

Groton Daily Independent

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ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR WANTED

We are looking for someone with a creative mind and a passion for the elderly. If that is you, here is a great opportunity for YOU!

➤ Interview and assess all residents prior to the initial Care Plan Conference; document this information in the medical record, develop an individual recreation plan based on the assessment and participate in Interdisciplinary Care Plan meetings

➤ Update assessments and plans as needed and required by state or federal regulations

➤ Develop monthly recreation program calendars that reflect and meet the needs of facility residents

➤ Communicate facility programs to residents, staff, family and volunteers

➤ Manage facility Volunteer Program

➤ Maintain departmental documentation that reflects services provided and resident progress towards goals

➤ In coordination with social services facilitate the residents in the organization and continued development of a Resident's Council

➤ Make job assignments and set priorities

➤ Serve as member of QAA committee

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

Chicken Soup
for the Soul

"The greater the
obstacle, the
more glory in
overcoming it."

-Moliere

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

Cub Cadet.

ALL-AROUND STRENGTH



SC 100 HW
PUSH WALK-BEHIND MOWER

- 159cc Cub Cadet® performance-tuned OHV engine
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STARTING AT:
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- 18 HP** Cub Cadet-certified Kohler® 5400 Series single OHV engine
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- 16" pneumatic, ag tread wheels

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605-395-6421

*Product Price - Actual retail prices are set by dealer and may vary. Taxes, freight, setup and handling charges may be additional and may vary. Models subject to limited availability. Specifications and programs are subject to change without notice. Images may not reflect dealer inventory and/or specifications. **As rated by Kohler. All power levels are stated in gross horsepower at 3600 RPM per SAE J1940 as tested by engine manufacturer. **See your local Cub Cadet Independent Dealer for warranty details. © 2018 Cub Cadet LP, an ECOMMERCIAL

Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

Monday, May 13, 2019

10:00am: Girls Varsity Northeast Conference Golf Meet at the Olive Grove Golf Course, Groton. (Aberdeen Roncalli, Milbank, Redfield-Doland, Sisseton)

10:00am: Northeast Conference Junior High Track Meet at Webster

7:00pm- 10:00pm: School Board Meeting at Groton Area High School

Thursday, May 16, 2019

10:00am: Golf: Girls Varsity Meet@ Sisseton Golf Course

12:00pm: Track: Varsity Regions @ Redfield High School

Friday, May 17, 2019

12:30pm- 3:00pm: Elementary Track and Field Day at Doney Field

Sunday, May 19, 2019

2:00pm: Graduation at Groton Area High School

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

2:00pm: DARE Graduation at GHS Gymnasium

7 p.m.: City Council Meeting at the Groton Community Center

Wednesday, May 22, 2019

End of 4th Quarter - Final Day of School

12:00pm: Golf: Girls Varsity Meet @ Milbank Golf Course

Thursday, May 23, 2019

Faculty Inservice

10:00am: Golf: Girls Varsity Regions @ Milbank Golf Course

Friday, May 24, 2019

Faculty Inservice

STATE TRACK MEET @ TEA AREA

Saturday, May 25, 2019

STATE TRACK MEET @ SIOUX FALLS

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
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- Paid Sick Leave
- Referral Bonuses

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

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Princes Prom Photos - Part 2

Photos lifted from GDILIVE.COM video

A DVD of the video is available for \$20. Call/Text Paul at 605/397-7460.



Sophia Fliehs escorted by Drake Patterson.



Dacey Kampa escorted by Chad Kampa.

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Thaisia Khali escorted by Djamel Khali.



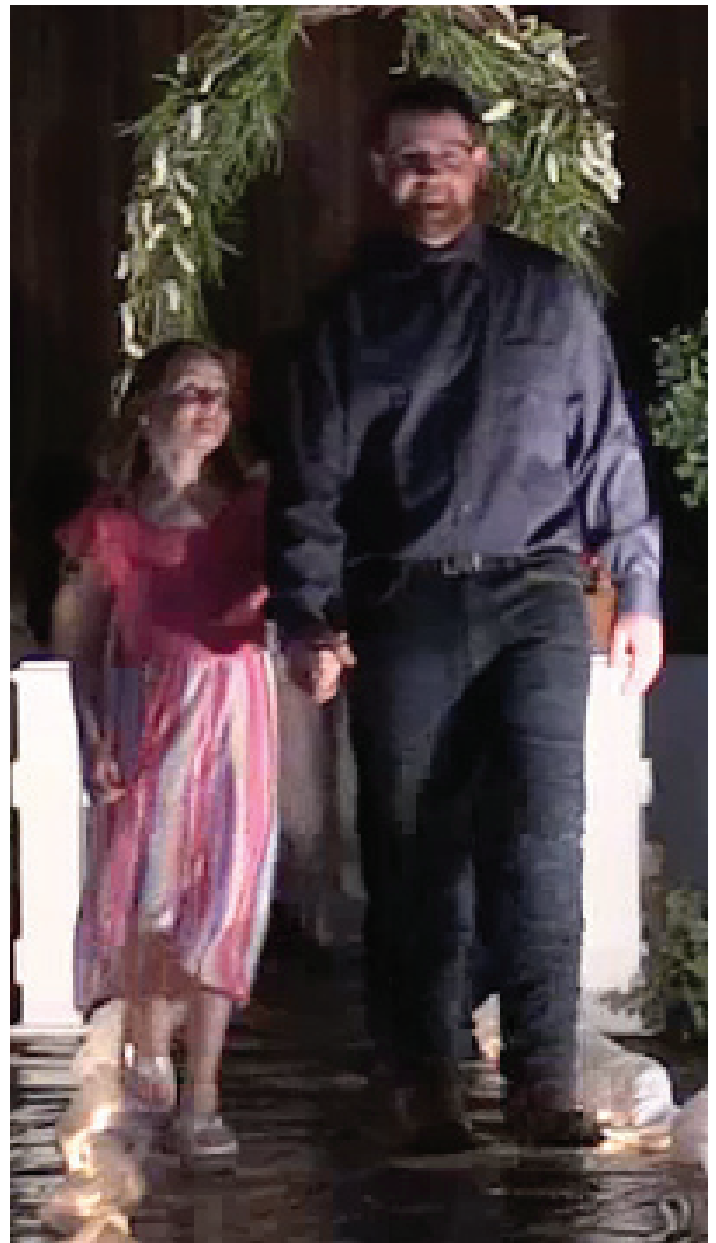
Aurora Washenberger escorted by Dan Washenberger.

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Apen Beto escorted by Jacob Beto.



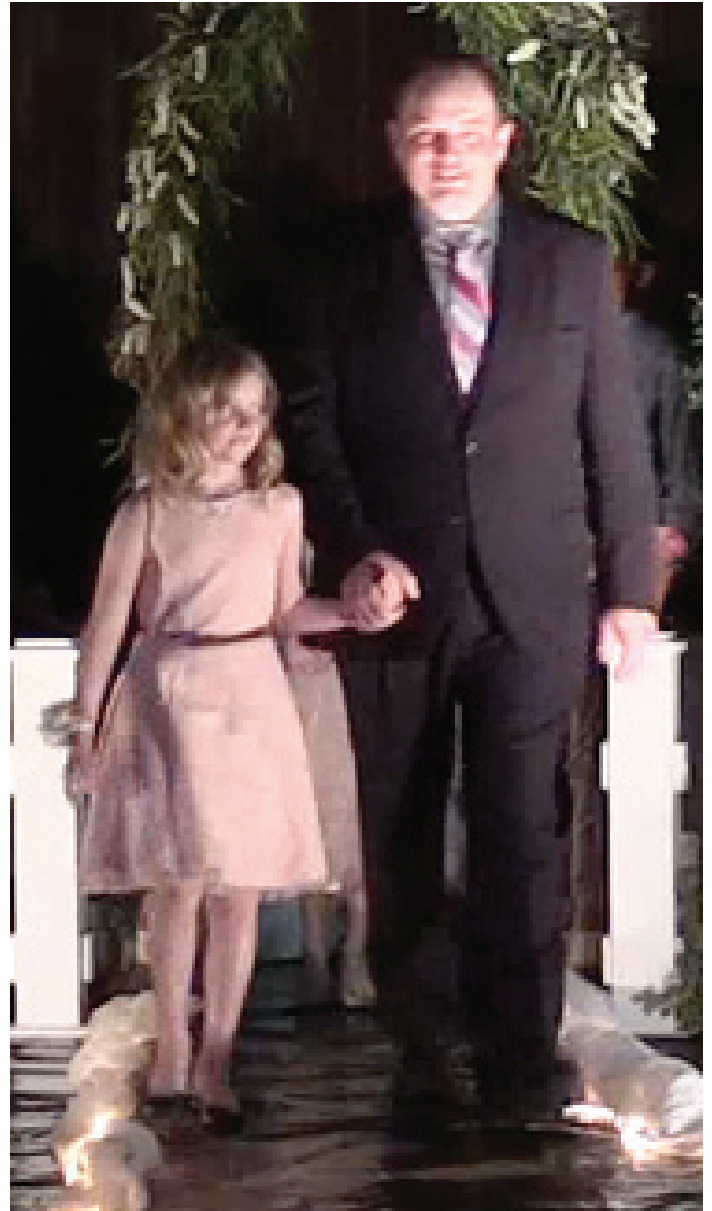
**Korinna Bohlmann
escorted by Jack Klinger.**

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Isabella Daly escorted by Adrian Daly.



**Arianna Dinger
escorted by Weston Dinger.**

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Ryelle Gilbert escorted by Brooks Gilbert.



Aubrey and Camille Gonsoir escorted by Casey Gonsoir.

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**Brooklyn Spanier
escorted by Roger Spanier.**



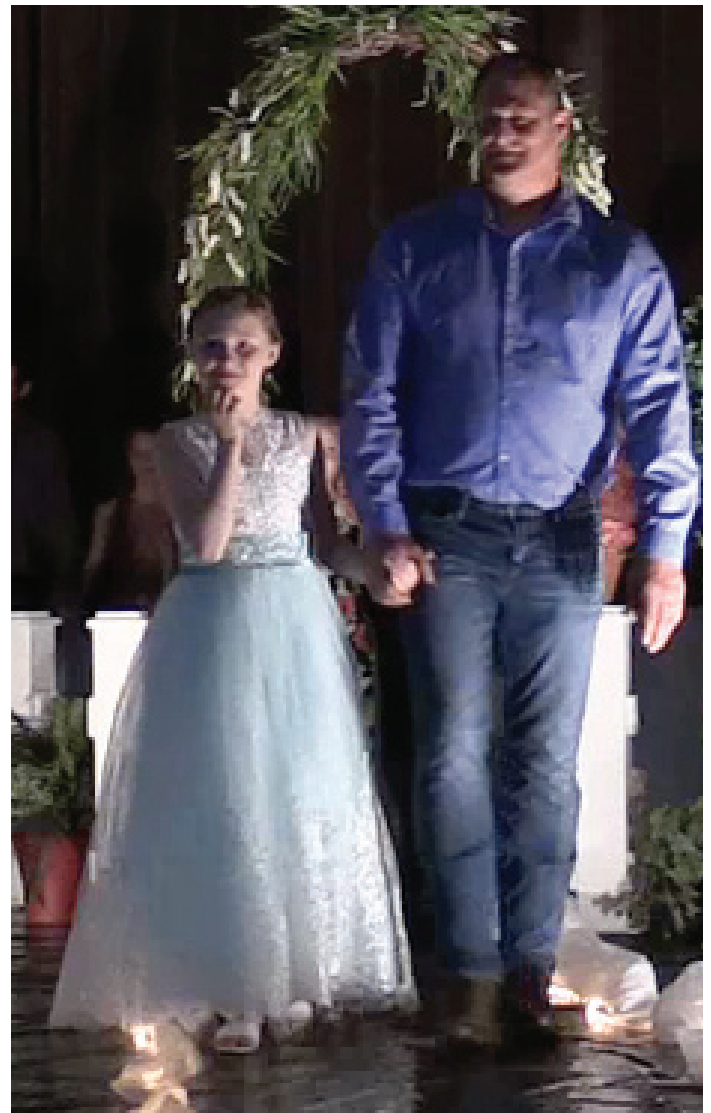
**Novalea and Natalia Warrington
escorted by Neil Warrington.**

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Kyrie Yeigh escorted by Caleb Yeigh.



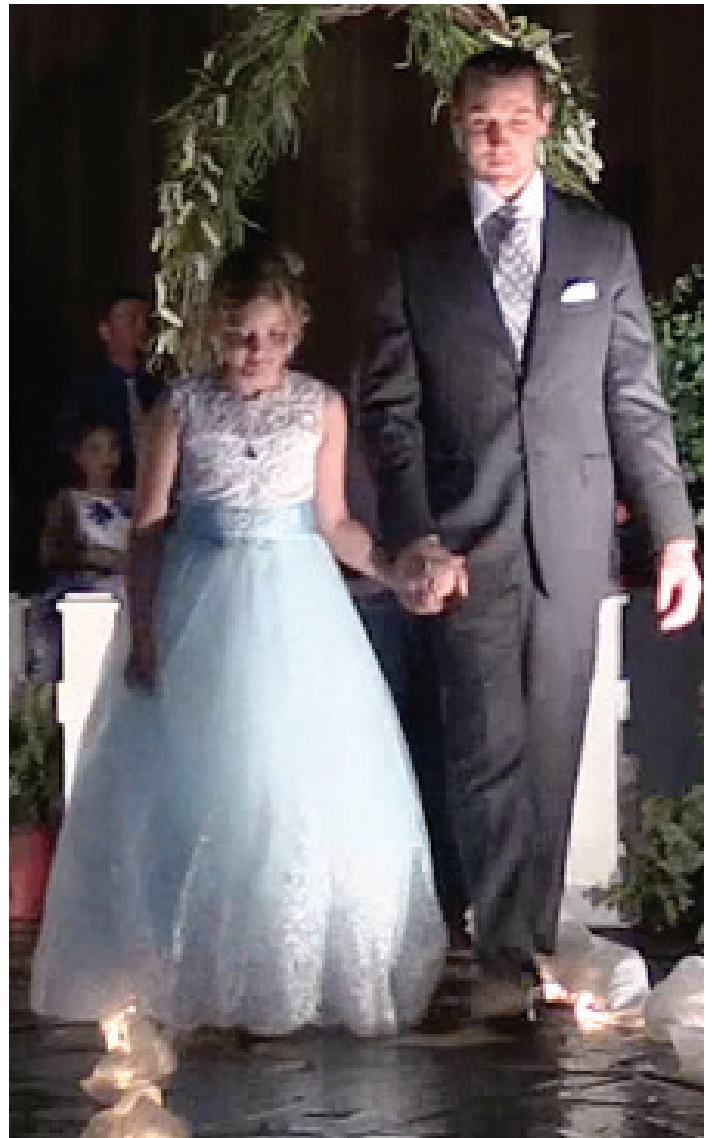
**Caroline Bahr
escorted by Keith Kretschmar.**

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Makenna Krause escorted by Pat Krause.



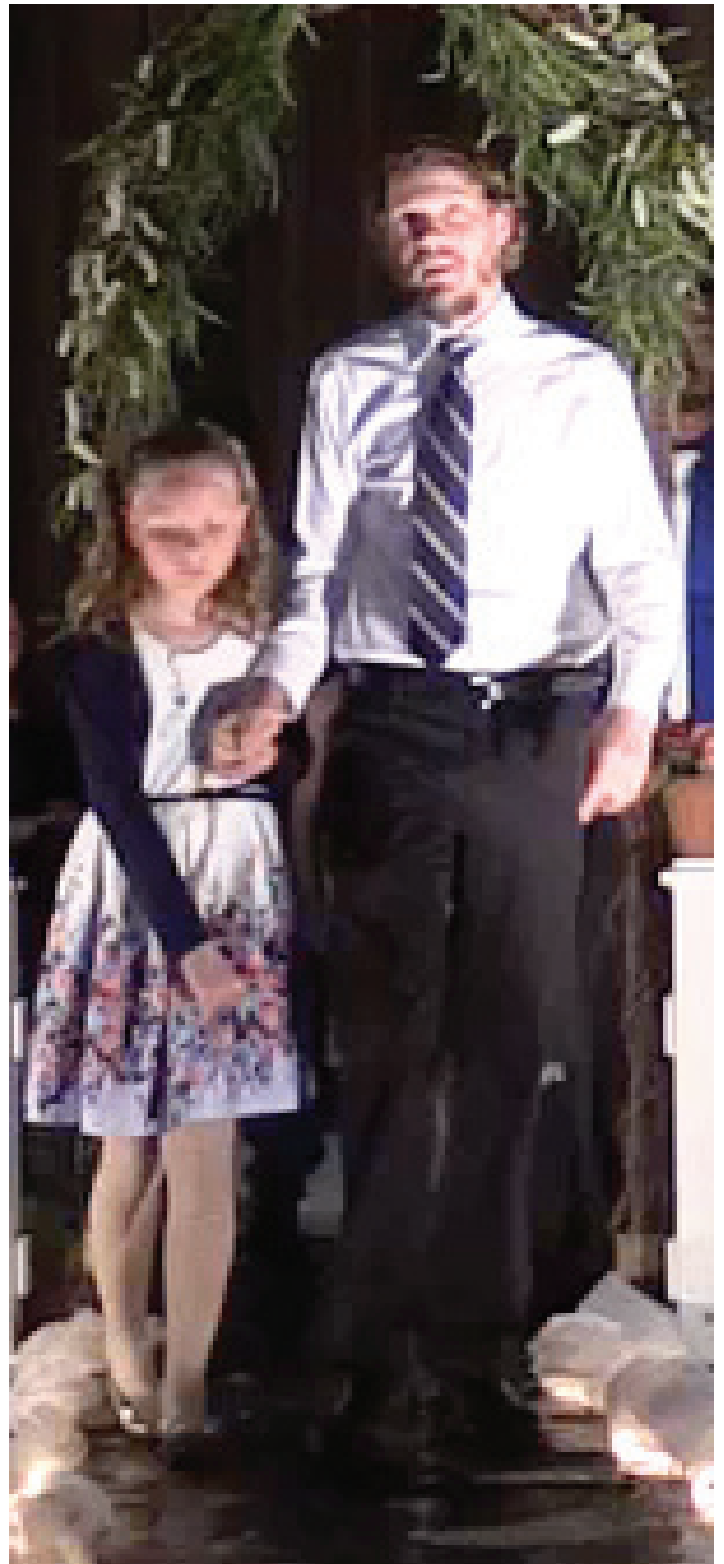
Gracie Pearson escorted by Lucas Pearson.

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Savannah Randell and Sierra Bohlmann escorted by Bobby Bohlmann.



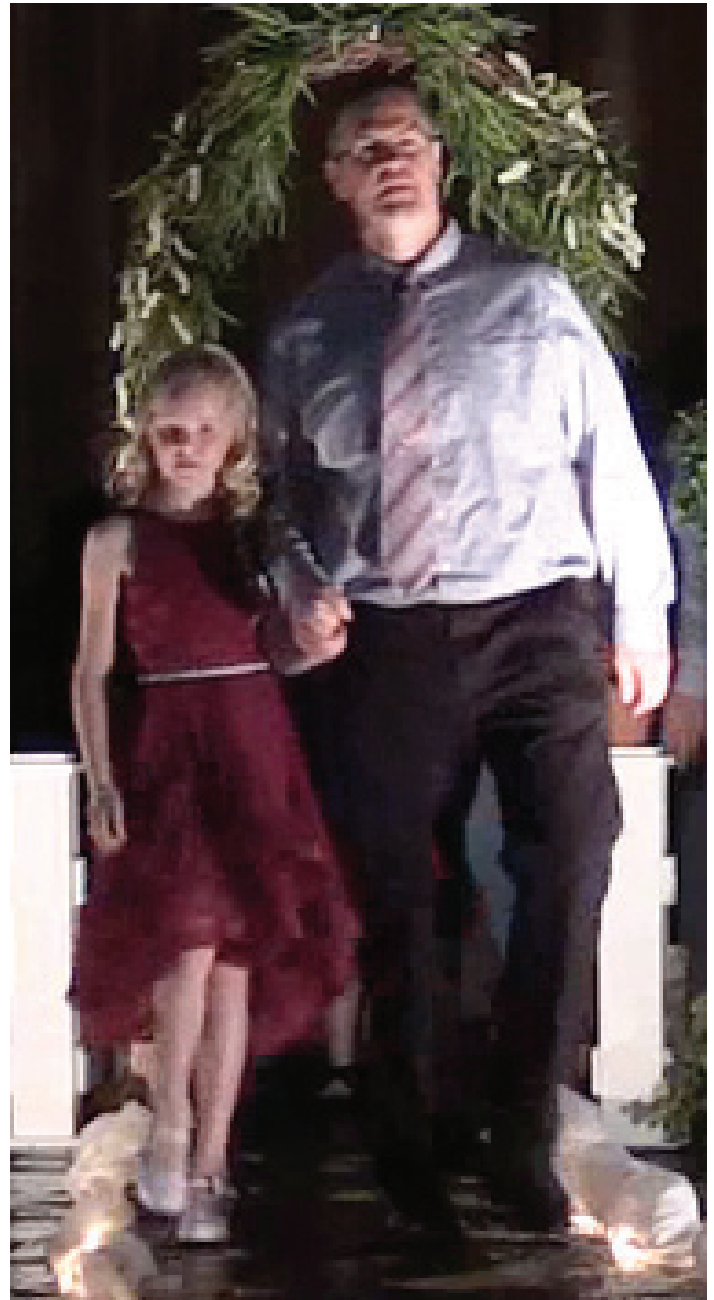
Rylie Rose escorted by Ian Rose.

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**Meleana Hagenson
escorted by Anthony Hagenson.**



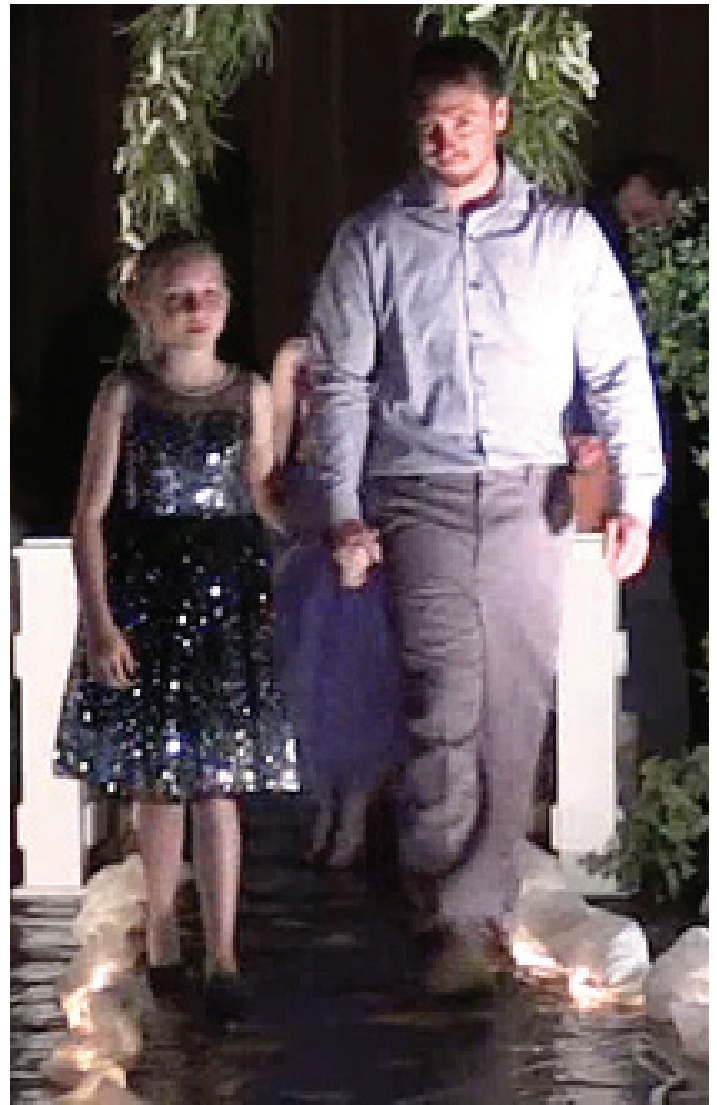
Teagan Hanten escorted by Cody Hanten.

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Halee Harder escorted by TJ Harder.



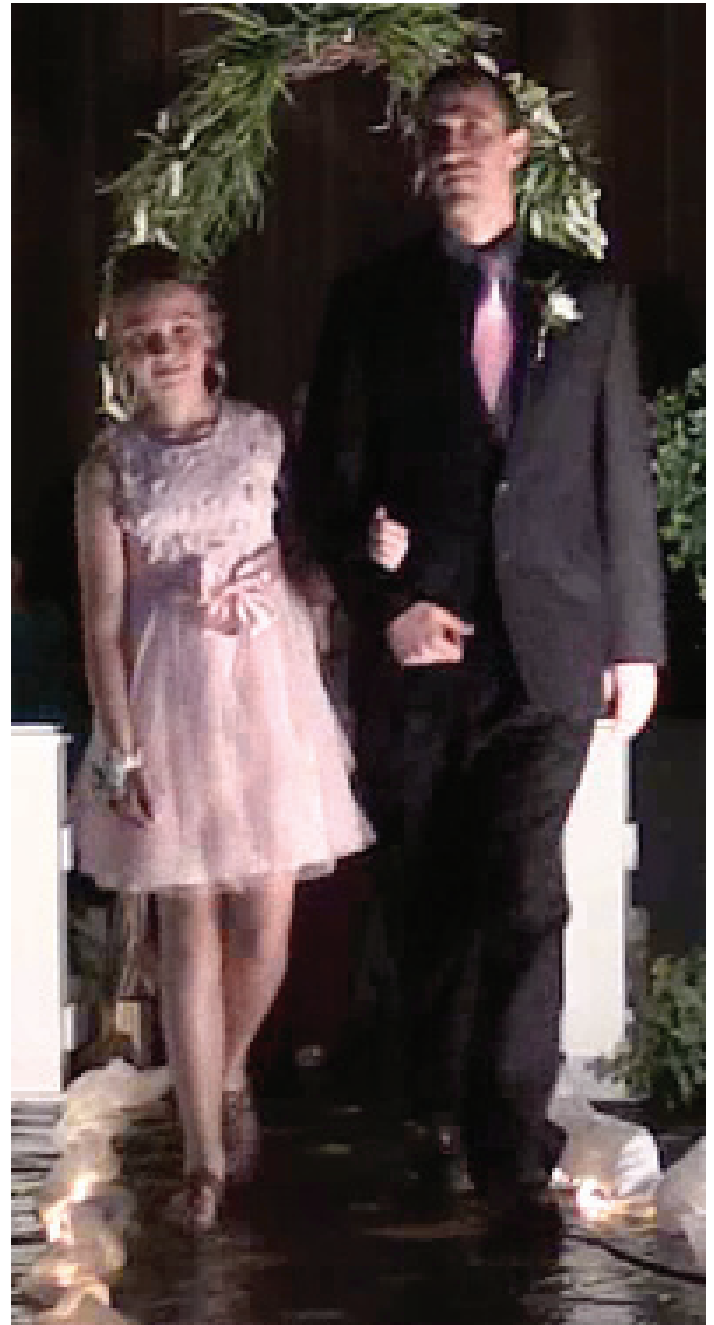
Addison Hoffman escorted by Zack Kirsch.

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Brenna Imrie escorted by Mike Imrie.



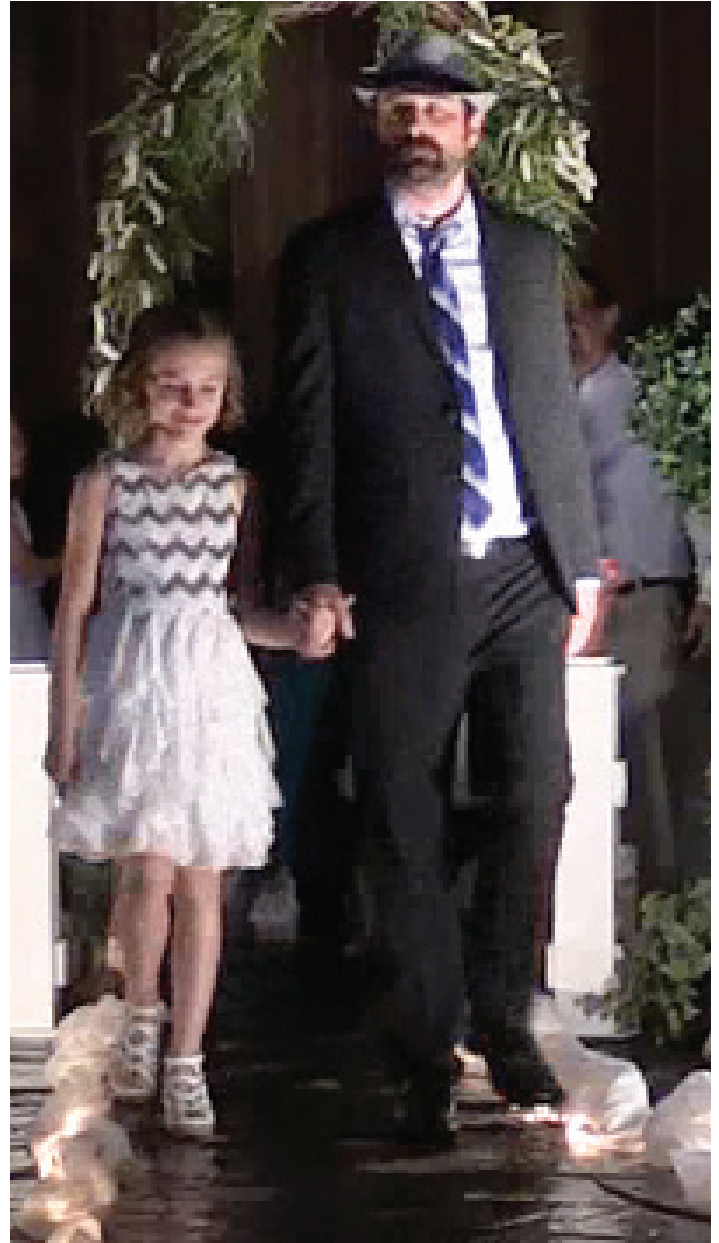
Leah Jones escorted by Brian Jones.

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Hailey Pauli escorted by Brad Pauli.



**Claire Schuelke
escorted by Austin Schuelke.**

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McKenna Tietz escorted by Tom Tietz.



**Ashlynn Warrington
escorted by Jason Warrington.**

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**Keira Weismantel
escorted by Carl Weismantel.**



Emerlee Jones escorted by Jim Jones.

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Talli Wright escorted by Adam Wright.

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MS Band Contest in Webster



6th Graders that received Excellent/ Excellent Plus Ratings:

(Left to right): Corbin Weismantel (Baritone II+), Axel Warrington, (Snare-II), Emma Kutter (Tenor Sax II+), Kayla Lehr (II), Not pictured is Carson Herrick (Baritone II+). (Courtesy Photo by Desiree Yeigh)



6th Graders that received Superior Plus Ratings

(left to right): Rebecca Poor (Flute), Laila Roberts (Clarinet). (Courtesy Photo by Desiree Yeigh)



6th Graders that received Superior Ratings

Front (left to right): Jeslyn Kosel (Flute), Kaden Kampa (Alto Sax), Blake Dennert (Trumpet), and Kellen Antonsen (Baritone)
Second (left to right): Axel Warrington (Mallets), Carter Simon (Trumpet), Payton Mitchell (Trumpet), Christian Ehresmann (Snare and Mallets)
Third (left to right): Logan Pearson (Tuba), Faith Traphagen (Snare and Mallets), Gretchen Dinger (Flute), and Ashley Johnson (Tenor Sax). (Courtesy Photo by Desiree Yeigh)

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JH Band Gets 3 Superior Ratings

The Groton Junior High Band received a Superior Rating at contest from all three judges!
Front (Left to right): Sierra Ehresmann, Ellie Weismantel, Veronica Tank, Harley Tank, Lane Tietz

Second (Left to right): Ashlyn Sperry, Anna Fjeldheim, Sydney Leicht, Shaylee Peterson, Cadance Tullis, Kamryn Flieds, Cadance Feist, Shea Jandel, Hannah Monson

Third (left to right): Kaleb Antonsen, Carter Barse, Ava Kramer, Cole Simon, Emily Clark, Kyleigh Englund, Lydia Meier, Jackson Dinger, Michael Weisenburger, Jackson Garstecki

Back Row (left to right): Logan Ringgenburg, Ethan Pigors, Caleb Hanten, Bryson Wambach, Danny Feist, Ethan Clark. (Courtesy Photo by Desiree Yeigh)



JH Superior Pluses

8th Graders that received a Superior Plus Rating on their solos

(Left to right): Jackson Dinger (French Horn, Harley Tank (Bass Clarinet). Jackson has received a superior plus rating on his solo for 3 years in a row! (Courtesy Photo by Desiree Yeigh)

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JH Excellents

Junior High Students that received an Excellent/Excellent Rating on their solos

Front (Left to right): Lydia Meier (Trumpet-II+), Veronica Tank (Flute-II+), Emily Clark (Snare-II+)

Second (Left to right): Kyleigh Englund (Tenor Sax- II+), Ashley Sperry (Clarinet- II+), Shea Jandel (Clarinet-II+), Ava Kramer (Trumpet-II+)

Third (Left to right): Michael Weisenburger (Baritone- II+), Lane Tietz (II-Mallets), Cole Simon (II), Jackson Garstecki (Trombone-II+), Logan Ringgenburg (Snare-II), Kaleb Antonsen (Alto Sax-II), Danny Feist (Tuba-II+), Bryson Wambach (Alto Sax-II)

Not pictured is Faith Flihs (Snare- II+) (Courtesy Photo by Desiree Yeigh)

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JH Superiors

JH Students that received a Superior Rating

Front (left to right): Harley Tank (Bass Clarinet), Kamryn Flihs (Tenor Sax)

Second (left to right): Emily Clark (Mallets), Hannah Monson (Mallets), Shaylee Peterson (Clarinet), Sierra Ehresmann (Trumpet), Cadence Feist (Bari Sax), Sydney Leicht (Tenor Sax), Anna Fjeldheim (Clarinet), Cadance Tullis (Snare and Mallets), Ellie Weismantel (Snare and Mallets), Carter Barse (Alto Sax), Jackson Dinger (French Horn), Ethan Pigors (Trumpet), Ethan Clark (Baritone), Caleb Hanten (Trombone) (Courtesy Photo by Desiree Yeigh)

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Today in Weather History

May 13, 2005: Runoff from heavy rain resulted in minor flooding along the White River from south of Belvidere to Oacoma, affecting mainly agricultural land along the river. The river rose over its banks and flooded U.S. Highway 83 south of Murdo for a short time. No property damage was reported.

1980: An F3 tornado ripped directly through the center of Kalamazoo, Michigan, killing five people, injuring 79, leaving 1,200 homeless and causing \$50 million in damage. The tornado passed directly over the American Bank, where a barograph reported a pressure drop of 0.59 inches.

1995: This outbreak produced tornadoes extending from the Mississippi River near Burlington, Iowa, to the west of Bloomington, Illinois. Two violent tornadoes, each ranked at F4 intensity, were reported. The first tornado traveled 60 miles from near Fort Madison, Iowa, to the southeast of Galesburg, Illinois producing over \$10 million damage. The town of Raritan, Illinois was hit the hardest. The second violent tornado traveled 7 miles across Fulton County from Ipava to Lewistown, Illinois producing \$6 million damage. Another strong tornado took a 25-mile path across parts of Fulton, Mason, and Tazewell Counties. The storms also produced softball-size hail south and northwest of Macomb in Illinois. Five men were injured in Lawrence County, Indiana when lightning struck one of them and traveled to the other four. There were 184 reports of severe weather, including over three dozen tornadoes.

1930 - A man was killed when caught in an open field during a hailstorm northwest of Lubbock TX. It was the first, and perhaps the only, authentic death by hail in U.S. weather records. (David Ludlum)

1981 - A tornado 450 yards in width destroyed ninety percent of Emberson TX. People did not see a tornado, but rather a wall of debris. Homes were leveled, a man in a bathtub was hurled a quarter of a mile, and a 1500 pound recreational vehicle was hurled 500 yards. Miraculously no deaths occurred in the tornado. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A cold front brought an end to the early season warm spell in the north central U.S., but not before the temperature at Sioux City IA soared to a record warm 95 degrees. Strong southwesterly winds ahead of the cold front gusted to 52 mph at Marais MI. Evening thunderstorms produced golf ball size hail at Rockford MN, and wind gusts to 75 mph at Belmont IA. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)


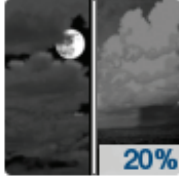



1988 - Strong winds along a cold front ushering cold air into the northwestern U.S. gusted to 69 mph at Myton UT. Temperatures warmed into the 80s ahead of the cold front, as far north as Montana. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing along a warm front produced severe weather in the Southern Plains Region during the afternoon and night. A thunderstorm at Killeen TX produced wind gusts to 95 mph damaging 200 helicopters at Fort Hood causing nearly 500 million dollars damage. Another thunderstorm produced softball size hail at Hodges TX. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)






1990 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front spawned ten tornadoes from eastern Wyoming to northern Kansas, including seven in western Nebraska. Thunderstorms forming ahead of a cold front in the eastern U.S. spawned five tornadoes from northeastern North Carolina to southern Pennsylvania. Thunderstorms over southeast Louisiana deluged the New Orleans area with four to eight inches of rain between 7 AM and Noon. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)


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Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
				
Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy then Isolated Showers	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 73 °F	Low: 49 °F	High: 75 °F	Low: 47 °F	High: 79 °F

Warm & Unsettled This Week

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				
SCATTERED		Overnight	Overnight	
Showers and T-storms Central SD	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny, T-storms Overnight	Mostly Sunny, T-storms Overnight	Showers and Thunderstorms
HIGHS 70 to 80	HIGHS 70s	HIGHS Mid 70s to Mid 80s	HIGHS Mid 70s to Low 80s	HIGHS Low to mid 70s

 NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Updated: 5/13/2019 5:31 AM Central

Published on: 05/13/2019 at 6:39AM

This week will be warm with temperatures often 5 to 10 degrees above average for this time of year. There will also be multiple chances of showers and thunderstorms with the first ongoing this morning from north central South Dakota to central South Dakota. Additional showers and thunderstorms are on tap for this afternoon mainly west of the James River Valley. Additional chances are possible overnight Wednesday, overnight Thursday, and through the weekend.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 63 °F at 6:13 PM

Low Temp: 42 °F at 5:38 AM

Wind: 14 mph at 12:13 AM

Day Rain: 0.00 in

Record High: 97° in 1932

Record Low: 24° in 1899

Average High: 68°F

Average Low: 43°F

Average Precip in May.: 1.23

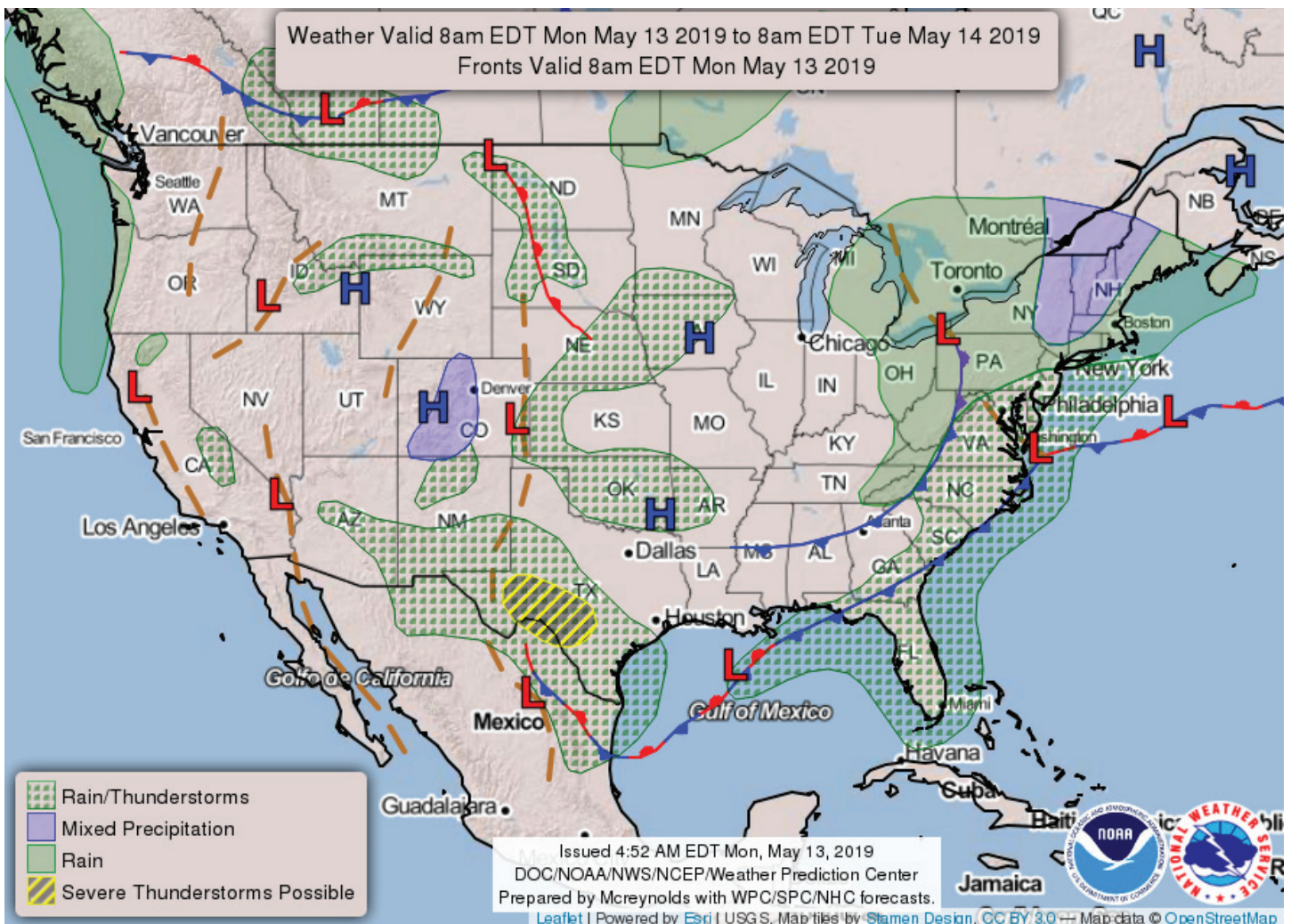
Precip to date in May.: 0.49

Average Precip to date: 5.26

Precip Year to Date: 5.18

Sunset Tonight: 8:55 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:05 a.m.



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TEACHABLE MOMENTS

There are various ways to recognize those moments when students are open to learning. On the other hand, there are many times when students are unwilling to learn no matter who the teacher may be. Recently the phrase, teachable moments has become popular. While there are constant opportunities for teaching and learning, many times neither the pupil nor teacher take advantage of the moment.

A wise son, wrote Solomon, heeds (or accepts) his fathers instruction; but a mocker does not listen to rebuke (or correction). Obviously, Solomon knew something about the teaching process, learner readiness, and pupil attitudes. But that is not enough. Perhaps that is why God inspired him to use the word instruction. That word was wisely chosen for its true meaning: education through correction. At the heart of each of the Proverbs is the fact that we, in and of ourselves, do not know the ultimate answers to life. We all have the basic need for our Father to teach us His truth and His ways for our lives. And that begins with the fear of the Lord.

This proverb places the responsibility of learning on the pupil - the son. But, it also places the responsibility to teach on the father. Yet, to teach the son, the father needs wisdom and fear. We recycle back to the truth that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom!

Fathers are both responsible and accountable to God to teach their sons His wisdom. Yes, there are many things that fathers must teach their sons and daughters, but none as important as teaching them Gods wisdom.

Prayer: We pray, Lord, that all fathers will realize their obligation to You: to instill Your wisdom in their hearts. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 13:1 A wise son heeds his fathers instruction; but a mocker does not listen to rebuke.

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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 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)

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News from the Associated Press

Public birthday party held for missing South Dakota girl

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Dozens of people gathered in Rapid City's Main Street Square to celebrate the 10th birthday of a 9-year-old girl who ran away from a children's home in western South Dakota four months ago.

KEVN-TV reports that state Sen. Lynne DiSanto organized the Sunday event to celebrate Serenity Denard's birthday. The girl's mother was on hand.

People wore Serenity's favorite color, purple, ate purple cupcakes, blew bubbles, released balloons sang happy birthday.

Serenity ran away from the Black Hills Children's Home on Feb. 3. Numerous searches have been conducted since then, including one over the weekend.

The search changed from a rescue to a recovery effort not long after she went missing. Authorities say Serenity likely wouldn't have survived if she was outside in subzero temperatures.

Information from: KEVN-TV, <http://www.kevn.com>

A Sioux Falls recycler flourishes amid struggling industry

By PATRICK ANDERSON Sioux Falls Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Jake Anderson kept the house he owned in the Twin Cities when he moved away to start his own recycling business.

After working in the industry for a Minnesota-based company, Anderson bought a small recycling company in Sioux Falls that had fallen on hard times and moved into a triplex in the center of the city.

He took on a shop with eight employees, uncertain of the future and hoping to make a mark.

Millennium Recycling Inc. is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, having become a local leader in an industry filled with fluctuation and uncertainty, the Sioux Falls Argus Leader reported.

As recycling processors across the United States face ongoing problems in the global market, Millennium has built a solid foundation thanks to Anderson's prudence, the company's willingness to embrace new technology and lessons learned during the lean years.

"Too often, people have too short of a memory in this industry," the 47-year-old said.

The Sioux Falls-based recycler — known as a materials recovery facility in the industry — is still pulled by those market forces. The 20-year mark represents what Anderson called a "down time" in a business that ebbs and flows with market demands for papers, plastics and metals. But he and other company leaders have weathered worse storms and have built a business model designed for long-term success.

Millennium is using 2019 to instead celebrate its success and growth over the years, including being an innovator in South Dakota's recycling industry, being the first in the state to recycle consumer electronics, going on a trade mission to China with former Gov. Dennis Daugaard and launching the nonprofit Ecomaniacs, which provides recycling services to summer events.

Anderson was born into an entrepreneurial family. His father owned a liquor store, health clubs and other businesses during his childhood in Owatonna, Minnesota.

After working for years for a recycling company in the Minneapolis area, he was interested when he heard there was a small processor in Sioux Falls that was looking at either closing up shop or selling to a new owner.

He was 27 when bought Python's Recycling in 1999.

He came with experience and expertise in a larger market, bringing ideas that were new to Sioux Falls. A lot of the work he did in his first year was focused on getting to know the community, its people and businesses.

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Millennium's growth over the years is a testament to those relationships, Anderson said.

"We spent the first — probably — year trying to refine the operation," he said.

The company's northern Sioux Falls facility handles 3,500 to 4,000 tons per month compared to 150 to 300 tons per month it handled when Anderson bought the company. It employs about 30 people, not including the dozen staff members at Secure Enterprise Asset Management, a spin-off company that specializes in electronics recycling.

Relationships with the people and companies in the Sioux Falls area remain a strong focus for Millennium, which doesn't do residential hauling but still actively tries to educate the community about up-to-date best practices in recycling, Millennium President Shannon Dwire said.

Dwire worked for Python before Anderson bought the company and has been with Millennium ever since. Connection to the community has been a common thread since Anderson bought the company she said.

"We always have some level of support out there," she said.

Millennium's single-stream recyclable sorter runs like a backbone through its plant. It's also a backbone of the business itself.

The decision to buy and install the sorter was a defining moment for Millennium.

The equipment changed the company as much as it changed how hundreds of thousands of people in the Sioux Falls area recycle, allowing them to combine papers, plastics, glass bottles and cans in one bag and not worry about the logistics of separating everything out again.

That all happens at Millennium now. Recyclables running through the sorter are separated and belted off to different parts of the plant, where they are bailed and packed with like materials. Only about 3.5% of the stuff that comes in can't be recycled.

Anderson spent years researching the game-changing technology before deciding to invest, but was pressured by conversations with Waste Management, which had already altered the industry landscape by allowing consumers to mix recyclables.

But the national chain didn't have the technology in smaller secondary markets such as Sioux Falls to sort recyclables and was losing money by having an ancillary operation in the city.

But it was clear the industry was going in a new direction. If Millennium didn't move to single-stream sorting, there was a chance another company would one day take its place, Anderson said.

"It was the equivalent of an all-in play for us," he said. "We spent a painstaking amount of time just trying to pencil this out."

Millennium bought and went through the first phase of installing the technology in 2007.

And then the Great Recession hit.

The fallout of the economic downturn left Millennium floundering with an oversupply of recycled materials and minimal demand from buyers such as the paper mills who rely on processors for product.

Millennium had gone into debt as much as the bank would allow, and Anderson started meeting with attorneys about bankruptcy.

And then, at the wire, business started to rebound, Anderson said.

"All of a sudden, we started to get orders," he said.

It took about two years for Millennium to catch up to where it was before the recession, but company leadership left the experience having learned a number of important lessons.

Perhaps the most important was clarity on the realities of the industry. There will be good times and bad times, and Millennium doesn't take anything for granted.

"You use your good markets wisely," Dwire said. "Even when things are running well, you look for efficiencies."

Global market forces have continued to squeeze the industry, starting with tighter limits China's government approved in 2013 for imported recycled material.

China sparked incredible growth in the U.S. recycling industry in 1999 when it opened massive paper mills subsidized by the government. The buoying of the industry was felt all the way in Sioux Falls, where Anderson was just starting to build Millennium into a bigger, more commercially-focused recycler.

China dominated the market, becoming the biggest buyer of America's recycled goods. While recycling

processors benefited from Chinese demand, paper mills in the U.S. started a process of acquisition and consolidation to compete, eventually closing plants across the country, especially in the coastal states.

The, with domestic demand for recycled goods weakened, China started limiting waste imports. China's new policy, dubbed "Green Fence," was a solution to the country's increasing problems with pollution, but Anderson believes the restrictions on imported recycling products were painting with too big of a brush.

Then, in 2018, China upped the ante with an even stricter policy called "National Sword." It was basically a list of outright bans on materials, including imported recyclables.

But the loss of North American paper mills during the boom years of Chinese demand has now left the entire industry scrambling for solutions, Anderson said. That includes Chinese investment in some of the closed U.S.-based paper mills.

Millennium, with its strong ties to the region, isn't directly affected by China's policies. About 90% of its recycled material is sold to buyers in the Midwest.

None of the current stress caused by the global market compares to what Millennium has already survived. "Recycling is not going to go away," Anderson said. "It's going to do what it's always done. It's going to evolve."

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

Bella Pregnancy Center director reflects on 30-year career

By KAIJA SWISHER Black Hills Pioneer

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — During her tenure, the organization has been housed at four different locations and changed its name three times. The work, however, remains just as rewarding for Roxie Johnson, executive director of Bella Pregnancy Resource Center in Spearfish, as when she started more than 30 years ago.

"I love working with the women here at Bella, with my co-workers and the staff and volunteers, but the clients are really what keep me here. Everyone's unique; everyone has their own story," she told the Black Hills Pioneer, describing that it was the compassion of the organization that drew her to become a volunteer client advocate in 1988, before becoming the executive director of the organization the next year. "They (clients) have great value, they have great worth, that's how we view them when they come in: We just want to be loving and compassionate when they come in and educate them and give them tools so that they can be good moms and dads if that's what they choose to do."

Johnson, who grew up in Wyoming, moved with her family to the Black Hills during her senior year of high school, and after getting married, she and her husband, John, moved to Spearfish in 1979. The couple has four grown children and nine grandchildren, and Johnson said that her connection to Bella began when she was babysitting for the former director of the organization who encouraged her to get involved. She took the volunteer training and said she was "hooked" from the first night. After serving as a volunteer for a year, she became the executive director in 1989.

"Women have unplanned pregnancies all the time. Thirty years ago, it was more of a stigma," Johnson said.

The faith-based organization's mission is "Empowering women in unplanned pregnancies to make informed decisions." Originally, the organization was called Northern Hills Crisis Pregnancy Center, but those involved wanted women to know the organization serves anyone who has a pregnancy need — not just people in crisis — so the name was changed to Northern Hills Pregnancy Care Center, Johnson said, and eventually to Bella, which means "beautiful" in Italian. The organization's website states, "At Bella, we believe that every woman is a woman of beauty and great worth. No matter what your circumstances are, we believe you are a woman of value who is capable of making your own decisions. Bella exists to be a resource for women and men with pregnancy related needs."

Johnson said that initially, the name was to be just the one word, Bella, but they found that when answering the telephone with, "Hello, this is Bella," people on the other end would assume that was the name of

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the person answering and would say "Hi, Bella!" so "pregnancy resource center" was added to the name.

Over 30 years, the organization's crisis intervention services have basically stayed the same, Johnson said. What has changed is that since 2008, Bella is now an early pregnancy medical facility, which means it offers pregnancy testing and ultrasound confirmation. Johnson explained that the organization does not take the place of a family physician or OB-GYN, who provide prenatal care; Bella is a place to start.

All services at Bella are free of charge, and in addition to crisis intervention and early pregnancy medical services, Bella offers "Earn While You Learn," a comprehensive parenting program that teaches about everything from pregnancy/pregnancy care, labor and delivery, how to care for the baby, etc., with lessons for parenting children up to age 12. Johnson said that not only do clients learn how to bathe a baby, they are also learning how to meet the needs — spiritual, emotional, and physical — of their children.

"It's an excellent program," she said.

As they work through the program, clients earn credit that they can redeem for the things that they need, such as clothing, diapers, wipes, cribs, strollers, car seats — almost anything baby-related.

The organization is staffed by five part-time employees and 12-15 volunteers at any one time, and clients come from around the area to find resources that can include medical providers to financial aid and beyond.

"We're a resource center, so this is a good place to start," Johnson said. "Bella's a good place to start for anyone who thinks they might be pregnant, whether they're in crisis or not. We serve all."

She added that the organization is locally supported; all of its funding comes from local sources, and its services are free of charge. Johnson said that Bella accepts donations and is always in need of things baby and maternity related. While they do accept some used items, they should be in like-new condition, and because of government regulations/etc., they are not able to take used cribs or car seats. Johnson said that diapers and wipes are the number-one item the organization goes through, and she added that while all diaper sizes are accepted, it is generally the larger sizes — size 3 and up — that they most often run out of.

Johnson offered the following advice to future parents: "Relax. Take it a day at a time," she said.

"We're here. We love serving the women of our community," she added, encouraging anyone in need of pregnancy services to check out Bella Pregnancy Center. "It's a place to start."

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

Downtown ambassadors to help tourists in Rapid City

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Ambassadors will soon hit downtown Rapid City to hand out maps to tourists, suggest restaurants and point out attractions.

The ambassadors will wear bright red shirts with white lettering saying "Downtown Ambassador."

The new program launches June 2 and runs through September. Ambassadors will be on the streets from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Mayor Steve Allender tells the Rapid City Journal the ambassadors will be "the friendliest person you see downtown."

Allender says he was first exposed to downtown ambassador programs when he visited Atlanta.

In addition to helping tourists, the job description says ambassadors also will "serve as additional eyes and ears" for police and fire departments.

While ambassadors in other cities travel by bicycle or Segway, Rapid City ambassadors will stick to walking around the city.

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

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US land agency gets new director for Montana, Dakotas

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — The U.S. Bureau of Land Management has named a new director to oversee its administration of public lands in Montana and the Dakotas.

BLM acting director Brian Steed said John Mehlhoff will assume the Billings-based post on May 12.

He'll be responsible for management of about 13,000 square miles of public lands and more than 700,000 square miles of federal mineral estate in the three states.

Mehlhoff worked most recently as program director for the Office of Natural Resources Revenue in Denver.

Prior to that, he spent almost 30 years with the BLM, including as associate state director in Colorado, field manager, staff adviser and program lead for the fluid mineral program in Washington.

Mehlhoff is a North Dakota native and a graduate of Montana Tech in Butte.

Sioux Falls' Empire Mall overwhelmed by retail bankruptcies

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The Empire Mall in Sioux Falls is feeling the impact of mass closures and bankruptcies in the retail industry, but the mall's owner remains upbeat.

Gymboree, Crazy 8 and Charlotte Russe have shut down, which adds to the current vacancies at the mall that include two big anchor locations, the Argus Leader reported.

The bankruptcies in Sioux Falls contrasted a first-quarter earnings call from the Empire Mall's Indianapolis-based owner-operator, Simon Property Group.

"We continue to operate our business with a long-term view," President and CEO David Simon said. "Our track record speaks for itself."

During first-quarter earnings calls, Simon noted the rest of the company was outpacing the industry. Simon's mall properties saw their occupancy had jumped from the first quarter of 2018, reaching 95.1%.

"It's safe to say that we did anticipate some bankruptcies," Simon said. "We are looking at a few others that we'll see how the rest of the year shakes out for them."

The Empire Mall declared in December that mega fashion retailer Dillard's was preparing to occupy the old Younkers space and add square footage. But the mall's staff has declined to provide an update on the store's development.

Simon's map of the mall indicates spaces are still up for lease in the Sears wing, where Dairy Queen shut down earlier this year and the old Hallmark space remains unoccupied in addition to the space next to the Sanford Children's Play Area.

The Empire Mall declined to comment for this story.

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

Saudi Arabia says 2 oil tankers damaged by sabotage attacks

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

FUJAIRAH, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Saudi Arabia said Monday two of its oil tankers were sabotaged off the coast of the United Arab Emirates in attacks the previous day that caused "significant damage" to the vessels, one of them as it was en route to pick up Saudi oil to take to the United States.

The announcement by the kingdom's energy minister, Khalid al-Falih, came as the U.S. issued a new warning to sailors and the UAE's regional allies condemned Sunday's incident that targeted at least four ships, including two Saudi tankers, off the port city of Fujairah.

The statement came just hours after Iranian and Lebanese media outlets aired false reports of explosions at Fujairah's port. Emirati officials have declined to elaborate on the nature of the sabotage or say who might have been responsible.

The U.S. has warned ships that "Iran or its proxies" could be targeting maritime traffic in the region. America is deploying an aircraft carrier and B-52 bombers to the Persian Gulf to counter alleged threats from Tehran.

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Shortly after the Saudi announcement, Iran's Foreign Ministry called for further clarification about what exactly happened with the vessels. The ministry's spokesman, Abbas Mousavi, was quoted by the official IRNA news agency as saying there should be more information about the incident.

Mousavi also warned against any "conspiracy orchestrated by ill-wishers" and "adventurism by foreigners" to undermine the maritime region's stability and security.

Authorities in Fujairah, one of the UAE's seven emirates, declined to speak to The Associated Press on Monday and officials stopped AP journalists from traveling by boat to see the ships.

Sky News Arabia, a satellite channel partly owned by a member of the Abu Dhabi ruling family, aired footage of a tanker identified as the Al Marzoqah that it said had been targeted in the sabotage.

The broadcast only showed one side of the ship, which bore no signs of damage, describing it as the closest one to shore in Fujairah.

Tensions have risen since President Donald Trump withdrew America from the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, and restored U.S. sanctions that have pushed Iran's economy into crisis. Last week, Iran warned it would begin enriching uranium at higher levels in 60 days if world powers failed to negotiate new terms for the deal.

Al-Falih's statement said the attacks on the two Saudi tankers happened at 6 a.m. Sunday. He did not identify the vessels involved, say who was suspected of carrying out the alleged sabotage or give any details about the other vessels reported attacked.

"One of the two vessels was on its way to be loaded with Saudi crude oil from the port of Ras Tanura, to be delivered to Saudi Aramco's customers in the United States," al-Falih said. "Fortunately, the attack didn't lead to any casualties or oil spill; however, it caused significant damage to the structures of the two vessels."

The kingdom's Foreign Ministry, in a statement published on the state-run Saudi Press Agency on Monday, condemned the incident as a "criminal act" threatening the "safety of maritime traffic, which reflects negatively on regional and international peace and security."

Al-Falih also said the attack aimed to undermine the "security of oil supplies to consumers all over the world" and emphasized the "joint responsibility of the international community to protect" the safety of maritime navigation and oil tankers.

Underling the regional risk, the general-secretary of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council described the incident as a "serious escalation."

"Such irresponsible acts will increase tension and conflicts in the region and expose its peoples to great danger," Abdullatif bin Rashid al-Zayani said. Bahrain, Egypt and Yemen's internationally recognized government similarly condemned the alleged sabotage, as did the Arab League.

The UAE's Foreign Ministry on Sunday put the ships near the country's territorial waters in the Gulf of Oman, east of the port of Fujairah. It said it was investigating "in cooperation with local and international bodies" and that there were "no injuries or fatalities on board the vessels" and "no spillage of harmful chemicals or fuel."

The U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet, which oversees the region, did not immediately offer comment. Emirati officials declined to answer questions from The Associated Press, saying their investigation is ongoing.

On Monday, U.S. benchmark crude oil added 78 cents to \$62.44 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It lost 3 cents to \$61.66 on Friday. Brent crude, the international standard, gained \$1.14 to \$71.76 per barrel.

Lebanon's pro-Iran satellite channel Al-Mayadeen, quoting "Gulf sources," on Sunday falsely reported that a series of explosions had struck Fujairah's port. State and semi-official media in Iran picked up the report from Al-Mayadeen, which later published the names of vessels it claimed were involved.

The AP, after speaking to Emirati officials and local witnesses, found the report about explosions at the port to be unsubstantiated.

Fujairah's port is about 140 kilometers (85 miles) south of the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf through which a third of all oil at sea is traded. The facility handles oil for bunkering and shipping, as well as general and bulk cargo. It is seen as strategically located, serving shipping routes in

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the Persian Gulf, the Indian subcontinent and Africa.

Sunday's incident comes after the U.S. Maritime Administration, a division of the U.S. Transportation Department, warned Thursday that Iran could target commercial sea traffic.

"Since early May, there is an increased possibility that Iran and/or its regional proxies could take action against U.S. and partner interests, including oil production infrastructure, after recently threatening to close the Strait of Hormuz," the warning read. "Iran or its proxies could respond by targeting commercial vessels, including oil tankers, or U.S. military vessels in the Red Sea, Bab-el-Mandeb Strait or the Persian Gulf."

The agency on Sunday issued a new warning to sailors about the alleged sabotage, while stressing "the incident has not been confirmed." It urged shippers to exercise caution in the area for the next week.

Publicly available satellite images of the area taken Sunday showed no smoke or fire.

It remains unclear if the previous warning from the U.S. Maritime Administration is the same perceived threat that prompted the White House to order the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier strike group and B-52 bombers to the region on May 4.

___ Associated Press writers Aya Batrawy in Dubai, Bassem Mroue in Beirut, Amir Vahdat in Tehran, Iran, and Malak Harb in Fujairah, United Arab Emirates, contributed to this report.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

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

1. TENSIONS RATCHET UP IN PERSIAN GULF

Saudi Arabia says the damage to two of its oil tankers off the coast of the United Arab Emirates was a "criminal act." Iran warns of "adventurism by foreigners" to undermine the region's stability and security.

2. IS MILITANTS IN IRAQ STRIKE FROM HIDING

The extremist group keeps residents around northern Iraq in fear even after the defeat of the "caliphate," hiding in the mountains and emerging at night to kill and intimidate, the AP learns.

3. WHAT COMPANIES ARE BRACING FOR

How Beijing might retaliate against Trump's escalation of a fight over technology and trade that threatens to disrupt a Chinese economic recovery.

4. SWEDEN TO REOPEN RAPE CASE AGAINST ASSANGE

Prosecutors also say they will seek the WikiLeaks founder's extradition after he serves his 50-week prison term in Britain for jumping bail.

5. 'IT'S NOT LIKE COOKIES ON A BROWSER'

San Francisco is on track to become the first U.S. city to ban facial recognition by police and other city agencies as the technology creeps into daily life.

6. TRUMP, HIS BABY 'EXECUTIONS' AND THE REALITY

Trump accuses doctors of executing babies who are born alive after a failed abortion, oversimplifying a deeply complex issue, an AP Fact Check finds.

7. WHERE VIOLENCE, POVERTY REIGN

In San Pedro Sula, Honduras, caravans of migrants have formed in recent months to head north into Mexico and on toward the U.S.

8. 2020 A DISTRICT-BY-DISTRICT FIGHT

Republicans are hunting for the right candidates — women and minorities in many cases — to help them recapture the House.

9. MIDTERM ELECTIONS UNDERWAY IN PHILIPPINES

The ballot highlights a showdown between Duterte's allies and an opposition fighting for checks and balances under a president they regard as a looming dictator.

10. AMAZON RACING TO DELIVER PACKAGES FASTER

And to do that, the company is turning to its employees with a proposition: Quit your job and we'll help you start a business delivering Amazon packages.

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Kudlow's admission about who pays tariffs contradicts Trump

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House's top economic adviser has acknowledged that U.S. consumers and businesses pay the tariffs that the Trump administration has imposed on billions of dollars of Chinese goods, even as President Trump himself insisted in a tweet, incorrectly, that China pays.

Chris Wallace, host of "Fox News Sunday," asked him, "It's U.S. businesses and U.S. consumers who pay, correct?"

"Yes, I don't disagree with that," said Larry Kudlow, the head of the president's National Economic Council.

Kudlow added, "Both sides will pay," but he stipulated that China "will suffer (economic) losses" from reduced exports to the U.S., not from paying the tariffs.

Kudlow's admission contradicts many of Trump's comments and tweets to the effect that Chinese companies pay the tariffs in what amounts, in the president's view, to a massive transfer of wealth to the United States from China. Yet almost no economist has agreed with Trump's view and fact-checkers routinely brand Trump's assertion false and point out that American importers of goods from China pay the tariffs.

Trump has also asserted that trade wars are "easy to win," but Kudlow accepted that they come with costs for the U.S. economy, though he downplayed the impact.

On Friday, the Trump administration raised duties on \$200 billion of Chinese imports to 25% from 10%, after charging that China had backtracked on commitments it made earlier in the talks. The administration has already hit \$50 billion of additional Chinese goods with 25% duties.

Later Sunday, Trump reiterated his view in a tweet: "We will be taking in Tens of Billions of Dollars in Tariffs from China. Buyers of product can make it themselves in the USA (ideal), or buy it from non-Tariffed countries."

Yet Carl Weinberg, chief international economist at High Frequency Economics, a forecasting firm, pointed out that many goods made in China aren't manufactured elsewhere. That's why many U.S. importers have little choice but to pay the tariff.

"So if you need that new iPad, it is you who will be paying the import duty, not some worker in China," Weinberg wrote in a research note.

Trump has also threatened to impose import taxes on the remaining \$300 billion in Chinese imports, a step that Kudlow estimated would take several months to implement.

Imposing those tariffs would impact a wide range of consumer goods — clothes, shoes, toys, and electronics such as iPhones — that have been mostly exempted so far and could prompt steep cost increases that many Americans would likely notice.

Kudlow, however, said the economic impact of placing tariffs on all Chinese imports would be to cut economic growth 0.2 percentage points, "a very modest number."

Independent economists, though, think the impact would be larger. Gregory Daco, an economist at Oxford Economics, estimates it would reduce U.S. growth by a half percentage point and cost 300,000 jobs.

Kudlow also said the U.S. is awaiting retaliation from China over the increased tariffs, after talks in Washington ended on Friday without a deal.

"The expected countermeasures have not yet materialized. We may know more today or even this evening or tomorrow," he told "Fox News Sunday."

Both sides have indicated that future talks are likely. Kudlow said on Sunday that Chinese officials have invited U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin to visit Beijing, though nothing has been scheduled.

Kudlow also said that Trump and China's President, Xi Jinping, may meet in late June at the G-20 international conference in Japan.

On Saturday, Trump tweeted that he thought that "China felt they were being beaten so badly in the recent negotiation that they may as well wait around for the next election, 2020, to see if they could get lucky & have a Democrat win."

Beijing retaliated for previous tariff hikes by raising duties on \$110 billion of American imports. And of-

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officials have targeted American companies operating in China by slowing customs clearance and stepping up regulatory scrutiny.

Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., told ABC's "This Week" that he advised the president to finalize a trade deal with China soon, "because the longer we're involved in a tariff battle or a trade war, the better chance there is that we could actually enter into a recession because of it."

The two countries are sparring over U.S. allegations that China steals technology and pressures American companies into handing over trade secrets, part of an aggressive campaign to turn Chinese companies into world leaders in robotics, electric cars and other advanced industries.

'Caliphate' gone, but militants in Iraq strike from hiding

By **BRAM JANSSEN** Associated Press

BADOUSH, Iraq (AP) — It was a chilly January evening, and Khadija Abd and her family had just finished supper at their farm when the two men with guns burst into the room.

One wore civilian clothes, the other an army uniform. They said they were from the Iraqi army's 20th Division, which controls the northern Iraqi town of Badoush. In fact, they were Islamic State group militants who had come down from the surrounding mountains into Badoush with one thing on their mind: Revenge.

Around 13 more gunmen were waiting outside. The fighters pulled Khadija's husband and his two brothers into the yard and shot them dead, leaving them in a pool of blood — punishment for providing information to the Iraqi military.

"How can we live after this?" Khadija said. The three brothers were the providers for the entire family. "They left their children, their livestock, their wives, and their elderly father who doesn't know what to do now."

A year and a half after the Islamic State group was declared defeated in Iraq, the militants still evoke fear in the lands of their former so-called caliphate across northern Iraq. The fighters, hiding in caves and mountains, emerge at night to carry out kidnappings, killings and roadside ambushes, aimed at intimidating locals, silencing informants and restoring the extortion rackets that financed IS's rise to power six years ago.

It is part of a hidden but relentless fight between the group's remnants waging an insurgency and security forces trying to stamp them out, relying on intelligence operations, raids and searches for sleeper cells among the population.

The militants' ranks number between 5,000 and 7,000 fighters around Iraq, according to one Iraqi intelligence official.

"Although the territory once held by the so-called caliphate is fully liberated, Daesh fighters still exhibit their intention to exert influence and stage a comeback," said Maj. Gen. Chad Franks, deputy commander-operations and intelligence for the U.S.-led coalition, using the Arabic acronym for the group.

In towns around the north, Iraqi soldiers knock on doors in the middle of the night, looking for suspects, based on intelligence tips or suspicious movements. They search houses and pull people away for questioning.

Anyone is seen as a potential IS collaborator or sympathizer. In February, Human Rights Watch accused authorities of torturing suspects to extract confessions of belonging to IS, an accusation the Interior Ministry has denied. Detainees are pushed by the thousands into what critics call sham trials, with swift verdicts — almost always guilty — based on almost no evidence beyond confessions or unaccountable informants' testimony. The legacy of guilt weighs heavily especially on women and children, who face crushing discrimination because of male relatives seen as supporting IS.

AP journalists embedded with a battalion of the 20th Division last month and witnessed several of its raids at Badoush.

Badoush, on the Tigris River just outside the city of Mosul, is a key battleground because it was once one of the most diehard IS strongholds.

In the summer of 2014, it was a launching pad for the militants' blitz that overran Mosul and much of

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northern Iraq. IS built a strong financial base by extorting money from the owners of Badoush's many industrial facilities. Security officials estimate two-thirds of its population — which numbered around 25,000 before the war — were at one point members or supporters of the group.

Now the population is divided. Residents who suffered at the hands of IS or lost loved ones to the group are suspicious of neighbors they believe still support the militants. Within families, some members belonged to the group and others opposed it.

The Badoush area alone has seen 20 IS attacks, from bombings to targeted killings, since it was retaken from the militants in March 2017, according to the Kurdish Security Council. The militants brag about the attacks in videos that show fighters storming houses and killing purported "apostates" and spies.

"The operations that we do now rely on intelligence by following up the families of Daesh," said Maj. Khalid Abdullah Baidar al-Jabouri, commander of a battalion in the 20th Division, speaking at his base just outside Badoush.

Distrust runs deep among the residents.

In one raid witnessed by the AP, troops banged on the door of a man who had returned to Badoush a day earlier. He had fled town just before the IS takeover in the summer of 2014 and stayed in the Kurdish town of Sulaimaniyah throughout their rule. But his father and one of his brothers remained and joined IS.

When the man returned, a local sheikh immediately notified the military. In the raid, the soldiers searched the house and checked his phone records for any suspicious calls abroad.

They asked him about his father and brother. "I swear, they destroyed my life," the man said. When asked about IS, he insisted, "I never came face to face with them."

The soldiers took him away for questioning, as his three little sisters shook and cried with fear. He was later released.

On another occasion, an informant told the army he had spotted explosives-laden suicide belts in the mountains while out picnicking and looking for truffles. Presumably, they had been dropped off there for attackers to retrieve and use. Wearing a balaclava to keep his identity secret, he led the army to the spot, where they found the belts and detonated them remotely.

"People in the town are very cooperative," says Mohammed Fawzi, an intelligence officer. "But don't forget that in one house one person was with Daesh and another member was killed by them. It's very complicated."

Among the most chilling IS attacks was the Jan. 3 killing of the three Abd brothers, carried out with brutal precision.

The strangers claiming to be soldiers who entered the Abd's house said they just wanted to ask a few questions and that it wouldn't take long.

Khadija Abd was immediately suspicious. Her husband, Inad Hussein Abd and two of his brothers, Abdulmuhsin and Mohammed, were informants for the Iraqi military and knew the 20th Division's soldiers personally. So why didn't they recognize these men?

After searching the house, the intruders turned aggressive. They dragged the three brothers outside and beat them. When Khadija tried to stop them, she was beaten too. The fighters put her, the other wives on the farm and their children in a room and told them, "If anyone comes out, we shoot you in the forehead."

Khadija could hear the men murmuring outside until 10 p.m. in a dialect of Arabic she couldn't understand. Then it was silent. All they heard was the barking of dogs. Khadija thought the men had taken the three brothers away.

At dawn, she went to get water from the well. She spotted her husband's yellow sleeve in the grass. All three brothers lay on the blood-soaked ground. The militants had used silencers, so the family never heard the gunshots.

Instinctively, she looked for a mobile to call for help. "Honestly, I couldn't even cry. I didn't cry or scream," she said.

Memories of the attack return to Khadija in her dreams — how her daughters screamed "Dad! Dad!" when they saw his body, how one tried to pull out a bullet out of her dead father's cheek. "Mom, it won't come out," she told Khadija. Her son is now too afraid to leave his room.

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To the children, it's the army that killed their father, she said. "They don't understand anything that's going on."

Associated Press writers Salar Salim in Irbil, Iraq, and Zeina Karam in Beirut contributed to this report.

Filipinos voting in midterm elections crucial to Duterte

By JIM GOMEZ Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Filipinos voted Monday in midterm elections highlighted by a showdown between President Rodrigo Duterte's allies who aim to dominate the Senate and opposition candidates fighting for checks and balances under a leader they regard as a looming dictator.

Nearly 62 million Filipinos have registered to choose among 43,500 candidates vying for about 18,000 congressional and local posts, including 81 governors, 1,634 mayors and more than 13,500 city and town councilors in 81 provinces, in one of Asia's most rambunctious democracies.

Final results are expected to be declared in at least a week for national posts and a few days for local positions unless specific outcomes come under protest.

Many see the elections as a crucial referendum on Duterte's rise to power with a brutal crackdown on illegal drugs that has left thousands dead, his unorthodox leadership style, combative and sexist joke-laden outbursts and contentious embrace of China.

"President Duterte's name is not on the ballot but this is very much a referendum on his three years of very disruptive yet very popular presidency," Manila-based analyst Richard Heydarian said.

The outcome will show whether the Filipino populace affirms or rejects Duterte's authoritarian-style leadership in an Asian bastion of democracy, Heydarian said.

The most crucial races are for 12 seats in the 24-member Senate, which Duterte wants to fill with allies to bolster his legislative agenda. That includes the return of the death penalty, lowering the age for criminal liability of child offenders, and revising the country's 1987 constitution primarily to allow a shift to a federal form of government, a proposal some critics fear may be a cover to remove term limits.

Military and police forces were on full alert to respond to any violence, especially in security hotspots that include the entire southern region of Mindanao, and to help prevent cheating amid intense local political rivalries.

Three explosions were reported in southern Maguindanao province, including one grenade blast shortly before voting started at 6 a.m. There were no reported injuries from the blasts.

Commission on Elections spokesman James Jimenez said the campaign has been relatively peaceful compared to past years. Police say 20 people have died in poll-related violence.

In Manila's financial district of Makati, former Vice President Jejomar Binay protested after his ballot was rejected by an automated counting machine, one of 400 to 600 incidents of malfunctioning machines, Jimenez said.

"It's not really a show stopper," Jimenez said, adding that it was a fraction of about 85,000 machines being used in the elections.

At least two mayoral candidates have been put in police custody elsewhere, including one for alleged election fraud. In southern Sulu province, gunfire outside a polling center wounded five people and two vehicles were burned, police said.

Opposition aspirants consider the Senate the last bastion of checks and balances given the solid dominance of Duterte's loyalists in the lower House of Representatives. Last year, opposition senators moved to block proposed bills they feared would undermine civil liberties.

Duterte's politics and key programs, including his drive against illegal drugs that has left more than 5,200 mostly poor urban suspects dead, have been scrutinized on the campaign trail and defended by close allies running for the Senate, led by his former national police chief Ronald dela Rosa, who enforced the crackdown when the president took office in mid-2016.

Aside from the drug killings, Duterte's gutter language and what nationalists say is a policy of appease-

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ment toward China that may undermine Philippine territorial claims in the South China Sea have also been the cause of protests and criticism.

A May 3-6 survey by independent pollster Pulse Asia showed 11 Duterte-backed senatorial candidates and four other aspirants in the winning circle, including only one from the opposition. The survey also showed some favorites had narrow leads and a considerable number of voters were undecided, indicating a chance the results could change. The survey of 1,800 respondents had a margin of error of 2.3 percentage points.

Duterte himself remains hugely popular based on independent ratings surveys.

Divided, cash-strapped and without a unified leader, opposition aspirants are fighting an uphill battle to capture the few Senate seats they need to block any hostile legislation.

Many Filipinos seem more open to authoritarianism due to failures of past liberal leaders, Heydarian said. Such a mindset has helped the family of former dictator Ferdinand Marcos to make a political comeback.

Among many dirt-poor Filipinos, however, the concern is day-to-day survival.

"Martial law is scary but we're more afraid of dying in hunger," Arturo Veles, a jobless father of six, told The Associated Press.

Wiping away tears, Veles spoke outside his family's shanty in the humid squalor atop Smokey Mountain, a long-closed dumpsite in Manila's Tondo slum that remains a symbol of the country's appalling poverty. His asthma-stricken wife, Agnes, said not one congressional candidate had treaded the fly-strewn and trash-littered path to their cluster of crumbling huts, probably because of the smell and filth.

Arturo Veles said the poor always suffer the most, indicating he and his wife would not vote for administration candidates. "They only see the poor, those using and selling drugs. That's the only thing they see, not the depth of our poverty."

Village guard Jose Mondejar, who lives in a Tondo community heavily festooned with election streamers and posters, backed Duterte's anti-crime campaign, saying it has reduced crime, including daytime robberies by drug addicts of passing cargo trucks, by about 70% in his neighborhood.

Associated Press journalists Bullit Marquez, Joael Calupitan and Aaron Favila contributed to this report.

AP FACT CHECK: Trump, his baby 'executions' and the reality

By DAVID CRARY AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — President Donald Trump, in what's become a staple of his rallies, accuses doctors of executing babies who are born alive after a failed abortion attempt.

His comments, meant to taint Democrats, have been embraced by many anti-abortion activists, and assailed as maliciously false by many medical professionals. What's clear is that he is oversimplifying a deeply complex issue. It's already a crime to kill babies, but not necessarily a crime to forgo sophisticated medical intervention in cases where severe fetal abnormalities leave a newborn with no chance of survival.

A look at his rhetoric, similarly framed from one event to the next, and the reality behind it:

TRUMP: "Democrats are aggressively pushing late-term abortion allowing children to be ripped from their mother's womb, right up until the moment of birth. The baby is born and you wrap the baby beautifully and you talk to the mother about the possible execution of the baby." — rally in Panama City Beach, Florida, on Wednesday.

THE FACTS: Federal data suggests that very few U.S. babies are born alive as a result of a failed abortion. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recorded 143 deaths between 2003 and 2014 involving infants born alive during attempted abortions.

Anti-abortion politicians and activists have been pushing for state and federal legislation this year that would impose criminal penalties on doctors who fail to give medical care to babies born alive after a failed abortion. Organizations representing obstetricians and gynecologists say existing laws already provide protections to every healthy newborn, whether born during a failed abortion or under other circumstances.

"We would never do anything to actively hasten the passing of the infant," said Dr. Cara Heuser, a ma-

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ternal fetal medicine specialist in Salt Lake City.

She and other physicians say the rhetoric coming from Trump and anti-abortion activists fails to reflect the wrenching circumstances underlying most abortions performed late in a pregnancy. According to the CDC, only 1.3% of abortions take place after 21 weeks, and these often involve either severe fetal anomalies or conditions that endanger the mother.

When anomalies are so severe that a newborn would die soon after birth, a family may choose what's known as palliative care or comfort care. This might involve swaddling the newborn in a blanket and allowing the baby to die naturally without medical intervention.

"The medical standard is to give hospice type care, not futile medical interventions, when the baby has a terminal diagnosis with no chance of surviving," said Dr. Diane Horvath, a Baltimore-based obstetrician-gynecologist. "This is a deeply personal decision and it allows families to follow their own beliefs and faith traditions."

Horvath is a fellow with Physicians for Reproductive Health and medical director of Whole Woman's Health, which operates abortion clinics in several states.

Cheryl Sullinger of Operation Rescue, an anti-abortion organization, argued in a recent online commentary that lack of medical intervention in such circumstances could be considered criminal.

"If abortionists do not supply medical care for premature babies that survive abortions, their intent is for the baby to die, even if he or she might be saved with a little medical assistance," she wrote. "This is to actually kill the baby through a crime of omission."

However, Heuser said doctors in such cases often determine that medical intervention is not only futile in the long run but would in fact prolong a newborn's pain.

"The baby is not ignored — comfort care includes things like food, oxygen, pain medication, and skin-to-skin contact," she said. "Everyone's goal is to make the newborn as comfortable as possible, respect the time the family has with their child, and avoid interventions that would cause additional suffering without changing the outcome."

The legal situation in such cases varies from state to state. In some states, women whose own health is not in danger are barred from having abortions at late stages of their pregnancy even in cases of severe fetal anomalies.

"Those mothers would be forced to carry a baby to term that they know is going to die," said Heuser, who cited cases where women with sufficient money have traveled to other states with less-stringent laws.

That was the case for Kate Carson, a teacher in the Boston area who had an abortion late in pregnancy in 2012. She has shared her experience in recent radio interviews and newspaper opinion pieces.

In the 35th week of her pregnancy, Carson says, an ultrasound determined that the baby girl had a catastrophic brain malformation that would probably make her permanently unable to talk, walk, swallow or even to sleep comfortably.

In an appearance on the Washington-based radio station WAMU, Carson explained how she and her husband then reached the difficult decision to opt for an abortion.

"If we had to choose between the two beautiful and precious gifts of peace and life, for us and our values and our family we wanted to give our daughter peace," Carson said.

In her home state of Massachusetts, abortions that late in pregnancy are allowed only if the mother's health is at risk; Carson had to travel to Boulder, Colorado, to undergo the costly procedure.

In past years, anti-abortion activists have often cited the case of a Philadelphia doctor, Kermit Gosnell, as part of an effort to stigmatize other abortion providers across the country. Abortion-rights advocates say the Gosnell case proves their contention that existing laws are adequate. He performed extremely late-term abortions, then snipped the spines of infants born alive during the procedures. In 2013, he was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison without the chance for parole.

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End of 'Big Bang' stirs debate over future of TV comedies

By LYNN ELBER AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — In 2006, TV critics swooned over "30 Rock," part of a new breed of comedy that dared to fly without a laugh track and whose ranks included "Arrested Development," "The Office" and "Everybody Hates Chris."

Then a misfit nerd crashed the party. "The Big Bang Theory" was crafted in the style of 1950s ground-breaker "I Love Lucy," with the requisite studio-audience tapings and recorded guffaws intact. Even some of those making the CBS comedy that debuted in 2007 questioned its chances, said Jim Parsons, who stars as Sheldon Cooper, one of the show's brilliant and socially inept scientists.

"We're making the last great buggy wagon in the age of the Model T, but the Model T is here. So how long does this go?" was how one writer framed the contrast between old-school and 21st-century TV comedies, Parsons recalled in a recent interview.

As the enduringly popular series prepares to bow out Thursday with an hour-long finale, the question is raised anew: Will viewers, awash in such creatively bold and sophisticated players as "Atlanta" and "Veep," accept another traditional sitcom? Discounting the resurrection of "Will & Grace" and "Roseanne"-turned "The Connors," can the old-school formula score the new hits it needs to survive?

Who better to ask than Chuck Lorre, who created "The Big Bang Theory" with Jim Prady and whose mastery of the genre has produced winners including "Two and a Half Men" and "Mom," but also makes Netflix's contemporary-style "The Kominsky Method." The Hollywood veteran hedges his reply — "I've been around long enough to know that a prognosis is a really wonderful way to carve into stone how stupid you are. Or arrogant" — then admits to faith in the format known as a "multi-cam," for the multiple cameras used in tapings.

"I still believe that shooting a show in front of an audience is a wonderful way to tell a story," Lorre said. "I don't think the audience watches ('The Big Bang Theory') and counts cameras. They watch the show because they love the characters and it delivers on the comedy."

There's support for Lorre's optimism, said Robert Thompson, a Syracuse University professor of TV and popular culture.

"Many people talk about the studio audience sitcom being something right out of Colonial Williamsburg, as way past its prime," Thompson said. "Whenever anybody would make that argument, the first thing I would say is 'The Big Bang Theory' has been sitting at top or near the top of the ratings," even against the strengthening headwinds of streaming platforms including YouTube and Netflix.

The series' third-to-last episode on May 5 was the most-watched program on broadcast or cable TV with 12.5 million viewers, pushing aside HBO's behemoth "Game of Thrones," which wraps its eight-season run May 19.

There's also the sheer weight of history on the multi-cam's side. It's descended from radio comedies and their roster of stars, including the Nelson family in "The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet" and Ethel Waters in "Beulah," who were among the first to add pictures to their punchlines — although it took Desi Arnaz, the "I Love Lucy" producer who starred opposite wife Lucille Ball, to popularize filming sitcoms with three (now four) cameras, in part for efficiency.

Look further back to see the art form the sitcom represents, said Prady.

"It's going to a play," he said. And while viewers embrace a show like Donald Glover's "Atlanta," he said they may also choose TV's version of a stage production.

Competition from streaming platforms, along with established basic and premium cable players such as FX, HBO and Showtime, will continue eroding the broadcast networks' audience, outside of live draws like sports, and thus sitcoms' share of the pie.

When "Cheers" left the TV stage in 1993 after an 11-year run, it drew more than 80 million viewers, a number "Big Bang Theory" can't hope to touch and which now belongs only to the Super Bowl. Ten years before that, an astounding 100 million-plus viewers tuned it to the two-hour "M-A-S-H" finale.

Sitcoms airing on the major broadcast network — ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox — also are increasingly elbowed out of the industry's highest-profile awards, the Emmys. While single-camera "Modern Family" had

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a lock on the best comedy series trophy for five years, from 2010-14, the last multi-cam series to claim the award was "Everybody Loves Raymond" in 2005.

True enough, said Syracuse's Thompson. But he recalls dire predictions of the genre's death in the 1980s, until "The Cosby Show" single-handedly provided the coattails needed to revive the format. And the popularity of multi-cams remains strong enough to create a financial bonanza from reruns, with shows as unlike as "The Golden Girls" and "Seinfeld" still popular well after their 20th-century heydays.

"There's a lot of people out there who would like to do be the person who creates the next 'Big Bang Theory' and, someone's going to do it," he said.

It might even be Lorre himself, who produced a four-camera pilot for CBS, one of more than a dozen multi-cams vying this week for a broadcast home in the 2019-20, against a roughly equal number of one-camera competitors.

"If you have something worthwhile, I don't think it matters whether it's single-camera, four-camera, 18 cameras or if it's a flip book," Lorre said. "If it's really good, it's going to find an audience. Maybe that's naive or overly optimistic. But I have to proceed on that basis."

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Portal scouting: Searching for transfers in college football

By RALPH D. RUSSO AP College Football Writer

Justin Crouse, director of player personnel for Memphis, makes his first check of the transfer portal around 8 a.m. each day, searching for new names in the NCAA's database of football players looking for a new school.

He checks again at lunch and one more time — at least — before he calls it day.

For years, Crouse's primary duties for Memphis have been identifying and evaluating recruits in high school and junior college. That was pre-portal.

"I would say 40 percent of the time now is concentrating on guys that are leaving other places," Crouse said.

The NCAA's new transfer rules have changed the process by which athletes switch schools, loosening some restrictions and leading more players to explore options. Football coaches have responded by throwing more manpower toward monitoring that growing talent pool and scouting the portal.

"We get an alert every day that somebody gets added into the portal, but then we get a weekly breakdown of position, hometown," Memphis coach Mike Norvell said. "And then trying to collect all the information, the video, to get a sense of who these kids have developed to be."

The portal is the NCAA's cryptic name for the database it maintains to track which athletes — in all sports — have notified their schools they wish to transfer. The big change from last year's rules reform was athletes no longer needed to request permission to transfer. Schools and coaches can no longer stop a transfer and dictate where the athlete goes. The point of the portal was to create transparency and order.

Before rules reform, the transfer process could be clandestine. Because athletes needed permission from their current coach to be contacted by other schools, it encouraged third parties to get involved, an active grapevine filled with high school and 7-on-7 coaches, personal trainers, parents and friends of friends.

"Before it was by word of mouth," Minnesota coach P.J. Fleck said. "Somebody gave you a call, 'This guy might be transferring,' and get going. Now, it's every day we have people that are in our program checking the portal."

The portal provides more exposure for the transferring player and, ostensibly, more opportunities. Instead of deals being struck under the table even before players officially were granted their release, now every school in the country has chance to make a pitch.

"It takes away ... the middleman in making the connection," Norvell said.

Georgia Tech coach Geoff Collins said: "I think it's beneficial for the players."

Portal patrol duties tend to fall to the player personnel department — or some equivalent.

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Crouse said he prioritizes players from Memphis' recruiting area and those who play positions of team need. All highly productive players and quarterbacks get a look, too. Crouse compiles background material and film, going back to high school, using services such as Hudl and Pro Football Focus. He then sends that information to the Memphis coaches sorting by position, recruiting area and previous relationships.

Georgia coach Kirby Smart compared working the portal to NFL teams having a portion of their scouting department dedicated to veteran free agents.

"We just happen to have a larger pool (of players), which is the portal," Smart said. "We know most of the guys on the board because we knew them coming out of high school and so we had a background on that. We said, 'yeah, we didn't think that guy was very good there and that's why he's leaving. So we'll pass. That guy is an intriguing guy because we don't have that position or we just had a mass exodus of three guys leave some position, juniors came out early we weren't expecting. Better go to the portal, find a good backup.'"

The portal has opened up the process, but ultimately relationships built during high school recruiting still play a major role.

Oregon coach Mario Cristobal said he wants his staff to keep track of players who really liked Oregon coming out of high school but chose to sign elsewhere.

"This is one we may want to keep on a hot file," Cristobal said. "So if it does happen, then you have the option to act relatively quickly."

Staffers are on the lookout not just for talent, but fit — on the field and off.

"He went to this college, but he's from here. Yeah, that raises attention regardless of position," Collins said. "He's leaving because he wants to be closer to home. Well, if his home is Dallas then don't worry, we're good."

Background checks might be the most important part of portal scouting. Why exactly is the player leaving?

"There's always a story," Norvell said.

It's those stories that have made some coaches stick to an old-school approach to pursuing transfers.

Georgia State coach Shawn Elliott said if the Panthers bring in a transfer he prefers it to be a player with which the staff is already familiar.

"But you know we do look at (the portal), but like I said I don't think you want to build your football program with a bunch of guys that have already quit somewhere," Elliott said.

And that grapevine is still plenty active.

"I think everyone's just kind of waiting for that bulletin to pop up," Cristobal said. "But I think everyone speculates as well."

Follow Ralph D. Russo at <https://twitter.com/ralphDrussoAP> and listen at <https://podcastone.com/AP-Top-25-College-Football-Podcast>

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Stronach Group at center of best and worst of horse racing

By **STEPHEN WHYNO** AP Sports Writer

The Stronach Group isn't well known outside of horse racing.

That distinction goes to the likes of modern Triple Crown winners American Pharoah and Justify, trainer Bob Baffert and legends of the past including Secretariat and Seattle Slew.

But few — if any — have had a bigger impact on the sport in recent years than the Stronach Group, led by Frank Stronach, Belinda Stronach and Tim Ritvo. They're the movers and shakers of the Canadian-based company that has recently been at the center of much of the good, the bad and the ugly of horse racing.

"No question the Stronach Group and the Stronach family invest in horse racing," National Thoroughbred Racing Association president and CEO Alex Waldrop said. "They do invest heavily in the business, and you've got to acknowledge that and thank them for that."

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And blame them at times.

They own seven U.S. tracks, are credited for saving the industry in Maryland, boosted the sport in Florida and established the richest horse race in the world. They're also the subject of multiple family lawsuits, an ongoing quarrel over the future of the Preakness that's again the conversation with the race coming up this week, and own Santa Anita Park, which was the site of 23 horse deaths over a span of three months.

But love them or loathe them, it's fair to say horse racing wouldn't be where it is right now without the Stronach Group.

Before the disqualification of Maximum Security in the Kentucky Derby, the fatalities at Santa Anita dealt another blow to horse racing's reputation and put the Stronach Group under the microscope. East Coast officials criticized the Stronach Group for being slow to react and institute reforms.

Waldrop praised the Stronach Group and horsemen in California for getting the situation under control. There's considerable debate over how the aftermath was handled and changes implemented, but Stronach Group executives did it their way.

"The long term of thoroughbred racing, whether it be in Maryland, California or Florida or anywhere in the U.S. is reliant on having healthy horses, healthy trainers, healthy jockeys and all of the above," CEO Bill Hecht said. "We will continue to work very closely with the breeders and the trainers and the horsemen to affect the very best solution for the health of all of those groups."

Long before the fatalities at Santa Anita forced the Stronach Group to find a solution to that problem, it has been fighting with Maryland lawmakers over the Preakness. The argument over whether the Preakness will continue to be run at Baltimore's aging Pimlico Race Course or the company's favored Laurel Park, 30 miles down the road, has become a tiresome mid-May tradition.

The Stronach Group's fingerprints are all over the sport.

Austrian-Canadian billionaire Frank Stronach made his money in auto parts and wanted to put it into horse racing. It was his idea in 2016 to launch the Pegasus World Cup at Gulfstream Park in Florida, which now has the biggest purse in the world at \$16 million.

"Frank is the only man that's invested his life earnings in racing," longtime Maryland-based owner and trainer Linda Gaudet said. "Nobody can criticize him for that because nobody else wants to do that. There's nobody out there that will do that. Nobody's going to fix a racetrack, build a racetrack."

Gaudet still remembers Dec. 4, 2015, when Ritvo came into Maryland and "saved" the industry there after some rough years. She said Stronach, Ritvo and Maryland Jockey Club president and general manager Sal Sintra took the state's racing operation from "the bottom of the rung" back to respectability.

"The stuff (Ritvo) got done in a short amount of time was amazing," Gaudet said. "He has a tough management style, but he's effective. And if somebody's not doing their job, move on to the next one."

That's not limited to Maryland. Even though his name isn't on the company, Ritvo has plenty of influence and has become something of a fixer when problems arise.

"Tim Ritvo, he's a dynamo," Waldrop said. "He's a force to be reckoned with. Not everyone likes that approach, but I take my hat off to him for working with all the parties involved in the situation and getting it right now at Santa Anita."

Not everyone in the Stronach family likes each other all that much right now, at least from a business standpoint. Frank in September sued his daughter, two grandchildren and former business associate Alon Ossip for over \$500 million in Ontario Superior Court alleging they mismanaged the family's assets and conspired to take control of them.

Belinda Stronach countersued her father in January, saying in a statement of defense that he lost vast sums of money on pet projects.

Hecht said whether its family infighting, safety at Santa Anita or problems at Pimlico, the horse racing spotlight — rightly or wrongly — will continue to shine on the Stronach Group.

"They can't blow their nose without somebody seeing something wrong," Gaudet said. "All the optics are on them right now."

contributed to report.

Follow AP Sports Writer Stephen Whyno on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/SWhyno>

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N. Korean cargo ship seized by US arrives in American Samoa

By FILI SAGAPOLUTELE Associated Press

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa (AP) — A North Korean cargo ship seized by the U.S. because of suspicion it was used to violate international sanctions arrived at the capital of this American territory, where it will undergo inspections.

The Wise Honest was slowly towed to the port of Pago Pago during a cloudy Saturday morning and docked at the main docking section of the port that afternoon.

The trip from Indonesia took about three weeks and American Samoa, in the South Pacific, was chosen because of "its central strategic location," U.S. Coast Guard public affairs officer Amanda Wyrick said.

"We also have a good strong relationship and partnership with the American Samoan government," Wyrick said. "With that being said, we also already have the resources that are able to ensure the security of the vessel but most importantly the Port of Pago Pago."

Indonesian authorities detained the ship in April 2018. Justice Department officials announced Thursday the U.S. had seized the ship.

Asked as to how long the ship will be in the territory, Wyrick said the U.S. Department of Justice is "leading the investigation so they will be conducting that. Upon the conclusion of the investigation, the ship will be moved." But she said the next destination is unknown.

"I do know that Justice Department is going to do the investigation as fast as they can," Wyrick added.

She said she didn't have the exact number of U.S. Coast Guard personnel or people from other federal agencies who have traveled to American Samoa for the investigation.

"We have a marine and safety security team here from Honolulu," Wyrick said. "We're conducting random patrols, also conducting inspection of the vessel and the Port of Pago Pago, keep an eye on things such as security breaches or vandalization of the ship itself."

Officials are also making sure the port is protected, she said.

"We especially in the Coast Guard, we understand the importance of the port. It's a lifeline in getting goods to the islands," Wyrick said. "So we want to make sure that we're doing everything we can, to make sure that there's absolutely no disruption to the flow of commerce coming in and out."

The U.S. government dispatched an inspection team to the ship before it docked in Pago Pago, she said. Wyrick noted there was an inspection conducted before leaving Indonesia and, because the ship has been at sea for three weeks, "it's subject to the elements."

"The inspection of the ship before entering the harbor is to make sure the structure integrity of the boat is still intact. In that way, once we get the thumb's up, and the green light, and the inspectors deem it safe, then it will enter the port," Wyrick said.

U.S. officials made the announcement of the ship's seizure hours after North Korea fired two suspected short-range missiles toward the sea, the second weapons launch in five days and a possible signal that stalled talks over its nuclear weapons program are in trouble.

San Francisco may ban police, city use of facial recognition

By MATT O'BRIEN and JANIE HAR Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — San Francisco is on track to become the first U.S. city to ban the use of facial recognition by police and other city agencies, reflecting a growing backlash against a technology that's creeping into airports, motor vehicle departments, stores, stadiums and home security cameras.

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Government agencies around the U.S. have used the technology for more than a decade to scan databases for suspects and prevent identity fraud. But recent advances in artificial intelligence have created more sophisticated computer vision tools, making it easier for police to pinpoint a missing child or protester in a moving crowd or for retailers to analyze a shopper's facial expressions as they peruse store shelves.

Efforts to restrict its use are getting pushback from law enforcement groups and the tech industry, though it's far from a united front. Microsoft, while opposed to an outright ban, has urged lawmakers to set limits on the technology, warning that leaving it unchecked could enable an oppressive dystopia reminiscent of George Orwell's novel "1984."

"Face recognition is one of those technologies that people get how creepy it is," said Alvaro Bedoya, who directs Georgetown University's Center on Privacy and Technology. "It's not like cookies on a browser. There's something about this technology that really sets the hairs on the back of people's heads up."

Without regulations barring law enforcement from accessing driver's license databases, people who have never been arrested could be part of virtual police line-ups without their knowledge, skeptics of the technology say.

They worry people will one day not be able to go to a park, store or school without being identified and tracked.

Already, a handful of big box stores across the U.S. are trying out cameras with facial recognition that can guess their customers' age, gender or mood as they walk by, with the goal of showing them targeted, real-time ads on in-store video screens.

If San Francisco adopts a ban, other cities, states or even Congress could follow, with lawmakers from both parties looking to curtail government surveillance and others hoping to restrict how businesses analyze the faces, emotions and gaits of an unsuspecting public.

The California Legislature is considering a proposal prohibiting the use of facial ID technology on body cameras. A bipartisan bill in the U.S. Senate would exempt police applications but set limits on businesses analyzing people's faces without their consent.

Legislation similar to San Francisco's is pending in Oakland, California, and on Thursday another proposed ban was introduced in Somerville, Massachusetts.

Bedoya said a ban in San Francisco, the "most technologically advanced city in our country," would send a warning to other police departments thinking of trying out the imperfect technology. But Daniel Castro, vice president of the industry-backed Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, said the ordinance is too extreme to serve as a model.

"It might find success in San Francisco, but I will be surprised if it finds success in a lot of other cities," he said.

San Francisco is home to tech innovators such as Uber, Airbnb and Twitter, but the city's relationship with the industry is testy. Some supervisors in City Hall are calling for a tax on stock-based compensation in response to a wave of San Francisco companies going public, including Lyft and Pinterest.

At the same time, San Francisco is big on protecting immigrants, civil liberties and privacy. In November, nearly 60% of voters approved a proposition to strengthen data privacy guidelines.

The city's proposed face-recognition ban is part of broader legislation aimed at regulating the use of surveillance by city departments. The legislation applies only to San Francisco government and would not affect companies or people who want to use the technology. It also would not affect the use of facial recognition at San Francisco International Airport, where security is mostly overseen by federal agencies.

The Board of Supervisors is scheduled to vote on the bill Tuesday.

San Francisco police say they stopped testing face recognition in 2017. Spokesman David Stevenson said in a statement the department looks forward to "developing legislation that addresses the privacy concerns of technology while balancing the public safety concerns of our growing, international city."

Supervisor Aaron Peskin acknowledges his legislation, called the "Stop Secret Surveillance Ordinance," isn't very tech-friendly. But public oversight is critical given the potential for abuse, he said.

The technology often misfires. Studies have shown error rates in facial-analysis systems built by Amazon,

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IBM and Microsoft were far higher for darker-skinned women than lighter-skinned men.

Even if facial recognition were perfectly accurate, its use would pose a severe threat to civil rights, especially in a city with a rich history of protest and expression, said Matt Cagle, attorney at the ACLU of Northern California.

"If facial recognition were added to body cameras or public-facing surveillance feeds, it would threaten the ability of people to go to a protest or hang out in Dolores Park without having their identity tracked by the city," he said, referring to a popular park in San Francisco's Mission District.

Local critics of San Francisco's legislation, however, worry about hampering police investigations in a city with a high number of vehicle break-ins and several high-profile annual parades. They want to make sure police can keep using merchants and residents' video surveillance in investigations without bureaucratic hassles.

Joel Engardio, vice president of grassroots group Stop Crime SF, wants the city to be flexible.

"Our point of view is, rather than a blanket ban forever, why not a moratorium so we're not using problematic technology, but we open the door for when technology improves?" he said.

Such a moratorium is under consideration in the Massachusetts Legislature, where it has the backing of Republican and Democratic senators.

Often, a government's facial recognition efforts happen in secret or go unnoticed. In Massachusetts, the motor vehicle registry has used the technology since 2006 to prevent driver's license fraud, and some police agencies have used it as a tool for detectives.

"It is technology we use," said Massachusetts State Police Lt. Tom Ryan, adding that "we tend not to get too involved in publicizing" that fact. Ryan and the agency declined to answer further questions about how it's used.

Massachusetts Sen. Cynthia Creem, a Democrat and sponsor of the moratorium bill, said she worries about a lack of standards protecting the public from inaccurate or biased facial recognition technology. Until better guidelines exist, she said, "it shouldn't be used" by government.

The California Highway Patrol does not use face recognition technology, spokeswoman Fran Clader said.

California Department of Motor Vehicles spokesman Marty Greenstein says facial recognition technology "is specifically not allowed on DMV photos." State Justice Department spokeswoman Jennifer Molina said her agency does not use face ID technology, and policy states "DOJ and requesters shall not maintain DMV images for the purpose of creating a database" unless authorized.

Legislators also sought a face recognition moratorium this year in Washington, the home state of Microsoft and Amazon, but it was gutted following industry and police opposition. Microsoft instead backed a lighter-touch proposal as part of a broader data privacy bill, but deliberations stalled before lawmakers adjourned late last month.

O'Brien reported from Providence, Rhode Island.

Violence, poverty reign in Honduran city where caravans form

By SONIA PÉREZ D. Associated Press

SAN PEDRO SULA, Honduras (AP) — In the dusty, dimly lit neighborhoods of San Pedro Sula, everyone knows the unwritten rules: There are places you don't go without permission. If driving, roll down the windows so gang members and their lookouts can see who is inside. It's safest to stay home after nightfall, leaving the streets to the enforcers and drug dealers who are armed and don't hesitate to kill.

Honduras' second biggest city is where caravan after caravan of migrants have formed in recent months to head north to Mexico and on toward the United States, fleeing violence, poverty, corruption and chaos. All of those are palpable on the city's sweltering streets, a reminder of why thousands continue to flee despite the dangers and uncertain prospects for being able to stay even if they make it to the U.S.

The northern district of San Pedro Sula where Associated Press journalists accompanied police on a

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recent night is home to nearly 230,000 people with just 50 officers to patrol its 189 neighborhoods, including the most dangerous: Planeta, Lomas del Carmen and La Rivera Hernandez. Deputy police inspector Wilmer López says two drug labs were busted in the area in the last year. He has arrested gang members as young as 9.

Police officers carry handguns and are accompanied by soldiers with assault rifles. "They make us feel safer," said López, who led the patrol.

He said nine separate gangs are known to operate in this part of town, including the internationally infamous 18th Street and Mara Salvatrucha, or MS-13. Both originated in Los Angeles decades ago and spread through deportations to Central America, evolving into hyper-violent transnational organizations that drive the high rates of killing and other crimes in Central America's Northern Triangle countries — Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala. Their calling cards are in the graffiti scrawled on homes, and in the bodies they leave behind.

"Some you can tell by their way of killing," López said. "Like the Batos Locos gang, which bags (its victims), or 18th Street, which dismembers them."

On this night the patrol largely goes without incident. Police frisk customers at a pool hall and check IDs over their inebriated protests. But around 6 a.m. the first body of the day, a youth with his face disfigured, is found dumped in the Sinai neighborhood just behind the Rivera Hernandez police station.

Residents of San Pedro Sula, the world's most murderous city four years straight from 2011 to 2014, long ago grew numb to the bodies. Last week alone at least 16 people were killed in the city. According to local media, so far this year there have been at least 25 multiple homicides involving three or more victims.

At a lunch counter, news comes on TV about the latest slaying, of a man at a tire repair shop. Customers gaze curiously at the body on the screen but keep eating.

"People are not shocked when someone gets killed," said Salvador Nasralla, a former opposition presidential candidate who laments that violence has become normalized in Honduras.

The National Civil Police say homicides have dropped significantly nationwide. From a high of 86 killings per 100,000 inhabitants in 2011, the homicide rate last year was 41 per 100,000 residents, though that is still one of the highest on the planet.

In San Pedro Sula some say violence has abated somewhat since about 800 gang members who ran extortion rackets from behind bars were moved from a prison in the city center to a maximum-security lockup in the western mountains in 2017.

Killings are said to be down even more so far this year, but bloodshed is not the only factor that makes life hard in the city.

"Violence is not determined solely by homicides but by the death threats, the extortions, the forced recruitments into gangs, attacks against property in the gang-controlled areas that the state has not been able to recover," said Roberto Herrera Cáceres, the national human rights commissioner.

"A situation of insecurity moves people," Herrera said. "It forces internal displacement that later turns into forced migrations."

Erick Lara is a prime example. Along with six friends he joined the most recent caravan that left in April as a group of fewer than 300, much smaller than those seen before Mexican police raided a previous caravan and left its participants detained, deported or scattered.

Lara, a 27-year-old bricklayer, left San Pedro Sula even though he had a good job helping build a church because gangsters were trying to force him and his friends to join up.

"They are collecting young people to work for them" as lookouts or dealers, Lara said. "It's not voluntary, and if you say, 'No,' they kill you."

People from all over Honduran flock to San Pedro Sula whenever it is time for a new migrant caravan.

There is also a constant stream of the dead, as nearly all municipalities of the Cortes department send their bodies to the city's morgue. Mourning relatives mill about outside.

"Here you always have people who died violent deaths," said a funeral home worker. He declined to give his name for fear of reprisals.

Sitting on a wooden plank, a gray-haired, black-clad man who also asked not to be identified waited for

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the body of his slain son. He said the son was out drinking with friends when gunmen showed up and shot him, inflicting wounds that killed him days later in a hospital. The man said he had worried about his son, but had no idea who killed him or why. More than anything he seemed resigned to the new reality.

A car drove by and two policemen ran after it. Two gunshots rang out a couple of blocks away, perhaps fired into the air, and everyone turned to look. The officers came back laughing. Nobody asked what happened — nobody said anything.

Many Hondurans blame the country's problems on President Juan Orlando Hernández, who was re-elected in 2018 despite a constitutional ban on second terms and in a vote that was marred by irregularities. He promised a "better life" as a campaign slogan but has been unable to deliver that for the country's most vulnerable.

Hernández's office did not respond to a request for comment. The president said recently that "I swore not to rest until Hondurans' peace and tranquility are recovered, and I will continue to do that." Last week, he said his administration's economic policies are working, and "We are doing well."

Washington has threatened the Northern Triangle countries with security and humanitarian aid cuts if they are unable to staunch the flow of migrants. But that could have the opposite effect if jobs and anti-poverty programs suffer.

Rolando Lázaro Bautista lives on an unpaved street dotted with dirt-floor, wood-and-corrugated metal homes. It's an area without sewers or running water, and hundreds have left.

It's also a stone's throw from luxury condominium towers, and municipal authorities have long wanted to clear away the shacks. During one attempt, the homes of several of Bautista's neighbors were torched. Human rights workers have obtained a court order protecting them for now.

Bautista says he went north twice. First in a caravan in January, only to be deported from Mexico. Next he hired a "coyote," or smuggler, but was caught three days' walk into Texas on his way to Houston and deported.

The 47-year-old doesn't intend to try again after the experience of being sunburnt, exhausted and forced to hide for days in a warehouse and a sweltering safe house: "You suffer from the thirst and hunger."

Back home he found construction work for this week. But after that there is nothing certain. He and his wife rely on money sent by their daughter who migrated to Spain and who paid the coyote's \$7,500 fee. Meanwhile, they take care of the two daughters she left in San Pedro Sula.

Honduran sociologist Jenny Argüello says the basic foods needed by the average family of five costs the equivalent of about \$650 a month, more than the monthly minimum wage of around \$400.

In the 1990s most people who migrated did so in search of a better life, Argüello said. "Today it is the only alternative Hondurans have to survive."

Leonard hits bouncer at buzzer, Raptors beat 76ers in Game 7

BY IAN HARRISON Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Kawhi Leonard bounced, bounced, bounced, bounced the Philadelphia 76ers out of the playoffs.

Leonard hit a shot from the corner over Joel Embiid at the buzzer that bounced off the rim four times before falling to give the Toronto Raptors a 92-90 victory over the 76ers on Sunday night in Game 7 of the Eastern Conference semifinal series. It was the first winning buzzer-beater in a Game 7 in NBA history.

"It was great," Leonard said. "That's something I never experienced before, Game 7, a game-winning shot. It was a blessing to be able to get to that point and make that shot and feel that moment."

After Philadelphia's Jimmy Butler tied it with a driving layup with 4.2 seconds left, Toronto used its final timeout to draw up a play for Leonard, who dribbled toward the right corner and launched the high-arching shot.

It bounced to the top of the backboard, hit the near side of the rim again, then the other side twice before going through, setting off a wild celebration as the Raptors advanced to the conference finals for the second time in four seasons. They will open the conference finals Wednesday night at Milwaukee.

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"It's tough," Butler said. "Nobody likes to lose, not that way.

Leonard scored 41 points on 16-of-39 shooting.

"He was awesome at both ends," Raptors coach Nick Nurse said. "That's his uniqueness. Not only can he get you 30 and anywhere upwards from that, but there's moments when he can just decide you're not scoring, either."

The Raptors ran a similar play for Leonard during the first round against Orlando. That time, he caught the ball and shot without dribbling.

"Remembering that moment, I knew I had some time to try to get some space, rather than just catch and shoot the ball," Leonard said. "I ended up finding a spot that I like, that I work on. I just knew I had to shoot it high."

Serge Ibaka added 17 points, and Pascal Siakam had 11 points and 11 rebounds for Toronto.

Embiid, in tears as he left the court, led the 76ers with 21 points and 11 rebounds. JJ Redick had 17 points, Butler added 16, and Tobias Harris had 15 points and 10 rebounds.

"I give Toronto credit for a tenacious, switching defense," 76ers coach Brett Brown said. "We had a hard time turning the corner once they did switch."

Redick tied it at 85 with a three-point play with 3:29 left. Nearly two minutes passed before the next basket, Leonard's long jumper with 1:41 to go that was initially ruled a 3, but changed to a 2 after video review.

On Philadelphia's next possession, Kyle Lowry forced a steal near midcourt and fed Siakam for a fast-break layup, giving Toronto an 89-85 lead with 1:14 left.

Butler made one of two at the line and Leonard missed a pair of jump shots, giving the 76ers the ball down 89-86 with 24.1 seconds remaining. Embiid was fouled and made both, cutting it to 89-88 with 12 seconds left.

Leonard was fouled with 10.8 seconds left. He made the first, but missed the second, setting up Butler's tying layup.

"We did a lot of things that we could have done better but we found a way to win the game," Lowry said. "That's all that matters."

TIP-INS

76ers: Embiid shot 6 for 18. ... Philadelphia finished 9 for 27 from 3-point range. ... The 76ers made 17 turnovers leading to 21 points for the Raptors.

Raptors: In its only other conference finals, Toronto lost to LeBron James and Cleveland in six games in 2016. ... Toronto went 0 for 8 from 3-point range in the first quarter. It finished 7 for 30 ... Leonard had Toronto's only assist of the first.

ROTTEN RECORD

The 76ers are 11-21 in winner-take-all playoff games.

UP NEXT

Toronto opens the Eastern Conference Finals at Milwaukee on Wednesday night. The Raptors lost three of four against the Bucks in the regular season and finished two games behind Milwaukee in the race for the NBA's best record.

More AP NBA: <https://apnews.com/NBA> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Why tariff war threatens Beijing's global economic ambitions

By JOE McDONALD AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — China's intensified tariff war with the Trump administration is threatening Beijing's ambition to transform itself into the dominant player in global technology.

The United States is a vital customer and source of technology for Chinese makers of electronics, medical equipment and other high-tech exports — industries that the ruling Communist Party sees as the heart of its economic future.

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Yet to the Trump administration, they're a threat to America's industrial leadership.

Beijing managed to keep Chinese economic growth steady in the most recent quarter despite a drop in exports to the United States. It did so by boosting government spending and bank lending. But China's technology exporters suffered huge sales drops of up to 40 percent, which ate into profits that pay for technology research.

The tariff war is compounding the pain felt by many Chinese companies. They are already enduring stiffened resistance in the United States and Europe to Chinese acquisitions of technology through joint ventures with foreign companies or, with financing by state-run banks, outright purchases.

China might now have to take the "tougher route" of developing more of its own technology, with less access to foreign partners and know-how, said Rajiv Biswas, chief Asia economist for IHS Markit.

"It may be a slower path," Biswas said.

The government and companies are pouring billions of dollars into research. Huawei, the telecom equipment giant and China's first global tech brand, spent \$15 billion last year — more than Apple Inc.

All of this has helped make China an emerging heavyweight in telecoms, artificial intelligence and other fields. Yet the United States, Europe, Japan and other governments complain that Beijing has done so in part by stealing technology or pressuring foreign companies to hand over trade secrets.

Washington is pushing Beijing to roll back plans for a government-led creation of global competitors in robotics, electric cars, artificial intelligence and an array of emerging technologies. Beijing's trading partners argue that such plans violate its commitments to further open its vast consumer and business markets.

The struggle compounds the challenges for President Xi Jinping's government by threatening to delay or disrupt its economic plans. China's leaders are reluctant to yield; they need higher-tech industries to keep incomes rising. Many producers of textiles, shoes and toys have already migrated to Vietnam, Cambodia and other lower-cost economies.

China's ruling Communist Party responded to an economic downturn last year by stepping up spending and lending. That effort reversed a campaign to curb reliance on debt, which had soared so high that rating agencies had downgraded China's credit rating for government borrowing.

Abroad, Xi has been forced to overhaul his multibillion-dollar "Belt and Road" initiative to build railways and other infrastructure. In response to complaints that some countries are left with too much debt, the government has written off some loans and renegotiated contracts.

The tariff war was sparked by years of yawning U.S. trade deficits with China and by complaints — by the Trump administration and many independent trade experts — that Beijing was engaging in predatory and illicit practices, including the theft of technology. The first U.S. penalties targeted high-tech Chinese goods that American officials said benefited from improper support from Beijing.

Its impact spread as President Donald Trump extended tariff increases to Chinese exporters of handbags, furniture and other goods. Those higher import taxes heightened the threat of job losses — a political risk for an unelected party that derives its claim to power in no small part from having managed three decades of explosive economic growth.

On the surface at least, the impact of Friday's U.S. tariff hike "is relatively modest," Brian Coulton, chief economist for Fitch Ratings, said in a report. But if Trump proceeds with his threat to extend 25% tariffs to all imports from China, that "would be a much more material threat to China's growth outlook," Coulton said.

"Renewed weakening in China would rekindle financial market concerns about global growth risks," he said.

Xi's personal standing has been hurt by slowing growth and by last year's decision to eliminate term limits for his office as president, said Zhang Lifang, an independent political commentator in Beijing.

"I think these two things are very stressful for him, both economically and politically," Zhang said.

The United States and Europe have been increasing the cost and complexity of Chinese acquisition of foreign technology or blocking it outright. In October, the European Union tentatively approved the trade bloc's first rules on foreign investments in sensitive sectors. That step followed criticism of Chinese purchases of European technology vendors that are considered vital national assets, including German robot maker Kuka. Chinese buyers have also acquired Sweden's Volvo Cars, Swiss agri-tech supplier Syngenta

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and IBM Corp.'s low-end server business.

In the United States, Trump vetoed the 2017 purchase of a chipmaker, Lattice Semiconductor, that was financed by a Chinese government fund.

Foreign manufacturers of consumer electronics and other goods already are shifting investments to Southeast Asia to cut costs, thereby hurting demand for Chinese parts suppliers and sapping revenue they would use to develop technology.

"Boardrooms of multinationals, including possibly Chinese companies, might decide they need to have more manufacturing capability outside China to reduce this risk," Biswas said.

That shift, accelerated by the pressure from U.S. tariffs, promises a potential windfall for other Asian economies.

Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen has suggested that the U.S.-China tariff war might help her government woo back manufacturers who had moved to the mainland in search of lower costs.

"Our goal is to speed up Taiwanese business people's coming back to rebuild a high added-value supply chain and encourage industries to transform and upgrade themselves," Tsai said.

AP videojournalists Fu Ting in Beijing and Taijing Wu in Taipei contributed to this report.

White House hopefuls swarm rival's home turf of California

By BRIAN SLODYSKO Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — The Democrats who want to be president are swarming California, competing for campaign cash and media attention while courting longtime allies of home-state Sen. Kamala Harris on their rival's own turf.

Former Vice President Joe Biden swooped in to Los Angeles on Wednesday to raise money and snack on tacos with Mayor Eric Garcetti, who has yet to offer an endorsement despite backing Harris in the past. Biden went to three events over two days, including one that netted \$750,000 and was attended by Hollywood powerbrokers, as well as "Miracle on the Hudson" pilot Sully Sullenberger.

Pete Buttigieg met with labor activists and LGBT donors, and promised to "vigorously contest California." The mayor of South Bend, Indiana, also attended at least six fundraisers in the Bay Area and Los Angeles, including one hosted by actress Gwyneth Paltrow.

"We are consolidating our position as one of the top candidates in the presidential race," he told a sold-out crowd Thursday at a West Hollywood gay bar.

Others who have visited the state include Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker and Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar.

California has long been treated as an ATM by national Democrats, who often dash in and out for lucrative fundraisers. But the state has drawn a more intense focus after the date of the 2020 primary was moved up from June to March, with Harris uniquely positioned to capitalize on her home-state popularity at a make-or-break stage in the race.

Her aides have said California is central to their strategy to win the nomination, and they have promoted endorsements from elected officials as Harris plowed her way through fundraisers.

But what once seemed to be a formidable wall of support appears to have softened.

Harris has trailed others in recent state polls. Susie Tompkins Buell, a Harris backer who was one of Hillary Clinton's biggest donors, has held a fundraiser and promoted others for Buttigieg. Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom, a longtime Harris ally who endorsed her, traded praise back and forth this past week with Buttigieg, who said the two were trying to set up a meeting.

"I don't think it's a slam dunk for anybody," said former Sen. Barbara Boxer. "It's not like it's a tiny state where everyone knows their senator. It's a very large state with a lot of different communities and so I think it's wide open."

Harris' campaign aides say they never took her standing for granted. Still, they point to her three state-

wide victories — once as senator and twice as attorney general — as proof she can win in California. They say Harris has worked hard to line up endorsements from state lawmakers and members of the state's congressional delegation, while outraising her presidential competitors in the state.

"I am competing for every vote just like I always have because as far as I'm concerned you have to earn the votes," Harris told CNN's "State of the Union" in an interview that aired Sunday.

With months to go until voting begins, the contours of the race are destined to shift.

Many candidates, particularly those who are little-known or have little money, will be at a steep disadvantage. California is not only the most populous, but also one of the most geographically diverse. That makes campaigning difficult — and unaffordable — particularly when it comes to running TV ads in some of the most expensive media markets in the country.

It remains to be seen who will undertake a serious campaign across the state and who will rely mainly on photo opportunities built around fundraising visits.

"The reality is it's so hard to run for president (here) and raise money ... and what I think you are going to see is this field shrinking from 20 down to five or six," said Steve Westly, a major Silicon Valley donor raising money for Biden who also served a term as the state's elected controller. "Kamala is popular in California, but I think Joe is going to do surprisingly well on a lot of other people's turf."

Whoever wins will likely face a muddled result. Though the state offers nearly 500 delegates, they are apportioned based on how candidates perform in each individual congressional district. That will allow even those who do not win to pad their margins.

"We're not going to make anyone the nominee," said Dan Schnur, a former Republican strategist who now teaches at the University of Southern California. "We're not going to keep anyone from being the nominee, either."

Veteran Democratic strategist Garry South said it was smart strategy for Harris' advisers to try to create the impression that she had the state locked up.

"I would be saying the same damn thing," he said.

But California voters have not historically favored state politicians who ran for the presidency. Former Gov. Jerry Brown and former Sen. Alan Cranston, both Democrats, and Republican Pete Wilson, a former senator and governor, performed poorly when they were White House hopefuls.

"Other than Ronald Reagan, they've all fared very badly. Californians just don't fall in love with their politicians," said South, who managed Gray Davis' winning campaigns for governor in 1998 and 2002 before voters recalled the Democrat. "They elect them like they are hiring a gardener or a plumber: 'Do the job, do it competently and stay out of my face.'"

Associated Press writer Kathleen Ronayne in Sacramento, California, contributed to this report.

Prosecutor: Dogs detected decomposition in missing girl case

By JUAN A. LOZANO Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Trained dogs detected the scent of human decomposition in the vehicle of a man arrested in connection with the disappearance of a 4-year-old Texas girl, according to a prosecutor.

Derion Vence, 26, remained jailed Sunday on a \$1 million bond after being arrested a day earlier on a charge of tampering with evidence, specifically a human corpse. His next court appearance is set for Monday.

Houston police said investigators have not found Maleah Davis and the investigation is continuing. Authorities have declined to say whether they believe Vence killed Maleah. But prosecutors said in court documents filed Saturday that Vence could face additional charges, including murder.

The investigation began after Vence told police that men in a truck on May 4 had abducted him, Maleah and his 2-year-old son a day earlier, but had freed him and the boy. Vence told investigators he was left in the Houston suburb of Sugar Land and walked to a hospital, where he reported the girl's abduction.

Sugar Land police, who initially interviewed him, said his story kept changing and didn't add up.

Vence, who had lived with Maleah and her mother, reported that his silver Nissan Altima was taken in the abduction, but surveillance video showed that vehicle was used to drop Vence off at the hospital. Police found the car Thursday.

Dogs trained to find cadavers reacted to the trunk of the car, Pat Stayton, a prosecutor with the Harris County District Attorney's Office, said at Vence's probable cause court hearing Saturday night.

Surveillance video from a neighbor showed Vence carrying a large, blue laundry basket with a large trash bag from his apartment on May 3, Stayton said. Vence returned three minutes later without the basket and later he was seen leaving the apartment with cleaning supplies, including bleach.

In the silver Nissan, police found a laundry basket that looked like the one Vence took out of his apartment, Stayton said.

"Both of the dogs reacted to the trunk of the silver Nissan that the defendant had driven and that the blue laundry basket was recovered from, indicating that the dogs were responding to the scent of human decomposition in the vehicle," Stayton said.

Investigators also found blood at the apartment, both in the hallway leading to the bathroom and on surfaces inside the bathroom, Stayton said.

At Saturday night's hearing, Vence said he planned to hire a defense attorney.

Rodney Brown, an attorney appointed to represent Vence only for Saturday's hearing, had asked a magistrate judge to set bond at \$5,000, saying Vence was a low flight risk and had lived in Houston most of his life.

Stayton argued that Vence was a flight risk and there was "evidence of deception on the part of the defendant with regard to information he gave to police."

Police have described Vence as Maleah's stepfather, but Maleah's mother, Brittany Bowens, said through a spokesman that Vence is her former fiance. Quanell X, a local civil rights activist who spoke to reporters on Bowens' behalf on Friday, also said that Vence had abused Maleah.

Child Protective Services removed Maleah and her brothers from the home Vence and Bowens shared in August after the girl suffered a head wound, but the children were returned in February, according to an agency spokeswoman.

Follow Juan A. Lozano on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/juanlozano70>

States seek explicit patient consent for pelvic exams

By JENNIFER McDERMOTT and CARLA K. JOHNSON Associated Press

Savanah Harshbarger estimates she performed as many as 10 pelvic exams last year on patients before gynecologic surgeries, feeling for fibroid tumors or other abnormalities.

The Duke University medical student said the experience was a revelation.

"It's pretty empowering to know this is something you can detect with a gloved hand instead of needing an MRI or some more expensive procedure," Harshbarger said.

What was not always clear to her was whether the patients had agreed ahead of time to have a student do the exam while they were under anesthesia. The consent form, Harshbarger said, "definitely does not mention any specific things a student might be doing. It's fairly vague language."

Lawmakers in a number of states now want to eliminate any question about patient consent.

Bills introduced in roughly a dozen states this year would require that women undergoing gynecological surgeries give explicit approval to a pelvic exam beforehand. It's a step that some medical experts say is an unnecessary intrusion into patient care.

Utah's governor signed a pelvic exam consent bill into law earlier this year. A bill in New York passed the state Senate this week and is headed to the governor, and the Maryland Legislature unanimously sent legislation to Gov. Larry Hogan, who is expected to sign it.

Maryland state Delegate Heather Bagnall said the state's teaching hospitals have informed consent as a best practice, but she felt it needed to be made explicit in state law to protect women undergoing surgery

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and as an assurance for medical students.

"So we have basically just spelled out in no uncertain terms, if a patient is going under anesthesia, if a patient is unconscious, that they have to have given consent for these exams," Bagnall said. "They need this added level of protection, and they need this added level of peace of mind."

During a committee hearing on the bill, Melanie Bell, a board member for the Maryland Nurses Association, said there have been times when patients have awakened during the procedures and felt violated.

"Clinical experiences are necessary and are important, and we must learn in a hands-on environment when we're students," she said. "However, we must treat patients with dignity and respect."

A pelvic exam is standard practice before gynecologic surgeries to determine the position and mobility of the organs. It involves inserting fingers of a gloved hand in the patient's vagina to feel her uterus and ovaries. Medical students sometimes do the exams as part of their training.

What's not clear is how often patients are clearly told of student involvement ahead of time.

In general, the bills introduced this year would require explicit informed consent before a medical student is allowed to perform a pelvic exam on an anesthetized patient. Some would require the exam to be related to the planned procedure.

Not everyone believes the legislation is necessary.

Yale Medical School asked Connecticut lawmakers to rely on medical societies to set clear standards designating when it's medically appropriate or necessary to conduct a pelvic exam on an anesthetized patient. The school cautioned lawmakers against legislating clinical decision-making and helped persuade them to shelve the bill.

In New Hampshire, the House killed legislation after its health committee said it heard extensive testimony and found that the practice of informed consent is already in place.

Even in Utah, which this year became the seventh state with a pelvic exam consent requirement, some in the medical community said the legislation wasn't needed.

The Utah law requires a separate consent form that includes the words "CONSENT FOR EXAMINATION OF PELVIC REGION" in no smaller than 18-point type. It defines a patient examination as a "medical examination that requires contact with the patient's sexual organs."

At the state's largest teaching hospital, the new paperwork won't change the practice, said Dr. Robert Silver, department chair of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Utah Hospital.

The law addresses a problem that doesn't exist, he said, because patients already are asked and give their permission before a medical student does a pelvic exam.

He noted one concern with the new law: It requires the consent form to include a checkbox giving a patient the option to refuse a pelvic exam from anyone before surgery, including the surgeon. If a patient chooses that option, Silver said, the surgery wouldn't be possible.

The Association of American Medical Colleges has denounced pelvic exams without specific consent as "unethical and unacceptable," and many medical schools and teaching hospitals say they have revised their policies to require it. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists has had a strongly worded statement on the topic since 2011, urging specific informed consent before surgery.

Even so, several medical students from different schools told The Associated Press that they had recently performed pelvic exams on anesthetized women but were uncertain how much the patients knew beforehand. They wondered whether or not they were acting ethically.

To allay such concerns, Tufts Medical Center in Boston recently revised its consent form.

Doctors discuss the forms with gynecology patients, inform them that students may participate in pelvic exams and ask for consent, said Dr. Laura Baecher-Lind, an obstetrician and gynecologist and the hospital's director of women's care.

But medical students may not be present for that conversation. In response to concerns circulating on social media and an inquiry from a prospective medical student, her department is changing its form to add "exam under anesthesia." She hopes that will clarify to medical students that it's been discussed with patients.

"Our processes are sound except for the documentation of that conversation" with patients, Baecher-Lind said.

A 2018 essay on the topic in the journal *Bioethics* appears to have sparked the current wave of social media buzz, columns and, in turn, legislative proposals.

The author, Phoebe Friesen, decided to pursue the topic after discussing ethical issues with medical students at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York. Some felt the consent obtained from patients before gynecological surgery wasn't specific enough about student involvement. Others said they were unclear about it because they weren't in the room when the patient signed consent forms, but feared speaking up.

Friesen's essay and a related opinion piece she wrote for the online magazine *Slate* came amid the #MeToo movement and provided momentum for Robin Fretwell Wilson, a University of Illinois law professor who has pushed for pelvic exam consent laws for nearly 20 years.

"I have been trying to basically light a fire over this," Wilson said.

She said medical students are afraid to talk about the issue and that patients have no way of knowing what happens while they're unconscious.

"We can't be sure that norm is being respected," Wilson said, explaining her continued push for state legislation.

Among the bills is the one in New York, sponsored by Democratic state Sen. Jessica Ramos. Her bill would amend the public health law to establish informed consent for medical procedures during education or training. It passed the Senate earlier this week and was sent to Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

Ramos said it's "of utmost importance" to instill the value of informed consent on medical students in New York.

Democratic state Sen. Roxanne Persaud worked on similar legislation and supported the bill that ultimately passed. She said her office has received calls from women wondering how they could find out if they had a pelvic exam while under anesthesia that was performed by medical students. She wonders if she also had one during surgery a decade ago.

If an informed consent requirement becomes law, Persaud said, "It'll be a victory for women."

McDermott reported from Providence, Rhode Island. Johnson reported from Seattle.

Associated Press writers Susan Haigh in Hartford, Connecticut, David Klepper in Albany, New York, Holly Ramer in Concord, New Hampshire, and Brian Witte in Annapolis, Maryland, contributed to this report.

Myanmar passenger jet lands safely after landing gear fails

By AUNG NAING SOE Associated Press

YANGON, Myanmar (AP) — A Myanmar National Airlines plane made an emergency landing at Mandalay International Airport on Sunday, using only its rear wheels after the front landing gear failed to deploy.

All 82 passengers and seven crew members aboard Flight UB103 from Yangon were declared safe after the Brazilian-made Embraer 190-LR touched down on its rear sets of wheels before the plane's nose tilted down to scrape the runway, sending off a shower of sparks as it slowed to a stop.

Kyaw San, a spokesman for the airport, said the pilot informed the control tower before landing that he was unable to pull down the nose wheels.

A statement on the airline's Facebook page explained that the plane's EICAS — Engine Indicating and Crew Alerting System — indicated a failure of the front landing gear to deploy. The pilot tried a backup emergency procedure to pull down the wheels but that was unsuccessful. The aircraft did two fly-bys past the tower for air controllers to check visually whether the wheels had deployed.

The captain followed emergency procedures to dump fuel to reduce the landing weight, and made a safe landing at 9:09 a.m., said the statement.

Video apparently shot by one of the passengers and posted online showed an urgent but orderly evacuation of the passengers and crew. Passengers were seen walking away from the plane across the airfield,

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several of them smiling.

Flight operations at the airport were temporarily suspended, and allowed to resume after about 2 ½ hours for smaller aircraft. The runways were expected to be reopened for use by larger Boeing and Airbus aircraft by late afternoon.

On Wednesday, a Biman Bangladesh Airlines aircraft skidded off the runway after landing in bad weather at Yangon's airport, injuring at least 15 passengers and crew but none critically. The fuselage of the plane, a Bombardier Dash 8, was broken in at least two spots, along with the wings.

US-Canada border transfers raise fear of delayed crossings

By WILSON RING Associated Press

DERBY LINE, Vt. (AP) — Hundreds of border agents from across the U.S. are being temporarily transferred south ahead of the busy summer tourism season, worrying those along the northern border who rely on cross-border commerce — including U.S. innkeepers, shop owners and restaurateurs who fear their Canadian customers could be caught in backups at border crossings.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection says 731 northern border agents from land, sea and airports are in the process of being sent to the U.S.-Mexico border, where they will help their southern counterparts handle the influx of families and unaccompanied children from Central America.

The move comes as businesses gear up for the summer season, when tens of thousands of Canadian tourists help buoy the economies of communities in border states and elsewhere deeper inside the United States. Since U.S.-Canada border security was ramped up shortly after the 9/11 attacks, local and state officials have worried heightened security could hurt trade and the free flow of people back and forth across the 5,525-mile (8,891-kilometer) border.

Garry Douglas of the North Country Chamber of Commerce in Plattsburgh, New York, said commerce with Canada is the "single greatest driving force" in the regional economy and it took years to get adequate staffing levels at the northern border, which around 400,000 people and \$1.6 billion in goods cross daily.

In an email, he said he hadn't seen any problems yet, but cautioned that peak travel season doesn't begin until Canada's Victoria Day holiday weekend, from May 18-20.

Last week, 13 bipartisan members of Congress from six northern border states wrote acting Homeland Security Secretary Kevin McAleenan, voicing concerns the plans could hurt cross-border travel and commerce.

"The decision to deploy northern border CBP officers to the southern border makes it increasingly more difficult for the agency to meet their core mission requirements at the border which include effectively securing U.S. points of entry and safeguarding and streamlining lawful trade and travel," said the May 3 letter, which was released Wednesday.

The letter was signed by four members of Congress from New York, four from Michigan, two from New Hampshire, and one each from Minnesota, Washington and North Dakota. On Thursday, Vermont's Democratic U.S. Rep. Peter Welch sent an identical letter to McAleenan.

"Tourism is central to our economy in the Granite State and I have serious concerns about any disruption in the efficiency of operations at the Canadian border," New Hampshire Democratic Rep. Annie Kuster said in an email interview. "Moving Customs and Border Protection personnel away from our northern border has the potential to impact U.S.-Canadian commerce and tourism just as we enter the busy summer months. I will work with my colleagues whose states and districts share a border with Canada to address this serious issue."

Sens. Susan Collins and Angus King of Maine said they understand the need for additional resources at the southern border, but in a joint statement they said they're monitoring to "ensure that the northern border remains safe and secure, and that crossings that facilitate jobs and vital economic activity are not negatively affected in Maine." Collins is a Republican and King is an independent who caucuses with Democrats.

While CBP wouldn't specify where the agents are coming from, they are being drawn from 328 ports

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of entry.

Vermont CBP Port Director Gregory Starr, speaking Wednesday after the ribbon-cutting for a new port of entry at Derby Line, said a number of his agents were heading south. He said those staying in Vermont would do their best to avoid backups.

"It's an issue that we have to deal with," Starr said. "We're going to help out as much as we can and try to maintain our presence here as well."

In Maine, the town of Old Orchard Beach relies heavily on Canadian tourists. Some hotels and motels fly both the U.S. and Canadian flags out front.

One of the owners of the waterfront Kebek 3 motel, Marc Bourassa, says 90% of his customers are Canadian, so he's concerned about delays at the border. For the past couple of years, Canadian guests have reported to him that things have been running smoothly at the crossings. He doesn't want to see the apple cart being upset.

"It doesn't make sense to me that they they'd do something like that," Bourassa said. "But there are lots of things that don't make sense to me. I guess that's life."

Associated Press reporter David Sharp in Portland, Maine, contributed to this report.

5 years later, officer faces reckoning for chokehold death

By MICHAEL R. SISAK Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The deadly confrontation five summers ago flickers in Gwen Carr's mind, competing for attention with warm, happy memories of her late son Eric Garner's life. For all the smiles and laughter they shared, there are flashes of Garner being grabbed by a New York City police officer and crying out: "I can't breathe."

Carr said she has been reliving what she pointedly calls "my son's murder" every day since his July 2014 death : Her first born succumbing to cardiac arrest after a white officer wearing plainclothes, Daniel Pantaleo, restrained her 34-year-old son with what she contends is an illegal chokehold and what Pantaleo's lawyer argues is an approved technique.

A long-delayed internal disciplinary trial that could lead to Pantaleo's firing is slated to begin on Monday. A ruling late last week requires the police watchdog agency bringing the case prove not only that Pantaleo violated department rules, but that his actions fit the criteria for criminal charges. Pantaleo does not actually face criminal charges.

"It has been five long years," Carr told The Associated Press last week. "Pantaleo and all those other officers who actually murdered my son that day, they are still collecting their salaries. They still go home every day and it's business as usual with them. But with me, we relive this every day."

Video of the struggle on a Staten Island street corner quickly went viral, amplifying Garner's plaintive pleas of "I can't breathe" into a rallying cry in the face of police brutality against unarmed black men and women.

"Very troubling," Mayor Bill de Blasio said at the time.

Pantaleo was placed on desk duty. Investigations were launched. The medical examiner ruled Garner's death a homicide caused by a police chokehold.

And then nothing happened.

A grand jury declined to indict Pantaleo on criminal charges. Facing a July deadline, federal prosecutors don't appear inclined to file civil rights charges, either.

Pantaleo has remained on the city payroll, stripped of his gun and badge but pulling in a hefty salary — peaking at more than \$120,000 in 2017, according to city payroll records.

The NYPD argued the federal investigation was holding up Pantaleo's disciplinary case. Last summer, however, the department decided to move forward anyway. It will begin 1,761 days after Garner's death.

Pantaleo's administrative trial is open to the public, but space in the court-like room at police headquarters in lower Manhattan is limited. The police department won't allow video, photos or even a sketch artist.

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The trial is expected to take about two weeks.

The Civilian Complaint Review Board said it expects to call fewer than 20 witnesses. Stuart London, Pantaleo's attorney, said he'll bring up to 10 people to the stand. They include a retired NYPD training sergeant who London said taught Pantaleo an approved technique known as a "seat-belt hold" that is being confused for a chokehold.

The NYPD's chief surgeon ruled in 2014 that Pantaleo hadn't used a chokehold on Garner, contradicting the medical examiner's findings, London said. London said part of his defense case would focus on attacking the medical examiner's report, which he called a "political document" and "the worst possible autopsy ever done."

Pantaleo's union, the Police Benevolent Association, has blamed the 350-pound Garner's poor health and resisting arrest for his death. Garner shouted at officers as they approached him, saying: "Every time you see me, you want to mess with me. I'm tired of it. It stops today. I'm minding my business. Please just leave me alone."

Garner, a father of six, had been arrested for selling untaxed cigarettes numerous times and was suspected of doing the same when officers approached him, police said. The man who recorded the video of the confrontation said that wasn't true and that Garner had just broken up a fight between two other men.

Garner, who had asthma, suffered a heart attack in an ambulance and was pronounced dead at a hospital.

The city paid Garner's family \$5.9 million in 2015 to settle a wrongful death claim. Carr said that money went to Garner's wife, not her.

Use of force complaints against the NYPD have fallen sharply in the years since Garner's death, according to data compiled by the review board. In 2014, there were 2,412. In 2018, there were 1,764, marking a 27% drop. But alleged chokeholds have still been a problem. Last year, the review board reported receiving 133 chokehold complaints. So far in 2019, there have been 39.

The NYPD hasn't fired an officer for a fatal chokehold since Francis Livoti, who was dismissed from the department and convicted by a federal jury for violating the civil rights of a Bronx man prosecutors say died after Livoti used a choke hold on him in 1994.

A few weeks after Garner's death, 18-year-old Michael Brown was fatally shot by a police officer in Ferguson, Missouri. A few months after that, officers in Cleveland fatally shot 12-year-old Tamir Rice. Other confrontations followed between police officers and people of color, sparking tensions, calls for reform and nationwide protests.

Carr, turning to activism as a means of healing from her grief, lobbied for an executive order directing New York's attorney general's office to review cases in which unarmed civilians are killed by police. Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, signed it a year after her son's death. She also wrote about her life and Garner's death in a book, "This Stops Today," published last October.

"All of this needs to stop," Carr said. "This is very important to me for Eric, but not only for Eric — for the other families, and for the families that we know will be."

Follow Michael Sisak at twitter.com/mikesisak

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Today in History By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, May 13, the 133rd day of 2019. There are 232 days left in the year. This is Mother's Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 13, 1981, Pope John Paul II was shot and seriously wounded in St. Peter's Square by Turkish assailant Mehmet Ali Agca (MEH'-met AH'-lee AH'-juh).

On this date:

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In 1568, forces loyal to Mary, Queen of Scots were defeated by troops under her half-brother and Regent of Scotland, the Earl of Moray, in the Battle of Langside, thwarting Mary's attempt to regain power almost a year after she was forced to abdicate.

In 1607, English colonists arrived by ship at the site of what became the Jamestown settlement in Virginia (the colonists went ashore the next day).

In 1917, three shepherd children reported seeing a vision of the Virgin Mary near Fatima, Portugal; it was the first of six such apparitions that the children claimed to have witnessed.

In 1918, the first U.S. airmail stamp, costing 24 cents and featuring a picture of a Curtiss JN-4 biplane, was publicly issued. (On some of the stamps, the "Jenny" was printed upside-down, making them collector's items.)

In 1940, in his first speech as British prime minister, Winston Churchill told Parliament, "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat."

In 1958, Vice President Richard Nixon and his wife, Pat, were spat upon and their limousine battered by rocks thrown by anti-U.S. demonstrators in Caracas, Venezuela.

In 1972, 118 people died after fire broke out at the Sennichi Department Store in Osaka, Japan.

In 1973, in tennis' first so-called "Battle of the Sexes," Bobby Riggs defeated Margaret Court 6-2, 6-1 in Ramona, California. (Billie Jean King soundly defeated Riggs at the Houston Astrodome in September.)

In 1985, a confrontation between Philadelphia authorities and the radical group MOVE ended as police dropped a bomb onto the group's row house, igniting a fire that killed 11 people and destroyed 61 homes.

In 1994, President Bill Clinton nominated federal appeals Judge Stephen G. Breyer to the U.S. Supreme Court to replace retiring Justice Harry A. Blackmun; Breyer went on to win Senate confirmation.

In 2002, President George W. Bush announced that he and Russian President Vladimir Putin (POO'-tih) would sign a treaty to shrink their countries' nuclear arsenals by two-thirds.

In 2004, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld visited the Abu Ghraib (grayb) prison camp in Iraq, where he insisted the Pentagon did not try to cover up abuses there. During a campaign swing in West Virginia, President George W. Bush said he felt "disgraced" by the images of U.S. soldiers abusing Iraqi prisoners but told his listeners that actions of a handful of Americans should not sully the nation's military.

Ten years ago: A judge in West Palm Beach sentenced two men to death for the drug-debt slaying of a family of four on the side of a Florida highway, including two young boys who died in their mother's arms. Atlantis' astronauts captured the orbiting Hubble Space Telescope for five days of repair work. Pittsburgh's Adam LaRoche and Florida's Ross Gload became the first baseball players to have home runs taken away following a video replay review.

Five years ago: A mine fire in Soma, Turkey, killed 301 workers. A European court, in an important test of the "right to be forgotten," ruled that Google had to amend some of its search results at the request of ordinary people when they showed links to outdated, irrelevant information.

One year ago: President Donald Trump said he would help the Chinese telecommunications company ZTE get "back into business"; the Commerce Department had earlier moved to block the company from importing American components. Officials in Hawaii called for more evacuations near the Kilauea volcano amid signs of an imminent eruption at the volcano's summit. (The eruption came four days later.) The body of 69-year-old "Superman" actress Margot Kidder was found by a friend near her Montana home in what was later ruled a suicide from a drug and alcohol overdose.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Buck Taylor is 81. Actor Harvey Keitel is 80. Author Charles Baxter is 72. Actress Zoe Wanamaker is 71. Actor Franklyn Ajaye is 70. Singer Stevie Wonder is 69. Former Ohio Gov. John Kasich (KAY'-sihk) is 67. Actress Leslie Winston is 63. Producer-writer Alan Ball is 62. Basketball Hall of Famer Dennis Rodman is 58. "Late Show" host Stephen Colbert (kohl-BEHR') is 55. Rock musician John Richardson (The Gin Blossoms) is 55. Actor Tom Verica is 55. Singer Darius Rucker (Hootie and the Blowfish) is 53. Actress Susan Floyd is 51. Contemporary Christian musician Andy Williams (Casting Crowns) is 47. Actor Brian Geraghty is 44. Actress Samantha Morton is 42. Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., is 42. Former NBA player Mike Bibby is 41. Rock musician Mickey Madden (Maroon 5) is 40. Actor Iwan Rheon is 34. Actress-

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writer-director Lena Dunham is 33. Actor Robert Pattinson is 33. Actress Candice Accola King is 32. Actor Hunter Parrish is 32. Folk-rock musician Wylie Gelber (Dawes) is 31. NHL defenseman P.K. Subban is 31. Actress Debby Ryan is 26.

Thought for Today: "What this country needs is a good five-cent cigar." — Thomas R. Marshall, U.S. vice president (1854-1925). (To which American humorist Franklin P. Adams replied, "What this country really needs is a good five-cent nickel.")

(Above Advance for Use Monday, May 13)

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