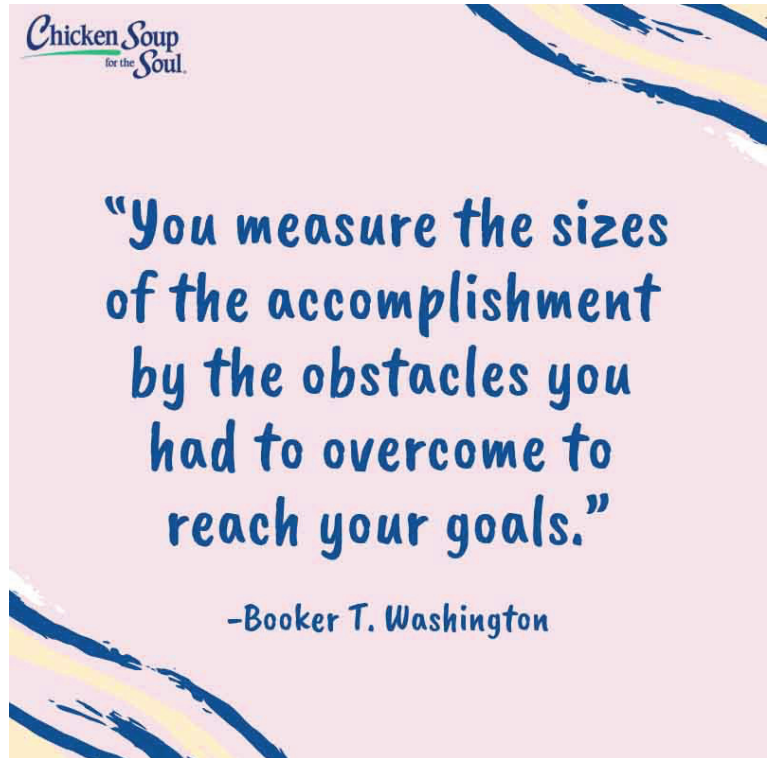


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- 1- Robotics Greenhouse Raffle Ad
- 2- Tour of Kindness is Wednesday
- 2- Truss Pros is Hiring
- 3- Keith joins Harr Motors
- 3- Community Events
- 4- Rain and Snow Tuesday Night into Thursday?
- 4- City Sump Pump Ad
- 4- Groton Care & Rehab ad
- 5- SOCIAL SECURITY HONORS AND SUPPORTS MILITARY MEMBERS
- 6- Rep. Johnson's Weekly Column
- 7- Girls' Basketball Awards
- 7- Boys' Basketball Awards
- 8- Earthtalk: Major Driver of Climate Change
- 8- Kindergarten Roundup ad
- 9- Rural Route Road Trip Ad
- 10- Today in Weather History
- 11- Weather Pages
- 13- Daily Devotional
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- 15- News from the Associated Press



Click on Ad to sign up!

OPEN: Re-
cycling Trailer in
Groton

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



Greenhouse Raffle

Prizes are:

Greenhouse (12'x7.5', 2 shelves, 2 outlets, light)
Hunting Blind (Hexigon with 6 shooting windows)

Free delivery within 20 miles

2 Dairy Queen \$50 Gift Cards

Need not be present to win. \$10 Donation

Drawing to be held April 15th

**Contact any Robotics member for a ticket or
call Jim Lane at 605/397-7013.**

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Tour of Kindness is Wednesday

Tour of Kindness program at Groton Area Elementary next Wednesday, April 10th starting at 1:30.

Justine Kougal began the Tour of Kindness last year when her daughter turned two. She was born with Treacher Collins Syndrome, the same as Auggie in the movie Wonder. She is traveling around the Midwest to schools throughout the region to spread the word of kindness and making the choice to Be The Difference and Choose Kind to kids and adults alike.

NOW HIRING!

Truss Pros

10954 424th Avenue | Britton, SD 57430

Looking for assemblers - both shifts

*** New Starting Wage - \$15/hr day shift and
\$16/hr night shift
Overtime Available**

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Comprehensive Health, Dental & Vision insurance
- Life Insurance
- Short-term Disability and Long-term Disability
- 401k
- Holiday Pay
- Vacation Pay
- Paid Sick Leave
- Referral Bonuses

To apply visit www.uslbm.com/careers or call Diane at 605-448-2929.

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Community Events

Sunday, April 7, 2019

Pops Concert at Groton Area High School (2:00 PM and 7:00 PM)

Monday, April 8, 2019

7:00pm: School Board Meeting, Groton Area High School

Tuesday, April 9, 2019

Track meet in Groton is cancelled

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

5:00pm: FCCLA Banquet, Library Conference Room

Thursday, April 11, 2019

4:00pm: Junior High Track Meet at Sisseton

6:00pm: Indoor Track Meet at Northern State University, Aberdeen

Friday, April 12, 2019

8:30am- 3:30pm: KG Roundup (Screening) at the Groton Area Elementary School



 **HARR**
Motors

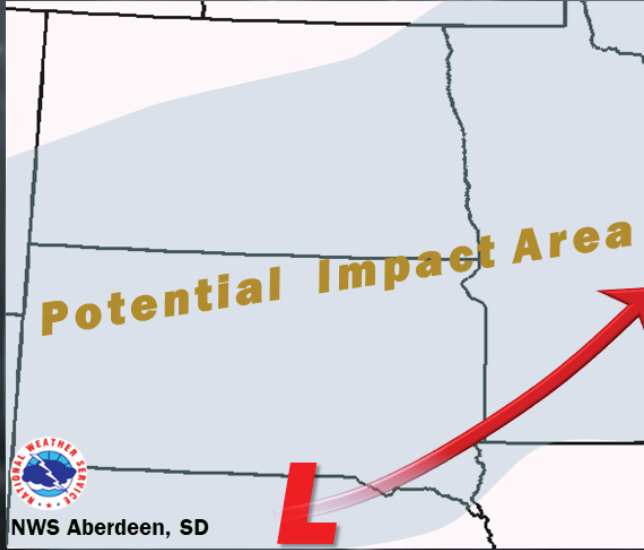
4255 6th Ave

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!!!

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Rain and Snow Tuesday Night into Thursday?



NWS Aberdeen, SD

ACTIONS



If you are concerned about additional precipitation, including the potential for heavy snow, begin monitoring your local forecast now!

WHAT



- Rain and Snow Possible
- Possible Snow Accumulations
- Potential for Gusty Winds

WHEN



Begins: Tuesday Night
Ends: Thursday

CONFIDENCE



Storm Track: **Low**
Precipitation Potential: **Moderate**
Exact Amounts: **Very Low**

Published on: 04/06/2019 at 6:24AM

We are monitoring the potential for an impactful storm that could bring rain and snow to the area Tuesday night into Thursday. Confidence remains low on the details with the system, including storm track and the potential impacts. As a result, specific precipitation types and amounts are highly uncertain. Continue to monitor the forecast as this time frame approaches, especially if you have travel plans.

Groton City Notice

Sump Pumps must
be discharged
OUTSIDE!

Failure to comply will result in fines.

Hiring High Schoolers!

If you are 16 or older and need a summer job, the Groton Rehabilitation Center has the job for you!

During the summer, you can work inside and get some experience for a CNA career in the future!

We are an equal employment opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status or any other characteristic protected by law.



1106 N 2nd Street ~ Groton, SD ~ 605-397-2365

SOCIAL SECURITY HONORS AND SUPPORTS MILITARY MEMBERS

Every year, on Memorial Day, the nation honors service members who have given their lives for our freedom. Social Security acknowledges the sacrifice of our military's service members, and we honor these heroes and their families who may need help through the benefits we provide.

Widows, widowers, and their dependent children may be eligible for Social Security survivors benefits. You can learn more about those benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/survivors.

It's also important to recognize those service members who have been wounded. Social Security offers benefits to protect veterans when an injury prevents them from returning to active duty or performing other work.

Wounded military service members can also receive expedited processing of their Social Security disability claims. For example, Social Security will expedite disability claims filed by veterans who have a 100 percent Permanent & Total compensation rating from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Both the VA and Social Security have disability programs. You may find that you qualify for disability benefits through one program but not the other, or that you qualify for both. Depending on the situation, some family members of military personnel, including dependent children, and, in some cases, spouses, may be eligible to receive Social Security benefits. You can get answers to commonly asked questions and find useful information about the application process at www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors.

Service members can also receive Social Security in addition to military retirement benefits. The good news is that your military retirement benefit generally does not reduce your Social Security retirement benefit. Learn more about Social Security retirement benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/retirement. You may also want to visit the Military Service page of our Retirement Planner, available at www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/retire/veterans.html.

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CONGRESSMAN
DUSTY JOHNSON
Representing **SOUTH DAKOTA** at large



National Treasures

Every week I travel back and forth from South Dakota to Washington, D.C., to represent our great state. I'm impressed by how many South Dakotans I've come across in D.C. over the last few months. Spring has sprung and families and school groups are headed to D.C. for spring break. While my time here has focused on congressional work, I've enjoyed exploring some of the historical and cultural experiences D.C. has to offer.

My office offers a number of tours so whenever you or your family make the trip to the District, please make sure to give us a call. Here are some of my favorite spots around town for you to keep in mind as you plan your trip:

First, our office can book you a tour of the FBI Headquarters. This self-guided tour features interactive exhibits and historical artifacts, including a number of declassified items on display for the very first time that help illustrate the importance of the Bureau's work to protect the nation. The tour tells the history of the FBI's founding, its investigations of notorious gangsters, organized crime syndicates, the Kennedy Assassination, and more.

As an avid reader, I love a good library. There's not a library in the rest of the country that can top the Library of Congress. The Library was founded in 1800, making it the oldest federal cultural institution in the nation. It's home to millions of books, printed materials, maps, manuscripts, photographs and films. Comprised of three buildings near the center of D.C., the Library of Congress is named in honor of some of our earliest presidents: Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and James Madison. The beauty of the Great Hall in the Jefferson Building is truly breathtaking!

As a self-described constitutional conservative, being able to view the founding documents that make our country great is an unforgettable experience. That's why I highly recommend a visit to the National Archives. From the Declaration of Independence to the Constitution and Bill of Rights, there are over three billion records preserved and displayed including federal documents, military records, census figures and photographs. It's amazing to have the founding of our country literally at your fingertips (well, apart from the glass, of course).

You'd be mistaken to come all the way to D.C. and not cross the river over to Arlington National Cemetery. Many of our brave veterans are laid to rest in Arlington, as well as former President John F. Kennedy, his wife Jacqueline and brother Bobby. You can visit the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and watch the Changing of the Guard at regular intervals throughout the day.

It's a moving, sobering experience and one of the most sacred ways to honor our fallen heroes.

Another can't miss destination is Ford's Theater – where former President Abraham Lincoln was shot more than 150 years ago. Costing only \$3.00 for admittance, Ford's Theater offers an affordable yet historical experience as you relive the last moments of our sixteenth president.

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the crown jewel of Washington, D.C. – the U.S. Capitol. Built at the exact center of the city, the U.S. Capitol encapsulates everything our nation represents and reminds me every day what an honor it is to be a public servant. My staff is happy to offer guided tours to all South Dakotans who wish to experience the humbling brilliance of the U.S. Capitol firsthand. If you're interested, visit dustyjohnson.house.gov to book a tour!

Nothing beats the sights South Dakota has to offer, but D.C. is a close second. Hope to see you out there sometime soon.



Girls' Basketball Awards

The awards ceremony was held Thursday evening. Girls winning awards for this season are pictured above, left to right: Kaycie Hawkins (Most Improved), Gracie Traphagen (Best Free Throw Percentage, Most Valuable Offensive Player), Jennie Doeden (Most Valuable Player, Best Field Goal Percentage, Northeast Conference All-Conference third team, Academic All-State), and Payton Maine (Academic All-State); not pictured: Eliza Wanner (Most Valuable Defensive Player), and Sam Geffre (Academic All-State). (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Boys' Basketball Awards

The awards ceremony was held Thursday evening. Boys winning awards for this season are pictured above, left to right: Lane Tietz (Tiger Mentality), Treyton Diegel (Most Valuable Offensive Player), Kaden Kurtz (Most Valuable Defensive Player), Chandler Larson (Scout Award), Jonathan Doeden (Most Improved), and Brodyn DeHoet (Most Valuable Player, Northeast Conference All-Conference Second Team), and Austin Jones (Hustle Award). Not pictured is Alexis Simon (Academic All-State). (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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EARTHTALK TM
Questions & Answers About Our Environment

From the Editors of
E - The Environmental Magazine
Major Driver of Climate Change

Dear EarthTalk: A chef told me that our food choices are the major driver of climate change around the world, but it seems to me that electricity generation and transportation are really more the problem, no?

-- Melanie G., Moodus, CT

It depends how you slice it. Producing electricity (power plants) and getting ourselves and our stuff around (transportation) do generate the majority of greenhouse gas emissions around the world. But while the agriculture sector in and of itself is only responsible for about 10 percent of greenhouse gas emissions, the impact of our food choices ripples throughout other sectors as well, with the untold transport miles devoted to shipping food within and between continents, driving to and from restaurants and the grocery store—and all the disposable packaging food is wrapped in that gets tossed into landfills.

Meanwhile, we all use lots of electricity and gas to cook and prepare our food and to keep it cool in the fridge until we're ready for it. And since we throw away some 30 percent of the food we buy, much of the carbon emitted to produce and transport it is for naught. No doubt, our food choices are an important factor in moving society away from our profligate use of fossil fuels and toward a greener future.



WWF and Knorr are working together to encourage people around the world to diversify their diets so as to include more climate-friendly foods — such as fonio, a West African grain which is not only nutritious but also easy to grow without lots of chemical inputs. Credit:

Communication JOKKALE, FlickrCC.

2019 Groton Area Elementary Kindergarten Roundup (Screening) for children turning 5 on/or before Sept. 1, 2019

Friday, April 12

Parents of children who will be turning 5 on or before September 1, 2019, in the Groton Area School District are asked to contact Heidi Krueger at the Groton Area Elementary School during school hours at 397-2317 to set up a screening time or to confirm their screening time.

*Students currently attending Junior Kindergarten will not be screened at this time.

Packets will be sent home this week with a scheduled time and additional paperwork that will need to be completed.

Kindergarten Roundup will take place at the Groton Area Elementary School. Please check in at the office.

Whether or not you've already taken steps to reduce your carbon footprint by driving or flying less and boosting the efficiency of the buildings and appliances where you live and work, you can do a lot more by changing your diet. The UK office of the non-profit WWF has teamed up with Knorr Foods, one of the largest food brands globally, to launch a new initiative called The Future 50 Foods which encourages people to diversify their diets beyond the carbon-intensive staples so many of us rely on day-to-day.

"Greater diversity in our diets is essential, as the lack of variety in agriculture is both bad for nature and a threat to food security," reports WWF. "Currently 75 percent of the world's food comes from just 12 plant and five animal species."

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This so-called dietary monotony is not just bad for our bodies, given the lack of diversity and limited consumption of some vitamins and minerals, it is also linked to a decline in the diversity of plants and animals used in and around agriculture. According to WWF, we've lost some 75 percent of the genetic plant diversity in agriculture since 1900.

Some of the "future 50 foods" that WWF and Knorr would like us to eat more of include some familiar ingredients—lentils, kale, wild rice— as well as others that you've probably never heard of let alone considered eating, like pumpkin flowers, cactus and fonio, a nutrition-rich, ancient West African grain that Cooking Light magazine calls "the new super grain that could replace quinoa."

"Many of these have higher yields than the crops we currently rely on and several are tolerant of challenging weather and environmental conditions, meaning they could not only reduce the land required for crops, but also prove invaluable in the face of growing climate uncertainty," says WWF. "It's essential that we change our eating habits to ensure we protect our planet whilst feeding the growing global population."

CONTACTS: WWF, www.wwf.org.uk; Knorr's Future 50 Foods Report, www.knorr.com/uk/future50report.html; Cooking Light, www.cookinglight.com/cooking-101/what-is-fonio

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. Check out our other columns at <https://www.emagazine.com/earthtalk-qa/>. To donate, visit <https://www.earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

Shop the
Rural Route Road Trip
April 6th 9am-6pm
April 7th 12-6pm

Shop over 20 businesses who specialize in handmade and vintage goods! Pick up a Rural Route Road Trip ticket at any location, collect punches at each business to be entered to win a door prize. For more information check out this event on Facebook.

<p>Groton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Front Porch 605 - 1506 W. Aspen Ave. <p>Turton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dusty Décor 57 - 40336 161st St. <p>Doland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Just Beecuz Floral & Gifts - 205 Dakota St. W.• Out of the House - 205 Dakota St. W. <p>Redfield</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spink Co. Mercantile - 6 E. 7th• Stuck on Scrapbooking - 632 Main St.• Hardie Homespun - Main St. Mini Plaza <p>Tulare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prairie Pickers - 37485 183rd St. <p>Chelsea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• JB's Country Store - 36836 155th St. <p>Aberdeen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Junque Shack - 422 S. Illinois St. - Suite 3	<p>Ipswich</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Love Repurposed - 3585- 133rd St.• Styles by Sylte - 921 Prairie View Ave. <p>Faulkton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oil Up Buttercup - 710 Main St.• Quiller's Corner - 148 8th Ave. S.• The Lazy Way Café - 117 8th Ave. S.• 212 Flea Market - 708 Main St.• The Shops - 600 Main St. - Unit 4<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 163rd St. Design• R Duo Designs• By The Creek Boutique• The Steel Barn• Tiny House Boutique• Stepping Stone Embroidery• Designs by Deliah
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SD-638867-1

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Today in Weather History

April 6, 1959: Dust storms impacted much of the state of South Dakota beginning on the 6th and on into the 7th. The preceding drought period had left a little moisture in the soil, so the fall-plowed fields in exposed locations eroded severely. Strong winds on the 6th and 7th lifted the loose soil, creating areas of blowing dust. In the localities, visibility was less than a quarter mile for short periods. Some observers stated that it was the worst dust event since the 1930s.

April 6, 2006: Severe thunderstorms the morning of the 6th produced large hail up to 1.75 inches in diameter near Miller in Hand County. Later on, heavy rains of 3 to 6 inches fell causing flash flooding across parts of Spink, Clark, and Day counties. Many county and township roads were flooded with several of the roads damaged or thoroughly washed out. Areas around Frankfort, Doland, Turton, Conde, Crandall, Raymond, Butler and Bristol were most affected. Many roads were closed. Also, several basements were flooded, and sewers were backed up.

April 6, 2008: An area of low pressure moving across South Dakota spread heavy snow of 6 to 15 inches across much of central, north central, and northeast South Dakota. Also, strong winds gusting to 25 to 40 mph caused some blowing and drifting snow. Many activities were canceled and roads became treacherous. Many vehicles went into the ditch, and several accidents also occurred. Snowfall amounts included, 6 inches at Mission Ridge, Isabel, Mellette, and Britton, 7 inches at Faulkton, Andover, Columbia, Timber Lake, and Eureka, 8 inches at Bath, Selby, Mobridge, and Leola, 9 inches at Hosmer, 10 inches at Ipswich, 11 inches at Mound City, and 6 miles east of Hayes. Locations with a foot or more of snow included 12 inches at Roscoe and Elm Lake, 13 inches at Eagle Butte, Onaka, and 23 miles north of Highmore, and 15 inches at Bowdle.

1909: American explorer Robert Peary and five others reached what they determined to be the North Pole on this day. Historical analysis suggests he fell a few miles short of achieving his goal.

1973: On this date through the 8th, a major spring snowstorm dumped 11.6 inches of snow across Denver, Colorado. Most of the heavy wet snow of 10.1 inches fell on the 7th when temperatures remained in the 20s. The low temperature of 5 degrees on the 8th was a new record low for the date and the lowest for so late in the season.

2007: In Cleveland, Ohio on the 6th to the 9th:

The opening-season series between the Indians and Minnesota Twins is wiped out by a snowstorm and a cold snap. The Indians led 4-0 when their home opener Friday on the 6th was called off by umpires because of heavy snow. The grounds crew who tried to make the field playable with backpack blowers and brooms spent more time on the field than the players during nearly three hours of stoppages. About a foot of snow remained on the ground Monday afternoon the 9th.

1936 - A tornado outbreak in the Deep South resulted in a total of 446 deaths and eighteen million dollars damage. It was a "Tale of Two Cities". During the evening of the 5th a tornado hit Tupelo MS killing 216 persons, injuring 700 others, and causing three million dollars damage. The next morning the paths of two tornadoes met about 8:30 AM and cut a swath four blocks wide through Gainesville GA killing 203 persons, injuring 934, and causing thirteen million dollars damage. Eight to ten feet of debris filled the streets following the storm. At least 70 persons died in the Cooper Pants Factory, the greatest tornado toll of record for a single building. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1983 - The temperature at Denver, CO, dipped to a record cold seven degrees above zero. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Rain and melting snow caused flooding from New England to Ohio. Flooding in the Merrimack Valley of Massachusetts was the worst in fifty years, causing forty-two million dollars damage. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A powerful storm produced wind gusts to 75 mph around Chicago, IL, and wind gusts to 92 mph at Goshen IN. The high winds created twenty-five foot waves on Lake Michigan. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

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Today & Tonight

H: 50s and 60s
L: 40s

Fog
Light Showers

Showers mainly this evening and tonight.
A few thunderstorms possible.




Sunday

H: 60s
L: near 40°

Breezy
Light Showers

Showers ending over E SD in the morning.



Looking Ahead:
Rain or Snow
Possible Tuesday
night into
Thursday

Confidence remains low on details with this system. Continue to monitor the forecast as this time frame approaches.

Check out the latest forecast at
www.weather.gov



Published on: 04/06/2019 at 7:36AM

4/6/2019 6:19 AM

Expect temperatures to rise into the 60s today, except stay in the 50s over portions of northern South Dakota, where fog should linger into the afternoon hours. A warm front set up from south central to northeastern South Dakota, and nearing area of low pressure will help focus light rain showers over mainly eastern South Dakota late this afternoon and tonight. A few rumbles of thunder will also be possible, before exiting into Minnesota Sunday morning. Expect breezy conditions and highs in the 60s Sunday afternoon.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 57 °F at 3:54 PM

Low Outside Temp: 37 °F at 6:54 AM

High Gust: 18 mph at 3:36 PM

Precip:

Today's Info

Record High: 85° in 1991

Record Low: 5° in 2018

Average High: 52°F

Average Low: 28°F

Average Precip in April.: 0.22

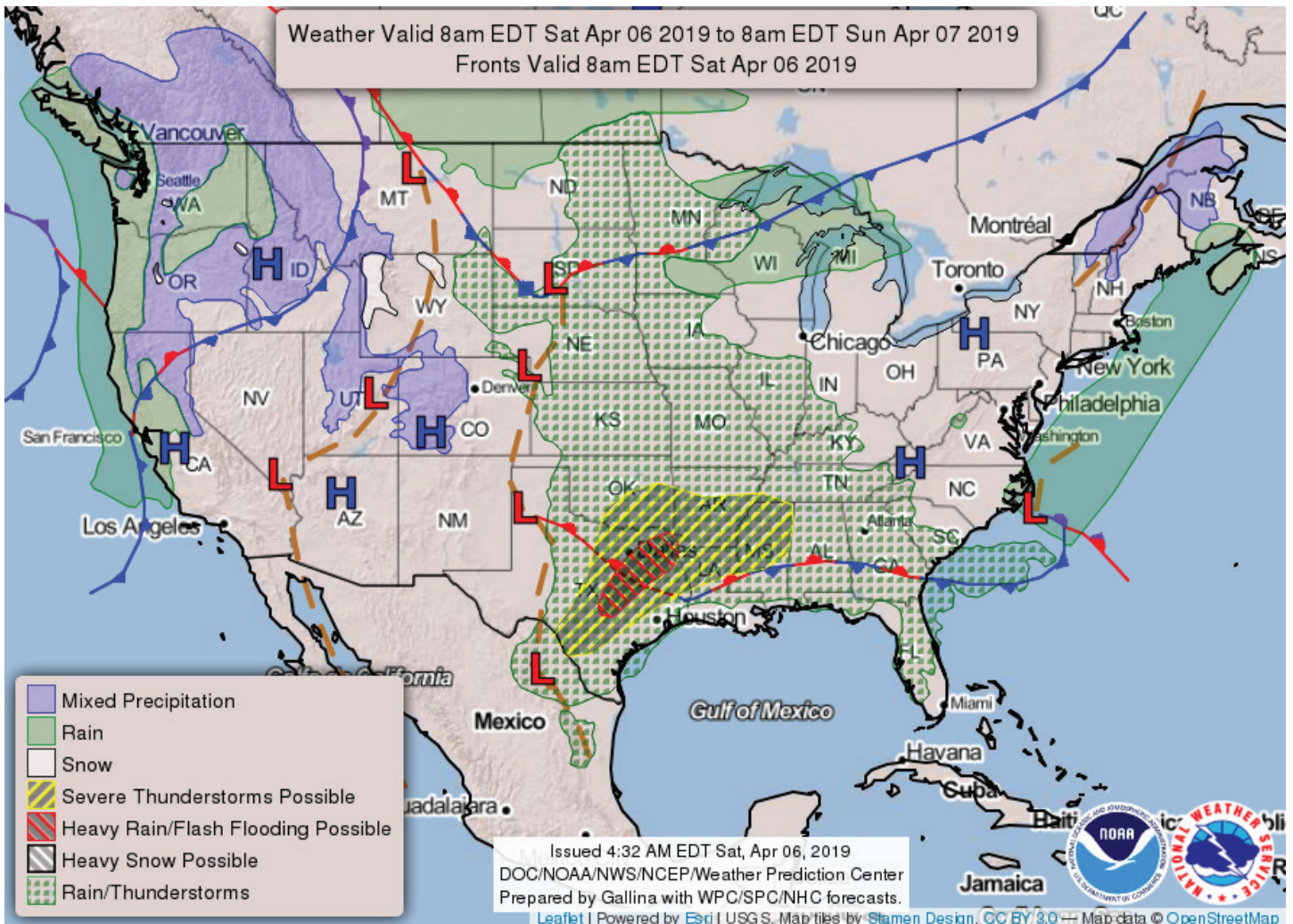
Precip to date in April.: 0.87

Average Precip to date: 2.40

Precip Year to Date: 3.06

Sunset Tonight: 8:08 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:03 a.m.



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ALL SEEDS ARE NOT THE SAME

What are you planting? asked the salesman of the elderly gentleman.

Seeds, said the old farmer, rather nonchalantly.

Of course theyre seeds. I can see that. Im not dumb or blind, he said with a bit of sarcasm in his voice.

Well, if you are so interested, hang around for a few months and see what comes up. You might be surprised. Might even be something you like, came the reply.

Planting seeds and gardening is a craft. It is done with care and concern. Nothing is left to chance, and the only uncontrollable aspect of farming is the weather.

The wages of the righteous is life, wrote Solomon, but the earnings of the wicked are sin and death. The word wages in this verse comes from the agricultural world and describes the crop or yield that is gained at the time of harvest. Earnings are the result of work. But both have a similar meaning: Our lifestyle and way of living have implications far beyond the moment. Righteousness brings a fulfilling life now, and after this life - eternal life with God. The alternative lifestyle, unrighteousness, is one of sin and leads to death - eternal separation from God.

Our God is a just God and will reward each of us for the seeds we plant. Our old farmer knew what the crop would be from the seeds he planted. He didnt have to wait and be surprised at harvest time. Neither do we.

Gods Word leaves no doubt about sowing seeds and the coming harvest. Do not be deceived, is Godss warning, for whatever a man sows, that will he also reap.

Prayer: Father, may we examine our lives in light of your Word and plant seeds of righteousness each day. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 10:16 The wages of the righteous is life, but the earnings of the wicked are sin and death.

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2019 Groton SD Community Events

- 01/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
- 03/17/2019 Legion Post #39 Spring Fundraiser (Sunday closest to St. Patrick's Day, every other year)
- 04/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 04/27/2019 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 05/04/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/27/2019 Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program (Memorial Day)
- 06/13/2019 Transit Fundraiser (Thursday Mid-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
- 06/22-23/2019 Groton Junior Legion Tournament
- 06/29/2019 Groton U10/U12 Round Robin Tournament
- 07/04/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 07/14/2019 Summer Fest/Car Show (Sunday Mid-July)
- 07/18/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Pro Am Tournament
- 07/21/2019 Granary Ice Cream Social & Family Music Fest
- 08/02/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Wine on Nine
- 08/09-11/2019 State Junior Legion Tournament in Groton
- 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
- 09/08/2019 Granary Living History Fall Festival
- 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 (Halloween)
- 11/09/2019 Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/07/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Holiday Party
- 12/07/2019 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
- Bingo: every Wednesday, Labor Day-Memorial Day, 6:30pm at the Legion Post #39

2020 Groton SD Community Events

- 4/4/2020 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 4/25/2020 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 5/2/2020 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)

News from the Associated Press

Native American women set record in Rapid City election

By **MATTHEW GUERRY** Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — An unprecedented number of Native American women are running for office in the Rapid City municipal election in June.

Saying that the city council ought to better reflect the people it represents, four of them officially announced their candidacy in front of the city administration in downtown Rapid City.

"I am running because I think everyone deserves a voice at the table," said Cante Heart, who is running for a council seat in Ward 5.

With Rosebud Sioux member Lance Lehmann running in Ward 4, Native Americans are represented in the five city elections and the mayor's race, the Rapid City Journal reported.

Natalie Stites Means, a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux tribe, is challenging two-term Mayor Steve Allender. The winner will be the first mayor to serve a four-year term.

Stites Means identified access to social assistance and criminal justice as two of the issues important to her. She said that the city council's recent adoption of an ordinance penalizing panhandling was what drove her to file for candidacy several days ago.

The council, she said, failed to recognize that the ordinance unfairly targeted Native Americans.

"I thought that was really paternalistic and really reflected a lack of sophistication on their part in terms of understanding what cultural differences are, what diversity is and what racism is," she said.

One of the two three-year seats in each of the city's five wards are up for grabs on June 4 as well.

Stephanie Savoy, a Rural America Initiatives employee and member of the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, will be running for the seat in Ward 3 to replace incumbent Jason Salamun, who is not seeking reelection. Jeff Bailie, Brittany Richman and Gregory Strommen also are running to represent Ward 3.

Two of the five Native American women running are the sole challengers of two council incumbents seeking reelection.

In Ward 1, Terra Houska is running against Lisa Modrick, who was first elected to the council in 2016. Heart, of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, is running against Darla Drew, first elected in 2014, in Ward 5.

Ramona Herrington, of the Oglala Sioux, is facing off against Bill Evans in Ward 2 to replace Steve Laurenti, who also is not seeking reelection.

In Ward 4, council President Amanda Scott, who has served on the council since 2012 and chairs several committees, is being challenged by Lehmann and Tim Johnson.

Council members Becky Drury, Ritchie Nordstrom, Chad Lewis, John Roberts and Laura Armstrong each have one year remaining in their terms.

The candidates said that while minority representation in city hall is important, the issues they see do not only affect Native Americans.

"We are prepared and I am prepared as a candidate to address the needs of all," Stites Means said. "I am not interested in being the mayor of Native American Rapid City. I am interested in being the mayor of this city."

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

Sioux Falls officials: Land sale process aims at flexibility

By **JOE SNEVE** Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — City Hall's visions for the eastern edge of downtown Sioux Falls aren't changing — more housing, residential and commercial development and jobs.

But a new method for selling off the 10 acres of city-owned land that once served as a rail yard for

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BNSF Railway will allow the city and the private sector more flexibility when it comes to what gets built on the property — and when.

Mayor Paul TenHaken's office recently announced it was scrapping the request for proposals and qualifications process traditionally used by City Hall when targeting purchasers and developers for public-private partnerships. Instead, it plans to use what's called a "negotiated sale" process that more closely mirrors the way land is bought and sold in the private sector, the Argus Leader reported.

"A lot of it has to do with timing," said Dustin Powers, an urban planner with Sioux Falls Planning and Development Services. "If someone is looking for a redevelopment site, the RFP has to be available at that exact time. ... This process is a continuous process so that we always have develop-able ready sites as part of this property."

To go along with the listing of the land on the city's website, a property brochure is available for review by interested parties outlining the city's vision and goals for the rail yard site. Erica Beck, chief of staff for the mayor, said it's easier to digest and a more user-friendly document than a traditional request for proposal, or RFP, that spells out benchmarks and requirements like the amount of housing, commercial and retail space that a potential project must achieve.

But the process isn't as restrictive as an RFP or request for qualifications (RFQ), because those benchmarks can be tweaked and retooled if developers have ideas to achieve the city's goals in a different way, Beck said.

"If a developer or a business owner came forward and they wanted to propose something out of the ordinary, very innovative and new to our community that didn't necessarily fit what was defined, in the RFP process they couldn't even have that conversation with city staff," she said. "This gives them the opportunity to talk about that with the city."

The process will provide more transparency than the traditional request for proposals or qualifications as well.

Under former Mayor Mike Huether, the public and City Council weren't made aware of what developers or project concepts City Hall was pursuing until a project was ready for formal approval, which was late in the process when the bulk of contract terms and building plans had been finalized.

For example, the city began negotiating with the developers behind the now defunct Black Iron Railyard project months before that proposed development was announced in July 2018.

With the negotiated sale process, Powers said the City Council will be made aware when City Hall enters the negotiation process, at which time the name of the developer, the targeted site will be disclosed and the general concept being considered.

Formal approval will come later after a price and building plans have been negotiated.

Sharing information earlier in the process should ease conflicts generated by the handling of RFPs and RFQs by past administrations, City Councilor and former assistant city attorney Janet Brekke said.

"We never got any info until the final decision was made. ... That could have been much more open," she said. "If you have no information about it, you can't really defend what the city is doing."

There's no timeline for when the first deal will come forward on the rail yard property, but Beck said with the amount of interest from prospective developers has been strong, she expects progress on the site sooner than later.

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

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

08-22-24-38-64, Mega Ball: 21, Megaplier: 2

(eight, twenty-two, twenty-four, thirty-eight, sixty-four; Mega Ball: twenty-one; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$104 million
Powerball
Estimated jackpot: \$68 million

Pipeline opponents ask judge to strike down Trump's permit

By **MATTHEW BROWN** Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — Opponents of the long-stalled Keystone XL oil pipeline asked a federal court Friday in a lawsuit to declare President Donald Trump acted illegally when he issued a new permit for the project in a bid to get around an earlier court ruling.

In November, U.S. District Judge Brian Morris ruled that the Trump administration did not fully consider potential oil spills and other impacts when it approved the pipeline in 2017.

Trump's new permit, issued last week, is intended to circumvent that ruling and kick-start the proposal to ship crude oil from the tar sands of western Canada to U.S. refineries.

White House officials have said the presidential permit is immune from court review. But legal experts say that's an open question, and the case could further test the limits of Trump's use of presidential power to get his way.

Unlike previous orders from Trump involving immigration and other matters, his action on Keystone XL came after a court already had weighed in and blocked the administration's plans.

"This is somewhat dumbfounding, the idea that a president would claim he can just say, 'Never mind, I unilaterally call a do-over,'" said William Buzbee, a constitutional scholar and professor at Georgetown University Law Center.

The pipeline proposed by Calgary-based TransCanada has become a flashpoint in the debate over fossil fuel use and climate change.

Opponents say burning crude from the tar sands of Western Canada would make climate change worse. The \$8 billion project's supporters say it would create thousands of jobs and could be operated safely.

The line would carry up to 830,000 barrels (35 million gallons) of crude daily along a 1,184-mile (1,900-kilometer) path from Canada to Nebraska.

Stephan Volker, an attorney for the environmental groups that filed Friday's lawsuit, said Trump was trying to "evade the rule of law" with the new permit.

"We have confidence that the federal courts, long the protectors of our civil liberties, will once again rise to the challenge and enforce the Constitution and the laws of this land," Volker said.

The White House said in a statement that under the new order, federal officials still would conduct environmental reviews of the project.

However, officials said those would be carried out by agencies other than the State Department, which under Morris' November order would have been forced to conduct another extensive study that could have taken months to complete.

TransCanada spokesman Matthew John said the administration's action "clearly demonstrates to the courts that the permit is (the) product of presidential decision-making and should not be subject to additional environmental review."

Friday's lawsuit was filed in Morris' court, meaning he's likely to get the first opportunity at addressing the legality of Trump's new order. Judges typically do not respond favorably to perceived end runs around their decisions, said Carl Tobias with the University of Richmond law school.

Another legal expert, Kathryn Watts at the University of Washington, said it's unclear where the case will lead. Trump's permit wades into "uncharted, unsettled" legal territory, she said.

The pipeline's route passes through the ancestral homelands of the Rosebud Sioux in central South Dakota and the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Tribes in Montana.

Earlier this week, a court granted the tribes' request to intervene in an appeal of Morris' November ruling that was filed by TransCanada. That case is pending before the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Tribal officials contend a spill from the line could damage a South Dakota water supply system that serves

more than 51,000 people including on the Rosebud, Pine Ridge and Lower Brule Indian Reservations.

An existing TransCanada pipeline, also called Keystone, suffered a 2017 spill that released almost 10,000 barrels (407,000 gallons) of oil near Amherst, South Dakota.

Associated Press writer Matthew Daly in Washington contributed to this story.

Follow Matthew Brown at <https://twitter.com/matthewbrownap>

1 dead, 1 injured in crash on Lower Brule Indian Reservation

KENNEBEC, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say one person died and another was injured in a one-vehicle crash on the Lower Brule Indian Reservation.

The crash happened early Thursday morning northeast of Kennebec. The Highway Patrol says a man driving a car lost control and drove into the ditch. The vehicle flipped over and came to rest on its wheels.

Both occupants were ejected from the car. The 27-year-old passenger was pronounced dead at the scene. The 27-year-old driver sustained serious non-life threatening injuries.

The patrol is investigating the crash and possible charges against the driver.

3rd federal judge blocks citizenship question on 2020 census

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN Associated Press

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (AP) — A third federal judge has blocked the Trump administration from adding a citizenship question to the 2020 census, ruling Friday that it poses a “substantial risk” of undercounting Hispanics and non-citizens.

U.S. District Judge George Hazel in Maryland also concluded that a citizenship question is “arbitrary and capricious” and violates the Constitution and the federal Administrative Procedure Act.

Federal judges in New York and California previously barred the Trump administration from adding a citizenship question to the census for the first time since 1950. The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear arguments April 23 for the Justice Department’s appeal of the New York judge’s decision.

Hazel heard six days of trial testimony in January before ruling.

“Overwhelming evidence supports the Court’s finding that a citizenship question will cause a differential decline in Census participation among noncitizen and Hispanic households,” he wrote in his 119-page decision.

The Justice Department is “disappointed by this ruling,” spokeswoman Kelly Laco said in a statement.

“Our government is legally entitled to include a citizenship question on the census and people in the United States have a legal obligation to answer,” she added.

The Supreme Court justices are expected to rule by late June, which the Trump administration said is soon enough to allow printing and distribution of census forms next April.

Because of the tight timeframe for printing census forms, the high court granted unusually quick review of the first decision that went against the administration. That ruling, from a federal judge in New York, held that Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross’ decision to have the census ask about citizenship was “arbitrary and capricious” under federal law. The second ruling, from a court in California, also found that asking about citizenship would violate the Constitution, which calls for a count of all people, not just citizens.

Former U.S. Census Bureau director John Thompson, the first plaintiffs’ witness for the bench trial in Maryland, testified Ross disregarded “long established” Census Bureau protocols in adding the citizenship question. Thompson, who oversaw the bureau from 2013 through June 2017, said he doesn’t think officials properly tested the question for the 2020 census.

“It’s very problematic for me,” Thompson said of Ross’ decision.

In a court filing, plaintiffs’ attorneys said Ross communicated with former White House Chief Strategist Steve Bannon, former Attorney General Jeff Sessions and other administration officials before issuing the

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March 2018 directive "to further the unconstitutional goal of diluting the political power of non-white immigrant communities."

The Census Bureau began collecting citizenship data through the annual American Community Survey in 2005. Government lawyers said in a court filing that Ross decided to use the same wording from that "well-tested question" on the ACS for the citizenship question on the 2020 census.

Hazel said the evidence he considered includes several statements by Trump "demonstrating his animus toward immigrants" and expressing concern about "the political power that undocumented immigrants may wield." But the judge said nothing in the record shows Ross considered or adopted the president's statements before deciding to add a citizenship question to the 2020 census.

"Without more evidence demonstrating (Ross) was actually persuaded to make his decision based on discriminatory animus, a finding that, more likely than not, (Ross') real motivation was to depress immigrant response rates cannot be made. Ultimately, Secretary Ross' original rationale remains, to some extent, a mystery," the judge wrote.

The plaintiffs for the Maryland case include residents of Texas, Arizona, Washington state, New Jersey, South Dakota, Nevada and Florida. Attorneys from the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund also sued on behalf of more than two dozen organizations and individuals. The court agreed to consolidate the claims in December.

Plaintiffs' attorneys had urged Hazel to proceed with the Maryland trial as scheduled since the judge's ruling in the New York case could be reversed on appeal.

Associated Press writer Mark Sherman in Washington contributed to this report.

Native American student wins \$10K grant to build Lakota game

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Native American student at Dakota State University has been awarded a \$10,000 grant to design a computer game to teach the Lakota language.

Carl Petersen, a DSU junior, will travel to Washington, D.C., later this month to accept his grant award from the national Dreamstarter program, which aims to help Native American youth launch community projects.

Petersen told the Argus Leader that he wants to create a tool "that would allow people to hear conversational Lakota" and could be implemented in schools.

He's planning to develop a computer game called Tipi Builder, which will teach conversational Lakota while engaging players to build a tepee. The project aims to protect the language and ensure that future generations can speak it.

"If it dies then that part of the people is gone and then you have no more culture," Petersen said.

The 21-year-old studied Lakota while growing up on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation in Parade. When he left the reservation for university, he spoke his ancestors' language at a grade-school level.

Petersen said Tipi Builder will be more interactive than other software models that are traditionally used for learning new languages.

He plans to release the game in 2020 and hopes to make it available on mobile platforms in the future.

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

Paralegal get 6 months in prison for stealing from nonprofit

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A former paralegal for a Pine Ridge nonprofit that helps low-income people with legal matters has been sentenced to prison for stealing from the organization.

Thirty-four-year-old Amy Garcia will serve six months in a federal prison and has been ordered to pay about \$4,900 in restitution to Dakota Plains Legal Service.

The Rapid City Journal reports Garcia altered voided checks from the nonprofit and cashed them at a

casino, grocery and liquor stores in 2016.

An internal audit was done after Wells Fargo Bank told the nonprofit that its payroll account was overdrawn. The organization receives money from the Legal Services Corporation, a publicly funded nonprofit created by Congress.

Garcia pleaded guilty to theft of government property.

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

Trump struggles with a growing problem on the border

By JILL COLVIN and COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tensions are rising, fingers are pointing and the search for solutions is becoming increasingly fraught.

Overwhelmed by an influx of migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border that is taxing the immigration system, President Donald Trump is grasping for something — anything — to stem the tide.

Trump, who campaigned on a promise to secure the border, has thrown virtually every option his aides have been able to think of at the problem, to little avail. He has sent out the military, signed an emergency declaration to fund a border wall and threatened to completely seal the southern border.

On Thursday he added a new threat, warning of hefty tariffs on cars made in Mexico if the country doesn't abide by his demands.

Now, with the encouragement of an influential aide and with his re-election campaign on the horizon, Trump is looking at personnel changes as he tries to shift blame elsewhere.

The first move was made Thursday, when the White House unexpectedly pulled back the nomination of Ron Vitiello to permanently lead U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, where he had been acting director. The abrupt reversal was encouraged by top Trump policy adviser Stephen Miller and seen by some as part of a larger effort to bring on aides who share Miller's hard-line immigration views.

"We may go a different way. We may have to go a very tough way," Trump said in an interview with "Fox & Friends Weekend" that aired Saturday.

An empowered Miller is also eyeing the removal of Lee Francis Cissna, director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, which runs the legal immigration system, according to two people who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss internal staffing matters. The White House did not respond to questions Friday about whether Trump was on board with that plan.

Trump has become increasingly exasperated at his inability to do more to halt the swelling numbers of migrants entering the country. Aides, too, have complained they are stymied by regulatory guardrails, legal limitations and a Congress that has scoffed at the president's requests for legislative changes.

"There is indeed an emergency on our southern border," Trump said Friday during a visit to the southern border in Calexico, California, where his frustration was evident. "It's a colossal surge and it's overwhelming our immigration system, and we can't let that happen. So, as I say, and this is our new statement: The system is full. Can't take you anymore."

He went on to flatly declare: "Our country is full."

Immigration experts say Trump's own immigration policies have caused so much chaos along the border that they may be encouraging illegal crossings. The furor over family separations last summer helped to highlight the fact that families won't be detained for long in the U.S. if they're detained at all. And metering, in which people are asked to return to a busy port of entry on another day to seek asylum, may have encouraged asylum-seekers to cross illegally, said Andrew Selee, president of the Migration Policy Institute, a nonpartisan think tank.

"This policy chaos, coupled with a sense that the U.S. government may at some point really shut down the border, has generated an urgency to migrate now while it is still possible," he said.

Whatever the reasons for the migrant surge, there is a growing consensus that federal border resources are overwhelmed. While illegal border crossings are still down sharply from their peak in 2000, they have

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nonetheless reached a 12-year high. While most illegal border-crossers used to be single Mexican nationals coming to the U.S. in search of work, more than half are now parents and children who have traveled from Central America to seek refuge in the U.S.

Those families, along with unaccompanied children, are subject to specific laws and court settlements that prevent them from being immediately sent back to their home countries. Immigrant processing and holding centers have been overwhelmed, forcing officials to dramatically expand a practice Trump has long mocked as "catch and release."

Indeed, ICE has set free more than 125,000 people who came into the U.S. as families since late last year and is now busing people hundreds of miles inland, releasing them at Greyhound stations and churches in cities like Albuquerque, San Antonio and Phoenix because towns close to the border already have more than they can handle.

Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen also has voiced increasing exasperation, equating the situation to the aftermath of a Category 5 hurricane.

"We have tried everything that we can at DHS," she said Thursday on CNN. "We are out of the ability to manage this flow and they need help."

She recently called on Congress to consider changes to the immigration system. But those efforts have so far landed with a thud.

House Democrats would almost certainly reject any plans to simply deport unaccompanied minors or otherwise rewrite the law governing asylum or family detentions that they see as protecting young migrants who are often fleeing difficult conditions. In the Senate, where Republicans have the majority, there's little interest in big legislative proposals this year, especially on a divisive issue like immigration. Trump's ideas could be especially tough for senators facing re-election in 2020 in Colorado, Arizona and North Carolina, swing states with sizable Latino and immigrant populations.

In the meantime, tensions between agencies and at the White House have been bubbling up. At Homeland Security, officials have expressed frustration with colleagues at the Health and Human Services Department and at the Pentagon, accusing them of doing too little to help. And there are complaints about the White House and what some see as an effort by Miller to dismantle the leadership of the department, in part to shift the blame away from the White House.

AP Congressional Correspondent Lisa Mascaro contributed to this report.

Follow Colvin and Long on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/colvinj> and <https://twitter.com/ctlong1>

Ex-US Sen Ernest 'Fritz' Hollings of South Carolina dead

By MEG KINNARD Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Ernest F. "Fritz" Hollings, the silver-haired Democrat who helped shepherd South Carolina through desegregation as governor and went on to serve six terms in the U.S. Senate, has died. He was 97.

Family spokesman Andy Brack, who also served at times for Hollings as spokesman during his Senate career, said Hollings died early Saturday.

Hollings, whose long and colorful political career included an unsuccessful bid for the Democratic presidential nomination, retired from the Senate in 2005, one of the last of the larger-than-life Democrats who once dominated politics in the South.

He had served 38 years and two months, making him the eighth longest-serving senator in U.S. history.

Nevertheless, Hollings remained the junior senator from South Carolina for most of his term. The senior senator was Strom Thurmond, first elected in 1954. He retired in January 2003 at age 100 as the longest-serving senator in history.

In his final Senate speech in 2004, Hollings lamented that lawmakers came to spend much of their time raising money for the next election, calling money "the main culprit, the cancer on the body politic."

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"We don't have time for each other, we don't have time for constituents except for the givers. ... We're in real, real trouble."

Hollings was a sharp-tongued orator whose rhetorical flourishes in the deep accent of his home state enlivened many a Washington debate, but his influence in Washington never reached the levels he hoped.

He sometimes blamed that failure on his background, rising to power as he did in the South in the 1950s as the region bubbled with anger over segregation.

However, South Carolina largely avoided the racial violence that afflicted some other Deep South states during the turbulent 1960s.

Hollings campaigned against desegregation when running for governor in 1958. He built a national reputation as a moderate when, in his farewell address as governor, he pleaded with the legislature to peacefully accept integration of public schools and the admission of the first black student to Clemson University.

"This General Assembly must make clear South Carolina's choice, a government of laws rather than a government of men," he told lawmakers. Shortly afterward, Clemson was peacefully integrated.

In his 2008 autobiography, "Making Government Work," Hollings wrote that in the 1950s "no issue dominated South Carolina more than race" and that he worked for a balanced approach.

"I was 'Mister-In-Between. The governor had to appear to be in charge; yet the realities were not on his side," he wrote. "I returned to my basic precept ... the safety of the people is the supreme law. I was determined to keep the peace and avoid bloodshed."

In the Senate, Hollings gained a reputation as a skilled insider with keen intellectual powers. He chaired the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee and held seats on the Appropriations and Budget committees.

But his sharp tongue and sharper wit sometimes got him in trouble. He once called Sen. Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, the "senator from the B'nai B'rith" and in 1983 referred to the presidential campaign supporters of former Sen. Alan Cranston, D-California, as "wetbacks."

Hollings began his quest for the presidency in April 1983 but dropped out the following March after dismal showings in Iowa and New Hampshire.

Early in his Senate career, he built a record as a hawk and lobbied hard for military dollars for South Carolina, one of the poorest states in the union.

Hollings originally supported American involvement in Vietnam, but his views changed over the years as it became clear there would be no American victory.

Hollings, who made three trips to the war zone, said he learned a lesson there.

"It's a mistake to try to build and destroy a nation at the same time," he wrote in his autobiography, warning that America is now "repeating the same wrongheaded strategy in Iraq."

Despite his changed views, Hollings remained a strong supporter of national defense which he saw as the main business of government.

In 1969 he drew national attention when he exposed hunger in his own state by touring several cities, helping lay the groundwork for the Women, Infants and Children, or WIC, feeding program.

A year later, his views drew wider currency with the publication of his first book "The Case Against Hunger."

In 1982, Hollings proposed an across-the-board federal spending freeze to cut the deficit, a proposal that was a cornerstone of his failed presidential bid.

He helped create the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and write the National Coastal Zone Management Act. Hollings also attached his name to the Gramm-Rudman bill aimed at balancing the federal budget.

Hollings angered many of his constituents in 1991 when he opposed the congressional resolution authorizing President George Bush to use force against Iraq.

In his later years, port security was one of his main concerns.

As he prepared to leave office, he told The Associated Press: "People ask you your legacy or your most embarrassing moment. I never, ever lived that way. ... I'm not trying to get remembered."

He kept busy after the Senate helping the Medical University of South Carolina raise money for the cancer center which bears his name and lecturing at the new Charleston School of Law.

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Hollings' one political defeat came in 1962 when he lost in a primary to Sen. Olin Johnston. After Johnston died, Hollings won a special election in 1966 and went to the Senate at age 44, winning the first of his six full terms two years later.

Ernest Frederick Hollings was born in Charleston, South Carolina, on Jan. 1, 1922. His father was a paper products dealer but the family business went broke during the Depression.

Hollings graduated from The Citadel, the state's military college in Charleston, in 1942. He immediately entered the Army and was decorated for his service during World War II. Back home, he earned a law degree from the University of South Carolina in 1947.

The next year, he was elected to the state House at age 26. He was elected lieutenant governor six years later and governor in 1958 at age 36.

As governor, he actively lured business, helped balance the budget for the first time since Reconstruction and improved public education.

Former Associated Press Writer Bruce Smith contributed to this story.

AP FACT CHECK: Trump's tortured flips on border, health care

By CALVIN WOODWARD and HOPE YEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump beat a retreat on two fronts this past week, the border and health care, and offered tortured explanations both times.

He got his family history wrong in a speech that also drew a link between wind power and cancer that has not been proved.

A look at some of the statements from a week of political rhetoric:

IMMIGRATION:

TRUMP, on why he is pulling back on sealing the U.S.-Mexico border: "Because Mexico has been absolutely terrific for the last four days. They're apprehending everybody. Yesterday they apprehended 1,400 people. The day before was 1,000. And if they apprehend people at their southern border where they don't have to walk through, that's a big home run. We can handle it from there. It's really good." — remarks to reporters Friday.

TRUMP: "Before that they never did anything." — remarks to reporters Thursday.

THE FACTS: Trump is describing a Mexican crackdown on Central American migrants that has not materialized. He's also wrong in saying that Mexico did nothing about the problem until he threatened to close the border.

Mexico markedly tightened migration controls during the Obama administration. Mexico also detained more than 30,000 foreigners in the first three months of this year, before Trump accused Mexican officials of doing "NOTHING."

Mexico reports that its interception and detention of migrants from the south are "about average" in recent months. Over the first three days of April, it apprehended 1,259 foreigners — not 1,000 or more a day, as Trump claimed.

"There is no very substantive change," said Mexico's foreign secretary, Marcelo Ebrard. "I don't know what (Trump) was referring to."

Ebrard said: "What Mexico is doing as far as the review of the southern border — well, it's the same thing it has been doing."

TRUMP: "The Flores decision is a disaster, I have to tell you. Judge Flores, whoever you may be, that decision is a disaster for our country, a disaster." — remarks at a meeting with local officials in Southern California on Friday.

THE FACTS: There's no Judge Flores involved. Jenny Flores was 15-year-old native of El Salvador who was held in what her advocates said were substandard conditions in the 1980s, contending she was

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strip-searched in custody and housed with male adults. They launched a class-action lawsuit on behalf of migrant children in the country illegally. Her mother was a housekeeper in the U.S. who feared deportation if she picked up her daughter.

The case worked its way to the Supreme Court, which sided with the government and against the girl's advocates. But the case gave rise to an agreement in 1997 setting conditions for the detention of migrant children and the codifying of those conditions in law a decade later. It generally bars the government from keeping children in immigration detention for more than 20 days and guides how they are to be treated.

HEALTH CARE

TRUMP: "This will be a great campaign issue. I never asked Mitch McConnell for a vote before the Election as has been incorrectly reported (as usual) in the @nytimes, but only after the Election when we take back the House etc." — tweet Wednesday.

THE FACTS: That's misleading at best.

A week earlier, Trump stirred expectations of an ambitious health care effort when he said that if the Supreme Court strikes down "Obamacare," "we will have a plan that's far better." He promised "the Republican Party will become the party of great health care."

But Trump soon found that the party in Congress had no appetite for yet another attempt to replace President Barack Obama's health law in the near future — nor does it have a plan.

"I made it clear to him that we were not going to be doing that in the Senate," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., told reporters Tuesday, describing their conversation a day earlier. "He did say, as he later tweeted, that he accepted that and that he would be developing a plan that he would take to the American people during the 2020 campaign."

So Trump backed down and postponed any replacement until after an election more than 18 months away.

McConnell explained to Trump that senators are open to tackling specific aspects of health care — namely, trying to lower prescription drug prices, according to a person who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss Monday's private call between the two. But Trump's promised big, new health care bill wasn't going happen with Democrats running the House.

Trump told McConnell he "accepted" the situation and "would be developing a plan that he would take to the American people during the 2020 campaign," according to that person. That night, Trump tweeted as much.

TRUMP: "Republicans will always support pre-existing conditions!" — tweet Wednesday.

MICK MULVANEY, acting White House chief of staff: "Every single plan that this White House has ever put forward since Donald Trump was elected covered pre-existing conditions. Every single plan that Republicans in the House voted on in the previous Congress covered pre-existing conditions. Every single plan considered by the Senate covers pre-existing conditions. The debate about pre-existing conditions is over. Both parties support them and anyone telling you anything different is lying to you for political gain." — interview March 31 on ABC's "This Week."

THE FACTS: Trump and his chief of staff's sweeping statements about the GOP commitment to protect people with pre-existing medical conditions are misleading. The Republican health insurance proposals would not have protected those patients as broadly as the Obama-era law and could have led to significantly higher rates or gaps in coverage for people with chronic illnesses.

The Obama health law requires insurers to take all applicants, regardless of medical history, and patients with health problems pay the same standard premiums as healthy ones. It also requires standard benefits such as pregnancy, maternity and newborn care and mental health treatment. The trade-off was that the law also mandated that everyone have insurance, including healthy people, whose premiums helped insurers cover the costs of the very sick.

The GOP health overhaul plans in Congress eliminated the mandate that everyone have insurance and sought to protect people with pre-existing conditions to a degree. But the Republican legislation would have given states leeway to vary the premiums that insurers charge based on health and other factors.

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That might make coverage unaffordable for people with serious or pre-existing health conditions.

For instance, the Republican plans would have allowed insurers to charge older people at a 5-to-1 ratio compared with young people, higher than the law's 3-to-1 ratio, and given states authority to allow insurers to use health status as a factor in setting premiums for people who have had a break in coverage and are trying to get a new individual policy.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office found the GOP plans over time would raise premiums for people with health problems because healthy people would be more likely to take their chances going uninsured.

WIND POWER

TRUMP: "If you have a windmill anywhere near your house, congratulations. Your house just went down 75% of value. And they say the noise causes cancer." — remarks at Republican fundraising dinner Tuesday.

THE FACTS: The sound from wind farms has not been proved to cause cancer.

Trump has had it out for wind power since turbines were proposed off the coast of Scotland within sight of his golf resort near Aberdeen . He unsuccessfully fought the project. He has ascribed a variety of evils to wind power over the years, usually with scant evidence, while praising coal, a well-documented cause of health problems.

"The American Cancer Society is unaware of any credible evidence linking the noise from windmills to cancer," the organization said after Trump's latest remarks.

While some recesses of the internet have long tried to sound alarms about "wind turbine syndrome," several studies have found no evidence of serious health issues.

Trump actually misidentified his target. Wind turbines produce energy. Windmills mill grain and flummox Don Quixote .

PUERTO RICO

TRUMP: "Puerto Rico got 91 Billion Dollars for the hurricane, more money than has ever been gotten for a hurricane before." — tweet Tuesday.

HOGAN GIDLEY, White House spokesman: "The fact is, they have received more money than any state or territory in history for a rebuild." — interview Tuesday with MSNBC.

THE FACTS: The money Puerto Rico has received for hurricane relief is nowhere close to \$91 billion. Nor is the amount provided greater than for any other hurricane that has struck the U.S.

According to the White House, Trump's \$91 billion estimate includes about \$50 billion in expected future disaster disbursements that could span decades, along with \$41 billion already approved. But actual aid to Puerto Rico has flowed more slowly from federal coffers, about \$11 billion so far.

Even if the \$91 billion figure eventually comes to fruition, it would not be the most ever provided for hurricane rebuilding efforts. Hurricane Katrina, which hit Louisiana and other Gulf Coast states in 2005, has cost the U.S government more than \$120 billion.

TRUMP, on Puerto Rico: "The pols are grossly incompetent, spend the money foolishly or corruptly, & only take from USA." — tweet Tuesday.

THE FACTS: Trump appears to suggest Puerto Rico is not part of the U.S. as he criticizes its territorial government for taking "from USA." He does not criticize other Americans for taking "from USA."

Gidley, speaking on MSNBC, called the notion that Trump was referring to Puerto Ricans as noncitizens "absolutely ridiculous." But in the same interview Gidley had referred to Puerto Rico as "that country." When pressed about his wording, Gidley said it was a mistake and he meant to say "territory."

Puerto Ricans are Americans.

TRUMP'S FATHER

TRUMP, arguing that Germany should spend more on its own military budget: "I have great respect for

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Angela, and I have great respect for the country," he said, referring to German Chancellor Angela Merkel. "My father is German, right, was German, and born in a very wonderful place in Germany, and so I have a great feeling for Germany, but they're not paying what they should be paying." — remarks Tuesday with NATO's secretary general.

THE FACTS: Trump is confusing his father and grandfather.

Trump's father, Fred, was born in New York City. The president's grandfather, Friedrich, was born in Germany.

Friedrich Trump immigrated to the U.S. in 1885 at the age of 16, arriving in New York before moving to the western parts of the U.S.

Trump has messed up his family history in this way several times. Last year, he said both his parents were born in what became the European Union. Only his Scottish mother was.

VOTER TURNOUT

DEMOCRAT BETO O'ROURKE: "The state saw young voter turnout up 500% over the last midterm election." — various campaign events in recent weeks.

THE FACTS: Voter turnout by people under 30 did not jump nearly that much last year. Texas did see a large increase in those young voters, though.

More than 1 million young voters cast a ballot in the 2018 midterm election, a 234% increase from the 2014 midterm elections, according to voting data from the Texas secretary of state's office.

Initial reports suggested young voter turnout increased as much as 508% during early voting in Texas when compared with early voting in 2014, according to data released by a political consulting firm a week before the 2018 election.

O'Rourke spokesman Chris Evans acknowledged his candidate used those figures without making the distinction that they represent an incomplete portion of early votes cast — not total turnout in the election.

Overall, voter turnout in the 2018 midterm election increased 77% in Texas over 2014 totals.

CENSUS

TRUMP: "Can you believe that the Radical Left Democrats want to do our new and very important Census Report without the all important Citizenship Question. Report would be meaningless and a waste of the \$Billions (ridiculous) that it costs to put together!" — tweet Monday.

THE FACTS: Trump's disdain for conducting the once-a-decade census without a citizenship question is not shared by his own Census Bureau researchers. Nor is it consistent with the many operations of government and business that make billions of dollars in spending decisions as well as policy decisions based on the most accurate possible count of the U.S. population.

According to January 2018 calculations by the Census Bureau, adding a citizenship question to the decennial census form would cause lower response rates among noncitizens, leading to an increased cost to the government of at least \$27.5 million for additional phone calls, visits to the home and other follow-up efforts to reach them. The Constitution requires a count every 10 years of "the whole number of persons in each state," long understood to include all residents of the U.S.

The count goes to the heart of the U.S. political system. It's used to determine the number of seats each state has in the House and how the electoral votes that decide presidential elections are distributed. Civil rights groups and states with higher shares of immigrant populations such as California and New York cite a significant harm to the political rights of minority groups if a citizenship question in the decennial census dissuades immigrants from participating, resulting in diminished representation in the U.S. House.

The census also shapes how 300 federal programs distribute more than \$800 billion a year to local communities, according to an analysis by the GW Institute of Public Policy at George Washington University. Communities and businesses depend on it, as well, in deciding where to build schools, hospitals, job training centers, grocery stores and more.

The GW institute's analysis of the effects of an undercount on five programs administered by the Health

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and Human Services Department, for instance, found that 37 states lost a median of \$1,091 in the 2015 budget year for each person missed in the 2010 census.

Associated Press writers Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, Michael Biesecker, Jill Colvin, Andrew Taylor and Alan Fram in Washington, Amanda Seitz in Chicago, Will Weissert in Austin, Texas, and Mark Stevenson in Mexico City contributed to this report.

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For American Jews, Trump is key figure in Israeli election

By DAVID CRARY AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Donald Trump isn't on the ballot for Israel's national election, yet he's a dominant factor for many American Jews as they assess the high stakes of Tuesday's balloting.

At its core, the election is a judgment on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has won the post four times but now faces corruption charges. In his battle for political survival, Netanyahu has aligned closely with Trump — a troubling tactic for the roughly 75% of American Jewish voters who lean Democratic.

"The world has come to understand that Netanyahu is essentially the political twin of Donald Trump," said Jeremy Ben-Ami, president of the liberal pro-Israel group J Street. "Unlike his previous elections, there is a much deeper antagonism toward Netanyahu because of that close affiliation between him and Trump and the Republican Party."

Netanyahu featured Trump in a recent campaign video, while Trump has made a series of policy moves viewed as strengthening Netanyahu in the eyes of Israeli voters, including relocating the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, withdrawing from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal and officially recognizing the Golan Heights as Israeli territory.

"It's troubling," said Halie Soifer, executive director of the Jewish Democratic Council of America. "The U.S.-Israel relationship should not be about any two leaders or any two parties. The American Jewish community wants the relationship to remain on a bipartisan basis."

Though it leans Democratic overall, the American Jewish community — numbering 5.5 million to 6 million — is not monolithic. Most older Jews remain supportive of Israel's current Middle East policies, as does the roughly 10% of the Jewish population that is Orthodox. Jewish billionaire casino mogul Sheldon Adelson has been a staunch financial supporter of Trump and the GOP.

Divisions among U.S. Jews have been exacerbated by recent allegations of anti-Semitism directed at the Democrats' two Muslim American congresswomen — Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib. Seizing on the controversy, Trump tweeted his support for a purported "Jexodus" movement that would encourage Jews to leave the Democratic Party.

"Republicans are waiting with open arms," Trump tweeted on March 15.

Morton Klein, president of the conservative Zionist Organization of America, predicts such an exodus will take place because of the Democrats' decision to avoid explicit condemnation of the congresswomen.

Ben-Ami scoffed at the notion, suggesting that Jexodus was a fantasy of pro-Trump operatives.

"I've yet to meet an actual Obama/Clinton voter who's said publicly they're switching to vote for Donald Trump," he said. "This is not real. It's completely made up."

New York-based journalist Jane Eisner, former editor of The Forward, a Jewish newspaper, said many American Jews have "Netanyahu fatigue" — even some who supported him in past.

Among liberal Jews, Eisner said, there are strong worries that Netanyahu will push Israel's government even further to the right if he wins, perhaps moving to annex some land in the occupied West Bank with confidence that the Trump administration will not object.

Morton Klein conceded that some Jews have grown weary of Netanyahu, but predicted he would prevail.

"People would be nervous if he's not there," Klein said.

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Jack Rosen, president of the American Jewish Congress, said any surge in Netanyahu fatigue should not be interpreted as a weakening of American Jews' support for Israeli.

"There is a sense of fatigue having one leader for 10 years," Rosen said. "Just as we've had Clinton fatigue and Bush fatigue."

Among liberal and centrist American Jews, dismay with Netanyahu extends beyond his alliance with Trump. Some say he's been too harsh in his treatment of migrants, and they bemoan his backtracking on a promise to allow mixed-gender prayer at the Western Wall. Perhaps most disturbing has been Netanyahu's alliance with an ultranationalist political party linked to a movement previously banned for anti-Arab racism and incitement.

That political alliance was assailed as "repugnant" by Eric Yoffie, a rabbi from Westfield, New Jersey, in a March 27 op-ed in the Israeli newspaper Haaretz. Yoffie also decried Netanyahu's "excessive enthusiasm" for Trump.

"Cordial relations are essential," wrote Yoffie, president emeritus of the Union for Reform Judaism. "But the sycophantic buddy movie that Bibi has produced with America's unbalanced and unpredictable president is something else altogether ... Bibi's egregious and unnecessary embrace of everything Trump will cost Israel dearly."

In Israel, a prevalent view, at least in pro-Netanyahu ranks, is that the prime minister's friendship with Trump is paying unprecedented dividends. There is widespread sentiment that liberal American Jews, as a constituency, are dissipating due to intermarriage, and that the evangelical Christian community in the U.S. is a more dependable ally for Israel.

At last year's ceremony in Jerusalem celebrating the relocation of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv, evangelical Christian pastors allied with Trump delivered the opening and closing blessings.

Netanyahu's main challenger in the election is Benny Gantz, a former military chief popular in Israel but with a relatively low profile in the United States. American Jews who dislike Netanyahu view Gantz as preferable, due in part to a less combative personality, but liberals note with frustration that the platform of Gantz's Blue and White party makes no mention of Palestinian statehood, and says that Israel will maintain control of parts of the West Bank.

Emily Mayer of IfNotNow, a group of youthful American Jewish activists opposed to Israel's treatment of Palestinians, is dismayed at how that issue has been marginalized in the Israeli election campaign.

"Regardless of the winner, the utter erasure of Palestinian humanity from this election cycle and the normalization of an undemocratic and immoral military occupation should alarm any Jew who cares about freedom and dignity of Israelis and Palestinians," Mayer said in an email.

Associated Press writer Josef Federman in Jerusalem contributed to this report.

A 2016 hangover: Some Bernie Sanders supporters still upset

By ALEXANDRA JAFFE, HUNTER WOODALL and MEG KINNARD Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — It was hard to miss Cheri Pichone's excitement about Bernie Sanders' second presidential run. She showed up to a recent Iowa rally decked out in Sanders gear, complete with a figurine of the Vermont senator and progressive icon.

But underneath her exuberance, the 36-year-old was still mad about the last Democratic primary, when Sanders' bid for the presidency fell short to Hillary Clinton.

"They cheated," she said, directing much of her anger at the Democratic National Committee. The party establishment, she lamented, was "actively working against us."

Pichone voted for Green Party candidate Jill Stein in 2016 and said she may vote for a third party again if Sanders doesn't clinch the nomination.

She's emblematic of a persistent group of Sanders supporters who won't let go of the slights — real and perceived — from the last campaign. The frustration is notable now that Sanders is a 2020 front-runner, raking in \$18.2 million in the first quarter, downplaying concerns about DNC bias and highlighting his suc-

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cess in bringing the party around on liberal policies it once resisted.

Some establishment-aligned Democrats worry the party could lose in 2020 if lingering concerns about the last primary aren't put to bed.

"It has the potential to escalate, and it has the potential to help re-elect Donald Trump," said Mo Elleithe, a former spokesman for Clinton and the DNC.

The acrimony stems from a fiercely fought campaign and a sense among Sanders loyalists that party leaders privately favored Clinton. DNC leaders at the time scheduled fewer debates than Republicans and sometimes slated them for nights with low television viewership. Often opaque delegate allocation rules also contributed to a belief among some Sanders supporters that the primary was essentially rigged.

According to data from the Pew Research Center, the tension took a toll. About 81% of people who consistently supported Sanders during the primary season and were confirmed to have voted in the general election said they ultimately voted for Clinton, while 11% said they supported Stein or Libertarian nominee Gary Johnson, and 3% supported Trump.

In a closely contested election, those moves away from Clinton may have factored into the results.

Since the election, party leaders have sought to smooth things over with Sanders and his supporters. DNC Chairman Tom Perez is planning a robust debate schedule. The rules governing superdelegates — party insiders who overwhelmingly backed Clinton — have changed.

Sanders has publicly expressed confidence in the process this time around, but in terms that suggest he won't soon forget 2016.

"In 2016, I think I will not shock anybody to suggest that the DNC was not quite evenhanded," he said during a CNN town hall in February. "I think we have come a long way since then, and I fully expect to be treated quite as well as anybody else."

In an interview Friday, Sanders campaign manager Faiz Shakir echoed that optimism.

"If you're talking to anyone at the Democratic National Committee who's there now, I'm sure they will tell you that their relationship with the Bernie Sanders campaign is great and that we are operating in good faith and we are talking to each other on an almost daily basis," he said. "Anyone suggesting that there's any kind of friction there is living in the past. They are living with some grudges that they are holding onto from a bygone time."

Still, the campaign has made some moves that raise questions about whether resentments from 2016 will linger. Briahna Joy Gray, formerly a liberal journalist who voted for Stein, is Sanders' national press secretary. Nina Turner, who called the DNC "dictatorial and pompous" in 2017, is one of his national campaign chairs.

And some of Sanders' most loyal supporters in the crucial early voting states say they're not ready to fully move on.

Nicholas Shaw, a 39-year-old from Concord, New Hampshire, spent his recent birthday watching Sanders speak. Like Pichone, he said he wouldn't support the Democratic nominee if it's anyone other than Sanders.

"If they steal it from him again, I'll go independent or something other than that," he said. "The Democratic Party's on their last edge of me if they kind of try to screw him again."

Even in South Carolina, where Sanders lost momentum after a 47-point drubbing from Clinton, some supporters are still smarting over a process they believe was rigged.

"Lost might be a stretch," said Tom Amon, of Summerville, when asked how he felt about Sanders' ability to perform better in South Carolina than he did in the 2016 primary. "It was stolen from him."

Woodall reported from Manchester, New Hampshire, and Kinnard reported from North Charleston, South Carolina. Associated Press writer Juana Summers in Davenport, Iowa, contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to reflect that Sanders' campaign manager is Faiz Shakir, not Fiaz Shakir.

'Our country is full': Trump says migrants straining system

By ZEKE MILLER and JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Declaring "our country is full," President Donald Trump on Friday insisted the U.S. immigration system was overburdened and illegal crossings must be stopped as he inspected a refurbished section of fencing at the Mexican border.

Trump, making a renewed push for border security as a central campaign issue for his 2020 re-election, participated in a briefing on immigration and border security in Calexico before viewing a 2-mile (3.2-kilometer) see-through steel-slat barrier that was a long-planned replacement for an older barrier — and not new wall.

"There is indeed an emergency on our southern border," Trump said at the briefing, adding that there has been a sharp uptick in illegal crossings. "It's a colossal surge and it's overwhelming our immigration system, and we can't let that happen. ... We can't take you anymore. We can't take you. Our country is full."

As Air Force One touched down in the state, California and 19 other states that are suing Trump over his emergency declaration to build a border wall requested a court order to stop money from being diverted to fund the project. But Trump, who ratcheted up his hard-line immigration rhetoric in recent weeks, declared that his move, which included vetoing a congressional vote, was necessary.

Also on Friday, House Democrats filed a lawsuit preventing Trump from spending more money than Congress has approved to erect barriers along the southwestern border. Congress approved just under \$1.4 billion for work on border barricades. Trump has asserted he can use his powers as chief executive to transfer an additional \$6.7 billion to wall construction.

Trump, who earlier in the week threatened to shut down the border over the high numbers of migrants trying to enter the U.S., appeared to walk back his comments Thursday. He said Friday that it was because Mexico had gotten tougher in stopping an influx of immigrants from moving north.

"Mexico has been absolutely terrific for the last four days," the president said as he left the White House. "I never changed my mind at all. I may shut it down at some point."

The president's visit came a day after he withdrew his nominee to lead U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Longtime border official Ron Vitiello appeared to be cruising toward confirmation, but Trump said Friday that he wanted to go in a "tougher direction."

Trump, as he so often does, mixed fact with fiction when warning of the threat at the border. When complaining about the Flores legal settlement that governs treatment of migrant children and families, he blamed "Judge Flores, whoever you may be." But Flores was an unaccompanied 15-year-old girl from El Salvador.

He also downplayed the claims of people seeking asylum at the border, declaring without evidence that many are gang members while comparing some of their efforts to find safety in the U.S. to special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation of Russian interference in the 2016 elections.

"It's a scam, it's a hoax," Trump said. "I know about hoaxes. I just went through a hoax."

As the president showed off the renovated section of the barrier to reporters, a balloon depicting Trump as a baby floated further down the border. And as Trump landed in California, the state's governor ripped the president's push for Congress to pass legislation that would tighten asylum rules to make it harder for people to qualify.

"Since our founding, this country has been a place of refuge — a safe haven for people fleeing tyranny, oppression and violence. His words show a total disregard of the Constitution, our justice system, and what it means to be an American," said Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom.

Trump has been increasingly exasperated at his inability to halt the swelling number of migrants entering the U.S., including thousands who have been released after arriving because border officials have no space for them. Arrests along the southern border have skyrocketed in recent months, and border agents were on track to make 100,000 arrests or denials of entry in March, a 12-year high. More than half of those are families with children, who require extra care.

The southern border is nearly 2,000 miles (3,200 kilometers) long and already has about 650 miles (1,050

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kilometers) of different types of barriers, including short vehicle barricades and tall steel fences that go up to 30 feet (9 meters) high. Most of the fencing was built during George W. Bush's administration, and there have been updates and maintenance throughout other administrations.

Trump has yet to complete any new mileage of fencing or other barriers anywhere on the border, though he declared Friday that at least 400 miles (650 kilometers) of the border barrier would be erected over the next two years. His administration so far has only replaced existing fencing. Construction for that small chunk of fencing cost about \$18 million, began in February 2018 and was completed in October. Plans to replace that fence date back to 2009, during President Barack Obama's tenure.

Administration officials had been studying ways to minimize the economic impact of a potential border closure in case Trump went through with his threat, including keeping trucking lanes open or closing only certain ports.

But even absent that extraordinary step, delays at border stations have been mounting after some 2,000 border officers were reassigned from checking vehicles to deal with migrant crowds.

After the border visit, Trump traveled to Los Angeles for a pair of fundraisers in the deeply liberal city. He then traveled to Las Vegas for another re-election fundraiser and an address to the Republican Jewish Coalition, which is backed by GOP mega-donor Sheldon Adelson.

Lemire reported from New York. Associated Press writers Jill Colvin and Alan Fram contributed to this report from Washington.

Follow Miller on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@zekejmilller> and Lemire at <http://twitter.com/@JonLemire>

What next? Some scenarios for UK as Brexit crisis unfolds

By GREGORY KATZ Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Crunch time is coming for British politicians and European Union leaders, who are scrambling to find a way to way to make Brexit work.

Britain is set to leave the EU on April 12 without an agreement in place unless a plan is reached or a further extension is granted.

British politicians are deeply divided over a solution and EU leaders are exasperated by the slow pace of progress.

Some possible scenarios for what might happen next in the coming days.

NO DEAL

If Britain can't break the impasse, it risks crashing out of the EU without a deal.

Last month, the EU agreed to postpone the March 29 departure date, but gave Britain only until April 12 to pass Prime Minister Theresa May's original agreement, come up with a new plan and seek a further extension, or leave without an agreement or a transition period to smooth the way. On Friday, May requested a further extension until June 30.

Most politicians, economists and business groups think that leaving the world's largest trading bloc without an agreement would be damaging for the EU and disastrous for the U.K. It could lead to tariffs on trade between Britain and the EU, as well as customs checks that could cause gridlock at ports and shortages of essential goods.

A hard core of pro-Brexit lawmakers in May's Conservative Party dismiss such warnings as fear-mongering. But most oppose leaving without a deal. Parliament has voted repeatedly to rule out a "no-deal" Brexit.

A no-deal Brexit is still the legal default position, however, and it could happen if the EU refuses to grant another extension. The bloc says it will only agree to delay Brexit if Britain breaks its impasse and comes up with a new plan.

BRITISH BREAKTHROUGH

With so much at stake, and so little time, there are at least two ways in which Britain might find a com-

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promise solution that gains majority support in its deeply divided Parliament.

First would be a breakthrough in ongoing negotiations between the odd couple of May and opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn. If May can gain Corbyn's support, he could shift the parliamentary math in her favor and a deal could likely be agreed.

Few are holding out hope for this outcome, in part because it would probably require May to dramatically alter some of her long-held positions and embrace a much softer version of Brexit. Indeed, Labour's Brexit spokesman, Keir Starmer, said Friday after three days of talks that the government is not showing any willingness to change its approach and find common ground.

A second possibility revolves around May's promise to hold a series of "indicative votes" in Parliament if her talks with Corbyn are unsuccessful. These votes would gauge Parliament's sentiment for getting a majority behind a version of Brexit.

May has said the government would abide by any such vote, but it is not clear when — and how — these votes would be held.

THE 'FLEXTENSION'

If Britain's warring factions don't agree on a way forward, European Council President Donald Tusk is urging a Brexit delay of up to one year, but with built in flexibility to let Britain leave earlier if it has an agreement in place.

This approach has been dubbed the "flection" in yet another addition to the crowded and sometimes confusing glossary of Brexit-related terms. Tusk hopes to get this option approved at an EU summit on Wednesday.

A "flection" is not exactly what May is seeking; she wants a shorter delay. If Britain stays for another year, it would have to take part in European Parliament elections set for late next month.

Having Britain participate in the balloting would be required to protect the integrity of the European election process, but it would tie the U.K. closer to the EU at a time when politicians are trying to finalize the country's divorce from the rest of the bloc.

A year-long extension might well please the many Britons who hope Brexit never takes place, and it is likely to enrage Brexit-backers who fear their victory in the 2016 referendum is being hollowed out by endless slowdowns and concessions.

BACK TO THE BALLOT BOX?

Parliament already has narrowly rejected a proposal for a new referendum on whether to leave the EU, and the government has ruled out holding another plebiscite, saying voters in 2016 made their decision to leave.

But with divisions in both Parliament and in May's Cabinet, handing the decision back to the people in new balloting might be seen as the only way forward.

A proposal for any Brexit deal to be put to a public vote in a "confirmatory referendum" was backed by opposition parties, as well as some of May's Conservatives.

At least one prominent Cabinet member, Treasury chief Philip Hammond, says such a proposal might have merit.

Follow AP's full coverage of Brexit at: <https://www.apnews.com/Brexit>

AP FACT CHECK: Trump's Mexico mirage

By CALVIN WOODWARD and MARK STEVENSON Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Giving himself credit for tough diplomacy, President Donald Trump is describing a burst of activity by Mexican authorities to keep Central American migrants from getting to the U.S. border. That's an apparent mirage as Trump retreats from his latest threat to seal off the U.S. from Mexico.

Trump was wrong when he said last week that Mexico was doing "NOTHING" about migrants coming

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north. It markedly tightened migration controls during the Obama administration and detained over 30,000 foreigners in the first three months of this year.

And it's not evident now that Mexico has suddenly cracked down as a result of his threat, "apprehending everybody" and making "absolutely terrific progress" in just a matter of days, as Trump put it Friday. Mexico's apprehensions of foreigners have not surged.

During his visit to the border in Southern California on Friday, Trump denounced a landmark immigration case he blamed on "Judge Flores, whoever you may be." The case in question was named for Jenny Flores, a migrant teenager from El Salvador in the 1980s, not a judge.

Trump's recent statements on border matters and how they compare with the facts:

MEXICO

TRUMP, on why he is pulling back on sealing the border imminently: "Because Mexico has been absolutely terrific for the last four days. They're apprehending everybody. Yesterday they apprehended 1,400 people. The day before was 1,000. And if they apprehend people at their southern border where they don't have to walk through, that's a big home run. We can handle it from there. It's really good. ... Mexico, for the last four days, it's never happened like that in 35 years." —remarks to reporters Friday.

TRUMP: "Mexico has brought people back, they've told people you can't come in. And that's happened really, they've done, as I understand it, over 1,000 today, over 1,000 people yesterday, over 1,000 people the day before that. Before that they never did anything." — remarks to reporters Thursday.

THE FACTS: This depiction of Mexico going from strikeout to home run is inaccurate at both ends.

Mexico reports that its interception and detention of migrants from the south are "about average" in recent months. Over the first three days of April, it apprehended 1,259 foreigners — not 1,000 or more a day, as Trump claimed.

"There is no very substantive change," Mexico's foreign secretary, Marcelo Ebrard, said this week. "There has not been a drastic change."

"I don't know what (Trump) was referring to," he added.

Mexico is requiring migrants to register with authorities, but that's been the case since President Andrés Manuel López Obrador took office Dec. 1, Ebrard said. "What Mexico is doing as far as the review of the southern border — well, it's the same thing it has been doing since this government began." On Thursday, Mexico's ambassador to the U.S., Martha Bárcena, told The Associated Press her country is working to make its own border "more orderly" but "migration will never be stopped."

Mexico took a substantial step in 2014, implementing a "Southern Border Plan" that established checkpoints and raids to discourage migrants from riding trains or buses from Guatemala. Its detention of foreigners, almost all Central Americans, surged to 198,141 over the next year, from 127,149. Last year, it detained 138,612.

The White House has refused to substantiate Trump's claim about Mexico's migrant apprehensions. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Friday credited Mexico with the "will" to help stem migration, but he did not cite results. Even as Trump claimed a Mexican crackdown, Pompeo said the U.S. needs to see action from Mexico, telling Fox News that it's "one thing to talk about it."

Trump has abandoned his vow to shut the border imminently. He now says that if Mexico does not continue cooperating on migrants, he will try to put heavy duties on autos from Mexico and revive his border-closure threat if that doesn't work.

THE FLORES SETTLEMENT

TRUMP: "The Flores decision is a disaster, I have to tell you. Judge Flores, whoever you may be, that decision is a disaster for our country, a disaster." — remarks at a meeting with local officials in Southern California.

THE FACTS: There's no Judge Flores involved. Jenny Flores, a 15-year-old El Salvador native, was held in what her advocates said were substandard conditions, contending she was strip-searched in custody and housed with men. They launched a class-action lawsuit on behalf of migrant children in the country

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illegally. Her mother was a housekeeper in the U.S. who feared deportation if she picked up her daughter. The case worked its way to the Supreme Court, which sided with the government and against the girl's advocates. But the case gave rise to an agreement in 1997 setting conditions for the detention of migrant children and the codifying of those conditions in law a decade later. It generally bars the government from keeping children in immigration detention for more than 20 days and guides how they are to be treated.

Stevenson reported from Mexico City. Associated Press writers Jill Colvin and Luis Alonso Lugo in Washington and Peter Orsi in Mexico City contributed to this report.

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Duke's Williamson wins AP men's college player of the year

By AARON BEARD AP Basketball Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Just about everything Zion Williamson did at Duke created a highlight or headline in a spectacle of a season.

The soaring dunks.

The open-court moves more nimble than his 6-foot-7, 285-pound frame should allow.

Even the freak occurrence of one of his feet tearing through its shoe in a fall to the court.

Handling all that attention became maybe the biggest lesson for the freshman, who quickly became the face of college basketball and the game's biggest star in years — then fittingly finished as The Associated Press men's player of the year.

"I was comfortable with it because you don't really have a choice," Williamson said in an interview with the AP earlier this week. "I think if you try to force it out, then it's going to bother you. ... My mom just told me to look at it as a lot of kids would wish to be in my position, so if it does bother me, I just think about it like that."

Williamson claimed 59 of 64 votes from AP Top 25 voters before the NCAA Tournament in results released Friday. Freshman teammate RJ Barrett earned two votes as a fellow AP first-team All-American, while Virginia's De'Andre Hunter, Michigan State's Cassius Winston and Murray State's Ja Morant each earned one vote.

Williamson had hoped to be in Minneapolis preparing for Saturday's national semifinals like Hunter and Winston. But the Blue Devils fell to Winston's Spartans in the Elite Eight as the top overall seed.

"I was just telling (teammates) don't let nobody tell you this season was a disappointment, because people have got to understand it's March Madness," he said, adding: "I mean, winning the championship is not a cakewalk."

In a likely one-year college stop for a possible top overall NBA draft pick, the 18-year-old Williamson averaged 22.6 points and 8.9 rebounds while ranking second nationally by shooting 68%. He also ranked among the Atlantic Coast Conference leaders in steals (2.12) and blocks (1.79).

Williamson's play was marked by breathtaking athleticism to go by, through and over anyone to get the ball (look at his personal-favorite 360-degree dunk against Clemson or his rapid-closeout swat of Hunter's shot at Virginia for proof).

There was the charisma, too. He projected a self-assured ease amid the crush of postgame interviews, even routinely having walk-on Mike Buckmire join him as a wingman as though bringing his teammate into his unique orbit.

"It's been remarkable what he's done," said North Carolina coach Roy Williams, who recruited Williamson. "There hasn't been many guys like that to come down the road. So the attention he's gotten, I think he'd deserved. ... He's driven a different ship."

That February shoe blowout illustrated just how different.

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Williamson missed nearly six full games after injuring his knee in the fall, which had his left foot sticking through the side of his Paul George signature shoe from Nike. The bizarre image wounded Nike's day-after stock price and had some arguing that he shouldn't return to protect his pro stock.

That was never an option for Williamson. He returned in the ACC Tournament sporting a reinforced pair of Kyrie Irving Nikes, which followed Nike representatives visiting Duke's campus to sort out what went wrong.

The unusual moments of stardom didn't stop there, either.

"Cars will be driving by (on campus) and I mean, they'll just stop," Williamson said with a chuckle. "In the middle of the road. And people will jump out of the car and get pictures. I'm looking at my watch, I have two minutes to get to class and my class is a five-minute walk. ... I'll look at them and they'll be so high, I'm like, 'Yeah, I got you, I'll take the picture.'"

He also frequently encountered Duke fans waiting near the practice gym for autographs.

"You've got 20 minutes before that clock starts for practice, you've got like 20 people outside," Williamson said. "You're like, 'I don't think I can do this.' So then it comes down to: do I say no? Or do I tell them to wait?"

"I've been in a lot of situations. Sometimes they understood, other times they weren't so accepting of it. But I guess that's part of life."

Williamson said there's "obviously a high possibility" he enters the draft but he's not ready to make anything official as he enjoys being a college student a little longer with plans on taking summer classes toward a degree.

Williamson said he has no regrets, calling the season "the most fun I've ever had in my life."

"My mom would tell me, 'College is something you don't want to miss out on' because not only have I enjoyed the basketball side of coming to Duke, I've enjoyed being a student here just as much," Williamson said. "The relationships I've built with the students here — like talking to kids I guess people wouldn't picture me talking to, hanging out with them — it's bigger than basketball."

VOTING BREAKDOWN

Zion Williamson, Duke — 59

R.J. Barrett, Duke — 2

De'Andre Hunter, Virginia — 1

Ja Morant, Murray State — 1

Cassius Winston, Michigan State — 1

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Ex-convict charged with pretending to be long-missing boy

By DAN SEWELL and ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS Associated Press

CINCINNATI (AP) — A 23-year-old ex-convict accused of pulling a cruel hoax by pretending to be a long-missing Illinois boy was charged Friday with making false statements to federal authorities.

The FBI said Brian Rini had made false claims twice before, portraying himself as a juvenile sex-trafficking victim.

The Medina, Ohio, man was jailed in Cincinnati on Thursday, a day after telling authorities he was 14-year-old Timothy Pitzen, who disappeared in 2011 at age 6. The FBI declared Rini's story a hoax after performing a DNA test.

The charge should send a message about the damage such false claims can do, said U.S. Attorney Benjamin Glassman.

"It's not OK to do it because of the harm that it causes, the pain, for the family of that missing child," Glassman said.

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Rini's story had briefly raised hope among Timmothy's relatives that the youngster's disappearance had finally been solved after eight long years. But those hopes were dashed when the test results came back. "It's devastating. It's like reliving that day all over again," said Timmothy's aunt Kara Jacobs.

Rini was jailed for a bail hearing on Tuesday. His public defender did not immediately return a message. Rini could get up to eight years in prison.

Rini was found wandering the streets on Wednesday and told authorities he had just escaped his captors after years of abuse, officials said. He claimed he had been forced to have sex with men, according to the FBI.

When confronted with the DNA results, Rini acknowledged his identity, saying he had watched a story about Timmothy on ABC's "20/20" and wanted to get away from his own family, the FBI said.

Rini said "he wished he had a father like Timmothy's because if he went missing, his father would just keep drinking," the FBI said in court papers. A message left with Rini's father for comment was not immediately returned.

Glassman said authorities were skeptical early on of Rini's claim because he refused to be fingerprinted, though he did agree to a DNA swab. Rini also looks older than 14, but Glassman said investigators wanted to make sure "there was no opportunity missed to actually find Timmothy Pitzen."

Rini's DNA was already on file because of his criminal record. He was released from prison less than a month ago after serving more than a year for burglary and vandalism.

He twice portrayed himself in Ohio as a juvenile victim of sex trafficking, and in each case was identified after being fingerprinted, authorities said.

In 2017, Rini was treated at an Ohio center for people with mental health or substance abuse problems, according to court papers.

Timmothy, of Aurora, Illinois, vanished after his mother pulled him out of kindergarten, took him on a two-day road trip to the zoo and a water park, and then killed herself at a hotel. She left a note saying that her son was safe with people who would love and care for him, and added: "You will never find him."

After Rini's account was pronounced a hoax, Timmothy's grandmother Alana Anderson said: "It's been awful. We've been on tenterhooks, hopeful and frightened. It's just been exhausting."

She added, "I feel so sorry for the young man who's obviously had a horrible time and felt the need to say he was somebody else."

Welsh-Huggins reported from Columbus. Associated Press reporters Carrie Antlfinger in Aurora, Illinois; Don Babwin and Caryn Rousseau in Chicago; and Corey Williams in Detroit contributed.

Follow Dan Sewell at <https://www.twitter.com/dansewell>

1,000 replacements for Cuban doctors in Brazil quit program

By ANNA JEAN KAISER Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — More than 1,000 Brazilian doctors who signed up to replace Cuban physicians working in Brazil's rural areas have quit within three months, the health ministry confirmed Friday.

The doctors who quit represent 12% of the 8,500 physician positions that opened after Cuba's government ended the More Medics program, which had sent Cuban doctors to areas where medical professionals were scarce in return for payments from Brazil.

Days after being elected Brazil's president on Nov. 28, far-right politician Jair Bolsonaro said he would renegotiate the program, which had been signed between Brazil and Cuba in 2013. The Cuban government then announced its doctors would no longer participate.

Bolsonaro tweeted that the Cuban government rejected his new terms to require that Cuban doctors pass the Brazilian medical exam, receive the full salary the Brazilian government paid for their services and allow them to bring their families. The agreement had said Brazil's foreign ministry could grant temporary visas to doctors' family members, but Cuban doctors reported having problems in bringing their

families to Brazil.

"I would never make an agreement with Cuba with those terms. It's slave labor," Bolsonaro told reporters at the time, referring to the fact that the Cuban government received a large portion of the doctors' salaries.

He also argued that "we can meet the demand for this program with Brazilian doctors," though critics of his move expressed doubt. They warned that the change could harm health care across large swaths of the Brazilian Amazon and other remote areas.

In February, the health ministry announced that all 8,517 openings in the More Medics program had been filled by Brazilian doctors. But the revelation that more than 1,000 of those physicians had already dropped out raised new questions about whether the government can find enough doctors to fill the positions.

"The poorest part of the population is being left without health care because of revenge politics by the Bolsonaro government," Congressman Glauber Braga tweeted.

Cuba, which has similar medical missions in 67 countries, says the program saw 20,000 Cuban doctors attend to millions of patients in Brazil over five years.

Pipeline opponents ask judge to strike down Trump's permit

By **MATTHEW BROWN** Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — Opponents of the long-stalled Keystone XL oil pipeline asked a federal court Friday in a lawsuit to declare President Donald Trump acted illegally when he issued a new permit for the project in a bid to get around an earlier court ruling.

In November, U.S. District Judge Brian Morris ruled that the Trump administration did not fully consider potential oil spills and other impacts when it approved the pipeline in 2017.

Trump's new permit, issued last week, is intended to circumvent that ruling and kick-start the proposal to ship crude oil from the tar sands of western Canada to U.S. refineries.

White House officials have said the presidential permit is immune from court review. But legal experts say that's an open question, and the case could further test the limits of Trump's use of presidential power to get his way.

Unlike previous orders from Trump involving immigration and other matters, his action on Keystone XL came after a court already had weighed in and blocked the administration's plans.

"This is somewhat dumbfounding, the idea that a president would claim he can just say, 'Never mind, I unilaterally call a do-over,'" said William Buzbee, a constitutional scholar and professor at Georgetown University Law Center.

The pipeline proposed by Calgary-based TransCanada has become a flashpoint in the debate over fossil fuel use and climate change.

Opponents say burning crude from the tar sands of Western Canada would make climate change worse. The \$8 billion project's supporters say it would create thousands of jobs and could be operated safely.

The line would carry up to 830,000 barrels (35 million gallons) of crude daily along a 1,184-mile (1,900-kilometer) path from Canada to Nebraska.

Stephan Volker, an attorney for the environmental groups that filed Friday's lawsuit, said Trump was trying to "evade the rule of law" with the new permit.

"We have confidence that the federal courts_long the protectors of our civil liberties_will once again rise to the challenge and enforce the Constitution and the laws of this land," Volker said.

The White House said in a statement that under the new order, federal officials still would conduct environmental reviews of the project.

However, officials said those would be carried out by agencies other than the State Department, which under Morris' November order would have been forced to conduct another extensive study that could have taken months to complete.

TransCanada spokesman Matthew John said the administration's action "clearly demonstrates to the courts that the permit is (the) product of presidential decision-making and should not be subject to additional environmental review."

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Friday's lawsuit was filed in Morris' court, meaning he's likely to get the first opportunity at addressing the legality of Trump's new order. Judges typically do not respond favorably to perceived end runs around their decisions, said Carl Tobias with the University of Richmond law school.

Another legal expert, Kathryn Watts at the University of Washington, said it's unclear where the case will lead. Trump's permit wades into "uncharted, unsettled" legal territory, she said.

The pipeline's route passes through the ancestral homelands of the Rosebud Sioux in central South Dakota and the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Tribes in Montana.

Earlier this week, a court granted the tribes' request to intervene in an appeal of Morris' November ruling that was filed by TransCanada. That case is pending before the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Tribal officials contend a spill from the line could damage a South Dakota water supply system that serves more than 51,000 people including on the Rosebud, Pine Ridge and Lower Brule Indian Reservations.

An existing TransCanada pipeline, also called Keystone, suffered a 2017 spill that released almost 10,000 barrels (407,000 gallons) of oil near Amherst, South Dakota.

Associated Press writer Matthew Daly in Washington contributed to this story.

Follow Matthew Brown at <https://twitter.com/matthewbrownap>

7 who accused Cosby of sex abuse settle defamation suits

By MARYCLAIRE DALE Associated Press

Seven women who said Bill Cosby sexually assaulted them decades ago and then labeled them liars by denying it have settled defamation lawsuits against the imprisoned actor.

Court documents filed Friday in Springfield, Massachusetts, show a settlement has been reached since Cosby went to prison last fall in a separate Pennsylvania sex assault case. Cosby, 81, is serving a three- to 10-year prison sentence.

Cosby's spokesman, Andrew Wyatt, said Cosby did not authorize the settlement reached between the women and American International Group Inc., and "vehemently denies the allegations."

"Mr. Cosby did not settle any cases with anyone. He is not paying anything to anyone, and he is still pursuing his counterclaims. AIG decided to settle these cases, without the knowledge, permission and/or consent of Mr. Cosby," Wyatt said in a statement.

Courts had ruled that AIG had to pay for Cosby to defend the defamation lawsuits as part of his coverage. Cosby had homeowners and other coverage through AIG.

The judge overseeing the defamation case in Massachusetts must still approve the settlement. The terms were not disclosed in the filings Friday. A message left with AIG's corporate press office was not immediately returned late Friday.

The plaintiffs are among the dozens of women who have accused Cosby of sexual misconduct. They include Tamara Green, Barbara Bowman and Therese Serignese. Cosby, in a 2006 deposition, acknowledged giving Serignese quaaludes that made her "high" before a sexual encounter in Las Vegas in 1976, when she was 19. Some of that deposition testimony was aired in his criminal case.

"I don't think he has much to contest the cases with, given his conviction," said Loyola Law School professor Laurie Levenson. "I don't know how much resources (he has left). It probably makes sense for both sides to resolve it."

Joseph Cammarata, an attorney who represents the women, told The Associated Press on Friday that "each plaintiff is satisfied with the settlement." He declined to comment further.

However, he warned in a status report also filed Friday that his clients would seek to depose Cosby and gather other documents and evidence if Cosby does not drop counterclaims that accuse the women of harming his reputation through their accusations. Wyatt said that Cosby still intends to pursue those claims.

Cosby's wife, Camille, had been ordered to give a deposition in the defamation case in 2016, after a heated fight over her testimony.

Lawyers for the Cosbys tried to quash her subpoena to testify, saying she didn't have any relevant information on the women's claims and that any marital conversations she had with her husband of 50 years were confidential. The judge agreed that marital conversations were private, but the women's lawyers noted she also served as his business manager throughout their long marriage.

The case had largely been put on hold amid the Pennsylvania criminal case, which involved charges that Cosby drugged and sexually assaulted a woman at his home in 2004. The first trial ended in a deadlock in 2017, but a second jury convicted Cosby last year.

Cosby is appealing the conviction. He is being held at a state prison in Montgomery County, outside of Philadelphia.

Mormon president surprises with transformative first year

By BRADY McCOMBS Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — At 94, the president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has proved a far more vigorous and transformative figure than scholars expected when he took office a year ago, pushing through a flurry of surprising changes on such matters as LGBTQ members and the name of the faith.

Russell M. Nelson made his biggest move yet Thursday when he rescinded rules banning baptisms for children of gay parents and branding same-sex couples apostates subject to excommunication. Those 2015 policies had generated widespread backlash.

He has also launched a campaign calling on people to stop using the shorthand names "Mormon" and "LDS," severed the faith's ties with the Boy Scouts of America after a century, shortened Sunday worship by an hour and revised a sacred temple ceremony to give women a more prominent role.

His vigor has surprised many scholars and church members who thought he would be more of a caretaker after becoming the second-oldest man to lead the faith, said Matthew Bowman, an associate professor of history at Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

"He has been a more transformative president than anybody expected he would be," Bowman said. "He has an expansive agenda."

As members gather Saturday for a twice-annual conference in Salt Lake City, they are bracing for more changes by the former heart surgeon who leads the Utah-based faith with 16 million adherents worldwide.

"Nelson has made it appointment viewing for people," said Brandt Malone, a church member from Detroit who hosts the Mormon News Report podcast.

Nelson's visibility and vibrancy set him apart from his predecessor, Thomas S. Monson, who kept a low profile and was in failing health for part of his presidency. Church presidents serve for life, and Monson died in January 2018 after leading the faith for nearly a decade.

Since ascending to the post, Nelson has given speeches to tens of thousands at stadiums in Seattle and Phoenix and visited 15 countries. He met with Pope Francis at the Vatican in March in what the church called the first meeting between a pope and a president of the faith.

Nelson hasn't altered church doctrine but has approved changes that scholars say seem designed to improve the religious experience for an increasingly global membership.

Nelson's energy and swift changes serve to distract members and outsiders from criticism about stagnated membership growth, crises of faith and the secondary role of women in the religion, said Patrick Mason, a religion professor at Claremont Graduate University in California.

"The best way to deal with your problems is to have a really positive, proactive agenda," Mason said.

Nelson's tenure has been marked by "an unusual degree of change in an otherwise very cautious institution," said Kathleen Flake, a professor of Mormon studies at the University of Virginia.

"He has both the confidence and the temperament to act decisively. As a surgeon, I think he's used to taking charge," Flake said. "But I think he's been very clear that he would not have done any of this if he didn't feel catalyzed by his spiritual authority."

Nelson has also been uncommonly open about the church's belief that presidents are living prophets who

receive revelations from God. That, too, has set him apart from most of his predecessors, scholars say. The church said Nelson and other leaders engaged in "fervent, united prayer to understand the will of the Lord" before reversing the LGBTQ policies. But it said the church still opposes gay marriage and considers same-sex relationships a "serious transgression."

In explaining his decision to urge people to stop using nicknames for the faith, Nelson said that the Lord impressed upon him the importance of the full name and that leaving it out was "a major victory for Satan."

He then changed the name of the world-renowned Mormon Tabernacle Choir to the Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square and renamed church websites, social media accounts and employee email addresses to strip out "Mormon" and "LDS."

Mason said Nelson's embrace of revelation has energized many church members who consider the president to be a modern-day Moses or Peter.

To others, it raises eyebrows and can be seen as awkward, especially when cited in connection with something such as the church name, which seems minor to some people, Bowman said.

Malone, the church member, said that it is nice to hear a president confirm he is receiving revelation but that it limits the amount of healthy scrutiny of changes.

"It carries a lot more weight for Mormons," Malone said. "It's a conversation-ender for some people."

Boeing cutting production rate of troubled 737 Max jet

By DAVID KOENIG AP Airlines Writer

Boeing will cut production of its troubled 737 Max airliner this month, underscoring the growing financial risk it faces the longer that its best-selling plane remains grounded after two deadly crashes.

The company said Friday that starting in mid-April it will cut production of the plane to 42 from 52 planes per month so it can focus its attention on fixing the flight-control software that has been implicated in the crashes.

The move was not a complete surprise. Boeing had already suspended deliveries of the Max last month after regulators around the world grounded the jet.

Preliminary reports into accidents in Indonesia and Ethiopia found that faulty sensor readings erroneously triggered an anti-stall system that pushed the plane's nose down. Pilots of each plane struggled in vain to regain control over the automated system.

In all, 346 people died in the crashes. Boeing faces a growing number of lawsuits filed by families of the victims.

Boeing also announced it is creating a special board committee to review airplane design and development.

The announcement to cut production comes after Boeing acknowledged that a second software issue has emerged that needs fixing on the Max — a discovery that explained why the aircraft maker had pushed back its ambitious schedule for getting the planes back in the air.

A Boeing spokesman called it a "relatively minor issue" and said the plane maker already has a fix in the works. He said the latest issue is not part of flight-control software called MCAS that Boeing has been working to upgrade since the first crash.

Chairman and CEO Dennis Muilenburg described the production cut as temporary and a response to the suspension of Max deliveries.

Boeing has delivered fewer than 400 Max jets but has a backlog of more than 4,600 unfilled orders. The Chicago-based company had hoped to expand Max production this year to 57 planes a month.

Indonesia's Garuda Airlines has said it will cancel an order for 49 Max jets. Other airlines, including Lion Air, whose Max 8 crashed off the coast of Indonesia on Oct. 29, have raised the possibility of canceling.

A Boeing official said Friday's announcement about cutting production was not due to potential cancellations. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because Boeing does not publicly discuss those details.

In a statement, Muilenburg said the reduction was designed to keep a healthy production system and maintain current employment — in effect, slowing down production now to avoid a deeper cut later, if fixing the plane takes longer than expected.

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Analysts say the absence of deliveries will eat into Boeing's cash flow because it gets most of the cost of a plane upon delivery.

Boeing declined to provide figures, but undelivered Max jets have been stacking up at its Renton, Washington, assembly plant.

Airlines that operate the Max will be squeezed the longer the planes are grounded, particularly if the interruption extends into the peak summer travel season.

They could buy used 737s, but that would be costly because the comparably sized Boeing 737-800 was very popular and in short supply even before the Max problems, according to Jim Williams, publisher of Airfax, a newsletter that tracks transactions involving commercial aircraft.

Williams said that if the Max grounding appears likely to extend into summer it will cause airlines to explore short-term leases, which could push lease rates higher, something that airline analysts say is already happening.

Boeing shares closed at \$391.93, down \$3.93. In after-hours after news of the production cut, they slipped another \$8.98, or 2.3%, to \$382.85.

David Koenig can be reached at <http://twitter.com/airlinewriter>

Job gain points to a US economy slowing but hardly stalling

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A month ago, many economists fretted that the 10-year U.S. expansion looked wobbly. But after the government reported Friday that hiring rebounded in March, the economy suddenly looks sturdy again.

Growth has weakened since last year to something closer to the modest pace that has prevailed for most of the nearly decade-long expansion. The jolt from the Trump administration's 2017 tax cuts and greater government spending last year has faded. And the global economy has swiveled from a driver of the U.S. economy to a headwind.

Yet last month's solid job gain of 196,000 may also help undercut any lingering fears that a recession might arrive over the next year or so. The economy's slow but steady pace of growth is likely to keep inflation low and perhaps sustain the expansion, which is set to become the longest on record in July.

By historical measures, the expansion has fallen short of the sometimes-explosive growth that businesses and workers enjoyed in the past but that often led to financial bubbles or economic excesses — and eventually a recession.

"Lackluster means that you're not overheating," Josh Wright, chief economist at recruiting software maker iCIMS, said of the current expansion. "It's more stable, and we'll have fewer imbalances. It looks like we'll be able to prolong this recovery even further."

In its monthly jobs report Friday, the government also said the unemployment rate remained near a five-decade low of 3.8% in March.

So far this year, job growth has averaged a decent 180,000 a month. That is down, though, from last year's 223,000 monthly average. And it marks the lowest three-month average gain since November 2017, before the tax cuts took effect.

Wage growth also slipped a bit in March, with average hourly pay increasing 3.2% from a year earlier. That is down from February's year-over-year gain of 3.4%, the best in a decade.

"Today's data paint a picture of resilient U.S. demand that has stepped down to a more moderate pace of growth following last year's robust gains," said Jonathan Millar, senior economist at Barclays.

Investors took Friday's jobs data in stride. The stock market was up slightly in afternoon trading, extending a rally that has lifted the financial markets this year.

Given that that hiring and wage growth aren't growing so fast as to threaten high inflation, the Federal Reserve is likely to stay on the sidelines indefinitely, forgoing interest rate hikes, economists said.

As recently as December, Fed officials had forecast that they would raise rates twice this year. But in

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March, after financial markets turned volatile, inflation showed signs of slipping, and concerns grew about the global economy, the Fed said it would likely keep rates unchanged in 2019.

Yet the jobs data also provides little reason for the Fed to cut rates, analysts said, despite President Donald Trump's repeated calls for the Fed to do just that. On Friday, Trump went further, urging the Fed to renew the bond-buying program it had used to lower longer-term borrowing rates earlier this decade after the Great Recession. The program was known as "quantitative easing."

"Our country's doing unbelievably well economically," Trump said. But Fed policymakers "really slowed us down," and if they dropped rates and resumed buying bonds, "you would see a rocket ship."

Quantitative easing was an emergency tool that the Fed, under Chairman Ben Bernanke, used to buy trillions in government bonds and other securities. The third and last round was launched in 2012 when the unemployment rate was still 8%.

The Fed's policies probably contributed to another shortcoming of the current expansion: It has benefited wealthier Americans more than others. That's because the Fed's QE program, by holding down rates on Treasury securities, led many investors to put more money into stocks, raising their values.

The stock market has tripled since bottoming a decade ago, benefiting the richest one-tenth of Americans, who own about 80% of the value of U.S. shares. Home equity, a much more vital source of wealth for the middle-class, has recovered much less.

And many households remain gripped by financial insecurity despite the steady pace of hiring. Forty percent of workers earn less than \$16 an hour, according to government data analyzed by the Economic Policy Institute. In March, hiring did pick up in higher-paying sectors, such as professional and business services, which added 37,000 jobs in engineering, IT services, accounting and other fields.

Manufacturers did not fare as well, cutting 6,000 jobs, the sector's first decline in a year and a half, mostly because of layoffs by General Motors. Construction firms added 16,000 jobs.

One factor that may weigh on hiring in the coming months is a dwindling supply of workers in the healthiest job markets. Charles Dunlap, who owns an accounting firm in Houston with a partner, has found it much harder to find a new bookkeeper than he did the last time he filled the position, in late 2016.

Back then, advertising mostly by word of mouth turned up unsolicited requests for interviews and candidates with advanced degrees. Now, Dunlap has interviewed only three potential hires this year, despite raising the job's starting pay about \$2 an hour to roughly \$15.

"That's the big challenge these days, just finding staff," Dunlap said.

Like hiring, growth is also expected to decelerate this year, to about a 2.25% pace, down from 2.9% in 2018, the fastest expansion in three years. In the much more rapid expansion in the 1990s, growth topped 4% for four years.

Consumers have helped drag down growth, with retail sales falling in February and a broader measure of consumer spending slipped in January. Businesses have also reined in their spending on industrial machinery and other equipment and on factories and other buildings.

And in Europe and Asia, weaker economies have reduced demand for U.S. exports. Europe is on the brink of recession, with its factories shrinking in March at the fastest pace in six years, according to a private survey.

Still, most analysts expect the U.S. economy to survive weakness overseas.

"The U.S. is much more isolated from those factors than other countries," Millar said. "We have a relatively closed economy."

Corporate profits also appear to be rebounding after stalling out in the first three months of this year.

Analysts expect S&P 500 companies to report a drop of nearly 4 percent in their first-quarter earnings per share from a year earlier, according to FactSet. It would be the first decline in nearly three years.

But Steve Chiavarone, an equity strategist at Federated Investors, pointed to encouraging reports recently on China's economy and U.S. manufacturing, along with central banks around the world easing up on interest rates.

"Over the last few days, you've seen 2019 and 2020 earnings estimates rise for the first time since

September," Chiavarone said.

AP Business Writer Stan Choe contributed to this report from New York.

Trump sidelines immigration nominee for 'tougher direction'

By COLLEEN LONG and JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The notice to Congress from the White House was met with confusion: Why would President Donald Trump withdraw his nominee to lead U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement?

Longtime border official Ron Vitiello appeared to be cruising toward confirmation. One Senate committee had endorsed his nomination and a second was likely to follow suit despite opposition from some Democrats and a union representing some agency officers.

No one in the Department of Homeland Security, which oversees the immigration agency, had been notified about the intention to remove Vitiello from consideration, according to people familiar with the decision. Officials at Homeland Security and congressional aides thought it must have been a paperwork error made by the White House personnel office that would be resolved quickly.

Turns out, it wasn't a mistake. It was just another day in the Trump administration.

The president on Friday confirmed he had pulled the nomination, even as he called Vitiello a "good man." "But we're going in a tougher direction. We want to go in a tougher direction," he said.

Trump did not explain what that meant and did not say whom he had in mind as a replacement. But the decision, first reported by The Associated Press, comes as his administration is struggling to deal with an influx of Central American migrants, which has led to a 12-year high in U.S.-Mexico border crossings, straining the U.S. immigration system.

Trump had threatened to close the border entirely to cope with the flow, before backing off this week.

In a letter addressed to all ICE employees Friday, Vitiello thanked the president and members of Congress for their support.

"No matter the external circumstances, I am grateful knowing you remain engaged and dedicated to the critical work of protecting our communities from the transnational criminal organizations and cross-border crime that threatens our nation," he wrote.

"While I will not become the permanent director of ICE, I look forward to working alongside you in serving the American public with Integrity, Courage, and Excellence."

Six government and congressional officials involved in immigration issues suggested the decision to drop Vitiello could be an impulsive staff shake-up driven by the fact that White House policies intended to stop migrants have not succeeded. Many blamed Stephen Miller, the influential West Wing aide, for the decision on Vitiello and saw it as part of a plan to replace longtime immigration officials with hard-liners who appealed more to allies of Trump and Miller. The officials were not authorized to discuss internal deliberations and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Vitiello had been scheduled to travel with Trump to the border Friday but was told late Thursday he wasn't going, one of the people said.

He has been acting head since June of the agency that enforces U.S. immigration law in the interior of the United States. He has more than 30 years of law enforcement experience, starting in 1985 with the U.S. Border Patrol. He was previously Border Patrol chief and deputy commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, which oversees the patrol.

Vitiello was respected by his staff as a border veteran, but his experience mostly with Border Patrol, made him an odd fit to some at ICE, and some veterans of the agency said he never seemed totally in his element. He ran afoul of some of the union leadership, which opposed him in part because they said he was disingenuous. Union leader Chris Crane wrote a letter to the senators saying citing certain tweets Vitiello made from a private account, arguing he "lacks the judgment and professionalism to effectively lead a federal agency."

He took over during a time of heightened scrutiny of the agency. Part of its mission is to arrest im-

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migrants who are in the U.S. illegally, and that has made the agency a symbol of Trump's policies and a target for Democrats.

Trump has been railing against increasing border crossings, as well as the release of thousands of migrants into the U.S. because of a lack of space to hold them, a move he derides as "catch and release."

It's a battle cry on a signature issue for the president, who wants to restrict immigration but whose policies have largely failed to do so.

For many years, families arriving at the border were typically released from U.S. custody immediately and allowed to settle with family or friends in the U.S. while their immigration cases wound their way through the courts, a process that often takes years.

But in recent months, the number of families crossing into the U.S. has climbed to record highs, pushing the system to the breaking point. As a result, ICE was releasing families faster, in greater numbers and farther from the border. Since Dec. 21, the agency set free more than 125,000 people who came into the U.S. as families.

Trump on Friday was touring a recently built portion of replacement fencing that he is holding up as the answer to stop the recent surge of migrant families coming to the U.S.

Though the 2-mile section is only a long-planned replacement for an older barrier, the White House describes it as the first section of his proposed border wall. It's commemorated with a plaque bearing Trump's name and those of top immigration and homeland security officials — but not Vitiello's.

Associated Press writer Elliot Spagat in San Diego contributed to this report.

Follow Long and Colvin on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/ctlong1> and <https://twitter.com/colvinj>

Biden jokes about accusations, targets union voters

By THOMAS BEAUMONT and NICHOLAS RICCARDI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Vice President Joe Biden on Friday made light of his recent controversy about crossing physical boundaries with women, and he signaled in a resolute speech to union activists that he's ready to run for president as a moderate Democrat in party that has been drifting left.

Biden, 76, opened his speech to a conference of electrical workers joking that he had "permission" to hug the union leader who introduced him. He later repeated the quip about a boy he invited up on stage. The remarks won cheers from the overwhelmingly male audience, but angered some of the activist women Biden has sought to convince he "gets" their concerns about his famously touchy-feely, and some say dated, style.

During his speech at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers conference and afterward to reporters, Biden defended his focus on the "personal connection" in politics.

"I'm sorry I didn't understand more. I'm not sorry for any of my intentions," he told reporters. "I'm not sorry for anything I've ever done -- I've never been disrespectful, intentionally, to a man or a woman."

Biden all but declared he intended to join the race for the Democratic presidential nomination, telling reporters he's "putting everything together, man." He noted his lawyers had warned him to speak carefully about his intentions but said he expected to "be standing before you all relatively soon."

He also suggested his strategy. In a nostalgia-soaked speech, Biden made clear he would position himself outside the progressive wing of the party and seek support from traditional Democrats and the working-class voters who backed Donald Trump in 2016.

Biden said criticism of his bipartisan leanings was coming from the "far left" and reupped his appeal for compromise — a sometimes unpopular view in the Trump-era.

He bemoaned modern politics that's "gotten so damn elitist."

"The vast majority of the members of the Democratic party are still basically liberal to moderate Democrats in the traditional sense," Biden said. As to where he falls on ideological lines, he said, "I'm an Obama-Biden Democrat, man. And I'm proud of it."

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But signs of changes in the party have been evident in recent complaints about Biden's history of publicly affectionate behavior with women. Nevada politician Lucy Flores said she was uncomfortable when Biden kissed her on the back of the head backstage at a 2014 campaign event. Her account was countered by scores of women — from prominent lawmakers to former staffers — who praised him as a warm, affectionate person and a supportive boss. But several other women have also come forward to recount their own awkward interactions with him.

Flores panned Biden's remarks Friday, tweeting: "To make light of something as serious as consent degrades the conversation women everywhere are courageously trying to have."

Ultra Violet, a women's rights group that initially urged Biden to do better, also reacted sharply: "Joe Biden's 'jokes' were shameful, and not how a so-called 'champion of women' should act," the group posted on Twitter. "He sent a very clear signal to women today - he just doesn't respect them."

Biden did say the controversy "is going to have to change somewhat how I campaign."

That controversy aside, Biden's address seemed intended to highlight how he could win back white, blue-collar workers like those who supported Trump in 2016. He seemed to criticize his own party for walking away from the demographic.

He recounted a time when, he said, the dignity of teachers, sanitation and electrical line workers was treasured and the nation felt it had a common purpose. Saying his father, a salesman, told him to respect everyone, Biden alluded to various "sophisticated friends" who don't get the significance of treating blue-collar laborers as equals.

"All you're looking for is to be treated fairly, with respect, with some dignity," Biden said. "Because you matter."

Biden also noted he'd gotten criticism from the left for saying Democrats should work with Republicans to get things done, and in defending President Barack Obama's signature law, the Affordable Care Act, which some Democratic presidential aspirants want to replace with a single-payer health care system.

"We need to build on it," Biden said of the law. "What we can't do is blow it up."

Shortly after Biden was finished speaking, Trump hit back. "I've employed thousands of Electrical Workers," the president tweeted as his plane flew toward the Mexican border with California. "They will be voting for me!"

However, the IBEW endorsed Hillary Clinton over Trump in 2016.

Biden's advisers had signaled ahead of the speech that he was not going to mention the physical-touching controversy. But he attempted to defuse it by embracing the union's male president and kidding about it. While that may have landed with a thud to some outside the room, the labor leaders rose to their feet and applauded.

The criticism of Biden's form of affection is a symptom of what ails not just politics but American life, said Denise Johnson, an attendee from Mechanicsville, Maryland.

"He's a warm and affectionate person. He's sincere and he speaks from his heart," said Johnson, who works for the IBEW in Washington. "But in the society we live, we're losing that warmth. We need to get it back. This could actually rally for him."

Friday was the second time in two days that President Trump attacked Biden on Twitter. Despite more than a dozen women who have accused Trump of sexual misconduct, on Thursday the president posted a doctored version of a cellphone video Biden released addressing the controversy over his touching. In Trump's version, a Biden avatar approaches Biden from behind and appears to grab his shoulders.

Trump has denied the allegations of sexual misconduct, and on Friday he told reporters he saw no reason to avoid going after Biden on the issue. "Yeah, I think I'm a very good messenger and people got a kick out of it," Trump said.

None of the 2020 Democratic presidential candidates commented on Biden's appearance.

Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, when asked after an event thanking small donors if she had ever felt uncomfortable around Biden, said, "I've said all I'm going to say about Joe Biden."

Riccardi reported from Denver. AP writer Alexandra Jaffe in Waterloo, Iowa, contributed to this report.

Follow Thomas Beaumont at <http://twitter.com/tombeaumont> .

West Virginia mother charged in false abduction report

By ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — A woman who told police that an Egyptian man had tried to kidnap her daughter from a West Virginia shopping mall was jailed Friday after the accusation unraveled, a police detective said.

Barboursville Police Detective Greg Lucas said Santana Renee Adams was charged with falsely reporting an emergency incident, a misdemeanor that carries up to six months in jail and a \$500 fine.

The 24-year-old Adams turned herself in about 2 p.m. and was jailed after a magistrate judge set bail at \$20,000, Lucas said. She was calm and quiet while she was booked and ignored questions from a throng of reporters waiting for her at the courthouse, he said. Lucas said she didn't have an attorney yet.

The charge capped a sensational tale of a mother using a gun to thwart a brazen abduction attempt that quickly fell apart amid inconsistencies.

Adams initially told police that a man grabbed her 5-year-old daughter by the hair inside a clothing store Monday and tried to pull her away but stopped when Adams produced a gun, authorities said. A criminal complaint went into further detail, describing a frightening scene where a Middle Eastern man dragged the girl by the hair as she dropped to the floor.

But the story started to crumble when no witnesses could be found and mall surveillance video didn't match the woman's original statement. Upon additional questioning, authorities said, Adams began changing her account.

She later told investigators she may have overreacted and misinterpreted the man's intentions. Police said he may have simply been patting the girl on the head.

"There's quite a bit that doesn't line up," Lucas said.

On Thursday, authorities announced they were dropping charges against the man, Mohamed Fathy Hussein Zayan, a 54-year-old engineer from Alexandria, Egypt, who was in the area for work. He cried as he greeted family members upon his release from jail.

"Unfortunately, as false accusations are becoming more prevalent in today's social media driven society, we are losing our grasp on 'presumed innocent until proven guilty,' and Mr. Zayan has been tried around the world by the court of public opinion," Zayan's public defender attorney, Michelle Protzman, said in a statement Thursday to The Associated Press.

Back at the police station after Adams was jailed, Lucas had a moment to reflect.

"It has been a long and sleepless week," he said.

Gone in 6 minutes: an Ethiopian Airlines jet's final journey

By DAVID KOENIG AP Airlines Writer

From nearly the moment they roared down the runway and took off in their new Boeing jetliner, the pilots of Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302 encountered problems with the plane.

Almost immediately, a device called a stick shaker began vibrating the captain's control column, warning him that the plane might be about to stall and fall from the sky.

For six minutes, the pilots were bombarded by alarms as they fought to fly the plane, at times pulling back in unison on their control columns in a desperate attempt to keep the huge jet aloft.

Ethiopian authorities issued a preliminary report Thursday on the March 10 crash that killed 157 people. They found that a malfunctioning sensor sent faulty data to the Boeing 737 Max 8's anti-stall system and triggered a chain of events that ended in a crash so violent it reduced the plane to shards and pieces. The pilots' struggle, and the tragic ending, mirrored an Oct. 29 crash of a Lion Air Max 8 off the coast of

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Indonesia, which killed 189 people.

The anti-stall system, called MCAS, automatically lowers the plane's nose under some circumstances to prevent an aerodynamic stall. Boeing acknowledged that a sensor in the Ethiopian Airlines jet malfunctioned, triggering MCAS when it was not needed. The company repeated that it is working on a software upgrade to fix the problem in its best-selling plane.

"It's our responsibility to eliminate this risk," CEO Dennis Muilenburg said in a video. "We own it, and we know how to do it."

Jim Hall, a former chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, said the preliminary findings add urgency to re-examine the way that the Federal Aviation Administration uses employees of aircraft manufacturers to conduct safety-related tasks, including tests and inspections — a decades-old policy that raises questions about the agency's independence and is now under review by the U.S. Justice Department, the Transportation Department's inspector general and congressional committees.

"It is clear now that the process itself failed to produce a safe aircraft," Hall said. "The focus now is to see if there were steps that were skipped or tests that were not properly done."

The 33-page preliminary report, which is subject to change in the coming months, is based on information from the plane's flight data and cockpit voice recorders, the so-called black boxes. It includes a minute-by-minute narrative of a gripping and confusing scene in the cockpit.

Just one minute into Flight 302 from Addis Ababa to Nairobi in neighboring Kenya, the captain, Yared Getachew, reported that they were having flight-control problems.

Then the anti-stall system kicked in and pushed the nose of the plane down for nine seconds. Instead of climbing, the plane descended slightly. Audible warnings — "Don't Sink" — sounded in the cockpit. The pilots fought to turn the nose of the plane up, and briefly they were able to resume climbing.

But the automatic anti-stall system pushed the nose down again, triggering more squawks of "Don't Sink" from the plane's ground-proximity warning system.

Following a procedure that Boeing reiterated after the Lion Air crash, the Ethiopian pilots flipped two switches and disconnected the anti-stall system, then tried to regain control. They asked to return to the Addis Ababa airport, but were continuing to struggle getting the plane to gain altitude.

Then they broke with Boeing procedure and returned power to controls including the anti-stall system, perhaps hoping to use power to adjust a tail surface that controls the pitch up or down of a plane, or maybe out of sheer desperation.

One final time, the automated system kicked in, pushing the plane into a nose dive, according to the report.

A half-minute later, the cockpit voice recording ended, the plane crashed, and all 157 people on board were killed. The plane's impact left a crater 10 meters deep.

The Max is Boeing's newest version of its workhorse single-aisle jetliner, the 737, which dates to the 1960s. Fewer than 400 Max jets have been sent to airlines around the world, but Boeing has taken orders for 4,600 more.

Boeing delivered this particular plane, tail number ET-AVJ, to Ethiopian Airlines in November. By the day of Flight 302, it had made nearly 400 flights and been in the air for 1,330 hours — still very new by airline standards.

The pilots were young, too, and between them they had a scant 159 hours of flying time on the Max.

The captain, Getachew, was just 29 but had accumulated more than 8,000 hours of flying since completing work at the airline's training academy in 2010. He had flown more than 1,400 hours on Boeing 737s but just 103 hours on the Max. That may not be surprising, given that Ethiopian Airlines had just five of the planes, including ET-AVJ.

The co-pilot, Ahmed Nur Mohammad Nur, was only 25 and was granted a license to fly the 737 and the Max on Dec. 12 of last year. He had logged just 361 flight hours — not enough to be hired as a pilot at a U.S. airline. Of those hours, 207 were on 737s, including 56 hours on Max jets.

Thursday's preliminary report found that both pilots performed all the procedures recommended by

Boeing on the March 10 flight but still could not control the jet.

While Boeing continues to work on its software update, Max jets remain grounded worldwide. The CEO said the company is taking "a comprehensive, disciplined approach" to fixing the flight-control software.

But some critics, including Hall, the former NTSB chairman, question why the work has taken so long. "Don't you think if Boeing knew what the fix was, we would have the fix by now?" he said. "They said after the Lion Air accident there was going to be a fix, yet there was a second accident with no fix. Now, in response to the worldwide reaction, the plane is grounded and there is still not a fix."

Ex-spy Valerie Plame eyes run for Congress in New Mexico

By **RUSSELL CONTRERAS** Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Former CIA operative, author and activist Valerie Plame said Friday she is considering a 2020 run for an open U.S. congressional seat in New Mexico.

Plame told The Associated Press she is spending time with residents and will make a decision soon. The seat is currently held by Democratic U.S. Rep. Ben Ray Lujan, who is stepping down to run for U.S. Senate.

"Right now, I am going around and meeting with people," said Plame, a Democrat. "I have a lot to learn and I would like another opportunity to serve my country."

Plame had previously told media outlets she was considering the U.S. House seat or a bid for the U.S. Senate but told The AP on Friday she is looking at the House to "continue Ben Ray's legacy."

Plame became a national figure after her identity as a CIA operative was leaked by an official in President George W. Bush's administration in 2003 in an effort to discredit her then-husband Joe Wilson.

Wilson is a former diplomat who criticized Bush's decision to invade Iraq. Plame left the agency in 2005. Plame said she'd be honored to represent the sprawling district, which covers all of northern New Mexico, parts of the Navajo Nation and a large portion of the state's east side.

She would face several Democratic contenders if she decides to run. State Rep. Joseph Sanchez, businessman Mark McDonald, and former Navajo Nation presidential and vice presidential candidate Dineh Benally have already announced they are candidates and Santa Fe District Attorney Marco Serna is considering a bid.

I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, a former top aide to Vice President Dick Cheney was convicted of lying to investigators and obstruction of justice following the 2003 leak. President Donald Trump issued a full pardon to Libby last year.

In 2017, the Wilsons launched an unsuccessful crowdfunding effort to buy Twitter so Trump couldn't use it. At the time, Plame said if she didn't get enough funding to purchase a majority of shares, she would explore options to buy "a significant stake" and champion the proposal at Twitter's annual shareholder meeting. Plame and Wilson divorced later that year.

Plame is the author of the memoir "Fair Game: My Life as a Spy, My Betrayal by the White House." The book was made into a 2010 movie starring Sean Penn and Naomi Watts.

This story has corrected the spelling of Ben Ray Lujan.

Follow Russell Contreras on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/russcontreras>

Vaccine wars: Social media battle outbreak of bogus claims

By **BARBARA ORTUTAY** AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Like health officials facing outbreaks of disease, internet companies are trying to contain vaccine-related misinformation they have long helped spread. So far, their efforts at quarantine are falling short.

Searches of Facebook, Pinterest and Instagram turn up all sorts of bogus warnings about vaccines, including the soundly debunked notions that they cause autism or that mercury preservatives and other

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substances in them can poison and even kill people.

Some experts fear that the online spread of bad information about vaccines is planting or reinforcing fears in parents, and they suspect it is contributing to the comeback in recent years of certain dangerous childhood diseases, including measles, whooping cough and mumps.

"The online world has been one that has been very much taken over by misinformation spread by concerned parents," said Richard Carpiano, a professor of public policy and sociology at the University of California, Riverside, who studies vaccine trends. "Medical doctors don't command the sort of authority they did decades ago. There is a lack of confidence in institutions people had faith in."

The effort to screen out bogus vaccine information online is one more front in the battle by social media to deal with fake news of all sorts, including political propaganda. (Researchers have even found Russia-linked bots trying to sow discord by amplifying both sides of the vaccine debate.)

Pinterest, the digital scrapbooking and search site that has been a leading online repository of vaccine misinformation, took the seemingly drastic step in 2017 of blocking all searches for the term "vaccines."

But it's been a leaky quarantine. Recently, a search for "measles vaccine" still brought up, among other things, a post titled "Why We Said NO to the Measles Vaccine," along with a sinister-looking illustration of a hand holding an enormous needle titled "Vaccine-nation: poisoning the population one shot at a time."

Facebook, meanwhile, said in March that it would no longer recommend groups and pages that spread hoaxes about vaccines, and that it would reject ads that do this. This appears to have filtered out some of the most blatant sources of vaccine misinformation, such as the website Naturalnews.com.

But even after the changes, anti-vax groups were among the first results to come up on a search of "vaccine safety." A search of "vaccine," meanwhile, turns up the verified profile of Dr. Christiane Northrup, a physician who is outspoken in her misgivings about — and at times opposition to — vaccines.

On Facebook's Instagram, hashtags such as "vaccineskill" and accounts against vaccinating children are easily found with a simple search for "vaccines."

The discredited ideas circulating online include the belief that the recommended number of shots for babies is too much for their bodies to handle, that vaccines infect people with the same viruses they are trying to prevent, or that the natural immunity conferred by catching a disease is better than vaccines.

In truth, fear and suspicion of vaccines have been around as long as vaccines have existed. Smallpox inoculations caused a furor in colonial New England in the 1700s. And anti-vaccine agitation existed online long before Facebook and Twitter.

Still, experts in online misinformation say social networking and the way its algorithms disseminate the most "engaging" posts — whether true or not — have fueled the spread of anti-vaccination propaganda and pushed parents into the anti-vax camp.

Jeanine Guidry, a professor at Virginia Commonwealth University who studies social media and vaccines, said social media amplifies these conversations and creates echo chambers that can reinforce bad information.

Carpiano said it is difficult to document the actual effect social media has had on vaccination rates, but "we do see decrease in coverage and rise in gaps of coverage," as well as clusters of vaccine-hesitant people.

Despite high-profile outbreaks, overall vaccination rates remain high in the U.S., according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. But the percentage of children under 2 who haven't received any vaccines is growing.

Some of the fake news online about health and medicine appears to be spread by people who may genuinely believe it. Some seems intended to wreak havoc in public discourse. And some appears to be for financial gain.

InfoWars, the conspiracy site run by right-wing provocateur Alex Jones, routinely pushes anti-vax information and stories of "forced inoculations" while selling what are billed as immune supplements. Naturalnews.com sells such products, too.

"It is a misinformation campaign," Carpiano said. "Often couched in 'Oh, we are for choice, understand-

ing, education," he said. "But fundamentally it is not open to scientific debate."

Smollett's lawyer warns Chicago not to sue 'Empire' actor

By **DON BABWIN** Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — An attorney for Jussie Smollett has written a letter warning that if Chicago follows through on its vow to sue the "Empire" actor for the cost of the investigation into his claim that he was attacked, he'll demand sworn testimony from Mayor Rahm Emanuel, the police chief and others.

In a letter dated April 4 — the same day the city announced that it was drafting a lawsuit for \$130,106 — celebrity defense attorney Mark Geragos wrote that Smollett will "not be intimidated" by what he calls "threats that were made maliciously."

The threatened lawsuit and stern response mark the latest chapter in a story that has taken a number of strange twists since Smollett first reported in January that he was the victim of a racist and homophobic attack by two masked men in downtown Chicago. And it is the clearest indication yet that — despite the prosecutors' stunning announcement last month that they were dropping the 16 felony counts of disorderly conduct against the actor — the saga is far from over.

The city, which still adamantly contends that Smollett concocted the story and paid two brothers to stage the attack, said the lawsuit will be filed "in the near future" if Smollett doesn't pay for the hours of work detectives spent chasing down leads, collecting surveillance video and talking to potential witnesses. But Smollett just as adamantly denies the allegations and Geragos' letter doubles down on that denial, saying the claim that Smollett "filed a false police report and orchestrated his own attack is false and defamatory."

Geragos also said he will demand sworn depositions from the two brothers who told police that Smollett paid them to stage the attack, as well as their attorney and their attorney's husband. He said he will also demand all the paperwork generated in the investigation.

The letter, first obtained by the Chicago Tribune, was distributed Friday morning to the Associated Press and other media organizations by the city's law department. The department did not immediately comment on the contents of the letter.

A legal battle between Smollett and the city could answer the question observers in the city and around the country have been asking for the last several days: Why did Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx's office, without explanation and without telling the police they were about to do so, dismiss the charges after securing a 16-count grand jury indictment and despite their contention that Smollett had, in fact, orchestrated the attack?

A judge has sealed the court file at the request of Smollett's attorneys, and has said he will announce next month his decision on whether to unseal the file at the request of several media organizations, including The Associated Press.

Given that the case was active only a matter of weeks, that file is likely very slim. But the investigative file could contain information such as texts between Smollett and the brothers that would reveal exactly why what started as a possible hate crime investigation against the black and openly gay actor turned into a criminal investigation of him.

It would also bring renewed attention to Foxx, whose office dismissed the charges after she recused herself from the case because of communications between her and a relative of Smollett. Foxx has come under intense criticism for her handling of the case, as well as the investigation that led to sexual abuse charges against R&B star R. Kelly. This week more than two dozen suburban Chicago police chiefs joined the president of the Chicago police union in demanding that Foxx resign.

Jobs rebound drives US stocks higher for another weekly gain

By **ALEX VEIGA** AP Business Writer

Wall Street closed out another solid week of gains Friday as the stock market hit its longest winning streak in a year and a half.

Health care, energy and technology companies accounted for much of the broad rally, which extended

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the S&P 500's consecutive run of gains to seven days. The benchmark index also ended the week with its second straight weekly gain. Small company stocks did better than the rest of the market.

A strong rebound in hiring, which eased worries that the U.S. economy is slowing too sharply, helped put traders in a buying mood.

The jobs report also hit a happy medium for markets, strategists said. It was neither low enough to heighten recession worries nor high enough to prod the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates.

"The big driver now over the next few weeks will be earnings," said Terry Sandven, chief equity strategist at U.S. Bank Wealth Management. "The bar is low, expectations are low, and that sets the market up for maybe some modest upside."

The S&P 500 rose 13.35 points, or 0.5%, to 2,892.74. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 40.36 points, or 0.2%, to 26,424.99. The Nasdaq composite climbed 46.91 points, or 0.6%, to 7,938.69.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller company stocks picked up 15.06 points, or 1%, to 1,582.56.

The S&P 500 has climbed every day this week, though most of the gains were only modest, and it now sits just 1.4% away from its most recent record high, which was set in September. The index has been tacking on more gains since closing out its best quarter in nearly a decade, with a 13.1% rise in the first three months of the year.

On Friday, traders drew encouragement from the government's latest monthly tally of hiring.

The Labor Department said that U.S. employers added 196,000 jobs last month, more than economists had forecast. The strong rebound suggests the prior month's jobs report, which was shockingly weak, may have been an aberration and that the economy can continue to grow, albeit at a slower pace.

"This is another green shoot of growth," Steve Chiavarone, portfolio manager and equity strategist at Federated Investors, who pointed to other encouraging data about the U.S. and China's economies from recent weeks. He expects economic growth to re-accelerate after hitting a bottom in the first part of 2009.

And with the Fed on record saying it may not raise rates at all this year, after having done so four times in 2018, "good news now is just good news," Chiavarone said.

That's unlike prior market scares, when investors saw strong data as bad news because it could encourage a more aggressive Fed. The mentality flipped earlier this year after the Fed said it may not raise rates at all this year after raising them four times in 2018.

The unemployment rate last month remained near a 50-year low of 3.8%. Average hourly earnings rose 3.2% in March from a year earlier, which was weaker than economists' forecasts. Markets pay close attention to the numbers because while higher wages help workers afford to buy more things, they also crimp corporate profit margins.

Profitability is one of the market's top concerns as companies line up to begin reporting their first-quarter results next week.

Analysts expect companies in the S&P 500 to report a nearly 4% drop in earnings per share from a year earlier, which would be the first decline since the spring of 2016.

The expected drop in profits is due almost entirely to weaker profit margins. Analysts are forecasting that revenue grew nearly 5% for S&P 500 companies during the quarter. Companies are holding on to less of each \$1 of revenue as profit than a year ago, analysts say.

Health care and technology companies helped pulled the market higher Friday. Cigna rose 2.9% and Lam Research added 2.2%.

Energy stocks in the S&P 500 jumped 1.7%, by far the biggest gain among the 11 sectors that make up the index.

Apache jumped 6.6%, EOG Resources rose 5.3% and Anadarko Petroleum added 4.3% as energy-related stocks plowed higher with the price of crude oil.

The strong jobs report helped expectations for oil demand, and benchmark U.S. crude rose 1.6% to settle at \$63.08 a barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, added 1.4% to close at \$70.34.

Treasury yields wavered following the jobs report.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury tends to rise and fall with expectations for the U.S. economy and inflation, and it had been largely falling since last autumn as worries about a possible recession grew. After

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hitting a bottom at 2.37% last week, though, it had begun to recover.

On Friday, the yield on the 10-year Treasury climbed as high as 2.54% in the minutes following the job report's release, up from 2.51% late Thursday. But the gains evaporated, and it subsequently dipped down to 2.49%.

The yield on the two-year Treasury, whose movements are more closely tied to the Fed's actions, also bounced up and down following the jobs report. It rose to 2.33% from 2.32% late Thursday.

Major indexes in Europe finished higher, led by Britain's FTSE 100. The index rose 0.6% after Prime Minister Theresa May requested a further Brexit extension from the European Union until June 30 to give the U.K. breathing room since it is now scheduled to leave the bloc in just one week.

European Council President Donald Tusk proposed a longer time frame, urging the 27 other EU nations to offer the U.K. a flexible extension of up to a year to make sure the nation doesn't crash out of the bloc in a chaotic and costly way.

The CAC 40 in France and Germany's DAX each rose 0.2%.

The dollar rose to 111.71 yen from 111.58 yen on Thursday. The euro weakened to \$1.1218 from \$1.1221.

Gold inched 0.1% higher to \$1,295.60 an ounce, silver was little changed at \$15.09 an ounce and copper fell 0.5% to \$2.89 a pound.

In other energy futures trading, wholesale gasoline rose 1.5% to \$1.97 a gallon, heating oil picked up 1.4% to \$2.04 a gallon and natural gas gained 0.8% to \$2.66 per 1,000 cubic feet.

AP Business Writers Stan Choe and Elaine Kurtenbach contributed to this report.

Today in History By the Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, April 6, the 96th day of 2019. There are 269 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 6, 1830, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized by Joseph Smith in Fayette, New York.

On this date:

In 1862, the Civil War Battle of Shiloh began in Tennessee as Confederate forces launched a surprise attack against Union troops, who beat back the Confederates the next day.

In 1896, the first modern Olympic games formally opened in Athens, Greece.

In 1909, American explorers Robert E. Peary and Matthew A. Henson and four Inuits became the first men to reach the North Pole.

In 1917, the United States entered World War I as the House joined the Senate in approving a declaration of war against Germany that was then signed by President Woodrow Wilson.

In 1945, during World War II, the Japanese warship Yamato and nine other vessels sailed on a suicide mission to attack the U.S. fleet off Okinawa; the fleet was intercepted the next day.

In 1954, Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, R-Wis., responding to CBS newsman Edward R. Murrow's broadside against him on "See It Now," said in remarks filmed for the program that Murrow had, in the past, "engaged in propaganda for Communist causes."

In 1965, the United States launched Intelsat I, also known as the "Early Bird" communications satellite, into geosynchronous orbit.

In 1968, 41 people were killed by two consecutive natural gas explosions at a sporting goods store in downtown Richmond, Indiana.

In 1971, Russian-born composer Igor Stravinsky, 88, died in New York City.

In 1973, Ron Blomberg of the New York Yankees became Major League Baseball's first designated hitter as he faced pitcher Luis Tiant of the Boston Red Sox at Fenway. (Blomberg was walked with the bases loaded; Boston won the game, 15-5.)

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In 1994, Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun announced his retirement after 24 years.

In 1998, the Dow Jones industrial average closed above 9,000 points for the first time, ending the day at 9,033.23. Country singer Tammy Wynette died at her Nashville home at age 55.

Ten years ago: An earthquake in central Italy killed some 300 people in the country's deadliest quake in nearly three decades. President Barack Obama paid tribute to the memory of modern Turkey's founding father, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, during a visit to Ankara; delivering a speech to the Turkish Parliament, Obama declared the U.S. "is not and never will be at war with Islam." Michael Jordan, along with former Dream Team teammates David Robinson and John Stockton, were elected to the Basketball Hall of Fame; Utah Jazz coach Jerry Sloan and Rutgers women's coach C. Vivian Stringer were also part of a class. North Carolina won the NCAA championship, ending Michigan State's inspirational run with a 89-72 rout.

Five years ago: Legendary Hollywood actor Mickey Rooney, 93, died in North Hollywood. U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel delivered a two-pronged warning to Asia Pacific nations, announcing in Tokyo that the U.S. would send two additional ballistic missile destroyers to Japan to counter the North Korean threat, and saying China had better respect its neighbors.

One year ago: Texas Republican congressman Blake Farenthold abruptly resigned, four months after announcing he wouldn't seek re-election amid sexual harassment allegations. Thousands of Palestinians protested along Gaza's sealed border with Israel; Israeli troops opened fire from across the border, and Gaza health officials said at least nine Palestinians were killed. Former Democratic Sen. Daniel Akaka of Hawaii died in Honolulu at the age of 93. Federal law enforcement authorities seized online classified site Backpage.com and its affiliated websites known for listing adult escort services. A South Korean court sentenced former President Park Geun-hye to 24 years in prison on charges including bribery and extortion stemming from a corruption scandal that removed her from office a year earlier. A transport truck collided with a bus carrying a junior hockey team in western Canada, killing 16 people on the bus.

Today's Birthdays: Nobel Prize-winning scientist James D. Watson is 91. Actor Billy Dee Williams is 82. Actor Roy Thinnes is 81. Movie director Barry Levinson is 77. Actor John Ratzenberger is 72. Actress Patrika Darbo is 71. Baseball Hall of Famer Bert Blyleven is 68. Actress Marilu Henner is 67. Olympic bronze medal figure skater Janet Lynn is 66. Actor Michael Rooker is 64. Former U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann, R-Minn., is 63. Rock musician Warren Haynes is 59. Rock singer-musician Frank Black is 54. Actress Ari Meyers is 50. Actor Paul Rudd is 50. Actor-producer Jason Hervey is 47. Rock musician Markku Lappalainen (mar-KOO' lap-uh-LAN'-en) is 46. Actor Zach Braff is 44. Actor Joel Garland is 44. Actress Candace Cameron Bure (buh-RAY') is 43. Actor Teddy Sears is 42. Jazz and rhythm-and-blues musician Robert Glasper is 41. Actress Eliza Coupe is 38. Folk singer-musician Kenneth Pattengale (Milk Carton Kids) is 37. Actor Bret Harrison is 37. Actor Charlie McDermott is 29.

Thought for Today: "History is the ship carrying living memories to the future." — Sir Stephen Spender, British poet and critic (1909-1995).