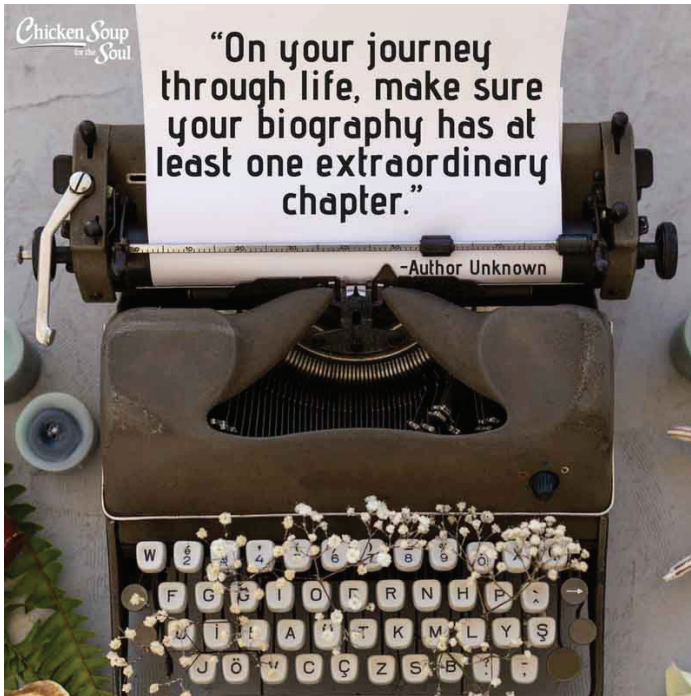


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Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

Dakota Brush

Brooms, Brushes, Mops, Can Liners, Paper Products.

Get Ready for Spring With
Wash Brushes & Squeegees

397-9337

104 N. Main, Groton

Funding Available for Outdoor Recreation

PIERRE, S.D. – South Dakota State Parks and Recreation Director Katie Ceroll announced today that applications are being accepted for grants from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).

Public outdoor recreation projects sponsored by city, county, township and tribal governments are eligible to receive the grant money.

“Outdoor recreation is important to a healthy community,” Ceroll said. “The variety of recreational activities that local parks have to offer allows families to spend time together close to home.”

The Land and Water Conservation Fund provides up to 50 percent reimbursement for approved outdoor recreation projects.

“Grants will be awarded for development or renovation of public outdoor recreation facilities or the acquisition of park land,” Ceroll said. “The grants will be awarded for a minimum of \$10,000 and the maximum will be \$75,000 in federal funds.”

The application deadline is October 31, 2018.

LWCF funds are federal dollars that are apportioned to states by Congress to fund public outdoor recreation projects.

Application packets are available on the Game, Fish and Parks website. For more information, contact grants coordinator Randy Kittle at 605.773.5490 or by email at randy.kittle@state.sd.us.

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Celebrating 100 Years of Tradition at State Fair

PIERRE, S.D. – South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) invites you to celebrate 100 years of outdoor tradition at the South Dakota State Fair in Huron Aug. 30 – Sept. 3.

This fall marks the 100th pheasant hunting season and South Dakota’s first state park, Custer State Park, will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2019. To celebrate these milestones, GFP will host activities throughout fair week.

“Each day will have a theme and activities to go with it,” said Chris Hull, GFP information officer. “Thursday will kick it off with Kids’ Day, followed by Fish Friday, Wildlife Saturday and State Park Sunday.”

Attendees can participate in a buffalo scavenger hunt by picking up a rules sheet at the GFP booth. Participants will search the fairgrounds and take their picture with each of the seven buffalo plaid “100” cutouts. All who complete the hunt will receive a prize and be entered to win a grand prize.

An old-fashioned photo booth will be set up allowing fair-goers to take throw-back photos using props honoring the 100 years of tradition while using the hashtag #MySDTradition.

Two forums focused on the proposed revisions to the deer license allocation and drawing structure will be held adjacent to the GFP building on Saturday, Sept. 1 at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. These forums will be structured as a question and answer session and will last about an hour.

Other activities during the fair include Dutch oven cooking, fish handkerchiefs, touch tank and more.

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Groton Area netters hold off Ipswich in fourth game



Payton Colestock gets ready to serve as she had two ace serves on the night. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

Ipswich was trying to avenge an earlier loss to Groton at the Milbank Tournament as Tuesday evening was a rematch at the Groton Area Arena. It was an intense match with it going four games which featured the games being tied 23 times and the lead changing hands 12 times and the scores of all four games were in the 20s for both teams.

Groton Area won the first game, 25-23 as Payton Colestock had a kill for the game winning score. That game featured five lead changes and the game being tied seven times. Ipswich led for most of the first game, going up, 16-10. Groton would rally and an ace serve by Jennie Doeden would tie the game for the first time at 17. Nicole Marzahn would get a kill to give Groton its first lead at 18-17, then the battle would continue to the end. Groton Area would score the last three points to pull out the two-point win.

Groton Area jumped out to a 5-0 lead in the second game. Taylor Holm would have two blocks and outside of the tie game at seven, Groton never trailed and won, 25-20.

As the evening went on, the games got even more intense. Ipswich would start out game three with a 3-1 lead. Groton Area would tie the game eight times and there were four lead changes before Ipswich started to pull away. Groton Area would close to within one late in the game, 23-22, but Ipswich would get the win, 25-22. Groton Area only had six kills in that game.

The fourth game had three lead changes and the game was tied seven times including when Ipswich rallied to tied the game at 24. Ipswich would give up the last two points as Groton pulled out the 26-24 win.

Groton Area is now 5-1 on the season and will travel to Britton on Thursday to take on the Britton-Hecla Braves.

Team Serving: Groton Area: 84-92, 8 aces (Jennie Doeden 19-23-3, Payton Maine 15-15-2, Payton Colestock 12-14-2). Ipswich: 86-94-6 (Lindsey Grabowska 16-17-1, Chesney Olivier 12-13-2).

Attacks: Groton Area: 173-200, 46 kills (Jennie Doeden 49-54-14, Nicole Marzahn 40-45-12, Eliza Wanner 32-38-11). Ipswich: 178-199-49 (Abigail Grabowska 49-55-28; Hailey Bierman 15-16-10).

Sets: Groton Area: 171-172, 32 assists. (Kaylin Kucker 85-86-16, Miranda Hanson 67-67-14. Ipswich: 197-199-47. (Bailey Pitz 22 assists, Halle Heinz 19 assists)



Payton Maine goes for the dig as she had 36 on the night. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Miranda Hanson sets the ball of Indigo Rogers. (Photo by

Jeslyn Kosel)

Digs: Groton Area: 94 (Payton Maine 36, Jennie Doeden 18, Eliza Wanner 15). Ipswich: 163 (Chesney Olivier 36, Abigail Grabowska 36, Lindsey Grabowska 35).

Blocks: Groton Area: 6 (Taylor Holm 3, Jennie Doeden 1, Nicole Marzahn 1). Ipswich: 7 assists. Paige Mehlberg 4, Hailey Bierman 4.

Groton Area won the junior varsity match by two identical scores of 25-15. Ipswich won the eighth grade match, 25-29 and 25-14, and Groton won the seventh game match, 25-9 and 25-15.

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AAA Fall Gas Price Forecast:

National Gas Price Average to be a Quarter a Gallon Cheaper than During Summer

2018 AAA Gas Watchers Guide Provides Tips to Conserve Fuel and Save Motorists Money

August 28, 2018 – AAA forecasts that the national gas price average will drop to \$2.70 this fall and has the potential to drop even more. That is 14-cents less a gallon compared to today's price and more than a quarter cheaper than this year's recorded high of \$2.97 set in May.

"Cheaper-to-produce gasoline and relatively stable crude oil prices in August, combined with an anticipated drop in consumer gasoline demand post-Labor Day, means consumers will see savings when they fill-up at the pump this fall," said Marilyn Buskohl, AAA spokesperson. "However, several outliers can reverse this forecast, including crude oil prices, geopolitical tensions and the mere threat of a hurricane."

2018 gas prices have been significantly more expensive than 2017. In fact, the year-to-date-national gas price average (\$2.71) is 41-cents more. Trends for year-over-year state averages include:

The top 10 states with the largest year-over-year difference in gas price averages are mostly West Coast, Northeast or Mid-Atlantic states: California (+57 cents), Hawaii (+54 cents), Indiana (+49 cents), Arizona (+48 cents), Oregon (+46 cents), Connecticut (+45 cents), Rhode Island (+45 cents), Utah (+45 cents) and Massachusetts (+44 cents).

Four Great Lakes and Central and one Southern state carry the smallest year-over-year difference in gas prices: [South Dakota \(+37 cents\)](#), Missouri (+37 cents), Louisiana (+36 cents), Iowa (+36 cents) and Nebraska (+35 cents).

What will drive pump prices down this fall?

Part of the anticipated drop in fall pump prices is due to the switchover to winter-blend gasoline in mid-September. The difference between summer- and winter-blend gasolines involves the Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) of the fuel. RVP is a measure of how easily the fuel evaporates at a given temperature. The more volatile a gasoline (higher RVP), the easier it evaporates. Winter-blend fuel, which is cheaper to produce, has a higher RVP because the fuel must be able to evaporate at low temperatures for the engine to operate properly, especially when the engine is cold.

In addition, the arrival of fall historically means a drop in consumer gasoline demand as summer road trips and vacations subside.

What could prevent cheaper gas prices from coming to a pump near you?

Crude Market Volatility: Much of 2018 has brought volatility to the domestic and global crude markets, as market watchers try to glean insight into forces that will shape global supply this fall. These forces include:

Venezuela is a major crude producer for the Western Hemisphere, but its collapsing economy could halt its crude production.

Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) announced an increase in production over the summer, but slower-than-expected production growth could contribute to higher crude prices during the second half of the year.

Geopolitical uncertainty in the Middle East and around the globe could disrupt vital crude flows.

Iran Sanctions: When President Trump announced that the U.S. would withdraw from the Iran Nuclear Deal in May, the decision sent the crude markets into upheaval. In August, the first round of re-imposed sanctions on the country, which target Iran's financial sector, went into effect and led to a brief uptick in crude prices. The next round of sanctions, currently scheduled to take effect in November, will target Iran's energy sector – including its crude exports – and will likely have a more sustained impact on crude prices. If and when those sanctions take effect, crude prices will likely surge over an expected reduction in Iranian crude exports and increased tension in the region that could destabilize global crude flows.

Updated Hurricane Forecast: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center predicts a total of 9–13 named storms (winds of 39 mph or greater of which 4-7 will become hurricanes) including up to two major hurricanes (winds of 111 mph or greater). An average six-month hurricane season produces 12 named storms, of which six becomes hurricanes, including three major hurricanes. The mere threat of a hurricane in the U.S. would cause pump prices to spike, likely regionally, due to constrained supply and delivery challenges.

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AAA 2018 Gas Watcher's Guide

In time for fall, AAA is releasing the 2018 Gas Watcher's Guide with tips for conserving fuel, saving money and maintaining fuel efficiency. The Guide offers these tips – and many more - for motorists to keep in mind as they fill-up at the pump:

If your vehicle's engine does not require premium or mid-grade fuel, don't buy it. Using anything other than regular grade is simply a waste of money.

Don't top off your gas tank. Stop filling after the automatic nozzle shuts off the second time.

If you have to replace a gas cap, make sure it is the right one for your car. An ill-fitting cap will increase emissions and trigger the "check engine" light.

Keep track of gas mileage. If you notice a sudden decrease in fuel economy, have your vehicle checked by a technician to ensure it is operating properly.

Motorists can find current gas prices at GasPrices.AAA.com and along their route with the free AAA Mobile app for iPhone, iPad and Android. The app can also be used to map a route, find discounts, book a hotel and access AAA roadside assistance. Learn more at AAA.com/mobile.

Death Notice: James Torguson

James "Jim" Torguson, 86, of Andover passed away Tuesday, August 28, 2018 at Sun Dial Manor, Bristol. Services are pending with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Death Notice: Michael Seurer

Michael Raymond Seurer, 53, Reading Penn, son of Dick and Wava Seurer, Groton, passed away Sunday, Aug. 26, 2018 at his home. Friend Tonya and first responders were there. There will be a service in Reading, Penn., and in Groton.

State Parks Remind Visitors of Firewood Restrictions

PIERRE, S.D. - With the Labor Day holiday approaching, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) wants to remind park visitors about firewood restrictions in South Dakota state parks. The restrictions aim to slow the spread of emerald ash borer into the state parks.

Do not bring out-of-state wood into South Dakota.

Do not bring wood that has been within the quarantine area into any South Dakota state park unless it has a label affixed certifying it as emerald ash borer treated and safe to move.

In parks located within the quarantine area, outside firewood must have a label affixed certifying it as emerald ash borer treated and safe to move.

Firewood is available for purchase in the parks or from local stores outside the quarantine area.

Smooth dimensional lumber scraps are acceptable if sized to fit within the fire grate. Wood containing nails, screws or hardware - including rough and pallet lumber - cannot be brought into any state park area to be used as firewood.

If you purchase firewood from a state park within the quarantine area, do not remove it from the park.

The restrictions will remain in effect throughout the year.

An infestation of emerald ash borer was confirmed in northern Sioux Falls in early May. While it is the first confirmed infestation in South Dakota, the invasive insect has killed tens of millions of ash trees in at least 32 states.

The quarantine area currently includes all of Minnehaha County, as well as portions of Turner and Lincoln counties.

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Today in Weather History

August 29, 1983: A devastating hail storm struck portions of central South Dakota. In a small part of Faulk County, hail pounded the area for two straight hours. At times, the hail was the size of baseballs. Of course, this incredible hailstorm devastated crops in the area and took out windows in area buildings. In one home, the windows were shattered, the curtains shredded, and glass shards and water ruined much of the upper floor. On some houses, the paint was peeled off by the continual pounding of the hail. Also, funnel clouds were reported just east of Lake City, and near Langford and Veblen in Marshall County. In Veblen, a pole barn was blown over, and shingles were torn off.

August 29, 1993: A severe thunderstorm hit Groton with hail, damaging lightning, and 3.43 inches of rain which flooded some basements. At the high school, lightning spits a 30-foot chimney which fell through a large skylight and sections of the roof.

1960: The storm that would become Hurricane Donna forms near Cape Verde off the African coast. It would go on to cause 150 deaths from Puerto Rico to New England over the next two weeks.

2005: Hurricane Katrina makes landfall near New Orleans, Louisiana, as a Category 3 hurricane. Despite being only the third most powerful storm of the 2005 hurricane season, Katrina was one of the worst natural disasters in the history of the United States.

1926 - A hurricane came inland near Daytona Beach, FL. The hurricane caused 2.5 million dollars damage in eastern Florida, including the Jacksonville area. (David Ludlum)

1939 - The temperature at Lewiston, ID, hit 117 degrees to establish an all-time record high for that location. (The Weather Channel)

1943 - On a whim, and flying a single engine AT-6, Lieutenant Ralph O'Hair and Colonel Duckworth were the first to fly into a hurricane. It started regular Air Force flights into hurricanes. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms in Minnesota spawned a tornado which moved in a southwesterly direction for a distance of thirty miles across Rice County and Goodhue County. Trees were uprooted and tossed about like toys, and a horse lifted by the tornado was observed sailing horizontally through the air. Thunderstorms drenched La Crosse, WI, with 5.26 inches of rain, their second highest 24 hour total of record. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Hot weather prevailed in the north central U.S. Williston, ND, reported a record high of 108 degrees. Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the eastern U.S., and in southeastern Texas. Richland County, SC, was soaked with up to 5.5 inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced locally heavy rains in the southwestern U.S. Yuma, AZ, experienced their most severe thunderstorm of record. Strong thunderstorm winds, with unofficial gusts as high as 95 mph, reduced visibilities to near zero in blowing dust and sand. Yuma got nearly as much rain in one hour as is normally received in an entire year. The storm total of 2.55 inches of rain was a record 24 hour total for July. Property damage due to flash flooding and high winds was in the millions. (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from Wisconsin and northern Illinois to New England, with 103 reports of large hail and damaging winds through the day. Thunderstorms in Wisconsin produced hail three inches in diameter near Oshkosh, and wind gusts to 65 mph at Germantown. (The National Weather Summary)

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Today

Tonight

Thursday

Thursday
Night

Friday



Patchy Fog
then Sunny

High: 77 °F



Partly Cloudy

Low: 60 °F



Sunny then
Mostly Sunny
and Breezy

High: 82 °F



Slight Chance
T-storms

Low: 62 °F



Chance
T-storms

High: 80 °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: 64.1 F at 2:28 PM

Heat Index:

Low Outside Temp: 50.5 F at 6:18 AM

High Gust: 15.0 Mph at 10:19 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 100° in 1961

Record Low: 30° in 1893

Average High: 79°F

Average Low: 53°F

Average Precip in Aug: 2.19

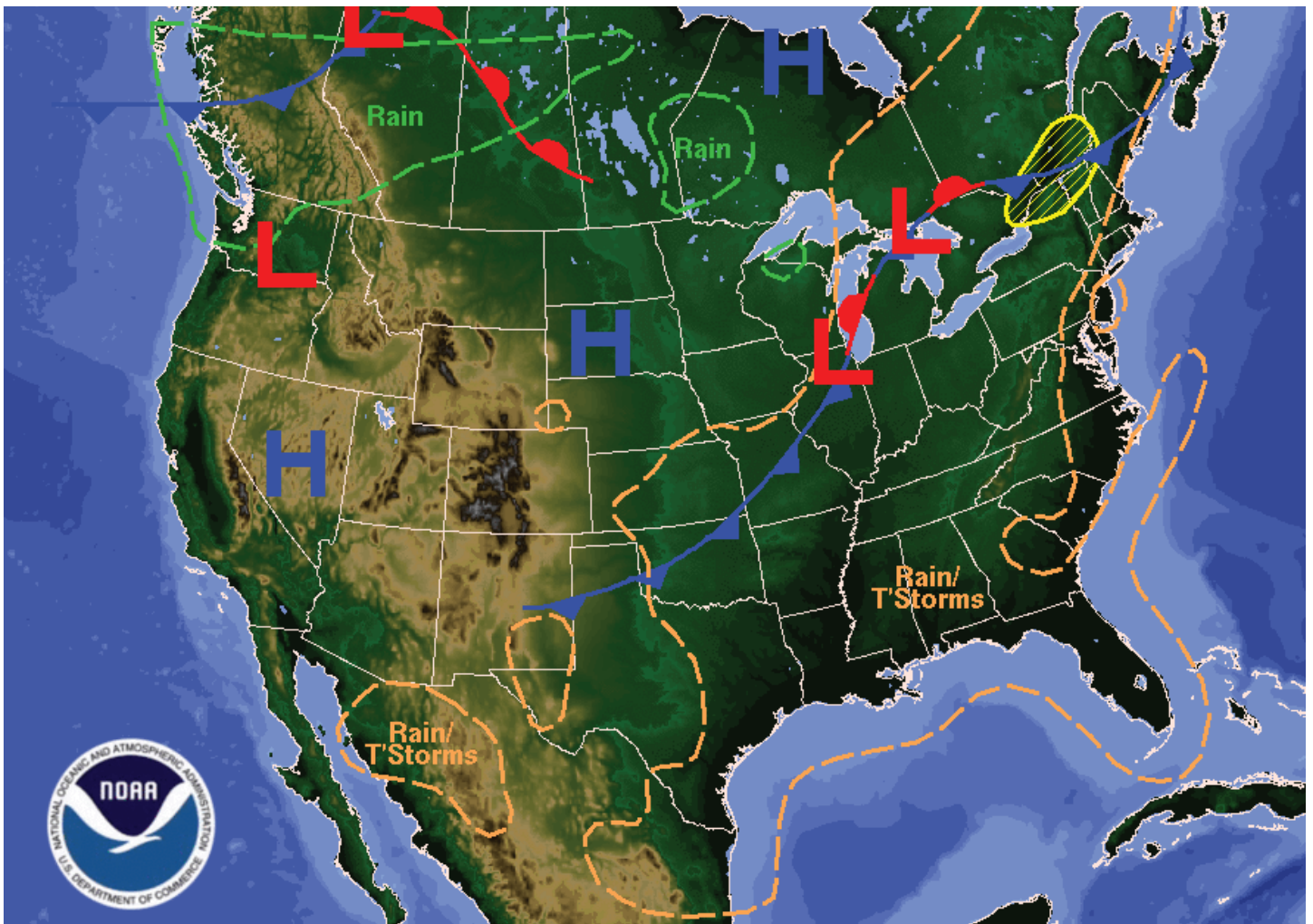
Precip to date in Aug: 1.37

Average Precip to date: 16.05

Precip Year to Date: 11.26

Sunset Tonight: 8:17 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:53 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Wed, Aug 29, 2018, issued 4:36 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow

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

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GOD IS NOW HERE!

A professor of biology, who was an atheist, wrote on the dry erase board, God is nowhere! A student raised his hand and asked, Sir, may I try something?

Of course, said the professor.

Walking to the front of the class he moved the w from where to the end of the word no, and the sentence read, God is now here!

Wherever anyone is, God is! There is no place, nor can there be any place, where He is not. He is the Creator, Sustainer, and Governor of the universe.

There are approximately seven billion people on our planet occupying seven billion different places. Each of them could, if they would, say with equal certainty, God is now here. No one is closer to or further from God at any time in any place. Again, wherever anyone is, God is.

Do you remember the story of Jonah? God had a plan for him. It was to travel east - to Nineveh. But Jonah had his plan, and he decided to go west - to Tarshish. He crossed half of the world trying to get away from God, and when he got there, he found God waiting for him.

There was a king who made the same discovery. He said, If I go up to the heavens, You are there. If I make my bed in the depths, You are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there Your hand will guide me, Your right hand will hold me fast.

We may be above the clouds in an aircraft, or on the floor of the ocean in a submarine; but, He will be there waiting.

Prayer: Thank You, Father, for Your presence in our lives knowing that You will never leave us. Never! In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 139:8 If I go up to the heavens, You are there. If I make my bed in the depths, You are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there Your hand will guide me, Your right hand will hold me fast.

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2018 Groton SD Community Events

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

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

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News from the Associated Press

Tuesday's Scores By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Alcester-Hudson def. Scotland, 25-19, 25-17, 25-17
Andes Central/Dakota Christian def. Bon Homme, 25-22, 25-7, 12-25, 25-21
Arlington def. Deubrook, 26-24, 25-22, 25-14
Avon def. Parkston, 25-22, 25-21, 24-26, 25-21
Beresford def. Baltic, 25-13, 23-25, 25-18, 25-20
Canistota def. Gayville-Volin, 25-16, 25-20, 25-16
Chamberlain def. Stanley County, 25-16, 16-25, 25-18, 23-25, 15-12
Colman-Egan def. Oldham-Ramona/Rutland, 25-10, 25-16, 25-13
Dakota Valley def. Tri-Valley, 25-17, 25-19, 27-25
DeSmet def. Dell Rapids St. Mary, 25-17, 25-20, 25-18
Douglas def. Custer, 25-21, 25-23, 25-17
Dupree def. McLaughlin, 17-25, 25-23, 25-22, 18-25, 15-11
Elk Point-Jefferson def. Dell Rapids, 25-22, 25-19, 17-25, 26-24
Ethan def. Kimball/White Lake, 25-17, 25-19, 25-21
Faith def. Bison, 25-15, 25-5, 25-13
Faulkton def. Sully Buttes, 25-16, 25-22, 25-21
Florence/Henry def. Tri-State, N.D., 25-17, 22-25, 25-21, 22-25, 15-6
Freeman def. Irene-Wakonda, 25-16, 25-20, 25-14
Gregory def. St. Francis Indian, 25-11, 25-22, 25-15
Groton Area def. Ipswich, 25-23, 25-20, 22-25, 26-24
Hamlin def. Great Plains Lutheran, 25-19, 25-14, 25-18
Hanson def. Sanborn Central/Woonsocket, 23-25, 28-26, 25-19, 18-25, 15-8
Herreid/Selby Area def. Mobridge-Pollock, 25-15, 25-14, 25-15
Hill City def. Edgemont, 25-19, 21-25, 25-13, 25-22
Huron def. Brookings, 25-17, 29-27, 25-22
James Valley Christian def. Highmore-Harrold, 25-21, 23-25, 23-25, 25-23, 15-10
Langford def. Leola/Frederick, 25-23, 25-12, 25-14
Lead-Deadwood def. Hot Springs, 26-24, 25-23, 17-25, 18-25, 15-12
Lennox def. Vermillion, 25-20, 23-25, 25-18, 25-22
Little Wound def. Oelrichs, 25-22, 32-30, 19-25, 25-15
Madison def. Canton, 25-22, 25-16, 17-25, 28-26
Milbank Area def. Deuel, 25-18, 25-19, 25-15
Mitchell def. Pierre, 25-17, 27-25, 25-13
Mitchell Christian def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 25-20, 25-11, 25-15
Northwestern def. Sisseton, 25-10, 25-10, 25-6
Parker def. Sioux Valley, 25-7, 25-16, 25-11
Redfield/Doland def. Hitchcock-Tulare, 25-27, 25-13, 25-11, 19-25, 15-8
Sioux Falls Lincoln def. Yankton, 25-18, 25-20, 25-20
Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. Brandon Valley, 25-19, 26-24, 25-23
South Border, N.D. def. Eureka/Bowdle, 25-22, 25-18, 25-13
Spearfish def. Red Cloud, 20-25, 25-15, 25-23, 25-19
St. Thomas More def. Sturgis, 25-14, 22-25, 25-22, 25-18
Timber Lake def. Cheyenne-Eagle Butte, 25-19, 21-25, 25-10, 25-14

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Wall def. Jones County, 25-15, 25-17, 19-25, 25-8
Warner def. Webster, 25-6, 25-13, 25-9
Watertown def. Harrisburg, 25-23, 25-19, 25-17
Wessington Springs def. Iroquois, 25-12, 25-7, 25-11
West Central def. Tea Area, 18-25, 19-25, 25-22, 25-16, 15-9
Wilmot def. Waubay/Summit, 25-17, 17-25, 25-13, 25-20
Winner def. Burke, 25-20, 25-19, 19-25, 22-25, 15-13
Wolsey-Wessington def. Lake Preston, 25-10, 25-12, 25-19

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

03-20-33-34-41, Mega Ball: 20, Megaplier: 3

(three, twenty, thirty-three, thirty-four, forty-one; Mega Ball: twenty; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$134 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$80 million

Iowa State looks to manage suddenly higher expectations

By LUKE MEREDITH, AP Sports Writer

For years, one of the challenges for Iowa State ahead of its season opener was trying to overcome low expectations that often turned out to be justified.

How will the Cyclones handle being expected to be a handful for once?

Iowa State (8-5 in 2017) will open the season Saturday against South Dakota State, ranked third nationally in the FCS and a team the Cyclones are expected to beat. Still, even though Iowa State returns one of its most talented and cohesive teams in recent memory, a tough, front-loaded schedule looms ahead.

After the Jackrabbits leave Ames, Iowa State travels to Iowa City to face a Hawkeyes team that has won the last two three in the rivalry. The Cyclones then host No. 7 Oklahoma — which will undoubtedly be seeking revenge after Iowa State handed the Sooners their only Big 12 loss a year ago.

Iowa State's final breather will be a home date against Akron. The Cyclones then play at No. 16 TCU on Sept. 29, at Oklahoma State and then host No. 17 West Virginia on Oct. 13.

"We're defined by adversity. And once when adversity hits...and it's going to happen, it's just a matter of when that's coming for this year's team," coach Matt Campbell said. "You've got a million different things that can happen, and that can come a million different ways. But to be honest with you, the teams that thrive and have the ability to achieve and reach their full potential are the ones that have the ability to overcome it."

After a bye, Iowa State plays just one preseason Top 25 team, No. 23 Texas, to close 2018.

"When you play a schedule like that ... there's not a lot of grace period. There's not a lot of opportunity to ease into the season," Campbell said. The day-to-day approach "better be on the highest level or you're going to get exposed really fast."

Iowa State fans fretting over the lack of an offensive coordinator — at least in title — didn't get much clarity in Campbell's first news conference of the season on Tuesday.

Campbell indicated that the Cyclones' game plan and subsequent play-calling will likely be a collaborative effort between himself, wide receivers coach Bryan Gasser, quarterbacks coach Joel Gordon and the rest of the offensive assistants.

Campbell also said that senior quarterback Kyle Kempt will have a say in planning how to attack op-

ponents this season.

"I've always called plays on Saturdays, so that's not changing," Campbell said. "I wish I had a more definite answer, I know everybody is looking for it. It's certainly not magic, but there will be a play called on Saturday."

More AP college football: <https://apnews.com/tag/Collegefootball> and https://twitter.com/AP_Top25

Cash bond set for custodian accused of hiding gun in school

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A judge has set a \$5,000 cash-only bond for a Sioux Falls high school custodian accused of hiding a gun in the ceiling of a school restroom.

Twenty-five-year-old Joseph Jay Croal is charged with possession of a firearm on school premises and making a false report to authorities.

Deputy state's attorney Brooke Goodale says Croal lied to law enforcement about finding the gun and that Croal had actually hidden the gun in a men's restroom ceiling at the Career and Technical Education Academy.

The public defender's office, which is representing Croal, requested a personal recognizance bond, citing his cooperation with police.

Judge Sara Pokela said the case was "very serious" before handing down a \$5,000 cash-only bond Tuesday. The Argus Leader reports Croal is due back in court next week.

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

Dakota Access protester injured in blast loses legal battle

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A New York City woman who suffered a serious arm injury in an explosion while protesting the Dakota Access oil pipeline in North Dakota lost a legal battle to obtain evidence she wanted to bolster a civil rights lawsuit against law enforcement.

Sophia Wilansky sued the federal government in February, seeking the return of shrapnel and clothing taken from her while she was hospitalized following her November 2016 injury, or an opportunity to have the items analyzed by a forensic scientist of her hiring.

Her father, Wayne Wilansky, willingly surrendered the evidence, but her lawsuit argued in part that the government was keeping the seized property for an unreasonable length of time and violating her constitutional rights.

U.S. District Judge Wilhelmina Wright said in the Monday ruling that "nothing in the written consent imposes a limitation on the length of time." She added that Wilansky didn't provide "any evidence or argument as to why she is unable to commence a timely civil action without first obtaining access to or possession of the seized property."

Wayne Wilansky told The Associated Press late last year that his daughter planned to sue law enforcement for money damages and that the evidence could bolster her case. Calls to his telephone number on Tuesday were not answered. Sophia Wilansky's attorney did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Wright's decision to dismiss the case.

Federal prosecutors had argued the seizures were legally done and the items were evidence in a grand jury investigation into the altercation in which Wilansky was injured. Prosecutors declined comment Tuesday on Wright's ruling.

Wilansky was injured during a violent clash between protesters and police that became the emblematic skirmish of the months-long protest in North Dakota that tried to block the pipeline's final construction phase. The four-state pipeline began carrying North Dakota oil to Illinois in June 2017.

Wilansky suffered a left arm injury in an explosion and had several surgeries. Protesters allege the blast

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was caused by a concussion grenade thrown by officers, but police maintain it was caused by a propane canister that protesters rigged to explode. The cause is still a mystery, and no one has been charged in the blast.

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

NFL 2018: Vikings-Packers rivalry as fierce as ever

By DAVE CAMPBELL, AP Pro Football Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Will the Minnesota Vikings pick up where they left off, following their surge to the NFC championship game last season?

Or will the Green Bay Packers rebound forcefully enough to take back the division they've mostly dominated for two decades?

The annual report on the NFC North has almost always focused on the Packers, the Vikings or both of these fierce rivals since the NFL's most recent realignment produced the current eight-division format in 2002.

With new head coaches in Detroit (Matt Patricia) and Chicago (Matt Nagy) this year, a big breakout by the Lions or Bears would be necessary to bump the Vikings and Packers from the lead story of 2018.

The Vikings overcame early season knee injuries to quarterback Sam Bradford and running back Dalvin Cook to finish 13-3 and beat New Orleans on the last-second touchdown pass from Case Keenum to Stefon Diggs, before the league's best defense was dissected and humbled by eventual Super Bowl champion Philadelphia in the NFC title game.

Bradford and Keenum departed with Teddy Bridgewater as free agents, but the Vikings signed the best available replacement on the market in Kirk Cousins. They upgraded at defensive tackle with Sheldon Richardson, too, toting as many top-tier players in the 22-man starting lineup as any competitor in the NFL.

With the aspiration of winning the Super Bowl for the first time in the franchise's 58-year history, the Vikings must be concerned about an entire NFC that's as stacked as ever. But for Minnesota, there's no greater competition, now or over the past quarter-century, than Green Bay.

The Packers are past the pain of losing two-time league MVP award winner Aaron Rodgers, whose broken collarbone in the sixth game of the season effectively ended the dream scenario of hoisting the Super Bowl trophy on Minnesota's home turf.

Five-time Pro Bowl tight end Jimmy Graham has joined Green Bay's dangerous offense. As if Rodgers needed anymore motivation to go with his game-changing ability, the Vikings are the very team that knocked him out of action when linebacker Anthony Barr flattened him with a hard hit.

So who's the favorite here? Well, the answer will start to form quickly, when the Vikings visit the Packers in the second game on Sept. 16.

Here's a quick tour around the NFC North:

TOUGH TASK: The pressure is heavy on Cousins to perform as well or better than Keenum did as a fill-in for Minnesota last fall. The offensive line is again carrying major question marks, with right guard Joe Berger retired and left guard Nick Easton likely out for the year with a neck injury. Center Pat Elflein has missed the entire preseason with his rehabilitation from shoulder and ankle surgeries moving slower than anticipated.

The schedule is stiffer for the Vikings, too, with road trips to NFC powers Los Angeles, Philadelphia and Seattle and a visit to AFC champion New England.

"It's trying to just restart that process and make sure that we know that we're not just getting handed 13 wins," wide receiver Adam Thielen said. "Thirteen wins in the NFL is extremely difficult. It doesn't matter how good you are."

SECONDARY? MORE LIKE PRIMARY: Since winning the Super Bowl nearly eight years ago, in Rodgers' third season as the starter, Green Bay has not been back. The pass defense has been the biggest culprit, and for a second straight year the front office used the top of the draft to add cornerbacks. Kevin King

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was the first pick in 2017, and Jaire Alexander and Josh Jackson were the first two players off the board in 2018. There's a new defensive coordinator now, too: Mike Pettine.

Having a healthy Rodgers back was the biggest step the Packers could take toward returning to the playoffs, after their streak of eight straight appearances was stopped, but a deeper and stronger secondary was necessary to get back on that championship track.

"We all should be better for the negative experiences that we've encountered in the past," coach Mike McCarthy said.

NEW BOSS: The Lions took two more significant steps toward lifting a lagging ground game by drafting Kerryon Johnson in the second round out of Auburn and signing LeGarrette Blount, who has carried the ball for two of the past three Super Bowl winners. There's no more important addition in Detroit than Patricia, though.

Patricia was the defensive coordinator for the last six of his 14 seasons with New England, where he left with three Super Bowl rings. He's joining a franchise that has won one playoff game in the past 60 years, so the change in mindset and atmosphere he has brought to the Lions is even more important than his acumen in engineering a defense.

"He laid down the law. He gave us the rules, and he came in with energy," linebacker Jarrad Davis said. "He came in, made it clear, gave us the expectations, and now we have something we can chase."

LETTING IT LOOSE: Over the past four regular seasons, the Vikings and Packers each went 39-25 and the Lions were close behind with a cumulative record of 36-28. The Bears went 19-45. That's why Nagy is here, after serving as the offensive coordinator in Kansas City last year.

The most important part of his job for now will be guiding quarterback Mitchell Trubisky, the second overall pick in the 2017 draft who was brought along carefully after taking over as the starter midway through his rookie season. Trubisky was also handed three new targets: wide receivers Allen Robinson and Taylor Gabriel and tight end Trey Burton.

"Just go out there and play freely and let your instincts take over," Trubisky said. "And then when we make mistakes, just go back and learn from it."

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH: Vikings, Packers, Lions, Bears.

For more AP NFL coverage: <https://apnews.com/tag/NFL> and https://twitter.com/AP_NFL

Environmental groups fight back against corporate lawsuits

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Twenty environmental and civil liberties groups are fighting back against lawsuits they believe are aimed at limiting free speech and silencing critics.

The "Protect the Protest" task force announced Tuesday targets what are known as strategic lawsuits against public participation, or SLAPP, which use legal action and the threat of financial risk to deter people and groups from speaking out against something they oppose.

"We know from our own experience that this legal bullying tactic will work if it's not shut down," said Katie Redford, co-founder and director of EarthRights International.

The effort is to include billboard advertisements, training sessions for journalists and nonprofits, panel discussions and rallies outside the corporate offices of companies the groups believe use such lawsuits.

Rallies are planned next week in San Francisco, New York City and Dallas. Dallas is the base for Energy Transfer Partners, the company that built the Dakota Access oil pipeline and sued Greenpeace, Earth First and BankTrack for up to \$1 billion for allegedly working to undermine the \$3.8 billion project to move North Dakota oil to a shipping point in Illinois.

Greenpeace and the Center for Constitutional Rights, which also is involved in helping defend against that lawsuit, are among the Protect the Protest participants.

Spokeswomen for ETP did not immediately respond to a request for comment Tuesday.

The company's lawsuit filed a year ago alleges the environmental groups disseminated false and mis-

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leading information about the project and interfered with its construction. ETP maintains that the groups' actions interfered with its business, facilitated crimes and acts of terrorism, incited violence, targeted financial institutions that backed the project, and violated defamation and racketeering laws. The groups maintained the lawsuit was an attack on free speech.

U.S. District Judge Billy Roy Wilson this summer dismissed both BankTrack and Earth First as defendants. He said ETP failed to make a case that Earth First is an entity that can be sued, and that BankTrack's actions in imploring banks not to fund the pipeline did not amount to radical ecoterrorism.

EarthRights International helped defend BankTrack, assistance that Redford said exemplifies the type of collective effort the task force will bring.

Wilson also ordered ETP to clarify its claims against Greenpeace, and has given that group until Sept. 4 to file its response to ETP's amended complaint.

Greenpeace USA Executive Director Annie Leonard on Tuesday said a \$300 million lawsuit filed against the group by the Canadian timber industry over its forest protection advocacy is another example of the type of lawsuits the task force hopes to battle.

"A healthy democracy is a precondition for a healthy environment, and we can't have a healthy democracy without informed, engaged public dissent," she said.

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

Survey indicates South Dakota pheasant numbers up sharply

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota saw a 47 percent increase from last year in its annual pheasant brood survey, according to a report issued by the state Game, Fish and Parks Department.

The department surveyed more than 100 state routes, each spanning 30 miles (48 kilometers), from late July through mid-August to collect data for the pheasant index. The statewide count released Monday found an average of about 2.5 pheasants per mile, up from about 1.7 last year.

This year's count is similar to the nearly 2.7 pheasants-per-mile count observed in 2014, when hunters killed an estimated 1.2 million pheasants.

The number of roosters decreased 11 percent statewide compared to last year, but the number of hens increased by 24 percent, the report found.

Game, Fish and Parks Secretary Kelly Hepler said better weather helped this year, with the average pheasant brood size increasing 22 percent over last year.

"I know we were down with hunters last year with the dismal forecast," Department Upland Game Biologist Travis Runia said. "I'll be curious to see how many of those folks maybe come back this year, but we usually see a pop in hunters when we see better brood counts, for sure."

However, pheasant counts in western South Dakota decreased by 5 percent. Runia said it's difficult to get good survey conditions in that part of the state, which sees dry conditions and a lack of morning dew.

Though overall numbers are trending higher, only two areas surveyed this year — Mitchell and Sisseton — beat the 10-year average.

The 2018 pheasant hunting season will be the 100th in state history. The traditional statewide season opens Oct. 20 and runs through Jan. 6.

Aggressive weed found in North Dakota for the first time

By BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A weed that's strong enough to stop combines and resist many herbicides has been found in North Dakota for the first time, the state Agriculture Department said Tuesday.

A farmer recently found Palmer amaranth growing in a soybean field in McIntosh County, in the state's southeast. The finding was confirmed through DNA analysis.

The aggressive pigweed species is native to the desert regions of the southwestern U.S. and northern Mexico, but it has slowly spread to southeastern and Midwestern states, where it has become a major threat

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to cotton, corn and soybean crops. In recent years, it has moved into South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa.

It can grow as much as 3 inches per day and as tall as 7 feet, with each plant producing hundreds of thousands of seeds. The threat from Palmer amaranth is so great that North Dakota State University Weed Science officials named it the "weed of the year" in both 2014 and 2015, even though it hadn't yet been found in the state.

A heavy Palmer amaranth infestation can cut soybean yields by as much as 79 percent and corn yields by up to 91 percent, according to research by Purdue University .

In Iowa, where the weed was first found in 2013, it's a threat to corn crops, though so far "it hasn't taken over as some people thought it would," said Bob Hartzler, a professor and weed expert at Iowa State University.

That's because many fields are already infested with waterhemp, a close relative, and farmers have been aggressively targeting that weed. Palmer amaranth is still slowly getting a foothold in the state, however.

"It's something to keep an eye on, and if we can find it early and target our control programs, I think we can save ourselves a lot of headaches down the road," Hartzler said.

North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring also said early detection is key to battling the weed.

"We are thankful it was found and encourage farmers and the public to learn to identify Palmer amaranth in order to react quickly to control the weed," he said.

It can spread in a number of ways, including on farm machinery, in grass seed and even through the movement of wild birds.

"We do not believe the plants originated from contaminated seed mixes in this case, but believe it may have been introduced by wildlife," Goehring said. "We are working with the North Dakota State Seed Department and NDSU Extension to identify other sources."

Palmer amaranth has developed resistance to some types of herbicides but options are still available, according to Hartzler.

"One thing pigweeds do is adapt very quickly," he said. "That's why we try to encourage everybody to really go after it hard when they first spot it and try to prevent it from getting established."

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

Weekend crash in South Dakota ruins 15 tons of roasts

SISSETON, S.D. (AP) — A weekend crash in northeastern South Dakota involving two semitrailers ruined 30,000 pounds of roasts.

The Highway Patrol says the two semis were traveling in foggy conditions on Saturday when they collided in Roberts County. The drivers suffered only minor injuries, but 15 tons of roasts ended up strewn across a road.

The meat was eventually sent to a landfill.

Delta Sigma Theta pays tribute to soror, the Queen of Soul

By ERRIN HAINES WHACK, AP National Writer

DETROIT (AP) — What began as a thin line swelled into a sea of sisterhood as hundreds of members of Delta Sigma Theta streamed into the rotunda of the Charles H. Wright Museum on Tuesday to pay tribute to the Queen of Soul, a member of the sorority.

The moving ceremony, known as the Omega Omega Service, is not usually open to non-sorority members. The rare exception was the latest testament to the life and legacy of Aretha Franklin, remembered by her sisters as a proud black woman who demanded respect and loved her community.

"She loved Delta and its ideals ... she looked for the best in others. Her life was an inspiration," said U.S. House Rep. Brenda Lawrence, a member of the sorority who was elected the first black mayor of

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Southfield, Michigan, in 2001.

At least 1,000 Delta Sigma Thetas from across the country attended the service, which lasted nearly an hour and is traditionally performed for any member before her funeral. Standing in a semicircle surrounding Franklin's family, the women filed in for nearly 10 minutes wearing black dresses, pearl necklaces, and corsages of African violets, the sorority's official flower.

The traditional service saluted Franklin with words, scripture and songs.

Particularly emotional was the singing of the Delta Prayer, which filled the rotunda as Franklin's sisters serenaded her in unison.

Franklin was inducted as an honorary member of Delta Sigma Theta in 1992. The sorority is among the cultural institutions she loved, including the black church and historically black colleges.

Delta Sigma Theta was founded in 1913 at Howard University in Washington, D.C. Among its members are poet Nikki Giovanni, pioneering congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, entertainer Lena Horne, actresses Ruby Dee and Cicely Tyson and civil rights activist Dorothy Height.

Franklin's commitment to social justice and action was in keeping with Delta Sigma Theta's roots and mission, said National President Beverly E. Smith.

"She was a true, strong Delta and embodied who we are through the songs she sang, through the way she conducted herself and through the boldness she took in terms of social justice," Smith said in an interview after the service. "

On the first day of her public viewing ahead of her funeral services on Friday, Franklin was resplendent in her sorority's signature crimson. She wore the color from head to toe, including red Christian Louboutin stiletto heels, red lipstick and red nail polish.

Thousands of mourners poured into the museum to pay their final respects to Franklin, who died Aug. 16 of pancreatic cancer at the age of 76. The two-day viewing was part of a week of commemorations for the legend.

At the end of the Delta Sigma Theta ceremony, Franklin's sorors filed past her polished bronze casket to say goodbye in a final act of sisterhood. Smith said that women came from across the country to show their respect and solidarity.

"That's the strength of the bond we have, making sure as black women we support each other," Smith said. "They didn't come from themselves; they're just a number in the crowd. But they came to support one who meant something to us and who meant something to this country."

Whack is The Associated Press' national writer on race and ethnicity. Follow her work on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/emarvelous> .

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

Car bomb claimed by Islamic State kills 7 in western Iraq

QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA, The Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Seven people were killed Wednesday in a suicide car bombing claimed by the Islamic State group in a former stronghold of the jihadists in western Iraq, a security official said.

The attacker drove his explosives-laden vehicle into a joint security checkpoint managed by the Iraqi army and the Popular Mobilization Forces at the southern entrance to the town of al-Qaim, about 30 kilometers (19 miles) from the Syrian border, Maj. Gen Qasem al-Dulaimi said.

He said four security forces personnel and three civilians were killed in the blast.

Al-Dulaimi blamed IS for the attack and the group, through its Amaq news agency, later claimed responsibility in posts it circulated on social media.

Al-Qaim is a former Islamic State group stronghold in Anbar province in western Iraq.

A spate of kidnappings and guerrilla style attacks in desert areas in western and central Iraq this summer have stirred security concerns in the country as it seeks to rebuild from its three-year-long war with

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the militant group.

Iraqi officials declared victory over the jihadists late last year after recapturing Mosul, Iraq's second largest city, in a grinding battle supported by the U.S.-led international coalition against IS.

But heavy-handed tactics by the military and the Shiite-dominated PMF, and faltering efforts at reconciliation between the country's Sunni and Shiite Muslims, has fueled resentment in Sunni Muslim areas that were most affected by the war, and where IS cells are believed to operate.

Millions of Iraqis have not been able to return to their homes, including hundreds of thousands still living in displaced persons camps.

Iraq's military and the PMF have been using the predominantly Sunni Anbar province as a base of operations against IS in the country's western desert and for air operations against the group in neighboring Syria.

Associated Press writer Philip Issa in Beirut contributed to this report.

Primary takeaways: Establishment loses, diversity grows

By STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — President Donald Trump got his man in battleground Florida, but he watched a prominent immigration ally fall in Arizona in what was another eventful night in the 2018 midterm season.

Arizona and Florida held primaries Tuesday, both of which tested Trump's influence. There were also new signs of diversity on the Democratic side.

Takeaways from one of the final rounds of voting ahead of midterm elections:

FLORIDA ESTABLISHMENT FAIL

The political establishment in both parties had a bad night in Florida's high-profile race for governor.

On the Republican side, Trump got his man, Republican congressman Ron DeSantis, who beat out the establishment favorite, state Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam. Despite Trump's support, DeSantis was not the strongest general election candidate in the race, operatives in both parties suggest.

The three-term Republican congressman who makes frequent Fox News appearances is known as an immigration hard-liner in a state where Hispanic voters hold outsized sway. And lest there be any question about his allegiance to Trump's divisive immigration policies, DeSantis encourages his toddler to "build the wall" with blocks in one campaign ad.

That's a message that may play well among a general electorate in West Virginia, where Trump won by more than 40 percentage points in 2016, but Trump carried Florida by only a single percentage point.

On the Democratic side, liberal champion Andrew Gillum, the mayor of Tallahassee, bested a crowded field that included establishment favorite Gwen Graham, the former congresswoman and daughter of Florida political icon Bob Graham.

Graham, who was considered a centrist, was viewed as a more attractive general election candidate in the purple state. Gillum is more liberal, having earned the backing of Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and billionaire Tom Steyer.

To win the governor's office for the first time since 1999, Democrats will have to come together quickly.

The results on both sides underscore the outsized influence of each party's most passionate voters in lower-turnout off-year elections.

McSALLY'S CHALLENGE

Martha McSally won the GOP nomination for Arizona Senate, but the results show how divided the party is and the challenge that lies ahead.

A significant number of Republicans backed former Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio and fellow immigration hard-liner Kelli Ward.

Now McSally has to bring together the party — including some of Trump's most devoted supporters — going into the fall against Democrat Krysten Sinema, who is widely considered well-positioned. The race gives Democrats one of their best pickup opportunities in the nation.

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Meanwhile, it would be wrong to assume that McSally's win is a repudiation of the tough rhetoric of her challengers, who essentially split the conservative vote.

The 86-year-old man known nationwide as Sheriff Joe, who personifies the tough immigration policies that define the modern-day Republican Party, may never serve in public office again after his loss Tuesday. (For those who forget, Arpaio was convicted of criminal contempt last year for ignoring a judge's order to stop detaining immigrants in the country illegally. Trump later pardoned him.)

MISSING: BLUE WAVE IN FLORIDA

If a Democratic wave is coming to Florida, it may have to be supplied by independents.

With just a handful of precincts left to count, Republicans cast more than 1.6 million Florida ballots, while registered Democrats were on track to fall just below 1.5 million. Beyond the raw vote totals, the GOP count also was a larger share of its last presidential election turnout.

That measure is a useful way to assess which party is more excited about a midterm election, and it's particularly useful in Florida because the state limits primaries only to voters registered by party.

The GOP total came to almost 35 percent of what Trump won in Florida in 2016. The Democrats' total was about 33 percent of Hillary Clinton's 2016 turnout.

Of course, it doesn't mean Republicans are guaranteed big wins in Florida this fall. But it does show the GOP base in Florida is anything but depressed, turning out in solid numbers to nominate DeSantis after he was endorsed by Trump.

The scenario cuts against the grain of a midterm election cycle that's been defined by energy on the left in other states, and it puts an added burden on Florida Democratic candidates to attract voters who didn't participate in Tuesday's primaries.

FLORIDA MONEY PIT

There was less drama on the Senate side in battleground Florida, but the stage is now set for what will likely be the nation's most expensive midterm contest.

Florida Gov. Rick Scott easily captured the Republican nomination in the GOP's bid to unseat Democratic incumbent Sen. Bill Nelson. At 75 and seeking his fourth term, Nelson is considered particularly vulnerable as voters continue to show disdain for candidates with deep ties to the establishment.

Scott, an independently wealthy businessman, has already spent more than \$27 million on the race compared to Nelson's \$6 million. The conservative Koch network has identified the Senate seat as a top target, and outside groups on both sides are expected to dump millions more in the contest.

The extraordinary price tag of running a statewide campaign in Florida, which features 10 media markets, will test each side's resolve and resources — particularly on the Democratic side.

Republicans know Scott can and will dump millions more of his own personal wealth into his campaign. Democrats aren't so lucky.

National Democrats are already weighing how best to invest their limited dollars considering their challenges in other states where their incumbents are on the defensive. Yet if Democrats lose Nelson's seat in Florida, their already narrow path to the Senate majority becomes virtually nonexistent.

DIVERSITY WAVE GROWS

In his upset victory, Gillum joins two other African-American gubernatorial nominees on the November ballot, Georgia Democrat Stacey Abrams and Maryland Democrat Ben Jealous, in what may be the party's most diverse midterm class in history.

No state is currently represented by a black governor.

The nominations, of course, do not mean the candidates will continue to re-write history.

Republicans have cast Gillum, like the other black nominees, as part of the Democratic Party's far-left fringe. Indeed, in all three cases, the candidates were backed by Sanders. Progressive billionaires Steyer and George Soros invested heavily in Gillum's primary campaign as well.

Diversity may help win Democratic primaries in 2018, but it's unclear if it'll help Democrats pick up seats among a broader general election audience.

Associated Press writer Bill Barrow in Atlanta contributed to this report.

UN: Ortega's Nicaraguan govt behind widespread repression

By CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN, Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A United Nations report released Wednesday on four months of unrest in Nicaragua describes a comprehensive repression effort by the government that extends from the streets to the courts.

The report by the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights calls on the government of President Daniel Ortega to immediately halt the persecution of protesters and disarm the masked civilians who have been responsible for many of the killings and arbitrary detentions.

More than 300 people have been killed in violence since mid-April in this Central American nation. Neighboring Costa Rica has been flooded with thousands of requests for asylum by people fleeing Nicaragua.

The report describes illegal arrests, torture and closed trials. Doctors, professors and judges who have spoken out or protested have been dismissed from their jobs to discourage people from participating in or supporting the protests.

"The level of persecution is such that many of those who have participated in the protests, defended the rights of the protesters, or simply expressed dissenting opinion, have been forced to hide, have left Nicaragua or are trying to do so," according to the U.N. report.

Zeid Ra'ad al-Husseini, the U.N. human rights chief, told reporters in Geneva that "repression and retaliation against demonstrators continue in Nicaragua as the world looks away." He urged the international community to take "concrete action to prevent the current crisis in Nicaragua from descending into deeper social and political turmoil."

In mid-April, retirees and students marched to protest cuts to Nicaragua's social security benefits decreed by Ortega. They were met with violence from young government supporters and riot police. The president eventually retracted the changes, but protests quickly evolved into calls for him to step down.

University students across the country led the protest effort and took over a number of campuses. But in July the government unleashed heavily armed civilian forces that worked with police to clear the barricades that had been erected on strategic highways and throughout some neighborhoods.

There was a short-lived dialogue between the government and opponents, but Ortega accused the Roman Catholic bishops mediating the talks of being part of a coup conspiracy and talks have not resumed. Ortega has blamed international agents and internal enemies of conspiring to overthrow his government. He has said he will not step down before his term ends in 2021.

Protests continue, but they are smaller as student leaders have been arrested or forced into hiding or exile. "There are currently no conditions for the free and safe exercise of the rights to freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly and association," the U.N. report said.

The U.N. team reached its conclusions despite government obstacles thrown in its path. Team members could not access relevant government agencies or observe court hearings for those accused of crimes ranging from organized crime to terrorism for participating in the protests. When the team attempted to travel outside the capital, the foreign ministry forbid it for security reasons.

Arbitrary arrests are conducted without arrest or search warrants, the team found. Detainees are typically held incommunicado for days before their families find out where they have been taken.

This month The Associated Press reported on student protesters who were arrested, beaten and tortured by police and armed civilians. One pregnant student was beaten, despite making her condition known to her captors, and eventually lost her pregnancy.

When some families made habeas corpus filings with the courts in an effort to locate their missing relatives, the petitions were initially assigned to dead judges, the U.N. report said. U.N. investigators believe it was an effort to delay the proceedings.

On Monday night, a judge convicted two young men in the April 21 killing of journalist Angel Gahona in Bluefields. His widow, Migueliuth Sandoval, said Tuesday that the two men are innocent.

"This decision is humiliating, it doesn't give us justice. Because we know that these guys didn't kill my husband, that those who really did it are riot police, because there are videos indicating it, that my husband

was surrounded by police," Sandoval said.

AP writer Jamey Keaten contributed from Geneva.

Google denies Trump charge it rigs "Trump News" searches

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE and BARBARA ORTUTAY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is accusing Google and other U.S. tech companies of rigging search results about him "so that almost all stories & news is BAD" — and though he is offering no evidence, a top adviser says the White House is "taking a look" at whether Google should face federal regulation.

Google is pushing back sharply, saying Trump's claim simply wasn't true: "We never rank search results to manipulate political sentiment."

The president's tweets Tuesday echoed his familiar attacks on the news media — and a conservative talking point that California-based tech companies run by CEOs with liberal leanings don't give equal weight to opposing political viewpoints. They also revealed anew his deep-seated frustration over not getting the credit he believes he deserves.

The president, who has said he runs on little sleep, jumped onto Twitter before dawn Tuesday to rehash his recent complaints about alleged suppression of conservative voices and positive news about him.

He followed that up with vague threats in Oval Office comments.

"I think Google has really taken advantage of a lot of people, and I think that's a very serious thing. That's a very serious charge," Trump said, adding that Google, Twitter, Facebook and others "better be careful, because you can't do that to people."

Trump claimed that "we have literally thousands and thousands of complaints coming in. ... So I think that Google and Twitter and Facebook, they're really treading on very, very troubled territory and they have to be careful."

Larry Kudlow, the president's top economic adviser, told reporters later that the White House is "taking a look" at whether Google searches should be subject to some government regulation. Trump often points proudly to his cutting of government regulations as a spur for economic gains.

In his tweets, Trump said — without offering evidence — that "Google search results for 'Trump News' shows only the viewing/reporting of Fake New Media. In other words, they have it RIGGED, for me & others, so that almost all stories & news is BAD. Fake CNN is prominent. Republican/Conservative & Fair Media is shut out. Illegal?"

He added, again with no evidence, that "96% of results on "Trump News" are from National Left-Wing Media, very dangerous."

A search query Tuesday morning, several hours after the president tweeted, showed stories from CNN, ABC News, Fox News and the MarketWatch business site, among others. A similar search later in the day for "Trump" had Fox News, the president's favored cable network, among the top results.

Google, based in Mountain View, California, said its aim is to make sure its search engine users quickly get the most relevant answers.

"Search is not used to set a political agenda and we don't bias our results toward any political ideology," the company said in a statement. "Every year, we issue hundreds of improvements to our algorithms to ensure they surface high-quality content in response to users' queries. We continually work to improve Google Search and we never rank search results to manipulate political sentiment."

Experts suggested that Trump's comments showed a misunderstanding of how search engines work.

Google searches aim to surface the most relevant pages in response to a user's query, even before he or she finishes typing. The answers that appear first are the ones Google's formulas, with some help from human content reviewers, deem to be the most authoritative, informative and relevant. Many factors help decide the initial results, including how much time people spend on a page, how many other pages link to it, how well it's designed and more.

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Trump and some supporters have long accused Silicon Valley companies of being biased against them. While some company executives may lean liberal, they have long asserted that their products are without political bias.

Media analyst Ken Doctor said it doesn't make sense for mass-market businesses like Google to lean either way politically. He characterized the complaints as a "sign of our times," adding that, years ago, if the head of General Electric was supporting a Republican candidate, people who disagreed wouldn't then go out and boycott GE products.

"The temperature has risen on this," Doctor said.

Steven Andres, who teaches about management information systems at San Diego State University, said people often assume that if you give a computer the same inputs, no matter where you are, that you "get the same outputs."

But it doesn't work that way, he said. "You're seeing different things every moment of the day and the algorithms are always trying to change the results."

Trump didn't say what he based his tweets on. But conservative activist Paula Boylard had said in a weekend blog post that she found "blatant prioritization of left-leaning and anti-Trump media outlets" in search results.

Boylard based her judgments on the political leanings of media outlets on a list by Sharyl Attkisson, host of Sinclair Television's "Full Measure" and author of "The Smear: How Shady Political Operatives and Fake News Control What You See, Think, and How You Vote." Sinclair is a significant outlet for conservative views.

Trump began complaining about the issue earlier this month as social media companies moved to ban right-wing "Infowars" conspiracy theorist Alex Jones from their platforms. The president also argues regularly — and falsely — that the news media avoid writing positive stories about him and his administration.

Jones is being sued for saying the 2012 shooting massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School was staged. Jones has since said he believes the shooting did occur and has argued that the lawsuit should be dismissed because he was acting as a journalist.

Trump has praised Jones' "amazing" reputation.

The issue is also of concern on Capitol Hill, where the House Energy and Commerce Committee, chaired by Rep. Greg Walden, R-Ore., recently announced that Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey is scheduled to testify before the panel on Sept. 5 about the platform's algorithms and content monitoring.

Ortutay reported from New York.

Follow Darlene Superville and Barbara Ortutay on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/dsupervilleap> and <http://www.twitter.com/barbaraortutay>

Arizona Senate race likely to be a tale of 2 pivots

By **NICHOLAS RICCARDI, Associated Press**

PHOENIX (AP) — Rep. Kyrsten Sinema was once a member of the liberal Green Party and a self-described "Prada socialist," but now she's one of the congressional Democrats most likely to vote with President Donald Trump and a champion of moderate compromise. Though she had token opposition from the left in Tuesday's Arizona primary for the party's nomination for U.S. Senate, Democrats are largely united behind her.

Rep. Martha McSally represents a moderate Arizona district and was a Trump critic in 2016, but she has since warmly embraced him and won her party's Senate nomination. She defeated two challengers from her right in the Republican primary Tuesday, but may emerge with less than half of GOP primary voters supporting her after being slammed as a flip-flopper by opponents.

The Senate race in Arizona is shaping up to be a tale of two pivots - Sinema's transformation over the years against McSally's more abrupt swing on Trump, the most divisive issue in politics today. The different ways the two congresswomen's maneuverings have been received by their parties illustrate how

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Republicans and Democrats police their own politicians, especially in Arizona, where the GOP has won every statewide election since 2006.

"The Democrats who are unhappy with who she is are willing to put up with that just to win a Senate seat," said Constantine Querard, a GOP strategist renowned for helping conservative Arizona Republicans win primaries. "Republicans are used to winning, so now we want a good one."

McSally and Sinema will face off for the Senate seat being vacated by Republican Jeff Flake, who's stepping down after his criticisms of Trump made his re-election impossible. And their race begins in the shadow of the death of John McCain, the state's senior senator whose refusal to follow GOP orthodoxy helped fuel the Republican base's demands for purity.

Not only have potential voters responded differently to their shifts, Sinema and McSally describe them differently as well.

Sinema, who once served in the Arizona Legislature, acknowledges her shift, casting it as part of a decadelong learning process. "What I learned early on, my very first term in the Statehouse is when I was willing to listen to other people, to their ideas and work together, you can get a lot of stuff done," she told reporters at a food bank in Phoenix last week.

McSally bristles at any suggestion that she's changed, noting she only entered politics six years ago -- before that she was an Air Force colonel who had served as the first female combat pilot. "It's a false narrative," McSally said of the idea she's tacked rightward. During a campaign trip to the border last week, McSally noted that she met with Trump in March of 2017, before the Senate seat opened up. "I have been working very closely with him since he's been in office."

Nonetheless, McSally was relentlessly characterized by the other Republicans in the primary - former Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio and former state Sen Kelli Ward - as disloyal to Trump. They noted that McSally said Trump's behavior was "not how leaders carry themselves" and called Trump "disgusting" after a tape of him bragging about groping women surfaced in October of 2016.

"She's the biggest flip-flopper in history," Arpaio said of McSally in a recent interview.

Eric Beach, a Ward adviser, said in an interview last week that even if McSally wins she'll still be wounded - especially given conservatives' anger at Flake and McCain for bucking Trump.

"The problem she has is can she turn out that Republican base that feels like they were duped before," Beach said of McSally. "I don't think she's going to have a problem reaching the middle. She's going to have a problem turning out her base."

But McSally has a secret weapon -- Trump himself. He held off on making an endorsement in the primary, though he enthusiastically congratulated McSally on Twitter after her win Tuesday night. McSally has spoken to the president about a post-primary campaign appearance in Arizona. "He can uniquely motivate the base to get that enthusiasm up," McSally said, noting that Democrats are already energized.

Trump, of course, comes with his own baggage. Though he won Arizona by 5 percentage points and isn't unpopular here, he's at best a wild card, Republican pollster Mike Noble said.

"You have to hug Trump because, if not, you lose your base and you're screwed, but in the general you have to pivot and convince your moderates and independents who don't like Trump," Noble said.

So far, Sinema has had the advantage in the race. She's been able to spend millions of dollars on ads introducing herself to voters with no pushback and faced no real competitive primary.

But the dynamic changed last week when McSally released her first attack ad against Sinema. It contrasted the likely Democratic nominee in a pink tutu at a Sept. 11 anti-war protest with McSally's combat service. McSally picked up that theme in her Tuesday night victory speech, spending much of it slamming Sinema as someone "to the left of Hollywood Democrats."

"Everything in this Senate race is going to be different on Aug. 29," predicted Stan Barnes, a veteran GOP lobbyist, noting his party's strong track record in statewide races. "Republicans have a tremendous head start on Democrats in every general election."

Both Sinema and McSally are suspending their campaigns while McCain's body lies in state at Arizona's Capitol and then is flown to Washington on Thursday. Still, all signs nationally point to Democratic enthusiasm in November, and Arizona is no different in that respect. And both presumptive nominees are top-tier

campaigners and prodigious fundraisers.

"Dang, this is going to be a race," Noble said.

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Fla. governor's race pits liberal Dem vs. Trump Republican

By JULIE PACE and BRENDAN FARRINGTON, Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — A liberal Florida Democrat pulled off an upset victory Tuesday in the state's primary for governor while President Donald Trump's favored candidate cruised to victory for the GOP, setting up a fierce fall showdown in the nation's largest political battleground. Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum, who would be the state's first black governor, and Republican Rep. Ron DeSantis, both defeated more moderate opponents aligned with their parties' establishment.

Gillum is his party's third black gubernatorial nominee this campaign season, along with Stacey Abrams in Georgia and Ben Jealous in Maryland. His victory comes as Democrats have elevated an increasingly diverse field of candidates, including women, African-Americans and Muslims. The slate of candidates heading into the fall campaign is seen as a manifestation of the party's resistance in the racially charged atmosphere of the Trump era.

In Arizona, Rep. Martha McSally fended off a pair of conservative challengers to carry the Republican Senate primary to fill the seat vacated by retiring Sen. Jeff Flake. That race was shadowed by the death of John McCain, a towering figure who represented Arizona in the Senate for six terms. Gov. Doug Ducey will name McCain's replacement after the senator's funeral.

Florida and Arizona are both closely watched states, featuring growing minority populations that have bolstered Democratic candidates and Republican electorates that have grown older and more conservative. The fall face-offs could well signal how they'll swing in the 2020 presidential election.

In Florida, DeSantis gave Trump credit for his victory, saying that with one supportive tweet, the president "kind of put me on the map."

Gillum thanked supporters who embraced "our plan for a state that makes room for all of us, not just the well-heeled and the well-connected, but all of us."

The results immediately transformed the Florida race into one of the key gubernatorial campaigns in the country. Gillum's primary victory could help Democrats boost enthusiasm among minorities, while DeSantis will test Trump's grip on a crucial state he won in 2016 and wants to keep in his column in 2020.

In Arizona, McCain's death after a yearlong battle with brain cancer loomed over the primary contests.

Though he has received praise from far and wide this week, the three Republican candidates running to replace his retiring seat-mate, Flake — including establishment favorite McSally — aligned themselves more with the president than the longtime senator.

Elsewhere Tuesday, GOP voters in reliably Republican Oklahoma backed mortgage company owner Kevin Stitt in a runoff for the gubernatorial nomination. Stitt won in part by criticizing his opponent as insufficiently supportive of Trump.

Trump surprised Florida Republicans with his endorsement of DeSantis, and frequently tweeted about the lawmaker, one of his staunchest supporters in Washington. His backing helped push DeSantis past Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam, who has held elected office in Florida since 1996, quickly built up establishment support and raised millions of dollars.

Gillum came from behind in a crowded and diverse Democratic field. Former Rep. Gwen Graham, whose father, Bob Graham, served as governor, had hoped to position herself to become the state's first female governor.

Gillum, a favorite of progressives, spent the least of the five major Democratic candidates and had the smallest television presence. He often said he was the only candidate in the race who wasn't a millionaire or billionaire, and won the endorsement of Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders.

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Florida Gov. Rick Scott is vacating the governor's mansion to run for Senate. He easily won his primary, setting up a showdown with Democratic Sen. Bill Nelson that is expected to be one of the nation's most competitive races.

Democrats also eyed congressional pickup opportunities in Florida as they try to flip control of the U.S. 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.

Donna Shalala, who served as President Bill Clinton's Health and Human Services secretary, claimed the Democratic nomination in Ros-Lehtinen's district.

The contests in both Florida and Arizona were being watched for signs of how the states might tilt in the 2020 presidential election.

McCain's death has highlighted anew the shift in the Republican Party since he captured the GOP nomination for president in 2008. With his consistently conservative voting record, Arizonans elected McCain to the Senate 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 CNN survey in June found that 67 percent of Democrats had a favorable opinion of McCain, while just 33 percent of Republicans did.

Among those on the Arizona ballot was former state Sen. Kelli Ward, who tried unsuccessfully to unseat McCain in 2016. When McCain's family said last week that he was discontinuing medical treatment, Ward speculated in a later-deleted Facebook post that the announcement was intended to hurt her campaign for Flake's seat.

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

Ward and Arpaio split about half of the vote, clearing the way for McSally, a fighter pilot turned congresswoman in the McCain mold. She'll face Democratic Rep. Kyrsten Sinema, who easily won her race.

McSally wasted no time taking on her Democratic opponent, calling the race "a choice between a doer and a talker, between a patriot and a protester."

Sinema's and McSally's Senate runs also have created 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.

Former Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick emerged from a competitive Democratic primary to win the nomination for the seat. She will face Lea Marquez Peterson, who won the Republican nomination.

Pace reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Joe Reedy in Tallahassee, Florida, Nicholas Riccardi in Phoenix, Sean Murphy in Oklahoma City, AP polling editor Emily Swanson in Washington, Kelli Kennedy in Miami and Freida Frisaro in Fort Lauderdale contributed to this report.

On Twitter, follow Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC> and Brendan Farrington at <http://twitter.com/bsfarrington>

Trump candidate, Dem underdog to vie for Florida gov's seat

By **BRENDAN FARRINGTON, Associated Press**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Florida's governor's race will largely be a referendum on President Donald Trump as his hand-picked Republican nominee faces off against his political opposite, a young, black mayor who stunned a crowded Democratic field by reaching out to the far left of the party in a campaign that relied on true believers rather than big money and television ads.

The race between U.S. Rep. Ron DeSantis and Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum will be unlike any Florida has seen between candidates who defied old-school political thinking and won in an era where Trump

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inspires both sides of the political spectrum in different ways.

DeSantis came from behind with the help of Trump to beat Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam, who campaigned longer, raised more money and built the support of the party establishment. Gillum, who could become the state's first black governor, upset a field of five that included former U.S. Rep. Gwen Graham, who was hoping to become the state's first female governor and win the office once held by her father, Bob Graham.

Gillum spent the least of the major candidates and barely mounted a television campaign, but he won the hearts of groups that call themselves progressives and was given a late boost by Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders.

Gillum and DeSantis will compete for the office held by Rick Scott, who can't run for re-election because of term limits and is instead challenging Democratic U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson. Scott had an easy win in Tuesday's GOP primary, and now he heads into an increasingly bitter — and expensive — showdown with Nelson that could play a decisive role in which party controls the Senate.

The governor's race, in a state sure to be a battleground in the 2020 presidential election, will essentially be a referendum on Trump.

"We're going to make clear to the rest of the world that the dark days that we've been under coming out of Washington, that the derision and the division that have been coming out of our White House, that right here in the state of Florida that we are going to remind this nation of what is truly the American way," Gillum told his cheering supporters.

DeSantis came out fighting after his victory, criticizing Gillum as "way, way, way too liberal for the state of Florida."

"That is not what Floridians want," DeSantis told reporters. "I think it's going to be a great contrast and we will make sure we take it to him."

DeSantis based nearly his entire campaign around the president, and acknowledge after the victory that the endorsement helped.

"With one tweet, that kind of put me on the map," DeSantis said.

DeSantis entered the race a month after Trump's December tweet that he would make "a GREAT governor." Later Trump held a rally for him in Tampa. Suddenly, he was considered the favorite over Putnam, who seemingly spent his entire adult life building toward the run for governor.

DeSantis' television ads were Trump-focused, including one where his toddler stacks bricks while DeSantis exclaims, "Build the wall!"

For some voters, the endorsement was all that mattered.

Don Govan, an 86-year-old retiree from Fort Lauderdale and ardent Trump supporter, walked into the polling station with a folded piece of paper in his hand that listed who to vote for based on Trump's recommendations. He said it was the only reason he voted for DeSantis.

"I don't even know (DeSantis) ... but as long as Trump says so," he said.

DeSantis, who turns 40 next month, is a former Navy lawyer who won his seat in 2012 running as a Washington outsider. He ran for Senate in 2016 but dropped out when Republican Sen. Marco Rubio shut down his presidential campaign and ran for re-election.

Gillum relied on a grassroots campaign and the support of the left wing of the party.

"I think it's what Florida's been needing," said supporter Lauren Durchslag, 34, of Orlando. "Everyone kept trying to vote for someone middle of the ground, someone who they thought would win. But I don't think middle of the ground wins anymore. I think being a progressive and being on the right side of history is going to make a difference."

In addition to Graham, Gillum beat former Miami Beach Mayor Philip Levine, who poured \$29 million of his personal wealth into the race and saturated the state with 30 different campaign ads. Also in the race was billionaire Jeff Greene, who spent about \$38 million of his own money on the race. Orlando-area businessman Chris King finished last.

Gillum was a 23-year-old Florida A&M student when he became the youngest person elected to the Tallahassee City Commission in 2003. He was elected mayor in 2014.

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Gillum is a gifted public speaker and did well in debates, often receiving the most applause, but the FBI is investigating Tallahassee city hall for corruption. Gillum has said he's not a target.

The differences between the candidates are pronounced.

DeSantis is pro-gun, and anti-tax; Gillum boasts about beating the National Rifle Association in a lawsuit and is calling for an increase in corporate taxes.

While he didn't make race an issue, Gillum said during a recent interview that it would be "big" to be Florida's first black governor.

"I have been really slow to try to think on it because it's too big," he said. "There will absolutely be a part of this that I can't even put words to around what it might mean for my children and other people's kids. Especially growing up for them in the age of Donald Trump."

AP reporters Joe Reedy, Tamara Lush in Orlando, Kelli Kennedy in Fort Lauderdale and Mike Schneider in Orlando contributed to this report.

Final farewells to Sen. John McCain begin at Arizona Capitol

By MELISSA DANIELS, Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Family, friends and constituents will gather Wednesday at Arizona's Capitol to pay their respects to Sen. John McCain, the first of two days of services here before he departs the state he has represented since the 1980s.

A private ceremony will be held Wednesday morning at the Arizona State Capitol Museum rotunda, where McCain will lie in state. That ceremony will include remarks from Gov. Doug Ducey and former U.S. Sen. Jon Kyl, plus a benediction from Sen. Jeff Flake. It will also mark the first appearance of McCain's family members since the longtime Arizona senator died of brain cancer on Saturday at age 81.

Later that afternoon, the Capitol will be open to members of the public who want to pay their respects. The viewing will go on as long as people are waiting in line, Rick Davis, McCain's former presidential campaign manager, said Monday.

For some Arizona residents, McCain has been a political fixture in the state for their entire lives. He took office in Arizona in the early 1980s, first as a congressman and then as a senator in the seat once held by Sen. Barry Goldwater.

Crews spent the past several days prepping the Capitol for the visitors, hauling in chairs, cleaning up the building and assembling dozens of flags. McCain is the third person to lie in state in the rotunda in the last 40 years; others were Arizona State Senator Marilyn Jarrett in 2006 and Olympic gold medalist Jesse Owens, a Tucson resident, in 1980.

Thursday morning will see a procession through Phoenix on the way to a memorial service at North Phoenix Baptist Church, with the public invited to line the route along Interstate 17.

The memorial service will see multiple tributes, readings and musical performances, including a tribute from Vice President Joe Biden. Musical choices include a performance of "Amazing Grace" by the Brophy Student Ensemble and a recessional to "My Way" by Frank Sinatra.

From there, McCain will depart Arizona for the last time from Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport.

Another viewing will be at the U.S. Capitol on Friday, with a final memorial service at the Washington National Cathedral.

A website laying out details for the services says to send any flowers to a local VA hospital.

Legal marijuana industry tries to shake 'stoner' stereotypes

By JOHN ROGERS and KRYSTA FAURIA, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Michelle Janikian, who writes about marijuana for publications like Herb, Playboy and Rolling Stone, says after she tells someone what she does for a living, she usually spends the rest of the conversation "trying to act so friendly and mainstream" so they don't think she's stoned.

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Adam Salcido relates that after he went to work a couple of years ago for a Southern California company that helps organize weed-infused events like Hempfest and Cannabis Cup, he had to reassure his family he wouldn't turn into a drug addict.

Stoner stereotypes die hard.

But with a multibillion-dollar industry beginning to flower — marijuana is now legal in some form in 30 states — cannabis advocates are pushing to dispel the idea that people who toked up still live on the couches in their parents' basements and spend their waking hours eating Cheetos and playing video games.

MedMen, a flashy, upscale chain of dispensaries that brands itself as the Apple store of pot shops, recently rolled out a \$2 million ad campaign that, for lack of a better description, might be called the "anti-stoner offensive."

Photos of 17 people — including a white-haired grandmother, a schoolteacher, a business executive, a former pro football player and a nurse — are being splashed across billboards, buses and the web by the company that has dispensaries in Los Angeles, Las Vegas and New York. Each photo has the word "stoner" crossed out and in its place a description of their job.

People can find their biographies on the website www.forgetstoner.com, where they can also learn why they use weed. Reasons range from treatment of medical conditions like migraines and anxiety to simply enjoying the high.

"What we're saying is the very definition of a stereotype is defining a person by one bad mention," says Daniel Yi, MedMen's senior vice president of communications and a former Los Angeles Times reporter. "They're also a grandmother. They're also a father, a son, a brother."

Judd Weiss, CEO and founder of cannabis company Lit.Club, believes the industry needs to do still more. He suggests marketing products in a way that makes them look more than just respectable, but as the herbal equivalent of a fine bourbon or scotch.

Thus, he says, Lit.Club's vape pens are packaged in a way "that won't embarrass you at the opera." They look sleek and stylish, with inspirational phrases like "Light A Path" printed on each one. He compares the aroma and flavor of his company's pre-rolled joints to something similar to a fine brandy.

"Very much like the Tesla, we want to be seen as luxury quality but affordable," he said.

The website Leafly, which is sometimes called a Yelp for discerning potheads, has taken out ads in The New York Times and staged promotional events at gatherings like the South by Southwest Festival in Austin, Texas, to extol the virtues of marijuana. Better sex and better health are two claims it focuses on.

Still there is pushback from some who believe realities about pot are being glossed over by slick marketing.

"It is not a controversial claim to say that marijuana could be addictive for some people, that it could produce mental illness, that it's tied to impaired driving, that it makes you not motivated, that you're more likely to drop out of school if you're a kid using," said Kevin Sabet, president of the group Smart Approaches to Marijuana and a former drug policy adviser to presidents Clinton, Obama and George W. Bush.

Sabet accuses the cannabis industry of enticing children with edibles and cookies in an attempt to become another "Big Tobacco," although he also acknowledges there is evidence that marijuana has some medicinal value.

It was edibles that brought Cindy Paul of Billings, Montana, to a Portland, Oregon, pot shop a few weeks ago to sample marijuana for the first time in 25 years. A casual if closeted smoker during her school days, Paul, 55, said she decided to indulge again while vacationing with her daughter in a state where it's legal and where she can acquire it in a form she doesn't have to inhale.

"I do think it has medicinal qualities," she said, adding, "I'm not using it for that. I'm using it to have a good time. I don't think it's any different than having a beer."

To bring more people like Paul into the fold, branding expert Robert Miner says the marijuana industry needs to use movies and TV shows to change negative perceptions.

Those lovable stoners Cheech and Chong were fine back in the day when it came to rebuffing the idea that anybody who smoked pot was headed for Reefer Madness. But the mainstreaming of marijuana, he said, demands a new message.

"For that larger portion of the cannabis-consuming population, that same silly bumbling stereotype that

led to a wider acceptance is now an impediment to their being open about their cannabis consumption," said Miner, whose firm, Miner & Co. Studio, works with TV networks and other media in image building.

One show that presents a more modern take on marijuana is HBO's "High Maintenance." It features a bicycle-riding pot dealer who interacts with a variety of average New Yorkers, from empty-nesting Boomers to workaholic Millennials. The only thing any have in common is they buy marijuana from him and, as they do, pull him into their daily lives.

It's one of Janikian's favorite shows, and she'd like to see more like it. But for now the writer who divides her time between New York and Mexico will continue to remain circumspect about her marijuana use.

She sometimes uses a topical cream to curb anxiety and after a hard day's work she likes to smoke a joint to unwind like any "random normal person" would have a glass of wine.

But she knows those random normal people are often skeptical.

"It's like, 'Oh, you just want to smoke weed,'" she says, laughing. "'Stop lying.'"

Associated Press writer Gillian Flaccus in Portland, Oregon, contributed to this report.

Delta Sigma Theta pays tribute to soror, the Queen of Soul

By ERRIN HAINES WHACK, AP National Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Hundreds of members of Delta Sigma Theta paid tribute to their soror, Aretha Franklin at a packed ceremony that capped a day of mourning in Detroit.

The sorority's traditional Omega Omega service Tuesday night lasted nearly an hour, saluting Franklin with song, scripture and words. Franklin was inducted into Delta Sigma Theta as an honorary member in 1992. She was remembered for her regal presence and love of her community — traits they say embody the organization's virtues.

A sea of women wearing black, many with African violet corsages and pearl necklaces lead a procession into the rotunda of the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. More than 1,000 people attended the service.

Franklin died Aug. 16 and will be laid to rest on Friday.

Sentencing underway for ex-Texas cop convicted of murder

By RYAN TARINELLI, Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — Jurors are now deciding the fate of a former Texas police officer who was convicted of murder for fatally shooting a black, unarmed teenager last year in suburban Dallas.

Wednesday marks the second day of the sentencing phase in the trial of Roy Oliver, who was convicted Tuesday for the 2017 slaying of 15-year-old Jordan Edwards. Edwards was killed when Oliver, a police officer in Balch Springs at the time, fired into a car full of black teenagers as it drove away from a house party.

In a rare guilty verdict in a police shooting case, the Dallas County jurors were not swayed by Oliver's claim that he feared for his partner's life when he fired into the vehicle. His partner told jurors he didn't fear for his life.

Gasps echoed around the courtroom as the verdict was read. Edwards' relatives sobbed and hugged prosecutors, waved their hands in the air and proclaimed "Thank you, Jesus!" after the jury left.

His father, Odell Edwards, briefly spoke outside the courtroom before heading back in to begin listening to the sentencing phase of the trial. He said he was thankful for the decision of the jury — which featured two black members out of 12 jurors and two alternates — and felt like jumping for joy.

"I just want to say I'm happy, very happy," he said, adding that it's "been a long time" since he felt that way.

Jurors later heard from Edwards' father when he testified during the sentencing phase of the trial. He told them his son always had a smile on his face and dreamed of playing football at Alabama.

Oliver faces between five and 99 years in prison, according to an Edwards family attorney.

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Oliver and his partner were responding to a report of underage drinking at the house party. Police initially said the vehicle backed up toward officers "in an aggressive manner," but later said that bodycam video showed the vehicle was moving forward as officers approached. Oliver was fired just days after the shooting.

Experts say it's extremely rare for police officers to be tried and convicted of murder for shootings that occurred while they were on duty.

Only six non-federal police officers have now been convicted of murder in such cases — and four of those were overturned — since 2005, according to data compiled by criminologist and Bowling Green State University professor Phil Stinson. Stinson, who tracks such cases nationwide, told The Associated Press on Tuesday that to secure a murder conviction, the facts of a case have to be "so over the top and bizarre" that the officer's actions can't be rationally explained.

Experts also say that securing a conviction against an officer is often a challenge because jurors are inclined to believe police testimony and criminal culpability in such cases is subjective.

Oliver was found not guilty on two lesser charges of aggravated assault stemming from the shooting. Jurors deliberated for two days before reaching the verdicts. The sentencing phase stretched into the evening Tuesday before jurors recessed for the day.

"This was a long fought battle," said Daryl Washington, an attorney representing Odell Edwards in a civil lawsuit filed in the death. "We are just happy ... that Roy Oliver is gonna have to do his time for taking Jordan's life. What he did on that night should have never happened."

Washington said black children and teenagers across the country can now walk around a little safer because officers know they will be held accountable.

In closing arguments, defense attorneys told jurors they needed to evaluate the circumstances from Oliver's viewpoint and from what the former officer knew at the time. But prosecutors described Oliver as out of control and looking for a reason to kill. They argued that his firing into the car wasn't reasonable.

The shooting came after Oliver and his partner, Tyler Gross, had broken up the party. Both officers were inside the residence when they heard gunfire outside and responded. Authorities later determined the shots were fired near a nursing home in the area.

Oliver retrieved his rifle and went toward Gross, who was ordering the car carrying Edwards to stop. Oliver testified that he saw the car back up and stop for a second before moving forward and going toward Gross.

Oliver told the jury the car was about to hit his partner. Oliver said he felt he had no other option but to fire. Gross, however, testified that he did not fear for his life and never felt the need to fire his weapon. He also said he didn't feel like the vehicle was trying to hit him.

Prosecutors said Oliver fired after the vehicle passed Gross. Investigators also said no guns were found in the teens' vehicle.

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Fans mourn Aretha Franklin at gospel-infused public viewing

By JEFF KAROUB, Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — The regal presence Aretha Franklin exuded in life was captured at her viewing on Tuesday, with the late Queen of Soul in a gold-plated casket dressed completely in red, including high-heeled pumps, proving, as one person put it, that she was a "diva to the end."

As Franklin's powerful vocals from classic gospel performances were piped through the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit, the Rock and Roll Hall of Famer looked as if she was preparing for one more performance. She wore earrings, red lipstick and red nail polish, and her hair was cut short. Her dress — with its ornamental elements and sheer netting fabric — was reminiscent of an outfit she would wear onstage and "something she would have selected for herself," her niece, Sabrina

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Owens, told The Associated Press.

Mourners poured into the museum to pay their final respects to Franklin, who died Aug. 16 of pancreatic cancer at the age of 76. The two-day viewing was part of a week of commemorations for the legend, who will be laid to rest on Friday.

The Wright Museum is a cultural landmark in Detroit, where Franklin grew up and spent most of her life. Museum board member Kelly Major Green said the goal was to create a dignified and respectful environment akin to a church, the place where Franklin got her start.

"What we wanted to do is be reflective of the Queen," Green said. "It's beautiful. She's beautiful."

Green said Franklin's attire and pose communicated both power and comfort, as she did in life. The shoes, in particular, show "The Queen of Soul is diva to the end," Green said.

Fans strolled by the casket, some in tears; one woman blew a kiss to Franklin, who was surrounded by massive arrangements of roses of different hues.

Tammy Gibson, 49, of Chicago said she arrived about 5:30 a.m. She came alone but made fast friends with others who sang and reminisced.

Growing up, Gibson said she heard Franklin's music "playing all the time" by her parents, who "told me to go to bed — it's an adult party."

Outside the museum, she said: "I know people are sad, but it's just celebrating — people dancing and singing her music." Indeed, a group of women were singing her hit "Freeway of Love."

Franklin had been a constant in Gibson's life.

"I saw the gold-plated casket — it dawned on me: She's gone, but her legacy and her music will live on forever."

Owens said she began planning for this week's festivities earlier this year.

"After all she gave to the world, I felt we needed to give her an appropriate send-off that would match her legacy," she said. "She loved the city of Detroit and the city of Detroit loved her."

The roses that surround the casket, Owens said, reflected her love for the flower and her propensity to send arrangements "in grand fashion."

Franklin was dressed in red symbolic of her membership in the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. The service organization of predominantly black women planned a private ceremony Tuesday night in the museum in honor of Franklin.

The setting for the 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.

The Queen of Soul, Seniors said, was "a singer of the universe." Yet she added that Franklin also was "so unapologetically black — she was so proud of being a black woman."

Owens said the museum has held services for many dignitaries, most famously Rosa Parks: "It was important that Aretha take her place next to them and lie in state there."

For all the formality, however, Owens said the viewings are intended to be welcoming and accessible for her legions of fans.

"She respected them — she understood that if it were not for them, she wouldn't be who she is," she said.

The museum also plans to stage an exhibition honoring Franklin. "Think" is billed as "a tribute to the Queen of Soul," and is scheduled to run from Sept. 21 to Jan. 21, 2019.

Franklin had strong loyalty to her family and fans to her last days.

"What you see with her is what you get," Owens said. "She was a fighter — she fought this disease hard, all the way to the end."

One of those fans, Cheryl Matthews, never met Franklin but felt close — and hurt by the loss.

"She feels like she could be a sister or an aunt to me," said Matthews, a 64-year-old Detroit resident who attended the viewing. "She's always been here."

Linda Swanson, whose funeral home is handling services for Franklin, said the singer had covered the funeral expenses of many needy families over the years.

"It was nothing for Miss Franklin to call us," she said. "She would take care of the expenses — and usually in full without being asked or prompted to do so. Many of the people you see are here because they were blessed by her big heart and her desire to reach beyond the boundaries of her own success and touch others."

Owens stressed that the viewing and other events could not happen without a group she calls "Aretha's angels." Franklin never spoke about her wishes, Owens said, but she hopes the services are what "she would have wanted and that she would have been proud of."

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> .

Texan says he's selling 3D-printed gun plans after ruling

By JIM VERTUNO and MARTHA BELLISLE, Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The owner of a Texas company that makes untraceable 3D-printed guns said Tuesday that he has begun selling the blueprints through his website to anyone who wants to make one, after a federal court order barred him from posting the plans online.

Cody Wilson said at a news conference that he started selling the plans Tuesday morning and that he had already received nearly 400 orders. He said he'll sell the plans for as little as a penny to anyone in the U.S. who wants them.

"Anyone who wants to get these files is going to get them," Wilson said, noting he can only sell to U.S. customers. "They can name their own price."

Wilson said that blueprints purchased through his company's website could be downloaded on a thumb drive and shipped to buyers by standard mail, sent by email or sent by some other secure download transfer. Some of his first sales included purchases made with crypto currency, he said.

Nineteen states and the District of Columbia had sought an injunction to stop a settlement that the State Department reached with Wilson's Austin-based company, Defense Distributed, after the agency removed the 3D gun-making plans from a list of weapons or technical data that are not allowed to be exported. The states argued that online access to the undetectable plastic guns would pose a security risk and could be acquired by felons or terrorists.

On Monday, U.S. District Judge Robert Lasnik in Seattle blocked Defense Distributed from posting the blueprints online, saying, "It is the untraceable and undetectable nature of these small firearms that poses a unique danger."

But Wilson said the ruling still allows him to sell the blueprints even if he can't post them online for free, widespread distribution.

"Regulation under the (law) means that the files cannot be uploaded to the internet, but they can be emailed, mailed, securely transmitted, or otherwise published within the United States," the ruling said on its final page.

"I'm following yesterday's orders that direct me to sell the files," Wilson said. "The judge was very gracious to put that in black lettering."

Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson, whose office oversaw the federal lawsuit, said Tuesday that he believes the judge's ruling makes Wilson's latest actions illegal.

"Because of our lawsuit, it is once again illegal to post downloadable gun files to the internet. I trust the federal government will hold Cody Wilson, a self-described 'crypto-anarchist,' accountable to that law," Ferguson said. "If they don't, President Trump will be responsible for anyone who is hurt or killed as a result of these weapons."

Andy Reuss, a U.S. Department of Justice spokesman, declined to comment.

Wilson said he anticipates that states may try to sue to stop him from selling the plans, but that he is

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raising money for his legal defense. He also said he will continue to challenge the Monday court order.

Wilson said he believes he could have previously sold the blueprints but didn't because he wanted to be able to post them online for widespread, free distribution.

"For many years I chose not to sell these files. I was an open source advocate," Wilson said. "I don't expect to make money on it."

Bellisle reported from Seattle.

Follow Jim Vertuno on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/JimVertuno>

Follow Martha Bellisle at <https://twitter.com/marthabellisle>

Trump accuses Google of biased searches, warns 'be careful'

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE and BARBARA ORTUTAY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Tuesday accused Google and other U.S. tech companies of rigging search results about him "so that almost all stories & news is BAD." He offered no evidence of bias, but a top adviser said the White House is "taking a look" at whether Google should face federal regulation.

Google pushed back sharply, saying Trump's claim simply wasn't so: "We never rank search results to manipulate political sentiment."

The president's tweets echoed his familiar attacks on the news media — and a conservative talking point that California-based tech companies run by CEOs with liberal leanings don't give equal weight to opposing political viewpoints. They also revealed anew his deep-seated frustration he doesn't get the credit he believes he deserves.

The president, who has said he runs on little sleep, jumped onto Twitter before dawn Tuesday to rehash his recent complaints about alleged suppression of conservative voices and positive news about him.

He followed that up with vague threats in Oval Office comments.

"I think Google has really taken advantage of a lot of people, and I think that's a very serious thing. That's a very serious charge," Trump said, adding that Google, Twitter, Facebook and others "better be careful, because you can't do that to people."

Trump claimed that "we have literally thousands and thousands of complaints coming in. ... So I think that Google and Twitter and Facebook, they're really treading on very, very troubled territory and they have to be careful."

Larry Kudlow, the president's top economic adviser, told reporters later that the White House is "taking a look" at whether Google searches should be subject to some government regulation. That would be a noteworthy development since Trump often points proudly to his cutting of government regulations as a spur for economic gains.

In his tweets, Trump said — without offering evidence — that "Google search results for 'Trump News' shows only the viewing/reporting of Fake New Media. In other words, they have it RIGGED, for me & others, so that almost all stories & news is BAD. Fake CNN is prominent. Republican/Conservative & Fair Media is shut out. Illegal?" He added, again with no evidence, that "96% of results on "Trump News" are from National Left-Wing Media, very dangerous."

A search query Tuesday morning, several hours after the president tweeted, showed stories from CNN, ABC News, Fox News and the MarketWatch business site, among others. A similar search later in the day for "Trump" had Fox News, the president's favored cable network, among the top results.

Google, based in Mountain View, California, said its aim is to make sure its search engine users quickly get the most relevant answers.

"Search is not used to set a political agenda and we don't bias our results toward any political ideology," the company said in a statement. "Every year, we issue hundreds of improvements to our algorithms to ensure they surface high-quality content in response to users' queries. We continually work to improve

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Google Search and we never rank search results to manipulate political sentiment.”

Experts suggested that Trump’s comments showed a misunderstanding of how search engines work.

Google searches aim to surface the most relevant pages in response to a user’s query, even before he or she finishes typing. The answers that appear first are the ones Google’s formulas, with some help from human content reviewers, deem to be the most authoritative, informative and relevant. Many factors help decide the initial results, including how much time people spend on a page, how many other pages link to it, how well it’s designed and more.

Trump and some supporters have long accused Silicon Valley companies of being biased against them. While some company executives may lean liberal, they have long asserted that their products are without political bias.

Media analyst Ken Doctor said it doesn’t make sense for mass-market businesses like Google to lean either way politically. He characterized the complaints as a “sign of our times,” adding that, years ago, if the head of General Electric was supporting a Republican candidate, people who disagreed wouldn’t then go out and boycott GE products.

“The temperature has risen on this,” Doctor said.

Steven Andres, who teaches about management information systems at San Diego State University, said people often assume that if you give a computer the same inputs no matter where you are that you “get the same outputs.”

But it doesn’t work that way, he said. “You’re seeing different things every moment of the day and the algorithms are always trying to change the results.”

Trump didn’t say what he based his tweets on. But conservative activist Paula Boylard had said in a weekend blog post that she found “blatant prioritization of left-leaning and anti-Trump media outlets” in search results.

Boylard based her judgments on the political leanings of media outlets on a list by Sharyl Attkisson, host of Sinclair Television’s “Full Measure” and author of “The Smear: How Shady Political Operatives and Fake News Control What You See, Think, and How You Vote.” Sinclair is a significant outlet for conservative views.

Trump began complaining about the issue earlier this month as social media companies moved to ban right-wing “Infowars” conspiracy theorist Alex Jones from their platforms. The president also argues regularly — and falsely — that the news media avoid writing positive stories about him and his administration.

Jones is being sued for saying the 2012 shooting massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School was staged. Jones has since said he believes the shooting did occur and has argued that the lawsuit should be dismissed because he was acting as a journalist.

Trump has praised Jones’ “amazing” reputation.

The issue is also of concern on Capitol Hill, where the House Energy and Commerce Committee, chaired by Rep. Greg Walden, R-Ore., recently announced that Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey is scheduled to testify before the panel on Sept. 5 about the platform’s algorithms and content monitoring.

Ortutay reported from New York.

Follow Darlene Superville and Barbara Ortutay on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/dsupervilleap> and <http://www.twitter.com/barbaraortutay>

Asian stock markets mostly higher after Wall Street gain

By JOE McDONALD, AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Asian stock markets edged higher Wednesday after Wall Street gained on strength in technology and retailing shares.

KEEPING SCORE: Tokyo’s Nikkei 225 rose 0.5 percent to 22,927.35 points and Hong Kong’s Hang Seng added 22 points to 28,373.74. The Shanghai Composite Index was off 2 points at 2,775.89 and Seoul’s Kospi gained 2 points to 2,305.98. Sydney’s S&P-ASX 200 advanced 0.3 percent to 6,321.20 and bench-

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marks in Taiwan and New Zealand gained.

WALL STREET: The Standard & Poor's 500 index closed at a new record. Shoe retailer DSW surged 20.2 percent after reporting stronger-than-expected results. Apple added 0.8 percent and chipmaker Qualcomm gained 3.6 percent. The S&P 500 rose less than 0.1 percent to 2,897.52. The Dow Jones Industrial Average added 0.1 percent to 26,064.02. The Nasdaq composite gained 12.14 points, or 0.2 percent, to 8,030.04. Energy companies dipped along with oil prices.

NAFTA: Canada's foreign minister, Chrystia Freeland, said she had a "constructive conversation" with U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer about how to revamp the North American Free Trade Agreement. Freeland arrived in Washington for talks after the Trump administration reached a preliminary deal with Mexico to replace NAFTA. While some experts think stocks could rally if the U.S. and its partners make progress on new trade deals, others say it is unclear how much tensions have harmed stocks.

ANALYST'S QUOTE: "The initial euphoria from the U.S.-Mexico agreement died down" and "mixed views" from Canadian officials gave investors little guidance, said Jingyi Pan of IG in a report. Investors appear to be looking at the Mexico talks "to project how the U.S. administration would likely remain adamant as well in dealing with China that could invite further tensions ahead," said Pan. "One to watch, nevertheless, as more tariffs loom."

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude added 10 cents to \$68.63 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract sank 34 cents on Tuesday to close at \$68.53. Brent crude, used to price international oils, gained 6 cents to \$76.35 in London. It shed 21 cents the previous session to \$76.29.

CURRENCY: The dollar gained to 111.29 yen from Tuesday's 111.19 yen. The euro advanced to \$1.1692 from \$1.1696.