. Congress wouldn't vote on it until next year — after November midterm elections that could end Republican control of the House of Representatives. But initially, it looks like at least a tentative public-relations victory for Trump, the week after his former campaign manager was convicted on financial crimes and his former personal attorney implicated him in hush money payments to two women who say they had affairs with Trump.

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Before the administration began negotiating a new NAFTA a year ago, it had notified Congress that it was beginning talks with Canada and Mexico. So Monday's announcement raises the question: Is the administration authorized to reach a deal with only one of those countries?

A senior administration official, who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity, said yes: The administration can tell Congress it had reached a deal with Mexico — and that Canada is welcome to join.

But other analysts said the answer wasn't clear: "It's a question that has never been tested," said Lori Wallach, director of the left-leaning Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch.

Even a key Trump ally, Rep. Kevin Brady, the Texas Republican who is chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, expressed caution about Monday's apparent breakthrough. Brady said he looked forward "to carefully analyzing the details and consulting in the weeks ahead to determine whether the new proposal meets the trade priorities set out by Congress."

And the No. 2 Senate Republican, John Cornyn of Texas, while hailing Monday's news as a "positive step," said Canada needs to be party to a final deal.

"A trilateral agreement is the best path forward," Cornyn said, adding that millions of jobs were at stake.

There are political reasons to keep Canada inside the regional bloc:

"Mexico will have a difficult time selling 'Trump's deal' back home if Canada does not think it is a good deal," said Daniel Ujcz, a trade attorney with Dickinson Wright PLLC. "It will appear that Mexico caved."

Indeed, Mexico has said it wants Canada included in any new deal to replace NAFTA.

"We are very interested in this being an agreement of three countries," said President-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador. At the same time, Foreign Minister Luis Videgaray told reporters that "Mexico will have a free trade agreement regardless of the outcome" of U.S.-Canada negotiations.

The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative said Mexico had agreed to ensure that 75 percent of automotive content be produced within the trade bloc (up from a current 62.5 percent) to receive duty-free benefits and that 40 percent to 45 percent be made by workers earning at least \$16 an hour. Those changes are meant to encourage more auto production in the United States.

For months, the talks were held up by the Trump administration's insistence on a "sunset clause": A renegotiated NAFTA would end after five years unless all three countries agreed to continue it. Mexico and Canada considered that proposal a deal-killer.

On Monday, the Trump administration and Mexico announced a compromise on that divisive issue: An overhauled NAFTA would remain in force for 16 years. After six years, the countries would review the agreement and decide whether it needed to be updated or changed. They then would either agree to a new 16-year deal or the pact would expire.

Gillies reported from Toronto. Josh Boak, Jill Colvin and Darlene Superville in Washington and Peter Orsi and Mark Stevenson in Mexico City contributed to this report.

Follow Paul Wiseman on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/PaulWisemanAP>

Judges: Congress map still unlawful with partisan bias

By GARY D. ROBERTSON, Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Federal judges on Monday affirmed their earlier decision striking North Carolina's congressional districts as unconstitutional because Republicans drew them with excessive partisanship.

Acting under an order of the U.S. Supreme Court to re-examine the case, the three-judge panel ruled again in favor of election advocacy groups and Democrats who had sued to challenge the boundaries drawn in 2016.

The Greensboro-based court also raised the possibility of directing the GOP-dominated legislature to redraw the maps by mid-September so they could be in effect for the fall elections, or getting an outside expert to do so. The printing of ballots has been delayed while other fall election matters are in court.

"In such circumstances, we decline to rule out the possibility that the state should be enjoined from

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conducting any further congressional elections using the 2016 plan," U.S. Circuit Judge Jim Wynn wrote in the majority opinion. He asked lawyers in the case to weigh in by Friday about what should happen next.

Any decision demanding new maps for this cycle likely would risk confusion among voters and be appealed by the Republican legislative leaders being sued.

May primaries were held, and general election candidates are raising money and campaigning in the current districts while approaching a midterm election in which control of the House is at stake. Even the plaintiffs, in their news releases praising the ruling, said they anticipated the Supreme Court would hear appeals during its session starting in October, meaning any new maps probably wouldn't be used until the 2020 cycle.

The groups and individuals that sued alleged GOP mapmakers manipulated the lines of the state's 13 districts in 2016 using political data to ensure Republicans retained a 10-3 majority within the delegation.

The same judges in January deemed the map an illegal partisan gerrymander that violated constitutional protections of Democratic voters. But the Supreme Court, which had ruled against plaintiffs in a redistricting case in Wisconsin, asked them to take a second look in June.

The sides in the case then filed briefs and provided new evidence. In Monday's order covering almost 300 pages, Wynn wrote that at least one plaintiff registered to vote in each of the 13 districts has legal standing to challenge their district — meeting a key element of the justices' ruling in the Wisconsin case. In each case, the opinion reads, the voter offered evidence showing the district had been twisted so that the person's vote carried less weight compared to another hypothetical district that hadn't been packed or split for partisan results.

The U.S. Constitution "does not allow elected officials to enact laws that distort the marketplace of political ideas so as to intentionally favor certain political beliefs, parties, or candidates and disfavor others," Wynn wrote.

Wynn, District Judge Earl Britt and District Judge William Osteen agreed again that the 2016 redistricting plan violated the U.S. Constitution's equal-protection provision. They also ruled that it violated provisions requiring states to be in charge of congressional elections because it dictated electoral outcomes. Osteen, in a separate opinion, disagreed with decisions by Wynn and Britt that the map also violated the First Amendment rights of Democrats to freedom of speech and of association.

Attorneys for GOP mapmakers had argued the three-judge panel should dismiss the lawsuits because the plaintiffs' evidence was statewide in nature, not district by district.

Republican Senate leader Phil Berger's office focused Monday night on Wynn for "outrageous election meddling" that could affect which party wins the House majority this year. "The decision throws North Carolina into chaos causing maximum voter confusion, and suggests that a court can deny North Carolina citizens their right to vote in November," said Pat Ryan, a Berger spokesman.

Bob Phillips, executive director of Common Cause North Carolina, called the ruling a historic win for voters, and a significant step towards finally ending gerrymandering."

The map was redrawn in 2016 because other federal courts determined two districts originally drawn in 2011 were illegal because of excessive racial bias.

Wynn noted the decadelong challenges.

"We continue to lament that North Carolina voters now have been deprived of a constitutional congressional districting plan — and, therefore, constitutional representation in Congress — for six years and three election cycles," he wrote.

Who is Bruce Ohr? Justice official has attracted GOP ire

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bruce Ohr was a relatively anonymous lawyer at the Justice Department for more than 25 years. But he's now caught up in a Republican maelstrom of criticism toward the department, with some of President Donald Trump's allies implying that he helped conspire against Trump's election.

Two GOP-led House committees will interview Ohr behind closed doors Tuesday as part of an investiga-

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tion into decisions made by the department in 2016. They are interested in Ohr — he has also been the subject of Trump's angry tweets — because of his relationship with Christopher Steele, the former British spy whose opposition research on Trump's Russia ties was compiled into a dossier and turned over to the FBI.

A look at Bruce Ohr and why Republicans want to talk to him:

A SEASONED OFFICIAL

A Harvard-educated lawyer who was a federal prosecutor in Manhattan in the 1990s, Ohr later oversaw the Justice Department's organized crime and racketeering section and, at the time of the presidential election, was a high-ranking official in the deputy attorney general's office with oversight of a program that doles out grants to federal prosecutors for complex drug trafficking cases.

Colleagues and associates describe Ohr as a mild-mannered, affable, steady presence in a department where turnover and transition are common.

"I definitely remember him to be a sort of quiet, soft-spoken, very warm and humble kind of a guy," said Evan Barr, who overlapped with him in the U.S. Attorney's Office in New York. "He was widely respected in the office."

RELATIONSHIP WITH A FORMER SPY

It's Ohr's relationship with Steele that has given fodder to Republican critics in Congress and raised concerns that he was operating outside his job description.

The two had met a decade earlier, bonding over a mutual interest in Russian organized crime and forging a friendly relationship that persisted over the years.

Though Ohr did not handle national security or counterintelligence work in the deputy attorney general's office, he nonetheless became a point of contact for Steele to share information with in the months leading up to the 2016 presidential election as the ex-spy dug into potential ties between the Trump campaign and Russia. The two were in touch throughout that time period and Ohr passed along tidbits he learned to the FBI, which was conducting its own investigation.

The co-founder of Fusion GPS, the political research firm that paid Steele for the investigation, told House lawmakers in a closed-door meeting last year that he also met with Ohr at Steele's behest amid what he said was anxiety that federal investigators were not taking seriously enough the threat of Russian election interference and the information that Steele had accumulated.

"We were, frankly, you know, very scared for the country and for ourselves and felt that if we could give it to someone else, we should, higher up," said Glenn Simpson, who helped start the firm.

"And so Chris suggested I give some information to Bruce, give him the background to all this. And we eventually met at a coffee shop, and I told him the story," he added.

Aside from their own personal connection, Ohr's wife, Nellie, was working at Fusion GPS — a connection Trump and his allies have seized on as they allege anti-Trump bias in the department.

THE BEGINNING OF AN INVESTIGATION

Peter Strzok, the recently fired FBI agent who led the Russia investigation, told Congress last month that Ohr provided the FBI with "material that I believe originated from Mr. Steele," though he said Ohr was not the original source of information on the dossier. Strzok said he met with Ohr as many as five times in late 2016 and early 2017.

The dossier also was not the linchpin of the FBI's investigation into potential coordination between Russia and the Trump campaign. That investigation had begun months before the bureau received those files in September 2016, and was triggered by information about George Papadopoulos, a Trump campaign aide who told a professor that the Russians possessed "dirt" on Clinton in the form of emails.

Nevertheless, Republicans have suggested the dossier created a politically tainted pretext for the investigation. Ohio Rep. Jim Jordan, a Republican who has led criticism of the Justice Department and the FBI, called Strzok's revelation in the hearing "amazing."

"So Nellie Ohr works for Fusion, works for Glenn Simpson and she's giving documents," Jordan said.

Democrats have criticized the Republican's focus on Ohr as overblown and misleading.

"Bruce Ohr took the initiative to inform the FBI of what he knew, and the majority does him a grave disservice by suggesting he is part of some malign conspiracy," wrote Democrats on the House intelligence committee in a declassified memo earlier this year.

A TRANSFER AMID PRESIDENTIAL CRITICISM

Ohr remains with the Justice Department, but amid the GOP criticism and a change in leadership, he was reassigned from his job in the deputy attorney general's position and given new responsibilities. But there are no signs of any effort or desire by department leadership to punish him in the ways advocated by the president.

Trump has kept the pressure on Ohr — and his boss, Attorney General Jeff Sessions — on Twitter.

"Will Bruce Ohr, whose family received big money for helping to create the phony, dirty and discredited Dossier, ever be fired from the Jeff Sessions "Justice" Department? A total joke!" Trump tweeted Aug. 20.

Trump has also suggested revoking Ohr's security clearance, along with others in the department who were related to the Russia investigation.

Gunman 'clearly targeted other gamers' at Florida tournament

By RUSS BYNUM, Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — A California man who played video games to earn money for college and a West Virginian whose e-sports winnings helped support his young family were slain at a Florida tournament where a gunman specifically targeted fellow gamers, authorities said Monday.

David Katz, 24, of Baltimore fatally shot himself after killing the two men and wounding 10 others Sunday inside a pizzeria and bar that were hosting a "Madden NFL 19" tournament. Katz was among about 130 gamers attending the competition at a mall in Jacksonville.

Court records in Maryland reviewed by The Associated Press show Katz had previously been hospitalized for mental illness. Divorce filings from his parents say that as an adolescent he was twice hospitalized in psychiatric facilities and was prescribed antipsychotic and antidepressant medications.

Katz carried two handguns, including one equipped with a laser sight, into the tournament venue but only fired one of them, Jacksonville Sheriff Mike Williams told a news conference Monday. He said surveillance video revealed Katz was the only shooter, but his motive remains unknown.

"The suspect clearly targeted other gamers who were in the back room" of the pizzeria, Williams said. "The suspect walked past patrons who were in other parts of the business and focused his attention on the gamers."

Investigators determined Katz bought both guns in Baltimore within the past month. But Williams said there's no indication he planned the shooting before Sunday.

In a statement Monday evening EA CEO Andrew Wilson said he is canceling the remaining qualifier events to focus on safety.

"We have made a decision to cancel our three remaining Madden Classic qualifier events while we run a comprehensive review of safety protocols for competitors and spectators."

The sheriff had previously said nine people were wounded by gunfire, but told reporters Monday the total was 10. All of them, he said, were expected to recover.

The sheriff's office identified the dead as 22-year-old Elijah Clayton of Woodland Hills, California, and 28-year-old Taylor Robertson of Giles, West Virginia.

Clayton's parents and other relatives gathered outside police headquarters Monday in Jacksonville to give a brief statement. A cousin, Brandi Pettijohn, said the family was "devastated by yet another senseless act of gun violence." She said Clayton was a good, peaceful man who never had a fistfight.

"He loved football, and out of all the videogames he could play, he settled on and mastered 'Madden,'" Pettijohn said. "He made a good living gaming, and he saved his earnings so he could afford to go to college to continue his education."

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Robertson, who used the gamer tag "Spotmeplzzz," won the Madden Classic tournament in 2016. In a YouTube interview published by EA Sports, Robertson said he had played Madden NFL since he was 10 and started playing competitively a few years ago.

"It's certainly possible for any player to do this," Robertson said in the video. "You've just got to put in the time. You've got to grind. You've got to play a lot of games and just working on getting better."

Fellow gamers described Robertson as a family man dedicated to his wife and children.

Gamer Derek Jones, who lost to Robertson in the 2016 tournament, said his onetime rival was "one of the nicest people I ever met."

"There's no way that guy did anything to deserve to get shot," said Jones, who traveled to the Florida tournament from Santa Fe, New Mexico. "He's got a family at home, and he just came out here to try to win some money for this family."

Gamer Shay Kivlen of Seattle said he met Clayton, whose gamer tag was Trueboy, about five years ago. They bonded because both of them played games on a PlayStation 4 — which put them at odds with many gamers who prefer Microsoft's Xbox.

The two friends would chat daily online and see each other about six times a year at gaming tournaments. About a week before the Florida shootings, Kivlen said, he was visiting San Diego and Clayton drove 2 ½ hours in rush hour traffic to meet him.

"He was one of the kindest people, most genuine guys I've ever met," said Kivlen, 21. "He was super real, and that's what I loved about him. If he was happy, you knew he was happy. He wore his emotions on his sleeve."

Kivlen and Jones said they barely knew Katz, who seemed to avoid conversation with fellow players during tournaments. Katz's gameplay was often erratic, Kivlen said.

"He would do kind of weird stuff online that other people wouldn't do. He would catch a ball and just start jumping out of bounds and stuff when he could have gotten more yards, just hurting himself," Kivlen said. "I don't know what he was doing."

Kivlen, who said he had once beaten Katz for a coveted spot in a tournament, heard secondhand from a friend that Katz was asking for his whereabouts shortly before the shooting.

After losing his single-elimination game Sunday, Kivlen said, he left to take a nap at his hotel about 20 minutes before the attack. He was watching a live stream of the tournament online when the gunfire erupted.

A friend hiding in a bathroom at the venue answered his phone. When he said Kivlen may have been a target, Kivlen called police and an officer was sent to his hotel room for about 90 minutes until they received word that the gunman was dead.

"It just doesn't make sense why he would do it," Kivlen said. "In 'Madden,' you never get so mad at a loss that you would want to do that."

Associated Press writers David McFadden in Baltimore, John Raby in Charleston, West Virginia, and Tamara Lush in the Tampa area contributed to this report.

McCain had a 'wicked' wit that he often aimed at himself

By LAURIE KELLMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Here's how John McCain made it clear he was happy to see you in the Senate hallways.

"Haven't seen you in a while. How was the Betty Ford clinic?"

Or he'd growl, "Whaddya want?"

Such rascally greetings produced smiles before the discussion or tough questions even had begun. The charm could be disarming, a way of making the sometimes unpleasant hothouse of American government and politics more, well, fun. That was true even among his equally ambitious Senate colleagues, campaign opponents and the reporters who covered him. In fact, Republicans grumbled for years that the McCain

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fun factor and his maverick streak made him more an ally of reporters than other Republicans.

And yet, the tributes pouring out since McCain's death Saturday at 81 were marked by regret over the loss of his particular brand of humor, which was often in borderline taste and frequently at his own expense.

Even straight-faced Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, often vexed over the years by McCain, on Saturday lamented the loss of his "wicked sense of humor."

No one paying attention would have been surprised at what arrived in the Senate after Arizona's 1986 election. During the campaign, McCain referred to the retirement community Leisure World as "Seizure World." Prodded over that, McCain attributed the remark to his "irremediable" tendency to be "a wiseass."

He won by 20 percentage points.

Inside the Senate, McCain's humor became a trademark alongside his temper. He writes in his memoir "The Restless Wave" that during his early years in the Senate he had a shouting match away from the microphones with Sen. Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts. The exchange, he wrote, featured abundant cursing and was overheard by reporters in the gallery above. Then, he recalled, he and Kennedy became buddies.

Outside the Senate, McCain often aimed his humor at himself. And he frequently delivered it with a wink.

"Thanks for the question, you little jerk," he said in 2007 to a New Hampshire high school student wondering if McCain, then 71, was too old to be president.

In October 2008, McCain spoke before Democrat Barack Obama at the annual Alfred E. Smith dinner in New York. The Arizona senator played up expectations for Obama's speech. It would be unkind, McCain said, to throw Obama off his game by setting "unreasonably high expectations" for the quality of the Democratic senator's humor.

So McCain did.

"You all are about to witness the funniest performance in the 63-year history of this event," McCain said, predicting "nonstop hilarity" and the "funniest 15 minutes of your life or any other" from Obama.

"I think he knows that anything short of that would mar the evening, insult our host and perhaps even cost him several swing states. Sen. Obama, the microphone is all yours." Obama, cracking up, joined the standing ovation.

McCain returned to "Saturday Night Live" a few days before the election that year to run through some alternative strategies for beating Obama. Among them: "The reverse-maverick. That's where I do whatever anybody tells me."

Also under consideration, McCain said, was the "double-maverick. That's where I go totally berserk and just freak everybody out."

A third option: "The Sad Grandpa. That's where I get on TV and go, 'C'mon! Obama's going to have plenty of chances to be president. It's my turn!'"

McCain requested that Obama deliver his eulogy at the Washington National Cathedral.

Associated Press writer Adam Beam in Lexington, Kentucky, contributed to this report.
Follow Kellman at <http://www.twitter.com/APLaurieKellman>

Museum a fitting host for Aretha Franklin's public viewings

By JEFF KAROUB, Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Thousands are expected to pour into Detroit's Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History on Tuesday and Wednesday to pay their final respects to Aretha Franklin.

The setting for the public viewings could not be more fitting, according to Paula Marie Seniors, an associate professor of Africana studies at Virginia Tech.

"I think it's incredibly significant — she is being honored almost like a queen at one of the most important black museums in the United States," said Seniors, who visited the museum several years ago when she was in Detroit doing research.

The Queen of Soul, Seniors said, was "a singer of the universe." Yet she added that Franklin, who died Aug. 16 of pancreatic cancer at the age of 76, also was "so unapologetically black — she was so proud

of being a black woman.”

To be sure, Franklin didn't consider herself a catalyst for the women's movement or on the front lines of the fight for civil rights. But she represented and pushed for both in ways big and small — none, perhaps, more prominently or simultaneously as her mold-breaking take on the Otis Redding song, “Respect.” She later said that with her interpretation — which even Redding acknowledged became the standard — sought to convey a message about the need to respect women, people of color, children and all people.

The museum, which had been the largest black museum in the U.S. until the National Museum of African American History and Culture opened in Washington, D.C., in 2016, also hosted similar viewings for civil rights icon Rosa Parks after her 2005 death. In further symbolic symmetry, Franklin sang at Parks' funeral, which was held at the same Detroit church as Franklin's, and the singer will be entombed in the same cemetery as Parks.

The women came to their activism from different places and used different techniques, but “in the long run, they were both fighting for the same cause, which is freedom,” Seniors said.

Seniors said if she could attend the viewings, she would bring her 8-year-old daughter, Shakeila, who has sung along with Franklin's videos.

“I want my daughter to know anything and everything about African-American culture and history,” said Seniors, whose father, Clarence Henry Seniors, was roommates at Morehouse College with Franklin's brother, Cecil. “I would want my daughter to know of the people like Aretha Franklin — to be able to listen to that voice ... and hear that there is something special about it.”

Follow Jeff Karoub on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/jeffkaroub> and find more of his work at <https://apnews.com/search/jeff%20karoub>

For more, visit <https://apnews.com/tag/ArethaFranklin> .

Official: Fireworks, cigarettes may have caused deadly blaze

By DON BABWIN, Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Investigators seeking the cause of Chicago's deadliest fire in well over a decade were searching the porch area where the blaze started for evidence of fireworks, cigarettes or other smoking materials, a fire official said Monday.

Fire Department spokesman Larry Langford said children had been known to have set off fireworks from the porch of the Southwest Side apartment that caught fire before dawn on Sunday, killing seven children and two adults. People had also used the spot to smoke cigarettes, he said.

Although investigators haven't determined what caused the fire, they don't think it was deliberately set and they have ruled out any problems with the building's electrical wiring, Langford said. He also said it quickly became clear that the lack of any working smoke detectors turned the fire deadly.

“Because of where it started, (on the rear porch of a rear building), if they had at least one smoke detector, they would have woken up and walked out the front door,” Langford said. “They could have grabbed everyone and made it out a stairway and outside (because) they had a clear shot at the front door.”

Investigators believe some of the kids who were killed in the fire were at the home for a sleepover, he said.

The Cook County Medical Examiner's Office on Monday publicly identified three of the children who were killed as 3-month-old Amaya Almaraz, 10-year-old Giovanni Monarrez and 16-year-old Victor Mendoza. All three were listed as residents of the block where the fire occurred but, per office policy, their exact addresses were not listed.

By Monday night, the medical examiner also said that 14-year-old Cesar Contreras had died, bringing the total deaths to nine. Another boy, also 14, remained hospitalized, and officials said his condition was too critical for investigators to interview him about what happened.

Autopsies were conducted on the remains of all the victims but the office said it would not release the

cause and manner of death until the Fire Department completes its investigation.

Langford said the fire is Chicago's deadliest blaze since at least 2000 and may be its deadliest since 1993, when 19 people were killed by a fire that swept through the Paxton Hotel, a single-room occupancy residential hotel.

This story has been corrected to show that the name of the 3-month-old victim is Amaya Almaraz, not Almaraz Amaya.

Tropical Storm Lane damage assessment under way

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER, Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — Tropical Storm Lane ranks as the second-biggest rainmaker from a tropical cyclone in the United States since 1950.

Lane dumped 52.02 inches (132 centimeters) of rain on Mountain View, Hawaii, from Wednesday through Sunday, the National Weather Service said Monday. The highest total was 60.58 inches (154 centimeters), measured in Nederland, Texas, during Hurricane Harvey in 2017.

Lane broke the Hawaii tropical cyclone rainfall record, the weather service said. The previous Hawaii record was 52 inches measured during Hurricane Hiki in 1950.

It's still too early to quantify the extent of the damage, but it runs the gamut from flooded homes to washed-out roads, said Kelly Wooten, spokeswoman for the Hawaii County Civil Defense Agency.

"We don't really have any numbers or statistics back yet," she said. Assessment teams began surveying the damage Sunday.

The storm caused damage mostly on the Big Island, where rivers raged near Hilo and nearly 40 people had to be rescued from homes.

There were no deaths from the storm, which had the potential to cause much more destruction.

About 200 people have called to report damage, mostly on the east side of the Big Island, county Managing Director Wil Okabe said. "What we're concerned about is the mold — when it goes into the drywall, the rug, stuff like that," Okabe said.

The storm named Lane was barreling toward the Hawaiian Islands as a powerful Category 5 hurricane in the middle of the week. But then it slowed down, moving as slow as 2 mph at times.

While it slowed, the storm's outer bands hovered over the east side of the Big Island, allowing Lane to drop 51.53 inches (131 centimeters) of rain, the National Weather Service said Monday.

On Sunday, state Sen. Kai Kahele surveyed flood damage at Waiakea Elementary School in Hilo on the Big island. Six classrooms for preschool, special education and kindergarten students flooded, and the smell of mildew was settling in, he said.

"I think it's reflective of what you see all over east Hawaii," he said. "Four feet of water in three days overwhelmed even the best infrastructure and the best storm drains and plans."

As the island continued to clean up from the storm, some people were feeling like it could have been worse if Lane remained a hurricane and unleashed destructive winds.

Catarine Zaragoza-Dodge, owner of The Locavore Store in Hilo, was feeling grateful her shop fared better than others. The store got some flooding Thursday night, and they were able to mop up waterproof vinyl floors on Friday in order to re-open by Saturday.

Parts of Hawaii were still seeing the effects of Lane, National Weather Service Meteorologist Vanessa Almanza said.

The entire state was under a flash-flood watch through Tuesday. Kauai and northwest Big Island were under a flash-flood warning.

"We're expecting some drier air to move in Tuesday night into Friday," Almanza said, which could bring relief to the Big Island, where rain continued to pour Monday morning.

"People just want the rain to stop," Kahele said. "People are tired of being wet."

1, done: Halep 1st No. 1 to lose 1st Open match; Serena wins

By HOWARD FENDRICH, AP Tennis Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Some players, like top-ranked Simona Halep, freely acknowledge they don't deal well with the hustle-and-bustle of the U.S. Open and all it entails.

Others, like 44th-ranked Kaia Kanepi, take to the Big Apple and its Grand Slam tournament.

Put those two types at opposite ends of a court at Flushing Meadows and watch what can happen: Halep made a quick-as-can-be exit Monday, overwhelmed by the power-based game of Kanepi 6-2, 6-4 to become the first No. 1-seeded woman to lose her opening match at the U.S. Open in the half-century of the professional era.

On a Day 1 that featured the major tournament debut of 25-second serve clocks, Halep blamed opening-round jitters, a recurring theme throughout her career. The reigning French Open champion has now lost her first match at 12 of 34 career major appearances, a stunningly high rate for such an accomplished player.

"It's always about the nerves," said Halep, who was beaten in the first round in New York by five-time major champion Maria Sharapova in 2017. "Even when you are there in the top, you feel the same nerves. You are human."

She also offered up an explanation tied to this particular site.

"Maybe the noise in the crowd. The city is busy. So everything together," said Halep, who was coming off consecutive runs to the final at hard-court tuneup tournaments at Cincinnati and Montreal. "I'm a quiet person, so maybe I like the smaller places."

Her departure means she can't stand in the way of Serena Williams, who could have faced Halep in the fourth round. Williams, the 23-time major champion who missed last year's U.S. Open because she gave birth on Sept. 1, returned with a flourish, following singer Kelly Clarkson's opening night performance in Arthur Ashe Stadium with a 6-4, 6-0 victory over Magda Linette under the lights.

"The first set was tight. It was my first back here in New York, so that wasn't the easiest," Williams told the crowd. "Once I got settled, I started doing what I'm trying to do in practice."

Williams, a six-time winner at Flushing Meadows, moved a step closer to a possible third-round matchup against her older sister, two-time winner Venus, who defeated 2004 champion Svetlana Kuznetsova 6-3, 5-7, 6-3.

Others making the second round included defending champion and No. 3 seed Sloane Stephens, two-time finalist Victoria Azarenka, and two-time major champ Garbine Muguruza.

Four seeded men lost, including No. 8 Grigor Dimitrov against three-time major champion Stan Wawrinka, who also beat him in the first round of Wimbledon, No. 16 Kyle Edmund and No. 19 Roberto Bautista Agut. Andy Murray, whose three major titles include the 2012 U.S. Open, played his first Grand Slam match in more than a year and won, eliminating James Duckworth 6-7 (5), 6-3, 7-5, 6-3.

At night, defending champion Rafael Nadal advanced when the man he beat in the 2013 French Open final, David Ferrer, stopped in the second set because of an injury, while 2009 champ Juan Martin del Potro had no trouble dismissing Donald Young 6-0, 6-3, 6-4.

Halep's loss was the first match at the rebuilt Louis Armstrong Stadium, which now has about 14,000 seats and a retractable roof, and what a way to get things started. That cover was not needed to protect from rain on Day 1 at the year's last major tournament — although some protection from the bright sun and its 90-degree (33-degree Celsius) heat might have been in order.

"The courts suit my game, and I love being in New York. I like the city," said Kanepi, who is from Estonia and is sharing a coach this week with another player, Andrea Petkovic. "I like the weather: humid and hot."

But several players had trouble in the heat, struggling with cramping or simply breathing.

Since professionals first were allowed to enter Grand Slam tournaments in 1968, only five times before Monday did women seeded No. 1 lose their opening match at a major — and never at the U.S. Open. It happened twice to Martina Hingis and once to Steffi Graf at Wimbledon, once to Angelique Kerber at the French Open and once to Virginia Ruzici at the Australian Open.

Halep got off to a slow start at Roland Garros this year, too, dropping her opening set, also by a 6-2 score, but ended up pulling out the victory there and adding six more to lift the trophy.

There would be no such turnaround for her against Kanepi, a big hitter who dictated the points to claim her second career win against a top-ranked player — but first top-20 victory since 2015. Kanepi has shown the occasional ability to grab significant results, including a run to the quarterfinals at Flushing Meadows a year ago.

On this day, Kanepi took charge of baseline exchanges, compiling a 26-9 edge in winners, 14 on her favored forehand side alone. Wearing two strips of athletic tape on her left shoulder, the right-handed Kanepi also had far more unforced errors, 28-9, but that high-risk, high-reward style ultimately paid off.

"I thought, 'I just have to be aggressive and try to stay calm,'" Kanepi said.

Early in the second set, on the way to falling behind by two breaks at 3-0, Halep slammed her racket twice, drawing a warning for a code violation from the chair umpire.

Eventually, Halep got going a bit, taking advantage of Kanepi's mistakes to break back twice and get to 4-all in that set, getting a lot of support from fans who repeatedly chanted her first name.

"I was thinking about that: Why (did) they cheer so much for her? Because normally, they cheer for the underdog," Kanepi said with a smile. "It was a bit annoying for some time, but I got over it."

Sure did. She ended a 14-stroke exchange with a cross-court forehand volley winner to break right back for a 5-4 lead, then served out the victory.

More AP tennis coverage: <https://www.apnews.com/tag/apf-Tennis>

Shooting killed gamers seeking money for college, family

By **RUSS BYNUM, Associated Press**

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — A California man who played video games to earn money for college and a West Virginian whose e-sports winnings helped support his young family were slain at a Florida tournament where a gunman specifically targeted fellow gamers, authorities said Monday.

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"The suspect clearly targeted other gamers who were in the back room" of the pizzeria, Williams said. "The suspect walked past patrons who were in other parts of the business and focused his attention on the gamers."

Investigators determined Katz bought both guns in Baltimore within the past month. But Williams said there's no indication he planned the shooting before Sunday.

In a statement Monday evening EA CEO Andrew Wilson said he is canceling the remaining qualifier events to focus on safety.

"We have made a decision to cancel our three remaining Madden Classic qualifier events while we run a comprehensive review of safety protocols for competitors and spectators."

The sheriff had previously said nine people were wounded by gunfire, but told reporters Monday the total was 10. All of them, he said, were expected to recover.

The sheriff's office identified the dead as 22-year-old Elijah Clayton of Woodland Hills, California, and 28-year-old Taylor Robertson of Giles, West Virginia.

Clayton's parents and other relatives gathered outside police headquarters Monday in Jacksonville to give

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a brief statement. A cousin, Brandi Pettijohn, said the family was "devastated by yet another senseless act of gun violence." She said Clayton was a good, peaceful man who never had a fistfight.

"He loved football, and out of all the videogames he could play, he settled on and mastered 'Madden,'" Pettijohn said. "He made a good living gaming, and he saved his earnings so he could afford to go to college to continue his education."

Robertson, who used the gamer tag "Spotmeplzzz," won the Madden Classic tournament in 2016. In a YouTube interview published by EA Sports, Robertson said he had played Madden NFL since he was 10 and started playing competitively a few years ago.

"It's certainly possible for any player to do this," Robertson said in the video. "You've just got to put in the time. You've got to grind. You've got to play a lot of games and just working on getting better."

Fellow gamers described Robertson as a family man dedicated to his wife and children.

Gamer Derek Jones, who lost to Robertson in the 2016 tournament, said his onetime rival was "one of the nicest people I ever met."

"There's no way that guy did anything to deserve to get shot," said Jones, who traveled to the Florida tournament from Santa Fe, New Mexico. "He's got a family at home, and he just came out here to try to win some money for this family."

Gamer Shay Kivlen of Seattle said he met Clayton, whose gamer tag was Trueboy, about five years ago. They bonded because both of them played games on a PlayStation 4 — which put them at odds with many gamers who prefer Microsoft's Xbox.

The two friends would chat daily online and see each other about six times a year at gaming tournaments. About a week before the Florida shootings, Kivlen said, he was visiting San Diego and Clayton drove 2 ½ hours in rush hour traffic to meet him.

"He was one of the kindest people, most genuine guys I've ever met," said Kivlen, 21. "He was super real, and that's what I loved about him. If he was happy, you knew he was happy. He wore his emotions on his sleeve."

Kivlen and Jones said they barely knew Katz, who seemed to avoid conversation with fellow players during tournaments. Katz's gameplay was often erratic, Kivlen said.

"He would do kind of weird stuff online that other people wouldn't do. He would catch a ball and just start jumping out of bounds and stuff when he could have gotten more yards, just hurting himself," Kivlen said. "I don't know what he was doing."

Kivlen, who said he had once beaten Katz for a coveted spot in a tournament, heard secondhand from a friend that Katz was asking for his whereabouts shortly before the shooting.

After losing his single-elimination game Sunday, Kivlen said, he left to take a nap at his hotel about 20 minutes before the attack. He was watching a live stream of the tournament online when the gunfire erupted.

A friend hiding in a bathroom at the venue answered his phone. When he said Kivlen may have been a target, Kivlen called police and an officer was sent to his hotel room for about 90 minutes until they received word that the gunman was dead.

"It just doesn't make sense why he would do it," Kivlen said. "In 'Madden,' you never get so mad at a loss that you would want to do that."

Associated Press writers David McFadden in Baltimore, John Raby in Charleston, West Virginia, and Tamara Lush in the Tampa area contributed to this report.

Iran asks UN's highest court to suspend US sanctions

By MIKE CORDER, Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Iran warned Monday that re-imposed U.S. sanctions would cripple its economy and plunge the volatile Middle East deeper into crisis as it urged the United Nations' highest court to suspend the Trump administration's economic pressure on Tehran.

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In a written statement about the case at the International Court of Justice, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called Iran's claims "meritless" and defended the sanctions as a way of keeping Americans safe.

The world court's wood-paneled Great Hall of Justice in The Hague is the latest backdrop for Washington and Tehran's high-stakes dispute about Iran's nuclear ambitions.

President Donald Trump said in May that he would pull the U.S. out of a 2015 agreement over Iran's nuclear program and would re-impose sanctions on Tehran. Washington also threatened other countries with sanctions if they don't cut off Iranian oil imports by early November.

Iran filed a case with the court in July challenging the re-imposition. Tehran alleges that the sanctions breach a 1955 bilateral agreement known as the Treaty of Amity that regulates and promotes economic and consular ties between the two countries.

The treaty was signed when the U.S. and Iran were still allies following the 1953 revolution — fomented by Britain and the U.S. — that ultimately cemented the rule of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

However, diplomatic relations were severed following the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran and takeover of the U.S. Embassy and ensuing hostage crisis. Despite that dramatic deterioration in relations, the treaty remains in force.

Iran and the U.S. have a history of litigation at the International Court of Justice, in cases covering crises including the embassy seizure and the shooting down of an Iranian passenger jet mistaken by a U.S. warship for a fighter jet.

Rulings by the world court, which settles disputes between nations, are final and legally binding. However, it remains to be seen if the U.S. would abide by a court order to suspend sanctions on Iran.

At Monday's hearings, Tehran asked judges to urgently order a suspension of the sanctions while the case challenging their legality is being heard — a process that can take years. A decision on the urgent request for a suspension is likely to take weeks.

Iranian representative Mohsen Mohebi told the court the U.S. sanctions are a clear breach of the 1955 treaty because they are "intended to damage, as severely as possible, Iran's economy." He called Trump's sanctions policy "nothing but a naked economic aggression against my country."

Mohebi also warned that the sanctions could exacerbate regional tensions.

His comments came a day after Iran's defense minister said his country will continue its support of the Syrian government to ensure improved security in the region. Israel has expressed concern over Iran's growing influence in Syria, accusing Tehran of seeking to establish a foothold near the frontier with the Jewish state. The United States has been pressing for Iran to withdraw its fighters from Syria.

Iran's 2015 nuclear deal, brokered when Barack Obama was still in the White House, imposed restrictions on the Islamic Republic's nuclear program in return for the lifting of most U.S. and international sanctions against Tehran.

However, the deal came with time limits and did not address Iran's ballistic missile program or its regional policies in Syria and elsewhere. Trump called the accord the "worst deal ever."

Some U.S. allies oppose the sanctions and are seeking to keep the nuclear deal alive. Last week, the European Union announced a financial support package to help bolster Iran's flagging economy.

Pompeo called the world court challenge an attempt by Tehran "to interfere with the sovereign rights of the United States to take lawful actions, including re-imposition of sanctions, which are necessary to protect our national security."

The United States, which argues that the court does not have jurisdiction in the case, is to present its legal arguments to judges on Tuesday.

Pompeo said lawyers would "vigorously defend" the U.S. and "and we will continue to work with our allies to counter the Iranian regime's destabilizing activities in the region, block their financing of terror, and address Iran's proliferation of ballistic missiles and other advanced weapons systems that threaten international peace and stability. We will also ensure Iran has no path to a nuclear weapon — not now, not ever."

Plans on making untraceable 3D guns can't be posted online

By MARTHA BELLISLE, Associated Press

A U.S. judge in Seattle blocked the Trump administration Monday from allowing a Texas company to post online plans for making untraceable 3D guns, agreeing with 19 states and the District of Columbia that such access to the plastic guns would pose a security risk.

The states sued to stop an agreement that the government had reached with Austin, Texas-based Defense Distributed, saying guidelines on how to print undetectable plastic guns could be acquired by felons or terrorists.

U.S. District Judge Robert Lasnik extended a temporary restraining order, and his new decision will last until the case is resolved. He said Cody Wilson, owner of Defense Distributed, wanted to post the plans online so that citizens can arm themselves without having to deal with licenses, serial numbers and registrations.

Wilson has said that "governments should live in fear of their citizenry."

"It is the untraceable and undetectable nature of these small firearms that poses a unique danger," Lasnik said. "Promising to detect the undetectable while at the same time removing a significant regulatory hurdle to the proliferation of these weapons — both domestically and internationally — rings hollow and in no way ameliorates, much less avoids, the harms that are likely to befall the states if an injunction is not issued."

The State Department had reached the settlement with the company after the agency removed the 3D gun-making plans from a list of weapons or technical data that cannot be exported overseas.

The states argued that the federal agency didn't follow the law when it removed 3D guns from the munitions list. They said the government was supposed to notify Congress and provide a 30-day window before making a change to that list, but it did not.

Lasnik criticized the government for switching its position on the threat posed by the 3D gun-making plans.

Up until April, the government argued the distribution of the guidelines "posed a threat to world peace and the security and foreign policy of the United States," the judge said.

Despite those fears, the government decided that it only needed to restrict the international availability of firearms up to .50 caliber. That's when they reached a settlement with the 3D gun company.

There was no indication the government evaluated the unique characteristics of the plastic guns when it considered deleting that category of weapons from the prohibited list, the judge said.

"Nor is there any reasoned explanation for its change in position," Lasnik said.

The federal government declined to comment on the judge's ruling.

A lawyer with the U.S. Justice Department had argued against the injunction, saying possessing 3D plastic guns is already against the law, and the federal government is committed to enforcing that law.

But the judge said it wasn't enough.

"While the court appreciates the earnestness with which this commitment was made at oral argument, it is of small comfort to know that, once an undetectable firearm has been used to kill a citizen of Delaware or Rhode Island or Vermont, the federal government will seek to prosecute a weapons charge in federal court while the state pursues a murder conviction in state court," Lasnik said.

Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson praised the ruling.

"Once again, I'm glad we put a stop to this dangerous policy," Ferguson said. "But I have to ask a simple question: why is the Trump administration working so hard to allow these untraceable, undetectable 3D-printed guns to be available to domestic abusers, felons and terrorists?"

The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, a pro-gun control group that has aggressively fought the online release of the gun plans, praised the judge's ruling "as a tremendous victory for the American public."

Avery Gardiner, co-president of the group, said 3D-printed guns "represent a supreme threat to our safety and security, and we are grateful that Judge Lasnik recognized it as such."

The states suing are Washington, Connecticut, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, California, Colorado, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia.

Tibbetts' father: Hispanic locals 'Iowans with better food'

BROOKLYN, Iowa (AP) — The killing of University of Iowa student Mollie Tibbetts has prompted criticism of the U.S. immigration system because the man charged in her death is a Mexican farmworker. But the victim's father told mourners he's been embraced by the local Hispanic community.

Speaking Sunday afternoon to more than 1,000 people at a ceremony at his daughter's former high school, Rob Tibbetts didn't directly respond to comments by President Donald Trump and others who quickly seized upon the suspect's citizenship to argue for changes in immigration laws.

However, The Des Moines Register reports that Tibbetts said he encountered Hispanics at Mexican restaurants and elsewhere who were sensitive and kind during the weeks he spent in the central Iowa community of Brooklyn to help search for his daughter.

"The Hispanic community are Iowans. They have the same values as Iowans," he said. "As far as I'm concerned, they're Iowans with better food."

The body of 20-year-old Mollie Tibbetts was found Aug. 21 in a cornfield outside Brooklyn, where she had been staying during her summer break from the University of Iowa. Authorities have said she was abducted while out running July 18, and an autopsy showed that she died from stab wounds.

Cristhian Bahena Rivera, 24, has been charged with first-degree murder in her death and is being held in lieu of a \$5 million cash-only bond. He is suspected of being in the United States illegally.

If convicted of murder, he faces life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Within hours of Rivera's arrest, Trump, Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds and the state's two U.S. senators said her death demonstrated the need to change immigration laws. Trump called for the election of more Republicans who would support such changes.

In his address at Brooklyn-Guernsey-Malcom High School, Rob Tibbetts asked mourners to remember his daughter by "celebrating something wonderful," rather than focusing on how she died.

Tibbetts urged the audience to remember his daughter's passion for life and her desire to help others. To highlight his call to celebrate "wonderful" things, the father recognized a couple who had just married the day before during his eulogy.

"Today, we need to turn the page. We're at the end of a long ordeal," he said. "But we need to turn toward life — Mollie's life — because Mollie is nobody's victim. Mollie is my hero."

Davenport Bishop Thomas Zinkula led the funeral Mass in the city of 1,500 where Mollie Tibbetts grew up.

US and Mexico tentatively set to replace NAFTA with new deal

By **PAUL WISEMAN, LUIS ALONSO LUGO and ROB GILLIES, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Snubbing Canada, the Trump administration reached a preliminary deal Monday with Mexico to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement — a move that raised legal questions and threatened to disrupt the operations of companies that do business across the three-country trade bloc.

President Donald Trump suggested that he might leave Canada, America's No. 2 trading partner, out of a new agreement. He said he wanted to call the revamped trade pact "the United States-Mexico Trade Agreement" because, in his view, NAFTA had earned a reputation as being harmful to American workers.

But first, he said, he would give Canada a chance to get back in — "if they'd like to negotiate fairly." To intensify the pressure on Ottawa to agree to his terms, the president threatened to impose new taxes on Canadian auto imports.

Canada's NAFTA negotiator, Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland, is cutting short a trip to Europe to fly to Washington on Tuesday to try to restart talks.

"We will only sign a new NAFTA that is good for Canada and good for the middle class," said Adam Austen, a spokesman for Freeland, adding that "Canada's signature is required."

"There is still a great deal of uncertainty —.. trepidation, nervousness — a feeling that we are on the outside looking in," said Peter MacKay, a former Canadian minister of justice, defense and foreign affairs who is now a partner at the law firm Baker McKenzie.

Critics denounced the prospect of cutting Canada out a North American trade pact, in part because

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of the risks it could pose for companies involved in international trade. Many manufacturers have built complex but vital supply chains that cross all three NAFTA borders.

Trump was quick to proclaim victory, though, pointing to Monday's surge in stock prices, which was fueled in part by the apparent breakthrough with Mexico.

"We just signed a trade agreement with Mexico, and it's a terrific agreement for everybody," the president said. "It's an agreement that a lot of people said couldn't be done."

Trump has frequently condemned the 24-year-old NAFTA trade pact as a job-killing "disaster" for American workers. NAFTA reduced most trade barriers between the three countries. But the president and other critics say it encouraged U.S. manufacturers to move south of the border to exploit low-wage Mexican labor.

The preliminary deal with Mexico might encourage more manufacturing in the United States. Yet it is far from final. Even after being formally signed, it would have to be ratified by lawmakers in each country.

The U.S. Congress wouldn't vote on it until next year — after November midterm elections that could end Republican control of the House of Representatives.

"There are still a lot of questions left to be answered," MacKay said. He noted, for example, that Trump said nothing Monday about dropping U.S. tariffs on Mexican or Canadian steel — tariffs that were imposed, in part, to pressure those countries to reach an agreement on NAFTA.

But at least initially, it looks like at least a tentative public-relations victory for Trump, the week after his former campaign manager was convicted on financial crimes and his former personal attorney implicated him in hush money payments to two women who say they had affairs with Trump.

Before the administration began negotiating a new NAFTA a year ago, it notified Congress that it was beginning talks with Canada and Mexico. So Monday's announcement raises the question: Is it authorized to reach a deal with only one of those countries?

A senior administration official, who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity, said yes: The administration can tell Congress it had reached a deal with Mexico — and that Canada is welcome to join.

But other analysts said the answer wasn't clear: "It's a question that has never been tested," said Lori Wallach, director of the left-leaning Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch.

Even a key Trump ally, Rep. Kevin Brady, the Texas Republican who is chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, expressed caution about Monday's apparent breakthrough. Brady said he looked forward "to carefully analyzing the details and consulting in the weeks ahead to determine whether the new proposal meets the trade priorities set out by Congress."

And the No. 2 Senate Republican, John Cornyn of Texas, while hailing Monday's news as a "positive step," said Canada needs to be party to a final deal.

"A trilateral agreement is the best path forward," Cornyn said, adding that millions of jobs were at stake.

And there are political reasons to keep Canada inside the regional bloc:

"Mexico will have a difficult time selling 'Trump's deal' back home if Canada does not think it is a good deal," said Daniel Ujcz, a trade attorney with Dickinson Wright PLLC. "It will appear that Mexico caved."

Indeed, Mexico has said it wants Canada included in a deal to replace NAFTA. But Foreign Minister Luis Videgaray told reporters that "Mexico will have a free trade agreement regardless of the outcome" of U.S.-Canada negotiations.

The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative said Monday that Mexico had agreed to ensure that 75 percent of automotive content be produced within the trade bloc (up from a current 62.5 percent) to receive duty-free benefits and that 40 percent to 45 percent be made by workers earning at least \$16 an hour. Those changes are meant to encourage more auto production in the United States.

For months, the talks were held up by the Trump administration's insistence on a "sunset clause": A renegotiated NAFTA would end after five years unless all three countries agreed to continue it. Mexico and Canada considered that proposal a deal-killer.

On Monday, the Trump administration and Mexico announced a compromise on that divisive issue: An overhauled NAFTA would remain in force for 16 years. After six years, the countries would review the agreement and decide whether it needed to be updated or changed. They then would either agree to a

new 16-year deal or the pact would expire.

Gillies reported from Toronto. Josh Boak and Darlene Superville in Washington and Peter Orsi in Mexico City contributed to this report.

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On second thought: Trump, Cohen lawyers stumble on facts

By MICHAEL R. SISK and ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — They're the ultimate insiders, but the lawyers speaking publicly on behalf of President Donald Trump and his longtime "fixer"-turned-foe Michael Cohen have been fumbling the facts of late.

Cohen's lawyer, Lanny Davis, spent recent days walking back his bombshell assertions that his client could tell the special counsel that Trump had prior knowledge of a meeting with a Russian lawyer to get damaging information on Hillary Clinton.

"I should have been much clearer that I could not confirm the story," Davis said Monday, attempting to clean up his comments in interviews last week after Cohen pleaded guilty to campaign finance violations, tax evasion and bank fraud.

Trump's lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, caused a stir last week when he told The Washington Post that Trump had sought his advice on the possibility of granting a pardon to former campaign chairman Paul Manafort, who was convicted last week on tax and bank fraud charges.

Giuliani told the Post that he counseled against the move at least until the end of special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation, but Fox News later reported that Giuliani said that Trump had not broached the idea of a pardon for Manafort specifically.

The apparent contradiction added to confusion about the president's plans and underscored how the two loudest voices speaking on the Russia probe were, in many ways, unreliable narrators.

Federal ethics rules frown on lawyers making comments intended to prejudice a jury or engaging in fraud or dishonesty, but legal ethics expert Steven Lubet said there's no boundary crossed by an inaccurate public statement.

"This is, I think, what I think some of the ethics opinions would call mere puffery, and typically that is not subject to discipline," said Lubet, of Northwestern University law school.

"In the age of 24/7 news, it's a hopeless quest to expect people to know what they're talking about," Lubet added, jokingly.

Davis told The Washington Post over the weekend that he "could not independently confirm" the claims he made on television last week that Cohen witnessed Trump's eldest son, Donald Trump Jr., telling his father about the Trump Tower meeting beforehand.

"I take responsibility for not communicating more clearly my uncertainty," Davis told The Associated Press on Monday. "I regret the error."

Davis also is hedging suggestions he made on television last week that Cohen could tell special counsel Robert Mueller about whether Trump was aware of and encouraged Russian hacking during the 2016 campaign before it became publicly known.

After suggesting to CNN last Wednesday that "Cohen was an observer and was a witness to Mr. Trump's awareness of those emails before they were dropped," Cohen told the Post, "there's a possibility that is the case. But I am not sure."

The prospect of Cohen telling Mueller that Trump knew in advance about the June 2016 meeting has hung over the Russia probe since CNN, citing anonymous sources, reported last month that Cohen was willing to share the information. Davis told the AP at the time that the basic substance of the CNN report was correct and told CNN last Wednesday that Cohen "was present during a discussion with junior and dad" pertaining to the Trump Tower meeting.

Davis, citing a lack of independent verification, apologized Monday to the AP, saying "I express my regrets

that I could not confirm what I told you.”

Giuliani also has misspoken about the Trump Tower meeting.

He told NBC News on Aug. 19 that he didn't know if participants in the meeting, including Trump Jr. and Manafort, knew that lawyer Natalia Veselnitskaya “was Russian at the time.”

“All they had was her name,” Giuliani said.

In fact, emails released by Trump Jr. himself make clear that he was explicitly told an attendee at the meeting would be a “Russian government attorney” who wanted to provide damaging information about Clinton. Additionally, Trump Jr. has said he didn't have the lawyer's name prior to the meeting.

Trump, who has denied knowing about the meeting, seized on Davis' about-face.

“Michaels Cohen's attorney clarified the record, saying his client does not know if President Trump knew about the Trump Tower meeting (out of which came nothing!),” Trump tweeted on Saturday. “The answer is that I did NOT know about the meeting. Just another phony story by the Fake News Media!”

CNN said it stands by the story, which included reporting from Watergate reporter Carl Bernstein. Trump Jr. tweeted that CNN was defending “literal fake news” and derided Bernstein as a “leftist hack.”

Another Trump lawyer, Jay Sekulow, was forced earlier this month to correct an assertion from last year that Trump was not involved in dictating a news media statement aboard Air Force One about the purpose of the Trump Tower meeting. Sekulow said in an ABC News interview this month that he “had bad information” and that “over time facts develop.”

The conflicting statements are important not only because they can raise credibility questions but also because, in the absence of any comments, clarification or corrections from the special counsel's office, the lawyers' words are sometimes the most direct vehicle for providing information to the public about the status of the investigation.

It's not clear, though, that they have any bearing on the investigation itself.

Davis primarily functions as a spokesman for Cohen, with the bulk of the actual legal work being done by New York lawyer, Guy Petrillo, who used to work for the Manhattan office now leading the prosecution.

And Giuliani, though the public face of Trump's legal team, is hardly the primary negotiator with Mueller's office. In addition to Sekulow, Trump has been relying on a husband-wife duo from Florida, Jane and Martin Raskin, and a veteran Washington hand, Emmet Flood, to serve as the White House liaison in the Russia investigation.

Tucker reported from Washington.

Follow Sisak at twitter.com/mikesisak and Tucker at twitter.com/etuckerAP

UN team: Myanmar military chiefs should face 'genocide' case

By JAMEY KEATEN, Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — Investigators working for the U.N.'s top human rights body said Monday that Myanmar military leaders should be prosecuted for genocide against Rohingya Muslims, taking the unusual step of identifying by name six of those it says were behind systematic crimes targeting the ethnic minority.

The call, accompanying a first report by the team of investigators, amounts to some of the strongest language yet from U.N. officials who have denounced alleged human rights violations in Myanmar since a bloody crackdown began last August.

The three-member “fact-finding mission” and their team, working under a mandate from the U.N.-backed Human Rights Council, meticulously assembled hundreds of accounts from expatriate Rohingya, as well as satellite footage and other information for the report.

“The military's contempt for human life, dignity and freedom — for international law in general — should be a cause of concern for the entire population of Myanmar, and to the international community as a whole,” said fact-finding mission chair Marzuki Darusman, a former Indonesian attorney-general, at a news conference.

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The council created the mission in March last year — nearly six months before a string of deadly rebel attacks on security and police posts set off a crackdown that drove Rohingya to flee into neighboring Bangladesh. More than 700,000 have fled in the past year.

The team compiled accounts of crimes including gang rape, the torching of hundreds of villages, enslavement, and killings of children — some before their eyes of their own parents. The team was not granted access to Myanmar and has decried a lack of cooperation or even response from the government, which received an early copy of the report.

The team cited a “conservative” estimate from aid group Reporters Without Borders that some 10,000 people were killed in the violence, but outside investigators have had no access to the affected regions — making a precise accounting elusive, if not impossible.

Above all, the investigators said the situation in Myanmar should be referred to the International Criminal Court, and if not, to a special tribunal. Last week, Myanmar’s government rejected any cooperation with the ICC, to which it is not a party.

China, a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council with veto power over whether the issue will be brought before the ICC, has been reticent about condemning Myanmar’s government during the crisis.

U.N. leaders, foreign government officials, and human rights watchers have for months cited evidence of genocide in Myanmar, and the United States late last year said that “ethnic cleansing” was occurring in the country also known as Burma. But few experts have studied the issue as in-depth, and in such an official way, as the fact-finding mission with a mandate from the 46-nation council.

The U.S. State Department, which has yet to declare a genocide in Myanmar, said the U.N. report added to a “growing body of information indicating widespread human rights abuses by the Burmese military and other security forces.” A spokesperson, who was not authorized to be quoted by name and requested anonymity, said the United States, with allies and partners, was exploring a “broad range of options” to ensure justice for victims and “appropriate consequences” for perpetrators.

The United Nations does not apply the word “genocide” lightly. The team’s assessment suggests the crimes against the Rohingya could meet the strict legal definition, used to highlight and condemn state-supported abuses in places like Bosnia, Rwanda and Sudan’s Darfur region.

Human rights watchers say that determining “genocidal intent” is perhaps the most difficult criteria to meet: In essence, it’s the task of assessing the mindsets of perpetrators to determine if ethnicity, race, religion or another attribute had motivated them.

“The crimes in Rakhine state, and the manner in which they were perpetrated, are similar in nature, gravity and scope to those that have allowed genocidal intent to be established in other contexts,” the report said, alluding to a region of Myanmar that is home for many Rohingya.

Adding into their assessment: The extreme brutality of the crimes; “hate rhetoric” and specific speech by perpetrators and military commanders; policies of exclusion against Rohingya people; an “oppressive context;” and the “level of organization indicating a plan for destruction.”

The investigators cited six Myanmar military leaders as “priority subjects” for possible prosecution, including Commander-in-Chief Min Aung Hlaing. A longer list of names is to be kept in the office of the U.N. human rights chief for possible use in future judicial proceedings. The United States and European Union have already slapped sanctions on some Myanmar military leaders, though Min Aung Hlaing is not among them.

“The main perpetrator, the people that we want the spotlight on, is the Tatmadaw,” said mission member Radhika Coomaraswamy, a Sri Lankan former U.N. undersecretary-general, referring to Myanmar’s military.

Christopher Sidoti, an Australian human rights expert, acknowledged that no “smoking gun” linked the six military leaders directly to orders to carry out genocide, but pointed to inferences of their role based on a strict chain of command in Myanmar.

They called for the creation of a special body, or “mechanism,” to keep watch on the still-evolving human rights situation in Myanmar. They said the United Nations’ own role in the country since 2011 should be reviewed to see if the world body did all it could to prevent such a crisis.

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They also faulted Aung San Suu Kyi for not using her role as head of Myanmar's government, nor her "moral authority" — she is a Nobel peace prize laureate — to stop the events in embattled Rakhine state.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is scheduled to give a briefing Tuesday during a Security Council commemoration of the anniversary of the violent crackdown on the Rohingya. Guterres also has described what happened in Myanmar as ethnic cleansing.

U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric told reporters Monday that Guterres urged all U.N. bodies and the international community to seriously consider the experts' report recommendations. The determination of whether "a genocide" occurred must be made by "an international judicial body," Dujarric said.

"The secretary-general has for a long time underscored the violations of human rights in Myanmar" and stressed "that accountability is essential for genuine reconciliation," he said.

There was praise for the report from refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, that house hundreds of thousands of Rohingya from across the border.

"We are happy for this. If these army people are punished the world will take note of it. They are killers. They must be punished," said Mohammed Hasan, 46, who lives in the Kutupalong refugee camp.

"They killed thousands, we have seen that. They torched our homes. That's a fact. They raped our women. That's not false," he said.

A previous version of this story was corrected to reflect that Myanmar is not a member of the Human Rights Council.

AP writers Julhas Alam in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, Edith M. Lederer at the United Nations and Matthew Pennington in Washington contributed to this report.

Trump wants a hug from Mexican president. Who knew?

By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE** and **JILL COLVIN**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump wants a hug from Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto. Who knew?

But Trump said such a gesture would be "very nice" as he wrapped up an unusual, public speakerphone conversation with the outgoing Mexican leader.

The long-distance call was a central feature of Monday's unexpected announcement of a preliminary agreement between the U.S. and Mexico on a trade pact Trump hopes will succeed the North American Free Trade Agreement, which he says is bad for America.

But first, the White House actually had to get Pena Nieto on the line.

Technical difficulties plagued the connection as the president, seated at his Oval Office desk, awkwardly tried to speak with his counterpart while reporters and cameramen watched.

"I believe the president is on the phone. Enrique?" Trump asked, as camera shutter clicks filled the silence.

"It's a big thing," he told no one in particular. "A lot of people waiting."

"Hello?... Hello?" he asked, growing visibly annoyed. At one point, he barked to an aide, "Be helpful."

Finally, Pena Nieto was patched in to begin a congratulatory call that included few details and contradictory statements. What the leaders agreed to was unclear, though Trump said it signaled the end of NAFTA, which he has called a "terrible deal" for America. Congress must approve any changes.

At one point, Trump prompted confused questions from reporters after he said the deal was with Canada. The deal is only with Mexico, and Trump immediately corrected himself.

But even more surprising than word of an "understanding" between the U.S. and its southern neighbor was the overly complimentary language between their presidents. Relations between the two have been strained ever since Trump opened his presidential campaign in June 2015 by blasting Mexicans as drug dealers and rapists.

Then came Trump's call to build a border wall to stop Mexicans from entering the U.S. illegally and his promise that Mexico would pay for it. Mexico insists it won't pay.

Though they met during the campaign when Trump flew to Mexico City two months before the 2016 U.S. presidential election, and again last summer at a world leader summit in Germany, Pena Nieto has abruptly called off two visits to the White House to meet with Trump.

But that tension seemed a thing of the past Monday, after months of contentious negotiations gave way to the preliminary agreement.

"You've been my friend," Trump said to Pena Nieto at one point. "I will tell you that working with you has been a pleasure," he said later.

Trump added: "You've been my friend and you have been somebody that's been very special in a lot of ways. We talk a lot. We talked a lot about this deal. And I'd like to congratulate you and the Mexican people."

As the call neared its end, Pena Nieto said he hoped for a "good toast with tequila, of course."

In closing, he told Trump, "I send you an affectionate hug."

To which Trump responded, "A hug from you would be very nice."

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Kushner Cos. fined \$210K by New York for false documents

By BERNARD CONDON, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The Kushner family real estate company was fined \$210,000 by New York City regulators on Monday following an Associated Press investigation earlier this year that showed it routinely filed false documents with the city claiming it had no rent-regulated tenants in its buildings when, in fact, it had hundreds.

Separately, a watchdog group said Monday that former Trump lawyer Michael Cohen has engaged in the same practice, perhaps in a more brazen way, by telling the city that buildings he owned were empty, though tax records showed they were filled with tenants, many rent-regulated.

The city's buildings department fined the Kushner Cos. for filing 42 false applications for construction work on more than a dozen buildings when presidential adviser Jared Kushner ran the business. The AP report showed that the false paperwork allowed the Kushners to escape extra scrutiny designed to stop landlords from using construction to make living conditions for low-paying, rent-regulated tenants unbearable and get them to leave.

The Kushner Cos. said it relied on "third party consultants" to prepare its applications for construction permits and the errors "have been corrected or will be."

"In no case did the company act in disregard of the safety of our tenants," said spokeswoman Christine Taylor. "We look forward to presenting the facts before an administrative law judge and until then no amount is due."

After the AP report in March, the New York City Council and the New York state attorney general said they would look into the issue. Federal prosecutors in Brooklyn issued a subpoena to the company for documents.

The AP found that in three Kushner buildings in Queens for which false construction applications were filed, tenants believed the banging, drilling, dust and leaking water during construction were part of a targeted campaign to get them to leave. Many tenants did just that, and the number of protected rent-regulated units fell sharply in a little over a year, clearing the way for higher paying renters and making the buildings far more valuable.

The Kushners sold the Queens buildings in 2017 for \$60 million, nearly 50 percent more than they had paid for them two years earlier.

In Monday's report about Cohen, the watchdog Housing Rights Initiative said the former Trump lawyer and his partners submitted more than 20 false applications for construction at three buildings claiming they were unoccupied and there were no rent-regulated tenants when, in fact, there were dozens. Housing

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Rights Initiative said tenants were posting complaints to the city about living conditions during construction, proof that there were indeed people living there.

"In order for Cohen to substantiate these claims, he would need to prove that ghosts exist," said Aaron Carr, executive director of Housing Rights Initiative, which also compiled the false filings by the Kushners earlier this year that led to the AP report.

Carr said that Cohen eventually sold the three buildings for \$27 million, nearly triple what he had paid for them a few years earlier.

"Cohen commenced a deliberate campaign to systematically harass tenants out of their apartments using destructive, hazardous and illegal construction practices, so he could dramatically raise rents," he said.

Cohen's lawyer, Lanny Davis, declined to comment.

In one building at 237 Henry Street in Manhattan, tenants filed complaints about excessive noise and dust and construction beyond the scope of what was permitted by the city, according to the Housing Rights Initiative report. All 20 units in the building were protected by special rent regulations limiting rent increases and preventing tenants from getting pushed out, the report said, but once construction was done that number fell to five, which made it much more attractive to potential buyers.

In December 2014, about a year and a half after buying the building, Cohen sold it for \$9 million, nearly triple what he and his partners had paid for it. That is gross profits, however, without subtracting for construction costs.

The other Cohen buildings in the report were at 172 Rivington Street and 235 East 27th Street, both in Manhattan.

Department of Buildings spokesman Joseph Soldevere said the agency "aggressively investigates" all complaints of improper construction.

Soldevere said nearly all of the permit applications for the Cohen properties include "tenant protection plans" designed to safeguard residents during construction.

He added that the agency issued a "stop-work" order at the Henry Street building and imposed fines of \$16,090. He said six complaints at the other two buildings were investigated but no violations of city construction rules found.

This story has been corrected to show the building on Henry Street sold for \$9 million, not \$10 million.

Pope's alleged cover-up pivots on when, if sanctions imposed

By NICOLE WINFIELD, Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The archbishop of Washington on Monday "categorically denied" ever being informed that his predecessor had been sanctioned for sexual misconduct, undercutting a key element of a bombshell allegation that Pope Francis covered up clergy abuse.

Cardinal Donald Wuerl issued a statement after the Vatican's former ambassador to the United States accused Pope Francis of effectively freeing ex-Cardinal Theodore McCarrick from the sanctions in 2013 despite knowing of McCarrick's sexual predations against seminarians.

Wuerl's denial corresponds with the public record, which provides ample evidence that McCarrick lived a life completely devoid of ecclesiastic restriction after the sanctions were said to have been imposed in 2009 or 2010. That suggests that Pope Benedict XVI either didn't impose sanctions or never conveyed them in any official way to the people who could enforce them — or that McCarrick simply flouted them and Benedict's Vatican was unwilling or unable to stop him.

The claims of the former Vatican ambassador, Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, have thrown Francis' papacy into crisis, undermining once again his insistence that he is intent on ridding the church of sex abuse and cover-up.

His record has taken several hits of late, including his extraordinary misjudgment involving a Chilean bishop, for which he has apologized and taken measures to address. But the McCarrick case is something else entirely, implicating the powerful U.S. hierarchy and the Vatican itself.

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The core of Viganò's cover-up charge against Francis rests on what sanctions, if any, Benedict imposed on McCarrick and what if anything Francis did to alter them, when armed with the same knowledge of McCarrick's misdeeds that Benedict had.

Viganò, who was Vatican ambassador from 2011-2016, said he had been told that Benedict imposed sanctions on McCarrick starting in 2009 or 2010, after a decade's worth of allegations of misconduct involving adult seminarians had reached the Vatican.

By that time, two New Jersey dioceses had settled complaints of sexual harassment and misconduct against McCarrick lodged by two former seminarians. It was apparently common knowledge that McCarrick would invite seminarians to his New Jersey beach house, and into his bed.

"The cardinal was to leave the seminary where he was living, he was forbidden to celebrate Mass in public, to participate in public meetings, to give lectures, to travel, with the obligation of dedicating himself to a life of prayer and penance," Viganò wrote of the Benedict sanctions.

Viganò said he informed Francis of the sanctions in a meeting June 23, 2013.

"Holy Father, I don't know if you know Cardinal McCarrick, but if you ask the Congregation of Bishops, there is a dossier this thick about him. He corrupted generations of seminarians and priests, and Pope Benedict ordered him to withdraw to a life of prayer and penance," Viganò said.

His version of events was corroborated Monday by a former official in the Vatican embassy in Washington, Monsignor Jean-Francois Lantheaume, who told Catholic News Agency: "Viganò said the truth. That is all."

The historic record is rife with evidence that McCarrick had lived under no such restrictions. He traveled widely, including for Catholic Relief Services, the humanitarian branch of the U.S. church. He went to Iran in 2011 with a religious delegation to try to win the release of two American hikers arrested after crossing the border. He celebrated Mass publicly. He traveled to Rome with the entire U.S. conference of bishops for their once-every-five-year visit in 2012 and was even on hand for Benedict's final general audience on Feb. 27, 2013.

In a 2010 video posted on YouTube, McCarrick was shown visiting the national seminary in Haiti that had been damaged earlier by the devastating 7.0-magnitude earthquake. "The boys are still living in tents," McCarrick said as young Haitian seminarians were shown milling about.

If such sanctions existed, "then McCarrick himself has either somehow forgotten he was under sanction, or he is being woefully disobedient," said the Rev. Matt Malone, editor of the Jesuit magazine *America*, who in a series of 13 tweets provided links to news reports, photos and other evidence of McCarrick's very public ministry in the years that he was supposed to be living a lifetime of prayer and penance.

Viganò called for Francis' resignation over what he said was his complicity in covering up McCarrick's crimes. But if Benedict had the same information and either didn't impose sanctions on him or didn't enforce them, Benedict too could be accused of complicity, or at least negligence.

As the archbishop of Washington, where McCarrick lived, Wuerl presumably would have known about any restrictions on McCarrick's ministry, though it would have actually been up to Viganò and his predecessor to impose and enforce them.

"The only ground for Cardinal Wuerl to challenge the ministry of Archbishop McCarrick would have been information from Archbishop Viganò or other communications from the Holy See," said a statement from the Washington archdiocese. "Such information was never provided."

Canon lawyer Kurt Martens concurred.

"Cardinals are exempt from the jurisdiction of the local ordinary," or bishop, Martens said. "That's why a nuncio has to step in on behalf of the Holy Father. A local bishop has no authority over other bishops. You can't control your predecessor."

The Vatican spokesman didn't immediately respond Monday when asked to confirm or deny the existence of any sanctions imposed by Benedict. Francis, for his part, declined to confirm or deny Viganò's claims when asked by reporters on the flight home from Ireland on Sunday.

"I won't say a word about it," Francis said, urging journalists to read Viganò's text and come to a judgment themselves. "I think the text speaks for itself."

Vigano's bombshell has laid bare how the ideological battle lines drawn between conservatives and progressives over Francis' papacy have turned into a full-fledged civil war.

"A new episode of internal opposition," the Vatican newspaper *l'Osservatore Romano* said Monday of Vigano's allegations.

Francis accepted McCarrick's resignation as cardinal last month, after a U.S. church investigation determined that an accusation he had groped a teen-ager in the 1970s was credible. Up until that allegation involving a minor, the allegations against McCarrick had involved accusations that he slept with adult seminarians — a clear abuse of power, but a much less serious crime in the church's eyes.

Cold, dry climate shifts linked to Neanderthal disappearance

By MALCOLM RITTER, AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Ancient periods of cold and dry climate helped our species replace Neanderthals in Europe, a study suggests.

Researchers found that such cold periods coincided with an apparent disappearance of our evolutionary cousins in different parts of the continent, followed by the appearance of our species, *Homo sapiens*.

"Whether they moved or died out, we can't tell," said Michael Staubwasser of the University of Cologne in Germany.

Neanderthals once lived in Europe and Asia but died out about 40,000 years ago, just a few thousand years after our species, *Homo sapiens*, arrived in Europe. Scientists have long debated what happened, and some have blamed the change in climate. Other proposed explanations have included epidemics and the idea that the newcomers edged out the Neanderthals for resources.

Staubwasser and colleagues reported their findings Monday in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. They drew on existing climate, archaeological and ecological data and added new indicators of ancient climate from studies of two caves in Romania.

Their study highlighted two cold and dry periods. One began about 44,000 years ago and lasted about 1,000 years. The other began about 40,800 years ago and lasted six centuries. The timing of those events matches the periods when artifacts from Neanderthals disappear and signs of *H. sapiens* appear in sites within the Danube River valley and in France, they noted.

The climate shifts would have replaced forest with shrub-filled grassland, and *H. sapiens* may have been better adapted to that new environment than the Neanderthals were, so they could move in after Neanderthals disappeared, the researchers wrote.

Katerina Harvati, a Neanderthal expert at the University of Tuebingen in Germany who wasn't involved in the study, said it's helpful to have the new climate data from southeastern Europe, a region that *H. sapiens* is thought to have used to spread through the continent.

But she said it's unclear whether Neanderthals disappeared and *H. sapiens* appeared at the times the authors indicate, because the studies they cite rely on limited evidence and are sometimes open to dispute.

Chris Stringer of the Natural History Museum in London said he thought the paper made a good case for an impact of the climate shifts on Neanderthals, although he believes other factors were also at work in their disappearance.

Rick Potts of the Smithsonian Institution called the study "a refreshing new look" at the species replacement.

"As has been said before, our species didn't outsmart the Neanderthals," Potts said in an email. "We simply outsurvived them. The new paper offers much to contemplate about how it occurred."

Follow Malcolm Ritter at @MalcolmRitter His recent work can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/RitterAP>

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McCain's final statement: Americans have 'more in common'

By MELISSA DANIELS and LAURIE KELLMAN, Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Sen. John McCain expressed his deep gratitude and love of country in his final letter and implored Americans to put aside “tribal rivalries” and focus on what unites.

Rick Davis, former presidential campaign manager for McCain who is serving as a family spokesman, read the farewell message Monday at a press briefing in Phoenix.

In the statement, McCain reflected on the privilege of serving his country and said he tried to do so honorably. He also touched on today's politics.

“Do not despair of our present difficulties but believe always in the promise and greatness of America, because nothing is inevitable here,” McCain wrote. “Americans never quit. We never surrender. We never hide from history. We make history.”

McCain died Saturday from an aggressive form of brain cancer. Plans taking shape called for McCain to lie in state Wednesday in the Arizona State Capitol on what would have been his 82nd birthday. A funeral will be conducted Thursday at North Phoenix Baptist Church with former Vice President Joe Biden speaking.

In Washington, McCain will lie in state Friday in the Capitol Rotunda with a formal ceremony and time for the public to pay respects. On Saturday, a procession will pass the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and arrive for a funeral at Washington National Cathedral. Former Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama are expected to speak at the service.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell paid tribute to John McCain on Monday by recalling their own legislative battles while echoing the late senator's belief that there's more that unites than divides Americans.

Speaking from the Senate floor, McConnell says that while McCain served the state of Arizona in Congress, “he was America's hero all along.”

He spoke near McCain's desk in the Senate, which has been draped in black and adorned with white roses in his honor.

McConnell and McCain tangled over several issues, including McConnell's attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act, which failed on McCain's surprise “no” vote. McConnell says serving with McCain “was never a dull affair.”

McCain will lie in state in the Capitol Rotunda on Friday.

A private funeral is planned for Sunday afternoon at the Naval Academy Chapel followed by a private burial at the academy cemetery.

President Donald Trump was not expected to attend any of the services.

McCain was a noted critic of Trump, and Trump's response to McCain's death has been closely watched.

The flag atop the White House flew at half-staff over the weekend in recognition of McCain's death but was raised Monday and then lowered again amid criticism.

Trump said Monday afternoon that he respects the senator's “service to our country” and signed a proclamation to fly the U.S. flag at half-staff until his burial.

When asked about Trump's response to McCain's death after the flag was raised Monday, Davis said that the family is focusing on the outpouring of support from around the world instead of “what one person has done or said.”

“The entire focus of the McCain family is on John McCain,” Davis said. “There really is no room in the McCain family today to focus on anything but him.”

In Arizona, high-profile campaigns announced that they have suspended some activity this week.

McCain was just one of 11 U.S. senators in the state's 116-year history, and on Tuesday, primary voters will decide the nominees in races across all levels of government. There's also the sensitive question of who will succeed McCain.

Arizona law requires the governor of the state to name an appointee of the same political party who will serve until the next general election. Since the time to qualify for November's election is past, the election would take place in 2020, with the winner filling out the remainder of McCain term until 2022.

Possible appointees whose names circulate among Arizona politicians include McCain's widow, Cindy Mc-

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Cain, former U.S. Senator Jon Kyl and Republican Gov. Doug Ducey's chief of staff Kirk Adams.

Throughout the weekend, Arizona politicians across all levels of government offered remembrances of McCain. Noting McCain's death, several candidates, including Democratic Rep. Kyrsten Sinema and Republican Rep. Martha McSally, who are expected to win their party's races for the state's other U.S. Senate seat, on Sunday evening said they would suspend their campaigns on Wednesday and Thursday. Ducey, whose office is coordinating services at the Arizona State Capitol for McCain, will not attend any campaign events between now and when McCain is buried.

In Phoenix, a memorial outside McCain's office drew James Olsen, who was on a business trip from Columbia, South Carolina.

"I'm all the way here. I need to pay my respects," Olsen said.

Tributes poured in from around the globe. French President Emmanuel Macron tweeted in English that McCain "was a true American hero. He devoted his entire life to his country." Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, said McCain's support for the Jewish state "never wavered. It sprang from his belief in democracy and freedom." And Germany's chancellor, Angela Merkel, called McCain "a tireless fighter for a strong trans-Atlantic alliance. His significance went well beyond his own country."

McCain was the son and grandson of admirals and followed them to the U.S. Naval Academy. A pilot, he was shot down over Vietnam and held as a prisoner of war for more than five years. He went on to win a seat in the House and in 1986, the Senate, where he served for the rest of his life.

"He had a joy about politics and a love for his country that was unmatched," Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., told CNN's "State of the Union." "And while he never made it to the presidency, in the Senate, he was the leader that would see a hot spot in the world and just say, we need to go there and stand up for that democracy."

Kellerman reported from Washington. Associated Press writer Ken Thomas contributed to this report.

Asian stock mostly rise on US, Mexico preliminary trade deal

By YURI KAGEYAMA, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares were mostly higher Tuesday after the White House said it reached a preliminary agreement with Mexico on replacing a North American free-trade deal.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 added 0.6 percent to 22,944.77 in morning trading. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 gained 0.7 percent to 6,313.50. South Korea's Kospi edged up 0.2 percent to 2,304.78. Hong Kong's Hang Seng was up nearly 0.2 percent at 28,314.15, while the Shanghai Composite index fell 0.2 percent to 2,774.78.

TRADE DEAL: Asian economies generally benefit from trade deals that will encourage exports to the U.S. The Nasdaq composite index topped 8,000 for the first time after the NAFTA news, although the trade deal isn't final. The U.S. still needs to reach an understanding with Canada, the third party in the accord.

WALL STREET: The S&P 500 index climbed 22.05 points, or 0.8 percent, to 2,896.74. The Dow Jones Industrial Average jumped 259.29 points, or 1 percent, to 26,049.64. The Nasdaq composite gained 71.92 points, or 0.9 percent, to 8,017.90. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks added 2.73 points, or 0.2 percent, to 1,728.41.

THE QUOTE: "Risk sentiment continues to improve with U.S. markets bolstered by the progress in the latest NAFTA progress, set to inspire Asian market higher into the session," says Jingyi Pan, market strategist at IG in Singapore.

TOYOTA GAINS: Toyota Motor Corp. shares got a perk from the NAFTA news as the top Japanese automaker benefits from free trade. The manufacturer was also boosted by its announcement that it was investing \$500 million in ride-hailing service Uber and will be partnership with Uber to build self-driving cars. Toyota was trading up nearly 2 percent in the morning session on the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude inched down 1 cent to \$68.86 a barrel. It edged up 0.2 percent to \$68.87 a barrel in the New York. Brent crude, used to price international oils, rose 1 cent to \$76.22 a barrel.

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CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 111.32 yen from 111.19 yen late Monday. The euro rose to \$1.1676 from \$1.1611.

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

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

Today in History **By The Associated Press**

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 28, the 240th day of 2018. There are 125 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 28, 1963, more than 200,000 people listened as the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

On this date:

In 1609, English sea explorer Henry Hudson and his ship, the Half Moon, reached present-day Delaware Bay.

In 1862, the Second Battle of Bull Run (also known as Second Manassas) began in Prince William County, Virginia, during the Civil War; the result was a Confederate victory.

In 1916, Italy declared war on Germany during World War I.

In 1941, Japan's ambassador to the U.S., Kichisaburo Nomura, presented a note to President Franklin D. Roosevelt from Japan's prime minister, Prince Fumimaro Konoye, expressing a desire for improved relations.

In 1955, Emmett Till, a black teen-ager from Chicago, was abducted from his uncle's home in Money, Mississippi, by two white men after he had supposedly whistled at a white woman; he was found brutally slain three days later.

In 1968, police and anti-war demonstrators clashed in the streets of Chicago as the Democratic National Convention nominated Hubert H. Humphrey for president.

In 1972, Mark Spitz of the United States won the first two of his seven gold medals at the Munich Olympics, finishing first in the 200-meter butterfly and anchoring the 400-meter freestyle relay. The Soviet women gymnasts won the team all-around.

In 1988, 70 people were killed when three Italian stunt planes collided during an air show at the U.S. Air Base in Ramstein (RAHM'-shtyn), West Germany.

In 1990, an F5 tornado struck the Chicago area, killing 29 people.

In 1995, a mortar shell tore through a crowded market in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, killing some three dozen people and triggering NATO airstrikes against the Bosnian Serbs.

In 1996, Democrats nominated President Bill Clinton for a second term at their national convention in Chicago. The troubled 15-year marriage of Britain's Prince Charles and Princess Diana officially ended with the issuing of a divorce decree.

In 2005, New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin (NAY'-gin) ordered everyone in the city to evacuate after Hurricane Katrina grew to a monster storm.

Ten years ago: Surrounded by an enormous, adoring crowd at Invesco Field in Denver, Barack Obama accepted the Democratic presidential nomination, promising what he called a clean break from the "broken politics in Washington and the failed policies of George W. Bush." Former U.S. Marine Jose Luis Nazario Jr., accused of killing unarmed Iraqi detainees in the Iraqi city of Fallujah, was acquitted of voluntary manslaughter in Riverside, Calif.

Five years ago: A military jury sentenced Maj. Nidal Hasan to death for the 2009 shooting rampage at Fort Hood that claimed 13 lives. On the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech at the Lincoln Memorial, President Barack Obama stood on the same steps as he challenged new generations to seize the cause of racial equality.

One year ago: Floodwaters reached the rooflines of single-story homes as Hurricane Harvey poured

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rain on the Houston area for a fourth consecutive day; thousands of people had been rescued from the flooding. The Navy said divers had recovered the remains of all 10 sailors who had been missing after the USS John S. McCain and an oil tanker collided near Singapore nearly a week earlier.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Sonny Shroyer is 83. Actress Marla Adams is 80. Actor Ken Jenkins is 78. Former Defense Secretary William S. Cohen is 78. Actor David Soul is 75. Former pop singer-musician Honey Lantree (The Honeycombs) is 75. Former MLB manager and player Lou Piniella is 75. Actress Barbara Bach is 72. Actress Debra Mooney is 71. Singer Wayne Osmond (The Osmonds) is 67. Actor Daniel Stern is 61. Olympic gold medal figure skater Scott Hamilton is 60. Actor John Allen Nelson is 59. Actress Emma Samms is 58. Actress Jennifer Coolidge is 57. Movie director David Fincher is 56. Actress Amanda Tapping is 53. Country singer Shania (shah-NY'-uh) Twain is 53. Actor Billy Boyd is 50. Actor Jack Black is 49. Actor Jason Priestley is 49. Actor Daniel Goddard (TV: "The Young and the Restless") is 47. Olympic gold medal swimmer Janet Evans is 47. Actor J. August Richards is 45. Rock singer-musician Max Collins (Eve 6) is 40. Actress Carly Pope is 38. Country singer Jake Owen is 37. Country singer LeAnn Rimes is 36. Actress Kelly Thiebaud is 36. Actor Alfonso Herrera is 35. Actress Sarah Roemer is 34. Actor Armie Hammer is 32. Rock singer Florence Welch (Florence and the Machine) is 32. Actress Shalita Grant is 30. Country-pop singer Cassadee Pope (TV: "The Voice") is 29. Actress Katie Findlay is 28. Actor/singer Samuel Larsen is 27. Actor Kyle Massey is 27. Actress Quvenzhané (kwuh-VEHN'-zhah-nay) Wallis is 15. Reality TV star Alana Thompson, AKA "Honey Boo Boo," is 13.

Thought for Today: "The man who views the world at fifty the same as he did at twenty has wasted thirty years of his life." — Muhammad Ali, American boxing champion (1942-2016).