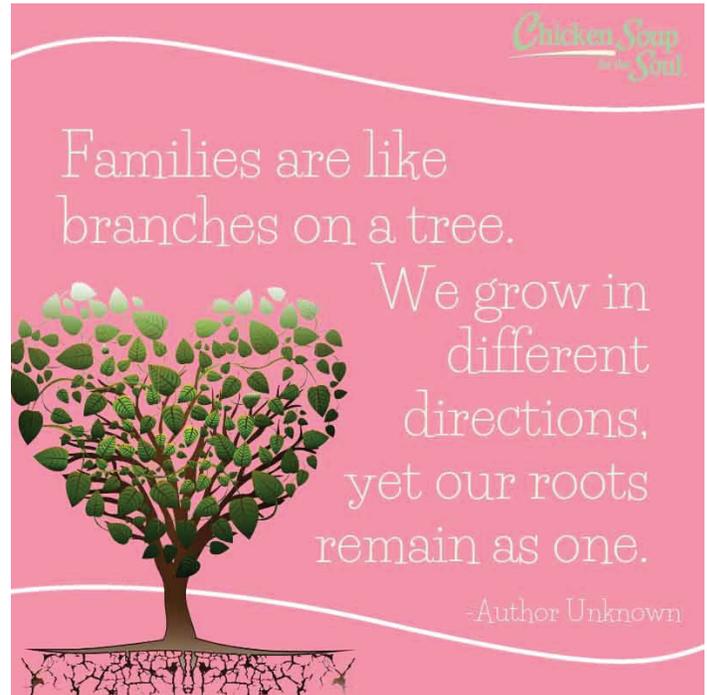


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Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

Swimming Pool Hours

Open Swim Daily: 1 p.m. to 4:50 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to 8:50 p.m.

Fun Night is every Friday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:50 p.m.

Adult Water Aerobics: Monday through Thursday: 8 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. to 6:15 pm

Adult Lap Swim: Monday through Friday: 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.; Monday through Thursday: 5:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.; Friday-Sunday: 4:50 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Swimming Lessons: First Session: June 17-27

CLOSED: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

Friday, June 7

6:00 p.m.: T-Ball at Andover (Gold)

7:00 p.m.: U10 Pee Wees at Andover (R,W)

June 7-8

Junior Legion at Mellette Tourney

June 7-9

Legion at Milbank Tourney

Junior Teeners at Watertown Coke Tournament

U12 Midgets at Watertown Coke Tournament

Sunday, June 9

1:00 p.m.: Groton 2 Amateurs host Aberdeen

4:00 p.m.: Locke Electric Amateurs host Northville

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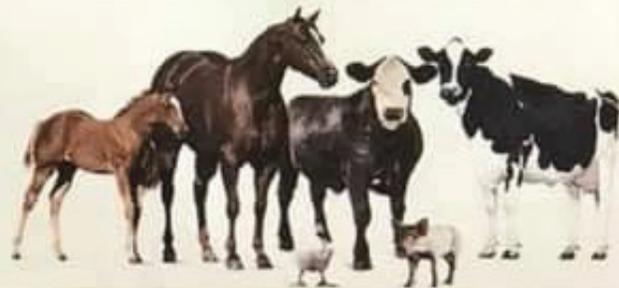
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Event



JUNE 11 - JUNE 12



- Play our Feed Greatness® game for deals!
- Orion® Cooler Giveaway!
- Specials on Purina® Feeds in stock!
- Grandpa's cheese samples available on Tuesday starting at 8 AM
- On Wednesday at 11 AM, rib-eye sandwiches and chips will be available upon donation to SPURS Therapeutic Riding Center. Make sure to visit with their volunteers, riders and their parents, board members and the director of this very special organization!

Football championship contract OK'd, schedule conflicts with volleyball

By Dana Hess

For the S.D. Newspaper Association

PIERRE — There is a venue for the next high school football championships, but the schedule for the games remains in doubt as the South Dakota High School Activities Association tries to decide what to do about its conflict with a volleyball qualifier on the same night.

At its meeting Thursday, the SDHSAA Board of Directors approved a contract with South Dakota State University to use the Dana J. Dykhouse Football Stadium for the high school football championship games on Thursday, Nov. 14 and Friday, Nov. 15. The stadium isn't available on Nov. 16 because the Jacks have a home football game.

The championships are moving to SDSU for one year as the Dakota Dome at the University of South Dakota is undergoing a renovation that is temporarily cutting down on available seating.

The contract with SDSU calls for the association to pay \$12,000 for the two-day rental. The fee includes stadium guest relations staff; team hosts; ticket sellers; parking attendants; clean-up and custodial workers; official hosts; high school apparel sales; traffic guides; broadcast interfacing with the video board; snow removal for the field, parking lots and walking paths; concessions provided by University Dining Services; locker room attendants and space; parking and facilities maps; athletic training space; staff and volunteer credentials; and use of instant replay equipment.

Ticket fees will go to the association, except in the case of SDSU selling suites. The association will get \$15 each from suite ticket holders, the rest of the revenue will go to SDSU.

SDSU will keep the revenue from the sale of \$5 premium parking places. SDHSAA Executive Director Dan Swartos said with a stadium capacity of 18,000, there will be plenty of parking places.

"I don't expect parking to be a huge issue," Swartos said.

In addition to the leasing fee, the association will be responsible for paying two police officers and two student officers at each game, ambulance/medical coverage, lead statistician, lead facility manager, lead championships manager, lead ticket manager, scoreboard operator, public announcement operator and a play clock operator.

While the schedule for when the individual games will take place has not been decided yet, SDHSAA Assistant Executive Director John Krogstrand said the tentative plan was to have the AA championship game Thursday night and the AAA championship game Friday night.

Krogstrand said those games were the ones most likely to have the biggest crowds. Scheduling them at the end of the day would ease the flow of traffic, he said, adding that the association needs to keep in mind that Thursday and Friday are school days at SDSU.

Board member Randy Soma of Brookings asked the staff to consider rescheduling the AA game, as that Thursday night is also when the SoDak 16 volleyball qualifier games are scheduled.

Swartos said one option would be to move the SoDak 16 games to Saturday.

Moving the volleyball game may cause some hard feelings, according to SDHSAA Assistant Executive Director Jo Auch.

"They feel dumped on," Auch said of the volleyball coaches who would see their schedule changed by a football game. "They feel they have to make the concessions."

Swartos said that before any final decision is made about when the football games are scheduled, his office would contact AA activities directors to get their input. He knows going in that there will be some conflicting views.

"We're never going to make everybody happy," Swartos said.

SDHSAA seeks to cut field of state golf tournament

By Dana Hess

For the S.D. Newspaper Association

PIERRE — Approval of a second reading of changes to the athletic handbook went smoothly at Thursday's meeting of the South Dakota High School Activities Association Board of Directors, except for two golf proposals that ended up in the rough.

At issue were proposals to re-instate region play in State AA golf and change Class A tournament qualifying numbers from 60 percent to 50 percent of players.

According to SDHSAA Executive Director Dan Swartos, golf coaches he talked to didn't know about the changes, even though the changes had been approved by activities directors.

The size of the field is hampering play in the girls' Class A tournament, according to SDHSAA Assistant Executive Director John Krogstrand.

By implementing the qualifying change from 60 percent to 50 percent, the last Class A tournament would have had eight fewer golfers. Of the eight that would have been cut, each shot 109 or worse at the region tournament and none finished better than 70th at the state event, according to Krogstrand.

Players with fewer skills need to take more shots, slowing down the pace of play for the entire tournament. It's not uncommon, Krogstrand said, for a round of golf to take six hours.

"There are some kids that aren't ready for state golf," Swartos said.

The board approved the second reading of handbook changes, except for the two golf measures. Swartos said the association would turn to golf coaches to help find solutions.

Other changes that passed on the second reading include the limited use of instant replay in championship football and basketball games.

—30—

Ruesink to lead activities board of directors

By Dana Hess

For the S.D. Newspaper Association

PIERRE — At its August meeting the South Dakota High School Activities Association Board of Directors will have a new leader: Moe Ruesink of Sioux Valley.

Ruesink was elected at Thursday's meeting along with new vice chairman David Planteen of Langford. Ruesink takes over the chairmanship from Brian Maher of Sioux Falls.

The board also approved the results of the election of new board members. The new West River at large member will be Winner Athletic Director Dan Aaker. He defeated Jordan Bauer of Rapid City on a vote of 100-40 from member schools. Aaker will replace Steve Morford of Spearfish.

The new large school board of education member will be Mark Murphy of Aberdeen. He defeated Randy Hartmann of Pierre on a vote of 91-45. Murphy will serve out the term of Paul Turman of Pierre who took a position in another state.

Running unopposed was Bary Mann of Wakpala who will serve as the Native American at large board member. He takes the place of Silas Blaine of Crazy Horse.

New members will join the board at its August meeting.

Member schools also approved a constitutional amendment regarding ejections from football games. The amendment, approved on a vote of 134-6, calls for the ejected player to sit out the equivalent of one game.

—30—

Schools advised on Rapid City motel rates

By Dana Hess

For the S.D. Newspaper Association

PIERRE — There are ways for school districts to cut their motel costs according to information provided Thursday to the South Dakota High School Activities Association Board of Directors.

Eric Brekke, who said he worked with two hotels in Rapid City, told the board during its public forum that he was upset about the way Rapid City is often portrayed as having unusually high hotel rates.

Brekke said the school districts could save money if they didn't schedule their athletic contests at the same time as Rapid City's large events like the Lakota Nation Invitational or the stock show.

Schools may also save money by booking suites for their players. Suites cost a little more, Brekke said, but the schools will save by being able to put more players in one room.

Brekke also advised schools not to shop around for the best rates. He said the best course of action is to find a hotel they like and stick with it. Hotels are more likely to work with longtime customers if an emergency arises, Brekke said.

"If they want a hotel, stay with it," Brekke said. "That hotel will treat them like gold."

—30—

Kennedy Clark named to USF Dean's List

SIOUX FALLS, South Dakota—The University of Sioux Falls has released its Dean's List for spring semester 2019, and over 550 students made the list. To qualify for the Dean's List, a student must achieve a semester grade point average of 3.5 or greater on a 4.0 scale.

Kennedy Clark, Senior, Elementary Education, Groton, made the Fall Semester 2018 USF Dean's List

The Life of Roger Aberle

Memorial Services for Roger Aberle, 66, of Groton will be 11:00 a.m., Saturday, June 8th at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Rev. Jeff Whillock will officiate. Military honors will be provided by American Legion Post #39. Visitation will be held from 9-11 a.m.

Roger passed away June 4, 2019 at Avera St. Lukes Hospital, Aberdeen.

Roger Eugene was born on September 21, 1952 in Bismarck, North Dakota to Eugene and Barbara (Fettigg) Aberle. He attended and graduated from Herreid High School. Roger continued his education at Northern State University where he earned a bachelor's degree in Business. He served in the US Marine Corps from September of 1972 until his honorable discharge in October of 1974. In 1976, he was united in marriage with Linda Martin and to this union, two sons were born, Douglas and Scott. Roger managed the Starlight Truck Stop for many years and later worked ten years at K.O. Lee. In 1994, he met Kristi Jones and they were blessed with two children, Kaili and Austin. Roger worked at Horton's in Britton prior to his retirement and part-time at Ken's Fairway in Groton in his last years.

Roger had a passion for old cars, especially his GTO. He loved meeting new people and visiting with family and friends. He enjoyed dancing, the family pets, and being outside having a Budweiser and a smoke. He cherished time spent with his children and grandchildren and watching them grow.

Celebrating his life are his children: Scott Aberle and girlfriend, Emily of Conde, Kaili Aberle of Groton, Austin Aberle of Groton, daughter-in-law, Stephanie Aberle of Aberdeen, six grandchildren: Grant, Henry, Jack, Bailey, Taylor and Zander, his sisters, Shirley (Wayne) VanderLaan of Mound City, Lucille Aberle and boyfriend, Calvin of California and many nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were his parents, his son, Douglas and his brother, Allan.



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GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #06-6

School Board Meeting

June 10, 2019 – 7:00 PM – GHS Conference Room

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order with members present. Approve agenda as proposed or amended.

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS DISCLOSURE PURSUANT SDCL 23-3

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of minutes of May 13, 2019 school board meeting as drafted.
2. Approval of North Central Special Education Co-Op (NCSEC) agenda items...*as fiscal agent*.
3. Approval of May 2019 District bills for payment.
4. Approval of May 2019 Financial Report, Agency Accounts, and Investments.
5. Approval of May 2019 School Transportation Report.
6. Approval of May 2019 School Lunch Report.
7. Authorize request of 2019-2020 energy quotes (fuel/oil/diesel/gas) with due date of 4:00 PM on June 24, 2019.
8. Authorize request of 2019-2020 newspaper specifications and quote form with due date of 4:00 PM on June 25, 2019.
9. Authorize Business Manager to publish 2019-2020 Groton Area School District Budget with 8:00 PM public hearing set for July 8 organizational school board meeting.

OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Open Forum for Public Participation...in accordance with Board Policy & Guidelines.
2. Second reading and adoption of proposed amendments to graduation requirements.
3. School Board Committee Reports:
 - a. **Building, Grounds, & Transportation:** Clint Fjelstad, Merle Harder
 - b. **Personnel, Policy, & Curriculum:** Deb Gengerke, Kara Pharis
 - c. **Negotiations:** Grant Rix, Steve Smith, Marty Weismantel
4. Administrative Reports: (a) Superintendent's Report; (b) Principal's Reports; (c) Business Manager Report

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Elementary Language Arts curriculum review presentation.
2. Discussion on potential co-op agreement with Langford School District for Show Choir – Cody Swanson.
3. Approve contract for Elementary tuck pointing work.
4. Accept or reject bids for HS boiler replacement project and authorize Superintendent to execute contract for accepted bid.
5. Approve NCSEC District Membership Agreement for 2019-2020.
6. Approve hiring Matt Locke as Head Girls Basketball Coach for 2019-2020 season.
7. Approve reassignment of Becky Erickson from Assistant Girls Basketball Coach to JH Girls Basketball Coach.
8. Approve signed teacher contracts.
9. Executive session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(4) negotiations.

ADJOURN

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Today in Weather History

June 7, 1982: Lightning struck a house in Sunshine Acres, north of Pierre, and the ensuing fire destroyed the interior. One person received minor burns. Over two inches of rain fell in Pierre causing Capital Lake to rise four feet. Water and mud flooded the State Maintenance Building.

June 7, 1993: A large F3 tornado destroyed a farmstead 9 miles southwest of Tulare. The tornado twisted the house on its foundation, virtually destroying it. This storm also destroyed a barn, three steel bins, three granaries, and two hog houses. Ten hogs were killed.

At least three more tornadoes damaged several farms in the Tulare and Redfield areas. A tornado hit one farm northwest of Tulare causing about 65,000 dollars in damage. Another tornado damaged a farm 5 miles west of Redfield.

1692: A massive earthquake strikes Port Royal in Jamaica, killing some 3,000 people. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the History Channel.

1816: The following is found on page 31, from the book, "History of the American Clock Business for the Past Sixty Year, and Life of Chauncey Jerome," written by Chauncey Jerome. The book was published in 1860. "The next summer was a cold one of 1816, which none of the old people will ever forget, and which many of the young have heard a great deal about. There was ice and snow in every month of the year. I well remember on the seventh of June, while on my way to work, about a mile from home, dressed throughout with thick woolen clothes and an overcoat on, my hands got so cold that I was obliged to lay down my tools and put on a pair of mittens which I had in my pocket. It snowed about an hour that day." This bitter cold event occurred in Plymouth, Connecticut.

1816 - A famous June snow occurred in the northeastern U.S. Danville VT reported drifts of snow and sleet twenty inches deep. The Highlands were white all day, and flurries were observed as far south as Boston MA. (David Ludlum)

1972 - Richmond VA experienced its worst flood of record as rains from Hurricane Agnes pushed the water level at the city locks to a height of 36.5 feet, easily topping the previous record of thirty feet set in 1771. (The Weather Channel)

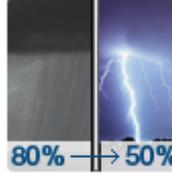
1987 - Thunderstorms in the Laramie Mountains of eastern Wyoming produced golf ball size hail, and up to five inches of rain in just one hour. Half a dozen cities in the Upper Mississippi Valley reported record high temperatures for the date, including La Crosse, WI, with a reading of 97 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)(Storm Data)

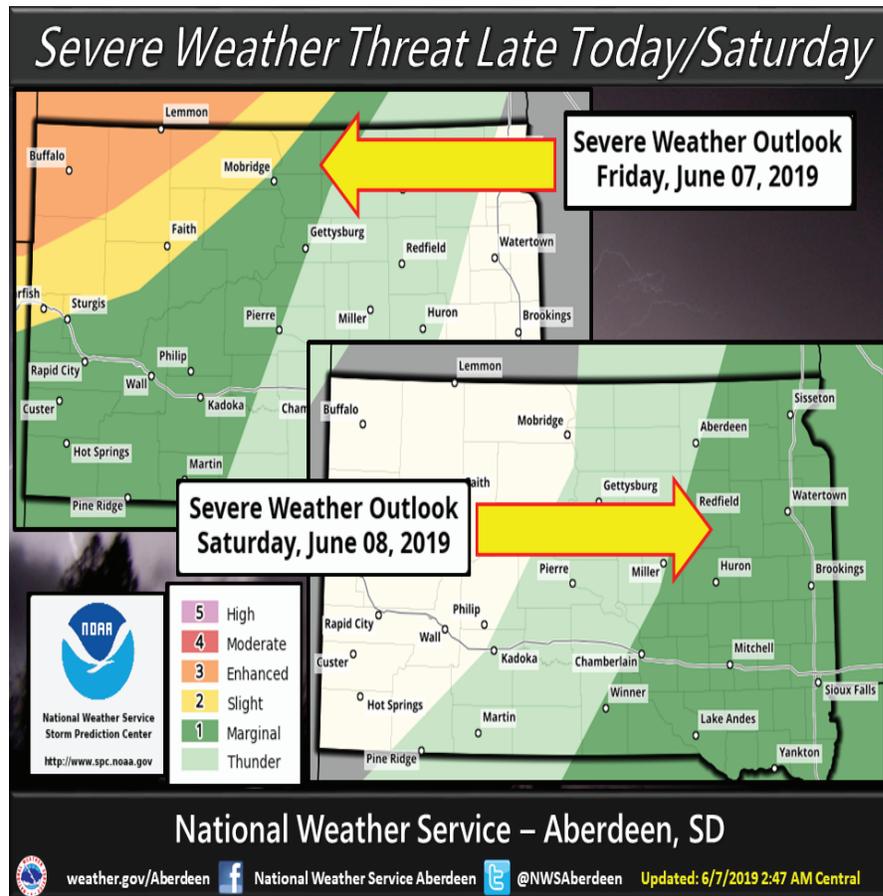
1988 - Snow whitened some of the mountains of northern California and northwestern Nevada. Twenty-six cities in the central and eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including Rapid City SD with a reading of 104 degrees, and Miles City, MT, with a high of 106 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from southern Oklahoma and eastern Texas to northwestern Florida through the day and night. Thunderstorms spawned 22 tornadoes, including a dozen in Louisiana, and there were 119 reports of large hail and damaging winds. A strong (F-2) tornado at Gross Tete LA killed two persons, injured thirty others, and another strong (F-2) tornado injured 60 persons at Lobdell LA. Softball size hail was reported at Hillsboro TX. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
				
Hot and Breezy	Mostly Clear and Breezy	Slight Chance T-storms and Breezy then T-storms	Showers and Breezy then Chance T-storms	Mostly Sunny
High: 91 °F	Low: 68 °F	High: 82 °F	Low: 52 °F	High: 71 °F



Hot and windy today with a touch of humidity. Storms will develop across northwestern South Dakota this afternoon/evening, with the main threat being strong winds, large hail, and isolated tornadoes. Overnight into Saturday morning the severe weather threat, as well as chances for moisture, diminish. As the front continues across the Dakotas, the threat for severe storms Saturday afternoon shifts into eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota - and again we will be concerned with large hail and strong winds. This front will also bring in a period of cooler temperatures that will persist through most of next week.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 91 °F at 6:08 PM

Low Temp: 58 °F at 2:43 AM

Wind: 16 mph at 10:21 AM

Day Rain: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 95° in 1959, 1952

Record Low: 28° in 1901

Average High: 75°F

Average Low: 51°F

Average Precip in June.: 0.70

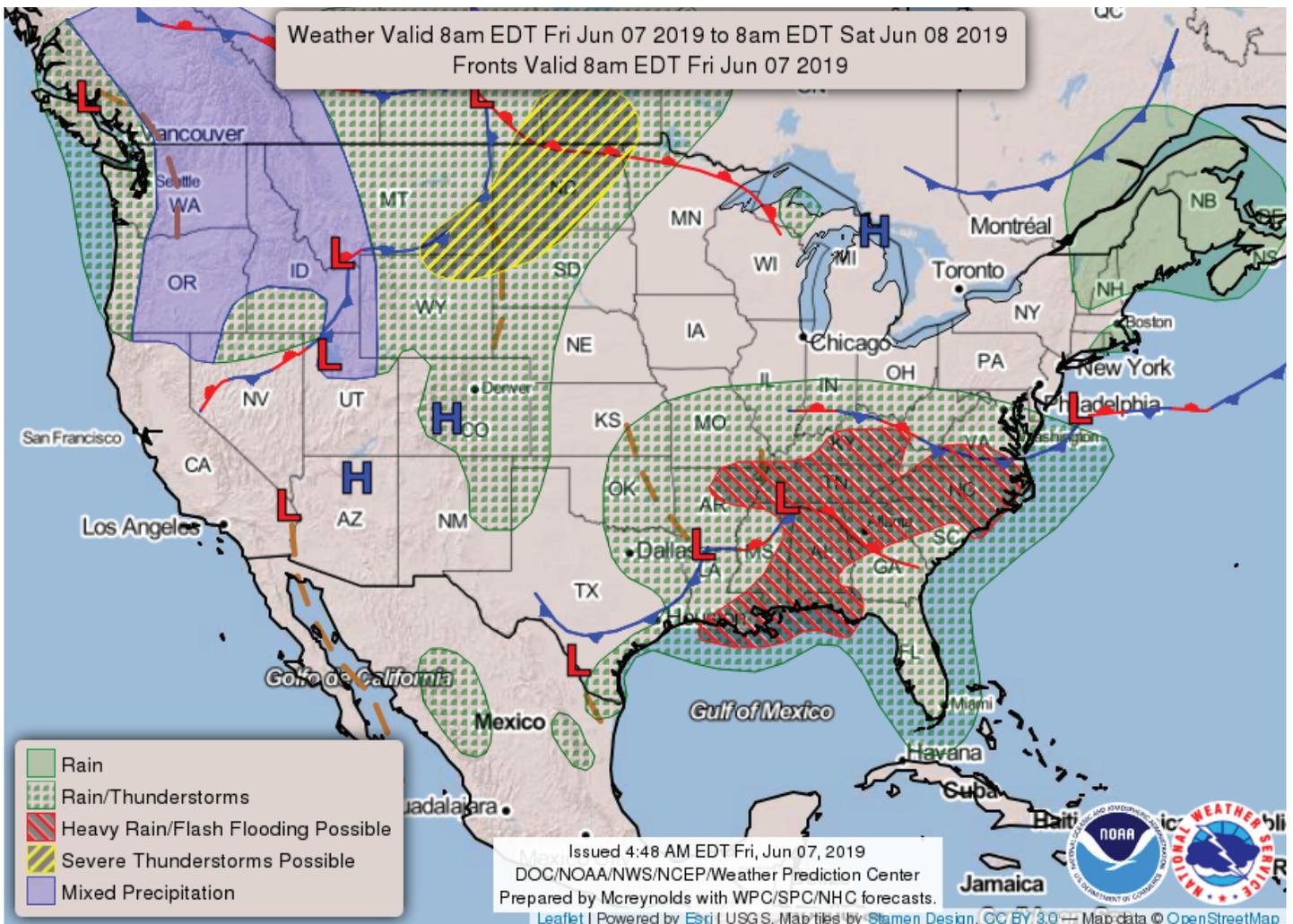
Precip to date in June.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 7.84

Precip Year to Date: 7.97

Sunset Tonight: 9:19 p.m.

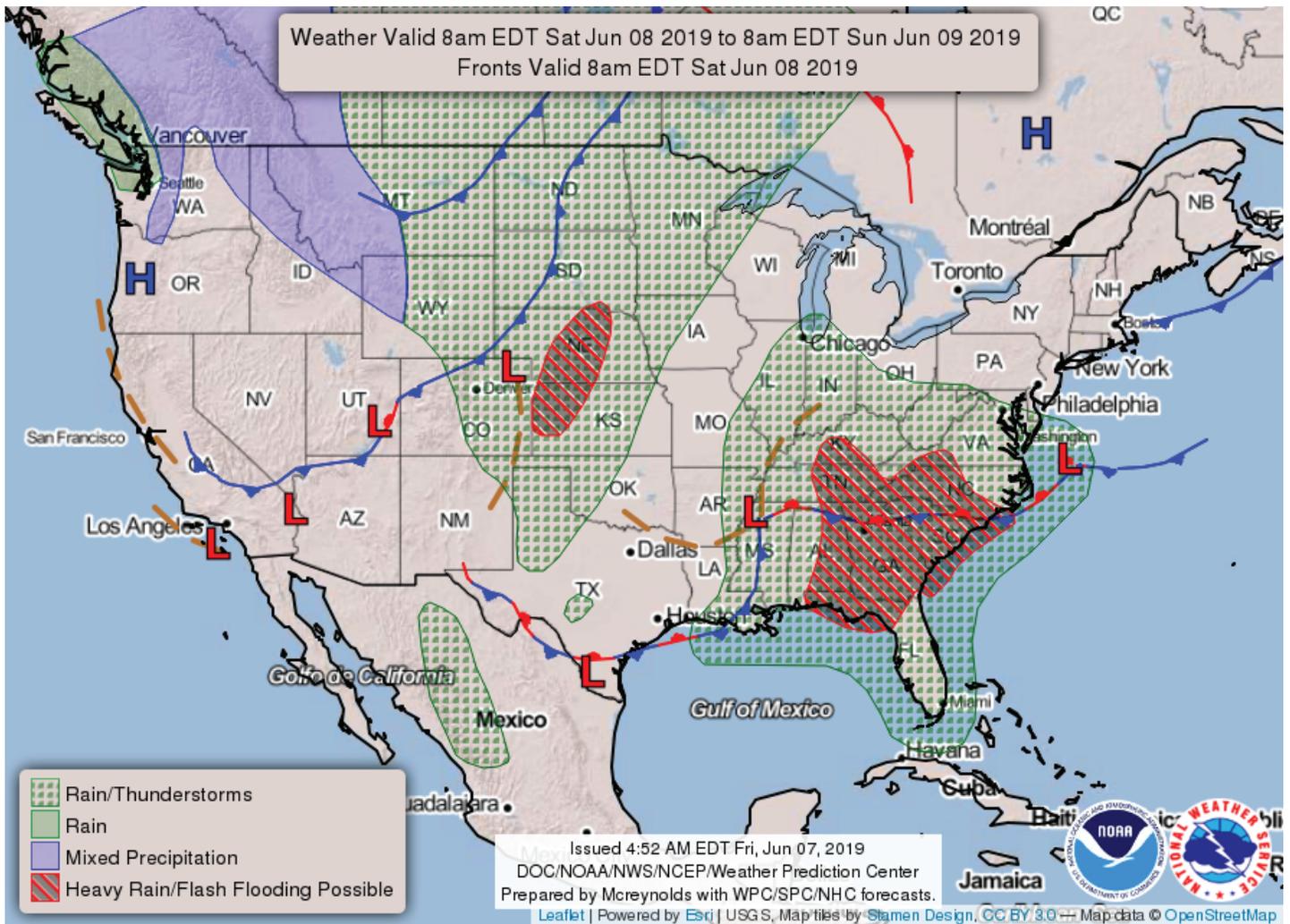
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:46 a.m.



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Tomorrow's Weather Map



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THE REWARDS OF ARROGANCE

Warning: Construction work next 10 miles.

Most of us have seen road signs that warn us of impending dangers. Wise motorists follow their warning if they want to be safe. Careless ones normally take risks to prove they make their own rules and create their own destiny. The attitude that Rules were made to be broken suggests that they can get away with the limits and boundaries of life.

Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall is a warning that is well worth admitting. There is little doubt that one of the most fundamental foes Christians face is pride. In fact, Solomon stated in verse five that The Lord detests all the proud of heart! Pride, once it invades our hearts, is often the beginning step in walking away from God. Pride will destroy us because it cancels the first rule of wisdom: The fear of the Lord. Pride and an attitude of humility and our complete dependence on God, cannot exist in the same heart.

It is well worth noting that the word destruction carries with it a picture of the shattering of a bone. When our hearts become filled with pride and we no longer see the need for God to be at the center of our lives, all of our dreams and visions will be shattered and destroyed.

A good way to understand the word haughty is to think of the woozy feelings that come with being dizzy. Life becomes blurred, steps uncertain and unsteady, and will eventually lead to a fall. Warning: pride is lurking in the depths of your heart! Forewarned is forearmed.

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to understand the subtle power of pride. May we become dependent on You to guide us, guard us, and give us an attitude of humility. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

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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)

News from the Associated Press

Man arrested for sending threatening messages to mayor

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police have arrested a man they say repeatedly sent threatening messages to the mayor of Sioux Falls and councilors.

An arrest warrant says the man has sent a series of emails with threatening tones to Mayor Paul TenHaken and city councilors since November 2018. He was arrested Thursday afternoon on possible stalking charges.

The emails made reference to TenHaken's family and prompted police to alert law enforcement in Worthington, Minnesota where the mayor's parents live.

The Argus Leader says the man frequently attends City Council meetings.

Missouri students suing for-profit college for false claims

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Two former Missouri college students are suing a for-profit school, alleging they were deceived into borrowing thousands of dollars in student loans with false assurances about the quality of the education and their job prospects after graduation.

Shyanne Bowman, of Lee's Summit, and Jackquelynn Mortenson, of Blue Springs, filed the lawsuit against National American University in Jackson County Circuit Court, the Kansas City Star reported. The women allege the school ran a "systematic, deceptive marketing scheme" that tricked them into applying for federal student loans that they cannot repay.

"NAU purposely entices prospective students to enroll and apply for student loans they cannot pay back through a systematic, deceptive marketing scheme," the lawsuit stated. "It conducts this scheme in large part through its publications, advertisements, recruiting materials and 'recruiters' and enrollment 'advisers.'"

In the suit, the women claimed they discovered NAU's courses cost much more than initially listed. NAU officials also told them education credits earned could be applied toward a degree program at other schools. But Bowman and Mortenson said they later learned those credits weren't accepted at other schools, which included Metropolitan Community College at Penn Valley and Park University.

The women added that they were misleadingly told area employers hired more graduates from NAU than other schools.

This is the second suit pending against the school that opened in 1941. In the other lawsuit, a former NAU official accuses the South Dakota-based for-profit system of defrauding the federal government out of millions through student loans.

In May, the school closed its two Kansas City-area campuses to focus on online education.

Officials plan another search for missing South Dakota girl

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Authorities in western South Dakota plan another ground search this weekend for a girl who has been missing since she ran away from a residential youth home four months ago.

About 120 people are expected to gather Saturday to search for Serenity Dennard. Serenity was 9 when she went missing Feb. 3 from the Black Hills Children's Home in Rockerville.

The team will be led by the Pennington County Sheriff's Office and Pennington County Search and Rescue. Other agencies will join the search including police departments in Rapid City and Box Elder, the U.S. Air Force, South Dakota Civil Air Patrol and Wyoming Search and Rescue.

Authorities plan to continue searching a grid around the children's home.

Serenity was not wearing a coat when she slipped away in frigid weather.

Q&A: Missouri River flood risk to continue for months

By JOSH FUNK and HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The surging Missouri River is being filled with more than twice the normal amount of water from an upstream reservoir so more flooding is likely, and the heavy releases may continue for months.

The flooding could be particularly bad in communities that sit behind levees that were damaged by massive flooding in March that primarily affected smaller communities and farms along the river in the four states downstream of the dams.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers says the amount of water being released from Gavins Point Dam on the Nebraska-South Dakota border will remain at 75,000 cubic feet (2,124 cubic meters) per second for at least a month because of all the recent rain. That's about 85 percent of the amount of water in an Olympic size swimming pool.

"The 75,000 (cubic feet) level is going to be having water above the banks at a number of places for a very long time," said John Remus, who oversees water management for the reservoirs along the river. "Those areas that have been flooded will continue to be flooded to some degree."

The Corps will reassess the amount of water being released into the river, and if there hasn't been significantly more rain than expected the amount could be reduced this summer. But it is still likely to remain above average into the fall.

Some answers to common questions about the ongoing flooding:

WHY ARE THE RELEASES HAPPENING?

During the March flooding that caused at least \$3 billion in damage in Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri and Kansas, the Corps held back some water in the upstream dams after heavy rains and snow melt in Plains states caused the flooding.

But holding back that water essentially filled up two of the reservoirs — Fort Randall in South Dakota and Oahe, which also is in South Dakota but stretches into North Dakota. Combined with spring rains and melting snow, that forced higher releases from the dams.

Much of the flooding this spring was caused by heavy rains that fell downstream of the dams, but plenty of water has been flowing into the river upstream.

The Corps predicts that 50 million acre-feet of water will flow through the reservoirs along the Missouri River this year. That would be the second-highest total ever behind only the 61 million acre-feet seen during the massive flooding in 2011.

WILL FLOODING CONTINUE?

More flooding is likely in places protected by levees that were damaged in March because few have been repaired.

Levee repairs have been hindered by the extent of the damage and lingering floodwaters. Keeping the river level high will continue to make it difficult to reach some levees, and more damage may be caused.

"You're going to see continuing problems and recurring problems," Remus said.

Because of the additional flooding that is likely, Remus said the repair schedule for those levees will be affected.

"Levees are saturated and the prolonged water against them is dangerous," said Tom Waters, chairman of the Missouri Levee and Drainage District Association. "The system is overwhelmed with little hope in site. Even after the crest passes the water is remaining high. The prolonged high water will also delay repairs to breached levees. The result will likely be more flooding in many areas again next spring."

WHAT DO COMMUNITIES THINK?

Communities sitting behind busted levees and battling the latest deluge are alarmed.

In northwest Missouri, Holt County emergency management director Tom Bullock said every levee in

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the county, except one, has multiple breaches. When the worst flooding happened in March, about 95,000 acres (38,446 hectares) were underwater. But with so many levees busted, water can flow in through the breaches any time water levels rise. Currently, about 80,000 acres (32,376 hectares) are flooded, preventing farmers from planting a 2019 crop.

"They don't leave any room in the pool up there to hold anything so it looks like 2011 all over again," Bullock said. "The water isn't going down enough for us to get any levee repairs done. We will be flooded all summer."

In Jefferson City, Missouri, floodwater had filled the basement of the Turkey Creek Golf Center with about 4 feet (1.22 meters) of water. Turkey Creek owner Danny Baumgartner told the Jefferson City News-Tribune that he's had about a dozen people at times helping to sandbag. He said water coming down the Missouri River from the dam releases "just threw a lot of water on us" but added "you just battle through it."

WHAT HAPPENED IN 2011?

Upstream runoff this year is second only to 2011, when the corps released massive amounts of water from reservoirs that had filled to overflowing.

The resulting torrent easily overmatched earthen levees along the river in Iowa and Missouri, tearing football field-sized holes in berms protecting thousands of acres of prime farmland and forcing the closure of heavily-traveled bridges and roads.

Government officials in downriver states accused the agency of caring more about protecting river navigation and recreation at the northern reservoirs than controlling flooding further south.

Many people who live along the river generally contend that the water levels in the upstream reservoirs should be kept low so they can handle large influxes of runoff. Upstream, boating and fishing enthusiasts want higher levels in the reservoir to support recreation. Likewise, barge owners want to make sure the water level is high enough that water can be released through the summer and fall to keep their vessels afloat.

Man accused in Pine Ridge slaying expected to plead guilty

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — One of four men accused in the 2016 fatal shooting of a man on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation is expected to plead guilty to a lesser charge in a deal with prosecutors.

Myles Tuttle plans to plead guilty to being an accessory after the fact in the slaying of 29-year-old Vincent Brewer III, the Rapid City Journal reported. In exchange, prosecutors would drop three other charges against Tuttle, including charges of first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit assault, and would recommend a sentence of no more than 10 years in prison.

According to prosecutors, Brewer was killed while the defendants were trying to kidnap him to collect on a drug debt. The other defendants — Francisco Villanueva, Adan Corona and Estevan Baquera — drove from Colorado to Rapid City, where they met with Tuttle. The group then drove to the reservation and eventually found Brewer at the youth center. Some of the defendants then assaulted Brewer and tried to shove him into one of their two vehicles. After Brewer tried to escape from a vehicle, he was shot by "multiple shooters," authorities allege, naming Villanueva and Corona as two of them.

Prosecutors allege that Tuttle helped the others evade justice by swapping the license plate on a vehicle used in the crime and dumping it in Whiteclay, Nebraska.

The other three defendants face charges of first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit assault.

A fifth defendant, Tiffanee Garnier, was sentenced last year after pleading guilty to driving a getaway car in the fatal shooting.

Prosecutors charged a new defendant, Jason Baca, with attempted witness tampering last month. He's accused of trying to intimidate Garnier into not testifying about the slaying. Baca's hearing hasn't been scheduled yet.

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3 people killed in separate South Dakota crashes

COLMAN, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Highway Patrol says three people have died in separate crashes, including one in which a vehicle careening off a bridge.

The patrol says a 55-year-old man died early Wednesday when his pickup left Interstate 29 near Colman, hit a guard rail and rolled over the bridge to the median below. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

A 17-year-old boy died Wednesday when he lost control and rolled his pickup on Highway 79 south of Reva in Harding County.

And, an 83-year-old woman died Tuesday afternoon in a one-vehicle crash north of Tuthill. Her car left the road on a curve, entered a ditch and rolled.

The drivers have not been identified.

South Dakota's Nilsen earns 3rd NCAA pole vaulting title

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — University of South Dakota pole vaulter Chris Nilsen has captured his third national title in the NCAA Track and Field Championship meet in Austin, Texas.

Nilsen broke his own championship meet record in the process with a personal best of 19 feet, 6¼ inches (482.6 millimeters). Nilsen's record height was a highlight of the evening Wednesday. Several other meet records were also broken. Seven men who cleared 18 feet, 4½ inches (457.2 millimeters) was a record, as was three men who vaulted 18 feet, 10¼ inches (457.2 millimeters).

Nilsen's vault moves him up three spots from sixth to third in NCAA history. He remains the American leader and No. 2 in the world this season.

Outgoing Wyoming president not ready to leave leadership

LARAMIE, Wyo. (AP) — Outgoing University of Wyoming President Laurie Nichols says she's come to grips with her forced departure and her new job as interim president at a South Dakota university will be a great transition for her.

The UW Board of Trustees decided in March not to renew Nichols' contract, providing no specific reason for the decision.

Nichols tells the Laramie Boomerang she's "honestly quite OK" with what happened but she's not ready to step out of a leadership role.

Last week, it was announced that Nichols will become interim president of Black Hills State University on July 1, one day after her final day at Wyoming.

Once her job at Black Hills is done, Nichols says she will look at moving on to other opportunities in the Mountain West region.

Woman who drove car in fatal shooting gets 3½ years

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A woman who drove the getaway car in a fatal shooting in Rapid City has been ordered to serve 3½ years behind bars.

Twenty-one-year-old Cierra Walks pleaded guilty to being an accessory to the crime. She admitted driving Marcelo Garcia to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation after he fatally shot 20-year-old Clinton Farlee at his Rapid City home in October 2017. Garcia was sentenced to 45 years in prison for first-degree manslaughter.

The Rapid City Journal reports prosecutors say Garcia killed Farlee in a dispute involving women and fled with Walks. Both were apprehended two days later in a remote area of the reservation.

Walks was sentenced to 5 years in prison with 1½ years suspended.

US commander says he believes Iran threat still 'very real'

By **ROBERT BURNS AP National Security Writer**

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iran has chosen to “step back and recalculate” after making preparations for an apparent attack against U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf region, but it is too early to conclude the threat is gone, the top commander of American forces in the Mideast said.

In an interview with three reporters accompanying him to the Gulf, Gen. Frank McKenzie said he remains concerned by Iran’s potential for aggression and he would not rule out requesting additional U.S. forces to bolster defenses against Iranian missiles or other weapons.

“I don’t actually believe the threat has diminished,” McKenzie said Thursday. “I believe the threat is very real.”

McKenzie, the head of U.S. Central Command, and other military officials are trying to strike a balance between persuading Iran that the U.S. is prepared to retaliate for an Iranian attack on Americans, thus deterring conflict, and pushing so much military muscle into the Gulf that Iran thinks the U.S. plans an attack, in which case it might feel compelled to strike preemptively and thus spark war.

Tensions between the U.S. and Iran have worsened since President Donald Trump withdrew from a 2015 nuclear agreement between Iran and several world powers and reinstated sanctions on Tehran. Last month, in response to what American officials characterized as an imminent threat, the U.S. announced it would rush an aircraft carrier and other assets to the region.

The U.S. also blamed Iran for last month’s attacks on oil tankers in a United Arab Emirates port.

On Thursday, United Nations ambassadors from the Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Norway told U.N. Security Council members that investigators believe those attacks were led by a foreign state using divers on speed boats who planted mines on the vessels. They did not name Iran.

Earlier, the Saudi ambassador to the U.N., Abdallah Al-Mouallimi, said Saudi Arabia also blames Iran for the sabotage.

Iran has consistently dismissed allegations that it was involved in the recent attacks on the oil tankers or was preparing to attack American troops in the region.

In Baghdad, McKenzie told reporters from The Associated Press and two other media organizations that U.S. redeployments to the Gulf have “caused the Iranians to back up a little bit, but I’m not sure they are strategically backing down.”

The general said the U.S. is showing enough force to “establish deterrence” without “needlessly” provoking its longtime adversary. He said he is confident in the moves he has made.

“We’ve taken steps to show the Iranians that we mean business in our ability to defend ourselves,” he said, referring to the accelerated deployment to the Gulf area of the USS Abraham Lincoln carrier strike group, four Air Force B-52 bombers and additional batteries of Army Patriot air-defense systems.

Trump, speaking beside French President Emmanuel Macron in Caen, France, said U.S. sanctions are crippling Iran’s economy, possibly yielding a diplomatic opening.

“And if they want to talk, that’s fine,” Trump said. “We’ll talk. But the one thing that they can’t have is they can’t have nuclear weapons.”

Speaking at the Baghdad headquarters of the U.S.-led coalition fighting the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria, McKenzie said he also has repositioned surveillance aircraft to more closely monitor the situation in the Gulf and in Iraq, where the U.S. has 5,200 troops on the ground, and has given Iran a “new look” by introducing more aerial patrols by land- and carrier-based fighters.

“Cumulatively, all of these have caused them to sort of step back and recalculate the course that they apparently were on,” he said.

McKenzie did not mention it, but other officials have said that in early May Iran had cruise and perhaps short-range ballistic missiles configured for potential use aboard a small number of dhows sailing off its coast. More recently, those missiles, which were deemed a potential threat, were offloaded, officials have said.

McKenzie stressed that the danger of conflict with a decades-old American adversary has not passed.

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"I hesitate to say that deterrence has been established," he said. "We continue to see possible imminent threats" of a potential Iranian attack.

He said he could not be more specific due to the classification of the intelligence, which he said is as clear and compelling as any he has seen in years.

McKenzie, a veteran of combat in Iraq and Afghanistan, took command of Central Command in late March, shortly before the onset of the latest surge in tensions with Iran. He previously directed the staff that supports the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The general said he, not the White House, initiated the May 5 moves to accelerate the deployment of the Abraham Lincoln carrier group and to dispatch B-52 bombers.

He said the intelligence on Iranian threats in the first days of May was "compelling" and that the threats were "advanced, imminent and very specific."

The pattern of intelligence on Iranian preparations for potential attacks emerged as the Trump administration took a pair of highly public actions meant to penalize Iran. The first was the State Department's designation of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a terrorist organization. The second, perhaps more consequential, move was a April 22 announcement that waivers for American sanctions on buyers of Iranian oil would not be renewed when they expired May 2, meaning Iran lost vital oil export revenues.

U.S. intelligence was then picking up what Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said last week looked like a pattern of Iranian plotting against U.S. and other targets in the region. Dunford said that on May 3, the U.S. sent a message to Iranian officials "just to make it clear they understood that we would hold them accountable should something take place in the region."

Two days later, Trump's national security adviser, John Bolton, announced the movement of the carrier, prompting an explosion of questions about what new threats Iran had posed to prompt such a highly unusual White House declaration. McKenzie said the carrier request was his, in consultation with Dunford, and that he faced no political pressure to make the request.

Solid US jobs report could allay fears of weakening economy

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — With worries rising about trade wars and slower global growth, Friday's jobs figures for May could serve as a reminder that the U.S. economy is still mostly in good shape.

Or, an unexpectedly weak employment report could intensify concerns that after a healthy first quarter, the U.S. economy is actually stumbling.

Economists have forecast that the government will report that employers added 185,000 jobs, a solid figure consistent with this year's average monthly gain. The unemployment rate is expected to remain at a nearly 50-year low of 3.6%, according to data provider FactSet.

The economy is showing signs of sluggishness after having expanded at a healthy 3.1% annual rate in the April-June quarter. Consumers have been cautious about spending, and companies are scaling back their investment in high-cost machinery and equipment.

The Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta estimates that annual growth will slump to just 1.5% in the April-June quarter. That potential weakening, driven in part by President Donald Trump's trade conflicts, has also raised pressure on Federal Reserve policymakers to consider cutting short-term interest rates in the coming months. For most of this year, the Fed has indicated that it would take a patient approach toward rate changes.

Manufacturers have barely added jobs in the past three months after healthy gains last year, a sign that trade conflicts and a slowdown in auto sales might be slowing hiring. Retailers, hammered by online competition, have cut jobs for the past three months. Home building and commercial construction have weakened, a trend that could force builders to shed workers.

Professional and business services, which include high-paying accounting and engineering jobs, have added workers at a healthy pace this year. So have the education and health services industries.

If employers remain optimistic about the long run, they might look beyond a weak patch for the econ-

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omy and keep adding jobs. Additional strong hiring could provide vital support to the economy. Steady job growth has compelled many employers to raise pay to attract and keep workers, which, in turn, has forced up average hourly wages. Average wages rose 3.2% in April compared with a year ago, a solid if not exceptional gain.

Trump last month increased tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese imports from 10% to 25%. And last week, he threatened to impose 5% tariffs on all Mexican imports to the United States beginning Monday. Those taxes would rise each month until they reach 25% in October unless the Mexican government cuts off a flow of Central American migrants entering the United States from through Mexico.

The higher costs from the import taxes — and the potential for more — might be causing companies to scale back plans for spending, investment and expansion. Orders for machinery and equipment fell 1% in April. A strong dollar, which makes U.S. goods costlier overseas, has also slowed the production and export of manufactured goods. A separate report from the Fed showed that factory output fell 0.5% in April.

Automakers are cutting jobs and production as U.S. sales have slowed. Analysts expect auto sales to fall below 17 million this year after four years above that level.

Ford Motor Co. said last month that it was cutting 7,000 white-collar jobs — about 10% of its salaried workforce — as part of preparations for an industry driven more by electric and autonomous vehicles. Last year, GM said it would shed 14,000 workers.

Home sales have been weak this year despite a sharp drop in mortgage rates. Sales fell 4.4% in April compared with a year earlier. Home price gains are slowing in much of the country, though, which, combined with more affordable mortgages, could soon revive sales.

Pence: US 'encouraged' by Mexico's proposals as tariffs loom

By JILL COLVIN, MATTHEW LEE and LUIS ALONSO LUGO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. and Mexican officials claim to be making progress as they labored for a second day to avert import tariffs. But President Donald Trump is still threatening to impose them as he tries to pressure Mexico into stemming the flow of Central American migrants across the United States' southern border.

Vice President Mike Pence, monitoring the talks from his travels in Pennsylvania, said Thursday the U.S. was "encouraged" by Mexico's latest proposals but that tariffs still were set to take effect on Monday.

Pence added that it would be "for the president to decide" whether Mexico was doing enough to head off the tariffs. Pence said that, among other issues, negotiators had been discussing a potential agreement to make it difficult for those who enter Mexico from other countries to claim asylum in the U.S. Mexico has long resisted that request.

Trump has threatened to impose a 5% tax on all Mexican goods beginning Monday as part of an escalating tariff regime opposed by many in his own Republican Party.

The frantic, last-minute talks underscore Trump's chaotic approach even when decisions have enormous economic consequences for both the U.S. and its closest allies. Trump has embraced tariffs as a tool he can use as leverage against other countries, dismissing the potential harm to American consumers and manufacturers.

Traveling in Europe, Trump told reporters that negotiators had made "a lot of progress," but continued to play coy.

"We'll see what happens," Trump said in Ireland before leaving for France to attend a D-Day ceremony. "But something pretty dramatic could happen. We've told Mexico the tariffs go on. And I mean it, too. And I'm very happy with it."

It remained unclear whether any deal could be struck with Trump out of the country. Many in Washington still expect the tariffs to go into effect barring a major new concession from Mexico, though lawmakers who have been in talks with both U.S. and Mexican officials said they were hopeful a deal could be reached to satisfy Trump, or at least delay the tariffs' implementation.

Mexican Foreign Secretary Marcelo Ebrard spent several hours at the State Department Thursday morn-

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ing, while Trump's legal counsel and other Mexican aides met at the White House Thursday afternoon.

Ebrard told reporters as he left the State Department that progress was being made and that he was likely to return following consultations at the embassy. He returned in early evening.

His spokesman, Roberto Velasco, tweeted that "Options continue to be explored."

"The stance of the United States is focused on measures of migratory control, ours on development," he said.

White House spokeswoman Mercedes Schlapp said in an interview that conversations were continuing but "it looks like we're moving toward this path of tariffs because what we've seen so far is that the Mexicans, what they're proposing, is simply not enough."

Pence, who led the discussions Wednesday with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and other U.S. officials, told reporters in Pennsylvania that the administration had "made it very clear that our neighbors to the south, Mexico, must do more to end the tide of illegal immigration that is besetting our southern border."

During Wednesday's talks, the gulf between the countries was clear as Mexico offered small, thus far undisclosed concessions, and the U.S. demanded major action. A senior administration official said the U.S. once again pressed Mexico to step up enforcement on its southern border and to enter into a "safe third country agreement" that would make it difficult for those who enter Mexico from other countries to claim asylum in the U.S.

But Mexico surprised U.S. officials Thursday when they returned to the negotiating table and said they would commit to what Pence had requested, according to the official, who cautioned that significant questions about timing and implementation remain.

Trump officials have said Mexico can prevent the tariffs by securing its southern border with Guatemala, cracking down on criminal smuggling organizations and overhauling its asylum system. But the U.S. has not proposed concrete metrics to assess whether Mexico is complying, and it is unclear whether even those steps would be enough to satisfy Trump on illegal immigration, a signature issue of his presidency and one that he sees as crucial to his 2020 re-election campaign.

Beyond Trump and several White House advisers, few in the administration believe imposing tariffs is a good idea, according to officials familiar with internal deliberations. Those people worry about the negative economic consequences for Americans and believe the tariffs — which would likely spark retaliatory taxes on U.S. exports — would also hurt the administration politically. The officials were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Republicans in Congress have warned the White House that they are ready to stand up to the president to try to block his tariffs, which they worry would spike costs to U.S. consumers, harm the economy and imperil a major pending U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade deal.

Democratic House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal said he will introduce a resolution of disapproval to stop the tariffs if Trump goes through with his threat, panning it as presidential "overreach."

The Department of Homeland Security announced Wednesday that U.S. Border Patrol apprehensions of migrants illegally crossing the border hit the highest level in more than a decade in May: 132,887 apprehensions, including a record 84,542 adults and children traveling together and 11,507 children traveling alone.

Syria uses familiar tactic in rebel Idlib: Bombing civilians

By SARAH EL DEEB Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — The father could hardly bear seeing his 18-month-old daughter's panic every time the Syrian government warplanes flew over their home. Every day for a month, she ran to him to hide in his arms, tearful and breathless.

Abdurrahim had refused to flee his hometown throughout years of violence, and he was determined to hold out through the new, intensified government offensive launched in April against Idlib province, the last significant territory held by Syria's rebels.

But now he had his first child, Ruwaida, to think about.

"That look on my daughter's face ... is really what is going to kill me," said the 25-year-old Abdurrahim,

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who asked that his last name not be published for security reasons.

His determination collapsed when an airstrike on May 30 pulverized the house next door, crushing to death three children, one of them a girl Ruwaida's age. He whisked his daughter and wife to a nearby village, hoping it would be safe.

The Syrian government and its Russian backer have turned to a familiar tactic in their assault on Idlib — relentlessly and systematically striking residential areas, hospitals, markets, crops and infrastructure to break the will of the population and pressure people to flee, according to observers, rights groups and residents.

It's a tried-and-true method that worked for President Bashar Assad's forces in their previous, destructive campaigns that retook the city of Aleppo in 2016 and other strategic territories.

Striking civilians with impunity has been so characteristic of the 8-year civil war that it rarely even raises much international outrage or attention. Monitors say the pattern of strikes clearly show that, far from being collateral damage, civilian homes, businesses and infrastructure are intentional targets of the government.

"Even wars have rules," said Misty Buswell, the Middle East advocacy director for the International Rescue Committee, adding that two hospitals it supports were hit by airstrikes. In this war, she said, attacks on civilians "have happened with absolute impunity."

The impact has been brutal in the rebel enclave centered on Idlib in northwest Syria on the border with Turkey. Some 3 million people are bottled up there, more than half of them displaced from other parts of the country recaptured by the military.

The Syrian military launched its assault in April, backed by government and Russian airstrikes. It has focused on the enclave's southern edges, taking a few villages and bombarding deeper into Idlib.

Bombing "targets everything: bakeries, hospitals, markets. The aim is to stop all services to civilians. Everything," said Wasel Aljirk, a surgeon whose hospital was blasted by strikes.

Five weeks of violence has driven nearly 300,000 people from their homes. Many are living under olive trees, in tents or unfinished buildings, cramming in overcrowded shared rooms. Aid groups fear that figure could spiral to 700,000 displaced.

More than 300 civilians have been killed, according to opposition activists and war monitors. At least 61 children are among those killed since April, according to Save the Children, though Idlib health authorities put the figure at 75 children killed in May alone.

Diana Samaan, a Syria researcher with Amnesty International, said homes are targeted as a "tactic to pressure civilians to succumb." Sara Kayyali, a Syria researcher with Human Rights Watch, said her group and others have "documented enough strikes on residential buildings to at least indicate an appearance of unlawful approach."

Hospitals and clinics have been systematically bombarded, some of them hit more than once even though the U.N. identifies many to the Syrian government as health centers.

At least 32 hospitals and health facilities around the enclave have been put out of service, either because they were struck or suspended their operations for fear of being hit, Mustafa al-Eido from the Idlib health authority said Thursday.

The south Idlib region most directly under attack does not have a single health facility left, after all 16 there were hit by airstrikes or stopped working, al-Eido said. That has put an extra burden on those in other parts of Idlib and forced long journeys on patients, said Mohamad Katoub of the Syrian-American Medical Society, which supports services in the area.

Bombings are so frequent that many hospitals are built buried into the sides of hills for protection, known as "cave hospitals."

One such cave hospital, a major trauma facility in southern Idlib, called Pulse of Life, was hit by airstrikes three times in the past two years, each time moving to a new location. Every month, it served 5,000 patients and performed 500 operations.

The fourth and final strike came May 5 when at least seven rockets pounded the hospital. Direct hits raised massive clouds of earth, gravel, stone and concrete dust into the sky, seen in video posted online.

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No one was hurt because the staff had evacuated after being tipped of an imminent strike, said Aljirk, the surgeon. But Pulse of Life was virtually destroyed and has not been able to reopen since.

In general, the government has a blanket justification for indiscriminate bombing of rebel-held areas, describing the entire population as "terrorists and their families." It further backs its pretext by pointing to the fact that al-Qaida linked militants and other jihadi groups have come to dominate the Idlib enclave, which first fell under rebel control in 2015.

Najat Rochdi, senior humanitarian adviser to the United Nations Special Envoy for Syria, said in a statement Friday that combatting terrorism "does not absolve" any party and warned that the attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure may amount to war crimes.

"We have a collective responsibility to the victims of this conflict, many of whom are too young to try to make sense of this senseless war," she said.

Physicians for Human Rights has said the war in Syria has seen the most widespread and systematic assault on health care documented in the world to date. It has counted at least 566 attacks on health facilities since the start of the war, mostly by government forces or their allies.

The strike on the house of Abdurrahim's neighbors, the Qasheet family, was part of a major barrage that rained down on residential areas on the town of Maarat al-Numan, destroying six houses in a single day.

Dust was still in the air when the team of first responders known as the White Helmets arrived, said Obada Zakra, a leader of the team. They first focused on survivors in a nearby house while neighbors worked to dig out the Qasheets' two-story home. The father, mother and one son emerged alive though a gap in the debris. Another son was pulled out hours later, bloodied but alive.

But the building was pancaked on top of 14-year old Abboudi Qasheet, his two sisters, and younger brother.

Neighbors say Abboudi was a local celebrity because of his sweet voice, which he used to call for prayer. He was pinned face down, blood under his nose, with the weight of the house's wreckage on his back. His father wailed as the rescuers tried to free the body.

Abdurrahim said when he saw the children under the rubble, "I imagined my daughter there."

"We say we get used to the sound of the warplanes — to console ourselves," he said. "But no one gets used to death."

He and his family fled, but within two days they came back in Maarat al-Numan, after the village where they took refuge was also struck by warplanes.

"To be displaced and leave your home is not an easy matter," he said. "Those who remain here prefer to die than that humiliation."

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. WHO REVERSED COURSE ON ABORTION POLICY

Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden says he no longer supports a long-standing congressional ban on using federal money to pay for abortions.

2. WHAT A TOP US COMMANDER IS SAYING ABOUT GULF TENSIONS

Gen. Frank McKenzie says Iran appears to have decided to "step back and recalculate" in response to a U.S. military buildup in the Persian Gulf area.

3. SYRIA USES FAMILIAR RUTHLESS TACTIC IN REBEL STRONGHOLD

War monitors say they are targeting civilians in residential areas, hospitals, markets and infrastructure in Idlib to break the population's will and force it to flee.

4. LOOMING TARIFFS LEAVE TEQUILA EXPORTERS BLEARY EYED

Industry insiders say some Mexican companies have even been rushing to export as much as they could ahead of Trump's Monday deadline.

5. LACK OF ABORTION ACCESS TROUBLES GUAM OFFICIAL

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The first female governor of the U.S. territory is concerned that women there will be forced to seek illegal or dangerous alternatives.

6. 'I'M ON MY PHONE SO MUCH'

Teachers say smartphone use is at least partly to blame for seeing so much student anxiety, labeling it a "mental health tsunami."

7. FEDS OPEN NEW FACILITY IN TEXAS FOR MIGRANT CHILDREN

A complex that once housed oil field workers in Carrizo Springs is becoming a mass holding facility for as many as 1,600 teens.

8. WALMART TO DELIVER GROCERIES INSIDE CUSTOMERS' HOMES

The nation's largest grocer says it will be offering the service this fall for more than one million customers in Pittsburgh, Kansas City and Vero Beach, Florida.

9. FROM LAST TO BRINK OF STANLEY CUP

Mired in the NHL basement as recently as January, the St. Louis Blues beat the Boston Bruins 2-1 in Game 5 and need one more win to complete their improbable journey.

10. DR. JOHN, FUNKY 'NIGHT-TRIPPER' MUSICIAN, DIES

The New Orleans singer and piano player who blended black and white musical styles with a hoodoo-infused stage persona and gravelly bayou drawl was 77.

Joe Biden reverses position on federal dollars for abortions

By **BILL BARROW** Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — After two days of intense criticism, Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden reversed course Thursday and declared that he no longer supports a long-standing congressional ban on using federal health care money to pay for abortions.

"If I believe health care is a right, as I do, I can no longer support an amendment" that makes it more difficult for some women to access care, Biden said at a Democratic Party fundraiser in Atlanta.

The former vice president's reversal on the Hyde Amendment came after rivals and women's rights groups blasted him for affirming through campaign aides that he still supported the decades-old budget provision. The dynamics had been certain to flare up again at Democrats' first primary debate in three weeks.

Biden didn't mention this week's attacks, saying his decision was about health care, not politics. Yet the circumstances highlight the risks for a 76-year-old former vice president who's running as more of a centrist in a party in which some skeptical activists openly question whether he can be the party standard-bearer in 2020.

And Biden's explanation tacitly repeated his critics' arguments that the Hyde Amendment is another abortion barrier that disproportionately affects poor women and women of color.

"I've been struggling with the problems that Hyde now presents," Biden said, opening a speech dedicated mostly to voting rights and issues important to the black community.

"I want to be clear: I make no apologies for my last position. I make no apologies for what I'm about to say," he explained, arguing that "circumstances have changed" with Republican-run states — including Georgia, where Biden spoke — adopting severe restrictions on abortion.

A Roman Catholic who has wrestled publicly with abortion policy for decades, Biden said he voted as a senator to support the Hyde Amendment because he believed that women would still have access to abortion even without Medicaid insurance and other federal health care grants and that abortion opponents shouldn't be compelled to pay for the procedure. It was part of what Biden has described as a "middle ground" on abortion.

Now, he says, there are too many barriers that threaten that constitutional right, leaving some women with no reasonable options as long as Republicans keep pushing for an outright repeal of the Supreme Court's 1973 decision that legalized abortion nationwide.

The former vice president, who launched his 2020 presidential campaign in April, said he arrived at the decision as part of developing an upcoming comprehensive health care proposal. He has declared his

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support for a Medicare-like public option as the next step toward universal coverage. He reasoned that his goal of universal coverage means women must have full and fair access to care, including abortion.

A Planned Parenthood representative applauded Biden's reversal but noted that he has been lagging the women's rights movement on the issue.

"Happy to see Joe Biden embrace what we have long known to be true: Hyde blocks people — particularly women of color and women with low incomes — from accessing safe, legal abortion care," said Leana Wen of Planned Parenthood, the women's health giant whose services include abortion and abortion referrals.

Other activists accepted credit for pushing Biden on the issue.

"We're pleased that Joe Biden has joined the rest of the 2020 Democratic field in coalescing around the Party's core values — support for abortion rights, and the basic truth that reproductive freedom is fundamental to the pursuit of equality and economic security in this country," said Ilyse Hogue, president of NARAL, a leading abortion-rights advocacy group.

Repealing Hyde has become a defining standard for Democrats in recent years, making what was once a more common position among moderate Democrats more untenable, particularly given the dynamics of primary politics heading into 2020. At its 2016 convention, the party included a call for repealing Hyde in the Democratic platform, doing so at the urging of nominee Hillary Clinton.

At least one prominent Democratic woman remained unconvinced.

"I am not clear that Joe Biden believes unequivocally that every single woman has the right to make decisions about her body, regardless of her income or race," said Democratic strategist Jess Morales Rocketto, who worked for Clinton in 2016. "It is imperative that the Democratic nominee believe that."

Republicans pounced, framing Biden's change in position as a gaffe.

"He's just not very good at this. Joe Biden is an existential threat to Joe Biden," said Tim Murtaugh, the communications director for President Donald Trump's reelection campaign.

A senior Biden campaign official said some aides were surprised at the speed of the reversal, given Biden's long history of explaining his abortion positions in terms of his faith. But aides realized that as the front-runner, the attacks weren't going to let up, and his campaign reasoned that the fallout within the Democratic primary outweigh any long-term benefit of maintain his previous Hyde support.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal conversations.

Biden's decadeslong position first gained new scrutiny several weeks ago when the American Civil Liberties Union circulated video of the candidate telling an activist who asked about the Hyde Amendment that it should be repealed.

His campaign later affirmed his support for his fellow Democrats' call for a federal statute codifying the Roe v. Wade abortion decision into law.

US opens new mass facility in Texas for migrant children

By GARANCE BURKE Associated Press

The federal government is opening a new mass facility to hold migrant children in Texas and considering detaining hundreds more youths on three military bases around the country, adding up to 3,000 new beds to the already overtaxed system.

The new emergency facility in Carrizo Springs, Texas, will hold as many as 1,600 teens in a complex that once housed oil field workers on government-leased land near the border, said Mark Weber, a spokesman for Office of Refugee Resettlement.

The agency is also weighing using Army and Air Force bases in Georgia, Montana and Oklahoma to house an additional 1,400 kids in the coming weeks, amid the influx of children traveling to the U.S. alone. Most of the children crossed the border without their parents, escaping violence and corruption in Central America, and are held in government custody while authorities determine if they can be released to relatives or family friends.

All the new facilities will be considered temporary emergency shelters, so they won't be subject to state child welfare licensing requirements, Weber said. In January, the government shut down an unlicensed

detention camp in the Texas desert under political pressure, and another unlicensed facility called Homestead remains in operation in the Miami suburbs.

"It is our legal requirement to take care of these children so that they are not in Border Patrol facilities," Weber said. "They will have the services that ORR always provides, which is food, shelter and water."

Under fire for the death of two children who went through the agency's network of shelters and facing lawsuits over the treatment of teens in its care, the agency says it must set up new facilities to accommodate new arrivals or risk running out of beds.

The announcement of the program's expansion follows the government's decision to scale back or cut paying for recreation, English-language courses and legal services for the more than 13,200 migrant toddlers, school-age children and teens in its custody.

The Health and Human Services department, which oversees the refugee office, notified shelters around the country last week that it was not going to reimburse them for teachers' pay, legal services or recreational equipment, saying budget cuts were needed as record numbers of unaccompanied children arrive at the border, largely from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. In May, border agents apprehended 11,507 children traveling alone.

Attorneys said the move violates a legal settlement known as the Flores agreement that requires the government to provide education and recreational activities to migrant children in its care. Last week, attorneys filed a motion claiming that the government also was violating the decades-old settlement by keeping kids at Homestead for months in some cases, instead of releasing them within 20 days.

"If they are going to open the program up in these numbers and they can't even manage the influx facility that they have in a humane way, then compounding that is going to be disastrous," said Holly Cooper, an attorney at the Immigration Law Clinic at University of California, Davis who represents detained youth.

Advocates have slammed the move as punitive, saying such services are typically available to adult prisoners.

"ORR's cancelling of these services will inflict further harm on children, many of whom continue to languish for months without being placed safely and expeditiously into a sponsor's care. That is not only unacceptable, it could be in violation of the law," said Rep. Rosa DeLauro, a Connecticut Democrat who chairs the House Appropriations subcommittee with oversight on the agency's budget.

Schools reckon with social stress: 'I'm on my phone so much'

By CAROLYN THOMPSON Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — High school biology teacher Kelly Chavis knew smartphones were a distraction in her class. But not even her students realized the psychological toll of their devices until an in-class experiment that, of course, was then spreading on social media.

For one class period, students used a whiteboard to tally, in real time, every Snapchat, Instagram, text, call or other notification that popped up. Students were told not to respond to avoid generating replies ... and further notifications.

Teachers around the country have run similar experiments, typically recording dozens of trips to the board.

"One girl, just during the one hour, got close to 150 Snapchat notifications. 150!" marveled Chavis, who teaches honors-level courses at Rock Hill Schools in South Carolina.

She's among a growing number of teachers, parents, medical professionals and researchers convinced that smartphones are now playing a major role in accelerating student anxiety — a trend so pervasive that a National Education Association newsletter labelled anxiety a "mental health tsunami."

Testing, extracurricular-packed schedules, and perpetual stressors like poverty can all weigh on students. But research now points to smartphones-driven social media as one of the biggest drivers of stress. After all, that's where college acceptance letters fill Instagram, everyone knows where everyone else is going for spring break, and athletic failures and awkward social moments can live forever.

Jean Twenge, a psychology professor at San Diego State who has studied the issue, said it's no coincidence that youth mental health issues have risen with the number of phones. "What a lot of teens told me

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is that social media and their phones feel mandatory," she said, leading to a loss of sleep and face-to-face interactions necessary for their mental well-being.

Last year, an editorial in the American Academy of Pediatrics' flagship journal recommended that doctors ask adolescent patients about their social media use as part of routine screening, alongside older questions about home life and drug and sexual activity. "Aberrant and/or excessive social media usage may contribute to the development of mental health disturbance in at-risk teenagers, such as feelings of isolation, depressive symptoms, and anxiety," three researchers wrote in the journal Pediatrics.

Researchers are still arguing whether phones drive student depression or depression drives phone use. But 70 percent of teens view anxiety and depression as major problems among their peers, according to a February Pew Research Center report. Nearly 60 percent of parents said they worry about the influence of social media on their child's physical and mental health in the American Psychological Association's 2017 Stress in America survey.

Schools are starting to react. Many districts now hire outside companies to monitor students' social media postings for signs of distress. Others invite in yoga instructors and comfort dogs to teach even the youngest kids to keep technology from putting them on edge.

Belfast Area High School in Maine even staged an #unplugged event day in April — but it served to underline the technology's pull when less than 20 percent of students and staff took part.

Meanwhile, students and parents are filling school auditoriums for screenings of documentaries such as "LIKE " and "Angst," which explore social media, technology and anxiety. Movements like Away for the Day and Wait Until 8th discourage cellphones in middle school.

When she first got a smartphone around seventh grade, all the posting, messaging and liking pushed Nia Coates' anxiety level to "probably a 10," she said. Now a high school junior, the Buffalo, New York, teen has figured out to manage the distractions.

She'll completely log out of her Snapchat, Instagram and Twitter, and sometimes will delete an app altogether for a while. "The older I've gotten, the more I realize it doesn't really matter so it's not as stressful," Coates said, recalling how in the past she'd post something only to delete it to avoid being judged.

Anxiety has taken over as the most significant obstacle to learning among Chris Doyle's high school students at Avon Old Farms School in Connecticut. Some rack up absences because they feel overwhelmed by the day ahead, Doyle said. A teacher for 30 years, he has seen a profound shift toward constant self-evaluation that he associates with social media, YouTube, and even school grade portals sometimes checked dozens of times a day — things students have never before had to manage.

"That kind of awareness of other people's lives, even maybe what used to be considered other people's private lives, is kind of hyper right now," Doyle said. "And I don't think that usually leaves most people feeling good, because nobody's perfect and most kids feel very imperfect."

But putting the genie back in the bottle isn't easy. In Illinois, Glenbrook High Schools District 225 experimented with limiting teens' access to their grades on a digital portal. But for every student who said the grade book caused them anxiety, there was another who said losing regular access created even more stress, said instructional innovation director Ryan Bretag.

Some students simply appear overwhelmed by nonstop social-media notifications during the school day. "It becomes an anxiety — 'well, if I don't answer them back right now I'm missing something,'" said Troy, Missouri, high school teacher Elizabeth Utterback. Freshmen are particularly susceptible, she said. Her own class tallying experiment netted 80 notifications among 20 students in less than 30 minutes.

"I definitely feel stress with online profiles, social media, to keep up, maintain my profiles and stuff," said Emily Mogavero, a 17-year-old student in Buffalo, New York. "It kind of worries me that I'm on my phone so much." Mogavero said she sometimes puts her phone out of reach or powers it down so she doesn't hear notifications.

Last fall, Seattle Public Schools last fall began testing a toll-free hotline to help middle- and high-school administrators deal with social media stressors like harassment. Other districts have hired companies like Geo Listening, Bark or Social Sentinel that use algorithms to monitor their students' public social media posts. Administrators can then intervene if they see a student's mental well-being deteriorating.

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Fayette County schools in Kentucky say in the first three months of monitoring this year, it helped prevent a suicide and led to help for a second troubled young person who had posted references to past school shootings and bullying.

Western New York yoga instructor Erin Schifferli says the demand is high for her "Teen Yoga for Stress Relief" sessions. Her 12-year-old daughter, Aeva, won't get a phone until she's 16, she said.

Setting such limits at earlier ages might help. Deirdre Birmingham of Montclair, New Jersey, signed onto a campaign called "Wait Until Eighth" because she didn't think her video game-loving 10-year-old son was ready to manage a smartphone's pull.

The idea, which got its start in Texas two years ago, is to lessen the peer pressure of being the only kid without a phone by enlisting parents of classmates to agree to hold off until at least eighth grade. So far, almost 20,000 people have signed on, founder Brooke Shannon said.

"I had a gut level that it would be difficult for my child to manage," Birmingham said. "As a grown-up, I find it difficult sometimes to manage."

Binnington, Blues beat Bruins 2-1, lead Stanley Cup 3-2

By JIMMY GOLEN AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — From last place in the league to the brink of their first Stanley Cup championship, the St. Louis Blues need one more win to complete their improbable journey.

They have a young goaltender leading the way.

Jordan Binnington stopped 38 shots, and the Blues withstood the emotional rush of Zdeno Chara's return to beat the Bruins 2-1 on Thursday night and take a 3-2 lead in the best-of-seven final. They can win the championship at home in Game 6 on Sunday night.

"We've had quite the season so far. We've been through quite a lot," defenseman Colton Parayko said. "But we continued to battle. We never gave up on each other. It put us closer together, especially now."

One game after chopping down the Bruins' giant captain with a deflected puck off his jaw, the Blues quieted the rest of a city still celebrating its last championship: The New England Patriots were receiving their Super Bowl rings a few miles away, the second in what Bostonians hoped would be a third title in the last 12 months.

But it's St. Louis — whose Rams lost to the Patriots in the 2002 Super Bowl, and whose Cardinals fell to the Red Sox in the 2004 and 2013 World Series — that is one win from skating off with the Stanley Cup.

"We've got a big job ahead of us, that's the way I look at it," said coach Craig Berube, who took over when Mike Yeo was fired in November with the team mired in last place in the Central Division. "I hope our team looks at it that way."

Ryan O'Reilly and David Perron scored for St. Louis, which has won two straight since a 7-2 loss at home in Game 3. It was the first time in the series a team has won two in a row.

Tuukka Rask stopped 19 shots and Jake DeBrusk scored for Boston.

"It's behind us now, but it's tough," said Bruins forward Noel Acciari, who was flattened on what the Bruins thought was an illegal hit right before Perron's goal. "Tough pill to swallow. It's a must-win from here on out."

Chara left Game 4 dripping blood after taking that puck off his face, but he gave the building a lift when he followed Rask onto the ice for the pregame skate wearing a full-face shield. He got a lengthy cheer for his introduction, and he went out of the way to deliver the game's first hit, just 15 seconds in, on Brayden Schenn. When things went bad later, the crowd tried to spur the team on with chants of "Chara!"

But the 42-year-old defenseman's toughness could only carry so far.

O'Reilly scored in the opening minute of the second period, backhanding in a rebound for his third goal in his last five periods. It was still 1-0 midway through the third when the referees disregarded a leg sweep by Tyler Bozak that knocked Acciari out of the game. But he was still on the ice when Perron followed with a shot that banked off Rask's pad and into the net. The fans responded with a vulgar chant and a shower of rally towels; the public address announcer eventually asked them to stop.

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Boston did seem inspired — or at least desperate — and cut the deficit to one goal on a delayed penalty with about 6 1/2 minutes left. Torey Krug took a high stick to the face at the blue line but he played on, straightened his helmet and dished the puck to DeBrusk for a one-timer past Binnington.

Boston pulled Rask with a little more than a minute left and earned several chances, but couldn't get the puck past Binnington.

Notes: Binnington's nine playoff road wins is the most by a rookie in NHL history. Ron Hextall won eight in 1987. ... Derek Sanderson and Bobby Orr, the connection that gave the Bruins the game-winning goal against the Blues in the 1970 clincher, were the pregame banner wavers. ... Actors Michael J. Fox, Woody Harrelson and John Krasinski were in the crowd. ... Blues D Vince Dunn was in the lineup after missing almost three weeks after taking a puck to the face. ... Boston D Matt Grzelcyk missed his third straight game. ... The Blues improved to 9-3 on the road in the playoffs.

UP NEXT

The series returns to St. Louis, where the teams split Games 3 and 4. The Blues are 6-6 at home so far in the postseason.

From fire and ash to caps, gowns: Graduation in burned town

By ADAM BEAM Associated Press

PARADISE, Calif. (AP) — Sean Newsom's senior year of high school started with typical teenage pranks, like sticking a cup to the roof of his car with magnets just to mess with people as he drove around his small town in the Northern California mountains.

It ended with him living in an apartment with his older brother and two roommates, working at a tanning salon and learning how to be an adult without his parents.

In between, a monstrous wildfire consumed his home and destroyed the town of Paradise, leaving most residents homeless and scattering its close-knit people throughout the region with little time to say goodbye. Newsom's parents moved to the San Francisco Bay Area with his two younger siblings to start a new life.

Newsom stayed because of Paradise High School.

The school was one of the few buildings in the town to survive the blaze that tore through the town on Nov. 8, killing 85 people, although it could not be used for classes.

Of the school's 980 students, about 900 lost their homes. Some assumed the school would cease to exist, with its diaspora of students settling into new communities. But when a makeshift school opened for the spring semester in a former Facebook building near the Chico airport, more than 700 students returned, including 220 seniors.

They had work to do, work that finishes Thursday when they finally return to their beloved school's football field to graduate.

Together.

The first day in the temporary building, the school ran out of food. There was no loudspeaker, no drinking fountains, no bells. No gym or wood shop. The classrooms were cubicles divided by walls so thin that students in a government class struggled to concentrate while an EMS instructor next door loudly explained how to deliver a baby.

But for students from a multigenerational town with deep roots, the school was an anchor. The students needed to see each other.

"Going back to school has really helped my mental health since the fire," said Newsom, who said his parents reluctantly agreed to let him stay behind to finish his senior year.

Ben Dees was on the football team. After a disappointing season last year, the team went 8-2 his senior year and was preparing for the playoffs when the fire erupted. The team had to forfeit its first-round playoff game.

Dees has had bigger problems to deal with since then.

He has moved four times since the fire, staying with family members and, for a time, the mother of a friend of his mother's friend. He now lives in Corning, a 41-mile drive (66-kilometer) from Paradise. But

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Dees says he is rarely home. Most days he is with his friends, returning to Corning only to sleep. In July, he will move with his family to St. George, Utah, and attend Dixie State College in the fall.

"I know what I'm going to lose when I leave," he said.

He and his classmates were adamant that they graduate on the football field at Paradise High School like most other classes have done dating back to the 1960s.

"I feel like everybody just wants to get back to the high school. It reminds us of what Paradise was," Dees said.

The fire destroyed nearly 14,000 homes, burning nearly 240 square miles (620 square kilometers). It forced most of the town's 26,000 people to leave, settling throughout the region. To help keep a sense of community, the school organized events for students to go bowling, visit a trampoline park or just get together and play cards.

For their final week in high school, the senior class took a trip to an amusement park and had a picnic at a local park. Wednesday night, Bryan Adams' "Summer of '69" blared from a portable speaker on the Paradise High School football field as students played games and enjoyed ice pops, the sun peeking through what was left of the towering pine trees surrounding the campus. Some set up tents, planning to spend their last night as a high school student at the campus they once knew.

The school's administration has embraced its status as a media magnet. Academy Award-winning director Ron Howard, who is making a documentary about the fire and its aftermath, has sent film crews to the school. After a Los Angeles Times story, a San Diego man donated \$1,000 to every student — more than \$1 million.

The graduation ceremony itself is possible in part because President Donald Trump autographed a Paradise High School Football hat, which Republican Rep. Doug LaMalfa auctioned for \$23,000. He gave the money to the senior class, which used part of it to clear the field of debris and clean up the school.

Prom was free. Yearbooks were free. Caps and gowns are free. The senior trip was free. The Winter Formal was free. All because of donations, mostly facilitated by a teacher, Stacie Martin. The goodwill giving inspired Paradise students, who in March raised about \$1,500 for victims of tornados in Alabama.

"We know how it felt losing a lot of things, and having everyone reach out and help us really helped, so we wanted to give back," said 17-year-old Emilee Taylor, co-president of the school and a graduating senior who plans to attend Chico State University in the fall and study to become an elementary school teacher.

"I'd say we have more good days than we have bad days," Taylor said of the students' emotional health. "It helps everyone all going through the same thing, all talking to each other about what's happening."

Of the 220 graduates, about 80% are expected to attend college, according to Principal Loren Lighthall, about the same as in past years. But it's an amazing statistic, he said, given that most college applications were due Nov. 30, about three weeks after the fire when the school was closed and many were displaced. But Lighthall said it's one of many examples of the school defying expectations, including posting the second-highest math scores in the county and graduating a record seven valedictorians — students who took at least eight college-level classes and made A-grades in all of them.

"The senior class is pretty exceptional," said Lighthall, who also lost his home and has been living in a 1,100 square-foot apartment with his wife and five of their seven children.

Eight of the school's 17 athletic teams won championships this year, including two that competed after the fire: boys' basketball and boys' golf. The golf team included senior Cade Weins, who saved his golf clubs from the fire as he was evacuating, along with a hamper full of dirty clothes.

"I figured I wore those the most," he said.

Playing golf became an escape for Weins and an outlet for his team to deal with their changing lives — or at least to not think about it for a few hours. School was initially a sad place for him that felt more like an obligation than a relief. But seeing people every day, people who had walked through the same tragedy, gave him hope.

"Everybody, no matter what grade you are in, just kind of grew up and dealt with whatever responsibility came their way," he said. "It wasn't necessarily the best thing, but it definitely turned out to not be the worst."

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D-Day at 75: Nations honor aging veterans, fallen comrades

By **RAF CASERT, JOHN LEICESTER and ELAINE GANLEY** Associated Press

OMAHA BEACH, France (AP) — Standing on the windswept beaches and bluffs of Normandy, a dwindling number of aging veterans of history's greatest air and sea invasion received the thanks and praise of a world transformed by their sacrifice.

The mission now, they said, was to honor the dead and keep their memory alive, 75 years after the D-Day operation that portended the end of World War II.

"We know we don't have much time left, so I tell my story so people know it was because of that generation, because of those guys in this cemetery," said 99-year-old Steve Melnikoff of Maryland, standing at Colleville-Sur-Mer, where thousands of Americans are buried.

"All these generals with all this brass that don't mean nothing," he said. "These guys in the cemetery, they are the heroes."

Thursday's anniversary was marked with eloquent speeches, profound silences and passionate pleas for an end to bloodshed.

French President Emmanuel Macron and U.S. President Donald Trump praised the soldiers, sailors and airmen who took part in the invasion, codenamed Operation Overlord, saying it was the turning point that ended Nazi tyranny and ensured peace for Europe.

"You are the pride of our nation, you are the glory of our republic, and we thank you from the bottom of our heart," Trump said of the warriors who took part in what he called the ultimate fight of good against evil in World War II.

"They battled not for control and domination, but for liberty, democracy and self-rule," Trump said in a speech at the Normandy American Cemetery overlooking Omaha Beach, the bloodiest of five landing beaches.

Macron saluted the courage, generosity and strength of spirit that made them press on "to help men and women they didn't know, to liberate a land most hadn't seen before, for no other cause but freedom, democracy."

He expressed France's debt to the United States for freeing his country from the Nazis. Macron awarded five American veterans with the Chevalier of Legion of Honor, France's highest award.

"We know what we owe to you, veterans, our freedom," he said, switching from French to English. "On behalf of my nation I just want to say 'thank you.'"

About 160,000 troops were took part in D-Day, and many more fought in the ensuing Battle of Normandy. Of those 73,000 were from the United States, while 83,000 were from Britain and Canada. Troops started landing overnight from the air, then were joined by a massive force by sea on the beaches of Omaha, Utah, Juno, Sword and Gold, carried by 7,000 boats.

"The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you," Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower had said in his order of the day. "The tide has turned! The free men of the world are marching together to victory."

On Wednesday, a commemoration was held in Portsmouth, England, the main embarkation point for the transport boats. Then the dignitaries came to the bluffs and beaches of Normandy, where veterans recalled what they saw 75 years ago.

"The water was full of dead men, the beach had burning landing craft," said Jim Radford, 90, a British D-Day veteran from Hull, describing the scene near Gold Beach, where British landed.

He was there again to watch the unveiling of a statue at Gold Beach, where a memorial to British fighters is to be erected.

At dawn Thursday, hundreds of civilians and military alike from around the world gathered on Omaha Beach.

Dick Jansen, 60, from the Netherlands, drank Canadian whisky from an enamel cup on the water's edge. Others scattered carnations into the waves. Randall Atanay, the son of a medic who tended to the dying and wounded, waded barefoot into the water, bonding with his dad, who has since died.

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Up to 12,000 people attended the ceremony at the Normandy American Cemetery, with U.S. veterans, their numbers fast diminishing as years pass, the guests of honor.

A 21-gun salute thundered into the waters below the cemetery, on a bluff overlooking Omaha Beach, and across the rows of white crosses and Stars of David. The final resting places of more than 9,380 of the fallen stretched out before the guests.

Britain's Prince Charles, his wife, Camilla, and Prime Minister Theresa May attended a remembrance service at the medieval cathedral in Bayeux, the first Normandy town liberated by Allied troops after D-Day.

Hundreds of people packed the seaside square in the town of Arromanches to applaud veterans of the Battle of Normandy that ensued. A wreath was placed outside the town's D-Day Museum.

Gratitude was a powerful common theme.

Macron thanked soldiers "so that France could become free again" at the Gold Beach ceremony with May and uniformed veterans laid the cornerstone of the memorial that will record the names of thousands of troops under British command who died in Normandy.

"If one day can be said to have determined the fate of generations to come, in France, in Britain, in Europe and the world, that day was the 6th of June, 1944," May said.

As the sun rose that morning, not one of the thousands of men arriving in Normandy "knew whether they would still be alive when the sun set once again," she said.

Passing on memories is especially urgent, with hundreds of World War II veterans now dying every day.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau hailed those who "took a gamble the world had never seen before."

Speaking at Juno Beach where 14,000 Canadians came ashore, Trudeau lauded the resulting world order including the United Nations and NATO that have helped preserve peace.

But postwar tensions were evident. Not invited to the remembrance was Russian President Vladimir Putin, who had been present for the 70th commemoration of D-Day.

On Wednesday, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said it was a "gift of history" that she was able to participate in the ceremony on Britain's southern coast. Some 22,000 German soldiers are among those buried around Normandy.

The D-Day invasion was a defining moment of military strategy complicated by unpredictable weather and human chaos in which soldiers from the U.S., Britain, Canada and other Allied nations applied relentless bravery to carve out a beachhead on ground that Nazi Germany had occupied for four years.

The Battle of Normandy hastened Germany's defeat less than a year later.

Still, that single day cost the lives of 4,414 Allied troops, 2,501 of them Americans. More than 5,000 were injured. On the German side, several thousand were killed or wounded.

From there, Allied troops would advance, take Paris in late summer and race with the Soviet Red Army to control as much German territory as possible by the time Adolf Hitler died in his Berlin bunker and Germany surrendered in May 1945.

The Soviet Union also fought valiantly against the Nazis — and lost more people than any other nation in World War II — but those final battles would divide Europe for decades between the West and the Soviet-controlled East, the face-off line of the Cold War.

"War is the most idiotic thing that man ever created," said Charles Levesque, 93, who served in the Pacific theater. "Our enemies now are our friends, and our friends are our enemies. It doesn't make any sense."

US and Mexico: More talks, no deal yet to avert tariffs

By JILL COLVIN, MATTHEW LEE and LUIS ALONSO LUGO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ending a second day of tense negotiations, U.S. and Mexican officials failed Thursday to reach a deal to avert import tariffs that President Donald Trump is threatening to impose as he tries to strong-arm Mexico into stemming the flow of Central American migrants across America's southern border.

Vice President Mike Pence, monitoring the talks from his travels in Pennsylvania, said the U.S. was "encouraged" by Mexico's latest proposals but, so far, tariffs still were set to take effect Monday.

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Pence added that it would be "for the president to decide" whether Mexico was doing enough to head off the tariffs. Pence said that, among other issues, negotiators had been discussing a potential agreement to make it more difficult for those who enter Mexico from other countries to claim asylum in the U.S. Mexico has long resisted that request.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders issued a statement Thursday saying Trump's position "has not changed" and the president was "still moving forward with tariffs at this time."

Trump has threatened to impose a 5% tax on all Mexican goods beginning Monday as part of an escalating tariff regime opposed by many in his own Republican Party.

The frantic, last-minute talks underscore Trump's chaotic approach even when decisions have enormous economic consequences for both the U.S. and its closest allies. Trump has embraced tariffs as a tool he can use as leverage against other countries, dismissing the potential harm to American consumers and manufacturers.

Traveling in Europe, Trump told reporters that negotiators had made "a lot of progress," but continued to play coy.

"We'll see what happens," Trump said in Ireland before leaving for France to attend a D-Day ceremony. "But something pretty dramatic could happen. We've told Mexico the tariffs go on. And I mean it, too. And I'm very happy with it."

It remained unclear whether any deal could be struck with Trump out of the country. Many in Washington still expect the tariffs to go into effect barring a major new concession from Mexico, though lawmakers who have been in talks with both U.S. and Mexican officials said they were hopeful a deal could be reached to satisfy Trump, or at least delay the tariffs' implementation.

Mexican Foreign Secretary Marcelo Ebrard spent several hours at the State Department Thursday morning, while Trump's legal counsel and other Mexican aides met at the White House Thursday afternoon.

Ebrard told reporters as he left the State Department Thursday evening: "We don't have yet an agreement. So tomorrow morning we are going to keep working."

His spokesman, Roberto Velasco, tweeted, "Options continue to be explored."

"The stance of the United States is focused on measures of migratory control, ours on development," he said.

Still, Ebrard noted that Mexico would deploy 6,000 National Guard troops to its border with Guatemala to help control the flow of migrants.

White House officials have downplayed the likelihood of a deal to avert the tariffs, with White House spokeswoman Mercedes Schlapp telling Fox News in an interview that "it looks like we're moving toward this path of tariffs because what we've seen so far is that the Mexicans, what they're proposing, is simply not enough."

During Wednesday's talks, the gulf between the countries was clear as Mexico offered small, thus far undisclosed concessions, and the U.S. demanded major action. A senior administration official said the U.S. once again pressed Mexico to step up enforcement on its southern border and to enter into a "safe third country agreement" that would make it difficult for those who enter Mexico from other countries to claim asylum in the U.S.

But Mexico surprised U.S. officials Thursday when they returned to the negotiating table and said they would commit to what Pence had requested, according to the official, who cautioned that significant questions about timing and implementation remain.

Trump officials have said Mexico can prevent the tariffs by securing its southern border with Guatemala, cracking down on criminal smuggling organizations and overhauling its asylum system. But the U.S. has not proposed concrete metrics to assess whether Mexico is complying, and it is unclear whether even those steps would be enough to satisfy Trump on illegal immigration, a signature issue of his presidency and one that he sees as crucial to his 2020 re-election campaign.

Beyond Trump and several White House advisers, few in the administration believe imposing tariffs is a good idea, according to officials familiar with internal deliberations. Those people worry about the nega-

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tive economic consequences for Americans and believe the tariffs — which would likely spark retaliatory taxes on U.S. exports — would also hurt the administration politically. The officials were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Trump also is considering declaring a new national emergency to justify the measure. The White House had said Trump would impose the tariff by invoking the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, which allows presidents to take action “to deal with any unusual and extraordinary threat, which has its source in whole or substantial part outside the United States ... if the President declares a national emergency with respect to such threat.”

An administration official said it remained unclear, however, whether such a move would be necessary and said the question was being reviewed by lawyers. Republicans on Capitol Hill had argued that adding the tariffs to an existing declaration, which Trump has used to secure border wall money and which Republicans had largely backed, would minimize resistance, all but ensuring Congress would be unable to muster the votes to override a presidential veto. Invoking a new emergency declaration might make it easier for senators to break with Trump.

Republicans in Congress have warned the White House that they are ready to stand up to the president to try to block his tariffs, which they worry would spike costs to U.S. consumers, harm the economy and imperil a major pending U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade deal .

Democratic House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal said he will introduce a resolution of disapproval to stop the tariffs if Trump goes through with his threat, panning it as presidential “overreach.”

The Department of Homeland Security announced Wednesday that U.S. Border Patrol apprehensions of migrants illegally crossing the border hit the highest level in more than a decade in May: 132,887 apprehensions, including a record 84,542 adults and children traveling together and 11,507 children traveling alone.

NYPD sorry for '69 raid at now-landmark Stonewall gay bar

By JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Nearly 50 years after a police raid at the Stonewall Inn catalyzed the modern LGBT rights movement, New York’s police commissioner apologized Tuesday for what his department did.

“The actions taken by the NYPD were wrong, plain and simple,” Commissioner James O’Neill said during a briefing at police headquarters.

“The actions and the laws were discriminatory and oppressive,” he added. “And for that, I apologize.”

The apology comes just weeks ahead of the milestone anniversary of the raid and the rebellion it sparked the night of June 27-28, 1969, as patrons and others fought back against officers and a social order that kept gay life in the shadows.

The New York Police Department was facing calls to apologize from organizers of what is expected to be a massive LGBT Pride celebration in the city this year — and from organizers of an alternative Stonewall anniversary march. City Council Speaker Corey Johnson, who is gay, had also said the department should apologize.

He tweeted his appreciation for O’Neill’s remarks, and Pride organizers cheered them.

“The NYPD, as an institution, needed to take responsibility for what happened at Stonewall. This isn’t going to undo the decades of violence and discrimination that our community has experienced at the hands of the police, but it’s a good first start,” said James Fallarino, a spokesman for NYC Pride.

Police participate in and protect its annual parade, but the lack of a formal apology from the department for the 1969 raid — the very event that gay pride marches commemorate each June — has hung over the collaboration, Fallarino said. He hopes people will see O’Neill’s remarks as a sign of “the NYPD’s commitment to positive change.”

Organizers of the alternative Queer Liberation March, however, see no such thing. They called O’Neill’s comments an “empty apology” made under pressure.

“Where has this apology been for the last 50 years?” the group, called the Reclaim Pride Coalition,

said in a statement. The coalition, which is excluding police from its march, is seeking a more sweeping apology from the NYPD. The group says transgender and minority LGBT people, among others, still face heavy-handed policing.

At the time of the Stonewall raid, the psychiatric establishment saw homosexuality as a mental disorder, and law enforcement often viewed it as a crime.

LGBT people could be subject to arrest for showing affection, dancing together, even for not wearing a certain number of items deemed gender-appropriate. Bars that served gay people had at times lost their liquor licenses, and others — like the Stonewall — were simply unlicensed. Raids were common.

That night, patrons and passers-by erupted in resistance, shouting at officers, throwing coins, cans and anything at hand, and facing off with a tactical police unit brought in as reinforcements. There were about a dozen arrests and an unknown total number of injuries; police reported at least four officers were hurt. And the protests and clashes continued for several more nights.

It wasn't the first time gay people protested or spontaneously clashed with police. But it proved to be a turning point, unleashing a wave of organizing and activism. A park across from the Stonewall now houses first national monument to gay rights.

The head of the NYPD sergeants' union, Sgt. Ed Mullins, said that he understood why the department apologized. But Mullins said he took O'Neill's statement "as blaming the police officer in the street" for the laws and departmental flaws of the time.

Both Mullins and O'Neill joined the force in the 1980s.

The police inspector who led the raid, Seymour Pine, said in 2004 that he was sorry, according to news accounts of a talk he gave at the time. Pine died in 2010.

NYPD leaders have expressed some regret before about the events at the Stonewall, but until Thursday, they stopped short of a formal apology.

Former Commissioner William Bratton in 2016 called it "a terrible experience" but noted that it had also been "a tipping point" for change. He said an apology was unnecessary: "The apology is all that's occurred since then."

When O'Neill was asked the next year about apologizing for Stonewall, he said it had "been addressed already."

On Thursday, he addressed it frankly: "What happened should not have happened," he said.

Trump, often a critic of alliances, hails US D-Day partners

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and KEVIN FREKING Associated Press

COLLEVILLE-SUR-MER, France (AP) — President Donald Trump, who has at times questioned the value of NATO and other institutions that emerged from World War II, paid tribute on the 75th anniversary of D-Day to the "cherished alliance" forged in battle by the U.S. and partner nations. To aging warriors gathered on a bluff overlooking Omaha Beach, he said, "Our debt to you is everlasting."

Under calm blue skies, Trump underscored the magnitude of the tumultuous June day in 1945:

"Those who fought here won a future for our nation. They won the survival of our civilization, and they showed us the way to love, cherish and defend our way of life for many centuries to come."

The president stopped mid-speech to gingerly embrace Russell Pickett, a 94-year-old Tennessee man who was wounded in the first wave that came ashore, telling him, "Private Pickett, you honor us all with your presence."

Anniversary tributes aside, questions about Trump's commitment to Western alliances have been a theme throughout his presidency and trailed him on his visit to Europe. During his stop in England earlier in the week, Queen Elizabeth II used a dinner toast to emphasize the importance of international institutions created by Britain, the United States and other allies after World War II, a subtle rebuttal.

In Thursday's ceremony at Normandy American Cemetery, many national leaders stressed the alliances that led to D-Day. Trump focused on the valor of the men who stormed the beaches, but he also sought to reassure allies who have been rattled by his "America first" mindset.

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"To all of our friends and partners — our cherished alliance was forged in the heat of battle, tested in the trials of war and proven in the blessings of peace. Our bond is unbreakable," the president declared.

Former Vice President Joe Biden, who hopes to win the Democratic nomination to oppose Trump in 2020, voiced his doubts back in the U.S., saying Trump was "destroying" NATO.

"If he gets re-elected, watch: NATO will be disintegrated," Biden said at a fundraiser in Atlanta.

Trump, in France, made his own harsh detour into domestic politics in an interview with Fox News' Laura Ingraham taped at the cemetery just before the ceremony. The president derided House Speaker Nancy Pelosi as "Nervous Nancy" and a "disaster" and said special counsel Robert Mueller, himself a Vietnam War hero, had made "a fool out of himself" with his investigation of the president. Pelosi was among the U.S. lawmakers attending the D-Day observances.

In an interview on MSNBC, Pelosi declined to criticize Trump and said she hoped he would "convey a renewed spirit of collaboration" with allies.

In his speech, Trump praised allies for their contributions at Normandy, saying "the full violence of Nazi fury was no match for the full grandeur of British pride." He also credited the Canadians and the French, along with "the fighting Poles, the tough Norwegians and the intrepid Aussies."

Trump described some 130,000 service members who took part in the D-Day landing as the "citizens of free and independent nations, united by their duty to their compatriots and to millions yet unborn."

The president paid particular attention to the few surviving veterans from that day who were likely to be attending their final remembrance of arguably the world's most famous battle. He told their personal stories of heroism and described D-Day participants as "among the very greatest Americans who will ever live."

What has been described as America's "greatest generation" has been no less extraordinary in peace, Trump said, crediting them for building a "national culture that inspired the entire world."

French President Emmanuel Macron, for his part, told American veterans that "France doesn't forget" what they sacrificed for his country's liberation from Germany's Nazis.

After the program and a gun salute, Trump, Macron and their wives walked to an overlook above Omaha Beach, the scene of the bloodiest fighting. They stood silently as a bugler played "Taps." The couples surveyed a map of the invasion and watched as fighter jets and other aircraft, including some that streaked the sky with red, white and blue smoke, flew overhead. At the cemetery, Melania Trump placed a bouquet of white flowers at the base of a cross-shaped headstone.

Trump and Macron then traveled separately to Caen for a meeting and lunch before Trump returned to his golf club in Ireland.

Trump reflected on the commemoration as he sat with Macron, saying he was struck by the high death toll as the initial waves of troops came ashore.

"It's a lot of courage, and a lot of heartbreak, but an incredible victory," Trump said.

The cemetery contains grave markers for more than 9,300 American servicemen. Trump noted that each marker had been adopted by a French family and that people come from all over France to "look after our boys."

"Today America embraces the French people and thanks you for honoring our beloved war dead," he said.

Boom in electric scooters leads to more injuries, fatalities

By CATHY BUSSEWITZ and AMANDA MORRIS Associated Press

Andrew Hardy was crossing the street on an electric scooter in downtown Los Angeles when a car struck him at 50 miles per hour and flung him 15 feet in the air before he smacked his head on the pavement and fell unconscious.

The 26-year-old snapped two bones in each leg, broke a thighbone, shattered a kneecap, punctured a lung and fractured three vertebrae in his neck, in addition to sustaining a head injury.

"My brother thought I was dead," said Hardy, who wasn't wearing a helmet.

Doctors told Hardy he'd likely be paralyzed for life. Five months later, he has learned to walk again. But he says he'll never ride another scooter.

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"These scooters should not be available to the public," Hardy said. "Those things are like a death wish."

As stand-up electric scooters have rolled into more than 100 cities worldwide, many of the people riding them are ending up in the emergency room with serious injuries. Others have been killed. There are no comprehensive statistics available but a rough count by The Associated Press of media reports turned up at least 11 electric scooter rider deaths in the U.S. since the beginning of 2018. Nine were on rented scooters and two on ones the victims owned.

With summer fast approaching, the numbers will undoubtedly grow as more riders take to the streets. Despite the risks, demand for the two-wheeled scooters continues to soar, popularized by companies like Lime and Bird. In the U.S. alone, riders took 38.5 million trips on rentable scooters in 2018, according to the National Association of City Transportation Officials.

Riders adore the free-flying feel of the scooters that have a base the size of a skateboard and can rev up to 15 miles per hour. They're also cheap and convenient, costing about \$1 to unlock with a smartphone app and about 15 cents per minute to ride. And in many cities, they can be dropped off just about anywhere after a rider reaches their destination.

But pedestrians and motorists scorn the scooters as a nuisance at best and a danger at worst.

Cities, meanwhile, can hardly keep up. In many cases, scooter-sharing companies dropped them onto sidewalks overnight without warning.

Regulations vary from place to place. In New York and the U.K., electric scooters are illegal on public roads and sidewalks, even though riders routinely flout the law. Last week in the Swedish city of Helsingborg, a rider was struck and killed by a car just one day after scooters were introduced there, leading to immediate calls for a ban. And in Nashville, Tennessee, where another rider was killed, the city's mayor warned scooter operators they had 30 days to clean up their act or he would propose a ban.

Fed up with the thousands of scooters flooding Paris streets, Mayor Anne Hidalgo announced new regulations Thursday limiting the number of scooter operators and imposing a 5 mile-per-hour speed limit in areas with heavy foot traffic. The city has already imposed a 135 euro (\$150) fine on anyone who rides scooters on sidewalks.

Isabelle Albertin, a pianist at Paris' famed Opera Garnier, suffered a double fracture of her right arm after she was run down by an electric scooter on May 17. She is suing the city and has started an organization to push for a ban.

"On the sidewalks of Paris, it's a total madhouse. We pedestrians are totally insecure," she told Le Parisien newspaper.

Data on injuries or fatalities linked to scooters is hard to come by because the industry is so new. In Austin, Texas, public health officials working with the Centers for Disease Control counted 192 scooter-related injuries in three months in 2018. Nearly half were head injuries, including 15% that were traumatic brain injuries like concussions and bleeding of the brain. Less than 1% of the injured riders wore a helmet.

Bird, one of the largest scooter-sharing companies, dropped its scooters on the streets of Santa Monica, California, in September 2017 and within a few months riders were showing up at the emergency room, according to Dr. Tarak Trivedi, an emergency room physician in Los Angeles and co-author of one of the first peer-reviewed studies of scooter injuries. The following year, Trivedi and his colleagues counted 249 scooter injuries, and more than 40% were head injuries. Just 4% were wearing a helmet.

"I don't think our roads are ready for this," Trivedi said.

Bird and Lime both recommend that riders wear helmets, and they've handed out tens of thousands for free. But last year, Bird successfully fought a California proposal that would have required helmets for adults, maintaining that scooters should follow the same laws as electric bikes that don't require adult helmets.

Bird says helmet requirements are off-putting to riders and could lead to fewer scooters on the road. Almost counterintuitively, the company argues that it's better to have more riders than less because it forces drivers to pay attention to them.

"There's a safety in numbers effect, where the motorists know that there's people out on the street, so they act accordingly," said Paul Steely White, director of safety policy and advocacy for Bird.

Getting people to wear helmets is a challenge. Riders don't want exposure to lice or germs that could

be found in shared helmets, and many make a spontaneous decision to scoot while they're already out and about.

That was the case when Drew Howerton, 19, hopped on a Lime scooter on a whim last October in Austin. He recalls signing a waiver that said he should wear a helmet, but he didn't have one on him.

"I didn't show up in Austin thinking I'm going to ride a scooter today, better bring my helmet," Howerton said.

Scooter-sharing companies generally restrict riding to those 18 years and up, but some children, or their parents, have found ways around that. A 5-year-old boy died in Oklahoma after he fell from a scooter he was riding on with his mother and was struck by a car.

Bird and Lime are taking steps to try to make scooters safer. After observing that scooter-related fatalities often occur after midnight when riders may have been drinking, Bird ceased operations after midnight. Lime halts rentals overnight in some markets but in most its scooters are available all night.

Lime has also been updating the design of its scooters, with a broader wheel base and better suspension and braking; Bird is including more durable brakes and reinforced hardware to prevent failures.

Both companies have been pushing cities for more bike lanes and better infrastructure as their riders navigate roads and traffic under conditions that were designed for cars and trucks.

"The reality is, cars continue to kill more people annually than any other mode of transportation," Lime said in a statement. "We must address this issue together with cities, get people out of their vehicles, and build cities that put people first, with smarter infrastructure to protect riders."

For Howerton, his first experience with a scooter left him scarred. Even though he read the warning not to ride downhill, he did it anyway since hills are hard to avoid in Austin. When he tried to brake, he flew off the scooter and hit his head on the pavement, blood gushing into his eyes.

"These companies, for the large part, they show up in cities and they just kind of dump these rideshare devices," Howerton said. "They tout them as this really cool, innovative, public transportation thing that's cheap and affordable and yeah it is, but they're dangerous and they don't think about the potential health consequences."

Doctor killed 25 patients, officials say. Can they prove it?

By KANTELE FRANKO Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Prosecutors face a legal hurdle as they pursue 25 murder charges against an Ohio doctor accused of essentially using his colleagues as weapons by ordering fatal painkiller doses for hospital patients but not directly administering them himself, legal experts say.

Critical care doctor William Husel has pleaded not guilty. His lawyer, Richard Blake, said Husel was trying to provide "comfort care" for dying patients and didn't intend to hasten their deaths, as prosecutors allege.

If the case goes to trial, legal experts said, a key challenge for prosecutors would be proving that Husel ordered doses without medical justification and intending to cause deaths, even if the drugs were actually administered by a nurse or other colleague.

"The real defense I would see that he would have is this might be within the range of legitimate medical conduct," said Wes Oliver, a criminal law professor at Duquesne University. Whether Husel administered the drugs himself or ordered them is irrelevant under the law, Oliver said.

"If you set something in motion that then causes a death, it doesn't matter whether you're the physical last act," Oliver said.

It's one of the biggest cases of its kind against an American health care professional, and it appears to a far less cut-and-dried case than that of a nurse in Germany who was sentenced Thursday to life in prison for murdering 85 patients by personally administering drug overdoses.

A critical element is what Husel was thinking at the time he ordered the painkillers.

"The question is, what was going through their mind when they did it?" University of Dayton law professor Thaddeus Hoffmeister said. "Was it his purpose to take the life of another? Was he acting recklessly? Or was he acting negligently, like was he just sloppy? ... Now that's a hard case to make when you've

got 25 people dead.”

The murder charges were brought only in cases that involved fentanyl doses between 500 and 2000 micrograms, far more than authorities say is typically used to treat pain.

Prosecutors likely will argue Husel, 43, had to know that there was no legitimate medical need for such large doses and that they would be lethal, said former prosecutor Ric Simmons, who teaches criminal law at Ohio State University. They would need to prove his intent, not motive.

Simmons and Hoffmeister said they found it interesting that no other medical workers were charged in the case despite being aware of or involved in the high doses.

“If you’re a medical professional, that might have jumped out at you,” Hoffmeister said.

Other employees from the Columbus-area Mount Carmel Health System were treated as witnesses and aren’t being prosecuted, Franklin County Prosecutor Ron O’Brien said.

It’s possible that not facing criminal charges made those employees more cooperative witnesses, Simmons said.

They still might face repercussions. Dozens of nurses and pharmacists have been reported to professional boards for review and possible disciplinary action in the matter.

Mount Carmel fired Husel in December and has said any employees who had a role in administering medication to patients who received excessive doses have been removed from patient care as a precaution.

The hospital system found Husel ordered potentially fatal drug doses for 29 patients, including five who might have received those drugs when there still was a chance to improve their conditions with treatment. The hospital system said six more patients got doses that were excessive but probably did not cause their deaths.

Authorities are still reviewing cases, O’Brien said.

Courts likely will look closely any action the State Medical Board has taken regarding Husel, Oliver said. Records show no prior disciplinary action against Husel by the board until it suspended his medical license over the current allegations. The board won’t disclose whether it received any complaints that didn’t result in action.

Mount Carmel has publicly apologized and pledged to continue cooperating with authorities and making “meaningful changes” to ensure such events never happen again.

Ex-deputy in Parkland shooting out of jail on reduced bail

By CURT ANDERSON AP Legal Affairs Writer

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — A former Florida deputy charged with 11 criminal counts after failing to confront the gunman in the Parkland school massacre was released from jail Thursday after a judge reduced his bail and lifted some restrictions.

Scot Peterson walked out of the Broward County Jail with his attorneys after Circuit Judge Elizabeth Scherer set bond at \$39,500, down from the initial amount of \$102,000. Peterson said nothing before getting into a car that drove him away.

Scherer also eliminated a previous requirement that Peterson wear a GPS monitor. His bond is secured by \$330,000 in real estate and he will be allowed to go to his home in North Carolina.

“He’s going to be on standard pretrial release,” the judge said.

Peterson, 56, is charged with child neglect, culpable negligence and perjury stemming from the February 2018 shooting that left 17 dead at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. If convicted, he faces a potential maximum prison sentence of nearly 100 years.

While out on bail, Peterson cannot possess a firearm or take any job involving children, Scherer said. Peterson, dressed in beige jail clothes, did not speak during the hearing.

His attorney, Joseph DiRuzzo, said Peterson should not face the neglect and negligence charges because he was not legally a caregiver with direct responsibility for the welfare of the students.

“They are overreaching. These definitions don’t apply to my client,” DiRuzzo told reporters after the hearing.

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Assistant State Attorney Tim Donnelly said case law supports the charges.

"The definition of caregiver is very broad," Donnelly said.

The charges stem from Peterson's decision to remain outside a school building — where he was the assigned resource officer — on Valentine's Day last year when police say defendant Nikolas Cruz, 20, fired 140 rounds from an AR-15 rifle. Cruz faces the death penalty if convicted of the killings. His attorneys have said he would plead guilty in return for a life prison sentence.

DiRuzzo said Peterson was abruptly arrested without warning earlier this week after an internal affairs "name-clearing" hearing at the Broward Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Gregory Tony said Peterson was fired after that hearing, even though he had previously announced his retirement.

"We expect that he will be treated fairly and appropriately on a going-forward basis and we look to defending against these charges," DiRuzzo said.

Scherer is also the presiding judge in the Cruz case, which is expected to go to trial early next year.

Training rollover kills West Point cadet, injures many

By MICHAEL HILL and TED SHAFFREY Associated Press

WEST POINT, N.Y. (AP) — A vehicle loaded with West Point cadets on summer training overturned in rough, wooded terrain Thursday, killing one cadet and injuring several others, the U.S. Military Academy said.

The tactical vehicle operated by two soldiers overturned around 6:45 a.m. as it was headed to a land navigation site as part of standard summer cadet training, said West Point's superintendent, Lt. Gen. Darryl A. Williams.

The two soldiers were injured along with 19 cadets in the Class of 2020. Williams said none of the injuries were life-threatening. Injuries included broken arms and facial abrasions, an official with the hospital at West Point said.

"It is not common for these vehicles to turn over. It is very rough terrain," Williams told reporters at a briefing near the accident site Thursday afternoon. "You can see the hills we have here."

Helicopter footage from WNBC showed a truck flipped over in a wooded area.

The investigation is continuing, Williams said, and "we don't know the details of how the accident actually happened."

The "light medium tactical vehicle" that rolled over has a 5-ton payload and an extended bed, according to West Point. That vehicle class has a passenger capacity of 20, not counting those in the cab, according to an Army technical bulletin.

It was not clear whether all the cadets were aboard the vehicle, as opposed to nearby, academy spokesman Lt. Col. Christopher Ophardt said.

Officials were notifying relatives and did not release the identity of the cadet who died.

President Donald Trump tweeted Thursday afternoon: "So sorry to hear about the terrible accident involving our GREAT West Point Cadets. We mourn the loss of life and pray for the injured. God Bless them ALL!"

Classes ended at West Point last month, but the academy runs summer military training exercises for cadets in the heavily wooded hills outside the main gates. The rollover occurred on a fire break road as the vehicle was leaving Camp Natural Bridge, where trainees live during the summer, Ophardt said.

West Point is on the Hudson River about 50 miles north of New York City.

It was the second cadet death at West Point this year. Cadet Peter Zhu died in February after a skiing accident. His parents made headlines afterward for their successful legal effort to retrieve his frozen sperm.

Section of Trump's border wall to get new paint

By CEDAR ATTANASIO Associated Press

In a mission to "improve the aesthetic appearance" of President Donald Trump's wall, active-duty troops will begin painting a stretch of border fence as part of a military deployment to secure the border at a time when tens of thousands of Central American families have been arriving in the U.S. and overwhelm-

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ing the immigration system.

Border Patrol spokesman Carlos Pitones said troops on Friday will begin painting a one-mile section in Calexico, California, about 120 miles east of San Diego. The wall there has 30-foot-high rust-colored steel slats that were erected last year — the first border barriers built under Trump's presidency. Pitones declined to say which color they would be painted.

Sen. Dick Durbin called the wall-painting a "disgraceful misuse" of taxpayer money.

About 2,100 active-duty Marines and Army troops are on the border, along with an additional 1,900 National Guard members sent there by governors around the country. They are part of an aggressive use of Pentagon resources by Trump to secure the border, including his declaration of a national emergency that freed up billions of Defense Department dollars to build his long-promised wall.

The troops have been performing tasks such as installing concertina wire, providing logistical and helicopter support to Customs and Border Protection agents and monitoring motion cameras for signs of activity on the border. They cannot detain migrants or have much direct contact with them. If they encounter immigrants, they typically direct them to the nearest Border Patrol agent.

With the constraints, the troops have had little direct involvement in stopping the flow of migrants that is reaching new levels each month. Border Patrol agents made 132,887 apprehensions in May, including a record of nearly 85,000 adults in children. Photos of families waiting in jam-packed cells and in outdoor enclosures have generated outrage, and six children have died in the last year after being detained by border agents.

Department of Homeland Security said the primary purpose of the paint job is "to improve the aesthetic appearance of the wall" but noted that the new color could make it easier to spot migrants trying to blend in against the fence. The government also says a painted fence could make it harder for immigrants to scale, likely because the new coat made it more slippery.

The government made that determination after Customs and Border Protection earlier painted sections of barrier in Arizona. Some sections there were painted bright white.

Sgt. Dale Galloway, an artilleryman who has served tours in Afghanistan and the Middle East, has been serving on a surveillance team on the border since February in the active-duty deployment.

He said that when a record group of more than 1,000 migrants crossed the border recently, he was sitting in his truck monitoring infrared and optical cameras mounted on the bed.

"I saw it first," said Galloway. "My first thought was to contact CBP."

Galloway is not allowed to arrest migrants. He said that migrants have approached him about 10 times during his deployment. He directs them to the nearest Border Patrol agent so that they can turn themselves in.

How Trump tariffs on China and Mexico could hurt US economy

By **PAUL WISEMAN** and **JOYCE M. ROSENBERG** AP Business Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ten billion here, ten billion there: President Donald Trump's escalating tariffs on imports to the United States have begun to amount to serious money — and potentially to imperil one of the most resilient economies in American history.

Until now, the economy has largely shrugged off damage from Trump's trade wars. Even as the self-proclaimed Tariff Man piled import taxes on everything from Turkish steel to Canadian aluminum to Chinese burglar alarms, the job market has remained sturdy. At 3.6%, the unemployment rate is at its lowest point in a half-century. In July, the expansion that followed the Great Recession will become the longest on records dating to 1854.

But over the past month, Trump has made a higher-stakes gamble on the economy's durability. He's more than doubled tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese imports. He's preparing to tax an additional \$300 billion in goods from China, extending his import taxes to everything Beijing sells to the United States.

And in a move that alarmed some of his own advisers and caught investors by surprise, Trump said he would impose a 5% tax on Mexican imports starting Monday — a tax that would reach 25% by Oct. 1 if

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the Mexican government fails to stop a flow of Central American migrants into the United States.

Combined, the actions mark a broad escalation of Trump's trade wars. The new tariffs on Chinese and Mexican imports amount to potentially \$190 billion a year in new taxes — paid by U.S. importers and typically passed on to consumers. For American households, this means higher prices on fruits and vegetables, autos, electronic components and other necessities. What's more, exporters, especially farmers, can expect to suffer retaliation when China and Mexico hit back with tariffs or other sanctions on exports from the United States.

The tariffs inflict other damage that is harder to measure. They generate uncertainty for American businesses over where to buy supplies, sell goods or situate factories and offices. And they rattle investors and undercut consumer and business confidence.

Researchers at UBS calculate that a 25% tariff on all Chinese imports would shave a full percentage point from U.S. growth over the next year. The economy grew 2.9% in 2018 and will likely be weaker for 2019. Add a 25% tax on Mexican goods, they say, and the United States could tumble into recession for the first time since 2009.

The Federal Reserve has taken notice. Chairman Jerome Powell made clear this week that the Fed is prepared intervene, likely by lowering interest rates, if the trade wars were deemed to threaten the expansion.

Still, it's far from sure that Trump's trade conflicts, even if they escalate, will imperil the economy. Pinelopi Goldberg chief economist of the World Bank, and economists Pablo Fajgelbaum of UCLA, Patrick Kennedy of the University of California, Berkeley, and Amit Khandelwal of Columbia University, calculated that the economic loss from the trade wars last year amounted a minuscule 0.04% of gross domestic product — the broadest gauge of economic output. (Their figure doesn't include the latest tariff threats.)

One reason is that trade accounts for a surprisingly small portion of the economy. Exports and imports combined equal just 27% of U.S. GDP, the World Bank calculates. The share is lower in only seven other countries, none of them an industrial power like the U.S.

Yet despite its modest economic role, trade punches above its weight in American political discourse. Consider the revamped version of the politically contentious North American Free Trade Agreement that the U.S. negotiated last year with Canada and Mexico, one of Trump's policy achievements. Trump said the new pact — the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement — would create jobs and restore America's status as "a manufacturing powerhouse" by drawing factories back to the U.S. from low-wage Mexico.

But the independent U.S. International Trade Commission analyzed the new agreement and concluded that it would boost the economy by just \$68 billion and add 176,000 jobs over six years — negligible gains in a \$21 trillion economy and a job market exceeding 150 million people.

Likewise, said Jason Furman, who served as chairman of President Barack Obama's Council of Economic Advisers, "to date most of (Trump's) trade war has been too small to have a large aggregate economic impact."

That said, Furman warned that if the China tariffs were extended to all products and if tariffs were also imposed on Mexico, "we could start to actually see the trade war in jobs, GDP and other aspects of the economy."

Furman, who is now at the Harvard Kennedy School, said he doubts the new tariffs would "tip the United States economy into recession ... but they would certainly help push it in that direction."

For months, businesses and investors have largely convinced themselves that Trump would deploy his tariffs only temporarily, as leverage to pry concessions from China, Mexico and others. And just over a month ago, it looked as if the U.S. and China were nearing a resolution in their conflict over Beijing's aggressive push to overtake American technological dominance. But negotiations collapsed — and Trump ramped up tariffs — after the U.S. side accused Beijing of reneging on commitments made earlier in the negotiations.

Even more unsettling was Trump's sudden decision to tax Mexican imports. This came less than two weeks after he'd lifted tariffs on Mexican and Canadian steel and aluminum, which had seemed an effort to ease tensions with America's neighbors and persuade their lawmakers to ratify the revamped North

American trade agreement.

"People were blindsided" by the escalation of tensions with China and Mexico, said Johan Gott, a principal at the consulting firm A.T. Kearney.

In the meantime, companies like Playtime Engineering in San Francisco, which designs and sells Blipbox toy music synthesizers assembled in China, is bracing for the next round of tariffs on Chinese imports.

"We can't just flip a switch and move to a different factory," said Troy Sheets, a company co-founder. "It would be nice to know where we should be looking to build our future products."

Playtime might dodge the tariffs by dropping sales in the United States and relying on customers in Japan and Europe.

Likewise, M. Holland, a Chicago-based distributor of thermoplastic resins, said the tariff war is paralyzing its customers, which include automakers and packaging manufacturers. The company has put off decisions on orders, contracts, investment and hiring until it knows how the trade conflicts will shake out, said Dwight Morgan, an executive vice president.

For Karla Klingner, CEO of the holding company Palindromes, the conflict is complicating plans to buy a meat processing plant in the Midwest. The operation faces a tariff double-whammy. Its pork goes to Mexico, where workers cut the meat, then returns to America. Crossing the border twice means the pork will likely be hit twice — once by Trump's tariffs and once by Mexico's retaliation.

"We're having to put together Plan A, Plan B, Plan C," Klingner said.

Some companies had sought to avoid the tariffs on Chinese imports by switching to Mexico only to see Trump hit Mexican imports, too.

"There is this creeping sense of paranoia," Gott said. "Where is really safe?"

R. Kelly pleads not guilty to additional sex charges

By SOPHIA TAREEN and MICHAEL TARM Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — R&B singer R. Kelly pleaded not guilty to 11 additional sex-related charges on Thursday, including four counts that carry a maximum prison term of 30 years in prison.

Prosecutors did not ask the judge to raise the bond amount for Kelly during the brief hearing in Cook County court.

Kelly stood with his hands folded in front of him and listened to Judge Lawrence Flood describe the charges to him. When Flood asked if he understood, Kelly, responded, "Yes, sir." The Grammy award-winning singer, who has denied any wrongdoing, left without speaking to reporters. A status hearing was scheduled for June 26.

Among the 11 new counts are four counts of aggravated criminal sexual assault, which carries a sentence of up to 30 years in prison. That is more than four times as long as the maximum term for each of the 10 counts Kelly was originally charged with in February.

Kelly's defense attorney, Steve Greenberg, said after the hearing that he couldn't speculate as to why prosecutors brought the new charges, which pertain to one of the four women he was charged in February with sexually abusing years ago, three of whom were minors when the alleged abuse occurred.

"It's the same case. It's just that they've just changed what they've charged him with," Greenberg said. "It's the same facts ... the same bond, the same evidence. We expect the same result."

Asked how Kelly is coping, Greenberg said, "It's tough. Everything is against him."

Kelly's spokesman, Darryll Johnson, told reporters that Kelly is "upbeat."

"Initially, he was a little depressed," Johnson said. "But I mean, with anything, if someone accuses you of something, you'll be depressed. He knows the truth."

According to the new indictment, the first eight counts are from encounters that allegedly occurred between Jan. 1 and Jan. 31, 2010. Three others pertain to alleged encounters between May 1, 2009, and Jan. 31, 2010.

Among other things, prosecutors allege that Kelly used force or threatened to do so to pressure the accuser into sex or to perform oral sex on him. Since she was underage at the time, the statute of limita-

tions for bringing charges was extended to 20 years from her 18th birthday, they wrote.

A woman has come forward to say publicly that 11 new felony counts stem from allegations she made about the R&B singer.

Jerhonda Pace wrote on her Facebook page that she's the accuser identified as "J.P." in court documents. Anticipating an angry reaction by Kelly's fans, Pace — one of four women Kelly is charged with sexually abusing — wrote that "no matter how "wrong" you think I am, the law is on my side, a MINOR at the time."

The Associated Press doesn't usually name alleged victims of sexual assault, but Pace has gone public with her allegations.

University may return \$21.5M after donor's abortion remarks

By **BLAKE PATERSON** Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — When philanthropist Hugh F. Culverhouse Jr. pledged a record \$26.5 million to the University of Alabama in September, the institution showered him with praise, lauding his generosity, describing him as a "special person" and renaming the law school in his honor.

That relationship quickly soured. On Friday, Alabama's board of trustees is expected to reject Culverhouse's gift, give back the \$21.5 million received so far, and remove his name, too.

Depending on which side you talk to, the flap is either the most high-profile fallout from Alabama's new abortion ban or a completely unrelated dispute.

The bond began publicly unraveling last week after Culverhouse, a Florida real estate investor and lawyer, called on students to boycott the university to protest the ban. Hours later, Alabama announced it was considering giving back his money, the biggest donation ever made to the university.

"I don't want anybody to go to that law school, especially women, until the state gets its act together," the 70-year-old Culverhouse said in an interview.

The Alabama ban would make abortion at any stage of pregnancy a crime punishable by 10 years to life in prison for the provider, with no exceptions for rape or incest. The law, set to take effect in November, is the most hardline of the anti-abortion measures enacted this year as states emboldened by the new conservatives on the U.S. Supreme Court take aim at *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 ruling that legalized abortion nationwide.

Culverhouse did not attend Alabama, but his parents did, and the business school bears the name of Hugh Culverhouse Sr., a wealthy tax lawyer and developer who owned the NFL's Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

The younger Culverhouse, who describes himself as a political independent who votes for and donates to both parties, said that his family has long been involved in supporting reproductive rights and that his father was on the board of Planned Parenthood in Jacksonville, Florida, in the 1950s.

While Culverhouse said he has no doubt Alabama is retaliating over his call for a boycott, the university said the dispute has nothing to do with that.

The same day Culverhouse called for the boycott, the university issued its own news release saying it was in an "ongoing dispute" with Culverhouse over the way his gift was to be handled.

The university said that on May 28 — the day before Culverhouse's boycott call — its chancellor recommended the trustees return the donation. The university said that donors "may not dictate University administration" and that Culverhouse had made "numerous demands" regarding the operation of the school.

University administrators and trustees did not respond to requests for comment.

Culverhouse called university officials "liars" over their account. He acknowledged there were some disagreements over the handling of his gift. He said he told university President Stuart Bell that the law school should admit more students and that his donation was to fund scholarships to achieve that. But he said he thought the matter had been resolved.

The board of trustees — made up of 15 members, including the governor — appeared poised to give the money back. A university lawyer last week asked Culverhouse for his bank information, saying the trustees are expected to vote for a refund, according to an email Culverhouse provided to The Associated Press.

Alabama's Hugh F. Culverhouse Jr. School of Law is regarded as one of the best public law schools in

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the nation. Its alumni include former Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black, former Alabama Gov. George Wallace, Southern Poverty Law Center founder Morris Dees, and President Donald Trump's former attorney general, Jeff Sessions.

This isn't the first time the university has been embroiled in a dispute with a Culverhouse over a donation. Culverhouse's mother, Joy McCann Culverhouse, sued the university in 1997 to nullify a pledge her late husband had made to the business school. The university eventually settled for \$16 million.

The younger Culverhouse has donated more than \$30 million to the university over the years, including about \$2.25 million to the women's golf team and \$5.3 million to the business school. Those smaller gifts are not in contention.

Culverhouse said he was stunned by the university's stand. But he confessed: "You probably shouldn't put a living person's name on a building, because at some point they might get fed up and start talking."

From loss to liberation: Germany's evolving postwar attitude

By **KIRSTEN GRIESHABER** and **DAVID RISING** Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — When Chancellor Angela Merkel thanked the Allies for the D-Day invasion and the "liberation" of Germany in World War II, she might have raised some eyebrows internationally. To those at home, the statement was unremarkable.

There's no denying that the machine guns and howitzers firing at the Allied forces landing in Normandy 75 years ago were manned by German soldiers. But over the decades, Germans' attitudes toward the war have evolved from a sense of defeat to something far more complex.

While the leaders of France, Britain, the United States and Canada went to England to commemorate the troops' sacrifice and duty on Wednesday, Merkel listened quietly. After the ceremony was over, she told reporters that she considered her invitation "a gift of history."

When those other leaders went to Normandy for ceremonies on D-Day itself on Thursday, Merkel was back in Berlin, holding a regular meeting with governors and discussing bilateral relations with the prime minister of Kosovo.

As the generation that elected Adolf Hitler and fought his genocidal war dies away, most Germans today see World War II through the prism of guilt, responsibility and atonement. And almost all agree that the defeat of the Nazis was a good thing.

That hasn't always been the case.

Many Germans who survived World War II had supported Hitler and the Nazi race ideology that led to the murder of 6 million Jews in Europe — and they were devastated by the downfall of the Third Reich.

"After 1945, Germans first referred to the end of World War II as 'collapse,'" said Johannes Tuchel, director of the German Resistance Memorial Center.

Their children, however, were faced with rebuilding the country from the ground up from the total defeat of the Nazis, and they saw potential rather than defeat.

"In the 1950s, it became 'hour zero'" — a new beginning, Tuchel said.

After the country was back on its economic feet, younger Germans started to question their elders, culminating in the "1968 movement" in which students confronted their parents with the atrocities committed during the Third Reich.

Out of that era has grown today's complex attitude.

"It has been a process to the point today where it is seen as Germany's liberation from the Nazis by the Allied forces," Tuchel said.

German leaders have largely followed the changing attitudes — and in some cases led them.

In 1985, then-West German President Richard von Weizsäcker called the Nazi defeat Germany's "day of liberation" in a speech marking the 40th anniversary of the war's end. His words were supported by most Germans, and to this day it is often cited by politicians and taught in schools.

Merkel praised his speech when he died in 2015, calling it "a necessary, clear statement that was significant for our German self-image."

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Another key moment came in 2004, when then-Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder marked the 60th anniversary of Col. Claus von Stauffenberg's failed attempt to kill Hitler with a briefcase bomb. Schroeder called von Stauffenberg a hero — erasing the Nazis' "traitor" label that had lingered after the war.

Merkel, who at 64 is the first chancellor born after World War II, has taken the new German self-image even further.

On Tuesday in Portsmouth, the embarkation point for the Allied force that invaded Nazi-occupied France in 1944, Merkel called D-Day a "unique, unprecedented military operation that eventually brought us in Germany the liberation from National Socialism," the Nazi political movement.

She noted that the war's end brought Germany's rebirth as a leading European democracy, saying it was D-Day that set in motion the "reconciliation and unification of Europe, but also the entire postwar order that has brought us more than 70 years of peace."

Unlike the many grand monuments to the Soviet and western Allied troops who fought against the Nazis, German tributes to its troops are typically understated.

Fallen soldiers are commemorated in humble memorials on village squares across the country listing the names of the dead — often grouping the casualties of World Wars I and II.

In schools, the military history of World War II is rarely a focus of instruction, with lessons instead concentrating on Holocaust education and the Nazi dictatorship.

When there are tributes, they tend to be more for members of the German resistance who were executed by the Nazis — the students who distributed anti-Nazi flyers at Munich University; the Red Orchestra network bent on sabotaging the Nazis' war machine; or those like von Stauffenberg who tried to assassinate Hitler.

And next year, Berlin has declared a holiday for May 8, marking the 75th anniversary of Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender.

Of course, not all in Germany see the Nazi era the same way. Alexander Gauland, leader of the far-right Alternative for Germany, recently played down the Nazi period as a "speck of bird poop" in Germany's history. Bjoern Hoecke, another party leader, suggested it's time for the country to stop atoning for its Nazi past.

But a vast majority — even among those who were born decades after the war — believe it's essential for Germany to keep alive the memory of the country's inglorious past.

"In school and at home I learned that the Allies — especially the Americans — liberated us," said Laetitia Zinecker, an 18-year-old business student at Berlin's Free University. "Our history shapes who we are still today. It's important that schools continue to teach about the past so that it will not be forgotten."

On Thursday, some German newspapers ran photographs of the ceremonies in Portsmouth, or black-and-white images from 1944 of U.S. soldiers reaching the shores of France.

The top-selling Bild published a front-page picture of U.S. President Donald Trump, Queen Elizabeth II, Merkel and others looking upward, with an inset picture of a D-Day veteran recreating his Normandy parachute jump with an American flag in tow.

Its headline? "The world celebrates its liberators."

Regulators give phone companies new tools to fight robocalls

By TALI ARBEL AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Federal regulators voted Thursday to give phone companies the right to block unwanted calls without getting customers' permission first.

The Federal Communications Commission's move could make call-blocking widespread and help consumers dodge annoying robocalls, which have exploded into a problem that pesters Americans on the level of billions of calls a month.

One caveat: Phone companies don't actually have to do anything, and they could start charging you if they do — just as they now charge for some caller ID features and other extras. The FCC expects phone companies to offer these tools for free, but it doesn't require them to.

The rise in debt collectors, telemarketers and, most worrisome, fraudsters ringing up consumers' phones have led the FCC and Congress to push phone companies to do more. The companies have been slow to

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act against such automated calls on their own.

Robocalls have increased as cheap software makes it easy to make mass calls. Scammers don't care if you've added your number to the government's Do Not Call list, and enforcement is negligible. There are 5 billion per month in the U.S., according to call-blocker YouMail. That works out to 14 calls per person.

Thursday's FCC vote could potentially be a powerful counter against unwanted calls. While call-blocking apps already exist, you have to turn them on or ask for them. Now, along with clarifying that both wireless and landline companies can block unwanted calls without asking customers first, the FCC said that wireless carriers are also allowed to block all callers who aren't on a customer's contact list. You would have to request that from your phone company.

On the flip side, the measure might inadvertently lead to blocking of automated calls about flight changes, school closings and appointment reminders, Republican Commissioner Michael O'Rielly warned. Royal Credit Union, a small Midwestern bank, worries that widespread call-blocking would make it harder for their fraud alerts and low-balance warnings to reach customers.

The rules will let consumers "opt out" and ask their phone company not to block anything.

Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel, a Democrat, criticized the agency Thursday for not requiring that call-blocking services be made free.

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai believes phone companies will have an incentive to step up and offer these services for free.

"These robocalls that are being placed on their own networks are a hassle and a cost for them to handle," Pai said in an interview.

Verizon said it will "evolve" its free call-blocking tool for wireless customers and be able to provide spam alerts and blocking more broadly, but spokesman Richard Young said there will not be "short term across-the-board blocking." He did not say how Verizon plans to change its offerings for landline customers, who today can sign up for a third-party blocking service.

AT&T did not answer questions about its plans but said it is committed to fighting illegal and unwanted calls. T-Mobile said it hasn't made a decision yet on whether to make default free call-blocking tools. Sprint, which charges for its call-blocking service, said last week that it was looking at "additional solutions" and was optimistic that the changes would let it "take more aggressive actions."

There are other attacks against robocalls in the works, like trying to get rid of "spoofed" numbers. That's when a scammer fakes the number on your phone to look like it's coming from the same area code you have, in an effort to get you to pick up.

The industry has been working on a system that will ensure that the number that comes up on people's phones is real. That's only beginning to roll out, and to work well, all the phone companies have to implement it. There's no hard government deadline, but Pai has threatened regulatory action if it doesn't happen this year. Thursday's vote took procedural steps to make it easier to enforce that threat against major phone companies.

The Senate, with near-unanimous support, passed a bill in May that would give phone companies an 18-month deadline to put this anti-spoof system, called Stir/Shaken, in place, as well as give regulators more tools to go after scammers. But it's not clear how the bill will fare in the Democrat-controlled House, which has several anti-robocall proposals that go further.

Whatever happens, determined scammers and telemarketers will likely find ways to get through, just as malware on personal computers is still a problem despite antivirus software.

Automated callers could circumvent new safety measures by buying real numbers and using those to call you. They could hack into businesses and hijack the phone lines, then use those to call out. T-Mobile said it has already seen that happen.

"We get things working really well. We're flagging all these calls as scams. And then the scammers find a new way," said Grant Castle, vice president of engineering at T-Mobile. "We have to adjust. It is a constant back-and-forth."

Much to disagree on as Trump, Macron meet on D-Day

By SYLVIE CORBET Associated Press

CAEN, France (AP) — The D-Day commemoration was an occasion for France to showcase its long friendship with the United States, but U.S. President Donald Trump and French President Emmanuel Macron nevertheless acknowledged their differences on key world issues when they met Thursday.

The two leaders showed camaraderie as they marked D-Day at the Normandy American Cemetery near Omaha Beach, where the Americans landed on June 6, 1944, marking the beginning of the end of Europe's Nazi occupation. Trump praised Macron's poignant speech of gratitude — and they even briefly hugged. They seemed more tense, however, as they started their one-on-one meeting later.

"We're doing a lot together and the relationship between you and I and also the United States and France has been outstanding," Trump said ahead of the meeting in the city of Caen.

"I'm very happy that President Trump came to France and that we are able to work together," Macron answered.

The bilateral talks lasted for about two hours, including lunch. Trump and Macron discussed all major issues they disagree on, including Iran, world trade and climate change.

The meeting was "positive," a top official at Macron's office said after Trump left, speaking on customary condition of anonymity. He noted that being able to have long talks on dividing issues shows that "there's mutual trust."

There was no immediate readout on the meeting from the U.S. delegation.

Amid rising tensions between Iran and the U.S., Macron delivered a message of appeasement and dialogue, the French official said.

Trump played down differences with France over Iran, telling Macron that they both agree Tehran should not have nuclear weapons. He reiterated his offer to reopen negotiations with Iran over its nuclear program.

After the U.S. unilaterally withdrew from the nuclear deal meant to keep Tehran from building atomic weapons, France is pushing to keep Iran in the deal and find ways to counter Washington's increased economic sanctions.

On world trade, Macron reiterated that he wants the "rules of the game" to be respected and France's interests — and companies — to be preserved, the French official said, stressing the issue could not be solved in only one meeting.

France hopes to be able to discuss trade and climate with the U.S. again at the upcoming summit of the Group of Seven most advanced economies, which is scheduled to take place in August in southwestern France. Trump has not yet officially confirmed he will attend the summit.

Security, the fight against terrorism, the situation in the Middle East, Libya and Ukraine were also on the agenda.

The French president advocates for a stronger Europe in a globalized world. He positions himself as a bulwark against rising populism on the continent, warning against the dangers of nationalism and isolationism — a position that is the opposite of Trump's.

The two leaders' ideological differences have gotten in the way in the past. The last time that Trump came to France, for World War I commemorations in November, things went wrong.

Tweeting as he landed in Paris, Trump blasted Macron for making an "insulting" proposal to build up Europe's military to counter the U.S., China and Russia. The French presidency argued that it was a misunderstanding.

Macron still defends the idea of a European military force that would be a way "to say that Europe knows how to protect itself." That force "would be part of NATO and it would strengthen Europe within NATO," Macron said last month.

Trump also tweeted last November against French tariffs on U.S. wine and pointed to Macron's "very low approval rate."

Since then, he has mocked Macron on Twitter about the yellow vest anti-government protests that have wracked France for more than six months, suggesting his climate policy was to blame.

Despite diverging policies, France and the U.S. have a close military cooperation. They are deeply involved in the fight against the Islamic State group, and Washington also supports France's military operations to maintain security in Africa's Sahel region.

"Every time democracy and freedom are threatened, we take action together. And we will continue," Macron said in Caen. "I very much value the historic relation and the friendship between the United States and France, President Trump and myself."

Texas couple stands by story after US cardinal pushes back

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The Texas couple that accused top U.S. Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of mishandling a sexual misconduct case involving his former deputy is denying his office's claims against them, saying the church is mistreating them the way it mistreats other victims.

DiNardo's Galveston-Houston archdiocese has said that the couple fabricated quotes in an Associated Press story and demanded \$10 million, and that it "categorically rejects" the story as biased and one-sided. George Pontikes said Wednesday he stood by his comments recounting meetings with DiNardo in 2016 and 2017, and called the diocese's response disappointing but not surprising.

"It is another example of a smoke screen designed to cover up wrongdoings," said Pontikes, president and CEO of the Houston-based construction firm Satterfield & Pontikes.

His wife, Laura Pontikes, had approached DiNardo's Galveston-Houston archdiocese in April 2016 to report that the then-vicar general had taken advantage of problems in her marriage and business to manipulate her into a sexual relationship. Emails turned over to the archdiocese and AP show that while the sexual relationship grew, Monsignor Frank Rossi heard Pontikes' confessions, counseled her husband on their strained marriage and solicited hundreds of thousands of dollars in donations for the church.

Houston police are now investigating. Following inquiries by AP, Rossi's new bishop placed him on leave Tuesday pending the outcome of the police investigation. Rossi's lawyer confirmed that he was cooperating with the investigation but declined further comment.

The case is significant because DiNardo is heading up the U.S. Catholic Church's response to the clergy sex abuse scandal, which exploded anew last year worldwide. As president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, DiNardo will lead a meeting next week to approve new measures for accountability over abuse.

The archdiocese turned down repeated requests from the AP for an interview with DiNardo, with the latest rejection on Wednesday. But it has called the relationship between Rossi and Pontikes consensual, and said in a written statement Tuesday that comments the Pontikeses attributed to DiNardo were "an absolute fabrication." The statement said DiNardo reacted "swiftly and justly" when Pontikes made the report, removing Rossi from the parish less than a week later and sending him for treatment.

Pontikes says the archdiocese had told her Rossi would never be a pastor again or counsel women.

The archdiocese said the treatment center recommended Rossi be returned to active ministry without restrictions, and that DiNardo agreed to the Pontikeses' request to not reassign him in Houston. In July 2017, Rossi became pastor at Our Lady of the Pines, in Woodville, Texas, in the Beaumont diocese.

The archdiocese cited an Aug. 1, 2017, meeting between Laura Pontikes, her therapist and church official Sister Gina Iadanza in which Pontikes "made, among other requests, a demand for a \$10 million payment." Pontikes disputes that, saying it was Iadanza who told her she needed to find something else to make her happy other than \$10 million.

George Pontikes said while he did seek a financial payout to recover the family's donations as well as punitive damages linked to an unrelated business dispute with the church, he "dropped these demands at Laura's insistence." He noted that if they wanted money, they wouldn't have entered into mediation but would have gone immediately to litigation.

Laura Pontikes made it clear that she was not interested in a financial payout but wanted the archdiocese to keep Rossi away from women and take measures to prevent abuse. Her position is articulated in emails to the archdiocese in April 2016, a written mediation proposal and in a letter to the Vatican as

recently as April this year.

"I want to reassure you that I do not want anything from you or the church other than my health and spiritual well-being," she wrote Auxiliary Bishop George Sheltz April 13, 2016, a week after she reported Rossi.

One of Pontikes' therapists, Barbara Levinson, said Wednesday that Pontikes had been traumatized by the relationship, which she said followed the typical pattern of abuse in an unequal power relationship similar to that of a teacher and student. In therapy, Levinson said in a statement, "Laura finally realized she had been exploited, groomed, lied to, taken advantage of and manipulated, and that her priest had exploited her emotionally, physically, financially, sexually and spiritually."

An October 2017 mediation proposal from the Pontikeses asked first for an apology for the behavior of both Rossi and DiNardo, as well as close monitoring of Rossi and five years of therapy. It also sought new policies concerning inappropriate behavior by priests "to be more compassionate to those affected." The list ended with unspecified financial amends and reimbursement for mental health services.

In her letter to the Vatican, Laura Pontikes repeated she wasn't seeking money.

"I want my church to stand up in support of victims," she wrote.

Asian stocks trail US rise on US-Mexico trade deal optimism

By YURI KAGEYAMA AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares were mostly higher Friday on investor optimism about a possible trade deal between the U.S. and Mexico before tariffs take effect.

Japan's Nikkei 225 gained 0.5% to 20,884.71, while Australia's S&P/ASX 200 rose nearly 1.0% to 6,443.90. South Korea's Kospi fell 0.2% to 2,066.03. Chinese markets were closed for a holiday.

A modest Wall Street rally gained strength in the final hour of trading after Bloomberg reported that the U.S. was considering delaying a 5% tariff on Mexican goods, set to go into effect on Monday. The report came as the two countries held a second day of trade talks.

The S&P 500 index gained 17.34 points, or 0.6%, to 2,843.49. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 181.09 points, or 0.7%, to 25,720.66. It briefly climbed 260 points.

The Nasdaq composite reversed an early slide, adding 40.08 points, or 0.5%, to 7,615.55. The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies dropped 3.25 points, or 0.2%, to 1,503.54.

President Donald Trump said he'll make a decision about ramping up tariffs on China after he speaks with Chinese President Xi Jinping this month during the G-20 meeting in Japan, which brings together leaders of developed and developing countries.

Trump ordered tariffs of up to 25% on hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of Chinese exports and his administration is preparing to extend them to \$300 billion more — almost all items shipped to the U.S. from China. China has reciprocated with tariffs of its own, among other measures.

The trade dispute with Mexico and China threatens to stifle economic growth in the U.S. and globally. Uncertainty surrounding the trade negotiations has sent many traders fleeing to safer investments, like bonds and gold.

Investors are also watching the U.S. jobs data due later in the day for signs of where the economy is going.

"Asia markets look set to trail after the U.S. with moderate gains as worries on trade tuned a notch lower through the Thursday session. The attention, meanwhile, is mostly focused upon Friday's U.S. labor market update," said Jingyi Pan, market strategist at IG in Singapore.

ENERGY:

Benchmark U.S. crude gained 66 cents to \$53.25 a barrel. Brent crude oil, the international standard, rose 79 cents to \$62.46 a barrel.

CURRENCIES:

The dollar rose to 108.44 Japanese yen from 108.22 yen on Thursday. The euro strengthened to \$1.1266 from \$1.1231.

'Sell By' or what? US pushes for clarity on expiration dates

By CANDICE CHOI AP Food & Health Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — If milk is a few days past its "Sell By" date, is it safe to drink?

U.S. regulators are urging food-makers to be more consistent with labeling terms like "Best By" and "Enjoy By" that cause confusion. By clarifying the meaning of such dates, they are trying to prevent people from prematurely tossing products and to reduce the mountains of food that goes to waste each year.

Even if you rely more on sight and smell to size up foods, you might be surprised by the risks and practices around food spoilage.

WHAT'S NEW?

Phrases like "Best By", "Enjoy By" and "Fresh Through" generally indicate when a food's quality would decline — not when it becomes unsafe to eat. To help make that clearer, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently recommended companies stick with "Best If Used By."

Industry groups got behind the phrase after earlier guidance from regulators, along with the more definitive "Use By" for perishables food that should be thrown out after a certain date. But the FDA hasn't endorsed the latter phrase, which could have safety implications.

Regardless, the FDA's recommendation isn't mandatory, and consumers will likely continue seeing variations, in some cases because of local regulations. With milk, for instance, states may require "Sell By" or other labeling.

HOW ACCURATE ARE THE DATES?

It's difficult for manufacturers to pinpoint how long foods will stay good, given variables like how long they sit on loading docks and how they're stored in people's homes.

Milk should be good for at least a few days after its "Sell By" date, though exactly how long will depend on factors including pasteurization methods.

Many people use dates on packages as guideposts and rely on their senses. Crackers might taste stale, for instance, while more perishable foods might be discolored or smell funky.

Foods like fresh meat and dairy are more vulnerable to spoilage in part because their moisture allows the small amounts of bacteria to multiply more quickly, said Martin Bucknavage, a food safety expert at Penn State Extension.

"As time goes on, the few becomes more and more," he said.

IS SPOILAGE ALWAYS BAD?

Your tolerance for spoilage likely varies depending on the food. Few would keep pouring chunky milk over cereal, but many might overlook a spot of mold on bread.

Food safety experts generally recommend throwing out food at the first signs of spoilage. With mold, even a small fleck might be an indicator that there's a lot more of it that you can't see.

"It's kind of like an iceberg: It's only part of what's going on," said Leslie Bourquin, a Michigan State University professor of food science and safety.

An exception is for certain dense foods where mold has difficulty spreading. With hard cheeses, for instance, food safety experts say it's fine to carve out a 1-inch chunk around the mold and eat the rest. If you're not sure about when it's safe to eat around mold, the U.S. Department of Agriculture offers a chart .

Keep in mind spoilage often isn't what's responsible for food poisoning: "Sight and smell aren't always great indicators of safety," said Bourquin.

A slab of raw chicken, for example, might look fresh but contain salmonella. To limit the chances of getting sick from such germs, regulators recommend safe cooking and handling practices .

HOW DO FOOD-MAKERS PREVENT SPOILAGE?

Canning in a sealed, sterile container is a way to preserve foods for years, while freezing can also stop the clock on spoilage. But even in those cases, foods can deteriorate in quality depending on factors such as acidity and how tightly the package is sealed.

In the meantime, the trend toward "natural" foods has prompted some food-makers to purge some preservatives. But companies may find "natural" alternatives that perform similar functions, and new ways

to make foods last longer are emerging. One company, for example, developed an edible peel made from plants that helps extend the shelf-life of produce like avocados.

HOW ARE FOOD BANKS AFFECTED?

Greater understanding about date labeling might encourage more donations to food banks. In 1996, a federal law sought to encourage donations by shielding individuals and companies that donate food from liability.

But Michael Flood of the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank notes concerns about spoilage don't end with a donation. People who receive donated food may also be confused about the meaning of various dates, and end up throwing products away.

"We have the same problem the overall food industry has," he said.

Poll: Some younger workers view aging workforce negatively

By **ANDREW SOERTEL** For The Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Some younger workers aren't particularly thrilled to see a rising share of older Americans forgo retirement and continue working, according to a recent poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

The poll found that workers under the age of 50 were significantly more likely to view America's aging workforce as a negative development when compared with their older counterparts. About 4 in 10 respondents ages 18 to 49 and 44% of the youngest respondents ages 18 to 29 said they consider the trend to be a bad thing for American workers. Just 14% of those age 60 and over said the same.

"I don't think in things like IT and medicine you're as effective a worker (at 65 years old) as you are at 50," says Katie Otting, a 29-year-old living near San Diego. "If some 65-year-old is in a position that he's not ready to quit because he wants a better pension and there's someone else ready to take that job, they're not going to replace him."

An aging population, elevated health care costs and lingering financial uncertainty following the Great Recession all are believed to be contributing to America's steadily graying workforce. Nearly 20% of Americans over the age of 65 were employed or actively looking for work last year, up from less than 12% two decades prior, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

But the increased prevalence of older workers has led some to believe seniors are holding back the country's economic momentum by remaining in the workforce. Men were slightly more likely than women to cite the aging workforce as a problem for U.S. workers (32% to 27). And about a third (34%) of more affluent respondents earning more than \$100,000 annually said the same, slightly more than the 24% of those earning less than \$30,000 who said so.

By contrast, about 6 in 10 Americans age 60 and over say the trend has actually been a good thing for the economy, compared with 3 in 10 Americans under 30 who think that.

About a third of Americans under 50 who have noticed the trend in their own workplace believe the aging workforce has negative implications for their own careers.

"One of the myths that's out there causing younger and older people to butt heads is the idea that 'Oh, it's because these older people are on the job preventing me from getting the job I want,'" says Steve Burghardt, a 74-year-old professor of social work at the City University of New York who thinks Americans are "looking for someone younger or someone older to blame" for inequality, job displacement and other economic problems.

Research is mixed on the aging workforce's overall impact on the U.S. economy. Adam Ozimek, a senior economist at Moody's Analytics, says his prior research efforts have suggested a growing population of older workers can slow productivity and ultimately hamper wage growth for the rest of the labor market.

But he says there's little evidence to suggest that the presence of older workers is "crowding younger workers out of promotions," noting that many of the workers who would naturally move up and replace positions currently held by baby boomers are not millennials but rather middle-aged members of Generation X.

"In anxious times, we look for scapegoats. And old people are a ready scapegoat, especially if you are forced out of having a public presence or are forced (out of a job)," says Ashton Applewhite, a New York-based writer and ageism activist.

The idea that older workers are keeping jobs away from younger Americans, preventing them from moving up the corporate ladder into higher ranking, higher paying positions, is not a new one. But economists say it doesn't have much basis in economic reality.

"The more of those seniors continue to work, that means they're also spending. And that spending helps build a rich economy that gives you jobs and lots of opportunities," says Andrew Chamberlain, chief economist at employment hub Glassdoor.

But Chamberlain and Ozimek say it might be easier to believe older workers are holding back their younger counterparts when looking at the economy on a smaller scale. One particular company, for example, may only employ one chief of marketing. Should that person choose to remain in the workforce until he or she is 80 years old, lower ranking employees may perceive a lack of upward mobility.

A comparable job may be ripe for the taking elsewhere, Chamberlain says, but it may be at another company or in another city that would require a move that many employees may be unwilling to make.

"They feel like their opportunities are only within that firm," Chamberlain says. "I think it's just simple confusion. I think people are mixing up (opportunities) just inside one company versus the overall job market."

Meanwhile, many older workers are coming to terms with the fact that they'll need to remain in the workforce to keep their heads above water or maintain their current lifestyles.

Mitch Rothschild, 61, lives and works in New York City and says he expects he is "probably going to have to work until I die." He says the aging workforce is less of an economic problem and more of a financial reality to which workers of all ages need to adapt.

"Hey, look, I wished I'd been skiing in the Alps since I was 40," he says. "But you think I'm going to stop working a year from now and rely on Social Security for the next 20 years? No."

Fiat Chrysler-Renault deal collapsed over Nissan role

By COLLEEN BARRY, LORI HINNANT and ANGELA CHARLTON Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — Fiat Chrysler's surprise decision to withdraw a merger offer with French carmaker Renault stunned the industry, collapsing Thursday on fundamental differences over when Renault's long-time alliance partner, Nissan, would be brought in.

The merger plan, which had sought to create the world's third-largest automaker, had been viewed positively across the industry since it was announced last week. And it appeared to be a done-deal when the Renault board met for a second day in Paris on Wednesday evening.

But Fiat Chrysler Chairman John Elkann decided to withdraw the offer as the Renault board meeting entered the early morning hours after the French government - Renault's top shareholder with a 15% stake - asked for more time to seek Nissan's blessing.

A person in Italy who has been close to the talks said both the French government and Nissan had agreed during the course of months-long negotiations that the Fiat Chrysler-Renault merger would happen first, and then the future of the alliance would be considered at a later stage.

The person said France essentially backtracked this week when it said it wanted the backing of Nissan before agreeing to start working on the details of a potential merger.

"A merger cannot be subject to external conditions," said the person, adding that withdrawing the offer was not a negotiating tactic. The person spoke only on condition of anonymity because details of the negotiations were not publicly disclosed.

In a statement, Fiat Chrysler cited "political conditions in France" for its withdrawal. The company said it had no hard feelings with either Renault or its alliance partner Nissan, thanking them both for their "constructive engagement."

The French government hit back by characterizing Fiat Chrysler's behavior as "pushy," blaming it for

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placing "massive pressure" to quickly take the offer or leave it. They later softened their tones, indicating there might be room for future negotiation.

"We have closed no doors," said an official at France's Economy Ministry who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the negotiations.

Renault said it was disappointed over the lost opportunity but also talked about the offer in the present tense, indicating there was still hope to revive it: "We view the opportunity as timely, having compelling industrial logic and great financial merit, and which would result in a European-based global auto powerhouse."

In Italy, a representative of the powerful metal mechanics union also expressed hope that the withdrawal was a tactic to restart negotiations, blaming Nissan and the French for complicating talks.

Analysts Philippe Houchois and Himanshu Agarwal from research firm Jefferies noted that the Fiat Chrysler statement was carefully worded in a way "to leave the door open to further discussion."

News of the plan's failure mainly hurt Renault's shares, which tumbled 7% to 52.45 euros, in early trading. Fiat Chrysler's share price recovered from an early dip trading flat at 11.65 euros.

From the time merger was proposed, it was clear that the French government's position and Renault's alliance with Nissan could be sticking points.

The French government said Thursday that it had placed four conditions on the deal during talks.

It demanded that any merger be completed as part of the existing alliance between Renault and Nissan, preserve French jobs and factories, respect the governance balance between Renault and Fiat Chrysler, and ensure participation in an electric battery initiative with Germany.

"An agreement had been reached on three of these conditions. It remained to obtain explicit support from Nissan," said French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire.

Le Maire asked for five days to secure Nissan's support.

Nissan had earlier expressed reservations about the merger deal, saying it raised questions about its alliance with Renault. On Thursday, Nissan declined to comment on the latest developments.

Le Maire is traveling to Japan this weekend to meet with Nissan officials on a previously arranged visit.

Most industry experts praised the proposed 50-50 merger, saying each side bought strengths that covered up the other's weaknesses.

The combined company would have produced some 8.7 million vehicles a year, more than General Motors and trailing only Volkswagen and Toyota. It would have saved an estimated 5 billion euros (\$5.62 billion) per year in purchasing expenses and costs developing autonomous and electric vehicles.

It would have been worth almost \$40 billion. If Nissan had gone along, it would have created the world's biggest auto company.

Now, Fiat Chrysler and Renault must find a new way to address any shortcomings at a time when the auto industry is in the midst of a global sales slowdown and facing enormous expenses to develop future technologies.

Karl Brauer, executive publisher at Kelley Blue Book and Autotrader, said the merger talk was likely to have affected other boardrooms in the automotive industry, where tie-ups can lead to significant savings on investments in costly technology, especially as the industry faces the transition to electric powertrains and autonomous and semi-autonomous driving.

"A reassessment of partnership opportunities was likely initiated at every major global automaker in the past 8 days, and those assessments won't end with FCA's withdrawal from this deal," Brauer said.

Hinnant and Charlton reported from Paris. Tom Krisher in Detroit contributed to this report.

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, June 7, the 158th day of 2019. There are 207 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 7, 1998, in a crime that shocked the nation, James Byrd Jr., a 49-year-old black man, was hooked by a chain to a pickup truck and dragged to his death in Jasper, Texas. (Two white men were later sentenced to death; one of them, Lawrence Russell Brewer, was executed in 2011 and the other, John William King, was executed in April, 2019. A third defendant received life with the possibility of parole.)

On this date:

In 1712, Pennsylvania's colonial assembly voted to ban the further importation of slaves.

In 1769, frontiersman Daniel Boone first began to explore present-day Kentucky.

In 1776, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia offered a resolution to the Continental Congress stating "That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States."

In 1848, French painter and sculptor Paul Gauguin was born in Paris.

In 1892, Homer Plessy, a "Creole of color," was arrested for refusing to leave a whites-only car of the East Louisiana Railroad. (Ruling on his case, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld "separate but equal" racial segregation, a concept it renounced in 1954.)

In 1948, the Communists completed their takeover of Czechoslovakia with the resignation of President Edvard Benes (BEH'-nesh).

In 1958, singer-songwriter Prince was born Prince Rogers Nelson in Minneapolis.

In 1965, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Griswold v. Connecticut*, struck down, 7-2, a Connecticut law used to prosecute a Planned Parenthood clinic in New Haven for providing contraceptives to married couples.

In 1977, Britons thronged London to celebrate the silver jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, who was marking the 25th year of her reign.

In 1981, Israeli military planes destroyed a nuclear power plant in Iraq, a facility the Israelis charged could have been used to make nuclear weapons.

In 1993, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that religious groups could sometimes meet on school property after hours. Ground was broken for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland.

In 2004, a steady, near-silent stream of people circled through the rotunda of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, California, where the body of the nation's 40th president lay in repose before traveling to Washington two days later for a state funeral.

Ten years ago: Extreme-right parties gained in European Parliament elections, including the first seats won by the all-white British National Party. Roger Federer completed a career Grand Slam, winning his first French Open title by sweeping surprise finalist Robin Soderling 6-1, 7-6 (1), 6-4. The British musical "Billy Elliot" won 10 Tony Awards, including best musical and a unique best actor prize for the three young performers who shared the title character: David Alvarez, Trent Kowalik and Kiril Kulish.

Five years ago: Actor-comedian Tracy Morgan was critically injured when a Walmart tractor-trailer rammed into his chauffeured limousine bus on the New Jersey Turnpike, setting off a chain-reaction crash that killed fellow comedian James "Jimmy Mack" McNair. Ukraine's new president, Petro Poroshenko, took the oath of office, calling for pro-Russian rebels in the country's east to lay down their arms. Maria Sharapova won her second French Open title in three years, beating fourth-seeded Simona Halep 6-4, 6-7 (5), 6-4 in the final. California Chrome failed in his bid to win the first Triple Crown in 36 years, losing the Belmont Stakes by coming in fourth to long shot Tonalist.

One year ago: The Trump administration said in a court filing that it would no longer defend key parts of the Affordable Care Act, including provisions that guarantee access to health insurance regardless of any medical conditions; it was a rare departure from the Justice Department's practice of defending federal laws in court. In advance of a summit with North Korea's Kim Jong Un, President Donald Trump declared that "attitude" is more important than preparation. A government report found that suicide rates inched