

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, March 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 246 ~ 1 of 51

Groton Area Schedule of Events

Wednesday, March 13, 2019

End of 3rd Quarter, Groton Area School District

NO SCHOOL TODAY

Thursday, March 14, 2019

Girls Varsity State Tournament @ Sioux Falls

Boys Varsity State Tournament @ Sioux Falls

No School, Groton Area School District - Spring Break

Friday, March 15, 2019

Girls Varsity State Tournament @ Sioux Falls

Boys Varsity State Tournament @ Sioux Falls

No School, Groton Area School District - Spring Break

- 1- Help Wanted
- 1- Bates Township Notices
- 2- Truss Pros is Hiring
- 2- Dr. Holm's Column
- 3- Fire Call at Dollar General
- 3- Where's my storm sewer inlet?
- 4- Sunshine Week Article: A playlist of Sunshine Week hits
- 5- Keith joins Harr Motors
- 6- Avoid Snowmelt Flooding
- 6- WINTER STORM WARNING
- 6- DENSE FOG ADVISORY
- 7- Today in Weather History
- 8- Weather Pages
- 10- Daily Devotional
- 11- 2019 Groton Events
- 12- News from the Associated Press
- 13- Noem Vetoes Industrial Hemp Legislation

Help Wanted

Looking for a fun, part-time job? Groton Dairy Queen is now hiring. Stop in for an application. (0216.0316)

Bates Township Equalization Notice

Bates Township Equalization Meeting Notice:

The Bates Township Board of Equalization will meet at the Clerk's home on Tuesday, March 19th, 2019 at 7 pm.

All persons disputing their assessments are requested to notify the clerk prior to the meeting.

Betty Geist
Bates Township Clerk
14523 409th Ave
Conde, SD 57434
(0313.0320)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$19.21. 17306

Bates Township ROW Maintenance

Bates Township Board of Supervisors reminds all landowners and tenants that the road right-of-way extends 33 feet from the center of the township road. This ditch is to be maintained and mowed. Any crops planted in the road right-of-way will be mowed and expenses charged to the landowner.

Landowner is responsible for spraying all noxious weeds.

Bates Township Board of Supervisors

Betty Geist
Township Clerk
(0313.0320)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$20.11. 17307

CLOSED! Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

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By Richard P. Holm, MD ~ Prairie Doc® Perspectives

Fearing Death Can Cause Suffering

When in life does one come to confront the tough truth that each of us will eventually die? In my years as an internist caring for young and old alike, some people understand this early, and some people never get it. In denying death, we intensify our fear of it. Usually, however, it is sometime during their 50s that people first look into the eyes of death. Put it off as we may, the hard certainty is that we are all aging and one day an end will come.

Shakespeare described advanced age in his play *As You Like It*, Act II, Scene VII (All the world's a stage):
". . . Last scene of all, That ends this strange eventful history, Is second childishness and mere oblivion, Sans (without) teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything."

Shakespeare's description of advanced age during the 1600s is rather bleak and scary. I think, with modern medicine and the support of a loving family, we could do better. I clearly believe that advanced age and facing our own death should not fill us with dread. The following is a more hopeful version to end Shakespeare's excerpt:

". . . He did not have to end his life alone; If over time he'd shared his caring, raised the worth of others, fed the love he'd sown. His death would find him kindly prized and praised, While kin sang festive songs of joy, amazed."

Fear comes from the oldest reptilian part of our brain. Fear helps us run from attackers but can also make us run from making important choices about our health. Fear can even bring us to push forward with treatment that may cause significant suffering, even when we are very old and even when treatment is futile and it's time to quit.

Fear of dying can prevent us from making plans about end-of-life care and, most importantly, prevent us from talking to our families about those wishes. How do we want to be cared for if we should lose mental capacity from a stroke or dementia? Do we wish to have a feeding tube, resuscitation, antibiotics when there is no quality of life left, when one doesn't recognize family and when the only option will be residing in a bed somewhere "sans everything."

I would rather die and be:

". . . kindly prized and praised, While kin sing festive songs of joy, amazed."

For free and easy access to the entire Prairie Doc® library, visit www.prairiedoc.org and follow The Prairie Doc® on Facebook, featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show streaming live and broadcast on SDPTV most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.

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Fire Call at Dollar General

The Groton Fire Department responded to a fire call at Dollar General Tuesday evening. The store was closed for the rest of the evening and according to what Kim Bell, manager, posted on Facebook, the store will open at 8 a.m. on Wednesday. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Where's my storm sewer inlet?

We are sure that Karla Pasteur was not alone in asking that question as residents were digging out of a thawing day on Tuesday. As I drove my, I stopped, got out my Google Map app on the phone and using the street view, I was able to tell her very close to where her storm sewer inlet is at (see left photo). In fact, the app came in handy for city employees as well as I was able to pin point where the inlets were at, saving a lot of time in a search and rescue mission. You can do the same thing on your smart phone. It comes in real handy at times! (Photo by Paul Kosel)

A playlist of Sunshine Week hits

Little darling, it's been a long cold lonely winter
Little darling, it seems like years since it's been here
Here comes the sun (doo doo doo doo)
Here comes the sun, and I say it's all right



By Brian Hunhoff, Yankton County Observer

George Harrison's song of spring is a fitting start to this Sunshine Week salute to everyday heroes bringing light to local government.

"Why do you want to know that?" is a question most reporters have heard when asking for public documents. It generally becomes a Freedom of Information teaching moment from the journalist to the reluctant keeper of records.

Many years ago, I was covering a county commission meeting when a department head stood to speak. Before addressing

commissioners, he turned to a radio reporter next to me and gruffly ordered him to turn off his tape recorder.

Say what?! We insisted my friend had every right to tape comments at a public meeting, but it took a while to convince the surly official. He clearly didn't know the first thing about open meeting laws.

It goes with the territory. The press must sometimes teach Sunshine 101 to public officials on Main Street, U.S.A. This column recognizes some of those intrepid reporters and public servants with symbolic citations from my Sunshine Week playlist.

"HERE COMES THE SUN" award to Hilde Lysiak, a plucky 12-year-old reporter who made headlines on a visit to Patagonia, Arizona. Riding her bike to investigate a tip, Lysiak was stopped by Patagonia town marshal Joseph Patterson and asked for ID. Lysiak gave her name and said she was a reporter. Patterson said, "I don't want to hear about any of that freedom of the press stuff." Lysiak said he also threatened to put her in juvenile detention.

In a second encounter, Lysiak began video-taping Patterson and said, "You stopped me earlier and said I could be thrown in juvie? What exactly am I doing that's illegal?" Patterson warned her (inaccurately) against posting the video online. "If you put my face on the Internet, that's against the law," he said.

Lysiak posted a YouTube video of their exchange on her Orange Street News website. She later received an apology from Patagonia mayor Andrea Wood who said the town respects her First Amendment rights.

"HOUSE OF THE RISING SUN" award to Brenda Fisk, mayor of Paint Rock, Alabama (population 200). Mayor Fisk drafted a resolution to close town board meetings to non-residents and members of the press. She told the Jackson County Sentinel, "What goes on in Paint Rock is the business of the people who live in Paint Rock." Fisk said she had "personal reasons" for proposing the move, "but I since found out that I cannot do that."

"I CAN SEE CLEARLY NOW" award to Kirby Delauter, county councilman from Frederick, Maryland. Delauter once threatened to sue the Frederick News-Post for "unauthorized use of my name." The newspaper responded with an editorial using his name 26 times. They also explained why newspapers in America are actually allowed to write about public officials without their permission. Delauter later apologized.

"LET THE SUNSHINE IN" award to Jerry Toomey, former mayor of Mitchell, South Dakota. A citizen called



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Toomey "a drunk" during the public forum portion of a Mitchell City Council meeting. His accusation set off a heated exchange, and stemmed from an earlier altercation between the two men in the citizen's driveway.

In an interview with the Mitchell Daily Republic, Toomey called the incident "a black eye" for the city, but added, "The public forum has a critical place in government and it is important to let people voice their issues, valid or not."

"AIN'T NO SUNSHINE" award to the Kentucky State Police spokesman who sent the following email to the Barbourville Mountain Advocate: "From this point forward when KSP is working on an investigation, you are to wait until OUR press release is sent out before putting anything on social media, radio, and newspaper ... If this continues, you will be taken off our media distribution list."

Jon Fleischaker, general counsel for the Kentucky Press Association, said the order violated the First Amendment and state agencies cannot withhold information "just because they don't like what the media outlet is writing."

"WALKING ON SUNSHINE" award to Art Cullen, Pulitzer Prize-winning editor of the Storm Lake Times in Iowa. Cullen's editorials about agricultural impact on his state's poor water quality were not popular with some prominent Republicans. The GOP-controlled Iowa Senate stalled a resolution to recognize his national writing prize. Cullen responded, "I would not want the support of a den of philanderers and oafs." He added, "I honestly do not care if I am ever honored by the Iowa Senate, the U.S. Congress, or any other institution of dysfunction and cynicism."

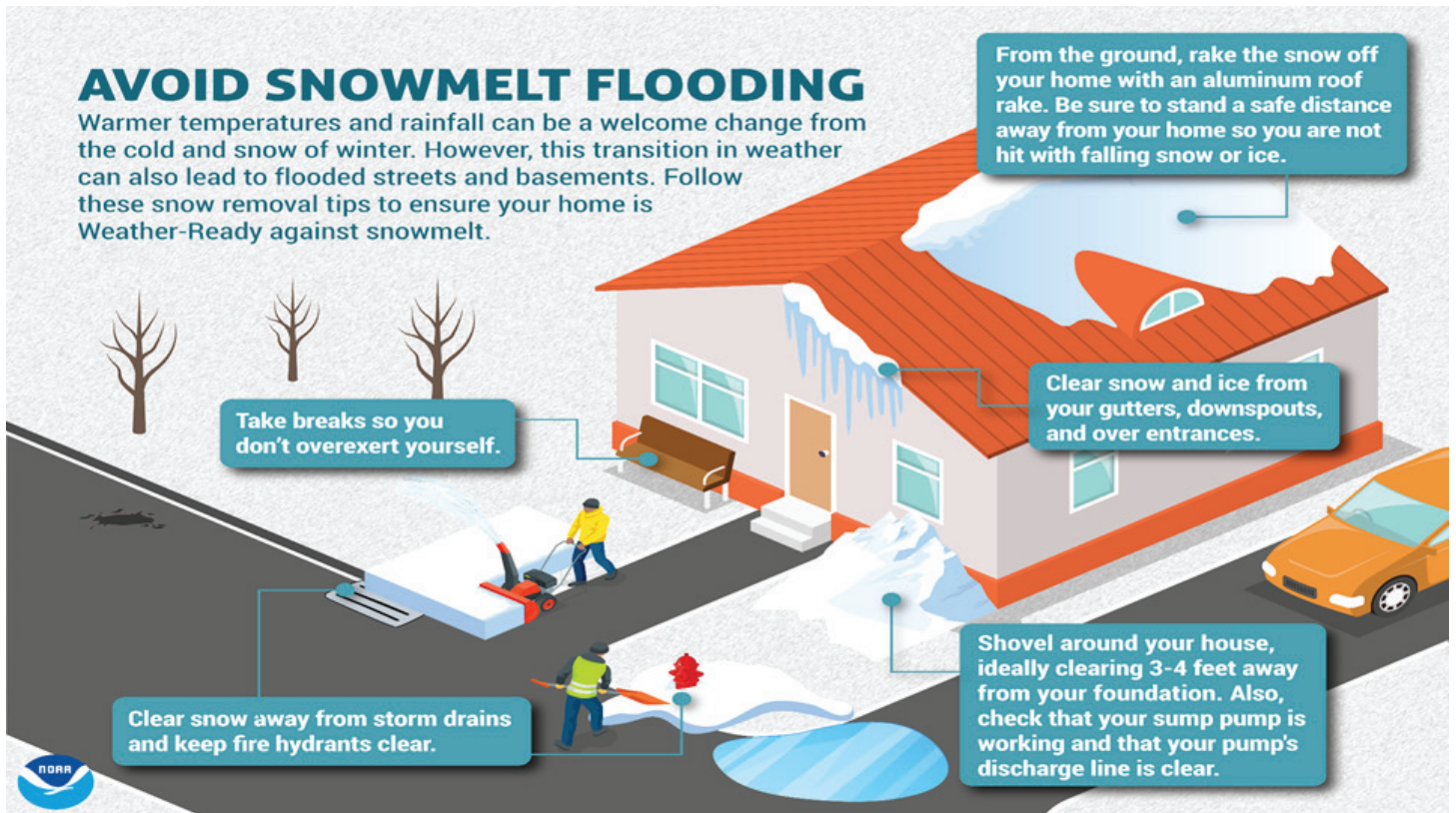
Brian Hunhoff of the Yankton County Observer is a member of the South Dakota Newspaper Hall of Fame. He received the 2005 S.D. First Amendment Committee Eagle Award "for protecting the public's right to know" and the 2014 Golden Quill award for editorial writing. He is a two-time winner of the National Newspaper Association Freedom of Information Award.



The logo for HARR Motors, featuring a red square with the letters 'hm' in white, followed by the word 'HARR' in a bold, red, sans-serif font, and 'Motors' in a black, cursive script font below it.

**4255 6th Ave SE,
Aberdeen**

Hi, my name is Bary Keith, a Groton resident. I have just recently joined the Harr Motors sales team. I'm excited to start helping people get into the right vehicle for them. Right now, any vehicle purchased from me, until the end of April, will receive an Autostart at no charge. Give me a call (605-216-6952) or (605-725-8624) or stop out and see me at Harr Motors today!!!



Published on: 03/12/2019 at 11:02AM

WINTER STORM WARNING

Issue Date:3:35 AM Wed, Mar 13, 2019

Expiration:1:00 AM Fri, Mar 15, 2019

...WINTER STORM WARNING NOW IN EFFECT FROM 1 PM THIS AFTERNOON TO 1 AM CDT FRIDAY...

* WHAT...Heavy mixed precipitation expected. Total snow accumulations of 4 to 9 inches and ice accumulations of up to two tenths of an inch expected. Winds gusting as high as 60 mph.

* WHERE...Brown County.

* WHEN...From 1 PM this afternoon to 1 AM CDT Friday.* ADDITIONAL DETAILS...Travel could be very difficult. Widespread blowing snow could significantly reduce visibility. The hazardous conditions could impact the morning or evening commute. Strong winds could cause extensive damage to trees and power lines.

A Winter Storm Warning means significant amounts of snow, sleet and ice will make travel very hazardous or impossible.

The latest road conditions can be obtained by calling 5 1 1.

DENSE FOG ADVISORY

Issue Date:3:38 AM Wed, Mar 13, 2019

Expiration:1:00 PM Wed, Mar 13, 2019

...DENSE FOG ADVISORY REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL 1 PM CDT THIS AFTERNOON...

* VISIBILITIES...Frequently below a quarter mile.

* TIMING...Through the late morning hours.

* IMPACTS...Difficult driving conditions from the James Valley and east through the Sisseton Hills.

A Dense Fog Advisory means visibilities will frequently be reduced to less than one quarter mile. If driving, slow down, use your headlights, and leave plenty of distance ahead of you.

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Today in Weather History

March 13, 1971: During an evening thunderstorm in Moody County, South Dakota, lightning destroyed a transformer plant in Coleman. Damages were estimated at \$250,000.

March 13, 1997: A winter storm began with widespread freezing drizzle, creating icy roadways and walkways, before changing over to snow. Before the snow was over, 2 to 8 inches had fallen on an already expansive and deep snowpack. The winds accelerated to 20 to 40 mph, resulting in widespread blowing and drifting snow. Visibilities were reduced to near zero at times, making travel treacherous. Many roads again became blocked by snowdrifts, and several were closed. Many area schools were still closed, adding to an already substantial total of days missed for the winter season. Some people were stranded and had to wait out the storm. Some airport flights were canceled. The icy roads and low visibilities resulted in several vehicle mishaps as well. There was a rollover accident west of Mobridge and an overturned van 7 miles west of Webster. On Interstate-29 there were several rollover accidents, including vehicles sliding off of the road. Some snowfall amounts included, 4 inches at Timber Lake, Mobridge, Eureka, Leola, Britton, and Clark, 5 inches at Leola, 6 inches at Waubay and Summit, and 8 inches at Pollock.

1953: An F4 tornado cut an 18-mile path through Haskell and Knox counties in Texas. 17 people were killed, and an eight-block area of Knox City was leveled.

1989: Residents of the southern U.S. viewed a once in a lifetime display of the Northern Lights. This solar storm also caused the entire province of Quebec, Canada to suffer an electrical power blackout.

1990: Thunderstorms produced severe weather from northwest Texas to Wisconsin, Iowa, and Nebraska during the day and into the night. Severe thunderstorms spawned 59 tornadoes, including twenty-six strong or violent tornadoes, and there were about two hundred reports of large hail or damaging winds. There were forty-eight tornadoes in Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa, and some of the tornadoes in those three states were the strongest of record for so early in the season, and for so far northwest in the United States. The most powerful tornado of the day was one that tore through the central Kansas community of Hesston. The F5 tornado killed two persons, injured sixty others, and caused 22 million dollars damage along its 67-mile path. The tornado had a lifespan of two hours. Another tornado tracked 124 miles across southeastern Nebraska injuring eight persons and causing more than five million dollars damage during its three-hour lifespan.

1907 - A storm produced a record 5.22 inches of rain in 24 hours at Cincinnati, OH. (12th-13th) (The Weather Channel)

1951 - The state of Iowa experienced a record snowstorm. The storm buried Iowa City under 27 inches of snow. (David Ludlum)

1977 - Baltimore, MD, received an inch of rain in eight minutes. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1987 - A winter storm produced heavy snow in the Sierra Nevada Range of California, and the Lake Tahoe area of Nevada. Mount Rose NV received 18 inches of new snow. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

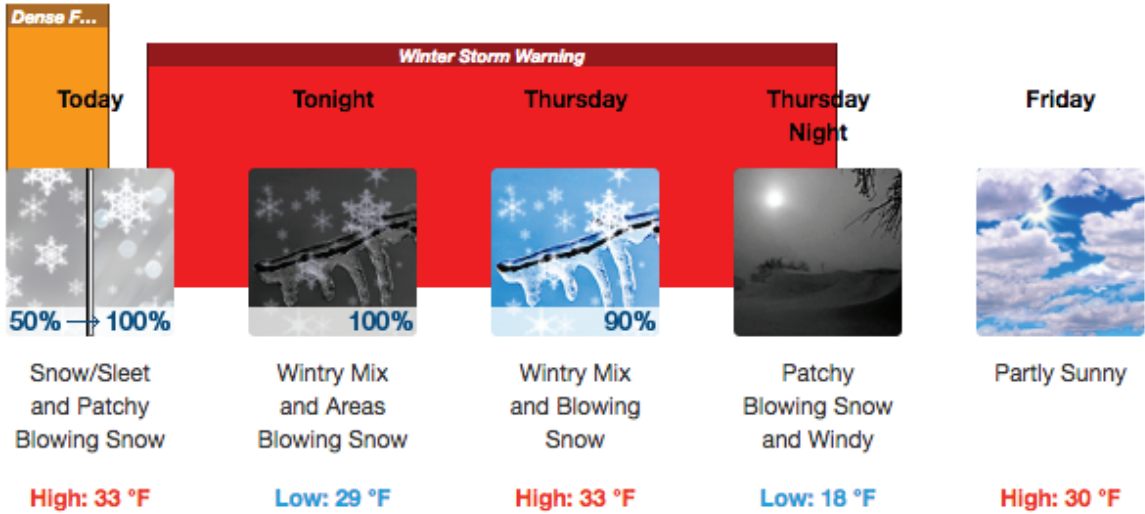
1988 - Unseasonably cold weather prevailed from the Plateau Region to the Appalachians. Chadron NE, recently buried 33 inches of snow, was the cold spot in the nation with a low of 19 degrees below zero. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Residents of the southern U.S. viewed a once in a life-time display of the Northern Lights. Unseasonably warm weather continued in the southwestern U.S. The record high of 88 degrees at Tucson AZ was their seventh in a row. In southwest Texas, the temperature at Sanderson soared from 46 degrees at 8 AM to 90 degrees at 11 AM. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from northwest Texas to Wisconsin, Iowa and Nebraska during the day, and into the night. Severe thunderstorms spawned 59 tornadoes, including twenty-six strong or violent tornadoes, and there were about two hundred reports of large hail or damaging winds. There were forty-eight tornadoes in Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa, and some of the tornadoes in those three states were the strongest of record for so early in the season, and for so far northwest in the United States. The most powerful tornado of the day was one which tore through the central Kansas community of Hesston. The tornado killed two persons, injured sixty others, and caused 22 million dollars along its 67-mile path. The tornado had a life span of two hours. Another tornado tracked 124 miles across southeastern Nebraska injuring eight persons and causing more than five million dollars damage

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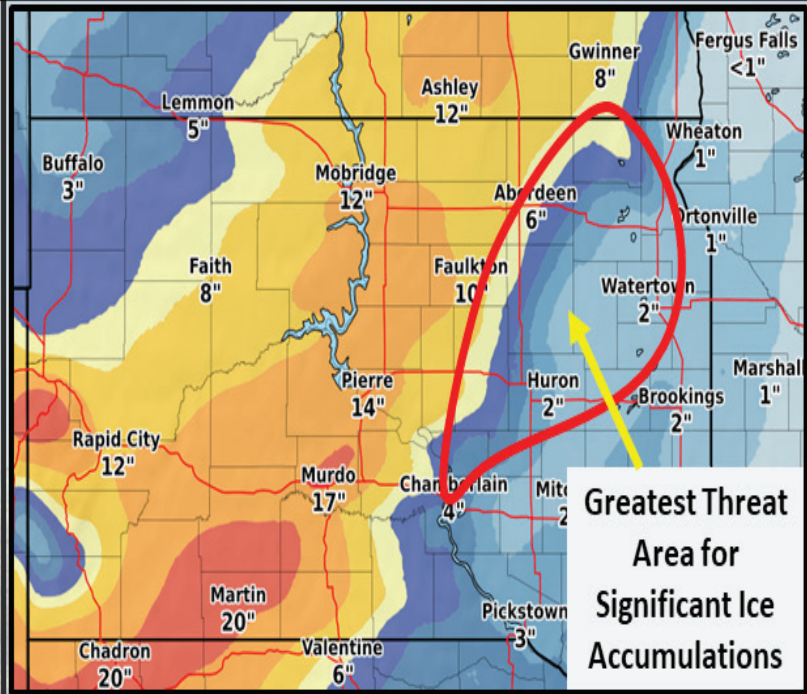
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High Impact Storm System Today - Thursday

Blizzard Conditions, Rain, Freezing Rain, Sleet

Hazards: Periods of rain and freezing rain are expected today east and south of a line from Pierre to Aberdeen. Some of that rain could be heavy. Meanwhile, moderate to heavy snow will develop northwest of that line through the day. Colder air will move in tonight, transitioning the rain to heavy snow with reduced visibility from west to east. Gusty winds of up to 40 to 60 mph will result in blizzard conditions this evening through Thursday across Central South Dakota.



Updated: 3/13/2019 5:40 AM Central

Published on: 03/13/2019 at 5:55AM

A powerful winter storm will affect the region today through Thursday. Precipitation should begin as rain and freezing rain before changing over to snow. Very strong winds are also expected this afternoon and Thursday, leading to blizzard conditions across central and north central South Dakota. Eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota may see a longer period of rain, freezing rain today, before changing over to snow late tonight through Thursday. Winds will increase in eastern South Dakota Thursday morning.

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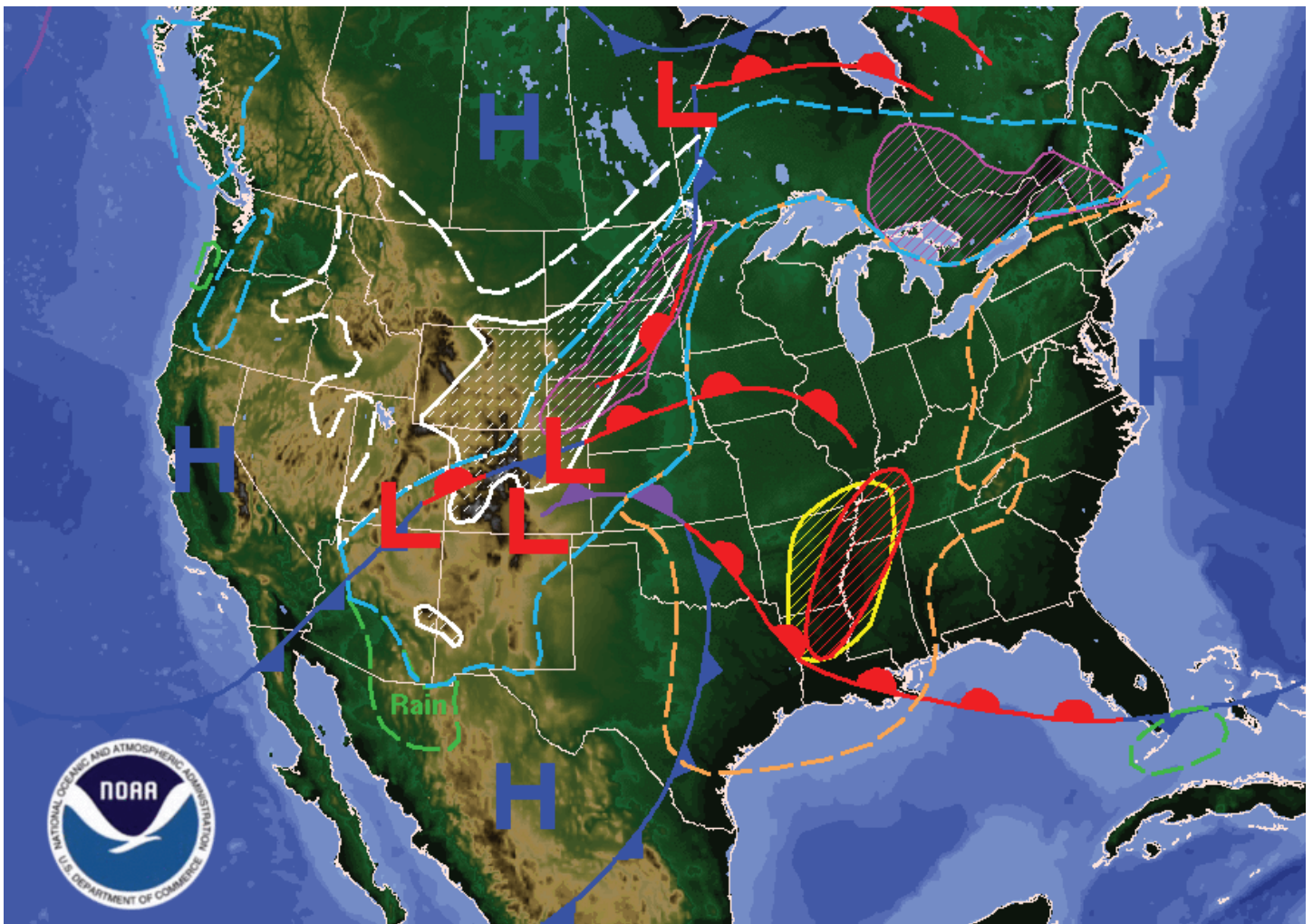
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 38 °F at 12:01 PM
Low Outside Temp: 26 °F at 12:00 AM
High Gust: 27 mph at 10:06 AM Precip: .

Today's Info

Record High: 71° in 2012
Record Low: -28° in 1896
Average High: 38°F
Average Low: 19°F
Average Precip in Mar.: 0.36
Precip to date in Mar.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 1.38
Precip Year to Date: 2.19
Sunset Tonight: 7:37 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:49 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Wed, Mar 13, 2019, issued 4:48 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

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ITS WHATS INSIDE THAT COUNTS

Pay attention to what I say...listen closely to my words and do not let them out of your sight...and keep them within your heart, wrote Solomon.

Most of us grow up hearing the command: Pay attention! It is a normal part of everyones vocabulary - especially parents and teachers. And there are times when we do pay attention and accept the command and times when we do not. Paying attention is a choice, and we all have memories of when we wish we had chosen to do what we were asked to pay attention to?. And, there are times when we did pay attention, and it made no difference.

Sight and heart, however, when attached to pay attention elevate its significance. We have talked about the word heart. It refers to our emotions and wills, our attitudes and values. In other words, our heart is the real me, our true self or the sum total of all I am: word, thought, and deed. Its who I am when I think no one is watching me.

Planting wisdom within our hearts is a very important responsibility. There is an obvious cycle that flows from the head to the heart and from the heart to the hand or, our behavior. So, in essence, we can actually see what comes from our hearts and the hearts of others. We may never see anyones heart, but we can certainly see what they have planted in their hearts.

The same is true of us. Others who watch us - our families and friends, our associates at work, and anyone anywhere will know eventually, whats in our hearts by what we do and say. Out of the depth of the heart come words and deeds that are the real me!

Prayer: Lord, we can never fool You, and we only fool others briefly. We only fool ourselves if we think we are more than we are. Forgive our folly and cleanse us! In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 4:20-21 My child, pay attention to what I say. Listen carefully to my words. Dont lose sight of them. Let them penetrate deep into your heart.

2019 Groton SD Community Events

- 01/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 03/17/2019 Groton American Legion Spring Fundraiser
- 04/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 04/27/2019 Fireman's Stag
- 05/04/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/27/2019 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program
- 06/13/2019 Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
- 06/14/2019 SDSU Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 06/15/2019 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 06/21/2019 Best Ball Golf Tourney
- 07/04/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 07/14/2019 Summer Fest
- 08/22/2019 First Day of School
- 09/07/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 09/08/2019 Sunflower Classic at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 10/12/2019 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/11/2019 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2019 Trunk or Treat/Halloween on Main
- 11/09/2019 Groton American Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/07/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course 2019 Holiday Party
- 12/07/2019 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services

News from the Associated Press

Blizzard conditions, flooding concerns in Upper Midwest

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Rain and melting snow have triggered flood warnings in some Upper Midwestern states while blizzard conditions are the primary concern in other states.

Many rivers around Wisconsin are expected to reach flood stage over the next few days as thunderstorms and showers melt away the snow. The National Weather Service posted a flood warning in the Eau Claire area and into southeastern Minnesota. A flood watch was issued for portions of east central, south central and southeast Wisconsin Wednesday through Friday.

A strong storm packing wind gusts of 60 mph and a foot of snow is moving into South Dakota where a blizzard warning was posted. Rapid City schools and government offices are among those closed Wednesday. A similar warning for northeast North Dakota and northwest and west central Minnesota was in effect Thursday through Friday.

South Dakota lawmakers approve roughly \$4.9B state budget

By JAMES NORD Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota lawmakers passed a roughly \$4.9 billion state budget early Wednesday, providing a funding boost for education and state employees and larger-than-anticipated spending hikes for nursing homes and community support providers.

The 53-6 House vote to approve the budget capped the main portion of the 2019 session as lawmakers worked past midnight ahead of a potential blizzard affecting areas of South Dakota. Earlier Wednesday, the Senate voted 27-2 for the measure that sets state spending for the upcoming 2020 budget year starting July 1.

The Republican-controlled Legislature approved big increases for nursing homes as recent closures have hit communities, including an announcement last week that one in Huron would shut down by May due to a lack of money. Joint Committee on Appropriations Co-Chair Sen. John Wiik said he talked to every senator he could about priorities, and all said lawmakers needed to find a solution for nursing homes.

“Is that going to solve the problem entirely? No. But it’s a good start, and it’s a good step,” Wiik said of the inflationary hikes.

Lawmakers approved larger funding increases than Gov. Kristi Noem originally suggested for health care providers in her January budget address. Those include a 6.5 percent hike for community support providers, who help people with intellectual or developmental disabilities live independently in their communities, and a 10 percent increase for nursing homes.

South Dakota’s current nursing home Medicaid rate is about \$146 per day, short of the roughly \$181 daily cost of care, resulting in a \$42 million annual shortfall, according to the South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organizations.

The state spending plan includes 2.5 percent increases for education and state workers, matching the hikes proposed in Noem’s budget recommendation. The budget for the next fiscal year includes roughly \$1.7 billion in general state spending, about \$59 million over the current budget year.

The budget calls for spending roughly \$1.8 billion in federal funds and \$1.4 billion in other state money such as highway funding. The Legislature focuses mostly on how to spend the roughly \$1.7 billion general fund portion of the budget.

Republican Rep. Chris Karr, Appropriations Committee co-chair, said the measure balances the state’s budget for the 130th year. But GOP Sen. Stace Nelson, who voted against the budget bill, said lawmakers received it early in the morning and that he wanted more time to review it.

“This is the most important bill, and I regret that we’re rushing it through,” Nelson said.

The 2019 session that started Jan. 8 is Noem’s first as governor. Legislators will return to Pierre on March

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29 for the session's last day to weigh potential vetoes that could come from Noem.

Lawmakers this session also reshaped the current year's budget to add funding including \$5 million for expanding rural broadband, \$4.6 million for improving state radio infrastructure and money to allow health care provider raises to start April 1. The bills head to Noem for her signature.

"I believe this is a wise use of the resources we have," Wiik said. "I believe this is a responsible budget."

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Mega Millions

10-12-16-49-57, Mega Ball: 18, Megaplier: 4

(ten, twelve, sixteen, forty-nine, fifty-seven; Mega Ball: eighteen; Megaplier: four)

Estimated jackpot: \$50 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$448 million

Shahid leads NDSU past Omaha 73-63 in Summit League final

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Vinnie Shahid heeded his teammates' advice after a rough first half, and helped lead North Dakota State back to the NCAA Tournament.

Shahid scored 20 of his 22 points after halftime, and the Bison beat Omaha 73-63 on Tuesday night in the Summit League Tournament title game to earn their first NCAA Tournament bid since 2015.

"My teammates did a good job of giving me confidence," said Shahid, who was 1-of-4 shooting before the half. "They told me, 'Keep being aggressive, keep being aggressive. It's going to fall when we need it to.'"

The No. 4-seeded Bison (17-15) also got 15 points and seven rebounds from Tyson Ward.

North Dakota State saw a 14-point second-half lead evaporate before securing the win with a late run. Omaha (21-10) tied it at 51 with 8:37 to play and had a chance at the lead, but Matt Pile missed a free throw on a potential three-point play. From there, the Bison went on a 9-0 run and were never threatened again, sealing the win with free throws down the stretch.

"This is a really good, talented Omaha team," North Dakota State coach David Richman said. "We knew they were going to make a push and that push happened. But this group has really grown."

Mitch Hahn scored 16 points and Zach Jackson had 15 for Omaha. Pile finished with 12 points and 14 rebounds while KJ Robinson scored 11 points.

Ward got back on track after scoring a season-low three points in North Dakota State's semifinal win over Western Illinois. He had 25 points in a quarterfinal win over Oral Roberts.

Ward had 11 against Omaha at halftime, and then Shahid took over. Shahid's 3-pointer as the shot clock expired with 2:10 remaining lifted the lead back to 10.

The No. 2-seeded Mavericks had gone the final 6:44 of the first half without a field goal. North Dakota State built a 41-27 halftime lead.

"You can't play uphill all night," Omaha coach Derrin Hansen said. "They had the lead for 36 minutes of the game. When you play uphill all night, it takes a lot of energy to overcome that."

BIG PICTURE

North Dakota State: Has a 1-3 record in the NCAA Tournament, including an 80-75, overtime upset of No. 5 seed Oklahoma in 2014. This was the Bison's fifth title game appearance in seven years.

Omaha: This is the second time Omaha has played in the Summit League title game. The program has never played in the NCAA Tournament.

BENCH PLAY

NDSU's Cameron Hunter scored 12 points off the bench and hit all three of his attempts both from 3-point range and from the free-throw line. Meanwhile, Omaha got just six bench points, all from Ayo Akinwale.

UP NEXT

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North Dakota State: The Bison will find out their NCAA Tournament opponent on Sunday.

Omaha: The 21 wins are the most in the Mavericks' Division I history. They lose one senior in Jackson.

More AP college basketball: <https://apnews.com/Collegebasketball> and https://twitter.com/AP_Top25

Tribes seek to keep flags from Capitol after pipeline bills

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Two Native American tribes in South Dakota are asking that their flags not be displayed at the state Capitol after lawmakers approved bills this session aimed at potential protests against the planned Keystone XL oil pipeline.

The Argus Leader reports the quick passage of Gov. Kristi Noem's protest legislation was the breaking point for the tribes. The requests come after Noem said last month she planned to permanently display the flags of the nine tribes in South Dakota in the Capitol rotunda.

Crow Creek Sioux Tribe Chairman Lester Thompson Jr. says the tribe has worked to build a new relationship with the state, but Noem and the Legislature have "destroyed our trust" and the hope of moving toward reconciliation.

Oglala Sioux Tribe President Julian Bear Runner says the tribe's flag represents a "commitment to protect Mother Earth."

South Dakota industrial hemp backers fail to overcome veto

By JAMES NORD Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota House voted Tuesday to override the governor's veto of a hemp legalization bill but the Senate didn't get the two-thirds majority needed to follow suit, killing the measure for the current legislative session.

The Senate voted 20-13 to override Republican Gov. Kristi Noem's veto but needed 24 votes to push it through. The override attempt got more than enough support in the House, which voted 55-11 earlier Tuesday.

Senate Democratic leader Troy Heinert, a supporter, said the bill was right for South Dakota's producers and residents who want to use, grow and manufacture the product. The National Conference of State Legislatures said at least 41 states have enacted hemp growing and production programs.

"We don't have to be last all the time," Heinert told his colleagues before the vote.

The main sponsor, Democratic Rep. Oren Lesmeister, said in a statement after the override attempt that Noem is out of touch with lawmakers and the people of South Dakota. The lawmaker added that Wyoming, which recently passed its own hemp bill, was probably "jumping for joy right now because we're out of the market."

Lesmeister said previously that if the bill got vetoed, one company had said it would likely look elsewhere. Jarrod Otta, plant manager for Glanbia Nutritionals in Sioux Falls, told a House committee recently that the company has been contacted by two "very large customers" to process hemp protein.

Otta added that the global company has looked at where else it can process hemp if not at its South Dakota plant.

"Please help us legalize hemp so we can add another product to our portfolio and grow the plant here in this state," he said.

Lesmeister told reporters that he doesn't think supporters ever had a "fair shot," saying he never had a conversation with Noem about the bill. The veto was a disappointment, he said.

Noem said in her Monday veto message that "normalizing" hemp was part of a bigger strategy to make marijuana legalization inevitable. She said the bill would make law enforcement's job more difficult.

"I do not doubt the motives of this bill's legislative champions," Noem said. "However, an overwhelming number of contacts I have received in favor of this bill come from pro-marijuana activists."

In a video Noem tweeted Tuesday, she said South Dakota isn't ready for industrial hemp. Noem said drug

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dogs would flag hemp like marijuana, officers alongside a road wouldn't have the tools to tell between a crop and a drug, and federal guidelines won't be coming until the fall. The video ends with a branding iron-style stamp pressing the word "veto" onto the bill.

Montana Farmers Union lobbyist and project specialist Chris Christiaens said farmers there planted 22,000 acres of hemp last year, a number he expects to grow to 75,000 in 2019. Hemp processing mills are also starting, he said.

When asked if the Montana Highway Patrol has experienced problems with industrial hemp, including people trying to transport marijuana disguised as hemp, law enforcement confusion over which plant they've encountered or drug dogs flagging both hemp and marijuana, a Montana Department of Justice spokesman said in an email: "The Highway Patrol hasn't come across any of those issues as of yet."

The 2018 federal farm bill legalized cultivation of industrial hemp nationally. Supporters argued planting hemp wouldn't even happen until 2020 under the South Dakota proposal, which defined industrial hemp as containing no more than 0.3 percent THC. Although hemp and marijuana look alike, only marijuana could get a person high.

Lesmeister has said the Senate added "close to 90 percent" of a suggested amendment from the governor's office. The alterations included broader background check requirements, giving more rulemaking authority to state agencies and restricting who could transport industrial hemp. The changes also required hemp to be grown outdoors.

Sioux Falls police kill 60 deer to reduce crashes

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police have killed 60 deer to reduce traffic crashes and landscaping damage in the city.

The Sioux Falls Police Department began its fifth annual deer harvest within city limits in December. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks issued 60 deer tags to the Police Department, and all 60 deer tags were successfully filled by the time the operation wrapped up Feb. 27.

Deer removal was focused in four areas of Sioux Falls — the north, southeast, west and northeast areas. Those areas contain high deer populations, which lead to car accidents and landscaping damage.

Police say 34 deer were removed from the west and southeast, and 26 deer from the north and northeast. The goal is to better manage the health of deer living within city limits.

South Dakota St. wins 9th Summit League title in 11 years

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Macy Miller finished with 30 points, giving her 2,295 to set the Summit League's career mark, to help South Dakota State beat South Dakota 83-71 on Tuesday to earn an automatic berth in the NCAA Tournament.

The Jackrabbits have won nine of the last 11 Summit League tournaments, including two straight.

Miller broke the mark of 2,277 set by Kevi Luper (Oral Roberts, 2009-12) with a second-quarter layup in the midst of a 24-4 run that gave South Dakota State a 45-34 lead after Rylie Cascio Jensen hit back-to-back 3-pointers. The Coyotes (28-5) missed 9 of 10 from the field during that stretch before two layups by Hannah Sjerven trimmed their deficit to seven at halftime. The Jackrabbits (26-6) scored nine of the first 11 third-quarter points to make it 54-40 and South Dakota trailed by at least eight points the rest of the way.

Miller hit 4 of 7 from 3-point range and grabbed 11 rebounds, while Madison Guebert added 22 points, including three 3s for South Dakota State.

Allison Arens scored 26 for the Coyotes. Ciara Duffy, who came in leading the team in scoring at 15.1 points per game, left the game in the opening minutes with an apparent ankle injury. She returned later in the first quarter but was limited to 15 minutes, scoring four points on 2-of-3 shooting.

South Dakota could become the first Summit League team to earn an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament. The Coyotes were ranked No. 25, their first appearance in program history, in the Feb. 11 AP poll and have received votes in each poll since.

Rapid City math teacher named district's teacher of the year

By **MATTHEW GUERRY** Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Seth Keene first plans his lessons by looking at real-world applications for the material at hand.

Scatter plots and correlations, for example, are used by Netflix to recommend new movies and by eHarmony to pair potential partners.

Tate Helfenstein, a Rapid City Stevens High School student, said he can use math to safely fell trees for his job with his father's lumber company. He took his first class with Keene his sophomore year.

"Up to that point, I thought math was the worst. But when I had Keene as a teacher, math became more of a fun thing to do," said Helfenstein, 18.

Keene, 44, was recognized for his work this year, his seventh at Stevens, when the Rapid City Public School Foundation named him the district's teacher of the year, the Rapid City Journal reported. He received a check for \$1,000 with the award, which was the first one the foundation gave out since putting the program on hiatus five years ago.

The recognition puts Keene in the running for regional and state teacher of the year awards, which are managed by the South Dakota Department of Education.

"My first reaction when I got the call that I won the award for the district was that of relief," Keene said. "So many other teachers in my department and in this school were worthy of a nomination or the award themselves that I really felt like if I didn't win for the whole district, there were so many people at Stevens who could have."

Now, Keene said, he feels a pressure to continue representing his colleagues well.

Originally from Deadwood, Keene has taught for 18 years in a career that included stops in Minnesota, St. Thomas More High School and at other Rapid City schools. Two of his children graduated from the Rapid City school district, where his youngest daughter still attends.

He is married to Barb Keene, who serves as operations manager for the Black Hills Area Community Foundation.

Seth Keene teaches classes in statistics, probability and remedial math at Stevens, and this year is piloting the school's first Advanced Placement Statistics course.

"Statistics is my true passion because it's what you use every day," he explained.

After graduating from Lead-Deadwood High School in 1992, Keene went on to earn a bachelor of science degree in mathematics from the University of Notre Dame. It was in college that he discovered his passion for teaching, having tutored several of his classmates.

"As we worked, I understood the material better, and as we worked, I got a lot of joy out of seeing that they understood it," he said. "I knew right then that that was the path that I wanted to take."

Keene worked in retail and in banking after college before earning his state alternative teaching certificate. Those experiences, he said, drove home some of the practical applications for mathematics that he uses to engage students today.

"Seth's passion for students' learning is what I believe is really something that makes him a great educator," Stevens Principal John Julius said. "He really works hard to connect with students, develop relationships and figure out ways that he can work on his craft to provide valuable learning opportunities."

Outside of the classroom, Keene serves as coordinator for the Black Hills MathCounts competitive program and as adviser for the Stevens' cycling club, which takes weekly trips to Hansen-Larsen Memorial Park and Skyline Wilderness Park. He's been at the forefront of an effort to redevelop Raider Park, which sits across from Stevens and is owned by the district, into a multi-use trail and green space.

It's Keene's hope that the space will not only be used for athletics but education as well. Agricultural classes will help decide which trees will be planted there, he said, and science classes will be able to study animal and plant life outdoors.

A nonprofit organized by the friends and family of Tom Pfeifle, the late Stevens graduate for whom the trails are named, has already raised \$70,000 for the project, which is entirely donation driven. Keene said

there are plans to apply for additional grant funding.

"The group of teachers who are kind of leading this had the opportunity to work with Tom, so for us it's really kind of a special, personal thing as well," he said.

Keene's colleagues are part of what he said makes working at Stevens special. Their commitment to trying new things for their students, he said, is second to none.

"As long as I'm in education, this is where I'll be," Keene said.

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

Sanford donates \$25M to improve drug decisions for veterans

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota philanthropist Denny Sanford is donating \$25 million to help fund a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs genetics study to determine which medications are most effective for pain management, disease and mental health issues.

Sanford Health will match Sanford's donation and partner with the department in the DNA Drug Sensitivity Testing program — the nation's largest pharmacogenetic testing effort, Veterans Affairs and Sanford Health announced Tuesday.

The program will initially focus on drugs for veterans who have survived cancer, and will launch in Durham, North Carolina, the Sioux Falls Argus Leader reported. It's expected to reach up to 250,000 veterans at 125 sites by 2022.

"I spent eight years in the Air Reserves at the Minneapolis Saint Paul Air Reserve Station, which gave me a window into the incredible sacrifices made by our nation's service members and their families," Denny Sanford said in a statement. "I've invested in this unique partnership between Sanford Health and the VA as a tribute to those brave, selfless men and women."

The free tests use genetic markers to determine how patients metabolize, or break down, different classes of drugs such as antidepressants, anticoagulants and opioids. The faster the patient metabolizes the drug, the higher the dose required.

David Rowe, an Air Force veteran, took the test at Sanford a few months ago. Rowe said the results helped get him off medication he had been taking for heart problems for years.

"I thoroughly encourage any veteran to do this," said Rowe, 67, a Vietnam veteran whose son has done three tours in Iraq. "It's a simple blood test; that's all it is, but they can do so much with it."

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

Corps fights tribal request for more pipeline study records

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON** Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Federal officials who permitted the Dakota Access oil pipeline are turning over some documents sought by American Indian tribes suing over the project, but said a request for dozens more records is vague and overly broad and should be rejected by a federal judge.

Texas-based Energy Transfer Partners, which built the pipeline that's now moving North Dakota oil to a shipping point in Illinois, also implored U.S. District Judge James Boasberg on Monday to deny the tribal request, saying it's meritless and will "inject needless delay into a case that already has seen more than its fair share."

The tribal lawsuit has lingered since July 2016. Boasberg in June 2017 ruled that the Army Corps of Engineers "largely complied" with environmental law when permitting the \$3.8 billion pipeline, but he ordered more study on tribal impacts. The Corps in August 2018 said more than a year of study had substantiated its earlier determination that the pipeline doesn't pose a higher risk of adverse impacts to minorities.

The agency last month turned over to the tribes documents it used in making that determination. The Standing Rock, Cheyenne River, Yankton and Oglala Sioux are challenging the Corps assertion and accused the agency of withholding about 50 documents .

Justice Department attorney Amarveer Brar, who's representing the Corps, in a response filed Monday said the tribes are trying to "add a broad array of documents to the record, most of which were not directly or indirectly considered by the Corps."

The agency does plan to provide eight additional records, but many other tribal requests are "non-specific" or "based purely on speculation," Brar said.

Some of the records the tribes allege are missing from the official record relate to the pipeline's crossing beneath the Lake Oahe reservoir on the Missouri River in the Dakotas, which the tribes rely on for drinking water, fishing and religious practices.

Fears of a spill into the river sparked prolonged protests in 2016 and early 2017 that drew thousands of pipeline opponents from around the world to southern North Dakota. The tribes are continuing the fight in federal court even though the pipeline began operating in June 2017, hoping to get Boasberg to shut it down. They argue that the missing documents could bolster their case and possibly influence the judge's eventual decision on whether the Corps study is adequate.

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

Man accused of choking girlfriend, threatening with BB gun

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls man is accused of choking his girlfriend, the mother of his children, and threatening her with a BB gun.

Police say the 23-year-old man was arrested for aggravated assault domestic and simple assault. Spokesman Sam Clemens says the girlfriend was going to take their children and leave the home Sunday, but the man pulled out the gun. Clemens says he also left bruises when he choked her.

The woman made it out of the house with three children. A fourth child, a baby, was in the house when police arrived and arrested the man. The children were not injured.

Trump sees advantage in debate over Israel, anti-Semitism

By ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump can't get enough of Rep. Ilhan Omar.

As Democrats try to turn the page after the freshman lawmaker's remarks, criticized by some as anti-Semitic, ignited an embarrassing, intra-party fight, the Republican president is trying to prolong and weaponize the issue for his 2020 campaign, asserting during a private weekend fundraiser that Democrats "hate" Jews.

While Trump publicly muses about winning over Jewish voters for his re-election, his motivations are more complicated and expansive. The president's rhetorical escalation also is designed to unsettle the Democratic primary debate, exploit an issue that can energize his supporters and move past his own history of toying in anti-Semitic motifs.

Trump on Tuesday promoted comments by former model and 2016 campaign staffer Elizabeth Pipko, who said on Fox & Friends that "Jewish people are leaving the Democratic Party."

Pipko, who serves as spokesperson for the group "Jexodus," which bills itself as speaking for "Jewish Millennials tired of living in bondage to leftist politics," saw her comments amplified by Trump on Twitter. "There is anti-Semitism in the Democratic Party," she continued. "They don't care about Israel or the Jewish people."

Her comments mirrored Trump's charge on Friday that Democrats had become an "anti-Israel" and "anti-Jewish" party, responding to the House voted a day before to disapprove of all prejudice in response to Omar's invocation of "dual-loyalty" charges against American supporters of Israel earlier this month.

Speaking later that evening, Trump went even further in an appearance before Republican National Committee donors, charging that Democrats "hate" Jewish people, according to a person who heard the remarks but spoke on condition of anonymity to describe the president's comments at a private event.

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Omar, D-Minn., had sparked a political firestorm with comments suggesting House supporters of Israel have dual allegiances. It derailed the Democrats' focus on investigations of the Trump administration, including a public back-and-forth over how, or even if, her party should condemn her comments. The ultimate resolution, which passed the House overwhelmingly, didn't call out Omar by name.

As a small percentage of the nation, American Jews are not a particularly significant voting bloc, nor is Israel their decisive issue of concern. And both parties acknowledge the controversy is unlikely to alter dramatically the electoral votes of the American Jewish community, which has skewed decisively toward Democrats for more than a generation.

Even a small shift, though, can be significant.

"We're slicing the salami very thin, and an incremental shift in traditional Democratic blocs to the other side can have a profound impact," said Matt Brooks, executive director of the Republican Jewish Coalition. He said his group plans to make "the largest investment that we've ever had in the 2020 race in terms of outreach, advocacy and independent expenditures on behalf of the president."

Stoking the fight also gives Trump an opportunity to deflect criticism of his own rhetoric, invigorate evangelical Christians for whom the Israel issue is a powerful motivator and paint Democrats into a radical corner.

It also plays into Trump's attempt to cast Democrats as radicals ahead of the 2020 campaign, said conservative commentator Seth Mandel, executive editor of the Washington Examiner magazine. He noted that Democratic Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Sen. Bernie Sanders pushed back against efforts to condemn Omar's comments. "It makes it very easy to say they're just adopting whatever the socialist says."

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders kept the controversy alive on Monday by criticizing Democrats for failing to explicitly repudiate Omar.

"It's something that should be called by name," she said. "It shouldn't be put in a watered-down resolution."

Sanders pointed to Republican condemnation of Rep. Steve King earlier this year, including stripping the Iowa Republican of his committee memberships, after he made remarks defending white supremacy. But King had long espoused racially charged ideas, and the GOP only took action after it lost its majority in the chamber.

Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, who is running for the Democratic presidential nomination, warned that Trump's politicization of the issue "threatens the bipartisan support for Israel."

"The problem is that the president sees it somehow as a way to make some kind of political hay and a wedge," she said. "And he keeps addressing it that way. And I just think it's a mistake, as someone that's a strong supporter of Israel, that he keeps doing it."

Hallie Soifer, the executive director of the Jewish Democratic Council of America, said her group welcomes Trump's focus on the issue of anti-Semitism. "He himself has emboldened anti-Semites in our country by both repeating anti-Semitic tropes and conspiracy theories," she said. "He has no credibility with Jewish voters."

Trump has been among the loudest critics of Omar, including last month when he called on her to resign from the House, or at least resign her post on the Foreign Affairs Committee over her suggestion that Jewish money drove support for Israel.

But Trump himself has repeatedly deployed some of the same tropes that sent fire toward Omar. He was slow to condemn white supremacists who marched violently in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 2017. In 2016 he circulated an image of a six-pointed star alongside a photo of Hillary Clinton, a pile of money and the words "most corrupt candidate ever." And he told a group of Republican Jewish donors he didn't expect to earn their support because he wouldn't take their money.

"You want to control your politicians, that's fine," he told the Republican Jewish Coalition in 2015. Ultimately, the group and many of its donors backed Trump. Brooks said Trump's comments were meant obviously in jest and any suggestion otherwise is "unfair and ridiculous."

"Jexodus" is hardly the first time Trump has tried to peel away minority voters from the Democratic coalition. He has pushed the "WalkAway" and "Blexit" movements to win over black voters to the GOP, but those efforts proved to have limited, if any impact.

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According to AP Votecast, a survey of more than 115,000 midterm voters and 3,500 Jewish voters nationwide, voters who identified as Jewish broke for Democrats over Republicans by a wide margin, 72 percent to 26 percent, in 2016.

Over the last decade, Jewish voters have shown stability in their partisanship, according to data from Pew Research Center. Jewish voters identify with or lean toward the Democratic Party over the Republican Party by a roughly 2-to-1 margin.

Associated Press writers Hannah Fingerhut, Elana Schor and Laurie Kellman contributed to this report.

UN: Environment is deadly, worsening mess, but not hopeless

By SETH BORENSTEIN and CHRISTINA LARSON AP Science Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Earth is sick with multiple and worsening environmental ills killing millions of people yearly, a new U.N. report says.

Climate change, a global major extinction of animals and plants, a human population soaring toward 10 billion, degraded land, polluted air, and plastics, pesticides and hormone-changing chemicals in the water are making the planet an increasing unhealthy place for people, says the scientific report issued once every few years.

But it may not be too late.

"There is every reason to be hopeful," report co-editors Joyeeta Gupta and Paul Ekins told The Associated Press in an email. "There is still time but the window is closing fast."

The sixth Global Environment Outlook, released Wednesday at a U.N. conference in Nairobi, Kenya, painted a dire picture of a planet where environmental problems interact with each other to make things even more dangerous for people. It uses the word "risk" 561 times in a 740-page report.

The report concludes "unsustainable human activities globally have degraded the Earth's ecosystems, endangering the ecological foundations of society."

But the same document says changes in the way the world eats, buys things, gets its energy and handles its waste could help fix the problems.

The report is "a dramatic warning and a high-level road map for what must be done to prevent widespread disruption and even irreversible destruction of planetary life-support systems," said University of Michigan environment dean Jonathan Overpeck, who wasn't part of the report.

Several other scientists also praised the report, which draws on existing science, data and maps.

"This report clearly shows the connections between the environment and human health and well-being," said Stuart Pimm, a Duke University ecologist.

Gupta and Ekins, environmental scientists in Amsterdam and London, said air pollution annually kills 7 million people worldwide and costs society about \$5 trillion. Water pollution, with associated diseases, kills another 1.4 million.

The scientists said the most important and pressing problems facing humankind are global warming and loss of biodiversity because they are permanent and affect so many people in so many different ways.

CLIMATE CHANGE

"Time is running out to prevent the irreversible and dangerous impacts of climate change," the report says, noting that unless something changes, global temperatures will exceed the threshold of warming — another 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit (1 degree Celsius) above current temperatures — that international agreements call dangerous.

The report details climate change impacts on human health, air, water, land and biodiversity. Almost all coastal cities and small island nations are increasingly vulnerable to flooding from rising seas and extreme weather.

BIODIVERSITY

"A major species extinction event, compromising planetary integrity and Earth's capacity to meet human

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needs, is unfolding," the report says, listing threats to ecosystems, fisheries and other major systems. It notes conservationists are divided on whether Earth is in a sixth mass extinction.

AIR POLLUTION

Not only are millions of people dying each year, but unhealthy air especially hurts "the elderly, very young, ill and poor," the report says.

WATER POLLUTION

While 1.5 billion people now get clean drinking water they lacked in 2000, water quality in many regions has worsened, the report says.

Plastics and other litter have invaded every ocean at all depths, the report says.

ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

People getting sick from diseases caused by antimicrobial resistant bacteria in water supplies could become a major cause of death worldwide by 2050, unless something can be done about it, the report says.

LAND DEGRADATION

Land is getting less fertile and useful. The report says degradation "hot spots," where it's difficult to grow crops, now cover 29 percent of all land areas. The rate of deforestation has slowed but continues.

"The report provides a roadmap to move beyond 'doom and gloom' and rally together to face the challenges and take the future in our hands," said former U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration chief Jane Lubchenco, who wasn't part of the report. "This is an all-hands-on-deck moment."

Follow Seth Borenstein on Twitter at @borenbears.

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Information void in plane crash leads many to take action

By DAVID KOENIG AP Airlines Writer

In the days since an Ethiopian Airlines plane crashed after taking off for Nairobi and killed all 157 people aboard, there have been many questions but not a lot of answers.

That absence of information — fear of the unknown — has led dozens of countries to ground the Boeing 737 Max 8, the plane involved in Sunday's crash and another one five months earlier that killed 189 people in Indonesia.

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration has been largely isolated. It continues to back the plane's airworthiness, saying Tuesday that it is reviewing all available data. U.S.-based Boeing maintains it has no reason to pull the hot-selling jet from the skies.

Here are some questions that people have about the plane, and what we know so far:

Q. WHO HAS GROUNDED THE PLANES?

A. More than 40 countries including the entire European Union have suspended flights by the plane. China ordered its airlines to ground the planes — they had 96 Max 8 jets in service, more than one-fourth of the approximately 370 Max jets in circulation.

The European Aviation Safety Agency said that "at this early stage" of the most recent investigation, "it cannot be excluded that similar causes may have contributed to both events."

Q. WHY IS THE FAA HOLDING OUT?

A. The FAA prides itself on acting based on facts and is cautioning against comparing the two crashes or assuming that they are related.

"External reports are drawing similarities" between the crashes, the agency said in a statement. "However, this investigation has just begun and to date we have not been provided data to draw any conclusions or take any actions."

The agency has been criticized for its inaction. Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-Ore., the chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, said that he is concerned that international aviation regula-

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tors are providing more certainty to the flying public than the FAA. Critics have also said the FAA is too cozy with the industry that it is supposed to regulate.

Q. WHAT IS BOEING DOING IN RESPONSE TO THE CRASHES?

A. While defending the Max as safe, the company promises to upgrade some flight-control software "in the coming weeks."

Boeing began working on the changes shortly after the Lion Air crash. It is tweaking a system designed to prevent an aerodynamic stall if sensors detect that the plane's nose is pointed too high and its speed is too slow.

Officials at Lion Air in Indonesia said sensors on their plane produced erroneous information on its last four flights, triggering an automatic nose-down command which the pilots were unable to overcome. The plane plunged into the sea.

A Boeing spokesman said once updated software is installed, the system will rely on data from more than one sensor to trigger a nose-down command. Also, the system won't repeatedly push the nose down, and it will reduce the magnitude of the change, he said. There will also be more training for pilots.

Q. ARE AIRLINE EMPLOYEES AND PASSENGERS WORRIED?

A. Patrick Smith, a Boeing 767 pilot who writes a column called "Ask the Pilot," says passengers ask him if the 737 Max is safe. He tells them it is, and he hasn't heard of any pilots who worry about flying the plane.

"We have two accidents, we somewhat understand one, and we don't know what happened in the second case at all," Smith says. "It's just too early to be jumping to the conclusion of the plane being defective to the point that it's unsafe."

Others don't want to take any chances. The Association of Professional Flight Attendants, which represents more than 26,000 flight attendants at American Airlines, called on CEO Doug Parker to "strongly consider grounding these planes until an investigation can be performed."

Michael Thebeau of Houston said he wouldn't feel good boarding a 737 Max, but it wouldn't change his decision if he had to fly.

"I will feel better after they finish the investigation, there's a report, and they fix it," he said recently while waiting for a Southwest flight — on a 737, but not a Max — at Houston's Hobby Airport.

Q. WHAT IF I WANT TO SWITCH MY FLIGHT IF I'M ON A MAX?

A. You can do it, but the ease — and possible cost — will differ by airline. In the U.S., Southwest and American fly Max 8s, and United flies larger Max 9s.

Southwest doesn't charge ticket-change fees, making it easy for customers to book a different flight. United and American typically add a \$200 change fee.

To find out whether you're booked on a 737 Max, you can check out apps like FlightAware and Flightra-dar24 that include the aircraft type. When buying a ticket on American's website, it's under "details." On Southwest, you have to click on the flight number.

"The average person wouldn't be able to find the model on Southwest," says George Hobic, founder of airfarewatchdog.com.

Feds charge dozens in widespread US college admissions scam

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER and COLLIN BINKLEY

BOSTON (AP) — A fast-moving college admissions scandal moved from bombshell indictments to guilty pleas in a matter of hours, yet the full fallout from the federal case against the rich and famous could take months or more to unfold.

Big names such as actresses Felicity Huffman and Lori Loughlin headline the list of some 50 people charged in documents released Tuesday that describe a scheme to cheat the admissions process at eight sought-after schools. The parents bribed college coaches and other insiders to get their children into selective schools, authorities said.

At the center of the scheme was admissions consultant William "Rick" Singer, founder of the Edge College & Career Network of Newport Beach, California, authorities said. Singer pleaded guilty and his

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lawyer, Donald Heller, said his client intends to cooperate fully with prosecutors and is "remorseful and contrite and wants to move on with his life."

Prosecutors said that parents paid Singer big money from 2011 up until just last month to bribe coaches and administrators to falsely make their children look like star athletes to boost their chances of getting accepted. The consultant also hired ringers to take college entrance exams for students, and paid off insiders at testing centers to correct students' answers.

Some parents spent hundreds of thousands of dollars and some as much as \$6.5 million to guarantee their children's admission, officials said.

"These parents are a catalog of wealth and privilege," U.S. Attorney Andrew Lelling said.

At least nine athletic coaches and 33 parents were charged. Dozens, including Huffman, the Emmy-winning star of ABC's "Desperate Housewives," were arrested by midday Tuesday. Huffman posted a \$250,000 bond after an appearance in federal court in Los Angeles. Her husband, actor William H. Macy, has not been charged, though an FBI agent stated in an affidavit that he was in the room when Huffman first heard the pitch from a scam insider.

It was unclear when the "Full House" star Loughlin would turn herself in. Loughlin's husband, fashion designer Mossimo Giannulli, was released in Los Angeles after posting a \$1 million bond.

The coaches worked at schools such as Yale, Stanford, Georgetown, Wake Forest, the University of Texas, the University of Southern California and the University of California at Los Angeles.

Stanford's sailing coach John Vandemoer pleaded guilty Tuesday in Boston. A former Yale soccer coach pleaded guilty before the documents went public and helped build the case against others.

No students were charged, with authorities saying that in many cases the teenagers were unaware of what was going on. Several of the colleges involved made no mention of taking any action against the students.

Several defendants, including Huffman, were charged with conspiracy to commit fraud, punishable by up to 20 years in prison.

"For every student admitted through fraud, an honest and genuinely talented student was rejected," Lelling said.

Lelling said the investigation is continuing and authorities believe other parents were involved. The IRS is also investigating, since some parents allegedly disguised the bribes as charitable donations.

The colleges themselves are not targets, the prosecutor said. A number of the institutions moved quickly to fire or suspend the coaches and distance their name from the scandal, portraying themselves as victims. Stanford fired the sailing coach, and USC dropped its water polo coach and an athletic administrator. UCLA suspended its soccer coach, and Wake Forest did the same with its volleyball coach.

AP Entertainment Writer Andrew Dalton contributed from Los Angeles.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. ETHIOPIA TO SEND PLANE'S BLACK BOX ABROAD

The black box from the doomed Ethiopian Airlines jetliner will be sent overseas for analysis but no country has been chosen, an airline spokesman tells the AP.

2. CARDINAL PELL SENT TO PRISON FOR MOLESTATION

The most senior Catholic convicted of child sex abuse is sentenced to six years in prison for molesting two choirboys in a Melbourne cathedral in the 1990s.

3. TV STARS, COACHES CHARGED IN COLLEGE BRIBERY SCHEME

Hollywood stars Felicity Huffman and Lori Loughlin headline the list of some 50 people charged in a scheme to cheat the admissions process at eight sought-after schools.

4. CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR PLACES MORATORIUM ON EXECUTIONS

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The 737 inmates on the largest-in-the-nation death row are getting a reprieve from Gavin Newsom.

5. EU PLANS FOR CHAOTIC BREXIT AS UK READIES FOR NO-DEAL VOTE

EU officials criticize the U.K. Parliament for rejecting a Brexit deal for a second time as the bloc prepares for a chaotic, cliff-edge departure.

6. MANAFORT FACES 2ND SENTENCING

Trump's former campaign chairman faces up to 10 additional years in prison when he's sentenced in Washington in Mueller's Russia investigation.

7. POLICE OFTEN STALL PUBLIC RELEASE OF VIDEOS

An AP investigation finds police departments routinely withhold video taken by officer-worn and dashboard-mounted cameras, although some departments fast-track the footage.

8. UN SAYS EARTH IS SICKLY WITH MULTIPLE AND WORSENING ILLS

The global agency paints a dire picture of the environment with global warming, biodiversity loss, air and water pollution and more.

9. RUSSIA MOCKS COLLUSION PROBE AHEAD OF MUELLER'S REPORT

The Kremlin's narrative is strikingly similar to Trump's description of the investigation as a "witch hunt" and blames Democrats for being sore losers.

10. 2 NFL STUNNERS IN SAME DAY

The Browns acquire star receiver Odell Beckham Jr. from the Giants and the Jets agree to sign top running back Le'Veon Bell, AP sources say.

Manafort returning to federal court for another sentencing

By **ERIC TUCKER** and **CHAD DAY** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort faces his second sentencing hearing in as many weeks, with a judge expected to tack on additional prison time beyond the roughly four-year punishment he has already received.

Manafort, 69, faces up to 10 additional years in prison when he is sentenced Wednesday in Washington in special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into ties between the Trump campaign and Russia.

A judge in Virginia last week sentenced Manafort to 47 months in prison, far below sentencing guidelines that allowed for more than two decades in prison, prompting national debate about disparities in how rich and poor defendants are treated by the criminal justice system.

As U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson in Washington decides whether the sentences should run consecutively or at the same time, she is likely to take into account allegations by prosecutors that Manafort tampered with witnesses after he was charged and that he lied to investigators even after he pleaded guilty and pledged to cooperate.

The hearing may offer a window into tantalizing allegations that aren't part of the criminal cases against him but have nonetheless surfaced in recent court filings — that Manafort shared Trump campaign polling data with Konstantin Kilimnik, a business associate the U.S. says has ties to Russian intelligence, and that the two men met secretly during the campaign in an encounter that prosecutors say cuts "to the heart" of their investigation.

The sentencing hearings for Manafort mark a bookend of sorts for Mueller's investigation as it inches toward a conclusion. Manafort and business associate Rick Gates were among the first of 34 people charged, and though the charges against Manafort weren't tied to his work on the Trump campaign, his foreign entanglements have made him a subject of intrigue to prosecutors assessing whether the campaign colluded with Russia to sway the outcome of the election.

Wednesday's sentencing comes in a week of activity for the investigation. Mueller's prosecutors on Tuesday night updated a judge on the status of cooperation provided by one defendant, former national security adviser Michael Flynn, and are expected to do the same later in the week for Gates.

The Mueller team has prosecuted Manafort in both Washington and Virginia related to his foreign consulting work on behalf of a pro-Russia Ukrainian political party. Manafort was convicted of bank and tax

fraud in the Virginia case and pleaded guilty in Washington to two conspiracy counts, each punishable by up to five years in prison.

The decision by U.S. District Judge T.S. Ellis III to sentence Manafort to 47 months stunned many who'd been following the case given both the guideline calculation of 19.5 to 24 years in prison and the fact that the defendant was convicted of hiding millions of dollars from the IRS in undisclosed foreign bank accounts. But Ellis made clear during the sentencing hearing that he found the government's sentencing guidelines unduly harsh and declared his own sentence "sufficiently punitive."

"If anybody in this courtroom doesn't think so, go and spend a day in the jail or penitentiary of the federal government," Ellis said. "Spend a week there."

Manafort has been jailed since last June when Berman Jackson revoked his house arrest over allegations that he and Kilimnik sought to influence witnesses by trying to get them to testify in a certain way.

Ethiopia to send plane's black box abroad, as grief grows

By ELIAS MESERET and YIDNEK KIRUBEL Associated Press

HEJERE, Ethiopia (AP) — The black box from the Boeing jet that crashed and killed all 157 people on board will be sent overseas for analysis but no country has been chosen, an Ethiopian Airlines spokesman said Wednesday, as much of the world grounded or barred the plane model and grieving families arrived at the disaster site.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Asrat Begashaw said the airline has "a range of options" for the data and voice records of the flight's last moments. "What we can say is we don't have the capability to probe it here in Ethiopia," he said. An airline official has said one recorder was partially damaged.

The Boeing 737 Max 8 aircraft crashed six minutes after takeoff Sunday, killing all 157 people on board. The disaster is the second with a Max 8 plane in just five months.

While some aviation experts have warned against drawing conclusions until more information on the latest crash emerges, much of the world, including the entire European Union, has grounded the Boeing jetliner or banned it from their airspace. Ethiopian Airlines, widely seen as Africa's best-managed airline, grounded its remaining four 737 Max 8s.

That leaves the United States as one of the few remaining operators of the plane.

"Similar causes may have contributed to both events," European regulators said, referring to the Lion Air crash in Indonesia that killed 189 people last year.

Others took action on Wednesday. Lebanon and Kosovo barred the Boeing 737 Max 8 from their airspace, and Norwegian Air Shuttles said it would seek compensation from Boeing after grounding its fleet. Egypt banned the operation of the aircraft. Thailand ordered budget airline Thai Lion Air to suspend flying the planes for risk assessments. Lion Air confirmed reports it has put on hold the scheduled delivery of four of the jets.

The U.S.-based Boeing has said it has no reason to pull the popular aircraft from the skies and does not intend to issue new recommendations about the aircraft to customers.

Boeing's CEO Dennis Muilenburg also spoke with President Donald Trump and reiterated that the 737 Max 8 is safe, the company said. Its technical team, meanwhile, joined American, Israeli, Kenyan and other aviation experts in the investigation led by Ethiopian authorities.

The Federal Aviation Administration also backed the jet's airworthiness and said it was reviewing all available data. "Thus far, our review shows no systemic performance issues and provides no basis to order grounding the aircraft," acting FAA Administrator Daniel K. Elwell said in a statement. "Nor have other civil aviation authorities provided data to us that would warrant action."

Some aviation experts have warned that finding answers in this crash could take months.

An Ethiopian pilot who saw the crash site minutes after the disaster told the AP that the plane appeared to have "slid directly into the ground."

Asrat, the Ethiopian Airlines spokesman, told the AP that the remains of victims recovered so far were in freezers and that forensic DNA work for identifications had not yet begun.

The dead came from 35 countries. The airline has identifying them should take five days. More devastated families arrived at the crash site on Wednesday, some supported by loved ones and wailing.

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Cardinal Pell sent to prison for abusing 2 boys in Australia

By ROD McGUIRK Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — The most senior Catholic convicted of child sex abuse was sentenced Wednesday to six years in prison for molesting two choirboys in an Australian cathedral in a crime the judge said showed “staggering arrogance.”

Cardinal George Pell must serve a minimum of 3 years and 8 months before he is eligible for parole, according to the judge’s order. The five convictions against Pell carried a maximum possible sentence of 10 years each.

“In my view, your conduct was permeated by staggering arrogance,” Victoria state County Court Chief Judge Peter Kidd said in handing down the sentence.

Pope Francis’ former finance minister was convicted by a unanimous jury verdict in December of orally raping a 13-year-old choirboy and indecently dealing with the boy and the boy’s 13-year-old friend in the late 1990s, months after Pell became archbishop of Melbourne. A court order had suppressed media reporting the news until last month.

The 77-year-old denies the allegations and will appeal his convictions in the Victoria Court of Appeal on June 5. It was not immediately clear if he will also appeal the sentence.

For the first time in Pell’s many court appearances since he returned to Australia from the Vatican to face abuse charges, Pell wore an open-necked shirt without a cleric’s collar. He was also not wearing a cardinal’s gold ring, which might reflect strict rules on jewelry in the state penal system.

In explaining his sentencing decision, the judge said Pell had led an “otherwise blameless life.” Kidd said he believed given Pell’s age and lack of any other criminal record, the cardinal posed no risk of re-offending.

The judge also took pains to note that he was sentencing Pell for the offenses on which the cardinal had been convicted — and not for the sins of the Catholic Church.

“As I directed the jury who convicted you in this trial, you are not to be made a scapegoat for any failings or perceived failings of the Catholic Church,” Kidd said.

But the judge also said that Pell had abused his position of power and had shown no remorse for his crimes. Kidd described the assaults as egregious, degrading and humiliating to the victims.

Pell showed no emotion during the hourlong hearing and barely moved throughout. He stood silently with his hands behind his back as the judge read his sentence. Pell signed documents that registered him for life as a serious sexual offender before he was led from the dock by four prison officers.

In a statement, one of Pell’s victims called the judge’s sentence “meticulous and considered.”

“It is hard for me to allow myself to feel the gravity of this moment, the moment when the sentence is handed down, the moment when justice is done,” the man said in a statement read outside court by one of his lawyers, Vivian Waller. “It is hard for me, for the time being, to take comfort in this outcome. I appreciate that the court has acknowledged what was inflicted upon me as a child. However, there is no rest for me. Everything is overshadowed by the forthcoming appeal.”

The father of one of Pell’s victims who died of a heroin overdose in 2014 at the age of 31 paid tribute to his son’s childhood friend for speaking out.

“I commend the young fellow who has come forward,” the father said. “He kept it in for a long time and that would’ve been hell for him. Absolute hell.”

The father said he was “really appreciative and thankful that he did come forward.”

“I want to give him a hug. He was a fabulous little kid. He’s a fabulous man now,” the father said.

The father also described the sentence as “a disappointment.”

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The father is considering suing Pell and the church over the abuse.

Australian law prohibits the publication of sex crime victims' identities, so the father also cannot be identified.

Abuse victims' groups also expressed disappointment that the punishment was not harsher.

The sentence "makes a mockery of the concept of true accountability and is not a sentence commensurate with the crimes committed and the harm reaped," Blue Knot Foundation president Cathy Kezelman said in a statement.

SNAP, a U.S. support group for victim of clergy abuse, described the sentences as "comparatively light."

"We hope that the sentence imposed on Cardinal George Pell will provide some measure of healing to the living survivor of his abuse and comfort and closure for the family of Pell's non-surviving victim," SNAP said in a statement.

The judge said Pell's age was a significant factor in determining his sentence.

Pell suffers from hypertension that is exacerbated by stress and has a dual-chamber pacemaker, the judge said.

Pell used a cane to leave the court, after having both knees surgically replaced in December.

Pell's sentencing comes on the sixth anniversary of Francis' election as pope. Pell was in the conclave that elected him and remains eligible for any potential future conclave until age 80 or unless he is removed.

Asked by a reporter outside court after the sentencing whether the case against Pell amounted to a witch hunt, his lawyer Robert Richter gave a rueful smile.

"No comment — you be the judge," Richter replied.

After centuries of impunity, cardinals from Australia to Chile and points in between are facing justice in both the Vatican and government courts for their own sexual misdeeds or for having shielded abusers under their watch.

Last week, France's senior Catholic cleric, Cardinal Philippe Barbarin, was convicted of failing to report a known pedophile priest to police. Barbarin was given a six-month suspended sentence.

Pope Francis last month defrocked the onetime leader of the American church after an internal investigation determined Cardinal Theodore McCarrick sexually molested children and adult men. It was the first time a cardinal had been defrocked over the child abuse scandal.

The surviving victim made a statement against Pell in 2015 — a year after the other victim's death — to a police task force set up to investigate allegations that arose from a state parliamentary inquiry into handling of child abuse by religious and other nongovernment organizations. The task force also investigates allegations made to a similar national inquiry, called the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Pell gave evidence by video link from Rome to the royal commission, the nations' highest level of inquiry, in 2016 about his time as a church leader in Melbourne and in his hometown of Ballarat.

The four-year royal commission found in its 2017 report that the Melbourne Archdiocese had ignored or covered up allegations of child abuse by seven priests in a bid to protect the church's reputation and avoid scandal.

The royal commission was critical of Pell's predecessor in Melbourne, Archbishop Frank Little, who died in 2008. It made no findings against Pell, saying in a redacted report that it would not publish information that could "prejudice current or future criminal or civil proceedings."

Australian police interviewed Pell about the survivor's allegations in a Rome hotel in 2016. Pell described the allegations at the time as "vile and disgusting conduct" that went against everything he believed in.

Pell voluntarily returned to Australia in 2017 to face an array of child abuse charges, most of which have since been dropped. The full details of those allegations were suppressed by court orders.

Pell was once the highest-ranking Catholic in Australia's second-largest city, where he is now a prisoner held in protective security. Pedophiles such as Pell are typically separated from the main prison populations in Australia.

Pell was 55 years old and had recently established a compensation plan for Melbourne's victims of clergy abuse when he abused the two boys at St. Patrick's Cathedral in 1996. The survivor testified that Pell had

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walked in on the boys swigging altar wine in a back room after a Sunday Mass.

The judge rejected Richter's submission that no person thinking rationally would molest two 13-year-old boys in a cathedral sacristy after a Mass with the doors open.

"To offend in such a risky and brazen manner, I infer that, for whatever reason, you were in fact prepared to take on such risks. I conclude that your decision to offend was a reasoned, albeit perverted one," Kidd said.

More than a month later, Pell abused the survivor again, squeezing the boy's genitals as they passed in a cathedral corridor after a Mass.

The judge said the assault was committed with "a degree of physical aggression and venom."

Associated Press writer Kristen Gelineau in Sydney contributed to this report.

Criticism of FAA mounts as other nations ground Boeing jets

By **RICHARD LARDNER** and **TOM KRISHER** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration is facing mounting criticism for backing the airworthiness of Boeing's 737 Max jets as the number of countries that have grounded the aircraft grows in the wake of the Ethiopian Airlines crash over the weekend.

The rest of the world typically takes its cues from the FAA, long considered the world's gold standard for aircraft safety. Yet other aviation safety regulators, including the European Union, China, Australia and the United Kingdom, have decided not to wait for the FAA to act. The Ethiopian disaster came just five months after the deadly crash of another new Boeing 737 Max 8 operated by Lion Air in Indonesia.

Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-Ore., the chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, said in a statement Tuesday that he's concerned that international aviation regulators are providing more certainty to the flying public than the FAA.

"In the coming days, it is absolutely critical that we get answers as to what caused the devastating crash of Ethiopian Airlines flight 302 and whether there is any connection to what caused the Lion Air accident just five months ago," DeFazio said.

The FAA has increasingly become cozy with airplane manufacturers and airlines when it should be more pro-active in safety, said Bill McGee, aviation adviser for Consumer Reports.

The magazine and website on Tuesday called on airlines and the FAA to ground the 737 Max planes until an investigation into the cause of the Ethiopian crash is completed to see if it's related to the Lion Air crash in October.

"They have not presented any evidence that the problems that we've seen with these two crashes are not problems that could potentially exist here in the U.S.," McGee said.

"Increasingly the FAA is relying more and more on what the industry calls electronic surveillance," added McGee, who has written about aviation for nearly two decades. "Not going out and kicking the tires, seeing the work being done, making sure it's being done properly."

Former Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood also called for the U.S. to ground the 737 Max, just as his agency halted flights of another Boeing plane six years ago because of safety concerns.

"These planes need to be inspected before people get on them," LaHood said Tuesday. "The flying public expects somebody in the government to look after safety, and that's DOT's responsibility."

LaHood was Department of Transportation secretary in 2013 when the department grounded the Boeing 787 because of overheating lithium-ion battery packs. The planes were idled for less than a month, until Boeing crafted new fire-resistant compartments around the batteries.

LaHood said current Secretary Elaine Chao should do the same thing with the Max 8, even if it means overruling the FAA, which has taken no action in the face of the dozens of other countries banning the plane from their skies. "The secretary has the authority to suspend these planes" and require inspections by both FAA and Boeing personnel, he said. "She has the authority to do it no matter what the FAA thinks."

But veteran accident investigators defended the FAA, which has said there's no data to link the two

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crashes.

"I don't see the facts to justify what they've done," John Goglia, an independent safety consultant and former member of the National Transportation Safety Board, said of the moves by other countries to stop the Max 8 from flying. "If they have facts, I wish they would share them with the rest of the world so we can protect the air-traveling public."

The FAA said it was reviewing all available data, and so far had found no basis to ground the planes.

John Cox, president and CEO of the aviation consultancy Safety Operating Systems, said countries that have grounded the Max 8 may have linked the Ethiopian and Indonesian crashes even though investigators had yet to analyze the Ethiopian plane's black boxes.

"The FAA is on solid ground so far," said Cox, a former airline pilot and accident investigator. "But politics may overwhelm them if enough members get together and demand the planes be grounded."

Democratic Sens. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut and Dianne Feinstein of California already have urged FAA to do just that, signaling that the agency may soon face escalating pressure from Capitol Hill.

"My fear is that the FAA is simply trying to save face and avoid acknowledging the safety defect that they failed to find when they certified the plane's safety," said Blumenthal, a member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.

Air safety regulators in at least 40 countries, including the European Union, have either grounded Boeing 737 Max jets or banned them from their airspace after Sunday's deadly crash in Ethiopia. In addition, at least 10 airlines worldwide have stopped flying the planes.

The European Union Aviation Safety Agency, which covers 32 countries, announced Tuesday that it would ban the planes from flying in its airspace. Other countries that have either grounded the planes or temporarily banned them include China, the United Kingdom, India, Indonesia, Singapore, Oman, Malaysia and Australia.

Airlines that have stopped using the planes include Gol Airlines of Brazil, Cayman Airways, Ethiopian Airways, Jet Airways of India, Aeromexico, Norwegian Air Shuttle, Turkish Airlines, Eastar Jet of South Korea, Smartwings of the Czech Republic and LOT of Poland.

Sandy Morris, an aerospace analyst at Jefferies in London, called the string of bans on the Boeing Max jets unprecedented.

"It seems like a rebellion against the FAA," Morris said.

Krisher reported from Detroit. Associated Press writers David Koenig in Houston, Carlo Piovano in London and Cathy Bussewitz in New York contributed to this report.

Court case centers on Native American kids in foster care

By **FELICIA FONSECA** Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) — A federal law that gives preference to Native American families in foster care and adoption proceedings involving Native American children is facing the most significant legal challenge since it was enacted more than 40 years ago.

A federal judge in Texas ruled the Indian Child Welfare Act is unconstitutional, saying it is racially motivated and violates the equal protection clause.

More than 20 states have joined hundreds of tribes, advocacy groups and the federal agency overseeing Indian affairs in urging an appellate judge to uphold the law. They say tribes are a political classification, not a racial one, and overturning the Indian Child Welfare Act would lead to untold damage in tribal communities.

"The fear is without the statute, Indian children will once again sort of disappear into the child welfare system and be lost to their families and their tribes," said Adam Charnes, who will present arguments on behalf of five intervening tribes before a panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Wednesday.

The law has led to some emotional, high-profile cases, including one in 2016 in which a court ordered that a young Choctaw girl named Lexi be removed from a California foster family and placed with her

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father's extended family in Utah. Images of the girl being carried away from her foster home drew widespread attention.

In 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled the law didn't apply in a South Carolina case involving a young girl named Veronica because her Cherokee father was absent from part of her life.

Congress passed the Indian Child Welfare Act in 1978 because a high number of Native American children were being removed from their homes by public and private agencies. In adoptions of such children, the law requires states to notify tribes and seek placement with the child's extended family, members of the child's tribe or other Native American families. Tribes, whose status as sovereign nations is derived from treaties with the U.S. government and acts of Congress, also have a say in foster care placements.

The law allows states to deviate from placement preferences when there is "good cause." The U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs sought to clarify the term in 2016 by saying state courts shouldn't consider socioeconomic status, or ordinary bonding or attachment to host families, among other things.

The latest case centers on Chad and Jennifer Brackeen, a Texas couple who fostered a baby eligible for membership in both the Navajo and Cherokee tribes. The boy's parents voluntarily terminated their parental rights, and the Brackeens petitioned to adopt him.

The state denied their request after the Navajo Nation identified a potential home with a Navajo family in New Mexico. The Brackeens got an emergency stay and went to court.

They were able to adopt the boy in January 2018 after the placement fell through. The boy is now 3, and the couple is seeking to adopt his younger half-sister.

Attorneys general in Texas, Indiana and Louisiana joined in suing the federal government over the Indian Child Welfare Act in 2017. The states say the law is discriminatory, and the federal government has no right to tell states how to regulate child welfare cases.

"It coerces state agencies and courts to carry out unconstitutional and illegal federal policy, and it makes child custody decisions based on racial preferences," Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton has said.

Matthew McGill represents the Brackeens, two other couples from Nevada and Minnesota, and a birth mother in the case. He said the Indian Child Welfare Act may have been well-intentioned, but it illegally segregates Native American children by race and has upended his clients' lives.

"Fundamentally, the issue here is that the Indian Child Welfare Act subordinates individualized considerations of a child's best interest in favor of a blunt assumption that being placed with a tribe is going to be better for the tribe, and that's just demonstrably untrue," he said. "It's not going to be true in every case."

The Minnesota couple, the Cliffords, wanted to adopt a girl who lived with them after being in various foster homes for two years. The child ultimately was placed with her maternal grandmother, a member of the White Earth Band of Ojibwe. The tribe at first said she wasn't eligible for membership but later reversed course.

The Librettis in Nevada arranged with a pregnant woman, Altagracia Hernandez, to adopt a baby girl who is turning 3 this week. Hernandez isn't Native American, but the biological father is from Ysleta del Sur Pueblo in El Paso, Texas. The adoption was finalized in December, and it requires the Librettis to be in contact with the tribe about the girl's development and take her to visit the pueblo regularly, according to court documents.

Tribes and tribal advocates say Native American children are still separated from their families at rates higher than the general population, and the law helps them stay connected to their tribes, relatives and culture.

The Indian Child Welfare Act defines Indian children as enrollees or potential enrollees who have a biological parent who is a member of any of the country's 573 federally recognized tribes. About a dozen states have similar laws, some of which expand the definition, said Sarah Kastelic, director of the National Indian Child Welfare Association.

When the federal law was enacted, studies showed up to one-third of Native American children were being taken from their homes by private and state agencies, including church-run programs, and placed with mostly white families or in boarding schools in attempts to assimilate them. Testimony in Congress showed that was due to ignorance of tribes' values and social norms. Kastelic also said there was a mis-

conception that Native American families were unfit or too poor to care for their children.

"It was important to halt that removal, to correct state behavior, to put in minimum standards," she said.

Many Native American families have stories about loved ones who disappeared and never returned.

Allie Greenleaf Maldonado said her grandmother and uncles were placed in boarding schools, forced to cut their hair and beaten if they practiced their religion. When the grandmother died, Maldonado's mother was sent to live in Indiana with a Mennonite family who put bleach on her skin to lighten it, told her to say she was Armenian and kept her from communicating with her family, she said.

"They were ashamed she was Native American, and they made her ashamed she was Native American," said Maldonado, chief judge for the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Tribal Court in Michigan. "To this day, she's never come back to the reservation. She says she's an apple, red on the outside, white on the inside."

Maldonado and her husband have an adopted son from a neighboring tribe. She said unlike her, 11-year-old Riley is growing up on the reservation and learning about traditional medicine and a culture that includes hunting and fishing.

"Only because of the Indian Child Welfare Act, (and) people following it, he has a community," she said.

Boeing jet grounded in much of world after Ethiopia crash

By ELIAS MESERET and YIDNEK KIRUBEL Associated Press

HEJERE, Ethiopia (AP) — Much of the world, including the entire European Union, grounded the Boeing jetliner involved in the Ethiopian Airlines crash or banned it from their airspace, leaving the United States as one of the few remaining operators of the plane involved in two deadly accidents in just five months.

The European Aviation Safety Agency took steps to keep the Boeing 737 Max 8 out of the air, joining Asian and Middle Eastern governments and carriers that also gave in to safety concerns in the aftermath of Sunday's crash, which killed all 157 people on board.

Referring to the Lion Air crash in Indonesia that killed 189 people last year, European regulators said Tuesday that "similar causes may have contributed to both events."

British regulators indicated possible trouble with a reportedly damaged flight data recorder, saying they based their decision on the fact that they did not have "sufficient information" from the recorder.

Turkish Airlines, Oman Air, Norwegian Air Shuttle, Icelandair and South Korean airline Eastar Jet were among the latest carriers to halt use of the Boeing model. The United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Singapore also suspended all flights in their airspace or into or out of their airports.

A Turkish Airlines official said two Britain-bound planes returned to Istanbul after British airspace was closed to the aircraft. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly.

U.S.-based Boeing has said it has no reason to pull the popular aircraft from the skies and does not intend to issue new recommendations about the aircraft to customers. Boeing's CEO Dennis Muilenburg also spoke with President Donald Trump and reiterated that the 737 Max 8 is safe, the company said. Its technical team, meanwhile, joined American, Israeli, Kenyan and other aviation experts in the investigation led by Ethiopian authorities.

The Federal Aviation Administration also backed the jet's airworthiness and said it was reviewing all available data. It said it expects Boeing will soon complete improvements to an automated anti-stall system suspected of contributing to the deadly crash of another new Boeing 737 Max 8 in October.

"Thus far, our review shows no systemic performance issues and provides no basis to order grounding the aircraft," acting FAA Administrator Daniel K. Elwell said in a statement. "Nor have other civil aviation authorities provided data to us that would warrant action."

Some U.S. airlines expressed support for the Boeing model, and American Airlines and Southwest continued flying them. A vice president for American, the world's biggest carrier, which has 24 Max 8s, said they had "full confidence in the aircraft."

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Safety experts cautioned against drawing too many comparisons too soon with the Lion Air crash in October. But others in the U.S. began pressing for action.

The Association of Professional Flight Attendants, which represents more than 26,000 flight attendants at American Airlines, called on CEO Doug Parker to "strongly consider grounding these planes until an investigation can be performed."

Consumer Reports called on airlines and the FAA to ground the jets until a thorough safety investigation is complete.

Even Trump weighed in, tweeting that additional "complexity creates danger" in modern aircraft and hinders pilots from making "split second decisions" to ensure passengers' safety.

He did not specifically mention the crashes but said, "I don't know about you, but I don't want Albert Einstein to be my pilot."

The Ethiopian Airlines plane crashed six minutes after taking off for Nairobi, killing people from 35 countries.

A pilot who saw the crash site minutes after the disaster told the AP that the plane appeared to have "slid directly into the ground." Capt. Solomon Gizaw was among the first people dispatched to find the plane. The wreckage was discovered by Ethiopia's air force.

"There was nothing to see," he said. "It looked like the earth had swallowed the aircraft. ... We were surprised!" He said it explained why rescue officials quickly sent bulldozers to begin digging out large pieces of debris.

Ethiopian Airlines, widely seen as Africa's best-managed airline, grounded its remaining four 737 Max 8s until further notice. The carrier had been using five of the planes and was awaiting delivery of 25 more.

As night fell, the airline offered no new updates on the investigation. An airline spokesman said victims' remains should be identified in about five days.

Some insights into the disaster and its cause could take months, aviation experts said.

"The conclusions that will come out of its probe will be beneficial to the rest of the world," Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said Tuesday at a news conference with visiting French President Emmanuel Macron. "These types of accidents break everyone's heart. I hope we will learn from this crash."

On Tuesday a group of officials from China, which also grounded planes, paused in their work at the scene to reflect with an offering of incense, fruit, bread rolls and a plastic container of the Ethiopian flat-bread injera.

As the global team searched for answers, a woman stood near the crash site, wailing. Kebebew Legess said she was the mother of a young Ethiopian Airlines crew member among the dead.

"She would have been 25 years old but God would not allow her," she wept. "My daughter, my little one."

The British ambassador to Ethiopia, Alastair McPhail, visited the scene where at least nine of his countrymen died. "We owe it to the families to understand what happened," he said.

Meseret reported from Addis Ababa. Associated Press writers David Koenig in Houston and Suzan Fraser in Ankara, Turkey, contributed to this report.

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California governor places moratorium on executions

By DON THOMPSON Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — The 737 inmates on California's largest-in-the-nation death row are getting a reprieve from Gov. Gavin Newsom, who plans to sign an executive order Wednesday placing a moratorium on executions.

Newsom also is withdrawing the lethal injection regulations that death penalty opponents already have tied up in courts and shuttering the new execution chamber at San Quentin State Prison that has never been used.

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"The intentional killing of another person is wrong and as governor, I will not oversee the execution of any individual," he said in prepared remarks.

Newsom called the death penalty "a failure" that "has discriminated against defendants who are mentally ill, black and brown, or can't afford expensive legal representation." He also said innocent people have been wrongly convicted and sometimes put to death.

California hasn't executed anyone since 2006, when Arnold Schwarzenegger was governor. And though voters in 2016 narrowly approved a ballot measure to speed up the punishment, no condemned inmate faced imminent execution.

Since California's last execution, its death row population has grown to house one of every four condemned inmates in the United States. They include Scott Peterson, whose trial for killing his wife Laci riveted the country, and Richard Davis, who kidnapped 12-year-old Polly Klaas during a slumber party and strangled her.

Newsom "is usurping the express will of California voters and substituting his personal preferences via this hasty and ill-considered moratorium on the death penalty," said Michele Hanisee, president of the Association of Deputy (Los Angeles County) District Attorneys.

But Alison Parker, U.S. managing director at Human Rights Watch, praised Newsom's "great courage and leadership in ending the cruel, costly, and unfair practice of executing prisoners," calling for other states to follow California's lead. The American Civil Liberties Union called it "a watershed moment in the fight for racial equity and equal justice for all." Justin Brooks, director of the California Innocence Project, lauded Newsom for ending the risk of executing someone who is innocent.

Kent Scheidegger, legal director of the Criminal Justice Legal Foundation, which has been fighting in court to force the state to resume executions, said blocking Newsom's move may be difficult.

"Reprieves, the governor does have the power to do that. That doesn't make it the right thing to do," Scheidegger said. "At this time I don't see a legal challenge to the reprieve." However, he said prohibiting corrections officials from preparing to carry out executions "is patently illegal" under the 2016 ballot measure.

Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager, president of the California District Attorneys Association, also criticized Newsom for circumventing the will of a majority of voters.

But he had support from Democratic lawmakers including Sen. Scott Wiener of San Francisco and Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez of San Diego, who praised Newsom for doing "what's right, even when it's tough," in Gonzalez's words.

Aides said Newsom's power to grant reprieves is written into the state Constitution and that he is not altering any convictions or allowing any condemned inmate a chance at an early release.

A governor needs approval from the state Supreme Court to pardon or commute the sentence of anyone twice convicted of a felony, and the justices last year blocked several clemency requests by former Gov. Jerry Brown that did not involve condemned inmates.

Other governors also have enacted moratoriums. Republican Illinois Gov. George Ryan was the first in 2000 and later was followed by Pennsylvania, Washington and Oregon. Illinois ultimately outlawed executions, as did Washington.

Newsom said the death penalty isn't a deterrent, wastes taxpayer dollars and is flawed because it is "irreversible and irreparable in the event of human error." It's also costly — California has spent \$5 billion since 1978 on its death row, he said.

More than six in 10 condemned California inmates are minorities, which his office cited as proof of racial disparities in who is sentenced to die. Since 1973, five California inmates who were sentenced to death were later exonerated, his office said.

Brown also opposed the death penalty, but his administration moved to restart executions after voters acted in 2016 to allow the use of a single lethal injection and speed up appeals. His administration's regulations are stalled by challenges in both state and federal court, though those lawsuits may be halted now that Newsom is officially withdrawing the regulations.

Brown said he was satisfied with his record number of pardons and commutations, though he never

attempted to commute a death sentence. He had focused on sweeping changes to criminal penalties and reducing the prison population.

"I've done what I want to do," Brown said shortly before leaving office, defending his decision not to endorse death penalty repeal efforts in 2012 and 2016. "I've carved out my piece of all this."

Democratic Assemblyman Marc Levine of Greenbrae plans to seek the two-thirds vote the Legislature requires to put another repeal measure on the 2020 ballot. Levine's district includes San Quentin State Prison. A repeal question also was on the ballot in 2016 with the question to speed up executions. It lost by 7 points while the other question was approved by 2 points.

Newsom's aides said it has not yet been decided what will become of the execution chamber, or whether corrections officials have been told to top preparing for executions, for instance by running drills.

Seventy-nine condemned California inmates have died of natural causes since the state reinstated capital punishment in 1978. Another 26 committed suicide. California has executed 13 inmates, while two were executed in other states.

Newsom's office said 25 condemned inmates have exhausted all of their appeals and could have faced execution if the courts approved the state's new lethal injection method.

Associated Press journalist Kathleen Ronayne contributed to this story.

Police often use broad exemption to keep videos from public

By RYAN J. FOLEY Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — The video is brief but disturbing: An officer is seen hitting an unarmed suspect with his pistol as the man falls into the grass. An autopsy would later show that he died from a gunshot to the back of the head.

After the death last July of 26-year-old Daniel Fuller in Devils Lake, North Dakota, investigators described the video to his grieving relatives. But for days, weeks and then months, they refused to release it to the family or the public. They did so only after a prosecutor announced in November that the officer did not intend to fire his gun and would not face criminal charges.

"It took forever for them to release the video because they kept saying it was an ongoing investigation," said Fuller's older sister, Allyson Bartlett. "I don't think they wanted pressure from the community."

Her experience is typical. An investigation by The Associated Press has found that police departments routinely withhold video taken by body-worn and dashboard-mounted cameras that show officer-involved shootings and other uses of force. They often do so by citing a broad exemption to state open-records laws — by claiming that releasing the video would undermine an ongoing investigation.

During the last five years, taxpayers have spent hundreds of millions of dollars to outfit officers' uniforms and vehicles with cameras and to store the footage they record as evidence. Body cameras, in particular, have been touted as a way to increase police transparency by allowing for a neutral view of whether an officer's actions were justified. In reality, the videos can be withheld for months, years or even indefinitely, the AP review found.

To be sure, some departments voluntarily release videos of high-profile incidents, sometimes within days or weeks. They also are forced to share them during civil rights lawsuits or air them when suspects face trial. Many also routinely release videos that show officers in a positive light, such as when they rescue people from accidents, fires and other dangers. But how requests are handled when they are requested by citizens, reporters and government watchdogs varies widely.

The AP tested the public's ability to access police video for Sunshine Week, an annual celebration of open government, by filing open records requests related to roughly 20 recent use-of-force incidents in a dozen states.

They were met with a series of denials and failed to unearth video of a single incident that had not already been released publicly. Some videos could be released in coming months or years once criminal and disciplinary investigations are concluded. By then, the public interest in knowing what happened may

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have waned significantly.

In rejecting or delaying the requests, most law enforcement agencies and prosecutors cited exemptions that allow them to keep records of pending investigations secret. One county claimed the exemption would allow it to keep the video of a motorist's fatal shooting secret forever — even though the investigation has concluded and cleared the deputy involved.

Critics say the exemption is often misapplied to keep from public view video that might shine an unfavorable light on the actions of officers. The exemption is intended to protect sensitive details about investigations that might tip off suspects that they are under scrutiny or alert them to what evidence police have obtained. But when officers shoot or otherwise use force on suspects, they know their actions are the focus of the investigation and often have access to the videos of the incidents.

"It is for that reason that the investigative records exemption literally makes no sense and should have no place when it comes to police body camera footage. It is a square peg in a round hole," said Chad Marlow, an expert on laws governing body cameras at the American Civil Liberties Union. "We didn't know that would end up being the get-out-of-FOIA free card for police departments, but it has certainly turned into that."

Authorities say they have good reason for withholding video during investigations, such as preventing the memories of witnesses from being tainted or sparking protests with an out-of-context snippet of a deadly encounter. But the problem, said former federal prosecutor Val Van Brocklin, is that "there is no national standard of when and how this stuff gets released."

"It's such a mish-mash, and that creates a problem with expectations," she said.

In West Virginia, a prosecutor withheld a video that led to the firing of two state troopers for allegedly beating a 16-year-old suspect. In Georgia, a county sheriff's office refused to release video of a 22-year-old man who allegedly shot himself to death while struggling with police, an explanation that has been questioned and sparked protests.

In Atlanta, where officers were recently criticized in an audit for failing to use their body cameras as intended, the department would not release video of an officer-involved shooting that happened last summer, saying the officer could potentially still face disciplinary action.

"I see it all over the nation that police departments use this catch-all of 'ongoing investigation' to basically throw up a stone wall in front of those that might like to find out the truth," said attorney Jonny Hibbert, who is representing the family of an 18-year-old Atlanta man who was shot and killed by an off-duty officer after allegedly stealing his car. His request for any video of that incident was recently denied.

The department in Sugar Land, Texas, which recently released dramatic video of officers rescuing a woman from a lake, refused to divulge footage of a 2016 struggle in which a man alleges he was beaten and severely injured by officers. In Seagoville, Texas, the department would not release video showing an officer using a stun gun to subdue a teenager brandishing a toy gun, even though it had publicized the incident as a textbook example of officers showing restraint. The department denied access because AP didn't know the name of the teen involved in the Oct. 4 incident. It said that piece of information must be provided to request police videos under Texas law.

In North Liberty, Iowa, a city lawyer responded to a request for video of a traffic stop by calling it a confidential investigative record — then demanded the AP not publish footage of the incident it had already obtained.

The city had fired a patrol supervisor for mishandling the stop, claiming he violated the rights of suspects in a road rage incident, failed to draw his weapon and made other procedural errors. The supervisor has filed a lawsuit contesting his firing, and his attorney provided the AP with footage that he says shows his client acted appropriately. The city released a redacted version of the video only after AP declined the city's request.

In the aftermath of the 2014 shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, and similar deaths of unarmed black men, police departments around the country faced public pressure to begin using body cameras. Rather than resist, said Marlow, the ACLU expert, they embraced cameras — but often only

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released videos that showed police in a positive light.

"The decisions about whether footage is being released or not is being dominated by the group that is supposed to be watched," he said. "When that happens, police body cameras go from being a tool for transparency and accountability into a propaganda tool."

It's not that way everywhere.

California's state capital, Sacramento, has been roiled by protests over police shootings of unarmed black men — most recently, after the district attorney and state attorney general declined to bring charges against two officers in the fatal shooting of Stephon Clark, who was found to be holding a cellphone after he was killed. Police video of that shooting helped fuel the protests.

The department is among the most transparent in releasing officer videos; city policy that predates the Clark shooting requires the police department to release footage within 30 days of a major incident or justify why it won't. In some cases, the department has released footage within days.

"We hope to say that we're leading the way in releasing it and being transparent," said a department spokesman, Marcus Basquez. "That's a big priority for us, to build that trust with our community, and we feel releasing body-worn camera footage is one way."

A state law taking effect in July requires all state and local law enforcement agencies in California to make audio and video recordings of critical incidents publicly available after 45 days, unless it would hinder an investigation. If it withheld recordings longer than a year, a department would have to show "clear and convincing evidence" of that assertion.

Police videos are considered public records in nearly every state, but vague laws and exemptions often give police chiefs and prosecutors wide discretion to determine when to release them.

A few states have limited the release of footage by exempting police videos from open records laws or requiring court orders to obtain their release. Others have carved out privacy exemptions for videos that show private homes, hospitals or juveniles.

The New York City Police Department, the nation's largest, stopped releasing body camera videos entirely last year after a police union successfully argued in court that they were confidential personnel records. But the department vowed last month to continue releasing video of officer-involved shootings after an appeals court ruled that the union's argument "would defeat the purpose of the body-worn-camera program."

Adam Marshall, a lawyer for the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, in 2015 called police body camera videos the "Wild West of open records requests" because of the uncertainty surrounding how they would be handled. Today, he says a growing number of court cases and state laws have made for more certainty — that many requests will be denied or delayed.

"It's disappointing," he said. "Unfortunately, it does not reflect the type of transparency and openness that the public hoped would result from body cameras."

Associated Press writer Tom Verdin in Sacramento contributed to this report.

Follow Ryan J. Foley at <https://twitter.com/rjfoley>

AP Sources: Browns to acquire star receiver Beckham from NY

By TOM WITHERS AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — Odell Beckham Jr. is about to run a deep route out of New Jersey — straight to Cleveland.

The superstar wide receiver is bound for the Browns to be a target for quarterback Baker Mayfield as the centerpiece of a blockbuster trade, two people familiar with the deal told The Associated Press on Tuesday night.

The Browns are sending first- and third-round picks this year along with safety Jabrill Peppers to the Giants for Beckham, one of the NFL's top players, said the people who spoke to The Associated Press on

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condition of anonymity because league rules prohibit teams from announcing trades until 4 p.m. Wednesday.

The deal is conditional on both players passing physicals.

With the Browns, Beckham will be reunited with receiver Jarvis Landry, a close friend and teammate at LSU. He'll also give Mayfield an elite weapon, and his arrival could vault the Browns, who went 7-8-1 last season after not winning a game in 2017, into legitimate championship contenders.

Rumors of a possible deal have swirled for weeks, with several Browns players teasing a major move by Cleveland general manager John Dorsey on social media. Dorsey pulled it off, bringing a major talent to accelerate his attempt to rebuild the Browns into consistent winners. Cleveland hasn't been to the playoffs since 2002.

The trade is the second major one involving a star wide receiver in four days as the Pittsburgh Steelers recently sent Antonio Brown to the Oakland Raiders.

While Beckham is immensely talented, there is some baggage as he can be temperamental and difficult. He was suspended for one game for his on-field battles with Carolina cornerback Josh Norman. He also comes off two injury-plagued years. Before last season, he became the league's highest-paid receiver with a five-year, \$90 million contract extension.

He played five seasons in New York, making the Pro Bowl in his first three. He was the AP Offensive Rookie of the Year in 2014.

It's the second trade completed in the past week by the Giants and Browns. Cleveland sent guard Kevin Zeitler to New York for edge rusher Olivier Vernon, who will now play on the opposite side of Pro Bowler Myles Garrett.

The Giants had been reluctant to trade Beckham, with GM Dave Gettleman insisting over the past few months that the club did not sign him to the historic deal in late August to trade him. But the Browns were persistent and Dorsey, who has remolded the Browns since coming to Cleveland at the end of 2017, came up with a package the Giants simply couldn't resist.

"John Dorsey is officially a genius..." tweeted Browns defensive back Damarious Randall.

And now new Browns coach Freddie Kitchens has another playmaker for Mayfield, the No. 1 overall pick last year who had a dazzling debut season in which he set the NFL record for touchdown passes by a rookie.

Kitchens will have to try to keep Beckham in check, something Giants coach Pat Shurmur struggled to do. Early last season, with the Giants off to another bad start, Beckham seemed upset with his role in Shurmur's new offense and said quarterback Eli Manning was not capable of throwing deep passes.

Mayfield and Beckham are already tight; they spent part of last summer working out in California with Landry, who has been campaigning since he arrived in Cleveland for his former college teammate to join him.

When news of the agreement broke, Mayfield posted a photo on Twitter of him shaking hands with Beckham. "Movement" was the caption.

In the aftermath of Beckham's shocking exit from New York, Browns wide receiver Breshad Perriman asked Cleveland to void his agreement on a one-year, \$4 million contract. The Browns obliged and the sides mutually decided to cancel the deal struck earlier in the day.

Perriman, who revived his career with Cleveland last season, then agreed to sign a one-year package with Tampa Bay, a person with knowledge of the deal told AP.

Dorsey has had a busy offseason, signing troubled running back Kareem Hunt to a one-year contract, trading for Vernon and agreeing to a three-year, \$39 million deal with defensive tackle Sheldon Richardson.

Landing Beckham is his signature move, a signal that he believes the Browns are on the verge of a Super Bowl run.

Many were expecting the Giants to take a step forward after going 5-11 in Shurmur's first season. They were looking to improve their offensive line, get some pass rushers and shore up the defense, which struggled in coordinator James Bettcher's switch to a 3-4 front.

In the past week, the next step has turned into a rebuild.

Vernon was dealt, and the team did not put a franchise tag on safety Landon Collins. Instead, the cata-

lyst of the defense and leading tackler each of the last four seasons is about to sign with NFC East rival Washington.

With the trade of Beckham, the offense has lost its top playmaker, although one could argue the Giants started shifting that role to halfback Saquon Barkley last season. Barkley beat out Mayfield for Offensive Rookie of the Year.

Complicating the situation: The Giants haven't figured out their quarterback situation. Manning is 38 and the team has only made the playoffs once since winning the Super Bowl in February 2012.

But the Giants have three of the top 37 draft picks in April, and 12 overall. They have their eye on taking a franchise quarterback, perhaps Oklahoma Heisman Trophy Kyler Murray or Ohio State's Dwayne Haskins.

Peppers, who is from New Jersey, will help fill the void left by Collins' departure. A first-round pick in 2017, he struggled as a rookie but bounced back and played well last season.

AP Sports Writer Tom Canavan contributed.

More AP NFL: <https://apnews.com/NFL> and https://twitter.com/AP_NFL

Huffman and Loughlin charges shatter actresses' clean images

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — As an Emmy winner and Oscar nominee, Felicity Huffman has been known as one of Hollywood's more versatile actresses, as well as one-half of one of its more famous acting couples with husband William H. Macy.

While Lori Loughlin's resume might not be as accomplished, her face may be even better known: she gained fame for her role as the wholesome "Aunt Becky" in the 1990s sitcom "Full House," and for the past few years has become the queen of the Hallmark channel with her holiday movies and the series "When Calls the Heart."

On Wednesday, both actresses had their reputations shattered as they were charged with fraud and conspiracy Tuesday along with dozens of others in a scheme that according to federal prosecutors saw wealthy parents pay bribes to get their children into some of the nation's top colleges.

Huffman, 56, was released Tuesday posting a \$250,000 bond. Loughlin, 54, has not yet been arrested but her husband, fashion designer Mossimo Giannulli, was released after posting a \$1 million bond. Giannulli, whose Mossimo clothing had long been a Target brand until recently, left without answering reporters' questions.

Huffman briefly appeared in the lobby of the courthouse to exit Tuesday evening, but went into an elevator with courthouse security officers after seeing a mass of cameras posted at the front door. Officers later told journalists she was no longer in the building.

Authorities have not said why Macy, who has starred for the last several years in the Showtime series "Shameless" and was an Oscar nominee for the 1996 movie " Fargo," has not been charged. He sat in the courtroom where Huffman had her first appearance and appeared to read legal documents during the proceedings. Huffman, who wore glasses and her hair in a ponytail, looked over at her husband repeatedly during the hearing.

Her attorney cited her community ties and asked that the actress be released on her own recognizance. "She's simply not the kind of person who is going to become an international fugitive," her attorney, Evan A. Jeaness said in court.

Court documents allege that the couple agreed to the plan, and Huffman paid \$15,000, disguised as a charitable donation, toward the scam.

Macy recently described the college application process for their daughter Sofia, 18 to Parade magazine (the couple also has another teenage daughter, Georgia).

"I'm the outlier in this thing. We're right now in the thick of college application time, which is so stressful. I am voting that once she gets accepted, she maybe takes a year off," he said. "But it's just my opinion,

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and we'll see what she wants to do, what Felicity thinks and how the chips fall."

Playwright David Mamet wrote a letter supporting Macy and Huffman, longtime friends, in an open letter posted by The Hollywood Reporter.

"The unqualified may be accepted for many reasons, among them, as Legacies, and on account of large donations made by their parents," Mamet wrote. "I do not see the difference between getting a kid into school by bribing the Building Committee, and by bribing someone else. But, apparently, the second is against the Law. So be it."

Huffman and Giannulli are required to appear for arraignment in a Boston courthouse on March. 29.

Loughlin married Giannulli, her second husband, in 1997. Court document allege the couple paid \$500,000 to have their two daughters labeled as recruits to the University of Southern California crew team, even though neither is a rower.

Their 19-year-old daughter, Olivia Jade Giannulli, is a celebrity in her own right. She has a YouTube channel with nearly two million followers, and more than a million followers on Instagram. She often touts brands in paid ads on her accounts, and since last fall has incorporated her student life at USC.

In one YouTube post, she talked about the difficulty of juggling her career with school, and said she didn't know how much she would actually attend. She also added that she was going to school for the partying, not academics: "I don't really care about school, as all you guys know." She later apologized.

In an interview with the website TheBlast.com, she said she decided to go to college despite her fame because of her parents.

"Mostly my parents really wanted me to go, because both of them didn't go to college," she said. "They didn't make me. My sister goes to the same school, and we're pretty much inseparable, so it was nice following in her footsteps a little bit."

Loughlin went straight into acting after high school, appearing on the soap opera "The Edge of Night." She became a star on "Full House," a standout hit of ABC's family-friendly TGIF lineup in the early 1990s, and appeared on the recent Netflix reboot "Fuller House."

She stars in the Hallmark series "When Calls My Heart" and is scheduled to appear in several new "Garage Sale Mysteries" movies and is a regular part of the channel's holiday movie slate.

Hallmark's parent company, Crown Media Family Networks, declined comment Tuesday.

Huffman began her career on stage, appearing in playwright David Mamet's "Speed the Plow" on Broadway. She transitioned to television on the late 1990s series "Sports Night," which earned her the first of her seven Golden Globe nominations.

For eight seasons she acted alongside Eva Longoria, Teri Hatcher and Marcia Cross on "Desperate Housewives," a hit series for ABC that turned the actresses into household names. During the show's run, Huffman won an Emmy for her role, and was nominated for an Oscar for best actress for her role as a transgender woman in 2005's "Transamerica."

She also received Emmy nominations three straight years from 2015-17 for her work on the anthology series "American Crime."

A native of Bedford, New York, Huffman attended New York University and later the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London.

A spokeswoman for Loughlin had no comment on the charges Tuesday.

Associated Press writers Lynn Elber in Los Angeles and Jake Coyle in New York contributed to this story.

Follow Andrew Dalton on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/andyjamesdalton> .

New Mexico bill would create first state-run pot shops in US

By MORGAN LEE Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — New Mexico would become the first U.S. state to set up its own government-operated marijuana stores and subsidize medical cannabis for the poor under a bill brokered between

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Republicans and Democrats, as a new wave of states weighs legislation that would legalize recreational sales and consumption.

The idea for state-run pot shops comes from a trio of GOP state senators who broke with local Republican Party orthodoxy to embrace legal marijuana with a decidedly big-government approach that would have the state directly oversee most sales — and require that marijuana consumers carry receipts of purchase or confront penalties.

Those provisions were sown into Democrat-sponsored legislation that contains currents of social justice, including a provision to subsidize medical cannabis for poor people with “debilitating medical conditions” who might not otherwise be able to afford treatment. Tax dollars from recreational marijuana sales would fund employment and counseling programs in communities “disproportionately affected by past federal and state drug policies,” including training to enter the marijuana sector.

Carly Wolf, state policies coordinator at the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, says the provisions for state-run stores and medical cannabis subsidization both would be new to the United States, as New Mexico seeks to become the first state to set up a complete regulatory framework through legislation.

Ten states and Washington, D.C., have legalized recreational marijuana — all by ballot initiative except Vermont, which allowed for personal use and growing but is still debating whether to authorize commercial production and sales.

Other legislative efforts to legalize recreational marijuana are underway in New York and New Jersey, while a bill to legalize recreational cannabis in Democrat-dominated Hawaii fizzled last week.

In New Mexico, a coterie of powerful conservative Democrats still stands in the way of a Senate floor vote on legalization.

“It’s not a priority,” said Democratic Sen. John Arthur Smith of Deming, who will decide whether the marijuana bill is heard by the Senate Finance Committee, a final hurdle before a Senate vote. Smith does not favor legalization and worries about harmful effects of marijuana on the brain.

Sen. Peter Wirth, the chamber’s Democratic majority leader, believes legalization would prevail in a floor vote. He said support from a contingent of Senate Republicans has redrawn the political battle on marijuana along generational lines rather than partisan affiliation.

Wirth also called the concept of state-run pot shops — that would sell marijuana on consignment without owning or producing it — a political game changer that allays anxiety about welcoming the nation’s rollicking, multibillion-dollar marijuana industry. In addition, marijuana production licenses would come with an in-state residency requirement of two years.

“It puts some parameters around it,” Wirth said. “The state can monitor what it looks like and how it expands.”

Democratic Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham has expressed guarded support for recreational marijuana — provided the legislation addresses concerns about child access, impaired driving, workplace safety and safeguarding the state’s existing marijuana market for medical patients.

“If the Legislature can check those boxes, bring it on,” Nora Sackett, a spokeswoman for Lujan Grisham, said in an email.

New Mexico has watched neighboring Colorado’s pioneering decision to legalize and tax marijuana with a mixture of apprehension and envy, as lawmakers in Santa Fe struggle to find stable sources of tax revenue to improve public education and raise teacher salaries. The judiciary is threatening to intervene in school funding decisions, citing inadequate educational opportunities for children from poor and minority families.

New Mexico would levy a 17 percent tax on recreational marijuana sales and allow possession of up to 1 ounce (28 grams). Local governments can opt out, forgoing tax proceeds in the process. State tax proceeds would fund detection technologies and training for police to identify impaired drivers. Businesses could maintain “zero-tolerance” policies for drug testing as a condition of employment.

Sponsors say the bill would safeguard New Mexico’s medical marijuana program by removing taxes on medical pot to keep down prices and ensure its 70,000 participants don’t flock to the recreational market.

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At least four other states forgo taxes on medical marijuana.

New Mexico also would authorize marijuana consumption “lounges” for smoking and vaping — or eating any number of marijuana-infused confections and foods — though the bill offers few details on regulatory oversight.

Republican Sen. Cliff Pirtle, a dairy farmer from Roswell, in a conservative political stronghold of the state, said state-run stores can prevent the proliferation of pot shops that some other states have witnessed, and provide retail shelf space at a low cost to fledgling marijuana producers.

“You drive through Anonito and you used to not even have a gas station, and now it has four marijuana shops,” said Pirtle, describing a Colorado town of 750 residents near the New Mexico state line. “I know in my district that’s not what they want downtown to look like, so this would help.”

A number of U.S. states retain a monopoly on liquor sales through state-operated stores — a regulatory option that dates back to prohibition. Several provinces in Canada, which legalized marijuana last year, sell cannabis exclusively through government-run retail and online stores.

In New Mexico, some private dispensaries would be allowed in remote areas at least 25 miles (40 kilometers) from the nearest state-run pot shop.

Marijuana commercialization opponent Luke Niforatos, senior policy adviser to Smart Approaches to Marijuana, lobbied individual legislators Tuesday to reject the bill.

“Is this really the job of government, to make this more available?” he said.

State-run stores are among a host of provisions that respond to experiences in states with voter-approved legalization, where regulations were sometimes forged by lawmakers after the fact, whether they sought legalization or not.

House Democrats in New Mexico, where ballot initiatives aren’t available, say they spent years exploring policies and tax provisions for a bill that now includes funding for research on the health effect of legalization.

“One of the benefits of doing it through the legislative process is you just jump into the nuanced details,” said Emily Kaltenbach, state director of the nonpartisan Drug Policy Alliance that favors decriminalization. “You iron those out.”

In negotiations over a final bill, local governments gained a greater share of tax proceeds to spend on anything from roads to counseling for drug addiction, and Republicans held on to prohibitions on home-grown recreational marijuana.

The measure’s opponents include the local Roman Catholic diocese, New Mexico’s primary chamber of commerce and many medical marijuana companies that are scrambling to decipher what the future would hold with an unlimited number of licensed commercial producers.

“The price of cannabis is going to go down, which is good for the patient,” said Erik Briones, who owns a business that produces and sells about \$5 million worth of medical marijuana products a year. “But you still have to stay in business. We’re the ones that build this thing. We need some protection.”

2 ex-cops arrested in killing of black Brazilian politician

By PETER PRENGAMAN and ANNA JEAN KAISER Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Authorities arrested two former police officers Tuesday in the killing of Rio de Janeiro councilwoman Marielle Franco and her driver, a brazen assassination that shocked Brazilians and sparked protests in several countries.

The arrests in Rio came two days before the anniversary of the 2018 killings. While police had questioned many people, before Tuesday nobody had been arrested or charged in the shooting of Franco, a prominent activist for Afro-Brazilian and LGBT rights.

“It was a crime against a lawmaker, a woman, exercising her democratic function who had her life taken away in an unacceptable, criminal way,” Rio de Janeiro state Gov. Wilson Witzel told reporters.

While Witzel praised police and investigators for the arrests, the case highlighted deep corruption in Brazil’s police forces, including connections to militias and paramilitary groups that control large swaths

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of the state.

The suspects were identified as Ronnie Lessa, 48, a retired military police officer, and Elcio Vieira de Queiroz, 46, who was fired from a police force in 2015 for reasons that authorities did not release. Lawyers for both men denied their involvement in the assassination.

Lessa was arrested at his residence in the same Rio condominium complex where President Jair Bolsonaro has his home, authorities said.

Lessa is alleged to have shot Franco and De Queiroz to have driven a car involved in the attack. The car was hit with 14 bullets, four shots hit Franco in the head and three hit her driver, Anderson Gomes, in the back.

Police and prosecutors detailed a "practically perfect crime" that demonstrated "knowledge of the legal and judicial system," which added to the complexity of solving the crime.

They showed CCTV footage to reporters that tracked the car in which prosecutors said Lessa and De Queiroz drove from the wealthy suburbs of western Rio across the city to downtown, where the suspects waited for two hours outside a meeting that Franco was attending about empowering black women.

Prosecutors said they were able to identify Lessa as the shooter through an image of the shooter's arm, where they could see the outline of dark parts of a tattoo through a sleeve.

Authorities said they couldn't yet fully explain the motive for the killings but pointed to signs of intolerance toward the councilwoman's political agenda.

"It's a reaction of repulsion to her political actions," said Simone Sibilo, one of the prosecutors. "Marielle defended minorities, black women, LGBT and other minority causes."

Sibilo did not rule out that Lessa was ordered to commit the crime by someone else. Prosecutors said they suspect Lessa was involved in one of the militias made up of former police and military officers who run extortion and security rackets in poor neighborhoods.

"The investigations have revealed to us the possibility (of Lessa's) participation in paramilitary activities," Sibilo said, adding that Lessa's "name has come up in" connection with other homicides.

Lessa's lawyer, Fernando Santana, said his client "vehemently denies being involved in any type of assassination."

De Queiroz's lawyer, Luiz Carlos Azenha, denied there were any photos of him inside the car on the day of the assassination.

"Treat it as another misstep made by the police and courts," he said.

Marcelo Freixo, a state legislator and friend of Franco, told Globo TV the arrests were an important step, but the case "has not been resolved."

"Who sent them (to kill Franco)?" Freixo said. "We don't accept the version that these people were motivated by passion and hate when they didn't even really know who Marielle was."

Family members of Franco expressed similarly mixed reactions.

Anielle Franco, the victim's sister, said the family was glad to see movement in the case but wanted to understand the motive.

"This wasn't some criminal on the corner," Anielle told reporters outside the prosecutor's office.

Franco, who was black and lesbian and grew up in one of Rio's roughest neighborhoods, stood out in a country where most politicians are white men. She had been a frequent critic of police violence, particularly in poor neighborhoods.

Marches honoring Franco were planned for Thursday, the anniversary of her killing.

Police and politicians in the state have been under intense pressure to solve the killing, which included sophisticated planning by the assassins, right down to making sure surveillance cameras were shut off on the street where the attack happened.

Witzel, a former judge who was inaugurated Jan. 1, was criticized last year when he participated in a rally with other candidates who had broken a street sign commemorating Franco.

A close ally of Bolsonaro, Witzel ran on promises to get tough on crime and the high-profile arrests may quiet critics who argued Witzel would let the case go unsolved.

"The reality is changing," Witzel said of the police and reforms underway.

Associated Press writer Mauricio Savarese in Sao Paulo contributed to this report.

Bribery scandal exposes sports side door to admissions

By JIM VERTUNO AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The latest scandal to taint college athletics hit sports far from the spotlight and exposed a seamy side door into some of the nation's elite universities: coaches taking bribes to recruit non-athletes and help them ease past tough admissions policies.

Federal indictments unsealed in Boston on Tuesday outlined a sweeping college admissions bribery scandal that ensnared coaches and officials at several top schools. The charges touch lower-profile sports such as tennis, sailing and water polo, which operate well below the scrutiny usually placed on football and basketball recruiting, and have pulled in prestigious schools such as Stanford, Texas, Yale and Southern California.

The indictments expose how coaches and schools use lists of "designated recruits" to bypass normal admissions requirements, and some of the financial hurdles "non-revenue" sports may face even within big athletic departments. In several instances, indicted coaches suggested they spent some of the money on their programs, not themselves.

David Ridpath, a former Division I athletic compliance officer who is now associate professor of sports management at Ohio University, said this type of fraud in an athletic department would be both easy to conceal and easy to stop with appropriate monitoring.

"By design it went to Olympics sports where there is generally less scrutiny, but simply having a policy that anyone associated with athletics must be tracked including managers, etc., would certainly at least raise a red flag," Ridpath said in an email to The Associated Press.

Most NCAA rules that regulate recruiting are designed to prevent schools and coaches from giving improper benefits and enticements to athletes. Federal officials say "Operation Varsity Blues" uncovered parents or college placement services paying coaches to help non-athlete children get into elite schools by falsifying athletic credentials and claiming they were being recruited to play sports.

The schools involved will wait to hear from the NCAA about possible infractions and penalties, and the bribery allegations provide an interesting wrinkle: The schools and coaches didn't game the admissions process to gain an advantage on the field. But the NCAA does have rules regarding ethical conduct by coaches.

"The charges brought forth today are troubling and should be a concern for all of higher education," the NCAA said in a statement. "We are looking into these allegations to determine the extent to which NCAA rules may have been violated."

Private and public schools with even the most rigorous academic entry standards allow leeway for student-athletes to keep their teams competitive. Coaches provide school admissions officers, often through the athletic compliance department, with lists of "designated recruits," even in cases where they might only receive a partial scholarship or limited financial aid. In most of the sports involved in this case, few athletes receive full scholarships.

It's those "designated recruit" lists that opened a pathway into school for students who would never compete.

Brackey Brett, senior associate athletic director for compliance at Mississippi State, said at his school coaches have no direct contact with admissions and work through compliance. He said while Mississippi State has no special admission standards for athletes, compliance does vet recruits.

"The NCAA eligibility center is part of our checks and balances as well because if they are a legitimate student-athlete they're registered with the eligibility center. That's the first thing we check," Brett said.

In one case in the indictment, the bribe came in cash paid to a coach in a hotel parking lot. In others, bribes were paid as donations to charities or businesses the coaches controlled, or in trading stock shares.

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In at least two cases, it's unclear whether the coaches kept the money or spent it to help fund their sports programs.

According to the federal indictments unsealed Tuesday, former Yale soccer coach Rudy Meredith put a student who didn't play soccer on a school list of recruits, doctored her supporting portfolio to indicate she was a player, and later accepted \$400,000 from the head of a college placement company.

The Ivy League does not give athletic scholarships, but student-athletes are given preferential treatment when it comes to admission and financial aid, said Ed Boland, a former assistant director of admissions at Yale and expert on college access.

"There are what we called 'hooked' students and 'unhooked' students," he said. "Hooked students have some kind of advantage, either from an underrepresented geographic area, a recruited athlete, son or daughter of an alumnus or alumna or an underrepresented ethnic group. Athletes certainly enjoy preferential treatment in the admissions process."

Texas law requires the Austin campus to accept in-state students who have graduated within the top 6 percent of their high school class. That leaves everyone else, especially students from out of state, competing for the final spots.

Federal officials allege Texas men's tennis coach Michael Center took bribes in excess of \$90,000 — including \$60,000 in cash in a handoff outside an Austin hotel— to help a student get into school in 2015 by designating him as a recruit and sending him a letter for a "books" scholarship. Once enrolled, the student left the team and renounced his book scholarship.

According to a transcript of a secretly recorded phone call, Center, who makes about \$250,000 and is in his 18th season at Texas, said he put most of the money he received into a new tennis facility the school was building at the time, but it was unclear how.

Other coaches indicted were Stanford sailing coach John Vandemoer, former Georgetown tennis coach Gordie Ernst, UCLA men's soccer coach Jorge Salcedo and Wake Forest volleyball coach William Ferguson. At Southern California, former women's soccer coach Ali Khosroshahin, former women's soccer assistant coach Laura Janke, water polo coach Jovan Vavic and Senior Associate Athletic Director Donna Heinel also were charged.

Georgetown said Ernst has not coached there since December 2017 after an internal investigation found he violated admissions rules. The school said it now audits its rosters to see if students who were recruited as athletes are still playing.

Most of the schools quickly distanced themselves from the bribery schemes by firing or putting the involved coaches on leave and portraying the institutions and regular students who were denied entry as the victims.

"Integrity in admissions is vital to the academic and ethical standards of our university," the University of Texas said. "Based on what we know at present, we believe this was an isolated incident in 2015 that involved one coach and no other university employees or officers."

AP Sports Writers Pat Eaton-Robb and Ralph D. Russo contributed to this report.

Trump laments complexity of modern airlines in wake of crash

By KEVIN FREKING Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump lamented the complexity of modern airplanes Tuesday in the wake of two deadly crashes in the past five months, appearing to speculate on the cause of the disasters before aviation experts from the United States and elsewhere complete their investigations.

The president commented as much of the world grounded the Boeing 737 Max 8 model involved in both crashes.

Trump tweeted that "airplanes are becoming far too complex to fly." He did not specifically mention the crashes, but his comments come just two days after an Ethiopian Airlines crash that killed all 157 people aboard and as a cascade of countries worldwide began suspending use of the plane.

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"Split second decisions are needed, and the complexity creates danger," Trump tweeted. "All of this for great cost yet very little gain. I don't know about you, but I don't want Albert Einstein to be my pilot. I want great flying professionals that are allowed to easily and quickly take control of a plane!"

The president's tweet came as lawmakers were examining the future of the aviation industry during a congressional hearing Tuesday morning.

"I have a hard time interpreting anything the president says," Rep. Dina Titus, D-Nev., said after reading the tweet aloud. "I don't know if this is a knock at Boeing, or if it's a knock at pilots or if it's a knock at Einstein, or just that he's a Luddite and it's a knock at technology in general. But it doesn't seem to be the right attitude at this moment."

Patrick Smith, who flies a Boeing 767 aircraft and writes a column called "Ask the Pilot," said Trump's tweet reinforces the false notion that computers are flying the plane while pilots are there as a backup.

"People have a vastly exaggerated understanding of what cockpit automation actually does, and how pilots interact with that automation," Smith said. "... The pilots are still flying the plane. They're not flying it in the strictly hands-on way they would have in the 1930s, but you're still commanding, you're still controlling, the aircraft. You have to tell the automation what to do, how to do it and when to do it."

Smith said that even with the most sophisticated airplanes, "there's always a way to just fall back on raw pilot skills if you need to."

Republican Rep. Sam Graves of Missouri, a pilot, said the president "has a point" but "if you train the pilots to operate the systems, then it's not too complex."

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said on Fox News that "we have to review and see what actually took place. We know that a lot of the people in the industry have started to voice concerns about the amount of technology and taking the power out of the hands of the pilot. You saw the president talk about that in his tweets earlier today."

Sanders also confirmed that Trump did speak by telephone Tuesday with Boeing Chairman and CEO Dennis Muilenburg. She would not reveal details of what they discussed but said the administration is "monitoring the situation closely."

Anti-stall technology is suspected of playing a role in the Lion Air crash in October that killed all 189 aboard. Data released by Indonesian investigators indicates that pilots struggled unsuccessfully to counter the system, which repeatedly pointed the plane's nose down and may have sent it into a death spiral.

Trump has long had an intense interest in the airline industry, once acquiring a fleet of planes in 1989 from the defunct Eastern Air Lines shuttle business. Time magazine once described the venture as a bust that never turned a profit and eventually defaulted. It was later sold to USAir.

Shortly before Trump came into office, he complained about the cost of new Air Force One planes, tweeting: "Costs are out of control, more than \$4 billion. Cancel order!"

The White House said last July that the Air Force awarded Boeing a \$3.9 billion contract for two presidential planes that will be ready in 2024. Sanders said the final price represented a savings of \$1.4 billion from an initial contract proposal. Trump also said the familiar baby blue color on the presidential aircraft would give way to a red, white and blue color scheme.

Associated Press writer Cathy Bussewitz contributed to this report.

Follow Kevin Freking at <https://twitter.com/APKFreking>

As New York probes business deals, Trump cries 'HARASSERS'

By MICHAEL R. SISAK Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — New York's attorney general has opened a civil investigation into President Donald Trump's business dealings, acting after his former personal lawyer and fixer told Congress that he exaggerated his wealth to obtain loans. Trump tweeted an apparent response Tuesday night, decrying his home state and its governor as "PRESIDENTIAL HARASSERS."

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Attorney General Letitia James issued subpoenas Monday to Deutsche Bank and Investors Bank seeking records related to four Trump real estate projects and his failed 2014 bid to buy the NFL's Buffalo Bills, according to a person familiar with the inquiry.

The person wasn't authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. The New York Times first reported the subpoenas.

Trump's former lawyer, Michael Cohen, told Congress in late February that Trump exaggerated his wealth on financial statements provided to Deutsche Bank when he was trying to obtain financing to buy the Bills.

Cohen told a House committee it was common for Trump to overstate his wealth when dealing with the news media or banks and for him to understate it when it came time to pay his taxes.

"New York State and its Governor, Andrew Cuomo, are now proud members of the group of PRESIDENTIAL HARASSERS," Trump tweeted. "No wonder people are fleeing the State in record numbers. The Witch Hunt continues!"

Cuomo's office didn't immediately respond.

Deutsche Bank said in a statement that it remains "committed to cooperating with authorized investigations." Messages left with New Jersey-based Investors Bank and the Trump Organization were not immediately returned.

The subpoenas issued by the attorney general seek loan applications, as well as mortgages, credit lines and other documents related to the Trump International Hotel in Washington, D.C., buildings in Chicago and New York and a golf course in the Miami area.

Several Congressional committees have also requested documents from Deutsche Bank. California Rep. Maxine Waters, a Democrat and head of the House Financial Services Committee, said last week that the bank is cooperating.

Deutsche Bank has been one of the few major banks willing to regularly lend to Trump, whose past financial troubles scared off large New York banks. Trump's company borrowed billions of dollars from the German bank over the years.

In May, five Democratic members of the House of Representatives sent a letter to Deutsche Bank CEO John Cryan asking the bank to turn in any records relating to Trump's accounts and any ties to Russia. The bank refused, saying it had to respect legal requirements to keep client data private.

James, a Democrat newly elected to office, pledged to look into Trump's business practices, saying after her victory last November that she'd be "shining a bright light into every dark corner of his real estate dealings and every dealing."

Trump has complained that James is waging a politically motivated vendetta against him. Her office is also overseeing a lawsuit against a Trump charitable foundation. James' predecessors sued Trump over the operations of Trump University, his real estate school.

Previously, a different New York state agency, which regulates insurance companies, launched an inquiry into Cohen's allegations that Trump also misled insurance companies about his financial worth.

Trump has said Cohen is lying to try to get out of a prison sentence for tax evasion, campaign finance violations, making false statements to banks and lying to Congress.

Follow Michael Sisak at twitter.com/mikesisak

Venezuelans turn highway off ramp into cellphone hotspot

By SCOTT SMITH Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — A highway shoulder in Venezuela's capital has turned into one of the city's most sought-after destinations. It's one of the few places residents could find the slightest cellphone signal strong enough to reach loved ones around the world during the country's worst blackout.

"My siblings who live abroad are so worried about me," said Ana Maria Suarez Napolitano, a 48-year-old attorney who had pulled over to the side of the major highway running through Caracas. "They ask if I have enough food, enough water."

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Much of Venezuela went dark last Thursday, forcing residents to struggle since then through long periods in the dark without consistent electricity, running water, cellphone service and internet connection. After years of economic decay, shortages and hyperinflation that led to the mass migration of millions and separated families, those left behind said they felt more cut off than ever.

Residents with cars gravitated to a few stretches of highway and off ramps around the capital, Caracas. They were guided by the sight of bars on their cellphones and the dozens of other cars clogging up traffic as drivers squeezed to the roadside while holding their phones in one hand.

"We're looking for a signal — like everybody else," said Valeria Mendoza, a 20-year-old communications student, who acknowledged she felt lost without her phone constantly pinging messages. "There's no light, no water, no nothing."

The glow of Mendoza's cellphone showed on her face as she sat Monday evening in the passenger seat of her father's car with her younger brother in the back seat. She had just called her mother in the United States, calming her fears by explaining they were together and safe.

Years of crumbling infrastructure in Venezuela finally gave way when the massive blackout blanketed most of Venezuela in darkness for days. The lights have flickered back to life in most parts of the country, but intermittent outages persist as the government struggles to restore basic services that have been in decline for years, and some pockets of the country experienced a sixth day in the dark.

President Nicolas Maduro blames the crippling blackout on cyberattacks he claims were launched by the United States as part of an effort to oust him and clear the way for opposition lawmaker Juan Guaido, who has declared himself interim president and vowed to hold free and fair elections.

U.S. officials and the opposition have denied any part in the massive failure, instead blaming two decades of rampant corruption and mismanagement in the once wealthy oil-producing nation, first by the late President Hugo Chavez and now under Maduro's rule.

Tensions escalated late Monday, when U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced the U.S. was withdrawing its remaining embassy staff, citing Venezuela's deteriorating situation and the "constraint on U.S. policy" caused by their continued presence in the country. He did not elaborate.

Maduro's government disputed Pompeo's account, saying early Tuesday that it had instructed the U.S. diplomats to leave within 72 hours because talks on keeping some U.S. representation had collapsed due to hostility from Washington.

Their presence "entails risks for the peace, integrity and stability of the country," Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza said in a statement. "These are the same officials that have systematically lied to the world about Venezuela's reality and personally directed fake, flag-waving operations to justify an intervention."

Meanwhile, millions of Venezuelans have struggled to get through daily life amid the periodic power failures.

Doctors said they couldn't operate on patients in critical need. People desperate for water risked illness by converging on a badly polluted river running through Caracas to fill water bottles as scattered protests and reports of looting erupted in cities nationwide.

Shortages of basic food and medicine have led roughly 3 million Venezuelans to abandon their country in recent years for a better life in countries across Latin America, Europe and the United States.

But on Monday evening, many just wanted to make a phone call.

Diana Molero, a 38-year-old preschool teacher, rode on a scooter with her boyfriend to a highway off ramp so she could hear her sister's voice in a call from Costa Rica.

Molero leaned against a concrete barrier and pressed the phone against her cheek as she talked over the noise of speeding traffic as the sun set on Caracas' streets, among the world's most notoriously dangerous. She said it was worth the risk to let relatives outside of Venezuela know that she is safe.

"It's the only option that's left for us," she said. "Fortunately, we're not the only ones here. The large crowd of people gives us a bit of protection."

Follow Scott Smith on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/ScottSmithAP>

Mitchell, Jazz back Westbrook, say Utah won't condone racism

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Basketball Writer

NBA star Russell Westbrook will play in Utah again one day. When he does, a fan who allegedly made racial taunts against him will not be there to watch.

A day after the Oklahoma City Thunder standout directed vulgar comments — which were captured on video and went viral — toward two fans, the Utah Jazz responded by banning a fan from their arena. Westbrook also got support from Jazz star Donovan Mitchell, who said it wasn't the first time a racially motivated event happened at a Jazz game.

"The Utah Jazz will not tolerate fans who act inappropriately," the Jazz said in a statement. "There is no place in our game for personal attacks or disrespect."

Westbrook was fined \$25,000 for "directing profanity and threatening language to a fan." In the video, which was posted to Twitter by The Deseret News, Westbrook is seen on the sideline near the Thunder bench saying "I'll (bleep) you up, you and your wife."

The comment, and threatening a woman, is not a good look for the image-conscious NBA — especially since it came from a former Most Valuable Player and one of the game's biggest stars. But Westbrook, who has had multiple angry in-game exchanges with fans, insisted that Monday night's video during a 98-89 Oklahoma City win over the Jazz told only one side of the story. He said he was responding to a racial taunt, and not for the first time in Salt Lake City.

"Every time I come here, a lot of disrespectful things are said," Westbrook said. He added that he has never physically abused a woman and never would.

The man Westbrook was shouting at during the game, identified as Shane Keisel, denied saying anything improper or profane. The Jazz did not name Keisel in their statement announcing the ban, and a phone number for him rang unanswered.

What exactly happened is unclear, but some of Westbrook's peers in the NBA came to his defense Tuesday, saying fans who sit near players in many arenas now feel emboldened to say things that would be described as disrespectful or worse. Mitchell said he will devote some time in the coming months to try to combat racial inequality. The most recent population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau show that about 2 percent of Utah's population is black, the lowest percentage of any state that has a major pro sports team.

"Racism and hate speech hurts us all, and this is not the first time something like this has happened in our arena," Mitchell said. "The Utah that I have come to love is welcoming and inclusive, and last night's incident is not indicative of our fan base."

Westbrook has had run-ins with fans before — and reacted calmly last month when it appeared he was touched by a child sitting courtside. Others have not been as pleasant, and Denver's Will Barton said he believes fans know they can get a reaction from Westbrook.

"They know he's going to react a little bit or might say something," Barton said. "Now I feel like every time he goes on the road, they're picking at him. I don't know what the league can do, but some of those fans are out of control."

In a social media age, anything can be captured by cameras. TMZ Sports obtained video last week of New York Knicks owner James Dolan at Madison Square Garden when he heard a fan that he was walking past yell "Sell the team." Dolan told the fan he was rude, asked if he wanted to come to any more games and then told him to "enjoy watching them on TV."

Fans boo. That's expected and even encouraged in arenas. But unlike games in the NFL, NHL and Major League Baseball, fans in the best seats at NBA arenas sit only a few inches from the playing surface, the coaches and the players — with no obstruction between them. On occasion, some coaches are even seen engaging in conversations with fans during games.

Sometimes, the banter is friendly. Often, it is not.

"It's great having fans into their home team, and taunting and that noise level in great arenas, opposing places, is awesome," Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said. "That's what you want. But you don't need to

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cross the line and say something that you would never say if you were walking up to one of these guys on the street.”

One of the league’s lowest moments came Nov. 19, 2004, during a game between Indiana and Detroit. Tensions boiled over on the floor after a hard foul led to some pushing and shoving, and then fans became involved — a drink was thrown at the Pacers’ bench, prompting Metta World Peace (then known as Ron Artest) to climb into the stands. A melee ensued, and nine players were suspended.

Nothing to that extreme has happened since, though incidents between players and fans are hardly uncommon.

There is a fan code of conduct at all NBA games, including a part that says guests “will enjoy the basketball experience free from disruptive behavior, including foul or abusive language or obscene gestures.” Violators are dealt with on a case-by-case basis, and each team handles things its own way. At the Utah game Monday night, some fans were issued warning cards but allowed to return to their seats.

Keisel told Salt Lake City television station KSL that he told Westbrook to “sit down and ice your knees, bro.” Westbrook claimed that Keisel said to “get down on my knees like you’re used to.”

The Thunder did not have any comment other than the statement Westbrook made to reporters after the game.

Westbrook has been upset about fans in Utah before. The Jazz eliminated the Thunder from last season’s playoffs, and as Westbrook walked off the floor immediately after that loss, he swiped at a fan who was taping him with his phone. Later that night, Westbrook described fans in Utah as “truly disrespectful.”

“Most of the time, the microphone or the camera is on the player,” Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade said. “It goes both ways. A lot of times it’s started from the other way and is directed at the player. You want to say, ‘Be above it. Be bigger than that.’ But a lot of times, if it’s personal, it becomes some things that you just cannot deny or you cannot ignore.”

Westbrook and the Thunder have finished their season series with the Jazz. Unless the teams meet in the playoffs, the earliest he would play again in Salt Lake City is next October.

AP Sports Writer Pat Graham in Denver contributed to this story.

US stock indexes end mostly higher, extending market’s gains

By YURI KAGEYAMA AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares were lower Wednesday amid continuing global uncertainties that weighed on stocks as some traders took profits from a rally earlier in the week.

Japan’s benchmark Nikkei 225 dropped 1.2 percent to 21,243.26 in morning trading. Australia’s S&P/ASX 200 lost 0.5 percent to 6,141.30. South Korea’s KOSPI slipped 0.9 percent to 2,136.52. Hong Kong’s Hang Seng fell 0.5 percent to 28,776.10, while the Shanghai Composite dipped 0.8 percent at 3,035.15.

On Wall Street, Boeing weighed down the Dow Jones Industrial Average for a second day as shares in the aircraft maker fell amid safety concerns following a second deadly crash involving its most popular plane. The company led a slide in industrial sector stocks.

The benchmark S&P 500 index gained 8.22 points, or 0.3 percent, to 2,791.52. The Dow fell 96.22 points, or 0.4 percent, to 25,554.66. The Nasdaq composite, which is heavily weighted with technology stocks, climbed 32.97 points, or 0.4 percent, to 7,591.03. The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies picked up 0.96 points, or 0.1 percent, to 1,549.83.

Investors have also been closely watching developments in Britain, although they appeared to shrug off the latest developments. Parliament voted to reject a deal for the U.K. to exit from the European Union. The move plunges the Brexit process into chaos just 17 days before Britain is due to leave the bloc.

Investors are also still waiting for more details on any potential trade deal between the U.S. and China. Costly tariffs have hurt both nations and investors hope a deal can be struck to at least take some pressure off the global economy, which has shown signs of cooling off.

CURRENCIES: The dollar inched down to 111.21 yen from Tuesday’s 111.26 yen . The euro rose to

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\$1.1288 from \$1.1256.

ENERGY: The price of benchmark U.S. crude oil rose 20 cents to \$57.07 a barrel. It rose 8 cents to \$56.87 a barrel Tuesday. Brent crude rose 11 cents to \$66.78 a barrel.

Yuri Kageyama is on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/yurikageyama>
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Today in History By the Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, March 13, the 72nd day of 2019. There are 293 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 13, 1954, the Battle of Dien Bien Phu began during the First Indochina War as Viet Minh forces attacked French troops, who were defeated nearly two months later.

On this date:

In 1764, Charles Grey, 2nd Earl Grey, who served as British Prime Minister from 1830 to 1834 (and for whom Earl Grey tea is named), was born in Falloden, Northumberland.

In 1865, Confederate President Jefferson Davis signed a measure allowing black slaves to enlist in the Confederate States Army with the promise they would be set free.

In 1901, the 23rd President of the United States, Benjamin Harrison, died in Indianapolis at age 67.

In 1925, the Tennessee General Assembly approved a bill prohibiting the teaching of the theory of evolution. (Gov. Austin Peay (pee) signed the measure on March 21.)

In 1928, at least 400 people died when the San Francisquito Canyon in Southern California was inundated with water after the nearly two-year-old St. Francis Dam collapsed just before midnight the evening of March 12.

In 1933, banks in the U.S. began to reopen after a "holiday" declared by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1934, a gang that included John Dillinger and "Baby Face" Nelson robbed the First National Bank in Mason City, Iowa, making off with \$52,344.

In 1964, bar manager Catherine "Kitty" Genovese, 28, was stabbed to death near her Queens, New York, home; the case gained notoriety over the supposed reluctance of Genovese's neighbors to respond to her cries for help.

In 1975, the first Chili's restaurant was opened in Dallas by entrepreneur Larry Lavine.

In 1980, Ford Motor Co. Chairman Henry Ford II announced he was stepping down, the same day a jury in Winamac, Indiana, found the company not guilty of reckless homicide in the fiery deaths of three young women in a Ford Pinto.

In 1996, a gunman burst into an elementary school in Dunblane, Scotland, and opened fire, killing 16 children and one teacher before killing himself.

In 2013, Jorge Bergoglio (HOHR'-hay behr-GOHG'-lee-oh) of Argentina was elected pope, choosing the name Francis; he was the first pontiff from the Americas and the first from outside Europe in more than a millennium.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama met with former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker, chairman of his Economic Recovery Advisory Board; the president then went before reporters to say his administration was working to create a "post-bubble" model for solid economic growth once the recession ended. Death claimed soprano Anne Wiggins Brown, the original Bess in George Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess," at age 96; actress Betsy Blair at age 85; and Detroit Pistons' Hall of Fame owner Bill Davidson at age 86. The Philadelphia 76ers played a final game at the Spectrum, their old home, beating Chicago 104-101.

Five years ago: Seeking to pacify frustrated immigration advocates, President Barack Obama directed the government to find more humane ways to handle deportation for immigrants in the U.S. illegally. Former Florida Gov. Reubin Askew, who'd guided the state through a period of school busing to achieve

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integration in the 1970s, died in Tallahassee at age 85.

One year ago: President Donald Trump abruptly dumped Secretary of State Rex Tillerson - via Twitter - and moved CIA Director Mike Pompeo from the role of America's spy chief to its top diplomat. On his first trip to California as president, Trump accused the state of putting "the entire nation at risk" by refusing to take tough action against illegal immigration. Joy Behar of "The View" apologized for suggesting that mental illness was behind claims by people that Jesus Christ talks to them; her comment had come during a discussion about Vice President Mike Pence. A third powerful nor'easter in two weeks slammed the Northeast, bringing blizzard conditions and two feet of snow to some communities. Prosecutors announced plans to seek the death penalty against the former student charged with killing 17 people at a Florida high school.

Today's Birthdays: Jazz musician Roy Haynes is 94. Country singer Jan Howard is 89. Songwriter Mike Stoller (STOH'-ler) is 86. Singer-songwriter Neil Sedaka is 80. R&B/gospel singer Candi Staton is 79. Opera singer Julia Migenes is 70. Actor William H. Macy is 69. Comedian Robin Duke is 65. Actress Dana Delany is 63. Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D., is 62. Rock musician Adam Clayton (U2) is 59. Jazz musician Terence Blanchard is 57. Actor Christopher Collet is 51. Rock musician Matt McDonough (Mudvayne) is 50. Actress Annabeth Gish is 48. Actress Tracy Wells is 48. Rapper-actor Common is 47. Rapper Khujo (Goodie Mob, The Lumberjacks) is 47. Singer Glenn Lewis is 44. Actor Danny Masterson is 43. Bluegrass musician Clayton Campbell (The Gibson Brothers) is 38. Actor Noel Fisher is 35. Singers Natalie and Nicole Albino (Nina Sky) are 35. Actor Emile Hirsch is 34. Olympic gold medal skier Mikaela Shiffrin is 24.

Thought for Today: "Dare to err and to dream. Deep meaning often lies in childish plays." — Friedrich von Schiller, German author (1759-1805).