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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.

#### 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

#### Monday, June 10

5:30 p.m.: Junior Teeners host Clark, (DH)

5:30 p.m.: U8 Pee Wees vs. Hannigan at Manor Park, (DH) (B)

6:00 p.m.: U12 Midgets at Warner, (DH)

6:00 p.m.: U10 Pee Wees host Webster, (DH) (R,B)



## Residents suffer physical, mental and sexual abuse at S.D. youth home

By: Bart Pfankuch

Youths and young adults housed at the Aurora Plains Academy in Plankinton, S.D., have endured physical, mental and sexual abuse by employees amid an internal culture of secrecy and limited state government oversight, according to public documents and testimony from former residents and employees of the facility.

A six-month investigation by South Dakota News Watch has revealed a pattern of improper treatment of residents of the intensive youth treatment facility over the past decade that resulted in a variety of physical injuries and emotional trauma. In its review, News Watch conducted a dozen on-the-record interviews with former employees, residents and parents, examined independent reports on youth injuries and obtained complaint and inspection information from the state Department of Social Services.

Aurora Plains Academy is a privately run, government-funded institution that provides housing, treatment and education of residents ages 10 to 20, male and female, who have shown evidence of anger issues, self-harm or sexual deviancy. Residents, most of whom have not been convicted of a crime, are generally sent to the academy unwillingly by officials of the state corrections department, school districts and tribal agencies. The locked facility is owned by Wisconsin-based Clinicare Corp., a for-profit firm that operates four youth treatment centers in Wisconsin, Minnesota and South Dakota.

The News Watch investigation has shown that:

- Some employees of the facility regularly use harsh physical restraints on residents, resulting in facial rug burns, black eyes, bloody noses, bruising and injured limbs. Though employees are supposed to restrain residents only when the residents are a danger to themselves or others, former residents and employees say some employees goad, deride or bully residents into acting out and then take them to the ground from a standing position, sometimes face-first onto carpet or concrete, simply for misbehaving or not following commands. Many incidents are not documented and injuries sometimes go untreated or are addressed only days later. Residents are often blamed by staff for causing their own injuries.

- Residents are sometimes over-medicated and become zombie-like; one girl said she was put on 19 medications and others say medications are frequently prescribed and then changed with little diagnosis. Parents say their children's personalities were adversely affected by over-medication at the academy.

- Girls who have stayed at Aurora Plains say employees have touched them sexually, and one former resident said an employee would pinch her breasts and cause bruising during physical restraints.

- Friendships and relationships among management and employees have created a culture of protectionism in which violent employees go unpunished, employees who protest are ostracized or fired, and many resident complaints are downplayed or not believed.

- Staff turnover at the academy is high, with employees paid low wages, forced to work long hours and subjected to resident-to-staff ratios as high as 12 to one.

- State oversight of the facility is limited. State DSS workers rarely investigate complaints of abuse or neglect. In addition, Aurora Plains is subject to only one pre-announced inspection each year by a Child Protective Services specialist within DSS. Records that describe complaints of child abuse or neglect are not available to the public, preventing the news media and taxpayers from knowing what is happening inside the academy.

David Fritsch, president of Clinicare Corp., was provided a list of News Watch findings but declined an interview request, citing privacy laws and confidentiality of residents. In an email statement, Fritsch wrote that Aurora Plains is fully accredited and "committed to providing attentive, quality care that leads to positive outcomes for our residents."

Fritsch wrote that the company follows all state laws regarding the reporting of incidents involving injuries and that reports are also sent to the company headquarters "for review by management including



**Aurora Plains Academy is South Dakota's only intensive youth treatment facility. The privately run facility in Plankinton houses youths and young adults who have a variety of behavioral and mental disorders. A News Watch investigation has uncovered a history of physical and psychological abuse of facility residents by some staff.** Photo:

Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch

a compliance officer to ensure all actions are in compliance with state and company training and requirements.”

Officials with the state Department of Social Services, which oversees Aurora Plains and other adult and child in-patient facilities in South Dakota, declined requests to discuss specifics of complaints or allegations of abuse. Tia Kafka, spokeswoman for DSS, declined to make any DSS officials available for an interview with News Watch, accepting questions only in writing. A written request to interview the director of DSS or any top agency official was denied.

Gov. Kristi Noem was presented with News Watch's findings but denied a request for an interview. Instead, the governor provided News Watch with a written statement via email indicating that she will review the full findings when published and is willing to propose legislative action if necessary.

“The health and safety of our children is one of the most important tasks we have as a society. As a governor, who is also a mom, I take credible

allegations very seriously when it involves children,” Noem wrote.

“Incidents involving children at licensed facilities are reported to DSS and reviewed to determine what action will be taken. If changes in that system of checks and balances between the state agencies and private facilities are needed, we need to implement them. If the system isn't working as it should, I want to know about it so we can fix it.”

In the email, Noem highlighted the state's rapid response to the recent disappearance of 9-year-old Serenity Dennard, a resident of the Black Hills Children's Home, a residential youth treatment facility in Rockerville run by the Children's Home Society. Dennard walked away from the facility in February, has not been found and is presumed dead by authorities, who continue to search for her. In the wake of the walkaway, the state cited the facility for inadequate emergency-response procedures, among other issues, which Noem said have since been fixed. Noem said the rapid investigation and corrective actions required of the facility are an example of how state oversight can work to correct child-safety issues that come to light.

In a roughly 10-year period from July 2009 to March 2019, a total of 400 complaints of child abuse or neglect were filed against Aurora Plains to the state by residents, academy employees or people outside the academy, according to data obtained by News Watch through a public-records request.

In an email to News Watch, a representative of Clinicare said that 250 of the complaints filed to the state came directly from the facility, and that 100 of those incidents occurred before youths became residents. Phill Trewyn, a spokesperson for Clinicare, wrote in an email that Aurora Plains leaders “identified less than 10 reports that involved injury as a result of staff action such as a restraint hold. And in those cases, it is important to understand that injury sometimes occurs even when a hold is properly executed.”

The state was unable to confirm Trewyn's data or the claims that abuse or neglect complaints were

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made before youths entered the facility.

Of the 400 complaints to the state, only 39 were formally investigated by the state. During the past decade, the state issued four corrective-action plans after investigations uncovered problems at the academy. Three of those corrective plans focused on inappropriate physical treatment of academy residents. One plan indicated that residents were physically restrained by academy employees an average of 150 times a month over a three-month period at the 66-bed facility.

It is difficult for the public to know exactly what occurs within licensed youth facilities overseen by the state of South Dakota.

Complaints of child abuse or neglect are confidential and not open to public view in South Dakota, though the number of complaints filed over a 10-year period was provided to News Watch after a public-records request.

Aurora Plains was the subject of about a third – 400 of 1,298 – of the abuse and neglect complaints filed over the past decade against the 20 youth residential treatment centers, group care centers and emergency shelters licensed in South Dakota, according to DSS data.

Complaints against Aurora Plains during that period peaked at 143 in fiscal 2010 and have fallen annually since then; 27 complaints were filed between July 1, 2018 to March 3, 2019, according to DSS.

After a separate records request, a lawyer from DSS provided News Watch with site-inspection and licensing-review records for Aurora Plains for the past 10 years. The inspections generally indicated few if any structural or administrative problems with the academy.

Interviews of those with first-hand experience with Aurora Plains reveal striking patterns in their description of life inside the academy. While some former residents and employees tell of staff members who care deeply about residents and try to protect, treat and educate them, there are other tales of dangerous physical restraints, unwarranted restraints, emotional abuse and bullying by staff, and a failure of management to protect residents from overly aggressive employees.

"There's a few people that are there for the paycheck and they have a short fuse," said Thai Le, who worked at Aurora Plains for five years before leaving in 2018 for a job at another South Dakota youth treatment facility. "They use more force than necessary during restraints and it gets messed up, with some staff doing things more out of anger than for the benefit of the kids."



**Rug burns are a common injury suffered by residents of Aurora Plains Academy. Lauren Schroeder's son, a former resident of the academy, suffered significant rug burns and bruising on his shoulder and upper torso when he was 12, shown at left. At right, in a photo taken by a sheriff's deputy, former academy resident Ender Murray exhibits extensive rug burns caused during a physical restraint by a staff member who thought the boy, who was 10 at the time, was making too much noise.** Photos: Submitted

According to former residents and staff at the academy, many incidents of violence go unreported or are not investigated by the academy or the state, and treatment of injuries is sometimes delayed in order to shield employees who were abusive.

Former resident Kevin Gerber of Redfield said he once had a temper tantrum and was pushing open random doors inside the academy. When he pushed open an outside door and stood in the doorway, "I got tackled from behind and went face-first into the concrete," recalled Gerber, now 22, who spent



**LaDawn Bruguier of Yankton discusses her strong desire to see improved safety for current and future residents of Aurora Plains Academy and her feeling that those responsible for abusing past residents should be held accountable.** Photo: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch

more than a year at the academy in the late 2010s. "I had scratches all over my face and it hurt a lot because the sidewalk was crumbly rock."

Gerber, who also was ridiculed by staff for having bad acne, said he never received treatment for his injuries suffered during that restraint or others in which he was physically injured.

"When they restrain you, they don't care what happens to you," he said. "They want to stop you at all costs, like you committed a murder or something."

State licensing requirements under the "Protection of Residents" subsection state that "each resident has the right to be free from restraint or seclusion, of any form, used as a means of coercion, discipline, convenience or retaliation."

Yet former residents and staff told News Watch that some academy staff routinely use restraints, physical force or seclusion to punish or hurt residents who upset them.

"They will taunt you just to stir up trouble," said LaDawn Bruguier, now 23, of Yankton, who spent two years in the academy starting when she was 14. "They want a response so they can use excessive force. They put us in holds for any little thing we did that they thought was not OK."

## 'Bruises all over his body'

Lauren Schroeder rushed to get her son out of Aurora Plains in 2015 because she felt that something wasn't right with the boy's treatment.

She had called the academy to speak to her 12-year-old son, whom she had voluntarily placed at the in-patient campus, but was told he couldn't come to the phone because he was being held in isolation. To Schroeder, that was even more worrisome than typical phone calls in which an academy employee would stand next to her son and monitor what he told his mother.

The next day, after a tense exit meeting in which Schroeder said she was berated by academy staff, she checked her son out of the facility (News Watch is not naming the boy to protect his privacy.) They went to a gas station to get a hot dog and the boy asked to change his shirt, which Schroeder noticed was stained. As Schroeder watched, her son pulled up his shirt to reveal obvious injuries both new and partially healed.

"He took off his shirt and he had fresh rug burns on both sides of his collarbone, and he had bruises all over his body," Schroeder recalled. "I asked him, 'How did this happen?'"

Schroeder's son told his mother that during only five months at the academy, employees had thrown him face-first into a wall, tackled him to the floor, squeezed him so hard he couldn't breathe and pummeled his legs with elbow punches.

The injuries were documented in a forensic examination conducted a few days later by an investigator with Child's Voice, a child medical-evaluation center within Sanford Children's Hospital in Sioux Falls. Schroeder's doctor advised her to have the boy independently examined.



**In this photo taken by an officer with the Aberdeen Police Department in 2015, extensive rug burns can be seen on the shoulder of Lauren Schroeder's son, who was a resident of Aurora Plains Academy when the injuries took place.** Photo: Courtesy Lauren Schroeder

The boy told the investigator that he was often put in illegal restraints by three Aurora Plains employees, according to a report on the exam. The boy testified that after misbehaving, one employee took him violently to the ground and elbowed him in the legs and stopped only when the clinical director walked in. On a separate occasion, the boy said, a different employee had taken him to the ground and lay on him, preventing him from breathing and nearly causing him to pass out.

The physical exam of the boy "revealed a large bruise by his right shin and a red, scabbed over area on his left shoulder," the Child's Voice investigator wrote in a confidential forensic report obtained by News Watch. "Injuries are consistent with his disclosure of being elbowed in the leg and being placed in a hold while on the floor."

Schroeder said she contacted local law enforcement, the Aurora County State's Attorneys Office and state child-protection officials and hired a private

investigator, but that no one was ever held accountable for her son's treatment.

In the interview with the Child's Voice investigator, Schroeder's son reported that an academy nurse knew about his injuries but asked him only "if he knew why he had been in holds" and did not provide treatment.

The boy also said that one academy employee, who had once bloodied his nose by throwing him into a wall, told him "not to tell anyone about the holds or he would take him to the reflection room," where residents are held in isolation.

Child's Voice is a nationally accredited medical child-advocacy center within Sanford Health where medical professionals perform physical examinations and forensic interviews with children who may have been victims of child abuse or neglect, according to Stacy Weller, director of the center.

Final reports are provided to law enforcement and other agencies, and the group's findings can be used as evidence in court, Weller said. The center examines about 1,300 children per year, mainly from Minnehaha County and the surrounding area, she said.

"Questions are non-leading; they're really just asking kids [to] tell us what happened, where did it happen, how did it happen," she said. "We want kids to know that this is a safe place for them to talk, that we're here to support them in a safe place."

Weller said she was not able to discuss any individual complaints or cases and could not comment on whether Aurora Plains was a source of abuse claims beyond the one filed by Schroeder.

Schroeder also took her son to the Aberdeen Police Department, where an officer took photos of the boy's injuries and detailed his findings in an April 17, 2015 report. "I took several photos of bruising on [the boy's] shoulders, arms, knees, shins and hands," officer Curtis Kline wrote. "Most of the bruises were purple and varied in size from dime-size on the arms to baseball-sized on his knees and shoulders."

Schroeder, who has since been in contact with other parents of children who attended Aurora Plains, believes a culture of silence and protectionism is allowing abuses to continue unabated at the academy.

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"I think there's a lot of things happening there that are being covered up," she said.

Schroeder has worked with other entities that have treated her son's emotional issues, and she said none was as punitive or violent as Aurora Plains.

"They're almost preparing these kids for a lifetime of imprisonment by putting them through the hell that they go through there," she said. "It's a cycle, a vicious cycle, and I feel horrible for the kids that are in there. It's just sad and disgusting."



**Aurora Plains Academy is a privately run intensive youth treatment facility. The locked facility is surrounded by chainlink fences topped with barbed wire; some former residents say they were treated more like jail inmates than youths who needed treatment for psychological or emotional problems.** Photo: Bart Pfankuch,

South Dakota News Watch

in 2001 and later leased it to the Cornell Companies for a few months in 2003. Clinicare began operating the academy in January 2007 and the state sold the facility to the company outright in October 2017, Winder said.

Aurora Plains is an intensive residential treatment center licensed to house 66 people ages 10 to 20, with 48 beds for males and 18 for females, according to the facility website. The site refers to its clientele as a special population "characterized by high levels of verbal, physical and sexual aggression." A resident is eligible for treatment only after failing to respond to prior treatment or after being denied treatment elsewhere. The academy is regulated by the Division of Child Protection Services within the state DSS, which licenses group care centers and residential and intensive residential treatment centers.

Aurora Plains is mainly funded through the Medicaid program, with a combination of state and federal funds. In fiscal year 2018, the facility was paid \$7.34 million in government funds, with \$4.1 million in federal funds and \$3.2 million in state funds, according to Kafka. The funding covers residents referred to Aurora Plains by Child Protective Services, but also those sent to the academy by other state agencies, parents, school districts and Native American tribes.

The facility, according to the website, treats 40 diagnosed conditions, including alcohol or drug abuse, anxiety, bipolar disorder, depression, disruptive behavior, gender-identity disorder, impulse control, mild

## Same campus where Gina Score died

With its gray water tower, institutional structures and high chainlink fences topped by barbed wire, the Aurora Plains Academy cuts an imposing silhouette on the prairie just northeast of Plankinton about two miles north of Interstate 90. The site and structures were once known as the State Training School, which became infamous in South Dakota as the youth boot camp where 14-year-old Gina Score died in July 1999 when she collapsed after a forced run and was left to lie in the hot sun for hours before getting treatment. Score's death led to a financial settlement and juvenile-justice reforms.

Over the years, the state has moved away from running intensive in-patient youth treatment facilities. Meanwhile, private for-profit firms and nonprofits have stepped in to run them.

According to Michael Winder, spokesman for the state Department of Corrections, the state closed the training school

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mental retardation, obsessive-compulsive disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, schizophrenia, problematic sexual behaviors, Tourette's syndrome, victims of abuse and XXY chromosomal disorder.

Aurora Plains is one of 20 treatment centers overseen by the state DSS, which conducts one pre-announced inspection of the campuses each year, said Kafka of DSS.

When a compliance complaint is made, a state licensing-program specialist is assigned to work with the facility staff to make corrections. If an abuse or neglect complaint is made, the state makes a judgment on its veracity and may hire a contract investigator to review the case and then meet with facility officials to ensure any required corrective actions are taken, Kafka said.

The latest corrective-action plan filed by the state against Aurora Plains in March 2017 required the facility management to "improve restraints so they are safer for staff and residents."

The investigator also recommended remedial training regarding improper restraining of residents for an academy employee whose name was redacted in the report released to News Watch.

"It is recommended that [redacted name] avoid all restraints if possible until management is satisfied with his ability to perform them at the appropriate level."

That report on that incident also noted that the state investigators "expressed concerns with the length of time it took for Aurora Plains Academy to seek medical attention for the resident."

A pair of corrective-action plans issued by the state in July 2012 and June 2013 also addressed the use of excessive force and inadequate reporting of incidents of child abuse or neglect by staff.

The June 2013 report revealed how often restraints are used by staff at Aurora Plains. In that report, one employee whose name is redacted is described as having a reputation that "he is rough and quick to restrain."

The report states that the employee had conducted 25 physical restraints of residents, or 8 percent of the total at the facility, during a two-month period, meaning that about 312 restraints were used on residents of Aurora Plains during those two months.

A later report confirmed that about 150 resident restraints, roughly five per day, occurred each month at the academy.

Both the 2012 and 2013 corrective-action reports indicate a need for the academy to better train employees to de-escalate situations, to reduce the need for violent restraints and to better document and review situations where force was used on residents.

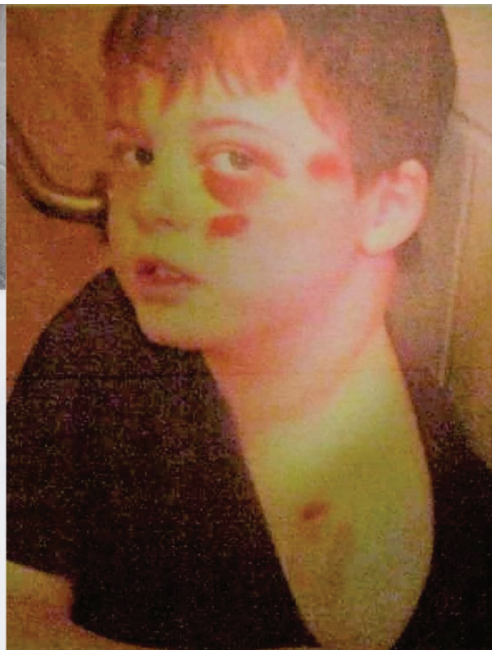


**Ender Murray**

DOB: 05-10-02

ID #00232

SS#: [REDACTED]



**Ender Murray, shown in his admission badge at left, was just 9 years old when he arrived for treatment at Aurora Plains Academy. Less than two years later, in 2013, Ender was thrown to the ground and pinned by an academy employee, leading to significant facial, limb and torso injuries. Some of his injuries are shown at right in a photo taken by a sheriff's deputy.** Photos: Submitted

## Criminal charge follows abuse

While former employees and residents of Aurora Plains say many violent restraints and physical injuries are either whitewashed by the staff involved or go completely unreported, the injuries suffered by 10-year-old Ender Murray resulted in a rare criminal charge. Ender and his mother have approved the use of his name and picture by News Watch.



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According to a state investigative report, Ender was acting up on Feb. 16, 2013. The boy was first put into a physical restraint after jumping into a snowbank while being led to the cafeteria for lunch. Later, Ender admitted he was "whining and being a little turd" while medications were being handed out, and for that he was sent to "chair time" to calm down.

Ender told an investigator that he was banging on the arm of the chair and making a "cool beat" musical sound. The staff member monitoring Ender told the investigator that Ender was also shouting racial epithets and curse words and was agitating his peers by calling them names.

Emmanuel Yuyada, a therapeutic-support staff or TSS employee, showed up and told Ender to stop, but the boy did not comply.

Ender said that Yuyada then said, "That's it," and quickly threw him face-first onto the ground and mashed his body into the carpet. Ender suffered a black eye, a nose bleed and rug burns on his shoulder, knees and limbs. During the restraint, the investigative report notes, Ender cried out and wet himself.

Yuyada told the investigator that Ender intentionally banged his own head on the floor and kicked his legs to cause his injuries, which the boy denied.

The state investigator also interviewed TJ Stanfield, then clinical supervisor and now the director of the academy. Stanfield told the investigator that he had personally seen Ender get physically restrained about 30 times in the 18 months the boy was at the academy, sometimes for "breaking boundaries with his peers."

Jeremy Pischke, then a therapist and now clinical director at the academy, told the investigator that Ender was manipulative and "knows how to push people's buttons." Pischke told the investigator that his understanding of why Ender was restrained was that he was pounding on the chair.

State guidelines, however, say that physical restraints should be used only when a resident is a danger to himself or herself or others, not for being disruptive or making noise.

Yuyada was charged with simple assault, but after a preliminary hearing, a judge dismissed the case due to a lack of criminal intent. He is no longer employed at the academy.

Emily Mitchell, Ender's mother, said Aurora Plains employees changed their stories in court to soften the violence of Ender's restraint, and she said the state investigative report was not admitted as evidence. Photos taken of Ender days after the incident show him with a swollen black eye, redness about his face and neck, and rug burns on his knee and legs.

"My son is a sweet boy, and when he's nice, he's really nice, and when he's not nice, he's not very nice," she said. "But no matter how awful that boy behaves, it doesn't justify what they did to him and how they covered it up."

Mitchell believes her son's time at Aurora Plains did him more harm than good. She recalls visiting him after two months and noticing that "his eyes were dead, his teeth were black and the boy in him had died. He was a zombie case."

She said Ender was physically



**A group of youths walks in a line on the campus of Aurora Plains Academy, which has the look and feel of a prison even though the facility is aimed at providing treatment to residents with emotional and mental issues.** Photo: Bart Pfankuch,

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smaller than most other academy residents and was ruthlessly picked on and sometimes sexually abused by other residents of the facility while employees did nothing to help. She said her son was on numerous medications that made him doxy and withdrawn.

Mitchell's consistent questioning of academy procedures and employee actions got the full attention of academy leadership. In October 2013, eight months after the violent restraint of Ender, Pischke filed a court affidavit urging the state to terminate Mitchell's parental rights over her son.

"She has undermined his treatment by encouraging him to be 'unique' and question those in authority," Pischke wrote of Mitchell. "Instead of trying to motivate him to be successful in his programming, Emily often questioned Ender about how staff was interacting with him and she would suggest it was staff and not Ender needing change."

The petition to terminate parental rights failed. Despite requests for interviews, Clinicare officials declined to make Pischke or Stanfield available for interviews by News Watch.

## 'A sense of brutality'

Former employees of the academy say they are trained in the use of Jireh, a method of restraint that seeks to use the "least restrictive" methods possible to control someone. Under Jireh, the first response is to de-escalate through talk. If that's unsuccessful, a restraint begins – involving holding back someone's arms while in a standing position, then moving to a sitting position before eventually taking the person all the way to the ground if he or she continues to resist. Employees are supposed to make three determinations that a person in a restraint is actually resisting and not just reacting before moving to a stronger restraint position, employees said.

Former employees interviewed by News Watch said youths who fought or tried to hurt themselves or others were often justifiably and safely restrained until calm. They said that some employees, however, routinely took residents hard to the ground from a standing position for minor infractions such as talking out of turn, refusing to immediately obey commands or wising off to employees.

One academy TSS supervisor with a reputation for having a quick temper and for restraining needlessly and harshly was mentioned by name by several former staff members and residents interviewed by News Watch (the employee is not being named by News Watch because he has not been charged with a crime.)

Jessica Lee, who spent two years at the academy as a teen, said violence at the academy ticked upward when that same rough and easily angered employee was hired during her stay. "He would try to break my arm and pinch my boobs every time he had me in a restraint," said Lee, now 24. "He would leave bruises on our boobs because he would pinch us so hard."

Bruguier, a former resident, said during her time at Aurora Plains she was thrown face-first into a wall, body-slammed to the floor, put in a restraint for biting her nails, made to sleep without a blanket and taunted frequently by employees because she had a bad attitude.

"They would pull on my arms to the point I was screaming in pain," Bruguier said. "I was getting so mad because they were egging me on, saying, 'Your grandmother doesn't want you, so we get to go home to our people and you don't.'"

Charles Isaac, who worked at Aurora Plains for four years in the late 2000s, said most employees followed guidelines and tried to help residents. But Isaac said one employee would tell him to write and sign restraint reports even though Isaac wasn't physically involved. That employee, the same one mentioned by former residents, would also tell Isaac to tweak or rewrite the reports to reduce the culpability of himself and other staff, Isaac said.

"[He] should have been writing the reports, but he didn't so his name didn't keep showing up time and time and time again," Isaac said. "If you're sorting records by the name of the person reporting, then yeah, his name will show up only a tenth of the times that it should."

Jeff Gortmaker, a youth-development specialist at the academy for about six years from 2005 to roughly 2011, said one academy employee in particular seemed to enjoy having power over residents and staff and was confident that his superiors would protect him from scrutiny.

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"There were numerous internal investigations of his hard restraints, and the state has investigated him at different times," Gortmaker said of the employee.

Isaac and other former employees said it was clear that some of their colleagues were spending time outside work with their superiors and that a "buddy-buddy" system exists at the academy. He and others said it was common knowledge that managers and non-managers hunted and fished together outside work.

"I would assume that if you're buddy-buddy with someone and they do something bad that there will be some covering for them," Isaac said.

Brittany Dozark of Sioux Falls spent two years as an employee of Aurora Plains and said major reforms are needed to improve therapeutic outcomes for residents but also to ensure their safety.

"I definitely think there's a sense of brutality there," said Dozark, who worked to counsel and aid residents at the academy. "There's nothing that says to these kids that, 'Hey, everything is going to be OK.' It's more like they messed up and they're in 'kids prison' now, not a place to get therapy, treatment or help for mental conditions."

**"I took several photos of bruising on [the boy's] shoulders, arms, knees, shins and hands. Most of the bruises were purple and varied in size from dime-size on the arms to baseball-sized on his knees and shoulders."**

-- Aberdeen police officer Curtis Kline after reviewing injuries suffered by the son of Lauren Schroeder while at Aurora Plains Academy



## About Bart Pfankuch

Bart Pfankuch, Rapid City, S.D., is an investigative reporter for South Dakota News Watch. A Wisconsin native, he is a former editor of the Rapid City Journal. Bart has spent almost 30 years as a reporter and editor.

## Governor Noem Approves School for the Deaf Property Sale

PIERRE, S.D. – Governor Kristi Noem today finalized the sale of the South Dakota School for the Deaf property, located at 2001 East 8th Street in Sioux Falls, to the Sioux Falls Ministry Center.

“Today’s agreement is the result of years of planning and preparation to continue providing top-quality education and services to the deaf community while maximizing the use of State resources,” said Governor Noem. “I’m thankful for the personal care and attention Governor Daugaard put into this project, and I’m proud of the final result I signed today. This transaction will allow services to remain modern and responsive, and I’m confident this will benefit all parties involved.”

“Delivering the highest-quality programs and services to our students and their families remains our priority at the School for the Deaf,” said Paul Beran, executive director and CEO of the South Dakota Board of Regents. “This transition offers new opportunities to work more closely with other service providers in the Sioux Falls community, including the Department of Health. We seek to be good stewards of public funds, while creating a more efficient operation for the South Dakota School for the Deaf.”

The transaction brings to a close a series of negotiations over the past two years to sell the former residential school and campus. The sale was first authorized in 2017 by the South Dakota Legislature under provisions of House Bill 1210, with additional provisions added in the 2018 session as part of House Bill 1064.

The South Dakota Board of Regents, on behalf of the School for the Deaf, is acquiring the former TCF Bank building, located at 4101 West 38th Street in Sioux Falls, to house School for the Deaf programs and services. This transaction is referred to as a conditional land exchange, by which the Sioux Falls Ministry Center purchased the School for the Deaf property and, in exchange, the Board of Regents acquired the TCF property.

School for the Deaf administration and staff will continue to provide services at the East 8th Street location until renovations are completed at the TCF site. Outreach consultants will be able to continue their visits with only minimal disruption during the move itself. The audiology clinic will be closed during the time it takes to disassemble and reassemble the sound booth. It is expected the new location will be occupied and open for services by late November.

Following renovations at the new location, the building at 4101 West 38th Street will be home to South Dakota School for the Deaf, as well as the Sioux Falls offices of SDSU Extension and the South Dakota Department of Health.

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## Slight Risk For Excessive Rainfall

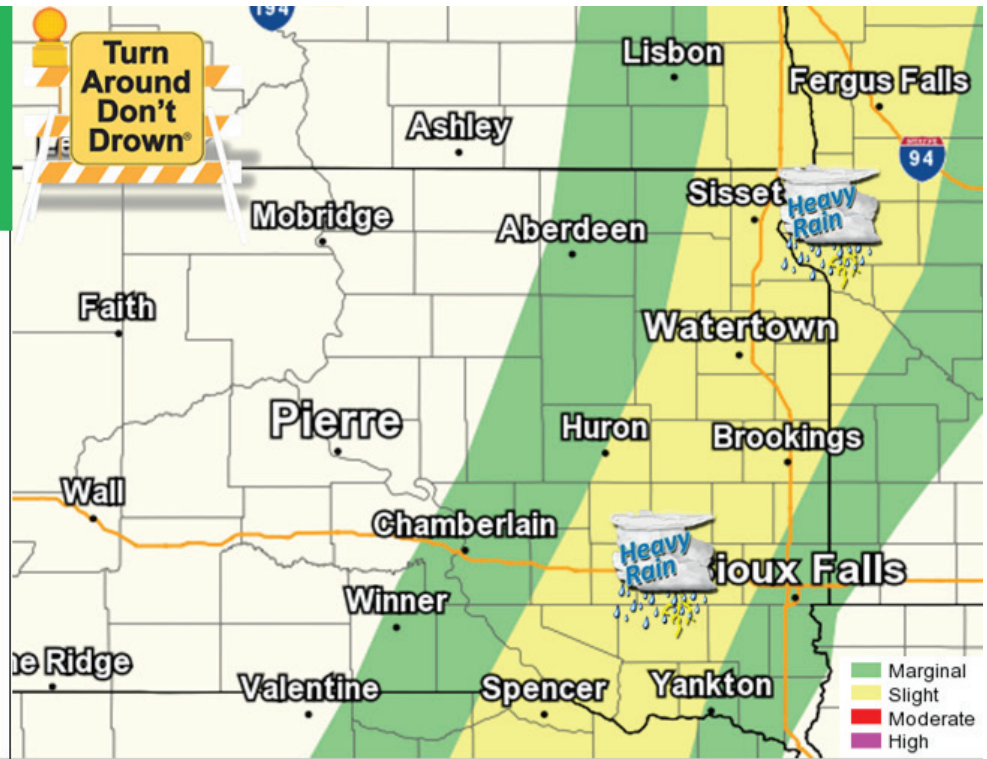
Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> 2019

### Overview

- T-storms are expected to develop during the afternoon/evening along and east of the James Valley
- **These storms could produce heavy rainfall over a short period of time**
- A couple of the strongest storms may produce quarter sized hail and damaging winds as well

### Impacts

Flooding is a possibility. Remember to turn around, don't drown if you encounter a flooded roadway!



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 6/7/2019 8:20 PM Central

Published on: 06/07/2019 at 9:24PM

A cold front will produce thunderstorms Saturday, and these storms may produce heavy rainfall over short periods of time. Be weather-aware across eastern South Dakota and west central Minnesota!

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## Today in Weather History

June 8, 2004: Over eight inches of rain fell near Okreek in rural Todd County causing nearly \$200,000 in damage to local roads. Lightning destroyed the Okreek Community Center.

1951: A tornado was captured on motion pictures for the first time in the USA.

2001: Tropical Storm Allison hits Houston, Texas, for the second time in three days. Louisiana and southern Texas were inundated with rain. Baton Rouge received 18 inches over just a couple of days. Some portions of Texas racked up 36 inches by June 11.

1953 - The worst tornado of record for the state of Michigan killed 116 persons. Flint MI was hardest hit. The tornado, half a mile in width, destroyed 200 homes on Coldwater Road killing entire families. (The Weather Channel)

1966 - A tornado ripped right through the heart of the capitol city of Topeka KS killing sixteen persons and causing 100 million dollars damage. The tornado, which struck during the evening, cut a swath of near total destruction eight miles long and four blocks wide. It was the most destructive tornado of record up until that time. (David Ludlum)

1974 - Severe thunderstorms spawned at least twenty-three tornadoes in Oklahoma during the afternoon and evening hours. One of the tornadoes struck the town Drumright killing sixteen persons and injuring 150 others. A tornado struck the National Weather Service office in Oklahoma City, and two tornadoes hit the city of Tulsa. Thunderstorms in Tulsa also produced as much as ten inches of rain. Total damage from the storms was around thirty million dollars. It was the worst natural disaster of record for Tulsa. (Storm Data)

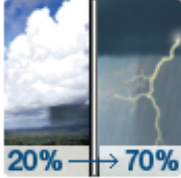
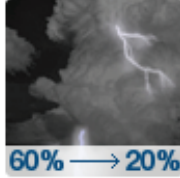



1987 - Thunderstorms in the northeastern U.S. produced large hail and damaging winds in Vermont injuring two persons. Thunderstorms in Ohio produced wind gusts to 75 mph near Akron, and deluged Pittsfield with two inches of rain in thirty minutes. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Overnight thunderstorms in Iowa produced 5.20 inches of rain at Coon Rapids. Thunderstorms in the Florida Keys drenched Tavernier with 7.16 inches of rain in 24 hours. Eleven cities in the central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. (The National Weather Summary)

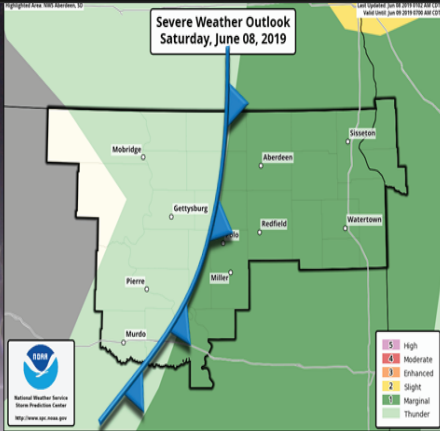
1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather over the Central Gulf Coast Region during the day and evening. Severe thunderstorms spawned 17 tornadoes, including one which injured ten persons and caused a million dollars damage at Orange Beach, AL. Thunderstorm winds gusting to 90 mph killed three persons and injured four others at Mobile AL. Thunderstorms also deluged Walnut Hill and Avalon Beach, FL, with eight inches of rain. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

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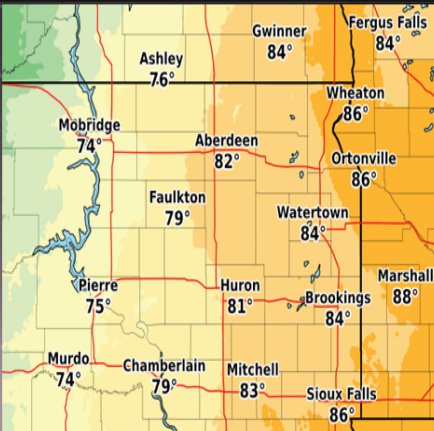
Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
				
Breezy. Slight Chance Showers then T-storms Likely	T-storms Likely then Slight Chance T-storms	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny then Slight Chance T-storms
<b>High: 81 °F</b>	<b>Low: 52 °F</b>	<b>High: 71 °F</b>	<b>Low: 49 °F</b>	<b>High: 76 °F</b>

## Severe Threat Today (Saturday) & Temps



**Severe Weather Outlook**  
Saturday, June 08, 2019

Legend:  
■ High  
■ Moderate  
■ Enhanced  
■ Slight  
■ Marginal  
⚡ Thunder



Temperatures:  
 Ashley 76°, Gwinner 84°, Fergus Falls 84°, Wheaton 86°, Ortonville 86°, Marshall 88°, Brookings 84°, Huron 81°, Watertown 84°, Aberdeen 82°, Mobridge 74°, Pierre 75°, Murdo 74°, Chamberlain 79°, Mitchell 83°, Sioux Falls 86°.

**WHAT - Marginal Risk**  
 Thunderstorm coverage increases mid-day. Strongest storms could produce large hail & strong winds. Not all storms will produce severe weather however.

**WHERE**  
 Eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota.

**WHEN**  
 Early afternoon through early evening  
 2pm - 7pm.

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

[weather.gov/Aberdeen](http://weather.gov/Aberdeen)
 National Weather Service Aberdeen
 @NWSAberdeen
Updated: 6/8/2019 2:44 AM Central

Published on: 06/08/2019 at 4:19AM

A front will continue to make its way across the Dakotas into Minnesota today. Ahead of this feature we find gusty south winds and hot temperatures which will aid in thunderstorm development around mid day. The severe weather risk is marginal, meaning there could be some stronger storms but not all storms will be severe. Temperatures behind the front are expected to be a bit cooler (more seasonal) with mostly dry conditions.



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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 91 °F at 2:45 PM

Low Temp: 65 °F at 5:27 AM

Wind: 38 mph at 4:38 PM

Day Rain: 0.00

## Today's Info

Record High: 98° in 2000

Record Low: 32° in 1938

Average High: 75°F

Average Low: 52°F

Average Precip in June.: 0.81

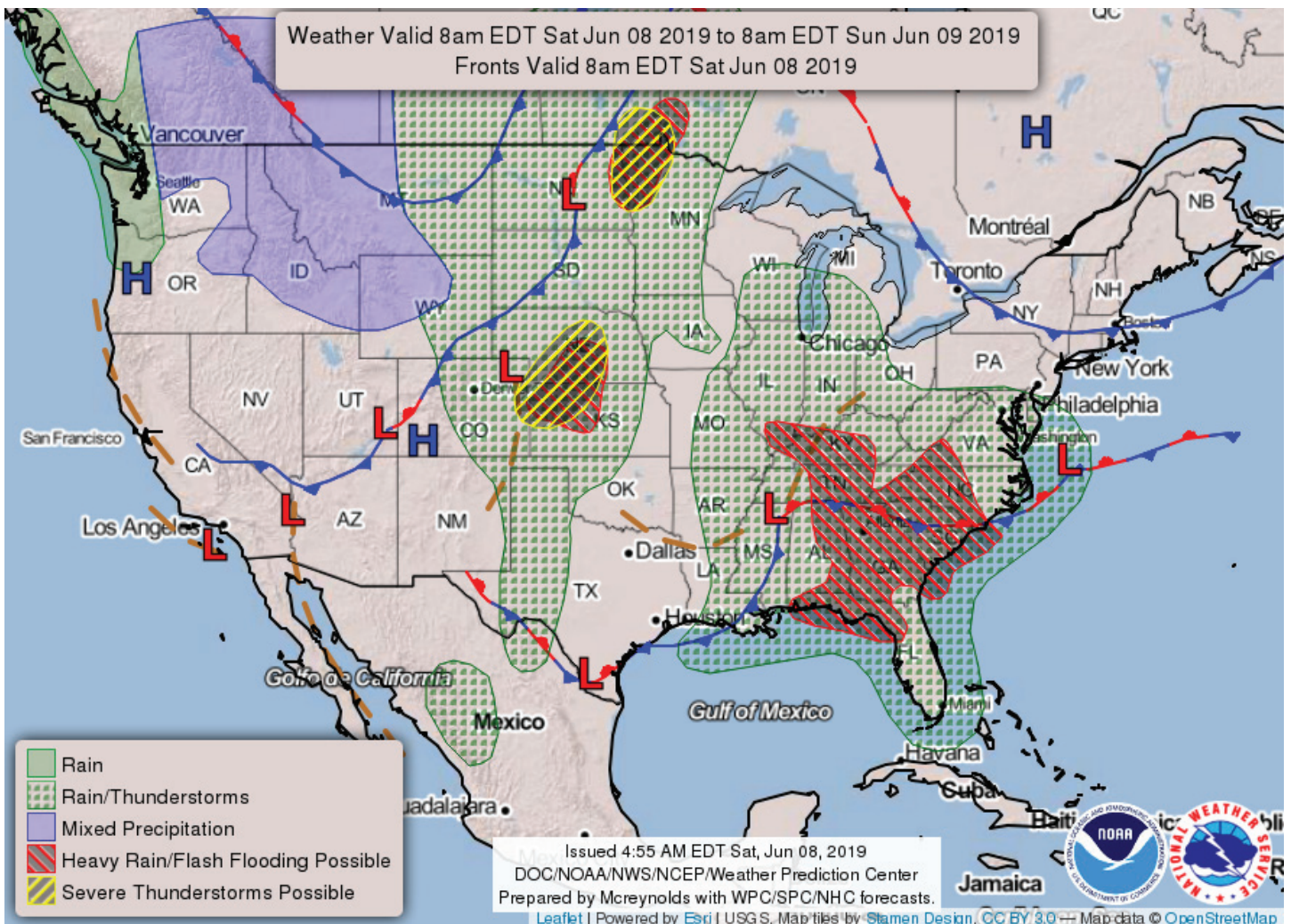
Precip to date in June.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 7.95

Precip Year to Date: 7.97

Sunset Tonight: 9:20 p.m.

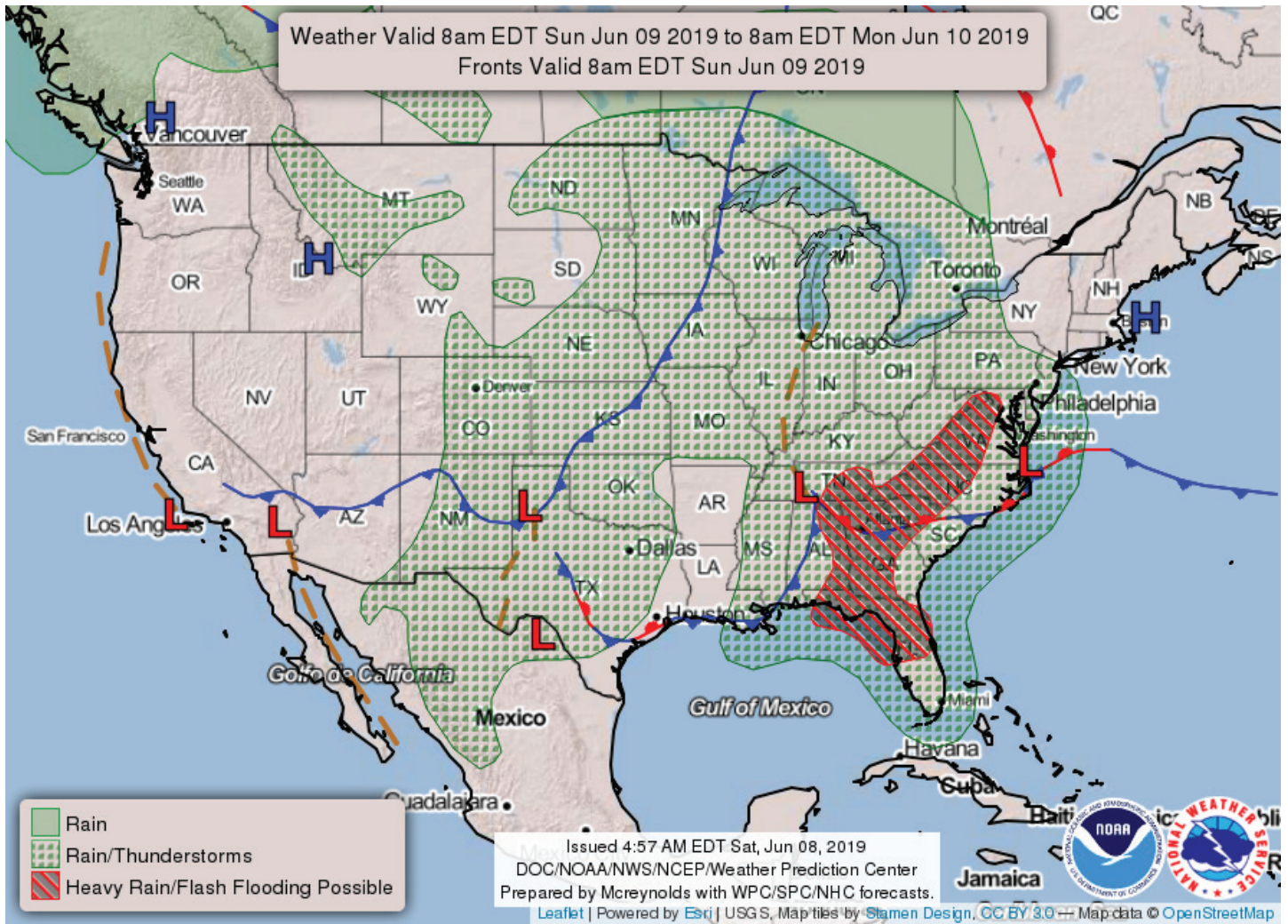
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:45 a.m.



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## Tomorrow's Weather Map



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## TRUST AND OBEY

Knowing who or what to trust may be difficult. It may be the result of having someone disappoint us or take advantage of us. None the less, trust once lost, is often costly and difficult to regain.

Years ago a mother and father sat in my office and asked, Dr. Guido, in light of what our son has done, will we ever be able to trust him again? He has disappointed us time and time again. He has lied to us and he has stolen from us and he has betrayed us. How can we ever believe what he says is true?

My heart ached as they looked at me. They loved their son dearly. They made many sacrifices on his behalf. They sent him to the best schools and took him to church when he was young. But a gradual change came over him, and they did not know what to do.

After thinking a few moments I replied, Yes, once we lose trust in someone we love dearly, it causes problems that are difficult to overcome. But, there seems to be one principle that might help you. It begins with keeping our promises. If I say and do it, that's me keeping my word, and you can begin to trust me. If I say it and don't do it, I've not honored my word, and old doubts will return. The past will invade our minds and hearts, and trust will become more difficult than ever. Keeping my word is the only reason you would have to trust me.

Blessed is he who trusts in the Lord. We know that we can trust the Lord because He has always honored His word. If He said it, He did it - time and time again!

Prayer: How blest we are, Father, to know Your Word and place our trust in You. Your record of doing what You said You would do is revealed in Your Word. Thank You! In Jesus Name, Amen

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 16:20 Whoever gives heed to instruction prospers, and blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord.

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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

### **South Dakota Women's Prison group fights meth addiction**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A Native American woman is bringing attention to the impact of methamphetamine addiction from within the South Dakota Women's Prison.

Heather Shooter, 37, started the support group Sober is Sacred to encourage other inmates to join the fight to demand more drug treatment services at the Pierre facility, the Argus Leader reported. Within the last year, the group has put on two anti-meth rallies at the women's prison, where many inmates share stories about how the drug derailed their lives.

About 64% of women in the prison are incarcerated on a primary drug charge, most of which involved meth.

Shooter has been in prison since April 2017 for participating in a high-speed police chase with her 6-year-old in the car while high on meth.

"That was my wake-up call," she said. "This is my chance to change."

Shooter, a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, grew up in Rapid City, spending a few years moving around the country before settling back in her hometown. She said she started drinking and taking drugs as a teenager, and meth was available wherever she went.

Two of her friends were killed because of the drug, she said.

"You'd think the thought of having children would make me want to stop, but it didn't," Shooter said. "I couldn't quit. I thought it would be easier to die."

Shooter found the will to face her addiction after a Pennington County judge ordered her to get treatment as part of her sentence.

"They needed to take me out of the world to really open my eyes," Shooter said.

After six months in prison, Shooter began identifying toxic relationships in her life and joined a Christian intervention program that uses spirituality to combat addiction. Her progress led her to form Sober is Sacred.

"People think they need a tragedy to change," she said. "It shouldn't take a tragedy to want to be sober."

Shooter will be released this month. She wants to seek treatment at the Rapid City substance abuse center, Full Circle, and hopes to spend time with her son, who's now 9 years old.

She plans to spread Sober is Sacred's message when she gets out.

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

### **Trump approves disaster declaration for South Dakota**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — President Donald Trump has approved a disaster declaration for South Dakota because property damage caused by a snowstorm and flooding this spring.

Trump approved the declaration Friday. It allows federal funding to be made available in several counties and American Indian reservations.

Gov. Kristi Noem asked for the presidential disaster declaration last month.

Noem says a "historic severe winter storm of rare intensity" began in South Dakota on March 13, followed by rapid snowmelt and flooding.

A preliminary damage assessment done by the state indicates about \$43 million in damage to infrastructure in 58 counties and on three reservations.

## SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Mega Millions

17-19-27-40-68, Mega Ball: 2, Megaplier: 3

(seventeen, nineteen, twenty-seven, forty, sixty-eight; Mega Ball: two; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$530 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$53 million

## Former Presentation athlete becoming an admissions counselor

By KATHERINE GRANDSTRAND Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — By the time Cortni Mendoza walked across the stage at graduation, she already had her own office at Presentation College.

Mendoza graduated May 4 with a degree in communications and a minor in psychology and sports psychology, but had started working in the Presentation College admissions department about two months before. She also logged a semester as an intern in the department.

Originally from El Centro, Calif., Mendoza said she came to Presentation with her stepsister, Kassi Orozco, to play softball and earn a degree.

"That was a major deal for me," Mendoza told the Aberdeen American News.

They liked Presentation and Aberdeen because of its small size, she said.

"We could tell that the community was overall good, the campus, everybody was really friendly, they told us about the class sizes and you get a lot of one-on-one learning and teaching, so that kind of sold us," Mendoza said. "We don't have to deal with 300 kids in one classroom and maybe be lost."

After graduation, Orozco headed back to California, and Mendoza stayed in Aberdeen.

"She's kind of had a difficult time with it," Mendoza said in May. "She's like, 'I don't want to leave you, I don't want to leave my friends.' This is all we've known for four years, it'll be a little bit different, but I'm sure she'll be fine."

But Mendoza said she's excited to start adult life in South Dakota.

"I think California is very expensive and people are just very busy and go on about their days," she said. "Here, everyone's really welcoming and just curious about you and the kind of person that you are. That makes me feel a lot more comfortable and familiar with the community."

It's not just that first job. Mendoza said she had a lot of adulthood firsts this year.

"Right now, I'm the process of getting my first house. I actually got a house with a couple of my friends who are going to be seniors this year," she said. "I'm actually really excited, I got my first car this year, too. I went my whole college time without having a car, and I just got my first car a couple of months ago."

Before graduation, Mendoza said she was mostly completing menial tasks in admissions as a part-time student worker, but her duties changed when she transitioned to full time.

College admissions wasn't her first career choice.

"Originally, I wanted to go into broadcasting, which was kind of one of my bigger goals just because it's something I'd always been interested in," Mendoza said. "(Admissions) kind of fell into the category of being able to talk to students and talking to parents and just giving them information about why they should come to PC."

The skills she learned in class will be used in her career as an admissions counselor, Mendoza said.

"I'm always talking to prospective students. I get to do campus visits and just let them know reasons why they should come here and want to come here," she said.

## 'The Buffalo Hunt' seeks to show tribe in a new light

By **RUSSELL CONTRERAS** Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — "The Buffalo Hunt," a new documentary on the homeland of the Oglala Lakota, attempts to shun clichés around the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota involving poverty and addiction and instead focus on traditions around the Native American tribe.

Directed by Philip Di Fiore, the film lets the Lakota Sioux people of today speak without narration as they work to save customs passed down by the elders through the buffalo hunt — a sacred act which extends to all aspects of life. There, in the hunt, elders share stories on how previous generations used the animal's gifts and prepared hunters for the world before them. Young members watch and participate.

The year-long project on Pine Ridge began after producer Phillip O'Leary took part in the 2016 protests at Standing Rock over the proposed Dakota Access Pipeline over concerns the local drinking water would be polluted. O'Leary originally wanted to dive into a documentary around the Standing Rock protests until he met Pine Ridge members, Di Fiore said. The Lakota Sioux men, like members of other Native American tribes from New Mexico to Oklahoma, had come to Standing Rock in solitary.

"Phillip was captivated by their stories so the focus of the project changed," Di Fiore said.

But would it fall victim of other stereotypical portrayals?

Pine Ridge has been the subject of a number of documentaries that have centered on the reservation's extreme poverty, chronic alcoholism or drug addiction. Those films, like the 2008 "The Battle for Whiteclay" and the 2014 "Sober Indian Dangerous Indian," regularly juxtapose the breathtaking landscape of the Great Plains with human suffering in a place where unemployment hovers around 85 percent.

"As a white guy from New York coming into their world, I didn't want to fall into these traps," said Di Fiore, a Brooklyn-based director best known for shooting music videos. "So we were very careful not to insert a preachy message or stamp our views on anything. We just let the story unfold."

Eventually, Di Fiore and his crew turned their attention to traditional buffalo hunts where the Oglala Lakota worked on their terms. Di Fiore conducted no interviews. He didn't seek outside experts to explain anything.

Instead, he filmed detailed shots of hunters skinning a buffalo then delivering meat to elders for stew. That became the window to larger stories about community across the sprawling 3,500 square-mile (9,064 square-kilometer) reservation.

Some shots go longer than expected. An elder's nearly five-minute speech is shown in its entirety.

After one hunt, Di Fiore focuses on a one woman, who, at 75 years old, had just finished getting her college degree. She'd been sent to a boarding school as a child and forgotten how to speak her traditional language. A young member heard her story after delivering buffalo ground meat to her.

Those in hunts tackled stereotypes by just being themselves, Di Fiore said. After taking part in a ceremony following a hunt in one scene, male members hear a story about how the buffalo will enter the spirit world. The men in the ceremony wear hoodies and baseball caps.

"We wanted to do our best to be respectful and take you into their world," Di Fiore said.

"The Buffalo Hunt" already has won a number of awards, including best feature documentary honors at the Prague Film Awards and Canada International Film Festival.

The film is set to be released on Amazon Prime on June 21.

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Story corrects a previous version to say the film will be released June 21.

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Russell Contreras is a member of The Associated Press' race and ethnicity team. Follow him on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/ruscontreras> .

## Court lifts injunction blocking Keystone XL oil pipeline

By MATT VOLZ Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — An appeals court has lifted a judge's injunction that blocked construction of the Keystone XL oil pipeline from Canada to the U.S., but the developer has said it's too late to begin work this year and environmental groups vowed to keep fighting it.

A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Thursday ordered dismissal of the lawsuit by environmental and Native American groups, saying President Donald Trump had revoked a 2017 permit allowing the \$8 billion pipeline to be built.

Trump later issued a new permit, and the appellate judges agreed with Justice Department attorneys who say that nullifies the legal challenge involving environmental impacts.

The pipeline would ship up to 830,000 barrels (35 million gallons) of crude oil daily from the tar sands of Alberta through Montana, South Dakota and Nebraska, where it would tie in to existing pipelines to carry the crude to U.S. refineries.

The ruling Thursday was a victory for TC Energy, a Calgary, Alberta-based company that wants to build the line, though company officials have said it already missed the 2019 construction season because of court delays.

"We are pleased with the ruling," TC Energy spokesman Matthew John said. "We look forward to advancing the project."

John did not respond to questions on whether the ruling would change the construction schedule.

Attorneys for the plaintiffs accuse Trump of trying to get around court rulings by issuing the new permit, which they say also is flawed. They have filed another, ongoing lawsuit to block the new presidential permit.

Attorney Stephan Volker, who represents the Indigenous Environmental Network and North Coast Rivers Alliance, said he would request another judge's order to block the project if he thought there was a chance of construction beginning immediately.

Representatives of a half-dozen other environmental groups vowed to keep fighting in court and predicted the pipeline will never be built.

"We shouldn't forget the underlying issue here — global warming," Volker said. "We're trying to save the Earth. I wish the federal government would pay attention to the science and do its job."

Last fall, U.S. District Judge Brian Morris in Montana ruled that the Trump administration did not fully consider potential oil spills and other environmental effects when it issued the 2017 permit. He blocked construction by issuing a permanent injunction against the project.

White House officials contend a presidential permit can't be reviewed by a court. After Trump revoked that permit and issued and signed the new one, Justice Department attorneys argued that claims in that lawsuit — and Morris' injunction — no longer applied.

The environmental groups argued that the government can't unilaterally sweep aside years of litigation against the long-stalled pipeline.

The Justice Department has not yet responded to the second lawsuit.

## Lupulin Brewing purchases Hydra Beer Co.

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Minnesota brewer is buying a Sioux Falls brewery and taproom.

Lupulin Brewing Co. of Big Lake, Minnesota will acquire Hydra Beer Co. Purchase price was not disclosed. Lupulin recently partnered with Global Distributing to deliver its beer in South Dakota.

The Argus Leader says Chad Petit and Nick Murphy founded the business and opened the taproom in 2015. Lupulin says the purchase of Hydra will augment its distribution deal and deepen the company's roots in Sioux Falls.



## Nearly 5 years in prison in federal gun theft case

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — One of the two men who pleaded guilty to being involved with the theft of two dozen guns from a Rapid City store has been sentenced to nearly 5 years in prison.

Twenty-nine-year-old Zephaniah Thompson pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting the theft of firearms from the Rooster last January. District Judge Jeffrey Viken sentenced Thompson to 57 months in federal prison, followed by two years of supervised release Thursday afternoon.

KOTA-TV reports Thompson admitted to dropping Matthew Keifer off near the Rooster the morning of the theft and then picking him up a short time later. They took the guns back to Thompson's residence in Fairburn. Twenty-two of the 24 guns were recovered.

Keifer pleaded guilty to theft of firearms in April and has not yet been sentenced.

Information from: KOTA-TV, <http://www.kotatv.com>

## 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.

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

## 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.

Information from: The Kansas City Star, <http://www.kcstar.com>

## G-20 finance leaders' goal: Adapt to turmoil in trade, tech

By ELAINE KURTENBACH AP Business Writer

FUKUOKA, Japan (AP) — Financial leaders of the Group of 20 gathered Saturday to brainstorm ways to adapt global finance to an age of trade turmoil and digital disruptions.

The central bank governors and other financial regulators meeting in this southern Japanese port city also flagged risks from upsets to the global economy as Beijing and Washington clash over trade and technology.

Asked if other financial leaders attending the meetings in Fukuoka were raising concerns over the impact on global markets and trade from President Donald Trump's crusade against huge, chronic U.S. trade deficits, especially with China, U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said no.

Trump and members of his administration contend that the ripple effects of the billions of dollars in tariffs imposed by Washington on Chinese exports over the past year are creating new business opportunities for other businesses in the U.S. and other countries.

But Mnuchin acknowledged that growth has been slowing in Europe, China and other regions.

"I'm hearing concerns if we continue on this path there could be issues. There will be winners and losers," he said.

The G-20 officials were expected to express their support for adjusting monetary policy, for example by making borrowing cheaper through interest rate cuts, in a communique to be issued as meetings wrap up on Sunday.

Their official agenda on Saturday was focused on longer-term, more technical issues such as improving standards for corporate governance, policing cyber-currencies and reforming tax systems to ensure they are fair for both traditional and new, online-based industries.

Ensuring that governments capture a fair share of profits from the massive growth of businesses like Google and Amazon has grown in importance over the many years the G-20 finance chiefs have been debating the reforms aimed at preventing tax evasion and modernizing policies to match a financial landscape transformed by technology.

One aim is to prevent a "race to the bottom" by countries trying to lure companies by offering unsustainably and unfairly low tax rates as an incentive.

Mnuchin said he disagreed with details of some of the proposals but not with the need for action.

"Everyone, we are now facing a turning point," Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso told the group. "This could be the biggest reform of the long established international framework in over 100 years."

Some European members of the G-20, especially, want to see minimum corporate tax rates for big multinationals. France and Britain have already enacted stop-gap tax systems for digital businesses, but they are not adequate, said French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire.

"For the time being there is no fair taxation of this new economic model," Le Maire said, adding that the hope is to have an agreement by the year's end.

The issue is not confined to the wealthiest nations. Indonesia, a developing country of 260 million with more than 100 million internet users, is also struggling to keep up.

"The growth has been exponential but we cannot capture this growth in our GDP as well as in our tax revenue," said Indonesian Finance Minister Mulyani Indrawati.

Mobile banking, big data, artificial intelligence and cloud computing are among many technologies that are expanding access to financial services for many people who in the past might not have even used banks.

But such innovations raise questions about protecting privacy and cybersecurity, Aso said.

"We need to stay vigilant against risks or challenges," Aso said.

Japan, the world's third-largest economy, is hosting the G-20 for the first time since it was founded in 1999. The venue for the annual financial meeting, Fukuoka, is a thriving regional hub and base for start-ups.

The G-20 group includes Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union.

## Trump's threatened tariffs on hold after deal with Mexico

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

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump has put on hold his plan to begin imposing tariffs on Mexico on Monday, saying the U.S. ally will take "strong measures" to reduce the flow of Central American migrants into the United States.

But the deal he announced Friday night, after returning from a trip to Europe, falls short of some of the dramatic overhauls pushed for by his administration.

A joint declaration released by the State Department said the U.S. "will immediately expand" a program that returns asylum-seekers, while their claims are under review, to Mexico after they have crossed the U.S.-Mexico border. Mexico will "offer jobs, healthcare and education" to those people, according to the agreement.

Mexico has agreed, it said, to "unprecedented steps to increase enforcement to curb irregular migration," including the deployment of the Mexican National Guard throughout the country, especially on its southern border with Guatemala.

Trump put the number of troops at 6,000, and said in a tweet Saturday, "Mexico will try very hard, and if they do that, this will be a very successful agreement for both the United States and Mexico!"

Mexico's president, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, said on Twitter that "Thanks to the support of all Mexicans, the imposition of tariffs on Mexican products exported to the USA has been avoided." He called for a gathering Saturday to celebrate in Tijuana.

Yet House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said Trump's "threats and temper tantrums are no way to negotiate foreign policy," especially with "our close friend."

The State Department said Mexico is taking "decisive action to dismantle human smuggling and trafficking organizations as well as their illicit financial and transportation networks."

The agreement removes, for now, the threat of trade penalties that had elicited dire warnings from members of Trump's own party about the potential economic damage, higher consumer prices and an imperiled update to a North American trade deal.

Mexico's foreign secretary, Marcelo Ebrard, said he thought the deal struck "a fair balance" because the U.S. "had more drastic proposals and measures at the start."

But Leticia Calderón Cheluis, a migration expert at the Mora Institute in Mexico City, said the agreement is essentially a series of compromises solely by Mexico, which she said committed to "a double clamp at both borders."

Trump used social media to say he was "pleased to inform you" about the deal with Mexico and said the threatened tariffs "are hereby indefinitely suspended." He cited Mexico's commitment to "strong measures" intended "to greatly reduce, or eliminate" illegal immigration from Mexico.

It was a sharp reversal, given that earlier Friday, his spokeswoman Sarah Sanders had told reporters: "Our position has not changed. The tariffs are going forward as of Monday."

The U.S. had announced in December that it would make some asylum-seekers wait in Mexico while their cases were being processed. But this move has been plagued with glitches, including incorrect court dates, travel problems and issues with lawyers reaching their clients.

Immigration activists in the U.S. have challenged the program in court, arguing it violates migrants' legal rights. An appeals court recently overturned a judge who had blocked the program. And Pelosi expressed disappointment about what she said was an expanded policy that "violates the rights of asylum-seekers under U.S. law and fails to address the root causes of Central American migration."

Officials from the Department of Homeland Security were working to spread the program along the border before the latest blowup. About 10,000 people have been returned to Mexico to wait the processing of their immigration cases since the program began Jan. 29.

Any sizable increase may be difficult to achieve. At just the San Ysidro crossing in California, Mexico had been prepared to accept up to 120 asylum-seekers per week. But for the first six weeks, only 40 people per week were returned.

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More than 100,000 migrants are currently crossing the U.S. border each month, but not everyone claims asylum and migrants can wait an entire year before making a claim.

Trump had threatened a 5% tariff on all Mexican goods entering the U.S. "until such time as illegal migrants coming through Mexico, and into our Country, STOP."

U.S. officials had laid out steps Mexico could take to prevent the tariffs, but many people had doubts that 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.

The 5% tax on all Mexican goods would have risen every month, up to 25% under Trump's plan, and had enormous economic implications for both countries.

Americans bought \$378 billion worth of Mexican imports last year, led by cars and auto parts. Many members of Trump's Republican Party and business allies had urged him to reconsider — or at least postpone the threatened tariffs as talks continued.

From the moment Trump announced his threat, observers wondered whether he would follow through. They noted his habit of creating problems and then claiming credit when he rushed in to solve them.

In late March, Trump threatened to shut the entire U.S.-Mexico border if Mexico didn't immediately halt illegal immigration. Just a few days later, he backed off that threat, saying he was pleased with steps Mexico had taken. It was unclear, however, what — if anything — Mexico had changed.

Talks in Washington had focused partly on changes that would make it harder for migrants who pass through Mexico from other countries to claim asylum in the U.S., according to those monitoring the situation. Mexico has opposed such a change but appeared open to considering a potential compromise that could include exceptions or waivers for different types of cases. The joint declaration, however, makes no mention of the issue.

Trump has embraced tariffs as a political tool he can use to force countries to comply with his demands. Beyond Trump and several White House advisers, though, few in his administration had believed the tariffs were a good idea, according to officials familiar with internal deliberations. Those people had worried about the negative economic consequences for Americans and argued that tariffs, which probably would have drawn retaliatory taxes on U.S. exports, would also hurt the administration politically.

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

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Associated Press writers Zeke Miller, Colleen Long, Paul Wiseman, Lisa Mascaro, Darlene Superville and Padmananda Rama in Washington and Jonathan Lemire in Shannon, Ireland contributed to this report.

## Buttigieg's high college debt draws attention to the issue

By MICHELLE R. SMITH Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — Democratic presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg knows firsthand the burden of six-figure student loan debt. He and his husband, Chasten, are far from alone, though, and their personal college indebtedness is helping to keep the issue on the national stage.

With loans totaling more than \$130,000, they are among the 43 million people in the United States who owe federal student loan debt.

The debtors are so numerous and the total debt so high — more than \$1.447 trillion, according to federal statistics — that several of the Democratic candidates have made major policy proposals to address the crisis. Their ideas include wiping away debt, lowering interest rates, expanding programs that tie repayment terms to income and making college free or debt-free.

Student loan debt is often discussed as an issue that mostly affects millennials, but it cuts across age groups. Federal statistics show that about 7.8 million people age 50 and older owe a combined \$291.9 billion in student loans. People age 35 to 49, a group that covers older millennials such as Buttigieg as well

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as Generation X, owe \$548.4 billion. That group includes more than 14 million people.

One of the most detailed plans to help solve the problem has come from Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, who says she would entirely erase student debt for 75% of borrowers while making public colleges and universities free. Her plan would be paid for by a tax on "ultra-millionaires," those households with a net worth of \$50 million or more. Warren wants to cancel \$50,000 in student loan debt for each borrower with a household income under \$100,000 and would cancel smaller amounts for those who earn more.

Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont has outlined a plan to make public universities tuition-free and says he wants to lower student loan rates and "substantially lower student debt."

Former Rep. Beto O'Rourke of Texas stops short of advocating for programs to cancel all debt, like Warren wants to do. Instead, he has suggested wiping away debt for people who go into jobs where there's a manpower shortage, such as doctors in rural areas, but it's not clear which professions would qualify.

He also has said he wants to give Americans two years of free tuition at community colleges, make four-year state universities debt-free for those with low and modest incomes and allow borrowers to refinance student loans at lower interest rates.

Julian Castro, housing secretary in the Obama administration, says he wants to eliminate tuition at public colleges and universities. He has issued a plan that would not require loan repayment until borrowers earn more than 250% of the federal poverty level, currently \$25,750 for a family of four. It would cap monthly payments at 10% of their income after that.

Sen. Kamala Harris of California has publicly called for debt-free college, wants to allow people to refinance their loans at a lower interest rate, base repayment on income and simplify financial aid applications to make it easier for needy students to apply.

If elected, Buttigieg, the 37-year-old mayor of South Bend, Indiana, would likely be the first president with student loan debt. Barack and Michelle Obama said they paid off their student loans a few years before he was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2006.

Buttigieg often speaks about the experience that he and his husband have had with student loan debt. Buttigieg graduated from Harvard in 2004, then won a Rhodes scholarship and graduated from Oxford in 2007. The mayor previously told Vice that he got through school without much debt, but that Chasten racked up loans while getting bachelor's and master's degrees to become a teacher.

In his financial disclosure filed with the Office of Government Ethics in mid-May, Buttigieg reported that he and his husband have between \$110,000 and \$265,000 in student loan debt. The report requires a range rather than a specific dollar amount. Chris Meagher, a campaign spokesman, said the exact amount is \$131,296.

Americans with student loans owe on average \$33,000, so the Buttigiegs' debt is on the high end. They are among the 2.8 million Americans who owe more than \$100,000 in federal student loan debt.

Meagher did not answer questions about whether the loans belong to Buttigieg or his husband, or both.

The disclosure statement shows that the couple has 20 loans outstanding, with interest rates ranging from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent, on loans that were opened between 2009 and 2017. Fifteen of those accounts, more than \$100,000 of the balance, were reported to be on an income-based repayment plan.

Buttigieg has spoken about making it easier to refinance student loan debt. During a town hall hosted by Fox News, he discussed expanding the federal Pell grant program and making it easier to pay off debt through public service. On his website, he called for middle- and low-income families to pay "zero tuition" at public colleges, or to attend them "debt free."

Buttigieg has also called for more support for students who enter public service, such as teaching.

Seven 2020 presidential contenders have proposed legislation in the Senate to do that. The bill would simplify and expand a program that forgives federal loans for public service workers who make 120 monthly loan payments while working for a government agency or qualified nonprofit. Only about 1% of borrowers who applied to the program were approved. The candidates backing the legislation are Warren, Sanders, Harris, and Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand of New York, Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, Cory Booker of New Jersey

and Michael Bennet of Colorado.

Former Vice President Joe Biden made a call for a similar simplification and expansion Tuesday in a speech in Houston before one of the nation's largest teachers' unions.

Associated Press writers Collin Binkley in Boston and Will Weissert in Washington contributed to this report.

## Thiem ends Djokovic's Slam streak in French Open semifinals

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

PARIS (AP) — Novak Djokovic's 26-match Grand Slam winning streak ended with a dramatic 6-2, 3-6, 7-5, 5-7, 7-5 loss Saturday to Dominic Thiem in a rain-interrupted French Open semifinal that spanned more than four hours over two days.

Thiem wasted two match points with quick unforced errors when serving for the victory at 5-3 in the fifth, but he made his third chance count, smacking a forehand winner to break Djokovic in the last game.

"It's never easy to go on, go off, put the system on 100 percent and go down to zero percent in the locker," Thiem said. "But if you win, everything is good."

The top-ranked Djokovic had trouble with Thiem, to be sure, but also with the weather, with the chair umpire and with his odd propensity for heading to the net much more often than usual, including some serve-and-volleying that often failed.

"Look, there is always something large at stake when you're one of the top players of the world and play in the biggest tournaments," Djokovic said. "These kind of matches, one or two points decide a winner."

He was stopped two victories short of collecting his fourth consecutive major championship, a run that began on the grass at Wimbledon last July, then continued on the hard courts of the U.S. Open and Australian Open.

Instead, it is Thiem, an Austrian ranked No. 4, who now gets a chance to win his first Grand Slam trophy on the red clay of Roland Garros.

Thiem will face 11-time French Open champion Rafael Nadal on Sunday in a rematch of last year's final. Nadal won that one, part of an 8-4 lead for the Spaniard in their head-to-head series.

"All the time, if someone reaches the finals here, it's against Rafa," Thiem said with a laugh.

It will be the fourth straight day that Thiem is in action because of postponements, whereas Nadal will be well-rested, having played his quarterfinal Tuesday and his semifinal Friday, when he beat Roger Federer 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.

The women's final followed Thiem-Djokovic at Court Philippe Chatrier on Saturday, with No. 8 seed Ash Barty of Australia against unseeded 19-year-old Marketa Vondrousova of the Czech Republic. Neither had ever participated in a major singles final.

On Friday, Thiem had just broken Djokovic to go up a break at 3-1 in the third set when their match was suspended because of a shower. They resumed 18½ hours later, in dry, breezy conditions. The wind that was so fierce Friday — spreading loose, rust-colored clay dust from the court surface all over the place, making for something that seemed like a sandstorm — was much more manageable Saturday. It rippled players' shirts but did not cause havoc with serve tosses and shots the way it had the evening prior.

They repeatedly engaged in long and entertaining baseline exchanges that lasted 10 shots, 20 shots or more. They used speed and anticipation to track down each other's shots. They walloped the ball from all angles.

The very longest of these tended to go Djokovic's way: He won 37 of 61 points (61 of nine or more strokes).

For whatever reason, Djokovic felt compelled to try to shorten points on occasion, hardly his usual strategy.

So that led to this key statistic: He won only 35 of 71 points when he went to the net. Thiem, meanwhile, took 18 of 20 on his more judicious forays forward.

The most glaring examples of this came at the end of the third set, when it appeared Djokovic might really be letting the whole match get away.

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Serving at 15-all while down 6-5, Djokovic was agitated by a warning from chair umpire Jaume Campistol for letting the serve clock expire and wouldn't let it go, complaining during the game and, more vociferously, at the changeover, so much so that he was called for unsportsmanlike conduct.

The lack of focus drifted into his choices during points, too, including a mediocre volley that let Thiem deposit a backhand passing winner for a fourth set point. Yet another serve-and-volley attempt came next, and Thiem produced a low forehand return right at Djokovic's feet to end the set.

All match, Djokovic kept digging a hole, then climbing out. Could he do it again?

He was three points from defeat while serving at love-15, down 5-4 in the fourth set, but came through there to hold, broke in the next game when Thiem double-faulted, and forced a fifth.

Then Djokovic got broken to trail 3-1 in the deciding set when he missed a volley, and Thiem held for 4-1.

At deuce in the ensuing game, a shower came. Shortly before they came back to play, Djokovic tried to stay loose by playing soccer with a tennis ball while Thiem did sprints in a stadium hallway.

On the first point when they returned, Djokovic paused, thinking a shot by Thiem landed out. Campistol ruled it was in. Djokovic eventually took that game. But he was a point from losing when Thiem served at 5-3, 40-15. Except, Thiem just couldn't close. Couldn't do much of anything.

Dumped a backhand into the net. Pushed a backhand wide. Sent a forehand long. Slapped a backhand into the net. None should have been all that difficult.

That could have been it for him. Hard to recover from that sort of collapse, especially against someone like Djokovic.

But Thiem regrouped in time. It was Djokovic who faltered, something not seen on a Grand Slam stage since the 2018 French Open quarterfinals.

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More AP tennis coverage: <https://www.apnews.com/apf-Tennis> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Sports](https://twitter.com/AP_Sports)

## 5-year-old girl paralyzed by rape shocks Sierra Leone

By KRISTA LARSON Associated Press

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP) — At first no one knew why the 5-year-old girl could no longer move her legs or control her urine. For months she lay on the ground, unable to walk or play.

Some in the community blamed witchcraft but the real reason was more horrific: The child had been brutally raped and left paralyzed as a result of her injuries.

The case has brought the issue of sexual violence against children to the forefront in Sierra Leone, where such crimes are often dealt with between families in private. In February, President Julius Maada Bio declared sexual violence a national emergency and he has vowed to help the 5-year-old get medical treatment abroad.

But months later the girl's case has shown just how difficult combating sexual violence can be: Her father objected to the rape being tried in court, requiring police to issue a restraining order so she could continue receiving medical treatment. No court date has been set, not even a prosecutor chosen.

Little has changed, too, for the child whose life was so cruelly affected.

"She doesn't understand about bail or no bail. But she's concerned that he's walking, he's mobile and she's not," said Fatmata Sorie, the lawyer representing the child, about the man who assaulted the girl, whose name is being withheld by The Associated Press because she is a minor.

Fatima Maada Bio, the wife of Sierra Leone's president, has been vocal in promoting the rights of girls and initially heard about the child's case. She and her husband later traveled to the Aberdeen Women's Center where the 5-year-old has been receiving medical care free of charge.

The president's proclamation in February has not been without controversy despite the widespread support for sexual violence victims: Opposition party legislators objected to the president's unilateral declaration. The parliament must still approve the measure, though Sierra Leone's attorney general has ordered judges to start applying it already.

The declaration calls for a special police division to handle sexual assault cases involving minors. Most significantly, it calls for life imprisonment for those convicted of raping children.

The law in the West African nation had carried a maximum penalty of 15 years, with no minimum sentencing requirement. Advocates say one man convicted of raping a 13-year-old served only 24 hours last year.

The man accused in the 5-year-old's case — who is her uncle — remains jailed without bail while his case is before the country's high court. A defense lawyer has yet to be assigned.

Health workers at the Aberdeen Women's Center have determined she was in fact only 4 when the rape took place. Those who have cared for her especially want to see the law fully implemented as a deterrent.

"It's OK for us to declare such an emergency and to say that we're going to give life imprisonment. But until it happens to one person, two people — that's when we start to see the law taking effect," said Ivy Kalama with the Freedom from Fistula Foundation, which runs the clinic.

The government also must secure the funding to set up a 24-hour call center and train those who would work in the special division for child victims. And it is unclear whether how accessible these new services will be in Sierra Leone's rural areas.

Sorie, the lawyer, praises the government for its new focus on sexual violence.

"We're only concerned, however, that ... we're still waiting for some of these things to happen," she said.

A year after the assault, the 5-year-old is still unable to walk, and has had to use a hand-crank wheelchair to move around the health center's grounds. She has been undergoing treatment for bed sores that developed on her back while she was immobile at home for months.

One of her leg bones has broken — health workers believe it is a complication of her paralysis — and now she lies in a hospital bed with her leg in traction.

A tiny foot with specks of pink nail polish peeks out of her cast, which is tethered to the metal bed frame. Nurses coax her to eat so that she can recover more quickly but she wants corn flakes, not rice for breakfast.

She has been out of school for a year and is getting restless.

"Even yesterday she was saying she wants to go to school and is going to need a motorbike," her mother said in the local Krio language as she bounced her infant son on her lap. "When her grandmother was here sometimes she would ask her grandma: 'When can I walk again?'"

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Associated Press writer Clarence Roy-Macaulay contributed.

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## Scientists feel chill of crackdown on fetal tissue research

By LAURAN NEERGAARD, MALCOLM RITTER and RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — To save babies from brain-damaging birth defects, University of Pittsburgh scientist Carolyn Coyne studies placentas from fetuses that otherwise would be discarded — and she's worried this kind of research is headed for the chopping block.

The Trump administration is cracking down on fetal tissue research, with new hurdles for government-funded scientists around the country who call the special cells vital for fighting a range of health threats. Already, the administration has shut down one university's work using fetal tissue to test HIV treatments, and is ending other fetal tissue research at the National Institutes of Health.

"I knew this was something that's going to trickle down to the rest of us," said Coyne. She uses the placenta, which people may not think of as fetal tissue but technically is classified as such because the fetus produced it, to study how viruses such as Zika get past that protective barrier early in pregnancy.

"It seems to me what we're moving toward is a ban," she added. If so, when it comes to unraveling what happens in pregnancy and fetal development, "we're going to stay ignorant to a lot of things."



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Different types of tissue left over from elective abortions have been used in scientific research for decades, and the work has been credited with leading to lifesaving vaccines and other advances. Under orders from President Donald Trump, the Health and Human Services Department abruptly announced on Wednesday the new restrictions on taxpayer-funded research, but not privately funded work.

Aside from the cancellation of an HIV-related project at the University of California, San Francisco, university-led projects that are funded by the NIH — estimated to be fewer than 200 — aren't affected right away.

But as researchers seek to renew their funding or propose new studies, HHS said it will have to pass an extra layer of review, beyond today's strict scientific scrutiny. Each project will have a federal ethics board appointed to recommend whether NIH should grant the money.

HHS hasn't offered details but under the law authorizing the review process, that board must include not just biomedical experts but a theologian, and the nation's health secretary can overrule its advice.

"I predict over time we will see a slow and steady elimination of federal funding for research that uses fetal tissue, regardless of how necessary it is," said University of Wisconsin law professor Alta Charo, a nationally recognized bioethics expert.

Necessity is the crux of a fierce debate between abortion foes and scientists about whether there are alternatives to fetal tissue for research.

Zika offers a glimpse at the difficulty. Somehow, the Zika virus can sneak from the mother's bloodstream across the placenta, which protects and nourishes the fetus, and target the fetus' brain. It's something researchers hope to learn to block.

Studying the placentas of small animals or even monkeys isn't a substitute because they differ from the human organ, said Emory University researcher Mehul Suthar. For example, the specific type of placental cell where Zika can lurk in humans isn't thought to be present in mouse placentas.

And because the placenta continually changes as the fetus that created it grows, first-trimester tissue may show a very different vulnerability than a placenta that's expelled during full-term birth, when it's no longer defined as fetal tissue but as medical waste.

Suthar recently submitted a new grant application to study first- and second-trimester placental tissue, and is worried about its fate under the still uncertain ethics provision.

It "sounds a bit murky as to what the impact could be," he said. It could be small, "or it could be an outright ban on what we're doing."

Anti-abortion groups argue there are alternatives, such as stem cells, growing organ-like clumps of cells in lab dishes, or using tissue taken from newborns as they have heart surgery.

Indeed, NIH is funding a \$20 million program to research alternatives to fetal tissue and to prove whether they work as well.

"Taxpayer funding ought to go to promote alternatives that are already being used in the production of treatments, vaccines and medicines, and to expand approaches that do not depend on the destruction of unborn children," said Mallory Quigley of the Susan B. Anthony List, which works to elect anti-abortion candidates to public office.

But dozens of medical and science organizations have told HHS there is no substitute for fetal tissue in studying certain — not all — health disorders, such as HIV, Zika, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, spinal cord injury, and a variety of eye diseases.

To Pittsburgh's Coyne, part of the political debate is a "completely unsubstantiated belief that not allowing research and science is going to prevent or stop abortions, which is not the case."

Medical research using fetal tissue won't stop but will move to other countries, said Charo, who advised the Obama administration. The United Kingdom, Australia, Singapore and China are among the countries using fetal tissue to seek breakthroughs.

"Other countries work with this in a regulated fashion and they will continue to outstrip us," she said. "We have allowed patients' interests to become collateral damage in the abortion wars."

Ritter reported from New York.

The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

## With Mexico deal done, US urges China to resume trade talks

By ELAINE KURTENBACH AP Business Writer

FUKUOKA, Japan (AP) — One down, still others to go. President Donald Trump claimed a victory after Washington and Mexico agreed on measures to stem the flow of Central American migrants into the United States.

Trump called off plans to impose a 5% tax on Mexican exports, and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, speaking to reporters Saturday in Fukuoka on the sidelines of a meeting of financial leaders of the Group of 20 major economies, urged China to follow suit and return to stalled negotiations.

Mnuchin said he planned to have a private conversation with the head of China's central bank, Yi Gang. In a G-20 group meeting later in the day, the two were seen exchanging friendly remarks, but there were no fresh signs Beijing is ready to compromise in the dispute over trade and technology.

"From our perspective of where we are now, it is a result of them backtracking on significant commitments," Mnuchin said. "I don't think it's a breakdown in trust or good or bad faith. ... If they want to come back and complete the deal on the terms we were negotiating, that would be great."

Mnuchin said he had no direct message to give to Yi, who has participated in the 11 rounds of talks so far on resolving the dispute between the world's two largest economies over technology and trade.

He said there were no plans for trade talks in Washington or Beijing before Presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping are due to meet in Osaka for the G-20 summit on June 28-29.

"This will be a one-on-one with Gov. Yi to talk alone about the trade issues," Mnuchin said. But he added, "I would expect the main progress will be at the G-20 meetings of the presidents."

The Trump administration began slapping tariffs on imports of Chinese goods nearly a year ago, accusing Beijing of using predatory means to lend Chinese companies an edge in advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics and electric vehicles. Those tactics, the U.S. contends, include hacking into U.S. companies' computers to steal trade secrets, forcing foreign companies to hand over sensitive technology in exchange for access to the Chinese market and unfairly subsidizing Chinese tech firms.

The deal with Mexico helps alleviate uncertainty over the deal Washington recently reached on revising the North American Free Trade Agreement. The new U.S.-Mexico-Canada deal has been heading toward a vote in Congress and might have been stymied by new tariffs. But the U.S. is still negotiating new trade deals with Japan after withdrawing from a Pacific Rim arrangement, the Obama-era proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership.

America's huge trade deficit with China — a record \$379 billion last year — is one factor driving Trump's frustrations with Beijing.

The United States now is imposing 25% taxes on \$250 billion in Chinese goods. Beijing has counter-punched by targeting \$110 billion worth of American products, focusing on farm goods such as soybeans in a deliberate effort to inflict pain on Trump supporters in the U.S. heartland.

The U.S. side has been preparing to expand retaliatory tariff hikes of 25% on another \$300 billion of Chinese products, and Mnuchin indicated it was prepared to take that step if negotiations with Beijing fail. But he said Trump had not yet made a decision on that, suggesting room for further delays depending on the outcome of his discussion with Xi later this month.

"As the president has said, if we can get the right agreement, that's great. If we can't, we will proceed with tariffs," he said.

## Trump says tariffs on Mexico suspended indefinitely

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

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump announced late Friday that he had suspended plans to impose tariffs on Mexico, tweeting that the country “has agreed to take strong measures” to stem the flow of Central American migrants into the United States. But the deal the two neighbors agreed to falls short of some of the dramatic overhauls the U.S. had pushed for.

A “U.S.-Mexico Joint Declaration” released by the State Department said the U.S. “will immediately expand the implementation” of a program that returns asylum-seekers who cross the southern border to Mexico while their claims are adjudicated. Mexico will “offer jobs, healthcare and education” to those people, the agreement stated.

Mexico has also agreed, it said, to take “unprecedented steps to increase enforcement to curb irregular migration,” including the deployment of the Mexican National Guard throughout the country, especially on its southern border with Guatemala. And Mexico is taking “decisive action to dismantle human smuggling and trafficking organizations as well as their illicit financial and transportation networks,” the State Department said.

The move puts to an end — for now — a threat that had sparked dire warnings from members of Trump’s own party, who warned the tariffs would damage the economy, drive up prices for consumers and imperil an updated North American trade pact. Trump’s Friday night tweet marked a sharp reversal from earlier in the day, when his spokeswoman Sarah Sanders told reporters: “Our position has not changed. The tariffs are going forward as of Monday.”

Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador tweeted, “Thanks to the support of all Mexicans, the imposition of tariffs on Mexican products exported to the USA has been avoided.” He called for a gathering to celebrate in Tijuana Saturday.

The changes, in part, continue steps the Trump administration was already taking. The U.S. announced in December that it would make some asylum seekers wait in Mexico while their cases were being processed — a begrudging agreement with Mexico that has taken months to scale and that has been plagued with glitches, including wrong court dates, travel problems and issues with lawyers reaching their clients.

Homeland Security officials have been ramping up slowly, and were already working to spread the program along the border before the latest blowup. About 10,000 people have been returned to Mexico to wait out the processing of their immigration cases since the program began Jan. 29. More than 100,000 migrants are currently crossing the U.S. border each month, but not everyone claims asylum and migrants can wait an entire year before making a claim.

Any sizable increase may also be difficult to achieve. At the San Ysidro crossing alone, Mexico had been prepared to accept up to 120 asylum seekers per week, but for the first six weeks only 40 people per week were returned.

Trump had announced the tariff plan last week, declaring in a tweet that, on June 10, the U.S. would “impose a 5% Tariff on all goods coming into our Country from Mexico, until such time as illegal migrants coming through Mexico, and into our Country, STOP.” U.S. officials had laid out steps Mexico could take to prevent the tariffs, but many had doubts that 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.

After returning from Europe Friday, though, Trump tweeted, “I am pleased to inform you that The United States of America has reached a signed agreement with Mexico.” He wrote that the “Tariffs scheduled to be implemented by the U.S. on Monday, against Mexico, are hereby indefinitely suspended.”

He said Mexico has agreed to work to “stem the tide of Migration through Mexico, and to our Southern Border” and said those steps would “greatly reduce, or eliminate, Illegal Immigration coming from Mexico and into the United States.”

The 5% tax on all Mexican goods, which would increase every month up to 25% under Trump’s plan, would have had enormous economic implications for both countries. Americans bought \$378 billion worth

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of Mexican imports last year, led by cars and auto parts. Many members of Trump's Republican Party and business allies had urged him to reconsider — or at least postpone actually implementing the tariffs as talks continue — citing the potential harm to American consumers and manufactures.

From the moment Trump announced the tariff threat, observers wondered whether he would pull the trigger, noting his habit of creating problems and then claiming credit when he rushes in to solve them.

In late March, Trump threatened to shut the entire U.S.-Mexico border if Mexico didn't immediately halt illegal immigration. Just a few days later, he backed off that threat, saying he was pleased with steps Mexico had taken. It was unclear, however, what — if anything — Mexico had changed.

U.S. and Mexican officials met for more than 10 hours Friday during a third day of talks at the U.S. State Department trying to hash out a deal that would satisfy Trump's demand that Mexico dramatically increase its efforts to crack down on migrants.

The talks had been focused, in part, on attempting to reach a compromise on changes that would make it harder for migrants who pass through Mexico from other countries to claim asylum in the U.S., those monitoring the situation said. Mexico has long opposed such a change but appeared open to considering a potential compromise that could include exceptions or waivers for different types of cases. The joint declaration, however makes no mention of the issue.

Leaving the State Department Friday night, Mexican Foreign Secretary Marcelo Ebrard said he thought the deal struck "a fair balance" because the U.S. "had more drastic proposals and measures at the start."

But Leticia Calderón Cheluis, a migration expert at the Mora Institute in Mexico City, said the agreement is essentially a series of compromises solely by Mexico, which she said committed to "a double clamp at both borders."

Trump in recent months has embraced tariffs as a political tool he can use to force countries to comply with his demands — in this case on his signature issue of immigration. Beyond Trump and several White House advisers, though, few in his administration had believed the tariffs were a good idea, according to officials familiar with internal deliberations. Those people had worried about the negative economic consequences for Americans and argued that tariffs — which would likely spark retaliatory taxes on U.S. exports — would also hurt the administration politically.

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

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., greeted Friday night's news with sarcasm. "This is an historic night!" he tweeted. "Now that that problem is solved, I'm sure we won't be hearing any more about it in the future."

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Associated Press writers Zeke Miller, Colleen Long, Paul Wiseman, Lisa Mascaro, Darlene Superville and Padmananda Rama in Washington and Jonathan Lemire in Shannon, Ireland contributed to this report.

## Allegations against top priest under review after AP report

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The Catholic Church in Texas says it is reviewing allegations that a top Monsignor continued to hear a married woman's confessions after luring her into a sexual relationship, a potentially serious crime under church law.

The announcement was issued by the Galveston-Houston Archdiocese led by Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, president of the U.S. bishops' conference, after the woman broke years of silence to denounce his handling of her case in an Associated Press investigation this week. The archdiocese has defended DiNardo's handling of the case as swift and just. But it said Friday that the issue of confession was a "new development" presented by Laura Pontikes in the AP report and would be "thoroughly reviewed in accordance with canon law."

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Pontikes has accused Monsignor Frank Rossi, DiNardo's former deputy, of exploiting her emotional dependency on him to manipulate her into a sexual relationship, even as he heard her confessions, counseled her husband on their strained marriage and solicited hundreds of thousands of dollars from them in donations for the church. The archdiocese removed Rossi from the Houston parish, but allowed him to return to ministry in another diocese after he completed a treatment program.

Pontikes protested to the archdiocese and went to police in August. After AP inquiries last week, Rossi's new bishop placed him on leave pending the outcome of the investigation.

Rossi's lawyer has said he is cooperating with the police investigation but declined to comment further. The archdiocese says it is cooperating with the investigation and has defended Rossi, saying the relationship was consensual and did not involve intercourse. Pontikes says it did.

The case is significant because DiNardo heads 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 of U.S. bishops to approve new measures for accountability over abuse.

In a statement to the AP late Friday, the archdiocese said DiNardo takes matters about any form of abuse "very seriously" and said he had kept the Pontikes' welfare in mind throughout. The archdiocese accused the couple of seeking a \$10 million settlement; George Pontikes, president and CEO of a Houston-based construction company, said he initially sought to recover the more than \$2 million in donations and money from an unrelated business dispute with the church but backed off because Laura Pontikes made clear she mainly wanted Rossi to be prevented from counseling women and for other measures to be put in place to prevent similar abuse.

The "absolution of an accomplice" crime in confession, one of the most serious in canon law, occurs when a priest absolves someone with whom he has engaged in a sexual sin. It must be reported to the Vatican and can carry the penalty of excommunication.

"It can be a touch or a kiss. You don't need the sexual act (of intercourse) for it to be a crime," said the Rev. Davide Cito, a professor of canon law at the Pontifical Holy Cross University in Rome.

Pontikes has accused DiNardo of negligence in her case for not pursuing the issue of confession, also known as the sacrament of reconciliation. In email correspondence turned over to the archdiocese and AP, there are multiple references to confession with Rossi, including after what Pontikes reported was the Dec. 4, 2012, start of the physical relationship.

On Dec. 20, 2012, Pontikes tells Rossi she needs to make a "proper confession" and he replies: "I would be most happy to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation with you, if you would like." In exchanges later that day, he asks her to propose a day and they settle on Friday, Dec. 21, at 2 p.m.

Pontikes also told the AP about her confession on March 1, 2013, when she wanted to ease her conscience before travelling out of town to visit a friend whose husband had just died. She remembers Rossi did not want to hear her confession and said he did not have time. But she insisted, followed him outside the side chapel of St. Michael the Archangel church and made him hear her confession outdoors, she said.

She said she confessed to having "an inappropriate relationship with my priest," and he absolved her and told her to sin no more. After the relationship was consummated seven weeks later, she says, she went to two other priests for confession. She ultimately ended the physical relationship because "I couldn't keep confessing the same sin over and over again and expect God to believe I was contrite," she said.

The Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston initially told AP, in response to questions submitted before the story was published, that Rossi never heard Pontikes' confession "during their physical relationship or at any time after it ended."

On Friday, the archdiocese said that when Pontikes first reported her allegation, she said she had gone to confession twice about her relationship with Rossi, and that when she was asked if Rossi was her confessor, she said he was not. The archdiocese said the same question was posed to Rossi, and he stated he did not hear her confession "after their inappropriate relationship began nor anytime after it ended."

Pontikes told AP she did not know at the time that it was a problem under church law for Rossi to have heard her confession during the period between the start of the physical relationship and consummation.

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It is particularly difficult for a priest to defend himself against a confession-related crime, because the seal of confession prevents him from revealing anything about the content of the sacrament. Rik Torfs, professor of canon law at the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium, said Rossi's only chance may be to say he did not consider his own behavior to be a sin at the time of the confession.

In an April letter to the Vatican, Pontikes claimed: "Neither Cardinal DiNardo nor anyone at the ADGH (archdiocese) asked me any questions regarding the physical part of our relationship or Father Rossi's role as my confessor, sometimes absolving me of the sin of adultery."

A Vatican spokesman told AP in May that an investigation is underway.

## Federer can't handle wind or Nadal in 3-set French Open loss

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

PARIS (AP) — It's rough enough for Roger Federer — well, let's be honest, anyone holding a tennis racket — to try to deal with Rafael Nadal's unflinching excellence on the French Open's red clay.

Mix in a wild wind, and Federer, so great for so long, against anyone else and anywhere else, morphed into merely good. And good, even Federer's brand of good, was not nearly enough Friday.

Nadal made quick work of Federer in their first meeting at Roland Garros since 2011, outperforming his rival 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 in air whipping at more than 20 mph (12 kph) to reach his record 12th final in Paris as he pursues his record 12th championship.

This was Federer's most lopsided Grand Slam defeat since he gathered a measly four games in a loss to — guess who? — Nadal in the 2008 French Open title match.

"He makes you feel uncomfortable the way he defends the court and plays on clay. There is nobody who even plays remotely close to him," said Federer, who hadn't entered the tournament since 2015. "I don't even know who I need to go search for, to go practice with somebody who plays like him. I was thinking that during the match."

Nadal has never lost a semifinal at the clay-court major. Never lost a final, either. When told of those facts, Nadal replied, matter-of-factly: "It's incredible, being honest."

He's also never lost to Federer at Roland Garros, improving to 6-0. Overall, Nadal leads their series 24-15. Federer had won their past five meetings, but those were all on hard courts.

It's a whole different task to take on Nadal on clay, in general, and at the French Open, in particular, where he is 92-2 for his career.

In Sunday's final, the No. 2-seeded Nadal will play No. 1 Novak Djokovic or No. 4 Dominic Thiem. Their semifinal, played second Friday, was suspended for the day in the third set because of rain in the evening. Thiem was leading 6-2, 3-6, 3-1 when play was halted. About 45 minutes later, officials announced the match would resume Saturday. That means whoever wins would be competing for a fourth day in a row in the final against a well-rested Nadal.

This was the first time since 2011 the four top-seeded men were in the Roland Garros semifinals.

In the women's final Saturday, No. 8 Ash Barty will face unseeded 19-year-old Marketa Vondrousova of the Czech Republic. It's the first time either has played for a major title.

Nadal, meanwhile, is bidding for his 18th. Among men, only Federer has more, with 20.

Like so many times before, it was Nadal's topspin-heavy lefty forehand, his relentless ball-chasing and his return game that gave Federer fits. Even frustrated the guy so much that the generally stoic Federer smacked a tennis ball toward the stands after getting broken to trail 2-1 in the third set.

It would soon be over.

"It's just amazing how he plays from deep and then is able to bounce back and forth from the baseline," Federer said. "I didn't play a poor two first sets, in my opinion. I thought Rafa really had to come up with the goods to make the difference, and the difference was a passing shot here, a pickup there."

Blithely put. The fact is, Nadal's passes and pickups — not to mention his reflexes — are not of this world. More than once, he slid to his right, beyond the doubles alley, to extend a point by retrieving the seem-

ingly irretrievable with a backhand, then followed it up by sprinting to his left for a jaw-droppingly precise forehand that flew out of Federer's reach and veered to land near a line.

And more than once, Nadal punctuated the point by pumping his fist and yelling, "Vamos!"

The wind was so unchecked that it knocked a tarp off its moorings behind a baseline. It tossed loose dirt from the court into both players' eyes, so much so that Federer joked it felt as if they were playing in a sandbox. There was also drizzle and temperatures of about 60 degrees (15 Celsius).

Enough to make one wish the retractable roof due to be installed before the 2020 French Open were already in place.

Even Nadal described the conditions as "so hard, so difficult to manage."

"It's just really complicated, you know," Federer said. "So you're trying to see how much can you do — or you cannot do. Are you playing flatter or with more spin? Are you keeping the ball in play? Are you going for stuff?"

With an aggressive, charge-to-the-net style, he had been broken a total of only four times by his first five opponents. But Federer was more hesitant against his nemesis, and Nadal won 6 of 13 return games.

The 37-year-old Federer was serenaded off the court by spectators' chants of his first name. He raised his right arm for a quick wave as he walked away — perhaps for the final time. He missed the tournament in 2016 with a bad back, then skipped the entire clay-court circuit the next two years to prepare for grass and hard courts.

"I surprised myself, maybe, how deep I got in this tournament and how well I actually was able to play throughout," Federer said. "And next year? Just like with any other tournament, I don't know. We'll see what happens."

For Nadal, this was the latest impeccable performance in a recent resurgence. He entered May without a title in 2019, his worst start to a season in 15 years.

But the 33-year-old Spaniard began finding his form at last month's Italian Open, beating Djokovic in that final.

In Paris, Nadal is up to his annual standards.

"He's been playing better and better every week," said Nadal's coach, Carlos Moya, the 1998 French Open champion. "He's been playing well in this moment, which is his main goal: Roland Garros."

One more victory to go for a dozen titles in Paris.

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More AP tennis coverage: <https://www.apnews.com/apf-Tennis> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Sports](https://twitter.com/AP_Sports)

## Michael B. Jordan presents Central Park 5 with courage award

**KATIE CAMPIONE Associated Press**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Michael B. Jordan told the men known as the Central Park Five Friday that he cannot watch footage of the new series "When They See Us" without getting emotional and feeling like as a young black man he too could have faced a similar ordeal.

"It's dangerous in America when you're living in a black body," Jordan said.

Jordan praised the men — Yusef Salaam, Antron McCray, Kevin Richardson, Raymond Santana, and Korey Wise — for their perseverance and courage during a luncheon in which the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California honored Netflix's series about their case.

"The whole time that these men were incarcerated, they never changed their story," he said. "They insisted of their innocence even as they did their time."

Salaam cried as he accepted an award on behalf of series creator Ava DuVernay.

"I'm not ashamed to cry in front of you," Salaam said after a moment of silence as he reflected on how he and the other men were "just boys" between the ages of 13 and 16 years old when they were wrongfully convicted.

"Our story is a story of an egregious miscarriage of justice," he added.

Jordan hugged Salaam, who also spoke on behalf of the five men.

"That's courage," said Jordan, whose performances have ranged from his acclaimed portrayal of a young black man killed by a police officer in "Fruitvale Station" to the vengeful Erik Killmonger in "Black Panther."

Salaam and the rest of the Central Park Five were exonerated in 2002 after being charged with the 1989 rape of a white woman in New York's Central Park. They received a standing ovation while accepting the ACLU chapter's inaugural Roger Baldwin Courage Award. Baldwin was one of the ACLU's founders and its first executive director.

"When They See Us" isn't Hollywood's first attempt to recount the story of the Central Park Five's wrongful conviction, but it has sparked a renewed interest in the details of the case.

Hector Villagra, executive director of the ACLU of Southern California, said DuVernay refocused the narrative on the humanity of the five men and it has shone a new light on a widely known case 30 years later.

The series has re-ignited outcry about how the case was handled. Linda Fairstein, the Manhattan sex crimes prosecutor who observed the teenagers' interrogation, has faced backlash for her role in their conviction. Fairstein has already resigned from at least two nonprofit boards as backlash intensified and a #CancelLindaFairstein movement spread on social media.

Shortly before the men accepted their award, Fairstein was dropped by her book publisher in the face of the increasing criticism. Villagra said that he thinks it's fair that Fairstein be judged for her actions, even decades later.

"It's in many ways justice delayed," Villagra said.

## Harris' husband takes on growing public role in 2020 race

By JUANA SUMMERS Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — Doug Emhoff was on the stage seconds after an activist rushed his wife, Kamala Harris, and snatched the microphone from her hands. Shortly after he helped remove the activist, Emhoff tweeted that he and Harris were "good" and that he would "do anything for her."

The incident quickly turned viral, bringing attention to someone who is often at Harris' side but rarely front and center.

He'll be back in the spotlight on Saturday, when he speaks at the Florida Democratic Party's Leadership Blue Gala in Orlando. The speech will be his first solo appearance since Harris launched her campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination in January.

Emhoff's increasingly public role is a reminder of the historic diversity of the Democratic field, which includes a half dozen women as well as an openly gay man. And coming three years after Hillary Clinton became the first woman to be a major party's presidential nominee, it shows how the role of political spouses is evolving and could produce America's first "first gentleman."

"I think we're rewriting the rules on presidential spouses," said Jess Morales Rocketto, a Democratic operative who worked for Clinton in 2016. "Historic candidates also mean we have spouses who can play a historic role."

Already, the spouses of other candidates seeking the presidency have taken on a variety of roles. The humor and candor of Chasten Buttigieg, the husband of South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg, has quickly made him a social media star. Jane Sanders, wife of Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, has been involved in her husband's political career for decades and continues to play a key role in his second presidential campaign.

This week alone, Jill Biden, the wife of former Vice President Joe Biden, was in South Carolina. Amy O'Rourke, wife of Beto O'Rourke, joined her husband in Iowa. And Chasten Buttigieg is speaking in Florida at the same event as Emhoff, as is John Delaney's wife, April McClain-Delaney.

"This is a new experience for Kamala and me, but our family is having so much fun crossing the country and meeting people from every walk of life," Emhoff, who is a lawyer at DLA Piper, told The Associated



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Press. "It's amazing to see so many people get to know the Kamala I love, and I can't wait for every American to get that chance when she's president."

For the first five months of Harris' campaign, Emhoff's presence has been constant, yet low-key. Although he still lives and practices law in Los Angeles, he is frequently by his wife's side on the campaign trail.

He was in Baltimore to visit campaign headquarters and greet staff for the first time on Thursday.

One aide, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss Emhoff's role in the campaign candidly, said Emhoff does not regularly participate in staff meetings or have a significant hand in discussing strategy. Instead, the aide said, Emhoff is supportive of his wife's campaign and willing to take on a more public campaign role when asked.

On Twitter, Emhoff often offers behind-the-scene glimpses into campaign life and his relationship with Harris.

There are photos of him with a "Kamala Harris For The People" T-shirt layered under a blazer, Harris on Mother's Day with his two children, and even a selfie with Chasten Buttigieg as their spouses participated in a night of back-to-back CNN town halls.

And though he has far fewer followers than Chasten Buttigieg, he has his own fans. Social media supporters of Harris often use the hashtag #KHive, a nod to Beyoncé's loyal fans, known as the BeyHive. Now, Harris' followers have bestowed Emhoff with his own: #Doughive.

Emhoff is a native of Brooklyn who attended California State University-Northridge and later the USC Gould School of Law. He launched his own law firm in 2000 before it was acquired by Venable in 2006.

Harris and Emhoff were set up by her close friend Chrisette Hudlin on a blind date in 2013, while Harris was serving as California's attorney general. In her memoir, "The Truths We Hold," Harris wrote about the challenges of dating in the public eye, acknowledging that "dating wasn't easy" and that "single women in politics are viewed differently than single men."

After meeting Emhoff, Harris said there was "no pretense or posing with Doug, no arrogance or boasting."

"He seemed so genuinely comfortable with himself. It's part of why I liked him immediately," she wrote.

The couple got engaged in 2014 and married at the courthouse in Santa Barbara, California, later that year. The ceremony was officiated by Harris' sister, Maya, who is now the chair of her presidential campaign.

Emhoff has two children from a previous marriage, Cole and Ella. In her memoir, Harris wrote about her friendship with his first wife, Kerstin, saying that "we sometimes joke that our modern family is almost a little too functional."

## Leonard, Raptors move within victory of first championship

By JANIE McCAULEY AP Sports Writer

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Kawhi Leonard's hot hand is sending the Raptors home to Toronto on the cusp of a startling upset for Canada.

Leonard outdueled the Splash Brothers for 36 points and 12 rebounds, and the Raptors moved within a victory of the franchise's first championship by winning a second straight game on Golden State's home floor, beating the Warriors 105-92 on Friday night for a 3-1 lead in the NBA Finals.

Not that the Raptors are ready to celebrate yet.

"We've won three games, it's the first to four," Kyle Lowry said. "We understand that they're the defending champs and they're not going to go out easy. They're going to come and fight and prepare to play the next game. That's how we're preparing ourselves. We've got to prepare ourselves to play the next game. We haven't done anything yet."

Klay Thompson made a strong return after missing Game 3 with a strained left hamstring and scored 28 points with six 3-pointers in what might have been the final game after 47 seasons at Oracle Arena before the team's move to new Chase Center in San Francisco next season. Stephen Curry added 27 points but shot just 9 for 22 and 2 of 9 from 3-point range on the heels of his postseason career-best 47-point outing in a 123-109 Game 3 defeat.

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Serge Ibaka scored 20 points on 9-of-12 shooting in 22 minutes off the bench for the composed and confident Raptors, who for a second straight game found an answer to every Warriors threat at raucous Oracle — where home fans were stunned and silenced when the final buzzer sounded.

A huge section of Toronto fans then broke into singing "O Canada!"

"It's awesome," Raptors coach Nick Nurse said. "Our fans travel really well in the regular season. We get this a lot on the road. It's really amazing. It's Canada's team, and Canadians from all over the country are traveling down and making plans when we play in Florida or California or Detroit especially."

The two-time defending champions' quest for a three-peat is suddenly in serious jeopardy.

Toronto will take its first try at the title in Game 5 on Monday night back at Scotiabank Arena. Golden State, still hopeful of injured star Kevin Durant's return, will try to force one more at Oracle next Thursday.

"It's not over. It's not a good feeling right now, obviously," Curry said. "We've been on both sides of it and for us it's an opportunity to flip this whole series on its head."

In 2017, Leonard's postseason with San Antonio got cut short against the Warriors in Game 1 of the Western Conference finals after he re-injured his troublesome left ankle when Zaza Pachulia's foot slid under his.

Dominant in his first postseason since, Leonard knocked down two jumpers in the final 42 seconds of the third to put the Raptors up 79-64. Fred VanVleet then dealt another dagger on the first possession of the fourth with a 30-footer.

A bloodied VanVleet then went to the locker room with 9:35 left after being hit in the face by Shaun Livingston's left elbow when the Warriors guard went up for a shot and VanVleet was just behind him. Replays showed a tooth in the middle of the key even after play resumed.

These poised Raptors kept level heads again after falling behind by 11 points in the first half. Pascal Siakam scored 19 for Toronto.

Two days earlier, Kyle Lowry was praised for staying calm when shoved on the sideline by Warriors minority owner Mark Stevens, who received a one-year ban by the team and NBA along with a \$500,000 fine for the incident.

Now, the Raptors as first-time finalists and in their 24th year of existence can bring Canada its first NBA championship.

The Warriors, the only team to blow a 3-1 lead in the NBA Finals, are confident they can overcome that deficit.

"I've been on the wrong side of 3-1 before. Why not make our own history?" Golden State's Draymond Green said.

Toronto outscored Golden State 37-21 in the decisive third, a complete reverse of the Warriors' dominance after halftime with an 18-0 run in the Game 2 victory.

Green delivered another impressive all-around performance with 10 points, 12 assists, nine rebounds, two blocks and a steal.

Warriors coach Steve Kerr challenged his team to do a better job defensively and Golden State did so early but couldn't handle Toronto's depth.

Kevon Looney, a key backup big man, scored 10 points for the Warriors after it was initially believed he would be out the remainder of the series because of fractured cartilage near his right collarbone. He was hurt in the first half of Game 2.

Looney drew huge applause as he checked into the game at the 6:45 mark of the first.

Danny Green, who hit six 3s in Game 3, began 0 for 6 with five missed 3s before finally connecting from deep midway through the fourth. His 48th 3-pointer in the finals tied him with Kobe Bryant and Derek Fisher for seventh place on the NBA list.

TIP-INS

Raptors: Toronto overcame being outrebounded 29-18 in the first half and a 42-38 deficit overall. ... The Raptors were 10 of 32 from deep after making 17 3s in Game 3, but converted 23 of 24 free throws Friday.

Warriors: The Warriors' streak this year of 19 straight postseason games scoring 100 points ended. It was 25 dating to last season's run. ... Golden State fell to 4-2 this postseason in games following a loss.

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... Livingston played in his 100th career playoff game with the Warriors, the fifth in team history to reach the mark. ... The Warriors held a closed pregame shootaround 2 1/2 hours before game time.

## ATTLES' PRESENCE

Hall of Famer Al Attles, the Warriors' former general manager, coach and player, attended Game 4 . It was the first game in approximately eight months for the 82-year-old Attles, who has had health issues.

## DURANT'S STATUS

Durant missed his ninth straight game since the injury May 8 in Game 5 of the Western Conference semifinals against the Rockets.

Kerr is done providing every detail and step of Durant's rehab progress.

"We're hoping he can play Game 5 or 6. And everything in between I've decided I'm not sharing because it's just gone haywire," Kerr said. "There's so much going on, and so it doesn't make sense to continue to talk about it. He's either going to play or he's not. So tonight he's not playing."

More AP NBA: <https://apnews.com/NBA> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Sports](https://twitter.com/AP_Sports)

## Shipping from Mexico rushed before tariff threat lifted

By **JULIE WATSON** and **CEDAR ATTANASIO** Associated Press

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP) — Before U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday abruptly suspended the threat of tariffs against Mexico, companies were rushing cars, appliances and construction materials across the border to beat Monday's deadline.

Mexican-made tiles were piled up on the pavement next to a warehouse in New Mexico. A furniture factory and a jalapeno exporter fretted about a huge financial hit next week. And hundreds of semi-trailers carrying medical devices, televisions and Toyota pickups idled in line Friday at the truck crossing in Tijuana.

On Friday night, Trump tweeted that the tariffs were indefinitely suspended and that Mexico had agreed to take "strong measures" to stem the tide of Central American migrants heading through Mexico to the U.S.

Even before the tariff threat, Tijuana shipped \$80 million worth of goods across the border every day.

But the tariff threat kicked the cross-border traffic into overdrive. Companies spent millions to hire freight carriers and secure warehouse space in the U.S. in a massive shift of inventory happening over a matter of days along the nearly 2,000-mile (3,200 kilometer) border.

"You see these supply chain-managers on a tear, just bringing stuff in as fast as they can," said Jerry Pacheco, president of the Border Industrial Association in Santa Teresa, New Mexico. "Almost every major supply-chain manager who is bringing stuff from Mexico is scrambling to get their stuff across the border as quickly as possible."

Trump had threatened to impose 5% tariff on all goods imported from Mexico starting Monday.

Many Republicans in Washington opposed the tariffs because they feared rattling the economy. It was unclear how companies would pay the duties.

Sandra Maldonado, who provides legal consulting services to manufacturing plants about trade rules, said one of her clients is a furniture maker who would lose \$1 million a day under the tariffs.

"There's so much uncertainty. Not even the secretary of the economy can tell us what the future holds," she said. "It's totally absurd."

Before the president announced its suspension, Maldonado wondered whether the tariff would have affected all goods and if that would violate Mexico's existing free trade agreement with the U.S.

Franz Felhaber, a customs broker fretting about chili exports, calculated that the tariffs would cost \$35,000 for the 100 trucks that cross each day at the height of jalapeno-export season, which starts in a few weeks. Exporters have to pay duties upfront — a practice that threatens their cash flow, even if they pass on the costs to consumers.

He calculated that if tariffs were ramped up to 25% by October, as Trump had threatened, 90% of his clients would have gone out of business.

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The tariffs were the topic of conversation at an import-export convention planned months ago called "Foreign Trade and New Opportunities" Friday south of Tijuana in the beach town of Rosarito, where presenters tried to calm nerves.

Speakers talked about looking at other export markets, but they also acknowledged the challenges in moving away from the U.S., Mexico's largest trading partner.

"We need to start looking to see how we fight to get back that 5% if it happens," said Luis Manuel Hernandez, head of Index Tijuana, an association of manufacturers in Baja California whose members include Toyota, Hyundai and other major corporations. "Maybe we become 5% more competitive."

Customs brokers have been flooded with calls from Mexican clients asking about what to do, said Myrna Aguilar, president of the San Diego Customs Brokers Association and a brokerage operations manager at Casa International, one of the largest brokerages on the border.

"Nobody runs their business on a day-to-day, minute-by-minute strategy so this has created a little bit of turmoil," Aguilar said.

She said the mood by some companies was somber, especially for businesses such as those in the medical device industry that have never had to pay duties.

"We're telling them ship as much as you can between now and Sunday, protect whatever you have already, move it fast," Aguilar said.

She had expected the influx of goods into the US from Mexico to climb through the weekend. Her company had already had to find 25% more warehouse space for clients.

Though companies have known about the jump in tariffs for more than a week, many had hoped that the deadline would be postponed or that the hike would not happen at all.

As of Friday night, it was a bet they had won.

Attanasio reported from El Paso, Texas.

## **Analysis: Trump an impolitic guest on trips abroad**

**By JONATHAN LEMIRE and KEVIN FREKING Associated Press**

SHANNON, Ireland (AP) — Halfway through a summer set of four international trips, President Donald Trump has proven himself to be an impolitic guest, soaking up pomp and pageantry while leaving behind hosts he scorched despite their best efforts to favor the president with flattery.

Trump on Friday wrapped up five days in Europe that, much like his stay in Japan two weeks earlier, showed how his "America First" foreign policy mixed with his "Me First" Twitter habit have made him an unpredictable partner for America's allies, who continue to grapple with how to manage the president and fortify economic and strategic ties with the United States.

Time after time, diplomatic niceties fell by the wayside as the president contradicted and undermined his hosts.

"Not only has Trump been ungracious on these trips, he is losing credibility with his behavior," said presidential historian Douglas Brinkley. "No world leader can trust President Trump because at any moment he may shatter the glass right in front of him; a single whim, or tweet, could upend a deal that had been months in the making. He leaves world leaders wiping their brows and wishing for him to leave."

The United Kingdom this week welcomed Trump for a grand state visit, an honor bestowed on only two previous presidents, hoping to strengthen ties and lay the groundwork for a new U.S.-U.K. trade deal as Britain moves toward exiting the European Union. But even as Trump praised the royal family (claiming "automatic chemistry" with Queen Elizabeth II), he meddled in the U.K.'s internal politics, played tough on trade and took a sharp jab at the American-born Duchess of Sussex, Meghan Markle.

At Trump's next stop, Ireland's leader had hoped for a grand welcome ceremony that would highlight ancestral ties with the U.S. He had to settle for a meeting with Trump in an airport lounge and a disagreement over the future of his nation's border with Northern Ireland.

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In France, where Trump attended a moving D-Day anniversary commemoration with other world leaders, President Emmanuel Macron stressed the importance of historic alliances while publicly papering over his disagreements with Trump over Iran. But with the gravestones of Normandy as a cringe-inducing backdrop, Trump sat for a Fox News interview in which he veered into a sharp dissection of domestic politics, harshly criticizing House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and special counsel Robert Mueller.

It was the same story last month, when Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe crafted a made-for-Trump itinerary in Tokyo that featured golf, American beef and Sumo wrestling. At a closing joint press conference, Abe stood by as the president publicly broke with Japan's plan for managing the missile threat posed by North Korea.

While these last two foreign trips were largely designed to honor Trump, the next two are built around international summits in Japan and France where he won't be the only object of attention. The Group of 20 summit in Osaka later this month will be particularly consequential: Trump will meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping in the midst of a trade war and he'll hold his first face-to-face encounter with Russia's Vladimir Putin since a Helsinki summit last summer where Trump rattled European capitals by publicly siding with Putin over his own intelligence agencies.

There were certainly moments of clear success for Trump this week in Europe.

The pageantry of the British state visit was impressive, complete with an opulent dinner at Buckingham Palace. Trump was gracious to the queen and stressed the "very special relationship" between the two nations. In a pair of ceremonies to mark the 75th anniversary of D-Day — one in Portsmouth, England, the other in Normandy — Trump hit the right notes as he praised the heroism of the American soldiers who fought on Omaha Beach.

The White House was thrilled with the trip. The potent images of a commander in chief on the world stage will serve as reminders of the powers of incumbency heading into a fierce re-election fight, Trump allies believe.

"With Democrats back home stalling his agenda with investigations, it's important for the president to lead where he has authority, and that's the international stage," said Jason Miller, who served as communications director for the president's 2016 campaign. "He is working on trade agreements, improving our stature when it comes to security on the global stage and helping our allies. The visuals this week are fantastic."

But while public events went smoothly, Trump still at times baffled his allies — and undercut his own triumphs — with incendiary statements both in public and on his phone.

Before Air Force One even touched down in London, Trump had attacked the city's mayor, accused Markle of being "nasty" and praised conservative leaders Boris Johnson and Nigel Farage as the United Kingdom prepares to replace Prime Minister Theresa May over her failure to secure a Brexit deal. Trump further rattled Britons by saying that "everything"— including the National Health Service — would be "on the table" in future trade negotiations. He later backed away from that idea.

And amid the pageantry of his state visit in London, Trump's mind was often elsewhere. In one memorable 1 a.m. Twitter burst, he went after both Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and, improbably, Bette Midler. While Miller played down the moment, saying "there is not a single American voter who hasn't already decided where they stand" on Trump's Twitter feed, the tweets detracted from the somber D-Day ceremony later in the day.

In Brinkley's view, "These trips should allow him to look like a true statesman but instead he steals the scene in his own crass way."

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Freking reported from London.

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## Trump says US, Mexico reach agreement to prevent tariffs

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

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump announced that he had suspended plans to impose tariffs on Mexico, tweeting that the country “has agreed to take strong measures” to stem the flow of Central American migrants into the United States. But the deal the two neighbors agreed to falls short of some of the dramatic overhauls the U.S. had pushed for.

A “U.S.-Mexico Joint Declaration” released by the State Department late Friday said the U.S. “will immediately expand the implementation” of a program that returns asylum-seekers who cross the southern border to Mexico while their claims are adjudicated. Mexico will “offer jobs, healthcare and education” to those people, the agreement stated.

Mexico has also agreed, it said, to take “unprecedented steps to increase enforcement to curb irregular migration,” including the deployment of the Mexican National Guard throughout the country, especially on its southern border with Guatemala. And Mexico is taking “decisive action to dismantle human smuggling and trafficking organizations as well as their illicit financial and transportation networks,” the State Department said.

The move puts to an end — for now — a threat that had sparked dire warnings from members of Trump’s own party, who warned the tariffs would damage the economy, drive up prices for consumers and imperil an updated North American trade pact. Trump’s Friday night tweet marked a sharp reversal from earlier in the day, when his spokeswoman Sarah Sanders told reporters: “Our position has not changed. The tariffs are going forward as of Monday.”

Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador tweeted, “Thanks to the support of all Mexicans, the imposition of tariffs on Mexican products exported to the USA has been avoided.” He called for a gathering to celebrate in Tijuana Saturday.

The changes, in part, continue steps the Trump administration was already taking. The U.S. announced in December that it would make some asylum seekers wait in Mexico while their cases were being processed — a begrudging agreement with Mexico that has taken months to scale and that has been plagued with glitches, including wrong court dates, travel problems and issues with lawyers reaching their clients.

Homeland Security officials have been ramping up slowly, and were already working to spread the program along the border before the latest blowup. About 10,000 people have been returned to Mexico to wait out the processing of their immigration cases since the program began Jan. 29. More than 100,000 migrants are currently crossing the U.S. border each month, but not everyone claims asylum and migrants can wait an entire year before making a claim.

Any sizable increase may also be difficult to achieve. At the San Ysidro crossing alone, Mexico had been prepared to accept up to 120 asylum seekers per week, but for the first six weeks only 40 people per week were returned.

Trump had announced the tariff plan last week, declaring in a tweet that, on June 10, the U.S. would “impose a 5% Tariff on all goods coming into our Country from Mexico, until such time as illegal migrants coming through Mexico, and into our Country, STOP.” U.S. officials had laid out steps Mexico could take to prevent the tariffs, but many had doubts that 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.

After returning from Europe Friday, though, Trump tweeted, “I am pleased to inform you that The United States of America has reached a signed agreement with Mexico.” He wrote that the “Tariffs scheduled to be implemented by the U.S. on Monday, against Mexico, are hereby indefinitely suspended.”

He said Mexico has agreed to work to “stem the tide of Migration through Mexico, and to our Southern Border” and said those steps would “greatly reduce, or eliminate, Illegal Immigration coming from Mexico and into the United States.”

The 5% tax on all Mexican goods, which would increase every month up to 25% under Trump’s plan, would have had enormous economic implications for both countries. Americans bought \$378 billion worth

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of Mexican imports last year, led by cars and auto parts. Many members of Trump's Republican Party and business allies had urged him to reconsider — or at least postpone actually implementing the tariffs as talks continue — citing the potential harm to American consumers and manufactures.

From the moment Trump announced the tariff threat, observers wondered whether he would pull the trigger, noting his habit of creating problems and then claiming credit when he rushes in to solve them.

In late March, Trump threatened to shut the entire U.S.-Mexico border if Mexico didn't immediately halt illegal immigration. Just a few days later, he backed off that threat, saying he was pleased with steps Mexico had taken. It was unclear, however, what — if anything — Mexico had changed.

U.S. and Mexican officials met for more than 10 hours Friday during a third day of talks at the U.S. State Department trying to hash out a deal that would satisfy Trump's demand that Mexico dramatically increase its efforts to crack down on migrants.

The talks had been focused, in part, on attempting to reach a compromise on changes that would make it harder for migrants who pass through Mexico from other countries to claim asylum in the U.S., those monitoring the situation said. Mexico has long opposed such a change but appeared open to considering a potential compromise that could include exceptions or waivers for different types of cases. The joint declaration, however makes no mention of the issue.

Leaving the State Department Friday night, Mexican Foreign Secretary Marcelo Ebrard said he thought the deal struck "a fair balance" because the U.S. "had more drastic proposals and measures at the start."

But Leticia Calderón Cheluis, a migration expert at the Mora Institute in Mexico City, said the agreement is essentially a series of compromises solely by Mexico, which she said committed to "a double clamp at both borders."

Trump in recent months has embraced tariffs as a political tool he can use to force countries to comply with his demands — in this case on his signature issue of immigration. Beyond Trump and several White House advisers, though, few in his administration had believed the tariffs were a good idea, according to officials familiar with internal deliberations. Those people had worried about the negative economic consequences for Americans and argued that tariffs — which would likely spark retaliatory taxes on U.S. exports — would also hurt the administration politically.

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

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., greeted Friday night's news with sarcasm. "This is an historic night!" he tweeted. "Now that that problem is solved, I'm sure we won't be hearing any more about it in the future."

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Associated Press writers Zeke Miller, Colleen Long, Paul Wiseman, Lisa Mascaro, Darlene Superville and Padmananda Rama in Washington and Jonathan Lemire in Shannon, Ireland contributed to this report.

## Buttigieg urges LGBTQ to turn differences into social change

By THOMAS BEAUMONT Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Democratic presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg told an audience in Iowa on Friday that coming out as gay has empowered him in a way he did not anticipate, and he called on others to harness their differences into social activism.

"I'm going to make the case that anyone who has ever felt like an 'other' has a kind of power. And among others, it's the power to relate," the South Bend, Indiana, mayor told about 300 LGBTQ activists and supporters at a banquet honoring Wyoming college student Matthew Shepard, who was beaten to death in 1998 for being gay.

"And we can see in our various identities the beginning of a new kind of solidarity," he added.

Buttigieg's quiet, Midwestern approach, combined with his array of experiences — from Rhodes scholar

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to Afghanistan veteran to married gay man — has begun capturing the interest of Democratic activists around the country, including in Iowa, where he has been campaigning more regularly.

Friday marked the beginning of a weekend of gay rights and pride activities in Iowa, where several Democratic candidates vying for support in the leadoff caucuses are scheduled to appear.

But Buttigieg had the stage to himself at an awards banquet for recipients of the Matthew Shepard scholarship.

Buttigieg noted in the time since Shepard's death, a generation of progress has enabled the 37-year-old mayor to win reelection after coming out as gay, marry and rise to the national stage as a presidential hopeful.

"It was a legal fact for most of us, including me, that at the beginning of this decade, you could be in a same-sex relationship or you could be married, but you could not be both," he said, noting Iowa's role as the first Midwestern state to legalize same-sex marriage in 2009.

Buttigieg went on to argue for the federal Equality Act, which would provide consistent, nondiscrimination protections for LGBTQ people regarding employment, housing, credit and education, for instance.

He argued against the Trump administration's ban on transgender troops serving in the military.

But he came back to the point that LGBTQ Americans, but also racial and ethnic minorities, had a special calling to step forward and act on behalf of one another, especially in an environment he characterized, without mentioning President Donald Trump, as increasingly hostile to such communities.

"Not that your experience of being an 'other' is the same as mine," he said. "But it gives us the basis to look out for each other."

## Free traders no more? GOP warms up to Trump's use of tariffs

By LISA MASCARO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Even with President Donald Trump backing off his threat to slap tariffs on goods from Mexico, his transformation of Republican Party trade policy is nearly complete.

Republican lawmakers usually don't like tariffs. They're viewed as a tax on consumers and unwanted government intervention in free trade. But many Republicans, unwilling to buck Trump, were prepared to follow the president's lead and support 5% tariffs on Mexico in his dispute over illegal immigration.

But after Trump returned Friday from Europe, he tweeted: "I am pleased to inform you that The United States of America has reached a signed agreement with Mexico. The Tariffs scheduled to be implemented by the U.S. on Monday, against Mexico, are hereby indefinitely suspended."

He said that Mexico has agreed to work to "stem the tide of Migration through Mexico, and to our Southern Border" and that those steps would "greatly reduce, or eliminate, Illegal Immigration coming from Mexico and into the United States."

The tariff threat may or may not have solved the border crisis. But as with Trump's tariffs on imports of steel and aluminum and goods from China, the threat alone sent ripple effects into a jittery economy.

"I'm a free trader, but I want equal access," said Georgia GOP Sen. David Perdue, a former Fortune 500 business executive and close ally of Trump.

"What we're talking about here is trying to change behavior," he said. "Here, we need the Mexican government to help us with this avalanche of people that's coming."

Said Florida GOP Sen. Rick Scott: "I don't like it, but I'm going to support the president. ... I want border security."

During negotiations this week in Washington, Mexican officials agreed to deploy 6,000 National Guard troops to the Mexican border with Guatemala to help control the flow of migrants. However, one of the main U.S. demands — that Mexico agree to becoming a "safe third country" for asylum seekers — remained a key topic during Friday's talks, those monitoring the situation said. Mexico resisted that demand, which would make it difficult for those who enter Mexico from other countries to claim asylum in the U.S.

"That is being looked at," Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said Friday during his daily



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news conference.

The debate catapulted Republican lawmakers into new terrain, using tariffs not only as economic policy for trading outcomes but also as a negotiating tool in an unrelated dispute over immigration policy. The tactic runs counter to long-held GOP views on trade — prioritizing free markets — and pushed Republicans, particularly those who will be running for reelection alongside Trump in 2020, to fall in line.

GOP Sen. Thom Tillis of North Carolina said he was prepared to support Trump if the issue came to a vote. But he also hoped any tariffs would be temporary — and wouldn't dramatically escalate.

"None of us would want to see a long-term tariff imposed," Tillis said. "I think it's fair to put it on the table. If it was a 50% tariff, we'd be having a different discussion."

Ever since President Ronald Reagan, there has been an "inexorable movement" within the GOP toward free trade, culminating in passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA, said Tim Phillips, president of Americans for Prosperity, a pro-free market group backed by the conservative Koch brothers.

But that's changing under Trump, and it's scrambling traditional alliances between Republican lawmakers and America's business community, putting both on uncertain footing. Trump wants to do away with NAFTA — the new U.S.-Mexico-Canada deal had been heading toward a vote in Congress but could be jeopardized by the tariff threat — and he has shelved the Obama-era proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership with more than a dozen nations.

"We've got a long road ahead of us to bring that orthodoxy back," Phillips said.

To be sure, plenty of Republicans are resisting Trump's transformation. Those from agricultural, manufacturing and border states were particularly opposed to the tariffs on Mexico. Kansas GOP Sen. Pat Roberts called tariffs "a really awkward thing. And tariffs are like shattered glass. You never know where it's going to end."

In some ways, Trump's approach is more in line with liberals, including potential 2020 rivals Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren, creating new political cross-currents in the debate.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, long the dominant business group in Washington, encouraged the White House and Republican lawmakers to steer away from the Mexico tariffs. The group is evaluating legal options to intervene if they are put in place.

"We do have a real crisis at the border," said Neil Bradley, the Chamber's chief policy officer. "But imposing a tax that's going to be paid for by businesses and consumers won't solve that problem — and if anything will make it worse."

With Friday's jobs numbers pointing to a slowing economy, Bradley said the administration needs to avoid missteps. "Imposing tariffs on everything we import from our No. 1 trading partner would definitely count as a misstep," he said.

At the same time, it's not at all clear the tariffs would check the rising number of migrants at the border, a crisis that has vexed the White House. The Department of Homeland Security said this week that U.S. apprehensions of migrants illegally crossing the border in May hit the highest level in more than a decade: 132,887.

Frank Sharry, executive director of the advocacy group America's Voice, said Trump is taking a "sledgehammer" to a complex migration and refugee problem, which stems from conditions in Central America and is fueled by smugglers capitalizing on the president's own threats to shut the U.S.-Mexican border.

"This is a regional refugee crisis caused by violence and drought in Central America that has been so thoroughly mismanaged by the failing and flailing Trump administration that they've created a humanitarian crisis at our border," he said. Trump, he said, is "quadrupling down on a failed strategy."

Warning Trump off the tariffs, some GOP senators had pledged to vote against them in a measure of disapproval that would send a stiff rebuke from his own party.

But Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell had not promised to bring a vote forward, and others monitoring the situation doubted he would.

GOP Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri said he understood the president's frustrations and was willing to consider options.

"You've got to fight the fight differently," he said. "It doesn't necessarily mean you're against free trade. It just means you've got to take the long view of what free trade looks like."

Associated Press writers Jill Colvin, Matthew Lee and Luis Alonso Lugo in Washington contributed to this report.

## 'I was wrong': Officer who shot 911 caller gets 12½ years

By STEVE KARNOWSKI Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A former Minneapolis police officer who shot and killed an unarmed woman who had called 911 said Friday he "knew in an instant that I was wrong" and apologized to her family, just moments before a judge brushed off a defense request for leniency and ordered him to prison for 12½ years.

The stiff sentence for Mohamed Noor capped a case that had been fraught by race from the start. Noor, a Somali American, shot Justine Ruszczuk Damond, a white, upper-middle-class dual citizen of the U.S. and Australia, when she approached his squad car in the alley behind her home in July 2017.

Noor, 33, testified at trial that a loud bang on the squad car startled him and his partner and that he fired to protect his partner's life. But prosecutors criticized Noor for shooting without seeing a weapon or Damond's hands, and in April, a jury convicted him of third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter.

Some people in Minneapolis' large Somali community and the larger black community argued the case was handled differently from police shootings across the country in which the victims were black and the officers were white. And Noor's conviction came after Jeronimo Yanez, a Latino officer, was cleared of manslaughter in the 2016 death of black motorist Philando Castile in a nearby suburb.

Ahmed Nur carried a sign at the courthouse that had the words "Black, Muslim, Immigrant and Guilty" with boxes checked next to each word. He said he doubted a white officer would have been treated the same in Noor's situation.

"There will be many cases after this where a white officer kills a black kid. It will happen," Nur said. "Then what are you gonna do? Because now we set a precedent saying if you kill someone, you will be prosecuted. You will go to jail. Are you going to do the same things for those cops?"

Friday's sentencing was marked by emotional statements from Noor, Damond's fiance and his son, and her family in Australia, who said they continue to struggle with the loss of a kind and generous person who had filled their lives with joy and laughter. Damond was a 40-year-old life coach who was due to be married a month after her death.

Noor, his voice breaking several times as he spoke publicly about the shooting for the first time, apologized repeatedly to Damond and her family for "taking the life of such a perfect person."

"I have lived with this and I'll continue to live with this," Noor said. "I caused this tragedy and it is my burden. I wish though that I could relieve that burden others feel from the loss that I caused. I cannot, and that is a troubling reality for me."

Noor said he was horrified to see Damond's body on the ground.

"The depth of my error has only increased from that moment on," he said. "Working to save her life and watching her slip away is a feeling I can't explain. I can say it leaves me sad, it leaves me numb, and a feeling of incredibly lonely. But none of that, none of those words, capture what it truly feels like."

Noor's attorneys had argued for a sentence as light as probation, but Judge Kathryn Quaintance swept that aside for a term identical to state sentencing guidelines.

"The act may have been based on a miscalculation, but it was an intentional act," Quaintance said. "Good people sometimes do bad things."

It's rare for police officers to be charged for on-duty shootings, let alone convicted. Philip Stinson, a criminal justice professor at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, who has tracked the arrests from on-duty police shootings from 2005-2019, said only three other officers have been convicted of murder in that period, with an average sentence almost identical to Noor's.

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Nineteen other officers convicted of manslaughter in that period had an average sentence of six years and two months, he said.

Noor is the only Minnesota officer to be convicted in an on-duty shooting in recent history.

Tom Plunkett, Noor's attorney, had asked Quaintance for a sentence as lenient as probation. He described Noor's desire to become a police officer in part to repay a debt he felt to the country that took him in long ago as a refugee.

"I have never stood up at sentencing with anyone my entire career that's done more or worked harder to be a good person, to earn the gifts he's been given," Plunkett said. "That's who Mohamed Noor is."

But prosecutor Amy Sweasy called for the recommended 12½ years. She noted that Damond had called 911 seeking help.

"And it was the defendant's responsibility when he encountered her in that alley to investigate and appreciate and discern that before he pulled the trigger," she said. "That was his responsibility, and his failure to do that is what resulted in the criminal act."

Justine's father, John Rusczyk, in a statement read in court, asked for the maximum sentence and called her killing "an obscene act by an agent of the state."

Don Damond, Justine Damond's fiance, said in court Friday that every time he sees the alley where she walked barefoot and in her pajamas toward the police car he relives the moment.

"In my mind I beg you to turn around," he said, speaking of a "lost future" of decades filled with "love, family, joy and laughter." He said Justine was his soul mate with "a Muppetlike way of being in the world."

Noor sat quietly at the defense table with hands clasped, eyes usually closed and showing no emotion as victim impact statements were read.

Noor was returned after his sentencing to the state's maximum security prison in Oak Park Heights, where he has been held since his conviction in a secure unit for his safety. Under Minnesota law, he would serve two-thirds of his sentence in prison, assuming good behavior, and the remaining third on supervised release.

His lawyers said they were disappointed in the sentence and hinted that they plan to appeal, which they have 90 days to do.

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Associated Press writers Amy Forliti, Doug Glass and Scott Bauer contributed to this story.

## Long-distance trip: NASA opening space station to visitors

By JEREMY REHM Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — You've heard about the International Space Station for years. Want to visit? NASA announced Friday that the orbiting outpost is now open for business to private citizens, with the first visit expected to be as early as next year.

There is a catch, though: You'll need to raise your own cash, and it won't be cheap.

A round-trip ticket likely will cost an estimated \$58 million. And accommodations will run about \$35,000 per night, for trips of up to 30 days long, said NASA's chief financial officer Jeff DeWit.

"But it won't come with any Hilton or Marriott points," DeWit said during a news conference at Nasdaq in New York City.

Travelers don't have to be U.S. citizens. People from other countries will also be eligible, as long as they fly on a U.S.-operated rocket.

Since the space shuttle program ended in 2011, NASA has flown astronauts to the space station aboard Russian rockets. The agency has contracted with SpaceX and Boeing to fly future crewed missions to the space station. Private citizens would have to make travel arrangements with those private companies to reach orbit.

"If a private astronaut is on station, they will have to pay us while they're there for the life support, the food, the water, things of that nature," DeWit added.

Depending on the market, the agency will allow up to two visitors per year, for now. And the private astronauts will have to meet the same medical standards, training and certification procedures as regular crew members.

The space station has welcomed tourists before by way of Russian rockets. In 2001, California businessman Dennis Tito became the first visitor by paying for a journey and several others have followed.

Friday's announcement marks the first time NASA is allowing private astronauts on board. The space agency will not be selling directly to customers. Instead it will charge private companies that ferry passengers, which can pass on the costs to visitors, NASA spokeswoman Stephanie Schierholz said in an email.

The program is part of NASA's efforts to open the station to private industries, which the agency hopes will inherit the orbiting platform someday.

Eventually, the space station will become too expensive for the government to maintain, said Bill Gerstenmaier, a NASA associate administrator. So the idea is to let the private sector start using the station now and perhaps eventually take it over, he said.

The NASA officials said some revenue from commercial activities will help the agency focus its resources on returning to the moon in 2024, a major goal of the Trump administration. The agency said this will also reduce the cost to U.S. taxpayers for this next lunar mission.

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The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

## University of Alabama rejects \$26M gift after abortion flap

By **BLAKE PATERSON** Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP) — The University of Alabama gave back a philanthropist's \$26.5 million donation and took his name off the law school Friday, a week after he called on students to boycott the institution over the state's new abortion ban.

Hugh F. Culverhouse Jr., a 70-year-old Florida real estate investor, said he has no doubt the board of trustees acted in response to his remarks, and he complained that the state of Alabama is only reinforcing its reputation as "the land of the backward," full of "hicks."

University officials emphatically denied the decision had anything to do with Culverhouse's stand on the abortion law and said it was prompted instead by his attempts to dictate how the money should be spent. They did not elaborate.

Culverhouse's pledge, announced in September, was the biggest contribution ever made to the university. In return, the law school was renamed the Hugh F. Culverhouse Jr. School of Law.

Within minutes of the trustees' vote, a maintenance crew had removed his name and the university had wired him a \$21.5 million refund of the money he had already given the university toward fulfilling his pledge.

Alabama's toughest-in-the-nation abortion ban, passed last month and set to take effect in November, would make terminating a pregnancy a crime punishable by 10 years to life in prison for the provider, with no exceptions for rape or incest.

Last week, Culverhouse urged students to boycott the university over the ban, saying: "I don't want anybody to go to that law school, especially women, until the state gets its act together.

Hours later, Alabama announced it was considering giving back his money — a move it said was under-way even before Culverhouse spoke out.

University Chancellor Finis E. St. John IV said Friday that Culverhouse's expectations for the use of the gift were "inconsistent with the essential values of academic integrity and independent administration" at Alabama.

St. John said that "for these reasons and for these reasons alone," he recommended returning Culverhouse's gift.

Culverhouse acknowledged telling the university that the law school should admit more students and

that his donation was intended to fund scholarships to achieve that. But he said he thought the matter had been resolved.

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

After the trustees' vote, the younger Culverhouse said that he and father had donated to the university over the years in part to rid Alabama of a certain stereotype: "We are the land of the backward, we are hicks, we lack the sophistication to see two sides to an argument."

"What have you done Alabama? You have effectively put a 12-gauge in your mouth and pulled the trigger," Culverhouse said. "You have reinforced that horrible stereotype that my father and I have tried so hard to eliminate."

Robert Kelchen, a professor of higher education at Seton Hall University in New Jersey, said it is unusual for a gift of this magnitude to be returned so quickly, adding that disputes of this sort typically develop over years.

Kelchen said the dust-up "could pressure more politically liberal donors to cut off support to the university."

## 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, 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.

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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.

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.

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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."

## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Saturday, June 8, the 159th day of 2019. There are 206 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 8, 1968, authorities announced the capture in London of James Earl Ray, the suspected assassin of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

On this date:

In A.D. 632, the prophet Muhammad died in Medina.

In 1845, Andrew Jackson, seventh president of the United States, died in Nashville, Tennessee.

In 1920, the Republican National Convention opened in Chicago; its delegates ended up nominating Warren G. Harding for president.

In 1939, Britain's King George VI and his consort, Queen Elizabeth, arrived in Washington, D.C., where they were received at the White House by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1948, the "Texaco Star Theater" made its debut on NBC-TV with Milton Berle guest-hosting the first program. (Berle was later named the show's permanent host.)

In 1966, a merger was announced between the National and American Football Leagues, to take effect in 1970.

In 1967, during the six-day Middle East war, 34 American servicemen were killed when Israel attacked the USS Liberty, a Navy intelligence-gathering ship in the Mediterranean Sea. (Israel later said the Liberty had been mistaken for an Egyptian vessel.)

In 1978, a jury in Clark County, Nevada, ruled the so-called "Mormon will," purportedly written by the late billionaire Howard Hughes, was a forgery.

In 1995, U.S. Marines rescued Capt. Scott O'Grady, whose F-16C fighter jet had been shot down by Bosnian Serbs on June 2. Mickey Mantle received a liver transplant at a Dallas hospital; however, the baseball great died two months later.

In 1998, the National Rifle Association elected actor Charlton Heston to be its president.

In 2003, frustrated and angry over delays, a coalition of the nation's mayors meeting in Denver asked federal officials to bypass state governments and give them the money they needed to beef up homeland security.

In 2017, former FBI Director James Comey, testifying before Congress, asserted that President Donald Trump fired him to interfere with his investigation of Russia's ties to the Trump campaign.

Ten years ago: North Korea's highest court sentenced American journalists Laura Ling and Euna Lee to 12 years' hard labor for trespassing and "hostile acts." (The women were pardoned in early August 2009 after a trip to Pyongyang by former President Bill Clinton.) Omar Bongo, 73, the world's longest-serving president who'd ruled Gabon for 42 years, died at a Spanish hospital.

Five years ago: Gunmen stormed an airport terminal in Karachi, Pakistan, in an attack that left at least 29 people dead, including the assailants (the Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility). A married couple shot and killed two Las Vegas police officers and an armed bystander who attempted to intervene; the couple

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then took their own lives. Pope Francis welcomed the Israeli and Palestinian presidents to the Vatican for a remarkable evening of peace prayers. Rafael Nadal won the French Open title for the ninth time, and the fifth time in a row, by beating Novak Djokovic 3-6, 7-5, 6-2, 6-4.

One year ago: President Donald Trump joined longtime U.S. allies at the Group of Seven summit in Canada after insisting that the other countries "have been taking advantage of the United States on trade;" Trump also said Russia should be brought back into the group. Special counsel Robert Mueller brought new obstruction charges against former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort and a longtime associate, Konstantin Kilimnik, who prosecutors said had ties to Russian intelligence. Celebrity chef, author and CNN host Anthony Bourdain was found dead in his hotel room in eastern France in what authorities determined was a suicide. Two months after they were criticized for arresting two black men waiting for a colleague at a Starbucks, Philadelphia police announced a new policy on how to confront people accused of trespassing on private property. The Golden State Warriors beat the Cleveland Cavaliers, 108-85, in Game 4 of the NBA finals to complete a sweep; it was their second straight title and third in four years.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-comedian Jerry Stiller is 92. Actress Millicent Martin is 85. Actor James Darren is 83. Singer Nancy Sinatra is 79. Singer Chuck Negron is 77. Musician Boz Scaggs is 75. Author Sara Paretsky is 72. Actress Sonia Braga is 69. Actress Kathy Baker is 69. Country musician Tony Rice is 68. Rock singer Bonnie Tyler is 68. Actor Griffin Dunne is 64. "Dilbert" creator Scott Adams is 62. Actor-director Keenen Ivory Wayans is 61. Singer Mick Hucknall (Simply Red) is 59. Musician Nick Rhodes (Duran Duran) is 57. Rhythm-and-blues singer Doris Pearson (Five Star) is 53. Actress Julianna Margulies is 52. Actor Dan Futterman is 52. Actor David Sutcliffe is 50. Actor Kent Faulcon is 49. Rhythm-and-blues singer Nicci Gilbert is 49. Actress Kelli Williams is 49. Former U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, D-Ariz., is 49. Actor Mark Feuerstein is 48. Contemporary Christian musician Mike Scheuchzer (MercyMe) is 44. Actor Eion Bailey is 43. Former tennis player Lindsay Davenport is 43. Rapper Kanye (KAHN'-yay) West is 42. TV personality-actress Maria Menounos is 41. Country singer-songwriter Sturgill Simpson is 41. Blues-rock musician Derek Trucks (The Derek Trucks Band) is 40. Rock singer Alex Band (The Calling) is 38. Folk-bluegrass singer-musician Sara Watkins (Nickel Creek) is 38. Former tennis player Kim Clijsters is 36. Actress Torrey DeVitto is 35. Tennis player Jelena Ostapenko is 22.

Thought for Today: "Don't talk about what you have done or what you are going to do." — President Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826).