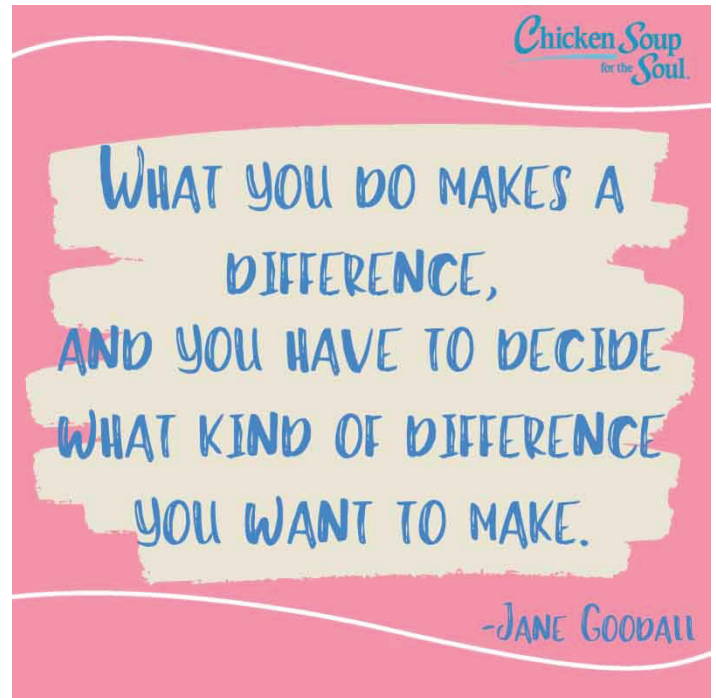


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## **CLOSED:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

## 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

## American News eliminating Sunday edition

We received word this morning that starting the weekend of July 20, there will be no more Sunday edition of the Aberdeen American News. The Sunday ads will be appearing in the Saturday edition.

### Saturday, June 22

Junior Legion Round Robin in Groton  
2:00 p.m.: Groton vs. Wessington Springs  
4:00 p.m.: Faulkton vs. Wessington Springs  
6:00 p.m.: Faulkton vs. Lennox  
8:00 p.m.: Groton vs. Lennox  
Junior Teeners at Milbank Tournament  
11:00 a.m.: Lake Norden vs. Groton  
3:00 p.m.: Groton vs. Sisseton

### Sunday, June 23

4:00 p.m.: Groton 2 Amateurs at Redfield  
Junior Legion Round Robin in Groton  
1:00 p.m.: Wessington Springs vs. Lennox  
3:00 p.m.: Groton vs. Faulkton  
Junior Teeners at Milbank Tournament  
1:00 p.m.: Groton vs. Milbank

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About 50 students and adults got off the bus at the Minneapolis Airport Terminal early Saturday morning. The group loaded the bus in front of the Groton Area School to depart for the World Classrooms trip to Washington, D.C. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



## Off to Washington, D.C.

Carly Wheeting is one of the organizers of the trip. This will be her 11th trip to Washington, D.C. in the last 12 months. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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## Grateful for your Prayers

In my weekly columns to South Dakotans, I frequently write about important policy discussions happening in Washington or highlight the issues that South Dakotans have been talking to me about. However, this week is different, as my wife, Jean and I have some personal news to share.

As many South Dakotans already know, Jean recently began cancer treatment for a malignant high-grade aggressive tumor that was discovered near her sciatic nerve. Her team of doctors in South Dakota referred her to The Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, where she is currently being treated.

Many South Dakota families have faced a cancer diagnosis, including our own. As those who have been through this know, a cancer diagnosis is one of the most difficult and trying times for a family. Throughout this process, I have thought many times about the South Dakota families that have had their own health struggles. It is during a time like this that I feel most grateful for our community.

While it has been a difficult few weeks, those who know Jean know she is resilient and strong. She's been a rock for our family for more than 40 years and continues to show her strength as she begins her treatment and works to make a full recovery. Through all of this, we are strengthened by our faith in the Lord and the overwhelming support of our family and friends. There is no power like the power of prayer, and we remain tremendously grateful to the outpouring of prayers from so many. We have received great comfort and peace in that support.

We're also grateful for the wonderful medical professionals within our community that we've worked with over the past couple of months. Receiving a cancer diagnosis is overwhelming. The technical medical terminology can feel like listening to a foreign language. But with the guidance of Jean's doctors, we've been assured that we are on the right course toward eradicating the tumor. While we don't know exactly what her entire treatment will look like at this time, we have confidence in the highly-qualified team of doctors at The Mayo Clinic overseeing her treatment.

In the midst of our very busy lives, it can be a challenge to reprioritize schedules to focus more attention on what we usually take for granted: our health. But again, in our community we have had so many colleagues and friends who have volunteered to help out or fill in during our absence. As we focus on getting Jean healthy, I'll be splitting my time between Rochester during Jean's treatments, Washington, D.C., and back home in South Dakota.

We'll continue to update you on Jean's progress, but in the meantime, we are grateful for the continued support and prayers for Jean and for our family. We are so thankful to be surrounded by a close-knit community that will stick by us. Times like this make me grateful for our community and especially proud to be a South Dakotan.

## EARTHTALK ™

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

From the Editors of E - The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk: If we already know how to capture carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and turn it into fuel, why aren't we doing more of it?

-- M.N. Daly, Springfield, MA

With recent measurements detecting the highest levels of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> in human history—and experts warning we have less than a dozen years to turn around our profligate emissions to avoid cataclysmic changes—the time is nigh to start ratcheting down our carbon footprints. One solution that seems obvious but has been slow to get out of the starting gate is scrubbing large amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> from the air and recycling it as a feedstock to produce carbon-neutral fuels to power our machines.

We have known how to capture CO<sub>2</sub> from the air at large scale since the 1950s, but it wasn't until the late 1990s that environmentalists started looking to so-called "Direct Air Capture" (DAC) as one of a suite of tools at our disposal for dealing with the greenhouse effect. Since then, researchers have been scrambling to come up with the most efficient ways to capture CO<sub>2</sub>.

Massachusetts-based start-up Carbon Engineering formed in 2011 in an effort to produce and eventually commercialize DAC technology that can use

captured CO<sub>2</sub> to make fuel at costs competitive with producing conventional fossil fuels. After several years of research and development and implementation of its technologies at a pilot plant in British Columbia, the company has been able to get the costs of capturing CO<sub>2</sub> down to ~\$100/ton—six times less than previous models predicted was possible.

But it's what happens next that has environmental advocates jazzed. Carbon Engineering's solar-powered electrolyzer splits water into hydrogen and oxygen, and then combines the hydrogen with previously captured CO<sub>2</sub> to make carbon-neutral gasoline, diesel or even jet fuel. Assuming a \$100/ton cost for capturing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, the company can produce these eco-friendly fuels for about \$1/liter, which is only marginally more expensive than their fossil-fuel counterparts. The hope is that costs will come down to below fossil fuels as demand grows and facilities scale up. Also, as more states follow California's lead in requiring increasingly significant portions of their fuel mixes to come from "low-carbon" sources, demand for these green alternative fuels will rise and prices will likely drop even more.

R&D like this isn't limited to the U.S. Spain's SUN-to-LIQUID project uses unique solar concentration technologies that combine sunlight with oxygen and atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> to get three times as much energy out of the sun's rays as existing solar "reactors." The resulting "synthesis fuel" combines hydrogen and carbon monoxide and could be used to power vehicles or any type of engine equipped to deal with it.

And a team of Swiss and Norwegian scientists wants to put such technologies to use on millions of solar-powered floating islands at sea that could suck CO<sub>2</sub> out of the air and turn it into fuel without taking up any land or bothering human neighbors. Such a plan may seem far-fetched, but we need to be open to new idea if we are going to turn the tide on climate change before we reach the dreaded "point of no return."



**Carbon Engineering has proven at its Canadian pilot plant in Squamish, British Columbia that it can suck greenhouse gases out of the air through so-called Direct Air Capture (DAC) and process them into liquid fuels at a cost nearly as cheap as producing fossil fuels.**

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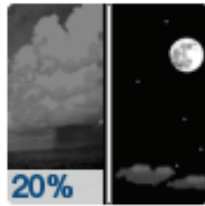
Saturday



Mostly Cloudy  
then Chance  
Showers

High: 71 °F

Saturday  
Night



Slight Chance  
Showers then  
Mostly Clear

Low: 49 °F

Sunday



Mostly Sunny  
then Slight  
Chance  
Showers

High: 77 °F

Sunday  
Night



Mostly Cloudy

Low: 54 °F

Monday



Sunny

High: 82 °F

## Today in Weather History

June 22, 1916: An estimated F2 tornado moved northeast from 4 miles east of Willow Lakes to east of Vienna, in Clark County. A farmhouse was picked up and thrown into a granary. A boy was smothered to death by grains as a barn collapsed on him, one mile south of Vienna.

June 22, 1919: The second deadliest tornado in Minnesota's history occurred on this day. 59 people were killed as an estimated F5 tornado ripped through the town of Fergus Falls, Minnesota. 400 buildings were destroyed. A blank check was found over 60 miles away, and lumber was carried 10 miles. Of the 59 victims, 35 were guests of the Grand Hotel.

June 22, 1996: From the morning through the late afternoon hours, several supercell thunderstorms moved southeast along a strong warm front from eastern Corson County to southwest Deuel County. These storms produced several tornados, large hail, very heavy rains, and damaging winds. Hail up to the size of baseballs and winds gusting to 70 mph damaged and destroyed thousands of acres of crops, broke windows in homes, buildings, and vehicles. Many roofs were damaged, and trees were downed from near Mobridge to Redfield to Toronto. The most extensive crop, building, and tree damage occurred around the areas of Redfield, Vienna, Naples, Hazel, Bryant, Henry, Lake Norden, Castlewood, Estelline, and Toronto all south of Highway 212. The hail swaths of destruction were as much as 10 miles wide in places. Some farmers said you could not tell what was planted because the crops were destroyed. Hail piles of one to two feet were reported in some areas. Also, most of the area from Redfield to Toronto received one to three inches of rain which caused some flooding problems.

1928: A farmer near Greensburg, KS looked up into the heart of a tornado. He described its walls as "rotating clouds lit with constant flashes of lightning and a strong gassy odor with a screaming, hissing sound."

2003: A hailstone measuring 7.0 inches in diameter with a circumference of 18.75 inches and weighing 1.33 pounds falls in Aurora, Nebraska. The National Weather Service reports this is the second largest hailstone ever documented in the U.S. by weight, and the largest by size at that time. The world's largest hailstone NOW was produced from storms in South Dakota; 8" in diameter and 1.9375 lbs. on July 23, 2010.

2007: The first officially documented F5 tornado in Canada struck the town of Elie, Manitoba population 500 people. Video of the storm showed a heavy van being whirled through the air. The storm also tossed an almost entire house several hundred yards through the air before it disintegrated. The tornado traveled across the landscape for about 35 minutes covering 3.4 miles and leaving a damage path 984 feet wide. Wind speeds in the tornado were later estimated at 260-316 mph. Fortunately, no fatalities or serious injuries were reported.

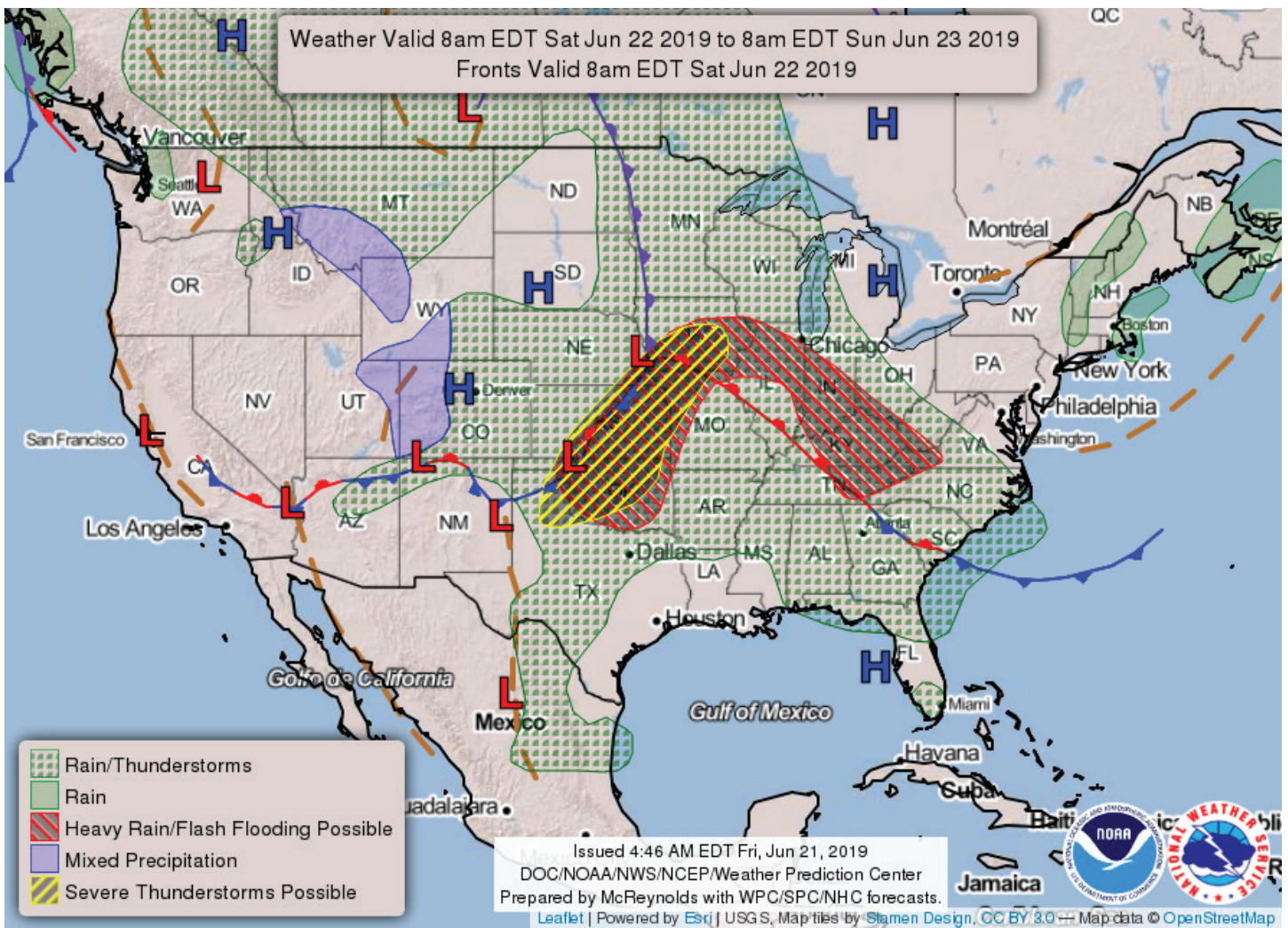
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp:** 73 °F at 4:32 PM  
**Low Temp:** 60 °F at 6:09 AM  
**Wind:** 20 mph at 1:37 PM  
**Day Rain:** 1.60 in

**Record High:** 102° in 1922, 1911  
**Record Low:** 39° in 1905  
**Average High:** 80°F  
**Average Low:** 56°F  
**Average Precip in June.:** 2.59  
**Precip to date in June.:** 3.78  
**Average Precip to date:** 9.73  
**Precip Year to Date:** 11.56  
**Sunset Tonight:** 9:26 p.m.  
**Sunrise Tomorrow:** 5:46 a.m.





## HOW TO BE EVEN-TEMPERED

A quick-tempered person is one to be avoided at all costs. Being the object of anyone's rage is no fun. In fact, it can be frightening to say the least. However, if we are one of those who has a short-fuse and is prone to lose our tempers, where do we go for a cure and learn self-control?

A man of knowledge uses words with restraint, and a man of understanding is even-tempered. This is what we can call a high-dividend proverb. It addresses the need that all of us have to control our speech. Certainly, all of us would like to have control of our words and be even-tempered. But how? And, what do we do to get it?

There is a subtle, yet critical, element in this verse. It refers to gathering knowledge - especially knowledge which enables us to moderate or control words, thoughts, and feelings.

Those who are wise know when and how to control their emotions and prevent situations that can be embarrassing and harmful to self and others. And that takes restraint.

Restraint implies the suggestion that we take time to consider what is happening in and around us by giving thought to our words before we let them come out of our mouths. We need to know our values and trigger points. And, this is the beginning of restraint.

All of us have trigger points - those little signals we sense before we explode. They are always connected to the values we build our lives around. They include faith and family, right and wrong, good and evil, God and country. Anything of importance to us, when violated, can cause us to explode. Be like a pilot before take-off: go through a check-list from God's Word.

Prayer: Father, help us to understand ourselves as well as You do. Help us to learn self-control by claiming Your promises and depending on Your wisdom. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 17:27-28 A man of knowledge uses words with restraint, and a man of understanding is even-tempered. Even a fool is thought wise if he keeps silent, and discerning if he holds his tongue.

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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

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Mega Millions

13-30-36-48-62, Mega Ball: 18, Megaplier: 3

(thirteen, thirty, thirty-six, forty-eight, sixty-two; Mega Ball: eighteen; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$55 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$108 million

### Prison inmate escapes while on work release

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities in South Dakota are looking for a prison inmate who escaped while on a work release program.

The South Dakota Department of Corrections says Ryan Langford left his community service worksite in Sioux Falls on Friday without authorization.

Langford is a minimum-security inmate. He is serving a four-year sentence with one year suspended for drug possession.

Anyone with information about Langford is asked to call authorities.

### Remains found along Big Sioux River identified

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have identified the remains of a woman found earlier this week along the Big Sioux River.

The Sioux Falls Police Department says the woman has been identified as 27-year-old Leah Anne Brosky, who was reported missing on May 13.

The Minnehaha County coroner used dental records to identify Brosky.

Two people fishing on the bank of the river found her remains Wednesday night in an area north of the Farmer's Market in Falls Park.

### Great Western Bancorp, Inc. to Purchase Trust Assets of Independent Bank

SIOUX FALLS, S.D.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Jun 21, 2019--

Great Western Bank, a wholly owned subsidiary of Great Western Bancorp, Inc. (NYSE: GWB), announced today that it has entered into an agreement to purchase and assume the management of the trust assets of Independent Bank acquired through its acquisition of Guaranty Bank and Trust Company in Colorado. Independent Bank is a wholly owned subsidiary of Independent Bank Group, Inc. (NASDAQ: IBTX). The transaction is expected to close in October 2019.

As of March 31, 2019, Independent Bank's Trust Department located in Colorado had approximately \$311.7 million in assets held in fiduciary or agency capacities. Jane Cox, the Senior Vice President and Senior Trust Manager of Independent Bank's Trust Department, has agreed to join Great Western Bank upon completion of the transaction, together with several other trust department employees. As of March 31, 2019, Great Western Bank had approximately \$1.3 billion in assets under administration.

"We are excited to welcome customers from Independent Bank's Trust Department and to provide them with the same excellent level of performance and attention to which they are accustomed. With a combined \$1.6 billion trust business, we will offer a compelling combination of sophistication and personal service,"

said Ken Karels, CEO and Chairperson of the Board of Great Western Bank.

## Oglala Sioux get federal flooding relief

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Oglala Sioux tribal leaders say the federal government is providing \$10 million in emergency relief to help with damage from springtime flooding on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

In a statement Friday, President Julian Bear Runner said federal officials accepted the reservation's emergency request weeks after it was made. The tribe's request for an emergency declaration is separate from the state, whose \$46 million request was accepted earlier this month.

Rapid snow melt and severe weather in March and April caused widespread flooding. Residents were stranded in homes surrounded by water with emergency rescues and supply drop-offs done by boat.

Eight thousand residents were left without clean drinking water after floodwaters washed out the rural water system. Gov. Kristi Noem deployed National Guard soldiers to deliver water.

## South Dakota's teacher pay raise plan struggles to deliver

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Three years after South Dakota lawmakers overhauled the state's education funding formula to raise teacher salaries, superintendents say the new system isn't delivering as promised. And they say they're trying to figure out how to cope if the underfunding continues.

For the last two years, the state hasn't delivered on the funding it promised under the 2016 changes to help local school districts increase the state's last-in-the-nation average teacher salaries and stay competitive, the Argus Leader reported Friday.

"People have gotten this big belief that we've gotten this money and that we're ahead of the game," Harrisburg Superintendent Jim Holbeck said. "That's not the case. If we don't fund this thing according to the formula, we'll be right back where we were."

The retooled formula, guided by a blue ribbon task force appointed by then-Gov. Dennis Daugaard, shifted the focus from funding based on the number of students a district has to funding based on student-teacher ratios.

The changes included a half-cent increase in the state sales tax, with a target goal of making the average salary for teachers \$48,500. In the first year, salaries increased an average of 8.8 percent, raising South Dakota above last in the nation for the first time in nearly 30 years.

The changes also required the state to provide annual funding increases of either 3 percent or the inflation rate, whichever is less. The state fully funded that obligation in its first year but not the second or third due to a cash flow struggle. Promises to districts to backfill what was owed haven't panned out.

"When can schools start to trust what the legislature passes?" Holbeck said. "We had our formula, and within two years they don't live up to their word. That's a big issue. When can we trust something that's being told to us?"

There's now a \$3.6 million gap between money promised under the formula and what districts have received. And as the state's 149 school districts look at approving 2020 budgets in July, many superintendents aren't sure how they'll handle it.

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

## Fiery plane crash claims 9 people on Oahu's North Shore

By CALEB JONES Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — Nine people died in a fiery crash of a small airplane used in a sky dive operation, officials in Hawaii said.

There were no survivors after the twin engine King Air plane crashed Friday night near Dillingham Airfield, on Oahu's North Shore, Hawaii Department of Transportation spokesman Tim Sakahara said.

"Upon arrival, we saw the plane fully engulfed in fire," Honolulu Fire Chief Manuel Neves told reporters

on the scene. "The first crews on scene extinguished the fire."

Neves said the crash occurred near the perimeter fencing of the small airport. "They're quite a ways away from the runway," he said.

The plane was used in a sky dive operation, and Neves said some family members of those on board waited at the airport for the plane to return.

The debris field was relatively small, about 50 feet (15 meters) by 50 feet (15 meters), he said.

"In my 40 years as a firefighter here in Hawaii, this is the most tragic aircraft incident what we've had," he told reporters at the scene, about an hour's drive north of Honolulu.

Crews with Honolulu Emergency Services said it assisted with death pronouncements of the nine after receiving the call at 6:26 p.m. local time, agency spokeswoman Shayne Enright said.

Names, ages and genders of the deceased have not been released.

Neves said many details are still not known about the flight. But he says witnesses have said the plane was inbound to the airport when the crash occurred but that has not been confirmed.

Officials initially reported that six people had been on board.

## Court tosses black man's murder conviction over racial bias

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Friday threw out the murder conviction and death sentence for a black man in Mississippi because of a prosecutor's efforts to keep African Americans off the jury. The defendant already has been tried six times and now could face a seventh trial.

The removal of black prospective jurors deprived inmate Curtis Flowers of a fair trial, the court said in a 7-2 decision written by Justice Brett Kavanaugh.

The long record of Flowers' trials stretching back more than 20 years shows District Attorney Doug Evans' "relentless, determined effort to rid the jury of black individuals," with the goal of an all-white jury, Kavanaugh wrote.

In Flowers' sixth trial, the jury was made up of 11 whites and one African American. Prosecutor Evans struck five black prospective jurors.

In the earlier trials, three convictions were tossed out, including one when the prosecutor improperly excluded African Americans from the jury. In the second trial, the judge chided Evans for striking a juror based on race. Two other trials ended when jurors couldn't reach unanimous verdicts.

"The numbers speak loudly," Kavanaugh said in a summary of his opinion that he read in the courtroom, noting that Evans had removed 41 of the 42 prospective black jurors over the six trials. "We cannot ignore that history."

In dissent, Justice Clarence Thomas called Kavanaugh's opinion "manifestly incorrect" and wrote that Flowers "presented no evidence whatsoever of purposeful race discrimination." Justice Neil Gorsuch joined most of Thomas' opinion.

Thomas, the only African American on the court, said the decision may have one redeeming quality: "The state is perfectly free to convict Curtis Flowers again."

Flowers has been in jail more than 22 years, since his arrest after four people were found shot to death in a furniture store in Winona, Mississippi, in July 1996.

Flowers was arrested several months later, described by prosecutors as a disgruntled former employee who sought revenge against the store's owner because she fired him and withheld most of his pay to cover the cost of merchandise he damaged. Nearly \$300 was found missing after the killings.

Defense lawyers have argued that witness statements and physical evidence against Flowers are too weak to convict him. A jailhouse informant who claimed Flowers had confessed to him recanted in recorded telephone conversations with American Public Media's "In the Dark" podcast. A separate appeal is pending in state court questioning Flowers' actual guilt, citing in part evidence that reporters for "In the Dark" detailed.

"A seventh trial would be unprecedented, and completely unwarranted given both the flimsiness of the

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evidence against him and the long trail of misconduct that has kept him wrongfully incarcerated all these years. We hope that the state of Mississippi will finally disavow Doug Evans' misconduct, decline to pursue yet another trial and set Mr. Flowers free," Sheri Lynn Johnson, who represented Flowers at the Supreme Court, said in an emailed statement.

Evans said he remained confident of Flowers' guilt but hadn't decided on retrial, according to American Public Media. However, he denied trying to exclude African Americans from the jury.

In the course of selecting a jury, lawyers can excuse a juror merely because of a suspicion that a particular person would vote against their client. Those are called peremptory strikes, and they have been the focus of the complaints about discrimination.

The Supreme Court tried to stamp out discrimination in the composition of juries in *Batson v. Kentucky* in 1986. The court ruled then that jurors couldn't be excused from service because of their race and set up a system by which trial judges could evaluate claims of discrimination and the race-neutral explanations by prosecutors.

Justice Thurgood Marshall, who had been the nation's pre-eminent civil rights attorney, was part of the *Batson* case majority, but he said the only way to end discrimination in jury selection was to eliminate peremptory strikes.

Flowers' case has been to the high court before. In 2016, the justices ordered Mississippi's top court to re-examine racial bias issues in Flowers' case following a high court ruling in favor of a Georgia inmate because of a racially discriminatory jury. But the Mississippi justices divided 5-4 in upholding the verdict against Flowers. The state, defending the conviction, said the justices must narrow the focus from Evans' broader record to the case at hand.

But Kavanaugh said that even on the narrower basis, there is evidence that at least one prospective black juror for the sixth trial, Carolyn Wright, was similarly situated to white jurors and was improperly excused by Evans.

"The trial court clearly erred in ruling that the state's peremptory strike of Wright was not motivated in substantial part by discriminatory intent," Kavanaugh wrote.

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Associated Press writer Jeff Amy contributed to this story from Jackson, Mississippi.

## Dems' presidential field takes spotlight in South Carolina

By BILL BARROW, MEG KINNARD and WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Almost the entire sprawling Democratic presidential field of more than 20 candidates took the same stage Friday in the South's first primary state, looking to make connections in a primary battleground that has helped propel the party's last two nominees.

Former Vice President Joe Biden reintroduced himself to South Carolina voters at gatherings he's attended many times before. His rivals tried to convince a boisterous throng to consider a new path.

"I think I've been in every one of your counties over the years," Biden said at House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn's annual fish fry, a longstanding event that this year has blossomed into a centerpiece ahead of the 2020 election.

The 76-year-old Biden touted his friendship with Clyburn and other South Carolina politicians, including former Sen. Fritz Hollings, whom the Democratic front-runner eulogized earlier this year.

Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, meanwhile, made her usual detailed policy pitch. Sen. Kamala Harris of California, one of two major black candidates, called attention to civil rights heroes in a state where black voters typically make up a majority of Democratic primary electorates. And lesser known candidates tried to capitalize on the spotlight, with the likes of entrepreneur Andrew Yang getting a boisterous welcome despite barely registering in national polls.

The fish fry is a highlight of a big political weekend in South Carolina. Candidates also attended the state party's annual fundraising gala Friday evening ahead of the Clyburn party. The state party convention and a Planned Parenthood forum on abortion rights follows Saturday.

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For South Carolina Democrats, it's the culmination of several decades of work raising the state's profile to compete with the attention afforded to Iowa and New Hampshire, the two states that for decades have led off presidential voting.

The itinerary gives candidates a key opportunity to court the black voters who are crucial in South Carolina politics, while also reaching a sometimes underappreciated block of moderate whites. The electorate here reflects those in other Southern states that follow quickly on the nominating calendar, offering candidates a proving ground to test their message.

Biden leads most national and early nominating state polls, with notable strength among South Carolina's older black voters and moderate whites that dominate the Democratic primary here. But locals point to this weekend as a way for candidates to help reset the race ahead of the first debates next week in Miami.

"People see Vice President Biden as one of us, but most people are wide open," said former state party Chairwoman Carol Fowler, who is uncommitted in the primary. "They just want to be part of the process of defeating Donald Trump."

Neither Warren nor Harris — two of Biden's top rivals — mentioned the front-runner, but both drew a contrast in style.

"We need big, structural change in this country, in this economy. And big structural change starts with big ideas," Warren said, offering a list of ways she'd spend new revenue from her proposed tax on the wealthiest American fortunes.

Harris, one of two top candidates who is black, called attention to the recent fourth anniversary of a white supremacist massacre of nine black men and women at a Charleston, South Carolina, church. And she mentioned generations of civil rights activists who preceded her candidacy. Both groups, she said, were "heroes who fought and died for equality."

Most candidates Friday stuck to praising Clyburn, the highest-ranking black member of Congress, and promised to focus on marginalized Americans and the middle class.

"If we bring everyone's story into the story of this country, it is only then that we will achieve the great things we want to do," said former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke, mentioning that he's already campaigned in economically struggling areas of the state that don't often see presidential candidates.

New York Mayor Bill de Blasio touted "a simple message: working people first."

Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar emphasized her desire to enact again provisions of the Voting Rights Act struck down by the Supreme Court.

The evening also carried a jovial air.

Clyburn introduced Cory Booker as "the selfie man of the United States of America," a nod to the New Jersey senator's endless appetite for cell phone pictures with supporters. The famously loquacious Biden joked with Clyburn at the conclusion of his remarks: "I did it in a minute."

Some of the lagging candidates encountered the realities of such a large field. When Colorado Sen. Michael Bennet greeted one dinner patron, the man asked politely, "Are you one of the candidates?"

Clyburn himself got some details wrong as emcee, mispronouncing names and saying John Hickenlooper, the former governor of Colorado, is from California. Introducing Harris, Clyburn bragged that he pronounces her oft-mangled first name correctly.

The scenes were a triumph for longtime South Carolina Democratic players. "This is chaos," beamed Dick Harpootlian, a state senator and former state party chairman as he awaited the fundraising dinner.

Standing nearby, Fowler called it "the biggest crowd we've ever had," referring both to donors and candidates.

She and her husband, former Democratic National Committee Chairman Don Fowler, were political celebrities in their own right Friday, with well-wishers thanking the couple for helping to secure South Carolina's place as an early nominating state.

Clyburn, meanwhile, is enjoying a bump in his already considerable influence. He's the third-ranking Democrat in the House and the most senior black lawmaker on Capitol Hill. His fish fry began in 1992 in a parking deck near the South Carolina Statehouse as a way to thank volunteers who helped him secure

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his first congressional victory. It was also an alternative for activists who couldn't afford to attend the party fundraiser.

On Friday, thousands filled a downtown Columbia plaza.

"It's kind of like a family reunion for those of us in South Carolina," said Rep. Russell Ott, a Democrat in the state legislature, "the pep rally before the big game."

Follow the reporters on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/BillBarrowAP> , <https://twitter.com/MegKinnardAP> , and <https://twitter.com/APWillWeissert> .

## Scamp the Tramp wins World's Ugliest Dog Contest

By JOHN ROGERS Associated Press

Scamp the Tramp will never win a beauty contest. But he's won an ugly one.

The bug-eyed, dreadlocked pooch took top honors Friday night at the 31st annual World's Ugliest Dog Contest.

Owner Yvonne Morones of Santa Rosa, California, won an appearance with Scamp on the "Today" show, \$1,500 in cash, another \$1,500 to donate to an animal shelter — and a trophy the size of a Rottweiler.

"He's Scamp the Champ, no longer Scamp the Tramp," Morones told the Santa Rosa Press-Democrat after the victory. "I think the audience saw his beautiful spirit and everything he's given back to the community."

Scamp makes volunteer visits to schoolchildren and a local senior citizens center.

The street dog from Compton was rescued by Morones in 2014 after she spotted him on Pet Finder.

"It was on the way home that I knew I made the right choice," she said in a contest press statement.

"There we were, two strangers in a car on the way home to a new start. Bob Marley was playing 'One Love' and I looked over and little Scamp was bobbing his head. It was like he knew he had found his forever home."

Scamp beat out 18 other contestants who showed off their droopy tongues, bowed legs, perpetually confused looks and other strange attributes.

The contestants got to walk the red carpet and preen for adoring fans at Sonoma-Marín Fairgrounds in the heart of Northern California wine country.

The competition, as they say, was fierce.

Second place went to Wild Thang, a Pekinese with beady eyes and a disturbing tongue, owned by Ann Lewis of Los Angeles.

Third place went to Tostito, a Chihuahua whose damaged ears and droopy tongue make him look like he just stuck his foot into an electrical socket. Tostito, owned by Molly Horgan of Falmouth, Maine, also won the Spirit Award.

This year's People's Choice Award went to Meatloaf, a bulldog mix with protruding teeth owned by Denae Pruner of Sacramento, California.

Everyone knows ugliness is in the eye of the beholder and, to a dog lover, there is no such thing as an uncomely canine. Weird-looking, maybe. Appearance-challenged, perhaps. Or, as owners of ugly dogs like to say, "unique."

Like Willie Wonka, a sweet-natured pit bull abandoned after he was discovered to have a genetic malady that left his legs so bowed he could barely walk.

With a chuckle, publicist Christy Gentry said the competition wasn't just about being ugly.

"Judges are looking for special attributes like hanging tongues, slobber, drool (the more the better). Maybe unusual patches of skin or hair," she explained.

Last year's champion, an English bulldog named Zsa Zsa, with a tongue that hung nearly to the ground, endeared herself to the judges when she sneezed and drooled all over them.

Soon she was headed to New York for national TV appearances. Sadly, Zsa Zsa died about a year ago at age 9.

Another previous winner, Nana, made the cover of an album by the Grateful Dead spinoff band Ratdog.

Organizers say the contest isn't just skin-deep. It's also about bringing attention to the needs of rescue

dogs.

Most competitors were previously abandoned or rescued from kill shelters in the U.S., found abandoned on streets or seized from unscrupulous breeders.

"What we're really doing is we're showcasing dogs that have been rescued and adopted and brought into loving homes," Gentry said. "These are sort of spokesdogs for adoption."

## Free or not? Washingtonians have say on fate of '80s kingpin

By ASHRAF KHALIL Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Long before it became a tranquil middle-class neighborhood scattered with pride flags, the area around 7th Street and Orleans Place near Gallaudet University in northeast Washington was a 24/7 open-air drug market that police generally avoided. And Rayful Edmond was the undisputed boss.

In the 1980s, Edmond was believed to have controlled about a third of the city's drug trade during a devastating crack epidemic that led to a surge in homicides and destroyed thousands of lives. Enforcers armed with Uzi submachineguns protected the territory and Edmond's operation was linked to at least 30 murders, although none was ever pinned on him.

"All over the city, he was known as THE MAN," said George Madison, a 54-year old retired security guard, who grew up across town, but recalled that everyone knew the kingpin.

Edmond was eventually arrested and sentenced to life in prison. But federal prosecutors are now seeking his release, citing his years of assistance in helping authorities convict other dealers. In an unusual move, U.S. District Judge Emmet G. Sullivan has asked Washington Attorney General Karl Racine to solicit community opinions on whether Edmond, now 54, should be set free and whether he should be welcomed back to the city.

The prospect of Edmond going free has dredged up intense memories of a crime-ridden Washington that was the per-capita murder capital of the country, a status hard to picture now amid an ongoing construction boom and an influx of affluent, mostly white newcomers.

"The emotions are incredibly fresh," said Racine, who is organizing a string of town hall events on the topic. "I really did not expect some of the feelings that were articulated to be so raw and passionate."

At a recent event in southeast Washington, a half dozen people spoke, with opinions split on the prospect of Edmond's release.

"If the state feels that he's paid his debt to society, then I can live with that," said May Lewis, who attended but didn't speak publicly. "But I do hope he doesn't return to Washington to live. That might be too much for a small community like this to handle."

At the time of his arrest, Edmond, then 24, was a household name in a city that was a smaller, closer-knit place than now. His family-run operation was estimated by law enforcement officials to be moving up to 1,700 pounds of cocaine per month and making more than \$1 million per week.

Madison, the retired security guard, recalled Edmond's reign with ambivalence.

"There's two sides: On one side, yes he flooded the streets with drugs," he said. "But at the same time he did help people in the community. He bought school clothes for kids and gifts at Christmas."

Edmond lived a high-profile life, sponsoring local basketball tournaments and taking lavish trips to Las Vegas to attend boxing matches. Racine, the attorney general, said he grew up in the same generation as Edmond and may have unwittingly played in basketball tournaments that were partially sponsored by him. He said the tales of Edmond's generosity in the community were commonly heard about urban drug lords and Mafia dons alike.

"People who engage in wrongdoing that is profitable often do practice some sort of largesse within the community," Racine said.

People talk about how Edmond tried to befriend members of the Georgetown University basketball team, including star center Alonzo Mourning. That ended when John Thompson, the famously intimidating Georgetown coach at the time, summoned Edmond to his office and ordered the kingpin to stay away from his players.

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Edmond's trial was marked by unprecedented security measures; jury members were kept anonymous for their protection. He received a sentence of life without parole and was sent to a maximum-security prison in Pennsylvania. He continued to run a drug distribution network from inside the prison, and when he was caught, Edmond received an additional 30-year sentence. That seemed to change him.

He began cooperating with authorities. Federal prosecutors, in their motion to reduce the life sentence, say Edmond has helped jail dozens of other drug dealers, break up distribution rings and even taught prison authorities how to better prevent trafficking inside the prison system. The federal prosecutors say their counterparts in Pennsylvania are considering requesting a similar reduction, based on Edmond's cooperation.

His assistance has already resulted in the early release of his mother, Constance "Bootsie" Perry, who was sentenced to 14 years for her part in her son's operation. It has also prompted authorities to put Edmond under witness protection and remove his name from the Bureau of Prisons public records.

Mary Cheh, a D.C. council member who teaches law at George Washington University, said she recalls Edmond's arrest and trial. From a legal perspective, she said, prosecutors wouldn't have made the request if Edmond's assistance hadn't been substantial.

"It's extraordinarily distasteful, but occasionally prosecutors do need to do this," she said. "You make deals. It's unsavory but sometimes it's the only way to get things done."

## Trump faces new sexual assault allegation; he issues denial

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A New York-based advice columnist claims Donald Trump sexually assaulted her in a dressing room at a Manhattan department store in the mid-1990s, according to a first-person account published Friday by New York magazine.

Trump denied the allegations and said, "I've never met this person in my life."

The allegation against Trump by E. Jean Carroll is included in her upcoming book about the "hideous men" that the Elle magazine columnist says she has encountered throughout her life.

Carroll wrote that after what started as a friendly encounter with Trump at Bergdorf Goodman in 1995 or 1996, the real estate mogul pushed her up against a dressing room wall, unzipped his pants and forced himself on her. Carroll said that in a "colossal struggle," she pushed him off and ran from the store.

In his statement, Trump called the accusation "fake news" and said there was no evidence.

"No pictures? No surveillance? No video? No reports? No sales attendants around?? I would like to thank Bergdorf Goodman for confirming they have no video footage of any such incident, because it never happened," he said.

The Trump Organization, which Trump still owns, did not respond to a request for comment from The Associated Press, which has not independently verified Carroll's account.

Carroll did not immediately return a call for comment.

During the 2016 presidential campaign, more than a dozen women accused Trump of sexual misconduct in earlier years. Trump has denied the allegations and said the women are lying. While those cases generally involved groping and kissing without consent, Carroll alleged forced penetration.

Carroll, now 75, wrote in her book excerpt on the magazine's website that Trump recognized her as "that advice lady" as he arrived at Bergdorf Goodman on Fifth Avenue just as she was leaving. She said Trump invited her to help him buy a present for an unidentified "girl" and she agreed.

Carroll said that after Trump suggested a purchase of lingerie or underwear, he grabbed a bodysuit and urged Carroll to try it on. After some joking around about which one of them should try it on, Trump led Carroll to a dressing room, where, she alleged, Trump pushed her against a wall, pulled down her tights and assaulted her in an episode that lasted under three minutes.

Carroll said there were no attendants in the dressing room area and she did not file a report with the New York Police Department. She said she did, however, tell two journalist friends, one of whom urged her to contact the police while the other advised her to keep quiet, citing Trump's access to lawyers.



New York magazine said it confirmed the accounts of Carroll's friends but it did not identify either individual by name.

Trump was caught on tape in 2005 boasting of grabbing women by their genitals and kissing them without permission. When the tape became public weeks before the November 2016 general election, Trump said he never acted in any of the ways described on the tape, and described it as just "locker-room talk."

In March, a New York state appeals court ruled that Summer Zervos, a former contestant on Trump's reality TV show "The Apprentice" who accused him of unwanted kissing and groping, can move forward with her defamation lawsuit against him.

Trump isn't the only prominent man on the list of men who Carroll alleges have assaulted her.

She also claimed that Les Moonves, the former CEO of CBS, mauled her in the elevator of a Beverly Hills hotel after she interviewed him in 1997. Moonves was one of television's most influential figures when he was ousted in September 2018 following allegations by women who said he subjected them to mistreatment, including forced oral sex, groping and retaliation if they resisted.

Moonves told New York magazine that he "emphatically denies" the incident occurred. He did not respond to the AP's requests for comment.

## Fellow SEALs say chief shot girl and old man in Iraq

By JULIE WATSON and BRIAN MELLEY Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Two Navy SEALs testified Friday that their platoon chief gunned down a young girl and an old man in Iraq in 2017 from his sniper's perch, though neither witnessed him pulling the trigger.

The SEALs said shots came from the tower where Special Operations Chief Edward Gallagher was posted and they watched through their scopes as the civilians fell to the ground.

Dalton Tolbert said he and another sniper were in a neighboring tower in Mosul on June 18, 2017, and had fired warning shots to scatter civilians by the Tigris River because the Islamic State was operating in the area.

An old man in a white tunic began running and then Tolbert heard a third shot come from the neighboring tower where Gallagher was positioned and saw the man fall.

Over the radio, he heard Gallagher say: "You guys missed him, but I got him."

Gallagher, 40, has pleaded not guilty to attempted murder for allegedly shooting civilians. He also faces a murder charge in the alleged stabbing of a wounded captive Islamic State fighter.

The defense said the testimony was unreliable because no witness reported seeing Gallagher pull the trigger. Attorney Tim Parlatore accused the SEALs of organizing a smear campaign through a group text that pressured fellow SEALs to coordinate their stories and get Gallagher ousted permanently.

Tolbert was so upset that when he returned from deployment, he texted members of SEAL Team 7 to say he wanted people to speak up about Gallagher's behavior.

"I shot more warning shots to save civilians from Eddie than I ever did at ISIS. I see an issue with that," Tolbert texted others.

Another witness, Joshua Vriens, said on another day that he saw Gallagher shoot at a group of adolescent girls in floral hijabs, hitting one in the stomach and sending two scattering.

Vriens said he watched through his scope as a fourth girl dragged the wounded girl over a berm and under a bridge to escape.

During cross-examination, Vriens acknowledged he reported to a superior that day that the Islamic State was shooting civilians.

Tolbert and Vriens said there were no signs that the old man or the young girl were threats. Most of the Islamic State fighters were younger and had longer hair.

The defense, however, countered that the Islamic State used civilians, including women, to provide supplies.

The shootings happened several weeks after other SEALs said they witnessed Gallagher, a medic, stab-

bing to death a wounded and captive Islamic State fighter in his care.

On Thursday, another SEAL stunned the court when he admitted on the witness stand that he — not Gallagher — killed the prisoner.

Corey Scott said Gallagher stabbed the captive, but that he would have survived those wounds.

Scott said he suffocated the adolescent by plugging his breathing tube as an act of mercy because he didn't want him to be tortured to death by Iraqi forces.

Vriens said Friday that he never saw the killing, but said later that day a fellow SEAL who was viewing photos of the dead militant on a laptop shared by the platoon asked Gallagher, "Is this the guy?"

Vriens said Gallagher replied: "Yes, I stabbed him in the side, then grabbed him by the hair and looked him in the eyes and I stabbed him in the neck."

Melley reported from Los Angeles.

## A look at how immigration authorities make arrests

By ASTRID GALVAN and NOMAAN MERCHANT Associated Press

Immigrant advocates and sympathizers are warning about arrests around the country as early as Sunday.

The anticipated sweep is expected to be similar to operations that authorities have regularly done since 2003. They often produce hundreds of arrests.

This one is different because President Donald Trump announced Monday on Twitter that it would be the start of an effort to deport millions of people in the country illegally, a near-impossibility given limited resources of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which makes the arrests and carries out deportation orders.

It's also slightly unusual to target families — as opposed to immigrants with criminal histories — but not unprecedented. The Obama and Trump administrations have targeted families in previous operations.

Here are some questions and answers about how ICE operates:

### WHAT THEY CAN DO

Immigration and Customs Enforcement is in charge of arresting and deporting immigrants who lack legal status.

One common method of finding and arresting people who are known to be in the country illegally is agreements between ICE and local jails around the country to hold people arrested on crimes past their release date so that ICE can look into their status. These are known as "detainers," but they've become increasingly unpopular among local governments, many who say they risk legal action and that they shouldn't be doing the work of federal authorities.

The agency also arrests people the old-fashioned way, by tracking people down and showing up at their homes or workplaces.

But the amount of resources and staff limit their ability to make multiple large-scale arrests at a time.

### WHAT HAVE THEY DONE

Last fiscal year, ICE's Enforcement and Removal Operations unit arrested over 158,500 immigrants in the country illegally, an 11% increase over the prior year and the highest number since 2014. The agency says 66% of those arrested are convicted criminals.

Last month, ICE officers arrested 900 people during a three-week sting in California.

The agency announced last week that it arrested 140 people, including 45 in Illinois, during a sting in the Midwest that lasted five days.

Although ICE arrests people a variety of ways, it's the larger enforcement operations such as a workplace sting that draw the most attention.

In Texas, ICE'S Homeland Security Investigations unit, which enforces immigration laws at workplaces, arrested 280 employees at a company in Allen, Texas, in April, saying it was their biggest worksite operation in a decade.

"I think what people forget is these operations go on on a regular basis," said Art Acevedo, the police

chief in Houston, one of the cities believed to be targeted in an upcoming sweep.

## WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE

Authorities typically have a list of people they are targeting in any operation. They visit a targeted person's known addresses, usually a home or workplace, and seek to detain that person. They may ask family members, neighbors, co-workers, or managers about the whereabouts of the person they want to arrest.

Authorities typically obtain an administrative warrant giving them permission to detain a person for violating immigration law.

ICE agents can arrest people they discover to be in the U.S. illegally while searching for people on their target list. People who answer ICE agents' questions about someone else sometimes end up arrested themselves. In one case in Houston last year, a young father of five was arrested in the parking lot of his apartment building after ICE agents asked him about people who lived nearby, then demanded his identification and eventually detained him.

These "collateral" arrests can comprise a large portion of the arrests in any operation. In one December 2017 operation in northern Kentucky, just five of the 22 arrests ICE made were of people it originally targeted, according to agency documents released under the Freedom of Information Act.

## WHAT WE'RE EXPECTING NEXT

The Washington Post and Miami Herald reported that 10 cities are expected to be targeted in raids starting Sunday. The Herald reported those cities are Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans, New York, and San Francisco.

ICE officials said this week that they had sent about 2,000 letters in February to people in "family units" who had already received final orders to leave the country. The people who received those letters may be the targets of the enforcement operation.

Acevedo, the Houston chief, said ICE officials this week declined to provide him with any information about the expected weekend operation besides saying they had ongoing enforcement operations. He criticized President Donald Trump's tweets Monday saying that agents would begin removing "millions of illegal aliens."

"It instills fear," Acevedo said. "We rely on the cooperation of that population to keep all Americans safe, all residents safe, and all members of society safe. ... When you say you're going to go arrest millions of people, that has a chilling effect on the cooperation."

## A half-hour away: How Trump opted against Iran strike

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, LISA MASCARO and DEB RIECHMANN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The planes were ready — their deadly cargo poised for delivery within a half-hour.

President Donald Trump had been given a series of options Thursday night on how to respond to Iran's downing of an unmanned American surveillance drone. Senior military advisers zeroed in on a plan to launch strikes on a trio of sites within Iran, and it was up to Trump to give the final go-ahead.

If the planes took off, Trump later recounted to NBC, they would soon be at "a point where you wouldn't turn back or couldn't turn back."

Trump's decision point came at the culmination of a tense 24 hours inside the West Wing after the drone went down.

How would he make his decision? "My gut," he told legislators.

When the military officers came looking for the president's final go-ahead, Trump said he had one last question.

"I want to know something before you go," Trump recounted. "How many people will be killed?"

This account is based on information from more than a dozen legislators, congressional aides, administration officials and others, some of whom spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.

Hours earlier, a model of a proposed new Air Force One was perched on the coffee table in the Oval Office. Its Trump-designed red, white and blue color scheme glistened under the Oval Office lights.

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Seated behind the plane were Trump and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, whose visit to Washington on Thursday to discuss trade and tariffs was suddenly upstaged by the rising tensions in the Middle East. With reporters peppering Trump with a cacophony of questions about how he would respond to Tehran, the president took a moment to extoll the virtues of the new presidential plane. "It's going to be terrific," he declared.

But what to do about Iran?

"You'll find out. You'll find out," Trump said. "They made a very big mistake."

The president, who had just come from a briefing on the incident, seemed to telegraph what he had learned, declaring, "I find it hard to believe it was intentional, if you want to know the truth."

"I think that it could have been somebody who was loose and stupid that did it."

Over a year earlier, Trump had defied most of the United States' allies by pulling out of the Iran nuclear deal and strengthening sanctions on the regime, choking the Iranian economy and pushing Tehran to escalate tensions. Trudeau, who largely looked on in silence while Trump fielded questions, used his brief remarks to highlight the need for close coordination among nations.

"We look forward to discussing with our closest ally — their perspectives on this — and how we can move forward as an international community," the Canadian prime minister said.

Trump, for his part, made no mention of alliances.

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Trudeau's meeting later that afternoon with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell was abruptly cancelled when McConnell was summoned to the White House for a briefing on Iran.

But there was a glaring omission on the invitation list for briefing top congressional leaders and national security committee chairmen.

The heads of the House and Senate foreign relations committees were quickly added once the White House was reminded the panels have jurisdiction over the War Powers Act, according to a congressional aide familiar with the situation.

Once assembled, the lawmakers around the table made their case, one by one. Trump seemed eager to hear their opinions, even those of House Democrats who have launched a slew of investigations into the president.

"These conflicts have a way of escalating," Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer told the president. Even if Trump didn't intend to go to war, Schumer said, he could "bumble" into one.

The legislators saw "a commander in chief who struggled with the issue," said Republican Sen. Jim Risch of Idaho, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee. "It was painful for him."

Democrats made the case for caution, for partnering with allies, for taking a breath to de-escalate, as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi would put it later. Intelligence Committee Chairman Rep. Adam Schiff told the administration it could not continue to rely on the war authorizations approved by Congress after the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks.

White House reporters and photographers trained their eyes on a West Wing side door where the legislators would emerge, looking for any clues to what had transpired. When the legislators did turn up, there was a perplexing image: Schumer pumped his arms skyward in a celebratory "raise the roof" gesture while Pelosi cheerfully clapped.

Had the Democrats talked the president out of war? Had some sort of deal been struck?

Neither. It turned out Schumer had just relayed the happy news that his elderly mother had been released from the hospital.

"We left with the idea the president was going to consider some options," Pelosi said.

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Televisions across the White House were tuned, as usual, to Fox News. Tucker Carlson's image flickered on the screen as he made his case earlier in the week against going to war with Iran.

Carlson was making a similar case to Trump in private, according to a White House official and a Republican close to the West Wing.

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Trump had been soliciting a wide array of opinions about Iran after a pair of tankers were damaged a week earlier near the Strait of Hormuz, an incident U.S. officials blamed on the Iranians. The president was growing frustrated with his national security adviser John Bolton's advocacy for a strike, the officials said.

The attack on the drone put the military option on the table.

But when Trump asked his question Thursday about how many Iranians could die in the strikes, the answer gave him pause. He was told 150 Iranian lives were at stake.

"I thought about it for a second," Trump told NBC, "and I said: 'You know what? They shot down an unmanned drone, plane, whatever you want to call it. And here we are sitting with 150 dead people that would have taken place probably within a half an hour after I said go ahead.' And I didn't like it. I didn't think, I didn't think it was proportionate."

The president, long opposed to being drawn into a military conflict in the Middle East and in particular with an unpredictable foe like Iran, played up the drama of the moment. He tweeted Friday morning that the military had been "cocked and loaded" and that the weaponry was only 10 minutes away from being deployed.

As the day went on, a sense of normalcy returned to the White House.

On Friday afternoon, lawmakers filtered into the White House south lawn for the annual congressional picnic — just steps away from the windowless, basement Situation Room where security officials had debated what could come next.

Risch's prediction: "There's going to be something more proportional, obviously, and I suspect it's going to be not kinetic action."

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Lemire reported from New York. Additional reporting by Susannah George, Mary Clare Jalonick and Padmandanda Rama in Washington and Rob Gillies in Toronto.

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## A perilous time to have temps running the Pentagon

By LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's a perilous time to have temps running the Pentagon.

President Donald Trump's brinkmanship with Iran is on the boil, spilling beyond diplomacy to a planned air attack on Iran that Trump said he ordered, then pulled back at least for now. This, as the U.S. undertakes an unusual troop deployment to the Mexican border , tends its nearly two-decade-old war in Afghanistan and grapples with stalled talks with North Korea over its nuclear weapons program.

Through it all, the U.S. has no defense secretary , but rather an acting one who is taking over from another acting one, who suddenly quit.

And the latest one, Army Secretary Mark Esper, who takes over Sunday, might only be able to serve as acting Pentagon chief for less than two months under the rules, requiring yet another short-term boss before it's all sorted out. On Friday night, Trump officially announced he intended to nominate Esper for the permanent job.

Temporary leadership is a hallmark of Trump's administration . "It gives me more flexibility," Trump has said of the many people in acting leadership jobs, not always by his choice.

The practice lets Trump quickly, if temporarily, install allies in important positions while circumventing the Senate confirmation process, which can be risky with Republicans running the chamber by a slim 53-47 margin.

But the Senate Democratic leader, Chuck Schumer of New York, says it's out of hand.

"With everything going on in Iran and all the provocations and counteractions, and to have no secretary of defense at this time is appalling," he said. "It shows the chaos in this administration. They have so many empty positions, revolving doors, in the most sensitive of security positions."

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Tensions with Iran quickly escalated this week after an attack on freighters at sea that the U.S. blamed on Iran. Tehran announced it was breaking from commitments it made under the accord that restrains its nuclear ambitions — a deal Trump withdrew from last year. Iran then downed a U.S. drone, prompting Trump to order a retaliatory strike that he said he shelved 10 minutes before Iran was to be hit.

As the situation grew more dangerous this week, the acting defense secretary, Patrick Shanahan, stepped down, saying he wanted to spare his family a public airing of domestic problems linked to his messy divorce nearly a decade ago. Trump said months ago he would nominate Shanahan for the defense job and seek his Senate confirmation but he never did. Officials said repeatedly that the vetting of Shanahan was dragging on.

Trump immediately named Esper as the new acting secretary, but because of limitations laid out in court decisions and legislation governing how top vacancies are filled, he may only be able to serve for six weeks. Inside the Pentagon, lawyers are debating how to get Esper through what would be a difficult legal and congressional confirmation process. Defense officials said Thursday they had yet to find a clear way forward.

For the moment both Shanahan and Esper have been attending White House and other meetings and taking part in debates over how to respond to Iran's destruction of the drone.

Esper is slated to take over as acting defense secretary at midnight Sunday, then head out Tuesday to a meeting of NATO defense ministers. There it will be critical for Esper to convince allies that he is now in charge, and that the U.S. national security leadership is stable and able to make decisions in crises.

While lawmakers have expressed initial support for Esper, who is well known on the Hill and previously served on committees as legislative staff, there is no guarantee he'll get quick approval.

As a former executive at defense contractor Raytheon, Esper may have to excuse himself from decisions involving the company. That could include sensitive, top-level negotiations with Turkey over its decision to buy a Russian missile defense system, and America's counteroffer of the Raytheon-made Patriot surface-to-air weapon.

The law prohibits Esper from being nominated for the job while also serving as acting secretary. If he is nominated, he'll have to step down and move to another job until the Senate votes on his confirmation. So that would mean yet another acting secretary meantime.

Anyone chosen to fill in temporarily won't have all of the decision-making power that a defense secretary needs when the nation is at war in several countries and conducting major military operations in dozens.

If the administration's churning leadership suits Trump's style, it's not always his intent.

Appointments have been marked by missteps and confusion: Trump has withdrawn 63 nominees, compared with 31 pulled back by President Barack Obama at this point in his first term, according to the non-partisan Partnership for Public Service. He's also decided against nominating some candidates he favored after realizing the Republican-led Senate would reject them.

Altogether, 22 of the top 42 people in Cabinet jobs have been acting, or slightly over half, from the 2017 start of Trump's presidency through mid-April, according to data compiled by incoming Yale political science professor Christina Kinane.

That's well above the average. From the 1977 start of Jimmy Carter's presidency through Obama's administration, 224 people held Cabinet posts and 57 were acting, or just 1 in 4, Kinane's figures show.

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Associated Press writer Alan Fram contributed to this report.

## US blacklists 5 Chinese groups working in supercomputing

By PAUL WISEMAN and FRANK BAJAK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States is blacklisting five Chinese organizations involved in supercomputing with military-related applications, citing national security as justification for denying its Asian geopolitical rival access to critical U.S. technology.

The move Friday by the U.S. Commerce Department could complicate talks next week between President

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Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, aimed at de-escalating a trade dispute between the world's two biggest economies.

The five blacklisted organizations placed on the so-called Entity List includes supercomputer maker Sugon, which is heavily dependent on U.S. suppliers including chipmakers Intel, Nvidia and Advanced Micro Devices.

The other four are the Wuxi Jiangnan Institute of Computing Technology and three Sugon affiliates. The Commerce Department called their activities "contrary to the national security and foreign policy interests of the United States."

Sugon and the Wuxi Jiangnan Institute, which the U.S. said is owned by a Chinese army research institute, are involved in China's push to develop next-generation "exascale" high performance computing to assist with military modernization. The technology involved supports such military-related tasks as running nuclear simulations, calculating missile trajectories and hypersonic algorithms, said Paul Triolo, technology analyst with the global risk-assessing Eurasia Group.

"This is all about the race to exascale computing, which China has designated as a major priority," he said, adding that companies such as Sugon have received major government backing.

Of particular concern to China hawks in the Trump administration, Triolo added, is Sugon's move to develop a next-generation processor of its own. It licensed one generation of AMD technology as part of a 2016 joint venture in which a Sugon subsidiary has an ownership stake.

An AMD spokesperson said the company was reviewing the order "to determine next steps related to our joint ventures."

In recent years, U.S. and Chinese companies have been alternating as leading producers of the world's fastest supercomputers. Sugon had 63 of the top 500 in the most recent rankings .

The blacklist effectively bars U.S. firms from selling technology to the Chinese organizations without government approval. Last month, Commerce last month added telecommunications giant Huawei to it, heightening tensions with Beijing .

This is not the first time the U.S. has placed on the Entity List a Chinese organization involved in supercomputer development with military uses. In 2015 it added China's National University of Defense Technology to the Entity List.

"The U.S. is gradually squeezing off access to US technology for major elements of China's next generation supercomputing," said Triolo. The long-running campaign isn't directly related to Trump's current trade war with China.

Trump has imposed 25% tariffs on \$250 billion in Chinese imports and is preparing to target another \$300 billion, extending the import taxes to virtually everything China ships to the United States. China has retaliated with tariffs on U.S. products.

Talks to resolve the dispute broke off last month. But Trump and Xi are scheduled to meet next week at the Group of 20 summit in Osaka, Japan, to get the negotiations back on track.

"Adding more Chinese companies to the U.S. bad guys list may be seen as a way to ramp up the pressure on China," said Amanda DeBusk, a partner at Dechert LLP and the former Commerce Department assistant secretary for export enforcement. "However, the Chinese may see this as ill-timed bullying. They cannot be seen as making concessions to the United States, so this may have the effect of hurting any chances for trade agreement."

The administration appeared to be sending mixed signals ahead of the summit.

In what looked like a goodwill gesture to Beijing, Vice President Mike Pence postponed a speech planned for Monday at a Washington think tank at which he was expected to criticize China's communist regime.

Asia specialist Tami Overby, senior director at the McLarty Associates consultancy, said that "it seems odd" that the Trump administration would delay Pence's speech and then turn around and expand its tech blacklist.

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Bajak reported from Boston. AP Writer Darlene Superville contributed to this story.

## Latest Hong Kong protest ends peacefully with demands unmet

By RAF WOBER Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Protesters in Hong Kong besieged police headquarters late into the night Friday, throwing eggs at the building and drawing graffiti on the walls, before ending a day of demonstrations in the Asian financial center with their demands unmet.

By daybreak Saturday, police had cleared the streets of barriers set up by protesters to snarl traffic in the Asian financial center, and only a few groups in the mostly youthful crowd remained. Many slept outside the Legislature.

Some demonstrators said in TV interviews that they had made their point but were disappointed that neither the police nor government leaders had come to talk to them.

Hong Kong has been rocked by major protests for the past two weeks over legislative proposals that many view as eroding the territory's judicial independence and, more broadly, as a sign of Chinese government efforts to chip away at the freedoms of the semi-autonomous city.

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam indefinitely suspended debate on the bills a week ago, making it likely they would die. But protesters are demanding that she formally withdraw the proposed changes to the extradition laws. Some also want her to resign.

The peaceful ending to Friday's protests drew a sigh of relief in the city of 7.4 million people, after police unleashed tear gas and rubber bullets last week in violent clashes with protesters that left dozens injured on both sides.

Police were previously criticized for their use of force but this time waited out the protesters. Police did issue a statement at 4:50 a.m. condemning them for blocking key streets and seriously disrupting work at police headquarters.

"Police have shown the greatest tolerance to the protesters who assembled outside PHQ, but their means of expressing views have become illegal, irrational and unreasonable," the statement said in part.

Activist Joshua Wong called on police to answer demands over heavy-handed tactics used during a mass protest on June 12, including the firing of 150 rounds of tear gas, rubber bullets and beanbag rounds, and the beating of unarmed protesters by police with truncheons.

"We ... urge police to apologize to the people" over the use of such tactics and their labeling of the gathering as a riot, Wong said.

While anger seemed to be turning away from civil authorities and toward the police, the mostly black-clad protesters continued to try to shut down the entire government complex, as they have tried off-and-on for the past two weeks.

During the afternoon, some sought to build barriers on Connaught Road, the main thoroughfare in the area known as Admiralty, building barriers of stones, pylons and other materials at hand, at one time temporarily blocking in a police van.

Around police headquarters, masked and helmeted protesters covered surveillance cameras with masking tape and lashed barriers together with nylon cable ties.

The auxiliary bishop of Hong Kong's Catholic diocese, the Rev. Joseph Ha, appealed to the protesters to avoid violence. He warned that public opinion could turn against them.

"You have already been on the roads for a long time," he said on Cable TV Hong Kong. "You've already done a lot. You have already expressed very clearly your hopes and wishes. But I am really worried about your personal safety. ... Please, absolutely, do not use violence."

Protest leaders have said they are determined to keep up the pressure on Lam, who has insisted the bills are needed to uphold justice. But critics see them as part of a campaign by Beijing to diminish Hong Kong's democratic institutions.

"I myself am not the type to get involved in violence," student protester Brian Chow said. "I'll just carry on sitting here, sing some Christian hymns, show our resistance, and keep the government paralyzed until it responds to us."



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Many protesters have been wary of giving their full names and some have obscured their features with facemasks to guard their identities against potential retribution from government or school authorities.

Government offices were ordered closed Friday "due to security considerations," and hearings at the Legislative Council were suspended.

Since the confrontations June 12, police have eased their approach, hoping to avoid a replay of 2014 protests, when officers unleashed 87 rounds of tear gas at protesters in the same location as the current protests.

When the smoke from that response cleared, bigger crowds returned, angrier than before, and didn't leave for nearly three months.

The bills would expand the scope of criminal suspect transfers to include mainland China, Taiwan and Macau. Legal and business groups in Hong Kong oppose the legislation, saying critics of China's ruling Communist Party would be at risk of torture and unfair trials on the mainland and that it further chips away at the "one country, two systems" framework under which Hong Kong has been governed since 1997.

That framework guaranteed the territory the right to retain its own legal, economic and political system for 50 years, but the Communist Party under Chinese President Xi Jinping has been pushing ever more aggressively to quiet independent voices in Hong Kong. Beijing has squelched all reporting on the protests in mainland media and accused foreign forces of stirring up disturbances in Hong Kong.

Opposition to the legislation has come from a broad range of civic, human rights, legal profession and commercial organizations.

On Friday, the Hong Kong Bar Association reiterated its criticisms, saying Lam's decision to suspend but not withdraw the bill was "wholly unsatisfactory" because it could still dictate the parameters of future consultation on the issues of surrender of fugitives and cross-border legal assistance.

The association also called for the setting up of an independent commission to investigate the June 12 violence, including whatever guidelines existed on the use of force by police against demonstrators.

Amnesty International went a step further, saying police must "end the unlawful use of force against peaceful protesters," and issuing a report documenting 14 incidents of apparent police violence on June 12.

Officers appeared "out of control, placing peaceful protesters who posed no threat in danger of serious injury," Man-kei Tam, the group's Hong Kong director, said in a statement.

## Lawmakers decry perilous federal lockups for migrant kids

By CEDAR ATTANASIO, GARANCE BURKE AND MARTHA MENDOZA Associated Press

CLINT, Texas (AP) — Lawmakers on Friday were calling for swift change after reports this week of more than 250 infants, children and teens being held inside a windowless Border Patrol station, struggling to care for each other with inadequate food, water and sanitation.

It's a scene that is being repeated at other immigration facilities overwhelmed with too many migrant children and nowhere to put them.

"This facility wasn't even on our radar before we came down here," said law professor Warren Binford, a member of the team that interviewed dozens of children this week detained in Clint, about a half-hour drive from El Paso. Fifteen children had the flu, another 10 were quarantined.

At another Border Patrol station in McAllen, Texas, attorney Toby Gialluca said all the children she talked to last week were very sick with high fevers, coughing and wearing soiled clothes crusted with mucus and dirt after their long trip north.

"Everyone is sick. Everyone. They're using their clothes to wipe mucus off the children, wipe vomit off the children. Most of the little children are not fully clothed," she said.

Gialluca said migrant teens in McAllen told her they were offered frozen ham sandwiches and rotten food.

At both detention facilities, the children told attorneys that guards instructed girls as young as 8 to care for the babies and toddlers.

State and federal elected officials Friday demanded change about conditions at Clint, McAllen and other

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Border Patrol stations. There was plenty of angry fingerpointing as well.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott slammed Congress as "a group of reprobates" for failing to provide adequate border security funding.

"Every child who is not being taken care of adequately at the border, Congress is an accomplice to any harm they suffer," he said.

Oregon's Sen. Jeff Merkley pushed the Department of Homeland Security to publish a remediation plan "to immediately end these abuses." He gave them a deadline of July 12, tweeting: "Children are being held in appalling and unacceptable conditions. Detained children are being left to care for each other - including, in one case, a two-year-old who was left with no diapers. @DHSgov needs to tell us what their plan is to fix this, NOW."

Republican Congressman Will Hurd, whose district includes Clint, said the tragic conditions "further demonstrates the immediate need to reform asylum laws and provide supplemental funding to address the humanitarian crisis at our border."

His Democratic counterpart, Congresswoman Veronica Escobar of El Paso, said she has already asked the Customs and Border Protection commissioner for a "full accounting" of the situation.

And Democratic Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand blamed the Trump administration's mismanagement of the nation's immigration system.

"This is a dark moment for our country, and history will not be kind to the perpetrators of this cruelty," Gillibrand said. "All Americans should be alarmed and demand an end to this immediately."

Border Patrol stations are designed to hold people for less than three days, but some children held in Clint and McAllen have been in there for weeks. Legally, migrants under 18 should be moved into Office of Refugee Resettlement care within 72 hours.

But federal officials have said they have hit a breaking point. That's in part because over the last year, migrant children have been staying longer in federal custody than in the past, leading to a shortage of beds in facilities designed for longer-term stays.

The lawyers inspected the Border Patrol facilities as part of a Clinton-era legal agreement known as the Flores settlement that governs detention conditions for migrant children and families.

In an emailed statement Friday, Customs and Border Protection said the agency leverages its limited resources to provide "the best care possible to those in our custody, especially children."

The statement said "our short-term holding facilities were not designed to hold vulnerable populations and we urgently need additional humanitarian funding to manage this crisis."

In addition, the agency said all allegations of civil rights abuses or mistreatment are taken seriously and investigated.

Earlier this week, acting Customs and Border Protection Commissioner John Sanders urged Congress to pass a \$4.6 billion emergency funding package that includes nearly \$3 billion to care for unaccompanied migrant children.

He said Customs and Border Protection stations are holding 15,000 people — more than three times their maximum capacity of 4,000.

Burke reported from San Francisco. Mendoza reported from Santa Cruz, California.

## After calling off strikes on Iran, Trump suggests patience

By DEB RIECHMANN, LOLITA C. BALDOR and ROBERT BURNS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Friday he abruptly called off the swiftly planned military strikes on Iran because the likely deaths of 150 Iranians would have been so out of proportion to the shutdown of an unmanned American surveillance drone. He also indicated he still hopes for talks with Iranian leaders rather than any escalation of military conflict.

"I am in no hurry," he wrote on Twitter, adding that increasingly severe sanctions meant to push Iran to the nuclear negotiating table are "biting" the Iranian economy.

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The aborted attack was a stark reminder of the potential for the escalating tensions of the past year between the U.S. and Iran to lead to full-scale conflict, even as the president repeatedly insists he does not want war and wants to negotiate with the Islamic Republic over its nuclear program.

Iran on Friday showed no public inclination to negotiate, and it was unclear whether Trump, who said the U.S. military had been “cocked and loaded” to hit Iran, was considering new military options. After Iran downed a huge Navy surveillance drone over the Strait of Hormuz, Trump alternately denounced it as a “big mistake” and dismissed it as a “fly in the ointment.”

Iran insisted the U.S. drone violated Iranian airspace; Washington said it had been flying over international waters when it was hit by an Iranian missile. Iran said it recovered debris in its waters. The U.S. military said Friday that although debris from the destroyed drone was spread across a wide area, none had yet been recovered by American forces, who were encountering high winds and heavy seas.

In a television interview, Trump said the U.S. was within 10 minutes of conducting strikes against Iran on Thursday when he canceled the operation. He told NBC News that he never gave a final order — planes were not yet in the air but would have been “pretty soon.”

He said military officials came to him about 30 minutes before the strikes were to be launched and asked him for his final approval. Before signing off, he said he asked how many Iranians would be killed and was told approximately 150.

“I thought about it for a second and I said, ‘You know what? They shot down an unmanned drone, plane — whatever you want to call it — and here we are sitting with 150 dead people. That would have taken place probably within a half an hour after I said go ahead. And I didn’t like it. I didn’t think it was proportionate.’”

Trump’s assertion that he learned only at the last minute of his military advisers’ casualty estimate does not align with the usual way a president is briefed on military attack options. An assessment of the likelihood of casualties, whether civilian or military, and a broad estimate of the number, normally are a major element of each option provided to the commander in chief.

Iran addressed the subject of casualties, too. Gen. Amir Ali Hajizadeh, the head of the Revolutionary Guard’s aerospace division, said Friday that a U.S. spy plane with around 35 crew members was flying close to the unmanned U.S. Navy RQ-4A Global Hawk that was shot down, but that Iran chose not to target the manned aircraft. He said Iran warned the drone several times before downing it with a missile.

The president’s decision to call off the attack is a reminder that despite the escalation in tensions between Washington and Tehran in recent weeks, there is a realization that military action, once under way, can quickly lead to unintended consequences, including large-scale war.

Asked how he was weighing his options, Trump said in a meeting with congressional leaders Thursday, “My gut,” according to a person familiar with the exchange.

Trump has said repeatedly he does not want war with Iran, but he has offered little insight to his strategy, beyond inviting Iran’s leaders to call him to reopen nuclear negotiations.

His administration last year pulled out of the 2015 international agreement intended to curb the Iranian nuclear program, an agreement he strongly criticized as ineffective during his presidential campaign. He demanded negotiations for a new agreement, but there have been none. Pressuring Iran, he launched a campaign of increasing economic pressure against the Islamic Republic, including cutting off its oil export revenues.

The current crisis comes at a tumultuous moment at the Pentagon, where the acting secretary of defense, Patrick Shanahan, is stepping down this weekend. Mark Esper, the civilian head of the Army, will take over on an interim basis on Monday and will fly to NATO headquarters in Brussels for meetings this week to discuss the way ahead on Iran.

Katie Wheelbarger, a senior Pentagon policy adviser on international security, said Friday the administration wants to keep the allies informed, including on the intelligence information that prompted the U.S. to send an aircraft carrier and other military assets to the Gulf region in early May in response to what it called heightened Iranian threats.

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"It's very important to the (defense) department and the U.S. government as a whole that we make sure our allies are as cognizant, and that we are as transparent on this issue as possible," she said.

Although top congressional leaders met with Trump at the White House on Thursday to discuss Iran, he apparently did not tell them an attack was imminent. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Friday she and her colleagues were left with the impression that Trump was considering his options.

"I didn't receive any heads-up that there was that strike that was in the works," Pelosi said.

Democrats made the case for caution, for partnering with allies, and for taking a breath to de-escalate.

Rep. Adam Schiff of California, chairman of the House intelligence committee and a frequent Trump critic, said, "I don't think that people should be jumping down the president's throat for wanting to think this through and make sure that neither side miscalculates and we don't inadvertently end up in a war with Iran."

"It is also very important for the administration to understand ... that there is no congressional authorization to go to war with Iran."

For some, like House Armed Services Committee Chairman Adam Smith, D-Wash., Thursday was his first meeting with Trump.

Smith said he asked those around the table — who included all of Trump's top national security officials:

"You got a maximum pressure campaign on Iran, and what you want is you want Iran to say, 'OK, we give up.' OK, I get that, but that's unlikely. Iran is more likely to do what they've done, and what are you planning on doing when they do?"

They didn't have an answer, he said.

Smith's remarks reflect widespread skepticism at home and abroad over the administration's approach to Iran.

Rep. Hank Johnson, a Georgia Democrat and member of the House Armed Services Committee, said, "The president appears to be making decisions by the seat of his pants, impulsively."

Trump, in his lengthy morning tweet, defended his stance on Iran. He said he pulled out of the 2015 nuclear deal, which gave Tehran sanctions relief in exchange for pledges to rein in its nuclear program, because the agreement only temporarily blocked Iran from having nuclear weapons. Trump said the deal also did not stop Iran's support of militant groups or restrain its ballistic missile program.

He said his exit from the deal and the re-imposition of sanctions on Iran has crippled its economy.

"Now they are Bust!"

"I am in no hurry," he said. "Sanctions are biting & more added last night."

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Associated Press writers Susannah George, Lisa Mascaro and Matthew Lee in Washington, Jon Gambrell in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and AP video producer Padmananda Rama contributed to this report.

## Judge orders special prosecutor to examine Smollett probe

By DON BABWIN Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — A judge decided to appoint a special prosecutor Friday to investigate the decision by Cook County prosecutors to dismiss all charges against actor Jussie Smollett, who was accused of lying to the police by claiming he was the victim of a racist and homophobic attack in downtown Chicago in January.

In a ruling that leaves open the possibility that Smollett could be charged again, Cook County Judge Michael Toomin suggested that the county's state's attorney, Kim Foxx, mishandled the Smollett case by appointing a top aide to oversee it after she recused herself.

Foxx had been in contact with a relative of the actor and had been approached by former first lady Michelle Obama's one-time chief of staff on behalf of Smollett's family, and she explained at the time that she was recusing herself to avoid "even the perception of a conflict" of interest.

In his ruling, Toomin said he had no problem with Foxx's February recusal, but that it should have included a request for a special prosecutor to take over the case. He said she had no right to hand it off to

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someone from her office, which he said amounted to naming her own special prosecutor.

"State's attorneys are clearly not meant to have unbridled authority to appoint special prosecutors," he said. "She appointed (her top assistant) to an office, to an entity, that has no legal existence. There isn't an office of the 'acting state's attorney.' It existed only ... in the imagination of Ms. Foxx."

"The unprecedented irregularities identified in this case warrant the appointment of independent counsel to restore the public's confidence in the integrity of our criminal justice system," the judge said.

Toomin also left open the possibility that the special prosecutor could charge Smollett again — either with the original charges accusing him of lying to police or with other counts.

The Chicago Police Department, which has never disguised its anger over the decision to drop the charges, vowed to assist the special prosecutor.

"We stand firmly behind the work of detectives in investigating the fabricated incident reported by Jussie Smollett & #ChicagoPolice will fully cooperate with the court appointed special prosecutor," department spokesman Anthony Guglielmi tweeted.

In a written statement, Foxx took issue with the ruling and explained that she "followed the advice of counsel and my then Chief Ethics Officer" to recuse herself.

Smollett's attorneys did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Foxx has been under fire for her handling the investigation, including from the Chicago Police Department and the former mayor. Her office charged Smollett with 16 counts of disorderly conduct after police concluded that Smollett had staged the early-morning Jan. 29 attack on himself and had paid two acquaintances to help him pull it off. But it stunningly dropped all of the charges weeks later, prompting an outcry from police and leading a former state appellate judge, Sheila O'Brien, to call for a special prosecutor.

In filing a petition requesting a special prosecutor, O'Brien said it appeared to her and others that Smollett had "received special treatment" from Foxx's office.

Foxx has defended her handling of the case and said Smollett was treated no differently than thousands of other defendants in low-level cases whose charges have been similarly dropped since she took office. And Foxx, who has publicly wondered if her being black has anything to do with the criticism she has received, said she would welcome an independent investigation. But her office opposed such a special prosecutor, explaining that the investigation would just duplicate the efforts of a county inspector general's office probe that is already underway.

Toomin is now required by law to ask the state's attorney general's office or the state appellate prosecutor to serve as special prosecutor. If they decline, he must make the same request to elected state's attorneys throughout Illinois. That is what happened in the case of former Chicago police officer Jason Van Dyke, who was charged with murder in the 2014 shooting death of a black teenager, Laquan McDonald. The case was ultimately prosecuted by Kane County State's Attorney Joseph McMahan after Foxx's predecessor, Anita Alvarez, recused her office. McMahan won a second-degree murder conviction against Van Dyke.

If none of those prosecutors agree to take the case, the city can hire a private attorney to handle it.

Toomin's ruling adds yet another layer to an already complicated case. Weeks after the charges were dropped against Smollett, the city sued him in an attempt to recoup the tens of thousands of dollars the police department spent investigating the case. There was even a defamation lawsuit by the two brothers who allege that Smollett paid them to help him stage the attack on himself.

Fox Entertainment announced in April that Smollett would not appear in season six of "Empire," which is its last season.

## Roy Moore in uphill battle to woo skeptical Alabama voters

By BLAKE PATERSON and JAY REEVES Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — In a state that has long been reliably Republican, Roy Moore faces an uphill battle in winning over skeptical voters to take back the Alabama Senate seat he lost two years ago amid allegations of sexual misconduct involving teenage girls.

With GOP leaders including President Donald Trump and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell aligned

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against him and Democrats portraying him as a radical, the one-time judge is laying out the argument that state voters are tired of Washington interference.

That may be. But some die-hard Republicans aren't happy with Moore running again after questions about his relationships with young girls decades ago translated into a narrow 2017 victory for longshot Democrat Doug Jones.

"You can paint a leopard any color you want but he still has spots, and that's what Moore has. Moore still has his spots," 66-year-old retiree and faithful Republican Richard Clayton said Friday.

Eating breakfast at a Cracker Barrel restaurant, Fred Holiday said he likes what Moore stands for but still doesn't think he should run for Senate.

"I think Mr. Moore is run out," the 68-year-old Holiday said.

Moore is a longtime favorite of Alabama's most conservative Christian voters, having established his credentials with his opposition to abortion and same-sex marriage, and his refusal to remove a granite monument of the Ten Commandments from the state Supreme Court building last decade.

In announcing his candidacy Thursday, the 72-year-old Moore cast himself as a righteous servant who evokes fear inside the Beltway.

"Why does the mere mention of my name cause people to get up in arms in Washington D.C.?" Moore said. "Is it because I believe in God, and marriage and morality in our county? ... Are these things embarrassing to them?"

Moore's religious appeals still attract voters like 61-year-old school bus driver Sissy Eperson, who said the last election dominated by questions over Moore's involvement with teenagers "was a bunch of crap."

"I'm all for him. I think he'll do a good job. He fought for the Ten Commandments. I'm all for getting Christianity back in the schools," Eperson said.

But some of Moore's most ardent, longtime allies didn't attend his announcement Thursday, and media members outnumbered Moore supporters at the event.

Moore has vehemently denied allegations first leveled during the 2017 race, when several women accused him of pursuing romantic or sexual relationships with them when they were teens and he was an assistant district attorney in his 30s. Two accused him of assault or molestation.

Moore denied the accusations and has said he considered his 2017 defeat, when he lost to Jones by 22,000 votes out of 1.3 million cast, "a fraud."

But national GOP leaders fear the one-time kickboxer could tarnish the party, particularly if he overcomes a primary field that already includes U.S. Rep. Bradley Byrne and former Auburn University football coach Tommy Tuberville.

The Senate Conservatives Fund, a political action committee, sent an email Friday asking supporters to donate to Arnold Mooney, a Republican state representative from Shelby County they say is a "strong, reliable legislator" who won't "self-destruct" in the election.

While there has been speculation that former Republican Sen. Jeff Sessions could enter the race, that seems unlikely, according to a person familiar with Sessions' thinking who spoke on condition of anonymity to describe the situation.

Sessions, 72, would be a strong favorite to win the nomination should he enter the GOP field. Sessions held the seat for two decades until resigning in 2017 to become Trump's first attorney general. He was later forced out by Trump.

Jones, who was the first Democrat elected to the Senate from Alabama in 25 years, wasted no time in using Moore's candidacy to appeal to supporters for campaign donations.

"Alabama doesn't need Roy Moore," said a campaign email. "The country doesn't need Roy Moore."

Trump, who is immensely popular among Alabama Republicans, tweeted last month that Moore "cannot win" in 2020.

"Republicans cannot allow themselves to again lose the Senate seat in the Great State of Alabama," Trump tweeted.

Trump hasn't responded to Moore's candidacy on social media, but son Donald Trump Jr. did, in response to Moore's statement that he isn't opposing the president's wishes with his candidacy.

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"This is pure fake news. I can assure everyone that by running, Roy Moore is going against my father and he's doing a disservice to all conservatives across the country in the process," the younger Trump said in a tweet.

Clayton, the retiree who opposes Moore's candidacy, believes most Alabamians will listen to Trump. "A lot of people listen to Trump. He's sometimes out toward left field, but people still listen to him," Clayton said.

Reeves contributed from Atlanta. AP writer Alan Fram contributed from Washington.

## **Fed says largest banks would survive crisis, in latest tests**

By KEN SWEET AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — All 18 of the nation's largest and most complex banks are strong enough to withstand a severe economic downturn and would be able to stay in business without collapsing, the Federal Reserve said Friday.

The results are from the first round of the central bank's annual stress tests, which showed the 18 big banks have benefited from an improving economy and have balance sheets strong enough to withstand a deep global downturn and the U.S. unemployment rate rising to double digits.

The Fed adjusts its stress tests each year, depending on the economic climate. In this year's most dire scenario, known as the severely adverse scenario, the Federal Reserve tested for a hypothetical deep global recession, with the U.S. unemployment rate jumping to 10% from its current level of 4% and the stock market falling 50% from its peak.

The Fed also tested how well the nation's largest banks would handle a sharp drop in commercial real estate prices, as well as heightened stress in the corporate debt markets. Several economists and bank executives have cited the substantial increase in loans made to distressed companies, known as leveraged lending, as an area of concern for the financial system.

Capital One, which has a large commercial banking business, was the most negatively impacted by the Fed's scenario but still remained more than well capitalized under the Fed's qualifications. In a sign of how much better banks are protected compared to a decade ago, all 18 banks would have more capital on their balance sheets under the Fed's dire scenario than they had before the 2008 financial crisis.

It was the eighth annual check-up for the banks, mandated by Congress after the financial crisis that triggered the Great Recession. The Federal Reserve tested a smaller number of banks this year, instead of the 35 that were tested in previous years. Congress passed a law in 2018 that rolled back some of the regulations put into place under the Dodd-Frank Act, one of them being the need to stress test every bank over a certain threshold of assets.

The Fed next week will release the second part of its tests, which are more closely watched. The Fed will determine whether individual big banks will be allowed to boost their dividends and buy back shares.

## **S&P 500 notches 3rd straight weekly gain after wobbly day**

By ALEX VEIGA AP Business Writer

Wall Street finished a milestone-setting week on a downbeat note Friday after a late flurry of selling nudged stocks lower, ending the market's four-day winning streak.

Even with the modest losses the market delivered its third straight weekly gain, with the benchmark S&P 500 index hovering just below its record high close from a day earlier.

That milestone, which eclipsed the benchmark index's last record close on April 30, came amid a swift turnaround for stocks this month that has erased the losses from a steep sell-off in May. The major U.S. stock indexes are up more than 7% so far this month and are holding on to gains of more than 14% for the year.

Investors have been reassured by statements from the Federal Reserve this month that suggest the central bank is prepared to cut interest rates in response to a slowing global economy. At the same time,

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traders remain concerned that corporate profits might suffer should the kind of economic slowdown that would prompt the Fed to cut rates take hold.

A mixed batch of economic data on Friday didn't have much of an impact on trading, which remained mostly muted as investors took a breather after a four-day rally.

"Some of the information we've gotten today hasn't been all that impactful to kind of change the price action we saw this week," said Ioana Martin, global investment specialist at J.P. Morgan Private Bank.

The S&P 500 index dipped 3.72 points, or 0.1%, to 2,950.46. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 34.04 points, or 0.1%, to 26,719.13. The Nasdaq composite fell 19.63 points, or 0.2%, to 8,031.71.

Smaller company stocks fared worse than the rest of the market. The Russell 2000 index slumped 13.87 points, or 0.9%, to 1,549.63.

Major indexes in Europe fell.

Bond prices fell. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 2.06% from 2% on Thursday.

Trading was wobbly for much of Friday as investors sized up a mixed batch of economic data. A report on manufacturing for June came in below analysts' forecasts. A separate report was more encouraging, indicating that sales of previously occupied U.S. homes increased in May.

The modest dip cut into some of the market's gains from Thursday, but did little to dent the Wall Street's June rally.

All told, the S&P 500 is up 17.7% this year, while the Dow is up 14.5%. The Nasdaq, which is heavily weighted with technology stocks, is up 21.1% for the year. The Russell 2000 is up 14.9%.

The biggest uncertainty looming over the market remains the U.S. trade war with China. Stocks opened the week higher and rallied since then after President Donald Trump said he planned to meet with China's president next week at the G20 summit in Japan to discuss their ongoing trade conflict.

Both nations' leaders have lately signaled a willingness to resolve the dispute and are meeting next week for talks.

Meanwhile, the Federal Reserve has signaled that it is willing to cut interest rates to stabilize the U.S. economy if the trade dispute crimps growth. That's helped drive the market's rebound in June.

"At this point it's not so much a question about whether the Fed is going to be accommodative or not, it's just what that magnitude is going to be," Martin said.

Looking ahead, next week's G20 summit is likely to be the next big market mover, Martin said.

"That hopefully gives us a little bit more color on the trade situation," she said.

Technology stocks took some of the heaviest losses Friday, with chipmakers leading the way. Micron Technology dropped 2.6% and Advanced Micro Devices lost 3%.

Industrial stocks also fell. Snap-on dropped 3.7%.

Health care stocks notched solid gains. Humana climbed 4.4%, while UnitedHealth Group added 1.8%.

Communications stocks also rose, with video game publisher Electronic Arts leading the way. The stock gained 2.3%.

Energy stocks climbed for the second day in a row along with the price of crude oil. Baker Hughes gained 3.3% and Valero Energy added 2.7%.

Benchmark crude oil rose 0.6% to settle at \$57.43 a barrel. It ended with a 9.2% gain for the week. That's the biggest weekly gain in more than two years. Only a few weeks ago, the price of U.S. crude was in a correction, what Wall Street calls a drop of at least 20% from a recent peak.

Brent crude oil, the international standard, rose 1.2% to close at \$65.20 a barrel.

Used car retailer CarMax rose 3.2% after it blew past Wall Street's fiscal first quarter profit and revenue forecasts.

Staffing company Korn Ferry plunged 17.5% after reporting weak revenue during its fiscal fourth quarter and issuing a profit forecast that mostly fell short of analysts' expectations.

In other commodities trading, wholesale gasoline rose 3.9% to \$1.86 per gallon. Heating oil climbed 1.7% to \$1.92 per gallon. Natural gas was little changed at \$2.19 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Gold edged up 0.2% to \$1,400.10 per ounce, silver fell 1.3% to \$15.29 per ounce and copper fell 0.3% to \$2.70 per pound.



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The dollar rose to 107.41 Japanese yen from 107.27 yen on Thursday. The euro rose to \$1.1369 from \$1.1295.

AP Business Writer Damian J. Troise contributed to this report.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, June 22, the 173rd day of 2019. There are 192 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 22, 1977, John N. Mitchell became the first former U.S. Attorney General to go to prison as he began serving a sentence for his role in the Watergate cover-up. (He was released 19 months later.)

On this date:

In 1911, Britain's King George V was crowned at Westminster Abbey.

In 1918, a train carrying members of the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus and their families was rear-ended during an emergency stop by another train near Hammond, Indiana, killing at least 86 people aboard the circus train.

In 1937, Joe Louis began his reign as world heavyweight boxing champion by knocking out Jim Braddock in the eighth round of their fight in Chicago. (A year later on this date, Louis knocked out Max Schmeling in the first round of their rematch at Yankee Stadium.)

In 1940, during World War II, Adolf Hitler gained a stunning victory as France was forced to sign an armistice eight days after German forces overran Paris.

In 1944, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, more popularly known as the "GI Bill of Rights."

In 1945, the World War II battle for Okinawa ended with an Allied victory.

In 1969, singer-actress Judy Garland died in London at age 47.

In 1970, President Richard Nixon signed an extension of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that lowered the minimum voting age to 18.

In 1981, Mark David Chapman pleaded guilty to killing rock star John Lennon. Abolhassan Bani-Sadr was deposed as president of Iran.

In 1992, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *R.A.V. v. City of St. Paul*, unanimously ruled that "hate crime" laws that banned cross burning and similar expressions of racial bias violated free-speech rights.

In 2012, ex-Penn State assistant coach Jerry Sandusky was convicted by a jury in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, on 45 counts of sexually assaulting 10 boys over 15 years. (Sandusky is appealing a 30- to 60-year state prison sentence.)

In 2008, acerbic standup comedian and satirist George Carlin died in Santa Monica, California, at age 71.

Ten years ago: Nine people were killed when a Washington, D.C., commuter train crashed into the rear of another during afternoon rush hour. President Barack Obama signed the nation's toughest anti-smoking law, aiming to keep thousands of teens from getting hooked. Chris Brown pleaded guilty to felony assault of ex-girlfriend Rihanna (he was later sentenced to probation and community labor). Lucas Glover won the U.S. Open at Bethpage Black with a 3-over 73 for a two-shot victory.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama, in a recorded interview aired on CBS' "Face the Nation," said that al-Qaida-inspired militants who had violently seized territory in Iraq could grow in power and destabilize other countries in the region. Michelle Wie closed with an even-par 70 for a two-shot victory over Stacy Lewis, the No. 1 player in women's golf, in the U.S. Women's Open; it was Wie's first major championship. "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" received its eighth trophy as outstanding entertainment talk show at the Daytime Emmy awards ceremony in Beverly Hills. Steve Rossi, 82, one half of the comic duo of Allen & Rossi, died in Las Vegas.

One year ago: White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders was asked to leave a Virginia

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restaurant; the co-owner said the move came at the request of gay employees who objected to Sanders' defense of President Donald Trump's effort to bar transgender people from the military. Trump accused Democrats of telling "phony stories of sadness and grief" about children separated from their parents while crossing the border; he met with parents of children who'd been killed by immigrants in the country illegally. The European Union began enforcing tariffs on American imports including bourbon, peanut butter and orange juice, in retaliation for duties the Trump administration imposed on European steel and aluminum.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Prunella Scales (TV: "Fawlty Towers") is 87. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., is 86. Singer-actor Kris Kristofferson is 83. Movie director John Korty is 83. Actor Michael Lerner is 78. Actor Klaus Maria Brandauer is 76. Fox News analyst Brit Hume is 76. Singer Peter Asher (Peter and Gordon) is 75. Actor David L. Lander is 72. Singer Howard "Eddie" Kaylan is 72. Singer-musician Todd Rundgren is 71. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., is 70. Actress Meryl Streep is 70. Actress Lindsay Wagner is 70. Singer Alan Osmond is 70. Actor Murphy Cross is 69. Actor Graham Greene is 67. Pop singer Cyndi Lauper is 66. Actor Chris Lemmon is 65. Rock musician Derek Forbes is 63. Actor Tim Russ is 63. Rock musician Garry Beers (INXS) is 62. Actor-producer-writer Bruce Campbell is 61. Rock musician Alan Anton (Cowboy Junkies) is 60. Actress Tracy Pollan is 59. Environmental activist Erin Brockovich is 59. Rock singer-musician Jimmy Somerville is 58. Basketball Hall of Famer Clyde Drexler is 57. Actress Amy Brenneman is 55. Author Dan Brown is 55. Rock singer-musician Mike Edwards (Jesus Jones) is 55. Rock singer Steven Page is 49. Actor Michael Trucco is 49. Actress Mary Lynn Rajskub is 48. TV personality Carson Daly is 46. Rock musician Chris Traynor is 46. Country musician Jimmy Wallace is 46. Actor Donald Faison is 45. Actress Alicia Goranson is 45. Actor-comedian Mike O'Brien (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 43. TV personality/actor Jai Rodriguez is 40. Americana singer-songwriter John Moreland is 34. Actress Lindsay Ridgeway is 34. Pop singer Dina Hansen (Fifth Harmony) (TV: "The X Factor") is 22.

Thought for Today: "If you look at life one way, there is always cause for alarm." — Elizabeth Bowen, Irish author (1899-1973).