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Chicken Soup
for the Soul.

WORDS ARE
not enough to express the
unconditional love
that exists between a
mother &
daughter.

-Caitlin
Houston

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.

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)
- 6:00 p.m.: T-Ball Practice at Soccer Field (both Softball at Webster (U10, U12 (DH)s both beginning at 6 p.m.)
- 7:00 p.m.: School Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 11

- 6:00 p.m.: Junior Legion hosts Aberdeen, (DH)
- 6:00 p.m.: U10 Pee Wees host Welke, (DH) (W,B)
- 6:00 p.m.: U8 Pee Wees host Jacobson, (DH) (R)
- Olive Grove Golf Course: Ladies League at 6 p.m.

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Amazing Medicine Reverses Aging

I bet I hear it once a week, "It's hell to grow old!" Of course, growing old is something we all will do, unless we die first. Alas, the future can look quite sad and depressing, especially if you think about the flab, falls, pain, blues, anxiety, thin bones, loss of libido, weakness, and memory loss that can come with aging.



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

But wait! Listen to the exciting news. Just out, there is a powerful potion that can prevent the aging process. That's right...guaranteed to slow aging.

Researchers have observed how shortly after starting this terrific tonic: flab turns to muscle; falls are reduced; chronic pain and fibromyalgia seem magically lessened; depression and anxiety disappears; bones are actually strengthen; sexual function is enhanced and recharged; people experience new strength, energy, and power; and most important memory is clearly improved. What's more, this special medication has also been shown to reduce diabetes, heart attack, stroke, and breast or colon cancer.

That's not all. If you take advantage of this fabulous offer today, it will improve your appearance within weeks. Sounds too good to be true. It is scientifically proven, beyond a shadow of a doubt. And no other treatment plan comes even close. Nothing!

You would expect the price for this magnificent medication that brings about all these benefits to be more than the sum of one third of your income, or at least many thousands if not millions of dollars. But no! This medicine is equally available to the rich and poor alike, requiring only an extra effort on your part.

You could expect to work lots of extra hours each day to achieve these wonderful benefits. But no! You don't have to work an extra two hours at the beginning or end of your workday, you don't have to work even one extra hour.

Starting today we have a special opportunity. For spending only a half hour every day walking twelve blocks, yes that's right, just twelve blocks, or whatever distance you can make in 30 minutes, you will receive most of the benefits I mentioned earlier. That's right, only a half hour!

But wait, this offer only lasts for a short time. The longer you delay, the less you will get. If you start today, the benefits begin sooner and last longer.

That's right...guaranteed to slow aging. Exercise is the bargain of a lifetime.

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

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PROFESSIONAL
MANAGEMENT
SERVICES

FEED GREATNESS®

Event



JUNE 11 - JUNE 12



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

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

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Today in Weather History

June 10, 1998: Torrential rains of two to three inches in a short period caused flash flooding on the Crow Creek, near Gann Valley. As a result, some dams and roads were washed out.

June 10, 2004: An F1 tornado damaged 3 barns and numerous other buildings on a farm located 22 miles west of Ft. Pierre. This tornado also downed power lines and broke windows out of a home. There were no injuries reported.

June 10, 2008: A strong low-level jet impinging on a frontal surface boundary extending across southern South Dakota brought many severe thunderstorms to central and northeast South Dakota. Large hail and high winds brought some tree damage, trees down, along with some structural damage. Eighty mph winds blew down a 46 by 100 foot Quonset with tin strewn over a quarter-mile. Several trees were also uprooted in Hosmer in Edmunds County. An EF1 tornado touched down briefly and downed a power pole, snapped off a road sign, and blew a metal shed 100 yards destroying it. The tornado also broke off several large tree branches. This tornado occurred eight miles east-northeast of Eden in Marshall County.

1752: It is believed that this was the day Benjamin Franklin narrowly missed electrocution while flying a kite during a thunderstorm to determine if lightning is related to electricity.

1997: Flash Flooding occurred in many locations in Mississippi. Highway 80 and many other streets were flooded in and around Vicksburg. Water engulfed one person's car, but the person was rescued. This event caused \$300,000 in property damages. Over 6 inches of rain fell in Lexington in a little over 3 hours. The torrential rains caused Bear Creek to overflow and flood much of the town of Lexington. 45 businesses were affected by the flooding and 30 of these suffered major losses. As many as 300 homes had water damage. This event caused 10 million dollars in property damages. Portions of Jones County experienced flash flooding as 3 inches of rain fell in just 1.5 hours over saturated ground.

1957 - A dust devil at North Yarmouth, ME, lifted a 600 to 1000 pound chicken shelter into the air and carried it 25 feet. It landed upright with only slight damage. It is unknown whether any eggs were scrambled. (The Weather Channel)

1958 - A woman was sucked through the window of her home in El Dorado, KS, by a powerful tornado, and was carried sixty feet away. Beside her was found a broken phonograph record entitled Stormy Weather . (The Weather Channel)






1987 - Thunderstorms produced 2 to 4 inch rains in southern Texas. Two and a half inches of rain at Juno TX caused flooding and closed a nearby highway. Flooding on the northwest side of San Antonio claimed one life as a boy was swept into a culvert. Thunderstorms in the north central U.S. produced an inch and a half of small hail at Monida Pass MT. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Three dozen cities, mostly in the eastern U.S., reported record low temperatures for the date, including Elkins, WV, with a reading of 33 degrees. Unseasonably hot weather continued in the Northern High Plains Region. The record high of 105 degeees at Williston, ND, was their seventh in eight days. (The National Weather Summary)


1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather through the day and night across much of the southern half of the Great Plains Region. Thunderstorms spawned 14 tornadoes, and there were 142 reports of large hail and damaging winds. Hail three inches in diameter caused three millions dollars damage at Carlsbad, NM. Hail four inches in diameter was reported at Estelline TX and Stinnett, TX. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 80 mph at Odessa TX. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)


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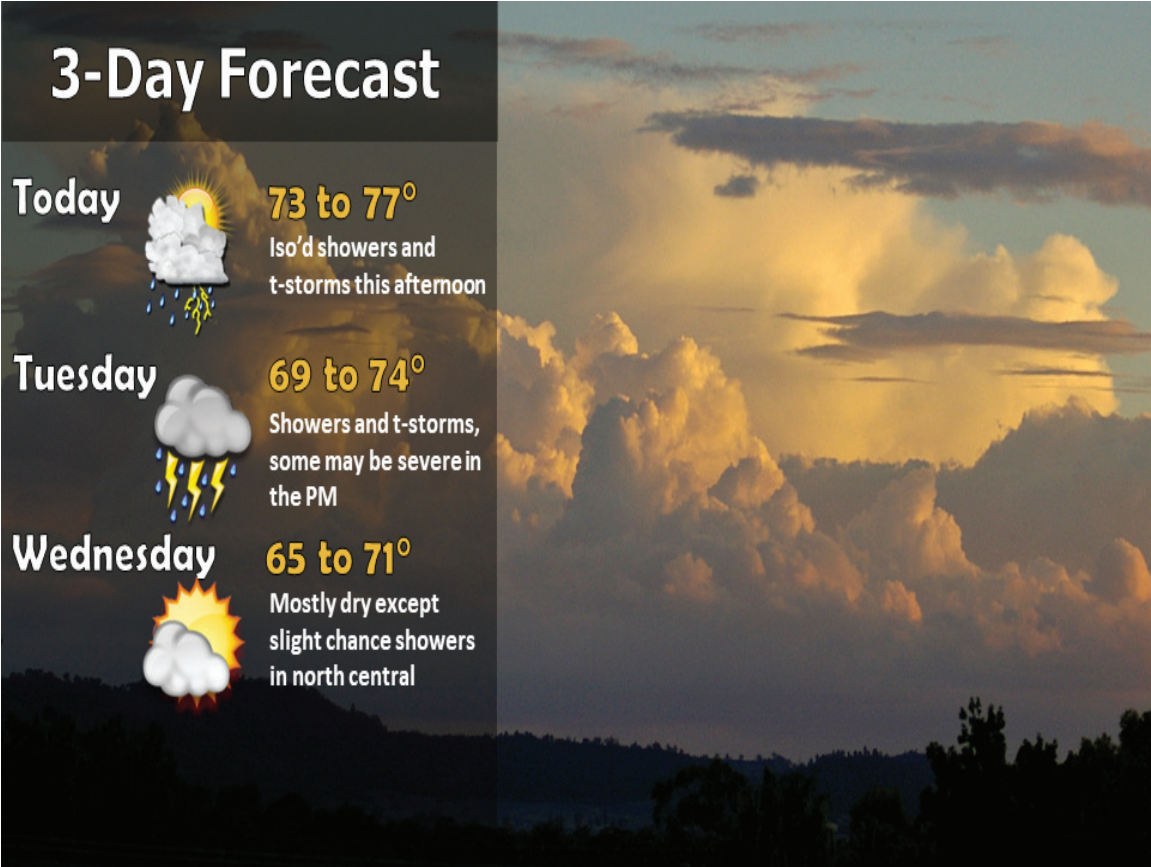
| Today | Tonight | Tuesday | Tuesday Night | Wednesday |
|---|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Sunny | Slight Chance T-storms then Mostly Cloudy | Chance T-storms | Chance T-storms | Sunny |
| High: 76 °F | Low: 53 °F | High: 72 °F | Low: 48 °F | High: 69 °F |

3-Day Forecast

Today  **73 to 77°**
Iso'd showers and t-storms this afternoon

Tuesday  **69 to 74°**
Showers and t-storms, some may be severe in the PM

Wednesday  **65 to 71°**
Mostly dry except slight chance showers in north central



Published on: 06/10/2019 at 6:10AM

Dry weather is expected through early afternoon with high pressure over the region. Popcorn showers and thunderstorms are possible this afternoon until the sun sets. Low pressure moves in tonight bringing more widespread showers and thunderstorms for Tuesday. Highs will only be in the 60s and 70s through Wednesday.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 70 °F at 4:53 PM

Low Temp: 52 °F at 6:53 AM

Wind: 29 mph at 12:29 PM

Day Rain: 0.05

Today's Info

Record High: 100° in 1956, 1933

Record Low: 37° in 1936, 1964

Average High: 76°F

Average Low: 52°F

Average Precip in June.: 1.05

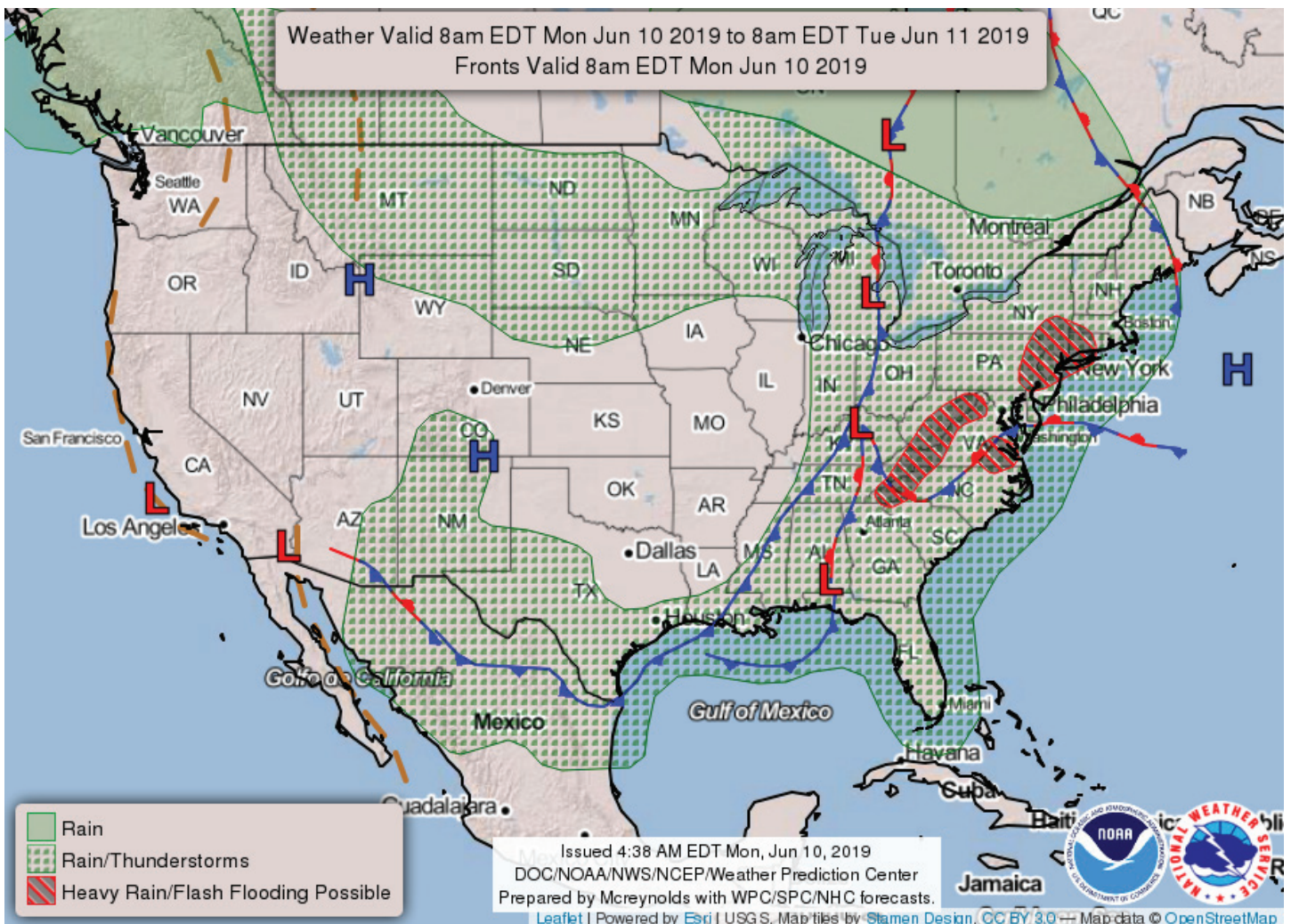
Precip to date in June.: 0.22

Average Precip to date: 8.19

Precip Year to Date: 8.19

Sunset Tonight: 9:21 p.m.

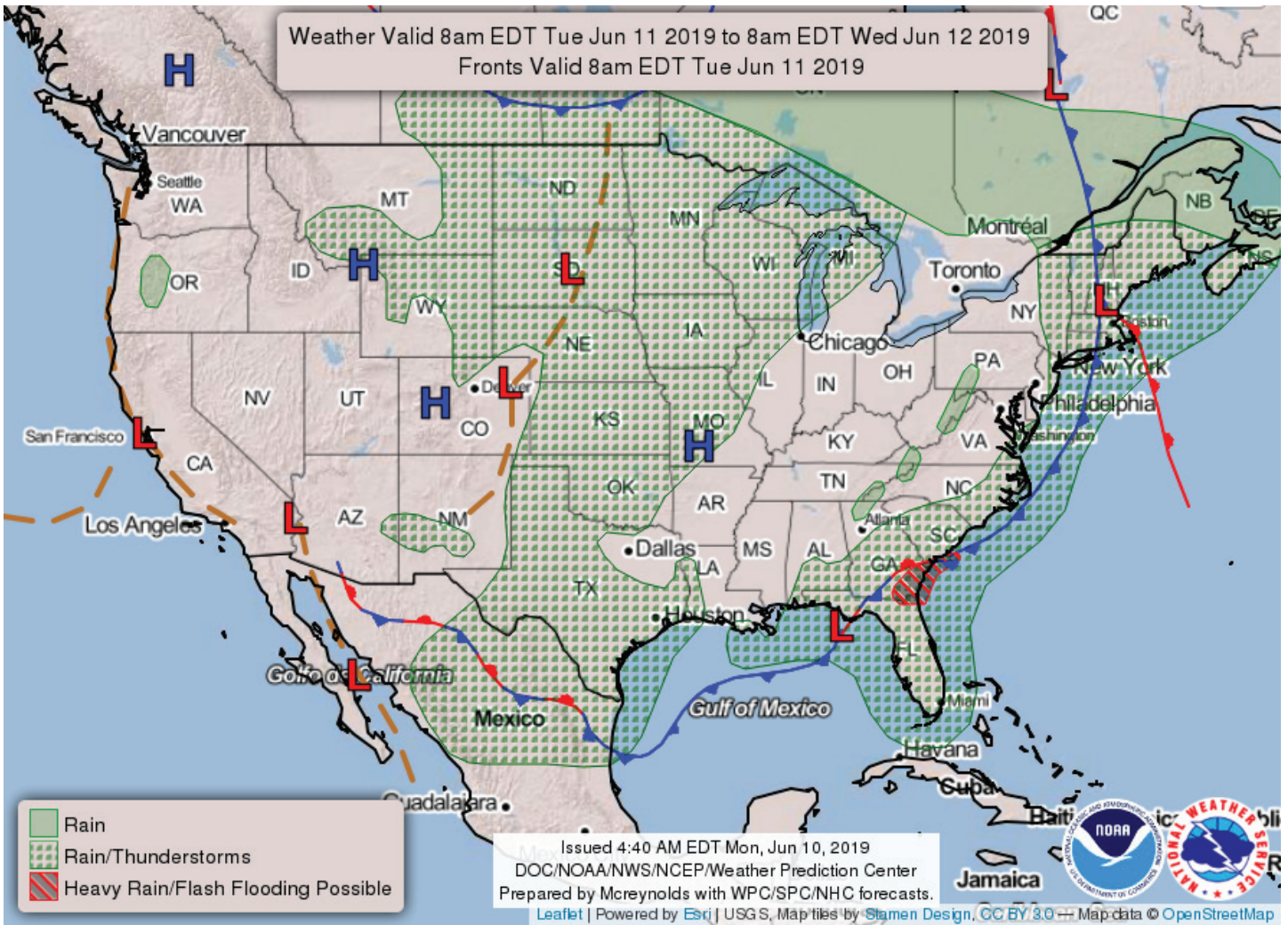
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:45 a.m.



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Tomorrow's Weather Map



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FOCUSING ON THE FUTURE

The way of the Lord is a phrase that appears quite frequently in the Bible - most often in the Old Testament. Each time it appears, it is to be viewed as a path that God has laid out for His followers, or a path that winds through history as God deals with an individual, a nation or all of mankind.

Solomon wrote that The way of the Lord is a refuge for the blameless, but is a ruin of those who do evil. It is important for us to understand that God is a refuge only for those whom he holds blameless - or those who walk in His way! With great trust, we accept Him and believe that only in Him, with Him, and through Him can we find a place of refuge, now and throughout eternity.

God deals with each of us individually and as nations united by a common government. So, those who walk in His righteousness will always find a place of refuge in His grace and mercy because of His love. Evil and evil ones may surround and govern us, but as long as we remain faithful to Him, He will remain faithful to us. We have His Word and His record of faithfulness that His peace, security, and comfort will always be our refuge.

The key to the promise of this verse is strictly an if/then. If we walk in the way of the Lord and have as our primary goal in life to be blameless or righteous, we can then be confident that He is and will be our refuge. We can count on Him at all times, under any condition for His peace and protection. However, if our ways are evil, we are then warned well in advance that His judgment awaits us.

Prayer: Father, Your Word is clear: we can only expect You to be our refuge if we are faithful. Give us strength! In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 10:29 The way of the Lord is a refuge for the blameless, but is a ruin of those who do evil.

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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

Sturgis graduate to pilot classroom for autistic students

By DEB HOLLAND Black Hills Pioneer

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — Makenzie Skovlund likes a challenge. The recent Black Hills State University graduate from Sturgis will spend a portion of her summer preparing for the first-of-its-kind classroom for students with autism in the Meade School District.

"Students with autism require a unique learning environment. They learn in different ways," Skovlund said to the Black Hills Pioneer. "I'm super excited. It will certainly be a challenge, but I'm looking forward to taking this on."

Chrissy Peterson, director of the Meade School District Special Services Department, said in the last couple of years, the number of children with autism in the district has tripled.

"They are the most unique wonderful people, but right now we have 34 identified, and not one of them is the same.

The only thing the same is their diagnosis," she said.

Autism, or autism spectrum disorder (ASD), refers to a broad range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech, and nonverbal communication. According to the Centers for Disease Control, autism affects an estimated 1 in 59 children in the United States today.

Some of the 34 children with autism in the district are mainstreamed into general education classes, and others are in special education resource classrooms.

"We have a handful that have been served by Black Hills Special Services because we have not been equipped to serve them properly," Peterson said. The new autism classroom, which will be located at Sturgis Elementary School, is a pilot program.

"We will start out with four beautiful kindergarten through second-grade boys. It will be based on a total visual environment," Peterson said. Skovlund has named her classroom STRIVE — Structured Teaching Reinforced In a Visual Environment.

For students with autism, the more the instructor talks, the more agitated they can become.

"Educators and moms love to talk, but for these students, the fewer words the better. We plan to use visual representations to help them get through their day," Peterson said.

Skovlund, whose mom is a special education teacher, did her student teaching with Amy Conover, a special education teacher at Sturgis Elementary School. "Working with Amy really sealed the deal that this was what I wanted to do," said Skovlund, a 2015 Sturgis Brown High School graduate.

Taking on the STRIVE classroom is Skovlund's way of advocating for students with autism.

"I want them to get the best education they deserve," she said. "My goal for them is to provide the tools they need to eventually become more a part of their general education classroom and be an active member with their peers." Students with autism thrive on routine and structure, Skovlund said. She hopes to provide that in her classroom.

"When you're in the classroom every day, you realize there is so much that impacts student learning," she said. "The biggest thing I realized is that it doesn't always matter what's in your lesson plan. If the child is having a bad day, they just need their teacher to be there for them, to give them a hug, and to encourage them."

South Dakota farmers' crops being damaged by dicamba drifts

By KELDA J.L. PHARRIS Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota farmer takes a snap of his crops and adds the temperature, wind conditions, date and other details into the text fields on his Snapchat app.

It's part of Austin Schuelke's record-keeping process. The Groton man fielded a phone call in mid-April while monitoring drainage pumps in his soggy fields. When it comes to crops, his mantra is document, document, document.

"I just take pictures with my phone, my Snapchat app, then type in the dates, what I saw for an observation. That's how I was using it," he told the Aberdeen American News.

The records helped when he noticed a patch of soybeans didn't look so good in mid-summer 2017. He had a hunch they'd been caught in a drift of dicamba, a herbicide that will destroy a crop that hasn't been modified to be resistant to the chemical.

"I gave those (records) to the state investigator, the liability insurance, then Monsanto came out, too. They have a regional or district rep," Schuelke said.

Using his own records and the Dicamba Damage Survey, he filed a claim. Farmers can find the damage survey on the South Dakota Department of Agriculture's website, sdda.sd.gov.

Dicamba damage claims jumped in 2017. The uptick was in line with the release of a new modulation of the herbicide. It takes out broadleaf weeds found in South Dakota croplands like kochia, waterhemp and Palmer amaranth and is applied over soybeans by a spray rig. Dicamba does the job as long as it's married with dicamba-resistant soybeans, the correct nozzles, the exact rate of application and the right weather conditions. Those are all required per label instructions.

One farmer's superhero crop — a good yield with nary a broadleaf weed — is another's kryptonite. Schuelke's soybeans weren't dicamba tolerant. He saw the leaves changing in his 240 acres of soybeans near Verdon in southeastern Brown County.

Their leaves had turned up and in, as if hands folded in prayer. That is called cupping. It can happen for a number of reasons, but is generally a telltale sign of herbicide poisoning, according to Schuelke.

Such crop losses are tough to take as the ag economy continues to struggle.

Samples confirmed dicamba poisoning. Schuelke filed a claim with the Department of Agriculture's Division of Agricultural Services. It's up to the division to follow up on claims of crop damage with adjacent farmers and applicators since it's the branch that facilitates applicator certifications for dicamba and other herbicides or pesticides.

In May 2018, Schuelke got a letter back from the Agricultural Services Division. Boiled down, it noted that Schuelke's crop had been damaged by off-label use of the herbicide dicamba.

The kick in the Carhartts was that no further action would be taken, according to the letter, and Schuelke's case had been closed. The letter is dated May 7, 2018, but he keeps it handy.

"It's sitting on my desk. Every time I think about it, it angers me," Schuelke said.

On April 17 of this year, he saw the letter and vented on his soapbox of choice, Twitter. His tweets drummed up a bit of dialogue with South Dakota Farmers Union President Doug Sombke, who also farms in Brown County.

The applicator's Farmers Union Insurance policy denied coverage of Schuelke's damaged soybeans. Liability only covers damage to one's own crops. The exchange is now a ghost of tweets past, long since deleted.

The men say they go way back, as several-generations farmers do in these parts. They attend the same church. Mostly it was a venting on Schuelke's part. The discourse stopped short before it embraced a full-on "dance with the media devil," as Schuelke taunted at the end of one tweet.

Sombke understands his frustration. Essentially, all the letter gives Schuelke is validation and documentation if he wants to follow up with a civil lawsuit — potentially adding to his loss in the form of attorney costs and court fees.

The state could have taken action. A few options are set out in state law.

"It could be anywhere from a monetary fine to a formal warning letter. In 25% of the cases we take

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some kind of action," said Tom Gere, assistant director for the Division of Agricultural Services.

But there is no requirement for Agricultural Services to take action against violators, said Maggie Stensaas, communication officer for the division.

"Our policy is to take action when a violation has been proven. At the minimum that action may be to issue a warning," she said in a series of questions submitted by the American News.

Gere didn't get into Schuelke's specific claim.

"What we focus on is the label and the pesticides that were used. 2017 was probably the peak (for claims). In 2018 we got half as many issues. When the products first came out, there were some unknowns," Gere said.

In 2017, new formulas of dicamba were introduced: Engenia from BASF Agriculture Global; FeXapan from DuPont; XtendiMax with VaporGrip from Monsanto — the latter being the one that dinged Schuelke's nonresistant beans.

"Prior to the 2017 season, the SDDA typically handled 50 drift cases or less annually. In 2017, the SDDA drift investigations increased dramatically," Stensaas said.

There were about 150 drift cases in 2017.

Dicamba is highly susceptible to vapor drift, and vapor drift occurs readily during what's called an inversion. When it happens, dicamba can evaporate from the ground back into the low layer of atmosphere and drift.

"It can occur two to three days after application. It's made worse in drought conditions," said Laura Edwards, state climatologist.

In many areas. 2017 was a dry year.

"Temperature inversions are very common during the typical spray season of May to July. Our South Dakota Mesonet data shows that as much as 20 to 25 days per month — 70 to 80% of the time — can have temperature inversions that develop in the evening and overnight hours until morning," Edwards said.

Mesonet, found online at climate.sdstate.edu, is a tool from the state Extension office that helps chemical applicators predict when there's more potential for an inversion that could cause vapor drift.

The website also helps farmers and others investigate claims by using historical data.

While drifting from a neighbor's field can cause crop damage, conversations between those same neighbors can help avoid it. Talking about what, when and where there will be spraying can stave off potential issues.

If multiple surrounding farms are using dicamba, it can sometimes be hard to tell where damage to intolerant crops came from and the Division of Agricultural Services might have to investigate.

If a claimant receives an open-and-closed letter like Schuelke's, he or she might have to consider filing multiple civil lawsuits to be compensated for losses.

Craig Schaunaman of rural Aberdeen has also seen his crops damaged by vapor drift.

"We had alfalfa that got drifted on. In the alfalfa, we weren't sure what was going on. We did testing. That was in 2017. In 2018 we did have some on beans drifted on. The beans that weren't drifted on, there was a six-bushel-an-acre difference. Our proven yield is about 44 bushels," he said.

Schaunaman filed a complaint with the state for the fields affected by drift. He included his own test results and the names of adjoining neighbors. The state ran its own test, confirming the drift, he said, but no further action has been taken to his knowledge.

Stensaas said the Department of Agriculture decides what action to take in response to violations on a case-by-case basis.

Sombke, Schuelke and Schaunaman agree there are some farmers who can't take the risk of a nontolerant crop getting hit with dicamba damage or any civil lawsuits in the event the state doesn't act.

"Unless you can prove it was too windy (or) something was not right according to label through collection of evidence with your case, you don't really have a case," Sombke said. "The only way to get that information is to sue to get it. I think that's wrong. We insure people to help them, not just to hang them out to dry. There needs to be something to address that from the state and also from the insurance side."

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"The biggest thing in South Dakota, we take a hands-off approach to the dicamba issue. That's where the problems lie. (The state) is failing to do that right now," he said

Sombke said he took a \$50,000 hit from a dicamba-damaged crop.

The potential risk can leave farmers with few options.

"I think the biggest thing is guys said, 'I'm going to plant (dicamba-tolerant soybeans) just so mine don't get damage.' So they knuckled under the pressure of the industry," Sombke said.

Even with best-laid plans, things can be difficult with dicamba, which works perfectly in perfect conditions, but can also cause problems.

Sombke said he's been through training, and it ultimately comes down to "human judgement, human error." Claims decreased with implemented dicamba-specific training in 2018 — the number dropped to 90 from the 2017 spike, Stensaas said.

Thousands of dollars have been lost, and most farmers will just have to absorb that hit at a time when market prices are low.

Some are looking at rotating in sunflowers, and others will play the risk of non-GMO crops. But Schuelke has a feeling that if enough farmers' claims aren't satisfied concerning damage caused by dicamba drift, there could be a bigger dispute in the future.

"I think there's an outside chance in the next few years," he said. "I think there could be a class action lawsuit some day."

Information from: Aberdeen American News, <http://www.aberdeennews.com>

Police: Man flees after shooting, wounding 3 in Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police are trying to identify the man who fled after shooting three people this weekend.

Officers responded to a report of gunshots early Saturday afternoon. Police say several people were involved in an altercation. The suspect took out a handgun and began firing, striking three male victims.

The suspect then left in a vehicle driven by a woman.

The victims are being treated at Sioux Falls area hospitals.

South Dakota couple raises yaks near Rapid City

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City-area farmstead has successfully raised animals that are more accustomed to the cold, high-altitude areas of Tibet and central Asia.

Julie and Jim Smoragiewicz are raising 10 yaks at their Pennington County business, Yak Ridge Cabins and Farmstead, the Rapid City Journal reported.

The couple found that yaks enjoy climbing the Black Hills, where they can cool down in creeks and under trees. The animals may get too hot in other areas of South Dakota.

They also turn yak milk into soap and eat their meat, which the couple described as "incredibly lean." Yak hides and fiber can be used as throws and rugs, and the long, soft hypoallergenic fiber is turned into yarn.

Julie Smoragiewicz said they "like to really use as much of the animal as possible."

Smoragiewicz became interested in the animals after leaving her job in higher education. She considered raising goats and sheep, but learned that they often need help giving birth and babies need to be bottle fed.

She viewed goats and sheep as "high maintenance." But she called yaks sustainable animals because they eat less food and create less waste than cattle.

The animals can also give birth alone, and defend themselves against predators. They're friendlier than bison and cattle, allowing the couple to hand feed them and pull their loose fibers. Some enjoy being petted, according to the couple.

"They have unique personalities, and they're all different," she said. "They've just really been a lot of fun to have."

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

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.

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

Hong Kong to push ahead with bill that sparked huge protest

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN and YANAN WANG Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong's leader signaled Monday that her government will push ahead with controversial amendments to extradition laws despite a massive protest against them that underscored fears about mainland China's broadening footprint in the semi-autonomous territory.

In what was likely Hong Kong's largest protest in more than a decade, hundreds of thousands of people shut down the heart of the skyscraper-studded city on Sunday, three days before the Legislative Council is slated to take up the bill.

The demonstrations refocused attention on the former British colony, whose residents have long bristled at what many see as efforts by Beijing to tighten control, and dominated newspaper front pages in a city that allows far more freedom of expression than other parts of China.

Chief Executive Carrie Lam told reporters the legislation is important and will help Hong Kong uphold justice and fulfill its international obligations. Safeguards added in May will ensure that the legislation protects human rights, she said.

Hong Kong was guaranteed the right to retain its own social, legal and political systems for 50 years under an agreement reached before its 1997 return to China from British rule. But China's ruling Communist Party has been seen as increasingly reneging on that agreement by pushing through unpopular legal changes.

The extradition law amendments would allow Hong Kong to send people to mainland China to face charges, spurring criticism that defendants in the Chinese judicial system won't have the same rights as

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they would in Hong Kong. Opponents contend the proposed legislation could make Hong Kong residents vulnerable to vague national security charges and unfair trials.

Lam said Sunday's protest shows Hong Kong's enduring commitment to its people's freedoms. She denied that she is taking orders from the central government in China's capital.

"I have not received any instruction or mandate from Beijing to do this bill," she said. "We were doing it — and we are still doing it — out of our clear conscience, and our commitment to Hong Kong."

People of all ages took part in the march. Some pushed strollers while others walked with canes, and chanted slogans in favor of greater transparency in government.

The protest that stretched past midnight into Monday was largely peaceful, though there were a few scuffles with police as demonstrators broke through barriers at government headquarters and briefly pushed their way into the lobby. Police in riot gear used batons and tear gas to push the protesters outside.

Three officers and one journalist were injured, according to Hong Kong media reports.

There was a heavy police presence on downtown streets deep into the night. Authorities said 19 people were arrested in connection with the clashes.

Hong Kong currently limits extraditions to jurisdictions with which it has existing agreements or to others on an individual basis under a law passed before 1997. China was excluded because of concerns over its poor record on legal independence and human rights.

In Beijing, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said China firmly backs the proposed amendments and opposes "the wrong words and deeds of any external forces" that interfere in Hong Kong's affairs.

"Certain countries have made some irresponsible remarks" about the legislation, Geng said, without elaborating.

Lam was elected in 2017 by a committee of mostly pro-Beijing Hong Kong elites. Critics have accused her of ignoring widespread opposition to the extradition law amendments.

She said Monday that the bill seeks to prevent Hong Kong from becoming a haven for fugitives and is not focused on mainland China. Western democracies have accused Hong Kong of failing to address issues such as money laundering and terrorist financing, Lam said.

Agnes Chow, a prominent Hong Kong activist who opposes the bill, said Lam "ignored the anger of more than a million Hong Kong citizens."

"Not only me, but I believe most Hong Kong people — have felt really angry with Carrie Lam's response to our rally," Chow told reporters in Tokyo, where she arrived Monday to appeal to Japanese media and politicians.

Wang reported from Beijing. AP video journalist Kaori Hitomi in Tokyo contributed to this report.

Amid criticism, Trump defends Mexico deal avoiding tariffs

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

STERLING, Va. (AP) — With his threatened Mexican tariffs now on the backburner, President Donald Trump was looking to claim victory even as some of his Democratic challengers for the White House criticized him for overselling a deal that mostly ramps up existing efforts.

Trump defended the agreement reached by U.S. and Mexican negotiators to head off the 5% tax on all Mexican goods that Trump had threatened to impose Monday as he tried to pressure the country to do more to stem the flow of Central American migrants across the U.S. southern border. But he also dangled the prospect Sunday of renewing his threat if the U.S. ally doesn't cooperate to his liking.

"There is now going to be great cooperation between Mexico & the USA, something that didn't exist for decades," Trump tweeted before spending a second day at his Virginia golf course.

"However," he added, "if for some unknown reason" that doesn't happen, "we can always go back to our previous, very profitable, position of Tariffs." Business leaders and many Republicans had urged Trump against the tariffs, warning they would drive up consumer prices, hinder the economy and compromise

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the ratification of an updated North American trade deal.

The tweets came amid questions about just how much of the deal — announced with great fanfare Friday — was really new. It included a commitment from Mexico, for instance, to deploy its new National Guard to the country's southern border with Guatemala. Mexico, however, had already intended to do that before Trump's latest threat and had made that clear to U.S. officials. Mexican officials have described their commitment as an accelerated deployment.

The U.S. also hailed Mexico's agreement to embrace the expansion of a program implemented earlier this year under which some asylum-seekers are returned to Mexico as they wait out their cases. But U.S. officials had already been working to expand the program, which has already led to the return of about 10,000 to Mexico, without Mexico's public embrace.

"The president has completely overblown what he reports to have achieved. These are agreements that Mexico had already made, in some cases months ago," said Democratic presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke, speaking on ABC's "This Week." "They might have accelerated the time table, but by and large the president achieved nothing except to jeopardize the most important trading relationship that the United States of America has."

Another 2020 candidate, Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, chastised Trump for using tariffs as a threat and operating a "trade policy based on tweets."

"I think what the world is tired of and what I am tired of is a president who consistently goes to war, verbal war with our allies, whether it is Mexico, whether it is Canada," he said.

But acting Homeland Security Secretary Kevin McAleenan, speaking on "Fox News Sunday" insisted "all of it is new," including the agreement to dispatch around 6,000 National Guard troops — a move Mexico has described as an "acceleration."

"This is the first time we've heard anything like this kind of number of law enforcement being deployed in Mexico to address migration, not just at the southern border but also on the transportation routes to the northern border and in coordinated patrols in key areas along our southwest border," he said, adding that "people can disagree with the tactics" but that "Mexico came to the table with real proposals" that will be effective, if implemented.

Trump echoed the same in his tweets, insisting the deal was being misrepresented and demanding more credit from the press.

"We have been trying to get some of these Border Actions for a long time, as have other administrations, but were not able to get them, or get them in full, until our signed agreement with Mexico," he wrote, claiming that if former President Barack Obama had made the deals he has, "the Corrupt Media would be hailing them as Incredible, & a National Holiday would be immediately declared."

He also teased the idea that more was agreed to than was announced Friday, saying that "some things" and "one in particular" that had been left out of the release but would be "announced at the appropriate time."

He could have been referring to discussion about Mexico becoming a "safe third country," which would make it harder for asylum-seekers who pass through the country to claim refuge in the U.S. The idea, which Mexico has long opposed, was discussed during negotiations. But Mexican Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard has said Mexico did not agree to it.

Mexico's ambassador in Washington nonetheless said her country is committed to working with the U.S. and that discussions will continue.

"We want to continue to work with the U.S. very closely on the different challenges that we have together. And one urgent one at this moment is immigration," said Martha Barcena. She told CBS' "Face the Nation" that the countries' "joint declaration of principles ... gives us the base for the road map that we have to follow in the incoming months on immigration and cooperation on asylum issues and development in Central America."

The U.S., she said, wants to see the number of migrants crossing the border return to levels seen in 2018. U.S. Border Patrol last week announced it had apprehended more than 132,000 people at the border

in May, including a record 84,542 adults and children traveling together, straining federal resources and leaving officials struggling to provide basic housing and health care.

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

Democrats push ahead with hearings on Mueller's Russia probe

By MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Top Democratic leaders may be in no rush to launch an impeachment inquiry, but the party is launching a series of hearings this week on special counsel Robert Mueller's report.

The slate of televised sessions on Mueller's report means a new, intensified focus on the Russia probe and puts it on an investigative "path" — in the words of anti-impeachment Speaker Nancy Pelosi — that some Democrats hope leads to impeachment of President Donald Trump.

In doing so, they are trying to aim a spotlight on allegations that Trump sought to obstruct a federal investigation as well as his campaign's contacts with Russia in the 2016 election.

And they will lay the groundwork for an appearance from Mueller himself, despite his stated desire to avoid testifying.

The House Judiciary Committee plans to cover the first topic at a Monday hearing on "presidential obstruction and other crimes." The House Intelligence Committee on Wednesday intends to review the counterintelligence implications of the Russian meddling. Mueller said there was not enough evidence to establish a conspiracy between the Trump campaign and Russia, but he said he could not exonerate Trump on obstruction.

On Tuesday, the House has scheduled a vote to authorize contempt cases against Attorney General William Barr and former White House counsel Donald McGahn for failing to comply with subpoenas from the Democratic-controlled House.

Barr defied a subpoena to provide an unredacted version of Mueller's report, along with underlying evidence. McGahn, who is frequently referenced in the report, has defied subpoenas to provide documents and testify before the House Judiciary Committee.

Language in the resolution would make it easier for committee chairmen to take the Trump administration to court. The chairmen could take legal action to enforce subpoenas in the future without a vote of the full House, so long as the chairmen have approval from a five-person, bipartisan group where Democrats have the majority.

With Trump pledging that "we're fighting all the subpoenas," Democratic leaders want to avoid repeated floor votes on contempt resolutions that detract from their legislative agenda.

The procession of hearings and votes in the week ahead is partly designed to mollify anxious Democrats who have pushed Pelosi, D-Calif., to begin impeachment proceedings immediately. Pelosi has rejected that option, preferring a slower, more methodical approach to investigating the president, including the court fights and hearings.

During a meeting with the House Judiciary Committee chairman, New York Rep. Jerrold Nadler, and other committee heads last week, Pelosi made the case that she would rather see Trump voted out of office and "in prison" than merely impeached, according to a report in Politico. A person familiar with the exchange confirmed the account to The Associated Press.

The latest approach appears to have temporarily satisfied the restless House Democrats.

Maryland Rep. Jamie Raskin, who pleaded with Pelosi last month to start an inquiry, said the votes and hearings are going to be enough, for now, as they wait to see what happens in court.

"I am very satisfied that things are moving in the right direction," Raskin said. "And I think the American people are getting increasingly educated and engaged about the lawlessness of the president."

Rep. David Cicilline, a Judiciary Committee member who favors an impeachment inquiry, took pains to avoid separating himself from top Democrats such as Pelosi.

"We should never proceed with impeachment for political reasons," Cicilline, D-R.I., said on "Fox News

Sunday.”

Educating the American public on what is in the Mueller report is a priority for Democrats, who believe Trump and his allies have created the public impression that the report said there was no obstruction of justice. Trump has made that assertion repeatedly, echoing Barr’s judgment that there was not enough evidence in the report to support a criminal obstruction charge. Mueller said in the report that he could not exonerate Trump on that point.

The special counsel did not find evidence to establish a criminal conspiracy between Trump’s campaign and Russia. But the report details multiple contacts between the two.

California Rep. Adam Schiff, chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, said the goal of the Wednesday hearing will be to explain to the American people “the serious counterintelligence concerns raised by the Mueller report, examine the depth and breadth of the unethical and unpatriotic conduct it describes, and produce prescriptive remedies to ensure that this never happens again.”

Republicans are poised to defend the president at the hearings and challenge Democrats on the decision not to open impeachment hearings.

Georgia Rep. Doug Collins, the top Republican on the House Judiciary Committee, sent Nadler a letter Friday calling the upcoming hearing a “mock impeachment hearing” and warning Democrats to be civil when speaking of the president.

Collins said in the letter that outside of impeachment proceedings, “it is out of order for a member of Congress, in debate, to engage in personalities with the president or express an opinion, even a third party opinion, accusing the president of a crime. The rules are clear on this point.”

Ex-Boston slugger David Ortiz shot at Dominican Republic bar

By MARTÍN JOSE ADAMES ALCÁNTARA Associated Press

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — Former Boston Red Sox slugger David Ortiz was hospitalized Monday following surgery for a gunshot wound after being ambushed by a man in a bar in his native Dominican Republic, authorities said.

Dominican National Police Director Ney Aldrin Bautista Almonte said Ortiz was at the Dial Bar and Lounge in Santo Domingo around 8:50 p.m. Sunday when a gunman approached from behind and shot him at close range. Ortiz was taken to the Abel Gonzalez clinic, where he underwent surgery, and his condition was stable, Bautista said.

Ortiz’s father, Leo, speaking to reporters outside the clinic, said his son was out of danger and there wasn’t any collateral damage, meaning no damage to major organs. He said he had no idea why someone would have shot at his son.

“He is out of surgery and stable; he is resting,” Leo Ortiz said. “Big Papi will be around for a long time.”

The Boston Red Sox, in a statement early Monday, said they have been notified by Ortiz’s family that he sustained a gunshot wound to his “lower back/abdominal region” and that he is recovering after surgery.

The Red Sox said they offered the Ortiz family “all available resources to aid in his recovery” and they will continue to keep them in their hearts.

The alleged gunman was captured and beaten by a crowd of people at the bar, Bautista said. He said police are waiting until the man undergoes treatment for his injuries before questioning him.

Investigators are trying to determine whether Ortiz was the intended target, Bautista said.

Two other people were wounded, Bautista said, including Jhoel López, a Dominican TV host who was with Ortiz. Bautista said police believe López was wounded by the same bullet.

López was shot in the leg and his injuries were not life-threatening, said his wife, Liza Blanco, who is also a TV host.

Police did not identify the third person or detail that person’s injuries.

The Dial Bar and Lounge is located in eastern Santo Domingo on Venezuela Avenue, a bustling nightlife district packed with dance clubs and pricey bars that Ortiz is known to frequent. Ortiz, who lives at least

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part of the year in the Dominican Republic, is often seen getting his cars washed and hanging out with friends, including other baseball players, artists and entertainers.

The 43-year-old Ortiz hit 541 homers in 20 major league seasons, including 14 with the Red Sox. He helped lead Boston to three World Series titles and retired after the 2016 season. He was a 10-time All-Star and World Series MVP in 2013.

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

Islamic State expands reach in Afghanistan, threatening West

By KATHY GANNON Associated Press

JALALABAD, Afghanistan (AP) — The Islamic State group has lost its caliphate in Syria and Iraq, but in the forbidding mountains of northeastern Afghanistan the group is expanding its footprint, recruiting new fighters and plotting attacks on the United States and other Western countries, according to U.S. and Afghan security officials.

Nearly two decades after the U.S.-led invasion, the extremist group is seen as an even greater threat than the Taliban because of its increasingly sophisticated military capabilities and its strategy of targeting civilians, both in Afghanistan and abroad. Concerns run so deep that many have come to see the Taliban, which has also clashed with IS, as a potential partner in containing it.

A U.S. intelligence official based in Afghanistan told The Associated Press that a recent wave of attacks in the capital, Kabul, is “practice runs” for even bigger attacks in Europe and the United States.

“This group is the most near-term threat to our homelands from Afghanistan,” the official said on condition of anonymity to preserve his operational security. “The IS core mandate is: You will conduct external attacks” in the U.S. and Europe. “That is their goal. It’s just a matter of time,” he said. “It is very scary.”

Bruce Hoffman, director of the Center for Security Studies at Georgetown University, sees Afghanistan as a possible new base for IS now that it has been driven from Iraq and Syria. “ISIS has invested a disproportionate amount of attention and resources in Afghanistan,” he said, pointing to “huge arms stockpiling” in the east.

A ‘PROVINCE’ OF THE CALIPHATE

The Islamic State affiliate appeared in Afghanistan shortly after the group’s core fighters swept across Syria and Iraq in the summer of 2014, carving out a self-styled caliphate, or Islamic empire, in around a third of both countries. The Afghanistan affiliate refers to itself as the Khorasan Province, a name applied to parts of Afghanistan, Iran and central Asia in the Middle Ages.

The IS affiliate initially numbered just a few dozen fighters, mainly Pakistani Taliban driven from their bases across the border and disgruntled Afghan Taliban attracted to IS’ more extreme ideology. While the Taliban have confined their struggle to Afghanistan, the IS militants pledged allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the reclusive leader of the group in the Middle East, and embraced his call for a worldwide jihad against non-Muslims. Within Afghanistan, IS launched large-scale attacks on minority Shiites, who it views as apostates deserving of death.

The group suffered some early stumbles as its leaders were picked off by U.S. airstrikes. But it received a major boost when the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan joined its ranks in 2015. Today it counts thousands of fighters, many from central Asia but also from Arab countries, Chechnya, India and Bangladesh, as well as ethnic Uighurs from China.

The group has long been based in the eastern Nangarhar province, a rugged region along the border with Pakistan, but has a strong presence in northern Afghanistan and of late has expanded into neighboring Kunar province, where it could prove even harder to dislodge. The mountainous province provided shelter for Osama bin Laden for nearly a year after the Taliban’s ouster, and U.S. forces struggled for years to capture and hold high-altitude outposts there, eventually all but surrendering the region to the Taliban.

The area comprising the provinces of Nangarhar, Nuristan, Kunar and Laghman was so dangerous that

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the U.S.-led coalition assigned an acronym to it in the years after the invasion, referring to it as N2KL. Militants launching shoulder-fired rockets from Kunar's peaks downed a U.S. Chinook helicopter in 2005, killing 16 Navy SEALs and special operations forces in one of the deadliest single attacks of the war.

Ajmal Omar, a member of the Nangarhar provincial council, says IS now has a presence in all four provinces.

"Right now in Kunar, the right side of the road is Taliban, the left side is Daesh and the government is in the middle," he said, referring to the group by its Arabic acronym. Speaking inside his heavily fortified home in the provincial capital, Jalalabad, he said neighboring Kunar would soon replace the Middle East as the IS group's center of gravity.

"When they began in Afghanistan they were maybe 150 Daesh, but today there are thousands and thousands," he said.

"The bad news is their acquisition of key terrain, height concealment, where they can have easy access to money, weapons, equipment . . . and from where they can plan, train, stage, facilitate and expedite attacks," said the U.S. intelligence official. "I think expansion of territory in eastern Afghanistan is their number one military objective," with the goal of eventually encircling Jalalabad, he said.

TURNING TO THE TALIBAN

It's been nearly 18 years since the U.S. invaded Afghanistan to topple the Taliban, which had harbored al-Qaida when bin Laden and his lieutenants were planning the Sept. 11 attacks. Now military and intelligence officials see the Taliban as a potential ally against a similar threat.

In recent months the Taliban have said they have no ambitions to monopolize power in a post-war Afghanistan, while IS is committed to overthrowing the Kabul government on its path to establishing a global caliphate. The Taliban and IS are sharply divided over ideology and tactics, with the Taliban largely confining their attacks to government targets and Afghan and international security forces. The Taliban and IS have fought each other on a number of occasions, and the Taliban are still the larger and more imposing force.

U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad has held several rounds of talks with the Taliban in recent months in a bid to end America's longest war. The two sides appear to be closing in on an agreement in which the U.S. would withdraw its forces in return for a pledge from the Taliban to keep the country from being used as a launch pad for global attacks.

"One of the hopes of a negotiated settlement is that it will bring the Taliban into the government and into the fight against IS," the U.S. intelligence official said. "They know the mountains, they know the terrain. It's their territory."

But a negotiated settlement could also prompt an exodus of more radical Taliban fighters to join IS. That process is already underway in parts of northern and eastern Afghanistan, where the Taliban have attacked IS only to lose territory and fighters to the rival extremist group.

Russia, which occupied Afghanistan in the 1980s before being driven out by U.S.-backed Islamic insurgents, has been sounding the alarm about IS for years, and had reached out to the Taliban even before the U.S. talks. During a visit to Kyrgyzstan last month, Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu described Afghanistan as a "launch pad" for IS after the group was pushed out of Syria and Iraq.

Russia, like the United States, sees a peace agreement between the Taliban and the Afghan government as the best way of countering the threat posed by IS, and Moscow has held two rounds of informal talks involving the Taliban, government representatives and other prominent Afghans.

But as peace efforts have stumbled in recent months, Russia has turned to more lethal means of containing the threat. Shoigu said Russia has sent heavy equipment, including helicopters and armored vehicles, to Kyrgyz forces, and has boosted combat readiness in its bases in the former Soviet republics of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

THREATENING THE WEST

Without an aggressive counterterrorism strategy, Afghanistan's IS affiliate will be able to carry out a large-

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scale attack in the U.S. or Europe within the next year, the U.S. intelligence official said, adding that IS fighters captured in Afghanistan have been found to be in contact with fellow militants in other countries.

Authorities have also already made at least eight arrests in the United States linked to the IS affiliate in Afghanistan.

Martin Azizi-Yarand, the 18-year-old Texan who plotted a 2018 attack on a suburban mall, said he was inspired by IS and was preparing to join the affiliate in Afghanistan. He was sentenced in April to 20 years in jail.

Rakhmat Akilov, the 39-year-old Uzbek who plowed his truck into pedestrians in Stockholm in 2017, also had links with the Afghanistan affiliate, the intelligence official said. "During interrogation he said 'this is my commander in Afghanistan and he is telling me what to do,'" he said.

Inside Afghanistan, the group is actively recruiting at universities, where it is more likely to find tech-savvy Afghans able to travel abroad, use social media and help plan sophisticated attacks, according to the intelligence official.

The group's brutal tactics have been on vivid display inside Afghanistan for years. Suicide bombings have killed hundreds of Shiite civilians in Kabul and elsewhere, and residents who have fled areas captured by the group describe a reign of terror not unlike that seen in Syria and Iraq.

Farmanullah Shirzad fled his village in Nangarhar in late April as IS fighters swept through the area.

"I was terrified to stay," he said. "When Daesh takes over a village, they kill the people, they don't care about the children and they come into the homes and they take the women."

Associated Press writers Amir Shah in Kabul, Afghanistan, and Nataliya Vasilyeva in Moscow contributed to this report.

AP Exclusive: 25 years after murders, OJ says 'Life is fine'

By LINDA DEUTSCH Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After 25 years living under the shadow of one of the nation's most notorious murder cases, O.J. Simpson says his life has entered a phase he calls the "no negative zone."

In a telephone interview, Simpson told The Associated Press he is healthy and happy living in Las Vegas. And neither he nor his children want to look back by talking about June 12, 1994 — when his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ronald Goldman, were killed and Simpson quickly was transformed in the public mind from revered Pro Football Hall of Fame hero to murder suspect.

"We don't need to go back and relive the worst day of our lives," Simpson said. "The subject of the moment is the subject I will never revisit again. My family and I have moved on to what we call the 'no negative zone.' We focus on the positives."

For a man who once lived for the spotlight, Simpson has been keeping a largely low profile since his release from prison in October 2017 after serving nine years for a robbery-kidnapping conviction in Las Vegas. He continues to believe his conviction and sentence for trying to steal back his own memorabilia were unfair but says, "I believe in the legal system and I honored it. I served my time."

After his release from the prison in Lovelock, Nevada, many expected him to return to Florida where he had lived for several years. But friends in Las Vegas persuaded him to stay there despite the case that landed him in prison.

He's glad he did.

"The town has been good to me," Simpson said. "Everybody I meet seems to be apologizing for what happened to me here."

His time in the city hasn't been without controversy, however. A month after his release an outing to a steakhouse and lounge at the Cosmopolitan resort off the Las Vegas Strip ended in a dispute. Simpson was ordered off the property and prohibited from returning.

No such problems have occurred since, and Simpson is among the most sought-after figures in town for selfies with those who encounter him at restaurants or athletic events he attends occasionally.

He plays golf almost every day and said he is a member of a club of "retired guys" who compete with each other on the golf course. The knees that helped him run to football glory at the University of Southern California and with the NFL's Buffalo Bills have been replaced and he recently had Lasik surgery on his eyes. But nearing his 72nd birthday, he is otherwise healthy.

Simpson said he remains close to his children and other relatives. His parole officer has given him permission to take short trips including to Florida where his two younger children, Justin and Sydney, have built careers in real estate.

His older daughter, Arnelle, lives with him much of the time but also commutes to Los Angeles.

"I've been to Florida two or three times to see the kids and my old buddies in Miami. I even managed to play a game of golf with them," he said. "But I live in a town I've learned to love. Life is fine."

He also visited relatives in Louisiana, he said, and spoke to a group of black judges and prosecutors in New Orleans.

Recently, a family wedding brought his extended family to Las Vegas including his brother, Truman; sister, Shirley; and their children and grandchildren. Simpson's first wife, Marguerite, mother of Arnelle, also joined the group.

The glamor of his early life is just a memory.

After his football career, Simpson became a commercial pitchman, actor and football commentator. He was once a multimillionaire but he says most of his fortune was spent defending himself after he was charged with the murders.

His televised "Trial of the Century" lasted nearly a year and became a national obsession. He was acquitted by a jury in 1995 and has continued to declare his innocence. The murder case is officially listed as unsolved.

The families of the victims subsequently filed a civil suit against him, and in 1997 a civil court awarded a \$33.5 million judgment against him for the wrongful deaths of his ex-wife and Goldman. Some of his property was seized and auctioned but most of the judgment has not been paid.

Simpson declined to discuss his finances other than to say he lives on pensions.

Linda Deutsch is a retired special correspondent for The Associated Press. She covered all of Simpson's legal cases during her 48-year career as a Los Angeles-based trial reporter.

Lovingly, a family raises an intersex child - again

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST Associated Press

OGDEN, Utah (AP) — When doctors said her youngest child would be a girl, Amie Schofield chose the name Victoria. Then they said the child would be a boy, so she switched to Victor.

It turned out neither was exactly right. The blue-eyed baby was intersex, with both male and female traits.

And so she and her husband decided to call the infant Victory. The name is a hope for triumph over the secrecy and shame, the pain and discrimination suffered by intersex people.

Amie Schofield knows those sufferings better than most: This was not her first intersex child.

Some two decades earlier, she gave birth to another child whose body did not align with common expectations of boys or girls. Schofield agreed to have that child undergo surgery that tipped the scales of gender to masculine. But the operation did not settle the issue of gender in the child's mind, or protect them from a savage beating decades later.

Now, with Victory, Schofield has been given an opportunity to try again. Her parents want Victory to be accepted for who she is; instead of changing Victory, they are intent on changing the world so it is more accepting of intersex people.

"What I hope is what every parent hopes for their kid," Schofield said. "We don't want her to look at herself and think there's something wrong just because she's different."

Amie first married when she was young, and had her first child more than 20 years ago. Instead of

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having one X chromosome and one Y chromosome, as men have, or two X chromosomes, as is typically female, the child had two X's and a Y.

Intersex people are not to be confused with transgender. Intersex is an umbrella term for a number of conditions where internal or external sex characteristics aren't exactly like typical male or female bodies. They are a larger group than is commonly acknowledged; estimates range from about 3 in every 200 births to 1 in 2,000.

"I'm convinced every single person on this planet has met someone who's intersex," said Georgiann Davis, a sociologist at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas who is intersex and is the board president of interACT: Advocates for Intersex Youth.

Some intersex conditions are known to run in families, though that's rare for XXY chromosomes, said Dr. Adrian Dobs, director of the Klinefelter Center at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Not everyone with the disorder is considered intersex.

Doctors have long performed surgery and administered hormones to intersex kids to make their bodies more like typical boys or girls, but there's a growing pushback. Five states have considered banning surgery until they're old enough to consent, citing serious potential side effects, but most bills have stalled amid pushback from doctors' groups who say the proposals go too far.

Amie took doctors' advice and raised her first baby as a boy, agreeing to surgery to bring down undescended testicles.

But the onset of puberty brought hips and breasts, something that didn't go unnoticed by other teenagers in the small Idaho town where mother and child lived at the time.

"It's not something I really thought about until they started making fun of me," said Amie's eldest, speaking on condition of anonymity because of fear of violence.

The teenager developed a kind of armor: binders and sports bras, then layers of shirts for bulk, followed by a jacket that never came off, all in a goth style to create a distraction. There were beatings, and the teen developed a strategy: Keep a straight face. Don't scream. Don't say anything. The startled bully might just back off.

Amie Schofield allowed her child to experiment with nail polish and dresses at home, but in the years after the fatal beating of gay man Matthew Shepard in nearby Wyoming, she was terrified to go public. She aches when she thinks about those years.

"I wish that we could have been open," she said. "I wish I had understood more so that maybe I could have made it easier."

The move to Utah put the teenager in touch with other LGBTQ people, and for the first time exploring femininity publicly seemed possible. Instead of a beating, wearing a dress might earn supportive shouts like "keep doing you!"

That all changed one night in 2014. As they (the pronoun preferred by this person) walked to a Salt Lake City bar wearing a favorite tie-dye dress, a man shouted, "Where you going mama? You're looking pretty good in that dress!"

Never having been hit on before, they turned to say thank you. But the man's face changed when he heard a deep voice that didn't match that female body. He blew up, spewing gay slurs, and charged, weighted pipe in hand.

He landed a number of powerful blows. Blood sprayed everywhere before he fled, leaving the young person for dead.

A large gash to the head was treated with staples at a hospital. Police investigated, but couldn't catch the assailant, according to officials.

Amie was in the hospital after giving birth to Victory when she heard about the attack on her eldest child. She felt angry, helpless — and determined to protect her baby. She didn't want her youngest child to live with the secrecy and fear that colored her first child's teenage years.

"I don't want her to live that kind of life," she said.

Like her half-sibling, Victory has XXY chromosomes. She also has a separate condition that means her

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body doesn't fully respond to male hormones. Her genitalia are ambiguous, but due to the Y chromosome doctors marked the birth certificate as male, and encouraged Victory's parents to raise the baby as a boy.

Amie and her husband took newborn Victory home. The family lives north of Salt Lake City on a plot of land ringed by mountains where they raise chickens, goats and pigs along with Victory and her two brothers.

They decided to raise the baby without pushing either gender. There would be no surgery. At 18 months, Victory began gravitating toward dresses and bows, and loudly insisting on wearing her hair long. Their then-pediatrician Nisha Baur said Victory's parents took things as they came during her earliest years. "They were very open to just accepting whatever was going to happen," she said.

Today, Victory is a vivacious 5-year-old with a toothy grin, blond hair and a quick mind. She's mostly deaf due to a separate genetic condition, but communicates clearly with signs, some words and sheer force of personality. She runs around the house at top speed, cradling a reluctant kitten, perching next to her great-grandmother to read a book or running for the bus in a sparkling silver backpack with butterfly wings.

Victory knows her body is different from those of her mother, father or brothers, but it doesn't seem to bother her, Amie Schofield said.

Her eldest child lives outside the state. They recovered physically from the attack, but for months afterward there was a constant sense of deep fear. They retreated into masculine clothing, affecting as deep a voice as possible, attempting to grow out what little facial hair they have.

Knowing Victory was born intersex brought a sense of comradeship but also fear for her. "I'm scared of how society will treat her," they said.

Victory's parents share that apprehension. There are so many hazards ahead.

Victory's father, Michael Schofield, formally left the Utah-based Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints shortly after she was born. The faith doesn't have an official position on intersex people, but is doctrinally opposed to same-sex marriage and intimacy.

"Will she marry a boy or a girl? Which one is right? Which one is wrong?" said Schofield, a federal worker. "I don't want to do that ... she's free to make her own choices."

Her parents would like to change the designation on her birth certificate from boy to girl, but Utah law requires a court order and some judges in their area won't approve the changes. Amie Schofield and Victory have gone to the capitol to speak out in favor of changing the law, so far unsuccessfully.

The deaf school she attends has single-user, non-gendered restrooms, but what happens if she changes schools? What will dating be like one day? Will she have trouble as she applies for jobs, or apartments, or schools? Could she also be targeted by violence? How will she feel about not being able to have children?

Her mother can only hope to teach her to handle these dilemmas herself. "It's not something I can save her from," Amie Schofield said.

But whatever comes, the family isn't going to hide.

"I hate the secrecy," she said. "She's just so smart, so full of life. She's just a normal girl."

Bruins force Stanley Cup Game 7 with 5-1 win over Blues

By JAY COHEN AP Sports Writer

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Facing elimination in an oh-so-hostile environment, Tuukka Rask and Brad Marchand stepped up for the Boston Bruins once again.

The Stanley Cup Final is heading to Game 7 because two of Boston's biggest stars love the biggest moments.

Rask made 28 saves, Marchand had a goal and an assist, and the Bruins beat the St. Louis Blues 5-1 on Sunday night to even the bruising, physical final at three games apiece.

David Pastrnak had one of Boston's four goals in the third period and an assist, helping the Bruins force the 17th Game 7 in Stanley Cup history. Brandon Carlo, Karson Kuhlman and Zdeno Chara also scored.

"We're fighting for our lives obviously," Marchand said. "When you play desperate, I think you see everyone's best game."

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Boston also was involved in the final's last Game 7, winning the championship at Vancouver in 2011. Rask was a reserve goaltender on that team eight years ago, while Marchand was a key performer. They will go for another championship Wednesday night in Boston after losing to Chicago in the 2013 final.

"The whole hockey world loves a Game 7, so it should be a great night in Boston and may the best team win," Bruins coach Bruce Cassidy said.

Ryan O'Reilly scored in the third period for St. Louis, which is looking for the franchise's first Stanley Cup title in its 51st season. Rookie Jordan Binnington finished with 27 stops.

"We have to move on, get ready for the next one," O'Reilly said. "We're confident. We're a great road team. Maybe that's our story. Maybe we have to get it done on the road."

Backed by an electric Enterprise Center crowd that included actors Jon Hamm and Jenna Fischer and Cardinals catcher Yadier Molina, wearing a No. 49 Blues jersey in honor of suspended forward Ivan Barbashev, St. Louis looked a step off for most of the game. Prime scoring opportunities were derailed by misplaced passes or ever-so-slight timing issues.

Of course, the unflappable Rask can have that effect on a team. And whenever the Blues threatened, the 6-foot-3 Finnish star was there.

"He's our best player," Bruins defenseman Charlie McAvoy said. "He just steps up when it matters and we have all the faith in the world in him. ... He's our rock."

Rask was at his best while Boston killed off four power plays, dropping St. Louis to 1 for 18 with the man advantage for the series. He smothered a big Colton Parayko slap shot with Chara in the box near the end of the first period, and made a fancy glove stop on an even-strength try for Brayden Schenn 7:42 in the second.

He got some help after Marchand was whistled for tripping Alex Pietrangelo midway through the second. With the Blues applying heavy pressure in search of the tying goal, Pietrangelo had a backhand go off the left post and Rask's back before McAvoy knocked the puck out of the way out of midair.

"We weathered the storm pretty good," Rask said.

While St. Louis came up empty on the power play, Boston used a 5-on-3 advantage to jump in front in the first. With Schenn and O'Reilly in the box, Marchand beat Binnington with a sharp-angled shot from the right circle at 8:40.

It was Marchand's first goal since he got an empty-netter in Boston's 4-2 victory in Game 1. The Bruins improved to 25-1 when the pesky veteran scores in the postseason.

"We knew that again the start was going to be key and that they were going to give us a push early and to manage that and play well and take care of details and obviously capitalize on our chances," Boston center Patrice Bergeron said.

Marchand and company then put it away in the third.

First, Jake DeBrusk won a board battle with Pietrangelo to set up Carlo's bouncing shot that went off Binnington's arm for the defenseman's second career playoff goal. Then Kuhlman, a rookie who was in the lineup in place of former Blues captain David Backes, made it 3-0 with a well-placed wrist shot at 10:15.

After O'Reilly supplied some hope for St. Louis when he was awarded a goal after a review by the officials, Marchand found Pastrnak in front and the winger put a slick move on Binnington to make it 4-1 on 14:06.

Chara, playing with a broken jaw, added an empty-netter with 2:19 left. The crowd chanted "Let's Go Blues!" in the final moments, hoping to give St. Louis a boost for its trip to Boston.

"Listen, if you told me four months ago we were going to be in the finals in Game 7, I think I'd take it," Blues coach Craig Berube said. "We've been a good road team. We've won twice up there in this series, so we're a confident group."

NOTES: Boston is hosting Game 7 in the Stanley Cup Final for the first time in franchise history. ... The Bruins improved to 13-3 when they score first in the playoffs. ... Barbashev was suspended for one game for an illegal check to the head of Boston forward Marcus Johansson during Game 5.

AP FACT CHECK: No sign of Trump-Mexico deal on farm goods

By HOPE YEN, JILL COLVIN and CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is bragging about a new deal with Mexico that provides for “large” sales of U.S. farm goods, but it doesn’t appear to exist.

In weekend tweets, he announced in all capital letters that he had won the agreement to benefit America’s “great patriot farmers,” and that U.S. sales would begin “immediately.” There isn’t any sign of that happening, however. Mexican officials denied that anything on agriculture was included in the deal on border security reached Friday to avert Trump’s threatened tariffs.

Trump also unfairly placed responsibility on Mexico for the entire U.S. drug problem, even though many of the known drug deaths have nothing to do with the country.

The statements came in a week where the apportioning of credit and blame often went awry in Trump’s remarks.

He hailed pristine air quality that isn’t, wrongly insisted that the U.S. was paying “close to 100%” of NATO and told Puerto Ricans they should love him because he got them hurricane aid that he’s actually been complaining about for months.

In the Democratic presidential campaign, meantime, Trump was accused of breaking a gun-control promise that in reality he kept.

A look at recent claims and reality:

MEXICO DEAL

TRUMP: “MEXICO HAS AGREED TO IMMEDIATELY BEGIN BUYING LARGE QUANTITIES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT FROM OUR GREAT PATRIOT FARMERS!” — tweet Saturday, retweeted Sunday.

THE FACTS: There’s no evidence that Mexico agreed to “large” purchases of agricultural products from the U.S. as part of the deal to avoid tariffs. Nor did the White House provide any details to show such a deal exists.

The joint declaration between the U.S. and Mexico released by the State Department late Friday makes no mention of agriculture. Officials from Mexico deny an agreement was reached on farm goods as part of the talks.

“Everything that was negotiated was in the joint statement,” said a Mexican official familiar with the discussions who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. When Mexico’s ambassador to the United States, Martha Barcena, was asked repeatedly Sunday on CBS’ “Face the Nation” whether there was a new agricultural deal, she demurred, saying such trade between both countries should increase over time.

She referenced instead the potential impact of the separate United States-Mexico-Canada trade deal, which has yet to be approved by Congress.

“Is trade on agricultural products going to grow? Yes, it is going to grow, and it is going to grow without tariffs and with USMCA ratification,” Barcena said.

According to the office of the United States Trade Representative, Mexico bought \$20 billion in U.S. agricultural goods last year, making it the United States’ second-largest ag export market.

TRUMP: “Look, I’m dealing with Mexico right now. They send in \$500 billion worth of drugs, they kill 100,000 people, they ruin a million families every year if you look at that. That’s really an invasion without the guns. ... 100,000 people are killed, dead every year, from what comes through our southern border. They shouldn’t be allowing people to come through their country from Central, from Honduras and Guatemala, El Salvador.” — Fox News interview Thursday.

THE FACTS: Trump is inflating the death toll from drug overdoses — more than 70,200 in 2017 — and wrongly blaming all the known deaths on Mexico. Tens of thousands of those deaths have nothing to do with Mexico or Central America. They are from legally made prescription opioids, fentanyl laboratories in China or other sources of international drug smuggling and illicit manufacturing in the U.S. More than

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17,000 of the deaths in 2017, for example, were from prescription opioids alone.

Mexico is indeed a significant conduit in the drug trade — it's a leading source of heroin, for example — but it is hardly the only one.

DISASTER AID

TRUMP, on signing a relief bill for multiple U.S. disasters: "Puerto Rico should love President Trump. Without me, they would have been shut out!" — tweet Thursday.

THE FACTS: That's not likely.

The \$19.1 billion disaster aid bill, passed by the House on Monday and signed into law by Trump on Thursday, ordinarily would have been approved by Congress months ago. But Trump injected himself into the debate, demanding that money for hurricane-rebuilding efforts that was sought by Puerto Rico's elected officials, Republicans and Democrats both, be kept out.

Trump frequently inflated the amount of aid that Puerto Rico had obtained in previous bills and feuded with the island's Democratic officials.

Congressional Democrats held firm in demanding that Puerto Rico, a territory whose 3 million people are U.S. citizens, be helped by the measure. The legislation ultimately included more money for Puerto Rico, about \$1.4 billion, than Democrats originally sought.

The relief measure delivers money to states in the South suffering from last fall's hurricanes, Midwestern states deluged with springtime floods and fire-ravaged rural California, among others.

NATO

TRUMP: "We were paying so much. I think we were really paying close to 100% of NATO. So we were paying to protect all of these European nations. And it's just not fair." — interview Thursday with Fox News.

THE FACTS: It's not true that the U.S. was paying "close to 100%" of the price of protecting Europe.

NATO does have a shared budget to which each member makes contributions based on the size of its economy. The United States, with the biggest economy, pays the biggest share, about 22%.

Four European members — Germany, France, Britain and Italy — combined pay nearly 44% of the total. The money, about \$3 billion, runs NATO's headquarters and covers certain other civilian and military costs.

Defending Europe involves far more than that fund. The primary cost of doing so would come from each member country's military budget, as the alliance operates under a mutual defense treaty.

The U.S. is the largest military spender but others in the alliance obviously have armed forces, too. The notion that almost all costs would fall to the U.S. is false.

In fact, NATO's Article 5, calling for allies to act if one is attacked, has only been invoked once, and it was on behalf of the U.S., after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

CLIMATE CHANGE

TRUMP, asked if he believes in climate change: "I believe that there's a change in weather, and I think it changes both ways." — interview with Piers Morgan that broadcast Tuesday.

THE FACTS: Trump is once again conflating weather and climate, suggesting that global warming can't be happening if it gets cold outside. But weather is like mood, which changes daily. Climate is like personality, which is long term.

The data show Trump also is wrong in that there is a clear one-way warming trend. Earth is considerably warmer than it was 30 years ago and especially 100 years ago.

So far in this decade, there have been 301,292 daily heat records set in the contiguous United States, compared with only 141,892 daily cold records set, according to retired Weather Channel meteorologist Guy Walton's analysis of government temperature records. That's more than two heat records broken for every cold record, a ratio that is the largest of any decade since these types of records started in the 1920s.

According to Walton's analysis, each decade since the 1970s has had a higher hot record-to-cold record ratio than the decade before it.

And that's just the extreme weather. When it comes to global average temperature, April was the 412th

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consecutive warmer month than the 20th century average, according to records kept by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The last five years — 2014 to 2018 — have been the five hottest years on record globally, according to those records. Nine of the 10 hottest years on record have been in the past 15 years with records going back to 1880.

The White House in November produced the National Climate Assessment by scientists from 13 Trump administration agencies and outside scientists. "Climate change is transforming where and how we live and presents growing challenges to human health and quality of life, the economy, and the natural systems that support us," the report said.

TRUMP: "We have the cleanest air in the world in the United States, and it's gotten better since I'm president. We have the cleanest water. It's crystal clean and I always say I want crystal clean water and air. ... We're setting records environmentally." — remarks Wednesday with Ireland's Prime Minister Leo Varadkar.

THE FACTS: The U.S. does not have the cleanest air, and it hasn't gotten better under the Trump administration.

U.S. drinking water is among the best by one leading measure.

Trump's own Environmental Protection Agency data show that in 2017, among 35 major U.S. cities, there were 729 cases of "unhealthy days for ozone and fine particle pollution." That's up 22% from 2014 and the worst year since 2012.

The Obama administration, in fact, set records for the fewest air polluted days, in 2016. In 2017, after Trump took office, the number of bad air days per metropolitan area went up 20%.

The State of Global Air 2019 report by the Health Effects Institute rated the U.S. as having the eighth cleanest air for particle pollution — which kills 85,000 Americans each year — behind Canada, Scandinavian countries and others.

The U.S. ranks poorly on smog pollution, which kills 24,000 Americans per year. On a scale from the cleanest to the dirtiest, the U.S. is at 123 out of 195 countries measured.

On water, Yale University's global Environmental Performance Index finds 10 countries tied for the cleanest drinking water, the U.S. among them. On environmental quality overall, the U.S. was 27th, behind a variety of European countries, Canada, Japan, Australia and more. Switzerland was No. 1.

GILLIBRAND ON GUN CONTROL

SEN. KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND, Democratic presidential candidate, on Trump: "Remember after the shooting in Las Vegas, he said, 'Yeah, yeah, we are going to ban the bump stocks'? Did he ban the bump stocks? No, because the NRA came crashing down and said, 'Don't you dare do any restrictions on our guns around this country.'" — Fox News town hall on June 2.

THE FACTS: Not true. Trump kept his promise.

A nationwide ban took effect in March on bump stocks, the attachment used by the gunman in the 2017 Las Vegas massacre to make his weapons fire rapidly like machine guns.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives outlawed the attachments at Trump's direction after the shootings killed more than 50 people in the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history. It is the only major gun restriction imposed by the federal government in the past few years.

The Trump administration's move was an about-face for the bureau. In 2010, under the Obama administration, it found that the devices were legal. But under the Trump administration, officials revisited that determination and found it incorrect.

After the Las Vegas shootings, the National Rifle Association initially said "devices designed to allow semi-automatic rifles to function like fully-automatic rifles should be subject to additional regulations." After the bureau's ruling banning the devices, however, the gun lobby called it "disappointing" and said it should have provided amnesty for gun owners who already have bump stocks.

The government estimates that more than 500,000 bump stocks were sold after they were made legal

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in 2010.

VETERANS

TRUMP, on the late Sen. John McCain: "I was not a fan. I didn't like what he did with health care. I didn't like how he handled the veterans. Because I got them Choice. He was always unable. He was on committees and could have done it." — interview Tuesday with Morgan.

THE FACTS: Not so. McCain did, in fact, get the Veterans Choice program passed in Congress.

Trump repeatedly claims falsely that he was the first president in decades to get such a private-sector health program passed. But what Trump actually got done was an expansion of the Choice program achieved by McCain and Sen. Bernie Sanders, the main lawmakers who advanced the legislation signed by President Barack Obama.

McCain, an Arizona Republican, co-sponsored the legislation following a 2014 scandal at the VA medical center in Phoenix, where some veterans died while waiting months for medical appointments.

Trump signed the law expanding the program in June 2018. It is named after three veterans who were lawmakers — McCain, Daniel K. Akaka and Samuel R. Johnson.

After helping to pass the program, McCain fought to expand it even more in his last months before dying of brain cancer in August.

The original Choice program allowed veterans to see doctors outside the Department of Veterans Affairs system if they must wait more than 30 days for an appointment or drive more than 40 miles (65 kilometers) to a VA facility. Under the expansion, which took effect Thursday, veterans are to have that option for a private doctor if their VA wait is only 20 days (28 for specialty care) or their drive is only 30 minutes.

Still, the VA says it does not expect a major increase in veterans seeking care outside the VA under Trump's expanded program, partly because wait times in the private sector are now typically longer than at VA.

LONDON PROTESTS

TRUMP: "I kept hearing that there would be 'massive' rallies against me in the UK, but it was quite the opposite. The big crowds, which the Corrupt Media hates to show, were those that gathered in support of the USA and me." — tweet Wednesday.

TRUMP: "I heard that there were protests. I said: 'Where are the protests? I don't see any protests.' I did see a small protest today when I came, very small, so a lot of it is fake news, I hate to say. ...And I didn't see the protesters until just a little while ago and it was a very, very small group of people." — news conference Tuesday with British Prime Minister Theresa May.

THE FACTS: The protests over Trump's visit were more than just "very, very small," and some were hard to miss.

Thousands of protesters crowded London's government district, chanting as he met May nearby. While police erected barricades to stop protesters from marching past the gates of Downing Street, they could be heard as Trump and May emerged from the prime minister's official residence to pose for photos before their news conference.

The protests included a giant Trump baby balloon and a robotic likeness of Trump sitting on a golden toilet, reciting familiar Trump phrases like "No collusion" and "You are fake news."

BREXIT

TRUMP, referring to how he stood at his Scottish golf resort, Turnberry, on the eve of the Brexit referendum and predicted the British would vote to leave the European Union: "I really predicted what was going to happen. Some of you remember that prediction. It was a strong prediction, made at a certain location, on a development we were opening the day before it happened." — news conference Tuesday.

THE FACTS: He often tells this false story.

Trump did not predict Brexit the day before the vote.

Three months before the vote, he did predict accurately that Britain would vote to leave the EU. The

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day after the 2016 vote — not the day before — he predicted from his Scottish resort that the EU would collapse because of Britain's withdrawal. That remains to be seen.

TRANSGENDER TROOPS

TRUMP, explaining his ban on transgender troops in the military: "In the military, you're not allowed to take any drugs ...People were going in and then asking for the operation, and the operation is \$200,000, \$250,000, and getting the operation, the recovery period is long, and they have to take large amounts of drugs after that ...You can't do that." — interview Tuesday with Morgan.

THE FACTS: Trump has offered no substantiation for the assertion that transgender military members represent tremendous medical costs and disruption. A Rand Corp. study found otherwise. Nor does the military bar troops from using prescription drugs.

Rand estimates that out of about 1.3 million active-duty military personnel, 2,450 are transgender. Only a subset would seek transition-related care, such as hormone therapy and sex-reassignment surgery. Based on private insurance data, the study estimates a minimal increase in costs from such care for the active-duty armed forces — no more than 0.13%, or \$8.4 million annually.

As for disruption, members representing less than 0.1% of the total force would seek transition-related care that could affect their deployments, the study says.

Associated Press writers Peter Orsi and Christopher Sherman in Mexico City, Seth Borenstein, Andrew Taylor, Matthew Perrone and Darlene Superville in Washington, Lisa Marie Pane in Boise, Idaho, Nicky Forster in New York, and Jill Lawless and Kevin Freking in London contributed to this report.

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'Homework gap' shows millions of students lack home internet

By MICHAEL MELIA, JEFF AMY and LARRY FENN Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — With no computer or internet at home, Raegan Byrd's homework assignments present a nightly challenge: How much can she get done using just her smartphone?

On the tiny screen, she switches between web pages for research projects, losing track of tabs whenever friends send messages. She uses her thumbs to tap out school papers, but when glitches keep her from submitting assignments electronically, she writes them out by hand.

"At least I have something, instead of nothing, to explain the situation," said Raegan, a high school senior in Hartford.

She is among nearly 3 million students around the country who face struggles keeping up with their studies because they must make do without home internet. In classrooms, access to laptops and the internet is nearly universal. But at home, the cost of internet service and gaps in its availability create obstacles in urban areas and rural communities alike.

In what has become known as the homework gap, an estimated 17% of U.S. students do not have access to computers at home and 18% do not have home access to broadband internet, according to an Associated Press analysis of census data.

Until a couple of years ago, Raegan's school gave every student a laptop equipped with an internet hot spot. But that grant program lapsed. In the area surrounding the school in the city's north end, less than half of households have home access.

School districts, local governments and others have tried to help. Districts installed wireless internet on buses and loaned out hot spots. Many communities compiled lists of wi-fi-enabled restaurants and other businesses where children are welcome to linger and do schoolwork. Others repurposed unused television frequencies to provide connectivity, a strategy that the Hartford Public Library plans to try next year in the north end.

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Some students study in the parking lots of schools, libraries or restaurants — wherever they can find a signal.

The consequences can be dire for children in these situations, because students with home internet consistently score higher in reading, math and science. And the homework gap in many ways mirrors broader educational barriers for poor and minority students.

Students without internet at home are more likely to be students of color, from low-income families or in households with lower parental education levels. Janice Flemming-Butler, who has researched barriers to internet access in Hartford's largely black north end, said the disadvantage for minority students is an injustice on the same level as "when black people didn't have books."

Raegan, who is black, is grateful for her iPhone, and the data plan paid for by her grandfather. The honors student at Hartford's Journalism and Media Academy tries to make as much progress as possible while at school.

"On a computer — click, click — it's so much easier," she said.

Classmate Madison Elbert has access to her mother's computer at home, but she was without home internet this spring, which added to deadline stress for a research project.

"I really have to do everything on my phone because I have my data and that's it," she said.

Administrators say they try to make the school a welcoming place, with efforts including an after-school dinner program, in part to encourage them to use the technology at the building. Some teachers offer class time for students to work on projects that require an internet connection.

English teacher Susan Johnston said she also tries to stick with educational programs that offer smart-phone apps. Going back to paper and chalkboards is not an option, she said.

"I have kids all the time who are like, 'Miss, can you just give me a paper copy of this?' And I'm like, 'Well, no, because I really need you to get familiar with technology because it's not going away,'" she said.

A third of households with school-age children that do not have home internet cite the expense as the main reason, according to federal Education Department statistics gathered in 2017 and released in May. The survey found the number of households without internet has been declining overall but was still at 14 percent for metropolitan areas and 18 percent in nonmetropolitan areas.

A commissioner at the Federal Communications Commission, Jessica Rosenworcel, called the homework gap "the cruelest part of the digital divide."

In rural northern Mississippi, reliable home internet is not available for some at any price.

On many afternoons, Sharon Stidham corrals her four boys into the school library at East Webster High School, where her husband is assistant principal, so they can use the internet for schoolwork. A cellphone tower is visible through the trees from their home on a hilltop near Maben, but the internet signal does not reach their house, even after they built a special antenna on top of a nearby family cabin.

A third of the 294 households in Maben have no computer and close to half have no internet.

Her 10-year-old son, Miles, who was recently diagnosed with dyslexia, plays an educational computer game that his parents hope will help improve his reading and math skills. His brother, 12-year-old Cooper, says teachers sometimes tell students to watch a YouTube video to help figure out a math problem, but that's not an option at his house.

On the outskirts of Starkville, home to Mississippi State University, Jennifer Hartness said her children often have to drive into town for a reliable internet connection. Her daughter Abigail Shaw, who does a blend of high school and college work on the campus of a community college, said most assignments have to be completed using online software, and that she relies on downloading class presentations to study.

"We spend a lot of time at the coffee shops, and we went to McDonald's parking lot before then," Abigail said.

At home, the family uses a satellite dish that costs \$170 a month. It allows a certain amount of high-speed data each month and then slows to a crawl. Hartness said it's particularly unreliable for uploading data. Abigail said she has lost work when satellites or phones have frozen.

Raegan says she has learned to take responsibility for her own education.

"What school does a good job with," she said, "is making students realize that when you go out into the

world, you have to do things for yourself.”

Amy reported from Maben, Mississippi, and AP data journalist Larry Fenn reported from New York.

‘Hadestown’ captures 8 Tony Awards, including best musical **By MARK KENNEDY AP Entertainment Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — “Hadestown,” the brooding musical about the underworld, had a heavenly night at the Tony Awards, winning eight trophies Sunday, including best new musical and handing a rare win for a female director of a musical.

Playwright Jez Butterworth’s “The Ferryman” was crowned best play. In the four lead actor and actress categories, Bryan Cranston won his second acting Tony, but theater veterans Elaine May, Santino Fontana and Stephanie J. Block each won for the first time.

The crowd at Radio City Music Hall erupted when Ali Stroker made history as the first actor in a wheelchair to win a Tony. Stroker, paralyzed from the chest down due to a car crash when she was 2, won for featured actresses in a musical for her work in a dark revival of “Oklahoma!”

“This award is for every kid who is watching tonight who has a disability, who has a limitation or a challenge, who has been waiting to see themselves represented in this arena,” she said. “You are.”

Rachel Chavkin, the only woman to helm a new Broadway musical this season, won the Tony for best director of a musical for “Hadestown.” She became only the tenth woman to win as director of either a play or a musical on Broadway and told the crowd she was sorry to be such a rarity.

“There are so many women who are ready to go. There are so many people of color who are ready to go.” A lack of strides in embracing diversity on Broadway, she said, “is not a pipeline issue” but a lack of imagination.

Cranston seemed to tap into the vibe when he won the Tony for best leading man in a play award for his work as newscaster Howard Beale in a stage adaptation of “Network.”

“Finally, a straight old white man gets a break!” he joked. The star, who wore a blue ribbon on his suit to support reproductive rights, also dedicated his award to journalists who are in the line of fire. “The media is not the enemy of the people,” he said. “Demagoguery is the enemy of the people.”

The respect for women’s work also got a boost when Butterworth, who earlier asked the crowd to give his partner, actress Laura Donnelly, a round of applause for giving birth to their two children while working on the ensemble drama, handed his best play trophy to Donnelly. A Donnelly family story inspired him to write the play.

Fontana won his first Tony as the cross-dressing lead in “Tootsie.” Fontana, perhaps best known for his singing role as Hans in “Frozen,” won in an adaptation of the 1982 Dustin Hoffman film about a struggling actor who impersonated a woman in order to improve his chances of getting a job. It was the only win for “Tootsie.”

Another first-time winner was Block, who earned her Tony Award for playing a legend — Cher. Block, who has had roles on “Homeland” and “Orange Is the New Black,” is one of three actresses to play the title character in the musical “The Cher Show.” She thanked “the goddess Cher for her life and legacy.”

Other winners included the legendary May, who took home her first ever Tony for best leading actress, playing the Alzheimer’s-afflicted grandmother in Kenneth Lonergan’s comic drama “The Waverly Gallery.”

Andre DeShields captured featured actor in a musical for “Hadestown,” his first Tony at the age of 73. In his speech, he gave “three cardinal rules of my sustainability and longevity.

“One, surround yourself with people whose eyes light up when they see you coming. Two, slowly is the fastest way to get to where you want to be, and three, the top of one mountain is the bottom of the next, so keep climbing.”

Corden, in his second stint as Tony host, was at his fanboy best, whether anxiously hiding in a bathroom with previous hosts Josh Groban and Sara Bareillies or trying to provoke a Nicki Minaj-Cardi B-style beef between usually overly polite and supportive Broadway figures (Laura Linney and Audra McDonald finally

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obliged). He also asked celebrities to sing karaoke during the commercials.

He kicked off the show with a massive, nine-minute opening number that served as a full-throated endorsement of the live experience, with Corden beginning it seated alone on a couch in front of a TV, overwhelmed by his binge options, before taking flight with dozens of glitzy dancers from this season's shows, all filling the Radio City stage with an unprecedented volume.

The first acting award went to Celia Keenan-Bolger, who won for best featured actress in a play for her role as Scout in "To Kill a Mockingbird." She noted that her parents read her the book when she was a child in Detroit and her grandparents had a burning cross put on their lawn because they helped African Americans.

Bertie Carvel won best featured actor in a play for "Ink." He said he wished he could be with his mother, hospitalized in London: "I love you, mum."

Oscar-winning director and producer Sam Mendes won his first directing Tony Award for guiding "The Ferryman" and the play earned Rob Howell two Tonys — for best play set designs and costumes. Robert Horn won for best book of a musical for "Tootsie."

"Hadestown" other wins were for scenic design, sound design, lighting design and orchestrations. It also went on to earn singer-songwriter Anais Mitchell a Tony for best score.

Legendary designer Bob Mackie won the Tony for best costume designs for a musical for "The Cher Show," getting laughs for saying "This is very encouraging for an 80-year-old."

The dark retelling of "Oklahoma!" beat the lush and playful revival of the rival Golden Age musical "Kiss Me, Kate" to the Tony for best musical revival. "The Boys in the Band" was crowned best play revival.

Sergio Trujillo won the best choreography prize for "Ain't Too Proud — The Life and Times of the Temp-tations," saying in his speech that he arrived in New York decades ago without legal permission. "I'm here to tell you the American dream is alive," he said. It was the only win for the musical, which had 12 nominations, second only to "Hadestown."

The awards cap a season that showed Broadway is in good shape. The shows this season reported a record \$1.8 billion in sales, up 7.8 percent from last season. Attendance was 14.8 million — up 7.1 percent — and has risen steadily for decades.

Associated Press writers Leanne Italie and Jocelyn Noveck contributed to this report.

Mark Kennedy is at <http://twitter.com/KennedyTwits>

Trump still hangs tariff threat over Mexico despite deal

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

STERLING, Va. (AP) — President Donald Trump on Sunday dangled the prospect of renewing his tariff threat against Mexico if the U.S. ally doesn't cooperate on border issues, while some of his Democratic challengers for the White House said the last-minute deal to avert trade penalties was overblown.

In a series of tweets, Trump defended the agreement heading off the 5% tax on all Mexican goods that he had threatened to impose Monday, but he warned Mexico that, "if for some unknown reason" cooperation fails, "we can always go back to our previous, very profitable, position of Tariffs."

Still, he said he didn't believe that would be necessary.

The tweets came amid questions about just how much of the deal — announced with great fanfare Friday — was really new. It included a commitment from Mexico, for instance, to deploy its new National Guard to its southern border with Guatemala. Mexico, however, had already intended to do that before Trump's latest threat and had made that clear to U.S. officials. Mexican officials have described their commitment as an accelerated deployment.

The U.S. also hailed Mexico's agreement to embrace the expansion of a program implemented earlier this year under which some asylum-seekers are returned to Mexico as they wait out their cases. But U.S. officials had already been working to expand the program, which has led to the return of about 10,000

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people to Mexico, without Mexico's public embrace.

"The president has completely overblown what he reports to have achieved. These are agreements that Mexico had already made, in some cases months ago," said Democratic presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke, speaking on ABC's "This Week." "They might have accelerated the time table, but by and large the president achieved nothing except to jeopardize the most important trading relationship that the United States of America has."

Another 2020 candidate, Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, chastised Trump for using tariffs as a threat and operating a "trade policy based on tweets."

"I think what the world is tired of and what I am tired of is a president who consistently goes to war, verbal war with our allies, whether it is Mexico, whether it is Canada," he said.

But acting Homeland Security Secretary Kevin McAleenan, speaking on "Fox News Sunday," insisted "all of it is new," including the agreement to dispatch around 6,000 National Guard troops.

"This is the first time we've heard anything like this kind of number of law enforcement being deployed in Mexico to address migration, not just at the southern border but also on the transportation routes to the northern border and in coordinated patrols in key areas along our southwest border," he said, adding that "people can disagree with the tactics" but "Mexico came to the table with real proposals" that will be effective, if implemented.

Trump echoed the same in his tweets, insisting the deal was being misrepresented.

"We have been trying to get some of these Border Actions for a long time, as have other administrations, but were not able to get them, or get them in full, until our signed agreement with Mexico," he wrote. "Mexico was not being cooperative on the Border in things we had, or didn't have, and now I have full confidence, especially after speaking to their President yesterday, that they will be very cooperative and want to get the job properly done."

He also teased the idea that more was agreed to than was announced Friday, saying that "some things" and "one in particular" had been left out of the release but would be "announced at the appropriate time."

He could have been referring to discussion about Mexico becoming a "safe third country," which would make it harder for asylum-seekers who pass through the country to claim refuge in the U.S. The idea, which Mexico has long opposed, was discussed during negotiations. But Mexican Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard has said Mexico did not agree to it.

Mexico's ambassador in Washington nonetheless said her country is committed to working with the U.S. and that discussions will continue.

"We want to continue to work with the U.S. very closely on the different challenges that we have together. And one urgent one at this moment is immigration," said Martha Barcena. She told CBS' "Face the Nation" that the countries' "joint declaration of principles ... gives us the base for the road map that we have to follow in the incoming months on immigration and cooperation on asylum issues and development in Central America."

She said the U.S. wants to see the number of migrants crossing the border return to levels seen in 2018.

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

Case opened: Democrats begin public airing of Mueller report

By MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump says it's "case closed ." But Democrats are just getting started with Robert Mueller .

House Democrats have scheduled a series of hearings this coming week on the special counsel's report as they intensify their focus on the Russia probe and pick up the pace on an investigative "path" — in the words of Speaker Nancy Pelosi — that some of them hope leads to impeachment of the president.

In doing so, they are trying to draw the public's attention on the allegations that Trump sought to obstruct a federal investigation and they want to highlight his campaign's contacts with Russia in the 2016 election.

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And they will lay the groundwork for an appearance from Mueller himself, despite his stated desire to avoid the spotlight .

The hearings will focus on the two main topics of Mueller's report, obstruction of justice and Russian election interference.

The House Judiciary Committee plans to cover the first topic at a Monday hearing on "presidential obstruction and other crimes." The House Intelligence Committee on Wednesday intends to review the counterintelligence implications of the Russian meddling. Mueller said there was not enough evidence to establish a conspiracy between the Trump campaign and Russia, but he said he could not exonerate Trump on obstruction.

On Tuesday, the House has scheduled a vote to authorize contempt cases against Attorney General William Barr and former White House counsel Donald McGahn for failing to comply with subpoenas from the Democratic-controlled House.

Barr defied a subpoena to provide an unredacted version of Mueller's report, along with underlying evidence. McGahn, who is frequently referenced in the report, has defied subpoenas to provide documents and testify before the House Judiciary Committee.

Language in the resolution would make it easier for committee chairmen to take the Trump administration to court. Those chairmen could take legal action to enforce subpoenas in the future without a vote of the full House, so long as the chairmen have approval from a five-person, bipartisan group where Democrats have the majority.

With Trump pledging that "we're fighting all the subpoenas," Democratic leaders want to avoid repeated floor votes on contempt resolutions that detract from their legislative agenda.

The procession of hearings and votes in the week ahead is partly designed to mollify anxious Democrats who have pushed Pelosi, D-Calif., to begin impeachment proceedings immediately . Pelosi has so far rejected that option , preferring a slower, more methodical approach to investigating the president, including the court fights and hearings.

During a meeting with the House Judiciary Committee chairman, New York Rep. Jerrold Nadler, and other committee heads last week, Pelosi made the case that she would rather see Trump voted out of office and "in prison" than merely impeached, according to a report in Politico. A person familiar with the exchange confirmed the account to The Associated Press.

The latest approach appears to have temporarily satisfied the restless House Democrats.

Maryland Rep. Jamie Raskin, who pleaded with Pelosi last month to start an inquiry, said the votes and hearings are going to be enough, for now, as they wait to see what happens in court.

"I am very satisfied that things are moving in the right direction," Raskin said. "And I think the American people are getting increasingly educated and engaged about the lawlessness of the president."

Rep. David Cicilline, a Judiciary Committee member who favors an impeachment inquiry, took pains to avoid separating himself from top Democrats such as Pelosi.

"We should never proceed with impeachment for political reasons. We should never refuse to proceed with impeachment for political reasons," Cicilline, D-R.I., said on "Fox News Sunday."

Educating the American public on what is in the Mueller report is a priority for Democrats, who believe Trump and his allies have created the public impression that the report said there was no obstruction of justice. Trump has made that assertion repeatedly, echoing Barr's judgment that there was not enough evidence in the report to support a criminal obstruction charge. Mueller said in the report that he could not exonerate Trump on that point.

The special counsel did not find evidence to establish a criminal conspiracy between Trump's campaign and Russia. But the report details multiple contacts between the two.

California Rep. Adam Schiff, chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, said the goal of the Wednesday hearing will be to explain to the American people "the serious counterintelligence concerns raised by the Mueller report, examine the depth and breadth of the unethical and unpatriotic conduct it describes, and produce prescriptive remedies to ensure that this never happens again."

Republicans are poised to defend the president at the hearings and challenge Democrats on the decision not to open impeachment hearings.

Georgia Rep. Doug Collins, the top Republican on the House Judiciary Committee, sent Nadler a letter Friday calling the upcoming hearing a "mock impeachment hearing" and warning Democrats to be civil when speaking of the president.

Collins said in the letter that outside of impeachment proceedings, "it is out of order for a member of Congress, in debate, to engage in personalities with the president or express an opinion, even a third party opinion, accusing the president of a crime. The rules are clear on this point."

Central American migrants say deal doesn't dash asylum hopes

By CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN Associated Press

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP) — At the small migrant Juventud 2000 shelter near the border, a Honduran expressed disappointment Sunday over the agreement between Mexico and the United States to more aggressively curtail migration from Central America.

But Edwin Sabillon Orellana of Honduras said he and his family will stick with their effort to seek asylum in the U.S.

Sabillon said some migrants might decide that waiting in Mexico for the lengthy processing of asylum requests isn't worth it, but he said he cannot take his family back to their home near San Pedro Sula, a crime-ridden metropolis that is Honduras' second biggest city.

"In my dreams I never had it in my mind to one day come to the United States," the 30-year old assembly plant worker said, sitting near a large pot of half-made salsa ranchera awaiting a delivery of cooking gas to the shelter's kitchen. "I had my job, my wife had her job. My daughter was in a bilingual school — my daughter speaks English. I didn't have a reason to come here."

That all changed in April when one of the street gangs plaguing Honduras and other Central American countries gave him a deadline of five days to begin paying a monthly extortion fee of about \$120, Sabillon said. He said the gangsters thought he could pay because his daughter went to a good school, but she was on scholarship. The family earned enough only to keep food on the table and pay the utilities, he said.

Two days before the deadline, Sabillon slipped away in the middle of the night with his wife and 8-year-old daughter and left Honduras. It took them about two weeks to reach Tijuana, across the border from San Diego. They quickly crossed into the U.S. illegally near Tijuana's beach and asked for asylum. After five days in detention they were sent back to Tijuana at night with an appointment to return later this month.

The mechanism that allows the U.S. to send migrants seeking asylum back to Mexico to await resolution of their cases has been running in Tijuana since January. One part of Friday's agreement between Mexico and the U.S. to head off the threat of U.S. tariffs on all imports from Mexico was an expansion of that program along the entire border.

As of last week, about 10,000 asylum seekers had been returned to Mexico, according to Mexican officials. So far the program has been operating only in California and in El Paso, Texas. It is currently being challenged in U.S. courts.

Mexico has offered opportunities for Central American migrants like Sabillon to legalize their status so they can work while waiting or if they decide to stay in Mexico. But he is not interested.

Most Mexicans are good people, he said, but some curse migrants in the street. On Saturday, he took his family to hear Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador speak at a rally in downtown Tijuana. He wasn't able to hear the president's words about respecting migrants' human rights because the crowd around him got worked up after a woman shouted, "Mexicans first and those from the caravan can go to ...," he said, not repeating the profanity.

"That hurts us a lot," he said.

Sabillon is at least in the fortunate position of having his U.S. court date just a couple weeks away.

Nearby, at one of the city's principal crossings to the U.S., dozens of migrants — mostly Haitians — waited in line for a number that would determine when they could cross to the U.S. to request asylum. On Sunday,

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U.S. border officers announced only two numbers and people who got their numbers in the past week were some 700 places away from the numbers being called, suggesting a wait of many months ahead.

Back at the Juventud 2000 shelter, Luis Torres and other parents killed time watching over the dozens of kids playing in the cramped space between tightly packed tents. The shelter, just one of many in Tijuana, is housing about 150 people, all families. Kids jumped rope and chased each other between tents.

Torres, 40, said that he and his 12-year-old son entered Texas from Reynosa, Mexico, last month. U.S. authorities then flew them to San Diego where they were detained for two weeks, he said.

Torres was confused about the status of his case, because he wasn't sure whether he had requested asylum by signing documents that agents put in front of him without explaining. In any case he was given a date to return to the U.S. in September.

Torres, a carpenter, left because his neighborhood in Honduras' capital, Tegucigalpa, is dangerous and work is hard to come by. He sent his other four children to live with their grandmother outside the city. Torres said that he and his son did not encounter problems in Mexico during the 26 days they took to reach the U.S. border.

Torres had heard talk of the U.S.-Mexico agreement, which includes Mexico sending thousands of National Guard troops to target illegal immigration at its southern border. He said it would be better if each country stuck to its own policies rather than the U.S. pressuring Mexico to do more.

"We didn't come so that they can play politics with us," he said.

Jimmy Carter, after hip surgery, back teaching Sunday school

By SUDHIN THANAWALA Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter talked about his recent health setback and his conversation with President Donald Trump, as he returned to teaching Sunday school in Georgia for the first time since breaking his hip.

Carter told people gathered at the Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains that he and his wife, Rosalynn, have nursing care at home and are doing fine. He thanked those present for their prayers and good wishes.

The 94-year-old Carter broke his hip last month at his home when he fell while leaving to go turkey hunting. He subsequently had hip replacement surgery.

The former first lady also was hospitalized around the same time for what Carter said was initially thought to be a stroke, but turned out to be less serious.

A devout Christian, Carter regularly teaches Sunday school in Plains, drawing hundreds of visitors for each session. But he had to cancel plans to teach after hip surgery.

People began gathering at midnight to hear Carter, and by 8 a.m., a line wrapped around the church despite pouring rain, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported.

"We wanted to pay tribute for all of the work he has done," Glenda Morris-Robinson told the newspaper. "It is so wonderful to see a true servant leader. He was remarkable."

Morris-Robinson, a pediatrician from Atlanta, drove down with her daughter, Gabriella, who flew in from New York City just for the occasion.

Carter said he recently wrote to Trump to explain how the Carter administration had tried to address economic friction with Japan, and Trump called him.

"He was very gracious," Carter said, adding Trump expressed his appreciation for Carter's letter as well as admiration for the former president.

"The main purpose of his call was to say very frankly to me on a private line that the Chinese were getting way ahead of the United States in many ways," Carter said.

He said he told Trump the U.S. has been in constant war for years, spending trillions of dollars, while China has invested in projects such as high speed rail that benefit its people.

In March, Carter became the longest-living chief executive in U.S. history, exceeding the lifespan of former President George H.W. Bush, who died Nov. 30 at the age of 94 years, 171 days.

The milestone came despite a cancer diagnosis more than three years earlier. Carter disclosed in 2015

that he had melanoma that had spread to his liver and brain. He received treatment for seven months until scans showed no sign of the disease.

General strike launched in Sudan after security crackdown

By **BASSAM HATOUM** and **SAMY MAGDY** Associated Press

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — Shops were closed and streets were empty across Sudan on Sunday, the first day of a general strike called for the start of the workweek by protest leaders demanding the resignation of the ruling military council.

The Sudanese Professionals Association urged people to stay home to protest the deadly crackdown last week when security forces violently dispersed the group's main sit-in outside the military headquarters in the capital, Khartoum.

The protesters say more than 100 people have been killed since the crackdown began June 3, including at least four slain by security forces on Sunday.

The protesters hope that their strike and campaign of civil disobedience will force the military to hand over power to civilians. The military leaders ousted longtime President Omar al-Bashir in April after four months of rallies. The generals have refused demonstrators' demands for an immediate move to civilian rule, instead pushing for a transitional power-sharing arrangement.

The SPA posted photos of what it said was an empty Khartoum International Airport, adding that airport workers and pilots are taking part in the civil disobedience.

Other videos online showed offices and businesses closed and light traffic, in both Khartoum and the Red Sea city of Port Sudan.

SPA activist Dura Gambo said participation in the general strike "exceeded our expectations."

"All private and some government banks joined the strike. Cities across the country are almost empty," she said.

The head of the leading opposition Umma party, Sadek al-Mahdi, warned of escalation from both the protest leaders and the military council.

"The mutual escalation damages the county. We have been working to adjust the strike and disobedience to contain the escalation," he said in televised comments.

Military council spokesman Shams al-Deen al-Kabashi urged the protest leaders to retract their call for civil disobedience.

In televised comments, al-Kabashi said the council would accept proposals provided by Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed to resume talks. Ahmed has been trying to revive negotiations between the generals and the protest leaders.

"We have no objections to get back to negotiations and reach consensus," al-Kabashi said, adding that it would study the conditions provided by the Forces for Declaration of Freedom and Change, an umbrella group of opposition figures and protest leaders.

An Associated Press journalist saw a heavy deployment of troops from the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces in several parts of Khartoum and its sister city of Omdurman. There are long lines for fuel in several areas in the capital.

The internet remains cut off in Khartoum, and other types of communications also are restricted, with reports of mobile network services heavily disrupted.

Security forces removed barricades from main roads and opened the sit-in area outside the military's headquarters for the first time in a week. The SPA urged protesters to avoid clashes with the RSF.

The RSF grew out of the notorious Janjaweed militias used by al-Bashir in the Darfur conflict in the early 2000s. Protesters accuse it of leading the nationwide crackdown, and the SPA has called for the force to be disbanded.

The Sudan Doctors' Committee, the medical affiliate of the SPA, said that of the four people killed Sunday, one was a young man who was shot by the RSF in Khartoum's Bahri neighborhood. Two others died of their wounds after RSF forces beat them, and a fourth was shot in Omdurman, it said.

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The committee says 118 people have been killed since June 3. The military-run Health Ministry has offered a lower death toll of 61, including 49 civilians and three security forces in Khartoum.

The World Health Organization said Saturday that 784 people were wounded in Khartoum since June 3, although it added that the actual number could be higher because not all cases are reported or recorded.

The opposition Sudanese Congress Party posted video of what it said was a funeral in Bahri.

The SPA said peaceful, civil disobedience and a general strike "is the fastest and most effective way to topple the military council ... and to hand over power to a transitional civilian authority." It urged international agencies to refrain from dealing with the military council.

The SPA said security forces have arrested and intimidated activists, bankers, doctors, air traffic workers and other professionals recently.

"Dozens of airport workers have been arrested by intelligence and the RSF since Monday. We do not know their whereabouts. New workers have been seen in the past days to replace those who took part in the strike," an airport worker told the AP, speaking on condition of anonymity, fearing reprisal.

The state-run SUNA news agency quoted authorities as saying the airport was working normally and that all staff had reported for duty Sunday.

The Sudan Pharmacists Central Committee, which is part of the SPA, said RSF forces raided a government health agency in Khartoum that supplies medications and other care needs for patients across Sudan. The RSF has been accused of targeting hospitals and clinics treating wounded protesters.

The Umma party said Saturday that security forces had arrested one of its leaders, Adel al-Mufti, along with other opposition figures, including Mohammed Esmat, a negotiator for the protesters. Esmat was detained after meeting with the Ethiopian prime minister on Friday.

The Ethiopian initiative to revive the talks is focused on restoring all previous deals between the military council and the Forces for Declaration of Freedom and Change. Last week, the military said deals with the FDFC would be canceled, according to protesters.

Those deals include a three-year transition period, a Cabinet formed by the protesters and a legislative body with a majority from the FDFC. Both sides remain divided over the makeup and leader of the sovereign council that would run Sudan during the transition.

The Ethiopian prime minister proposed a council with eight seats for civilians and seven for the military, with a rotating leadership.

The protesters also want an independent, internationally backed body to investigate violence since al-Bashir's April 11 ouster and to bring those responsible for the bloodshed to justice.

Dirty dozen: Nadal wins 12th French Open for 18th Slam title

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

PARIS (AP) — For a few, fleeting moments Sunday, Rafael Nadal found his French Open supremacy seemingly threatened by Dominic Thiem, a younger, talented opponent challenging him in the final for the second consecutive year.

A poor game from Nadal allowed Thiem to break him and even things at a set apiece. That development brought fans to their feet in Court Philippe Chatrier, roaring and clapping and, above all, wondering: Was this, now, a real contest? Could Thiem push Nadal more? Could Thiem make this surge last? Would Nadal falter?

That the questions arose at all was significant. The answers arrived swiftly. Nadal reasserted himself, as he usually does at Roland Garros, by grabbing 16 of the next 17 points and 12 of the remaining 14 games, pulling away to beat Thiem 6-3, 5-7, 6-1, 6-1 for his record-extending 12th championship at the French Open.

"He stepped on me," Thiem said. "The numbers are crazy. He won it 12 times."

No one in tennis ever has won any major tournament that frequently. Then again, no one ever has been as suited for success on any of the sport's surfaces as this 33-year-old Spaniard is on red clay: Nadal is 93-2 for his career at Roland Garros, winning four in a row from 2005-08, five in a row from 2010-14, and

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now three in a row.

"I can't explain my emotions," said the No. 2-seeded Nadal, who dropped to his back after the final point, getting that rust-colored dirt all over his neon yellow shirt, then wiped away tears during the trophy ceremony.

Looking at the bigger picture, he is now up to 18 Grand Slam trophies, moving within two of Roger Federer's men's record of 20.

Nadal, however, did not want to entertain any discussion of a pursuit of Federer.

"I am not very worried about this stuff," Nadal said. "You can't be frustrated all the time because the neighbor has a bigger house than you or a bigger TV or better garden."

Thiem, a 25-year-old Austrian who was seeded No. 4 and upset No. 1 Novak Djokovic in a draining, rain-interrupted semifinal played over two days, was eyeing his first major title in this rematch of the 2018 final in Paris. But again, he couldn't solve Nadal.

"First thing that I want to say is congrats to Dominic. I feel sorry, because he deserves it here, too," Nadal said. "He has an unbelievable intensity."

So, of course, does Nadal. This had been, by his lofty standards, a rough season, from the most lopsided Grand Slam final loss of his career — against Djokovic at the Australian Open — to entering May without a title for the first year since 2004. Injuries, as often is the case with Nadal, were a problem, including a bad right knee.

"Mentally, I lost a little bit (of) energy, because I had too many issues in a row," Nadal said, tapping his right fingers on his temple.

"When you are constantly hit in the face," he said in Spanish, "you end up being hurt."

He started to right himself by taking the Italian Open title on clay last month.

"It was very important for him to win in Rome. It was like he realized that he was getting back on the good level, on the right path," said Nadal's coach, 1998 French Open champion Carlos Moya, "and gaining a lot of confidence."

Soon enough, Nadal found himself in a familiar position in Paris: playing in the final, and winning it.

This one began on a cloudy afternoon, with the temperature in the low 60s (mid-teens Celsius) and only a slight breeze. In the initial game — interrupted briefly by a baby wailing in the stands, drawing a laugh from other spectators and prompting Nadal to back away from the baseline between serves — three of the five points lasted at least 11 strokes.

And, thereby, a pattern was established: By the end of the 3-hour, 1-minute match, a total of 46 points went 10 strokes or more. Each man claimed half.

From the get-go, it was such a physical grind that Nadal was soaked with sweat and changed neon yellow shirts after just seven games, eliciting catcalls from the stands.

Early on, there were no signs of fatigue for Thiem, even though he was competing for a fourth straight day.

Indeed, it was Thiem who nosed ahead first, closing a 12-stroke exchange by ripping a forehand to earn the first break point, then converting it with an overhead on a 20-stroke exchange for a 3-2 edge. He turned with a clenched right hand to face his guest box, where his girlfriend, women's doubles champion Kristina Mladenovic, was pumping her fist and shouting.

Nadal immediately responded. He grabbed the next four games with elan, using a drop shot to help break for a 5-3 lead, then a serve-and-volley to help hold for the set.

That must have been demoralizing for Thiem. But at the ensuing changeover, he didn't whack a ball toward the stands, as Federer memorably did during his semifinal loss to Nadal. Thiem casually sat in his gray sideline seat, bounced his legs and chewed on an energy bar, furtively glancing at Nadal.

Thiem bounced back, if only briefly. Talk about a stunning shift: Nadal won 25 of 26 points on his serve before — with spectators trading between-point chants of nicknames, "Ra-fa!" and "Do-mi!" — he got broken to cede the second set. That was the only set Thiem managed to steal from Nadal in four career meetings at Roland Garros.

Maybe this was going to be a long one.

But Thiem, put simply, wilted. Enough to create an opening Nadal barged through.

By now, Nadal was creating magic at the net, and he won the point on 23 of 27 times he went forward. One drop volley was spun so marvelously that it landed on Thiem's side, then bounced back toward the net. All Thiem could do was watch — and offer an appreciative thumbs-up.

"Almost everybody will tell you that he's one of the best volleyers of our game," Thiem said. "Because the last time he missed a volley was, maybe, seven years ago, I guess."

Soon enough, it was over. The King of Clay, as Nadal is known, still reigns.

More AP tennis coverage: <https://www.apnews.com/apf-Tennis> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Sex abuse crisis the focus as US Catholic bishops convene

By DAVID CRARY AP National Writer

As the Roman Catholic church's sex abuse scandal grows ever wider in scope in the U.S., bishops convene for a national meeting in Baltimore on Tuesday under heavy pressure to acknowledge their oversight failures and give a larger role to lay Catholics and secular authorities in confronting the crisis.

The pressure comes not only from longtime critics of the church's response to clergy sex abuse, but also from insiders who now voice doubts that the bishops are capable of handling the crisis on their own. Among them is Francesco Cesareo, chairman of a national sex-abuse review board set up by the bishops.

"My biggest concern is that it's going to end up being bishops overseeing bishops," Cesareo told Catholic News Service, the news agency of the U.S. bishops' conference. "If that's the case, it's going to be very difficult for the laity to feel any sense of confidence that anything has truly changed."

Sex-abuse scandals have beset the Catholic church worldwide for decades, but events of the past year have created unprecedented challenges for the U.S. bishops. Many dioceses have become targets of state investigations since a Pennsylvania grand jury report in August detailed hundreds of cases of alleged abuse. In February, former Cardinal Theodore McCarrick was expelled from the priesthood for sexually abusing minors and seminarians, and investigators are seeking to determine if some Catholic VIPs covered up his transgressions. Another investigative team recently concluded that Michael Bransfield, a former bishop in West Virginia, engaged in sexual harassment and financial misconduct over many years.

Even the president of the bishop's conference, Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of the Galveston-Houston archdiocese, has been entangled in controversies. On June 4, The Associated Press reported on a Houston woman's allegations that DiNardo mishandled her case alleging sexual and financial misconduct by his deputy.

The archdiocese said it "categorically rejects" the story as biased and one-sided. However, the archdiocese later said it would review the married woman's allegations that the monsignor, Frank Rossi, continued to hear her confessions after luring her into a sexual relationship, a potentially serious crime under church law.

SNAP, a national advocacy group for clergy abuse victims, has called on DiNardo to resign his post or at least recuse himself from presiding over the Baltimore meeting.

The bishops had drafted some new accountability policies for their previous national meeting in November, but deferred action due to a last-minute request from the Vatican. One of those proposals would have established a new code of conduct for individual bishops; another would have created a special commission, including lay experts and clergy, to review complaints against the bishops.

In Baltimore, the bishops will be guided by a groundbreaking new law issued by Pope Francis on May 9.

It requires priests and nuns worldwide to report clergy sexual abuse and cover-ups by their superiors to church authorities. It also calls for any claim of sexual misconduct or cover-up against a bishop to be reported to the Vatican and a supervisory bishop in the U.S.

SNAP said the pope's edict was a step forward, but urged the U.S. bishops to go further by requiring that church staff report their suspicions to police and prosecutors in addition to reporting internally. SNAP also said the bishops should turn over any files and records related to sex abuse to their state attorneys

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general for investigation, and it urged the bishops to ensure that all U.S. dioceses release lists of priests, nuns and other church staff alleged to have committed sexual abuse.

Beyond the pope's edict, the bishops will consider creating an independent, third-party reporting system to which allegations of abuse could be filed.

John Gehring, Catholic program director at a Washington-based clergy network called Faith in Public Life, said many bishops now realize they need lay leadership as decisions on anti-abuse policies are made.

"But the disagreement comes when you get down to deciding what that actually looks like in practice," Gehring said. "Some bishops are still uncomfortable with conceding power and there will be inevitable tensions."

Catholic leaders argue, with some statistical backing, that instances of clergy sex abuse have declined sharply with the adoption in 2002 of a charter establishing guidelines for dealing with clergy sex-abuse of minors.

"The Church is a far safer place today than when we launched the Charter," DiNardo contended in a recently released report on abuse. "Programs of background checks, safe environment trainings, review boards enforcing zero tolerance policies, and victims assistance require hundreds of dedicated, professional teams with child safety as their highest priority."

However, Professor Margaret McGuinness, who teaches courses on Catholicism at La Salle University, doubted that any steps taken in Baltimore would win back the trust of many lay Catholics dismayed by the multiple scandals.

"I think they have a deeper problem, which is a rapid decline in Mass attendance and church membership in general," McGuinness said. "Individual bishops can blame the decline on feminism, 'loose morals,' or anything else, but the fact is that the sex abuse crisis has driven many Catholics away."

According to the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, an authoritative source of Catholic-related data, 45% of U.S. Catholics attended Mass at least once a month in 2018, down from 57% in 1990.

While Catholic leaders have faced criticism for many years over their response to abuse, one potentially momentous new development is the degree of pressure the church now faces from state investigators and legislators.

In addition to the investigations underway by attorneys general in at least 15 states, several legislatures have approved statute-of-limitation revisions this year giving victims of long-ago child sex-abuse new windows for litigation against the Catholic church, the Boy Scouts and other institutions. California is considering such a bill, as well as a measure that would require priests to report suspected abuse even in cases where they heard about it during confession.

The California Catholic Conference decried the confession bill as "a clear violation of religious liberty" and noted that priests violating the confidentiality of confession faced excommunication.

University of Pennsylvania professor Marci Hamilton, an expert on child-abuse prevention, said the surge of legislative action is due in part to "the dawning reality for many Americans — including lawmakers — that bishops cannot and will not solve this problem themselves."

Strong job market hampers FEMA hiring in flood-hit states

By GRANT SCHULTE Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The Federal Emergency Management Agency is facing an unexpected challenge in meeting the needs of the many people affected by this spring's widespread flooding and violent storms: a strong economy.

Tasked with responding to natural disasters that seem ever more frequent and destructive, the agency finds itself further challenged by the robust job market and an inability to match what the private sector can offer, in many cases. FEMA officials are turning for help to retirees, recent college graduates and those who lost their jobs to the disasters, though they're finding few available workers in many of the rural communities that are in some of the hardest-hit areas.

In no place is that clearer than Nebraska and Iowa, which were ravaged by floods and have some of

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the nation's lowest unemployment rates. Iowa's had the third-lowest unemployment rate in April, at 2.4 percent, while Nebraska's was the ninth-lowest, at 2.9 percent.

"The low unemployment rate certainly makes it a little more of an uphill battle, as it is for everyone in the state trying to attract workers," said Herb Doering, a FEMA human resources manager who runs the hiring program in Nebraska.

FEMA has gone to job fairs and sent emails to about 20 local colleges, with a focus on students who might be interested in an emergency management career, Doering said. He said the agency tries to focus on hiring students, retirees, veterans and those who lost their jobs or homes in the natural disasters. The agency also is working with the Nebraska Department of Labor to recruit employees.

"We're trying to get the word out to attract as many applicants as we can, whether it's students, retired folks or veterans," he said. "It's a continuous effort."

FEMA officials are dealing with the same problem nationally, though they say it hasn't hindered their ability to respond to disasters.

"With record low unemployment and rising wages, it can be difficult to recruit and retain talented workers — particularly in the leadership positions requiring technical, supervisory and programmatic experience — for intermittent positions," said FEMA spokesman Michael Hart.

The agency maintains a large workforce to respond to disasters, but it is constantly looking to hire new employees, Hart said. It has increased its national incident management workforce by 25 percent since Hurricane Harvey in 2017 and has hired more than 1,000 local, temporary workers to help respond to disasters in their communities, he said.

FEMA provides a variety of assistance after disasters, including money for home repairs, temporary housing and home replacement in cases where owners are uninsured. Additionally, the agency helps to rebuild and repair public infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, sewer lines and public buildings. Those duties also require workers who can inspect properties, review and keep track of paperwork, and communicate with the public.

FEMA is advertising a variety of temporary jobs in Nebraska, from administrative assistants who would earn \$16 an hour to an engineering and architecture specialist who would get \$29 an hour. The positions are designed to supplement full-time FEMA staffers who travel to disasters around the country. Many temporary employees eventually become full-time staffers.

In Grand Island, which is in a part of central Nebraska that was hit hard by flooding along the Platte River in March, FEMA is seeking a temporary site inspector job to document flood damage to homes and businesses.

FEMA is likely to face its biggest challenge filling technical, high-skill jobs because private employers are trying to hire the same people, said David Swenson, an Iowa State University economist. In the current regional economy, Swenson said most of the unemployed don't have the necessary skills to fill the jobs that are available and they're unable to move elsewhere.

Swenson said FEMA's salary offer for the engineering specialist is also at the low end of what those type of professionals can make in Nebraska. The average salary for a civil engineer in Nebraska was nearly \$41 an hour last year, not counting benefits, which is well above FEMA's advertised rate. And unlike FEMA's disaster-site positions, most of the private-sector jobs are permanent.

"They are going to be at a decided disadvantage," Swenson said. "We do have low unemployment, and that in and of itself is going to create a labor shortage. But for some of those technical categories, unemployment is virtually zero."

Swenson said FEMA is in a tough spot because different disasters require different kinds of experts to respond, and the problem is exacerbated by climate change and more extreme weather.

In Iowa, emergency management officials face a similar predicament, with 58 of the state's 99 counties now eligible for FEMA public disaster assistance.

"We do recognize the possibility that it could be a challenge," said John Benson, the chief of staff at the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, which he said is competing with FEMA for qualified workers with experience in government, engineering and road construction.

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Benson said the department needs to hire employees who can work directly with local governments to help maximize their federal aid and rebuild flood-damaged roads and bridges. The department is seeking 15 to 18 employees in full- and part-time roles, with pay ranging from \$54,000 to nearly \$84,000 a year for full-time work. The department currently has 54 employees.

Follow Grant Schulte on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/GrantSchulte>

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, June 10, the 161st day of 2019. There are 204 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 10, 1967, six days of war in the Mideast involving Israel, Syria, Egypt, Jordan and Iraq ended as Israel and Syria accepted a United Nations-mediated cease-fire.

On this date:

In 1610, Englishman Lord De La Warr arrived at the Jamestown settlement to take charge of the Virginia Colony.

In 1692, the first execution resulting from the Salem witch trials in Massachusetts took place as Bridget Bishop was hanged.

In 1935, Alcoholics Anonymous was founded in Akron, Ohio, by Dr. Robert Holbrook Smith and William Griffith Wilson.

In 1942, during World War II, German forces massacred 173 male residents of Lidice (LIH'-dyiht-zeh), Czechoslovakia, in retaliation for the killing of Nazi official Reinhard Heydrich.

In 1944, German forces massacred 642 residents of the French village of Oradour-sur-Glane.

In 1957, in Canadian elections, John Diefenbaker (DEE'-fehn-BAY'-kur) led the Progressive Conservatives to an upset victory over the Liberal party of Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent (LOO'-ee sant law-RAHNT').

In 1971, President Richard M. Nixon lifted a two-decades-old trade embargo on China.

In 1977, James Earl Ray, the convicted assassin of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., escaped from Brushy Mountain State Prison in Tennessee with six others; he was recaptured June 13.

In 1978, Affirmed, ridden by Steve Cauthen, won the 110th Belmont Stakes to claim horse racing's 11th Triple Crown. (Alydar was second while Darby Creek Road came in third in a five-horse field.)

In 1990, Alberto Fujimori (foo-jee-MOHR'-ee) was elected president of Peru by a narrow margin over novelist Mario Vargas Llosa. Two members of the rap group 2 Live Crew were arrested in Hollywood, Florida (they and a third band member were later acquitted of obscenity charges).

In 1991, 11-year-old Jaycee Dugard of South Lake Tahoe, California, was abducted by Phillip and Nancy Garrido; Jaycee was held by the couple for 18 years before she was found by authorities.

In 2001, the Supreme Court, without comment, turned down a request to allow the videotaping of Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh's execution, scheduled for the following day.

Ten years ago: James von Brunn, an 88-year-old white supremacist, opened fire in the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., killing security guard Stephen T. Johns. (Von Brunn died at a North Carolina hospital in January 2010 while awaiting trial.) Donald Trump fired Miss California USA Carrie Prejean, who'd sparked controversy when she said gays shouldn't be allowed to marry, citing contract violations.

Five years ago: In a stunning assault that exposed Iraq's eroding central authority, al-Qaida-inspired militants overran much of Mosul. In a major victory for the tea party, House Majority Leader Eric Cantor was defeated by Dave Brat, a little-known economics professor, in Virginia's Republican primary. A judge struck down tenure and other job protections for California's public school teachers as unconstitutional, saying such laws harmed students by saddling them with bad teachers who were almost impossible to fire.

One year ago: President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un arrived in Singapore, two days ahead of their summit. The musical "The Band's Visit" captured 10 Tony Awards. Rafael Nadal

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earned his 11th French Open title, and his 17th overall in Grand Slam events, beating Dominic Thiem in the men's final.

Today's Birthdays: Britain's Prince Philip is 98. Attorney F. Lee Bailey is 86. Actress Alexandra Stewart is 80. Singer Shirley Alston Reeves (The Shirelles) is 78. Actor Jurgen Prochnow is 78. Media commentator Jeff Greenfield is 76. Actor Frankie Faison is 70. Football Hall of Famer Dan Fouts is 68. Country singer-songwriter Thom Schuyler is 67. Former Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., is 66. Actor Andrew Stevens is 64. Singer Barrington Henderson is 63. Former New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer is 60. Rock musician Kim Deal is 58. Singer Maxi Priest is 58. Actress Gina Gershon is 57. Actress Jeanne Tripplehorn is 56. Rock musician Jimmy Chamberlin is 55. Actor Ben Daniels is 55. Actress Kate Flannery is 55. Model-actress Elizabeth Hurley is 54. Rock musician Joey Santiago is 54. Actor Doug McKeon is 53. Rock musician Emma Anderson is 52. Country musician Brian Hofeldt (The Derailers) is 52. Rapper The D.O.C. is 51. Rock singer Mike Doughty is 49. Rhythm and blues singer JoJo is 48. Former Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal is 48. Rhythm and blues singer Faith Evans is 46. Actor Hugh Dancy is 44. Rhythm and blues singer Lemisha Grinstead (702) is 41. Actor DJ Qualls is 41. Actor Shane West is 41. Country singer Lee Brice is 40. Singer Hoku is 38. Actress Leelee Sobieski is 37. Olympic gold medal figure skater Tara Lipinski is 37. Americana musician Bridget Kearney (Lake Street Drive) is 34. Actor Titus Makin is 30. Actress Tristin Mays is 29. Sasha Obama is 18. Actress Eden McCoy is 16.

Thought for Today: "When we ask for advice, we are usually looking for an accomplice." — Saul Bellow (1915-2005).