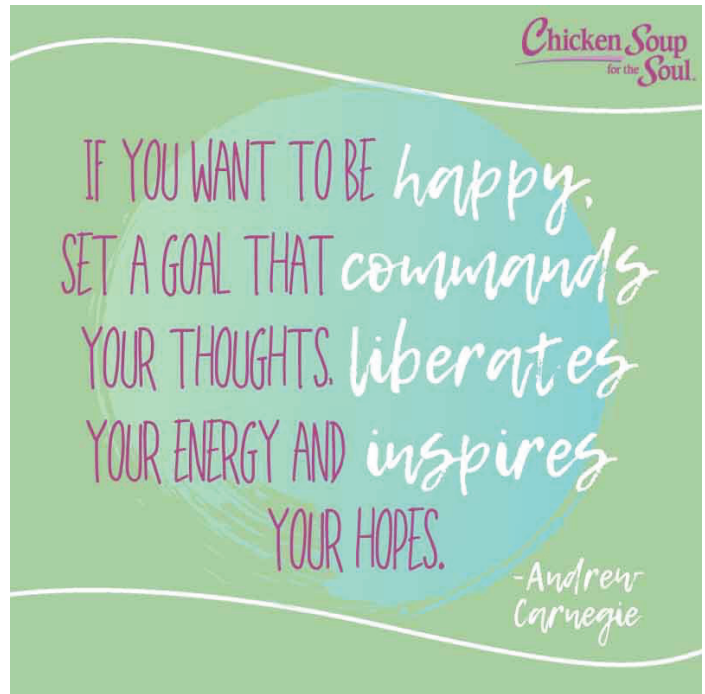


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## **CLOSED:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

### Sunday, June 23

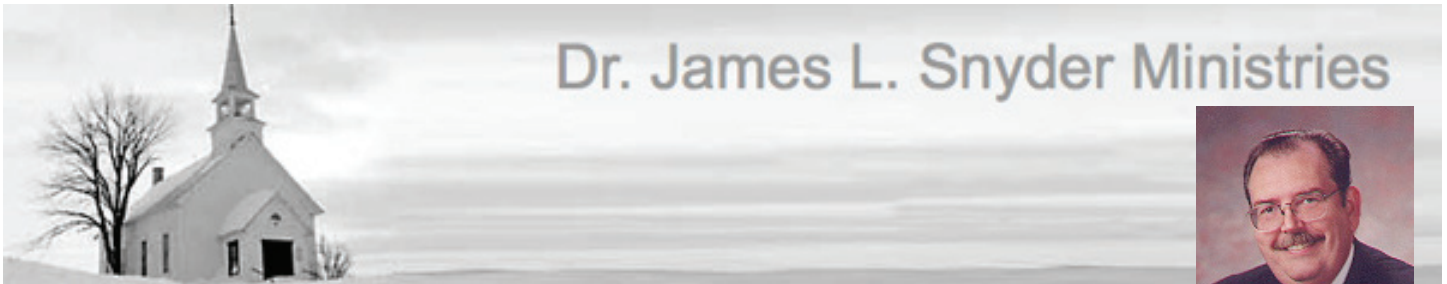
4:00 p.m.: Groton 2 Amateurs at Redfield Junior Legion Round Robin in Groton  
1:00 p.m.: Wessington Springs vs. Lennox  
3:00 p.m.: Groton vs. Faulkton  
Junior Teeners at Milbank Tournament  
1:00 p.m.: Groton vs. Milbank

### Monday, June 24

5:30 p.m.: U12 Midgets vs. Backous at Manor Park, (DH)  
6:00 p.m.: U8 Pee Wees host Webster, (DH)s (R,B) Softball at Warner (U8 at 6 p.m., U10 at 7 p.m.)  
Olive Grove Golf Course: Ladies Invitational, 18 holes, 10 a.m. shotgun start  
7:00 p.m.: School Board Meeting

### Tuesday, June 25

6:00 p.m.: U10 Pee Wees vs. Welke at Manor Park, (DH) (R,B)  
6:00 p.m.: U8 Pee Wees at Watertown, (DH)s (R,B) Softball hosts Ellendale in (DH)s (U12 at 6 p.m., U14 at 7 p.m.)  
Olive Grove Golf Course: Bridge at Noon, Ladies League at 6 p.m.



## Whatever Happened to the Simple Things in Life?

I'm not a very complicated person. I like simple things; things nice and easy. Occasionally I will do a crossword puzzle, but beside that, I enjoy the simple life.

On the other side, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is very complicated. Just when I have everything figured out, I find another side of her that I did not know was there.

I suppose that is what married life is all about; year-by-year discovering new aspects of your spouse.

I am very simple minded when it comes to going out to eat.

When we go to a restaurant, for example, I'm very simple in what I order. Most of the time I order the same thing because I enjoy what I am eating at the time.

My wife is not quite like that. Ordering her supper is quite a complicated thing. It takes several minutes to go through the menu and then several minutes to think about what she wants to eat.

Me, I tell the waitress, "I'll have a cheeseburger, French fries and a Diet Coke." And that's that.

"You had that," my wife will say, "yesterday. Why don't you pick something different for tonight?"

I remember one time I made a drastic mistake which I will never repeat. I said to my wife, "Okay, why don't you choose my supper for tonight?"

Boy, did she have a time ordering for me. I do not even know what she ordered, but it was a lot. I saw more on my plate than I could possibly eat. Some things on my plate I did not know exactly what they were. I was very careful that none of it resembled broccoli.

I have not made that mistake ever again. However, she often asks me, "Would you like me to choose your supper for tonight?"

Since that time, I have reverted to the simple things, especially when it comes to eating out at a restaurant.

Once I had to buy some new shirts along with some new ties. For some reason I went shopping by myself, which in itself is good.

When I came home that night from my shopping spree, my wife looked at all the shirts and ties I bought.

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"You bought these shirts?"

She looked at the shirts and then at me with both hands on her hips and said, "These shirts are the same shirts you have in your closet. Why didn't you get something different?"

My assumption is, a shirt is a shirt and if I am going to get a new shirt, I should get a new shirt that replaces the old shirt. Simple!

In my simple way of life, I only wear white shirts. I can buy these shirts and not even have to think about what I am buying. A shirt is a shirt and what is wrong with white?

The next time my wife took me shopping. It was the worst shopping experience I have ever had.

We went to the men's clothing store and then the simplicity of life ended in a crash. My wife spent all afternoon looking at all kinds of shirts in all kinds of colors and then trying to find ties that would match. I did not know so many colors existed in the world. I do not even think the rainbow has as many colors.

My idea is that a white shirt never draws attention. A shirt of any color always draws attention to itself. I like to slip in and slip out without notice; it is the simple way of doing things.

When it comes to work, I am rather simple. I start a task and keep at it and to its finished, then I move on to the next task. I do not like to confuse things and so I do everything simply.

My wife is not like that. She is one of those "Multitaskers" that you hear about.

I was watching on television a man juggling four balls in the air at the same time. In the middle of his act, I stopped, looked at my wife and said, "That's you. You have too many balls in the air."

It is true. She can juggle four tasks at the same time and get them all done perfectly.

Don't get me wrong here. I respect and can appreciate that kind of work ethic. I cheer her on and encourage her. There's only one small problem.

Because my wife is a Multitasker, she expects the person who said, "I do," at the wedding altar to have the same work ethic. I've tried to explain this, but by the time I finished explaining it, she is already on to the next topic. I cannot possibly keep up.

Even when we take a few vacation days, she cannot sit still and enjoy the simple life.

She does more on a two-day vacation spree than I do all year long. I cannot keep up with her. I discovered if I let her do "her thing," I will have the opportunity to do "my thing," which is just enjoying the simple things of life.

I was thinking of what David once said. "Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies" (Psalm 27:11).

Following the Lord is a very simple thing. Just trust Him and he will lead you in a plain path.

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Good morning from Washington, D.C., the Capitol of the United States of America.

We finished up day one of our trip and it was a busy one at that. The World Classrooms educational travel has our four-day tour all lined up. What is really nice is that Groton's own Carly Wheeting has been working for this organization and she does a super job at her job. It's nice having a familiar local face at the helm of this trip.

After publishing yesterday's GDI from the Minneapolis Airport Terminal, we boarded a flight through Southwest and made the flight to BWI (Baltimore-Washington International Airport). At one point, I had recorded that we were going over 500 mph an hour. It was pretty crowded on the airplane, but it was comfortable and some of us even got some shut-eye.

Once we landed in BWI, it was on the bus and we hit the ground running. We arrived around 8:34 a.m., some 15 minutes ahead of schedule.

World Classroom hires a local tour guide and he was very knowledgeable about the area. We seen South Dakota Avenue which I wish I would have gotten a picture, but I may have another shot at it later. Forty-eight states have Avenues named after them in Washington, D.C. If memory serves me correctly, California is named for a Street and Ohio is named for a Drive.

It did not take long for us to see the Capitol Building and the Washington Memorial Monument. Another tidbit about the streets is that they are lettered by alphabet. It makes it easy to know how far you are from the White House since that street is letter A.

What I find interesting is that we read about the history of country in school, but then to actually go out and experience the history and see it come to life is something else. We got to see the original manuscripts of the United States Constitution, the Bill of Rights and the Constitutional Amendments. Because light makes the ink fade, we were taken into a darkened room with minimum light and we were not allowed to take pictures. For a while in years past, they allowed people to take pictures but no flash could be used; however, people still used flash so thus the no camera rule came into play. If anyone is seen even taking out their phone or a camera, they are escorted out of the building.

We were able to tour two Smithsonian Institution museums during the course of the day. I always thought there was just the one Smithsonian Museum, but as it turns out, there are something like 18 of them scattered around the city. They even have the Batmobile on display at the then National Museum of American History. I wasn't leaving the museum until I had a chance to see it, which I did.

We were at Union Station which has the largest open area in the city.

The day finished with the Tidal Basin Tour. Our first stop was Martin Luther King Jr. Then there was a big display of Franklin D. Roosevelt which had four separate areas, one for each of his four terms. Then we got to see the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. The cherry trees were not in blossom, but we did learn that they are protected under federal law and that you cannot hang on them or pull leaves off of them.

So much interesting stuff here at Washington, D.C. and we will only barely touch the surface. I have a few photos that will follow on the next several pages. By the end of the first day, everyone was so tired that the students didn't even go to the pool.

Oh yes, and talk about security. I have a bigger belt buckle that drew attention to the security so everywhere I went, I had to take my belt. We got to one of the museums and I said, "Do I have to take my belt off again?" I was kind of kidding and I was starting to take it off when the security guy said to leave it on. He directed the lady at the end of the check point to do a wand check on "Jesus." It was funny. I have a Jesus belt buckle that I wear.

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**A panoramic view of the main room of Union Station.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**The elephant display at the Smithsonian Museum.**

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**The above view is one of the White House and the left one is of Washington Memorial Monument.**

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# Groton Daily Independent

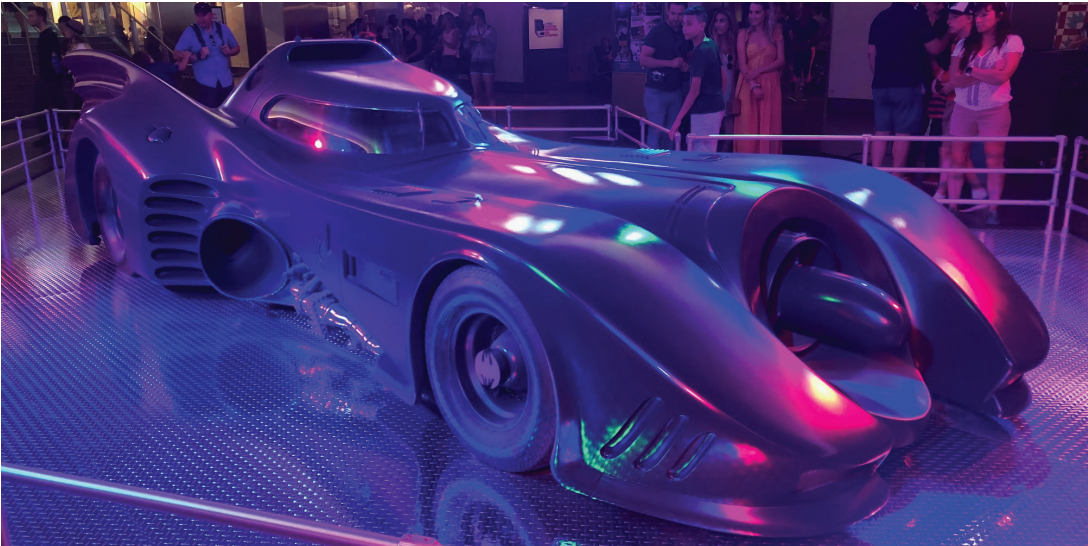
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**This is a close as a camera can get to the originals on display of the United States Constitution, Bill of Rights and Constitutional Amendments that are on display in this building.**

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The Batmobile was one of many neat items on display in the National Museum of American History.



A few of the students stand in front of the Martin Luther King, Jr. monument.

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## JOHN BULL LOCOMOTIVE, 1831 A marvel of its era

John Bull, one of the earliest steam locomotives in the United States, was imported from England in 1831 for use on the first rail link between New York and Philadelphia. The engine tended to derail on uneven American tracks, but a set of guide wheels attached to the front solved the problem. John Bull and its cars were soon carrying passengers and freight between the nation's two largest cities, reducing the trip from two days by road to five hours by rail. The Camden & Amboy Rail Road's 1834 annual report revealed in John Bull's quick success and marveled that the steam locomotive was "a power which has almost annihilated time and space."



John Bull and its cars as they looked in 1831, before guide wheels were attached to the front of the locomotive.

## RAILROAD BRIDGE, 1845 An innovative use of iron

This is a section of the first iron railroad bridge built in the United States. The bridge, built in 1845, carried coal-hauling trains of the Philadelphia & Reading Rail Road across a small creek near West Manayunk, Pennsylvania. Because the railroad threatened to take business away from the Schuylkill Canal, angry boatmen made futile attempts to sabotage the competition by burning its wooden bridges.

Iron was an unusual and expensive choice for a bridge, but it was stronger and longer lasting than wood, faster to erect than stone, and fire resistant. It ushered in a new era of engineering.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



Railroad Bridge, Reading Railroad, New York, 1845

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Photos that were taken during the time of Franklin D. Roosevelt's terms in office. Some of the photos are indented and others are recessed, indicating the time of how his presidency affected Americans.

The photo below represents Roosevelt in his third term as President.



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**A statute and memorial in place of Eleanor Roosevelt, the First Lady and delegate to the United Nations. Some interesting tidbits about Eleanor. Her and Franklin were actually related - fifth cousins. She had a rough childhood. Her dad ended up drinking himself to death and her mom was not supportive at all. In fact, her mom did not think that Eleanor was pretty in her youth and would call her grandma. It wasn't until she ended up in a board school across the seas where she started to blossom and because an influential person in US History.**

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**One of our tour guides was explaining about the presidency during Franklin D. Roosevelt's terms. The left photo features a statue of how people listened to Franklin's messages that were broadcast over the radio back then.**

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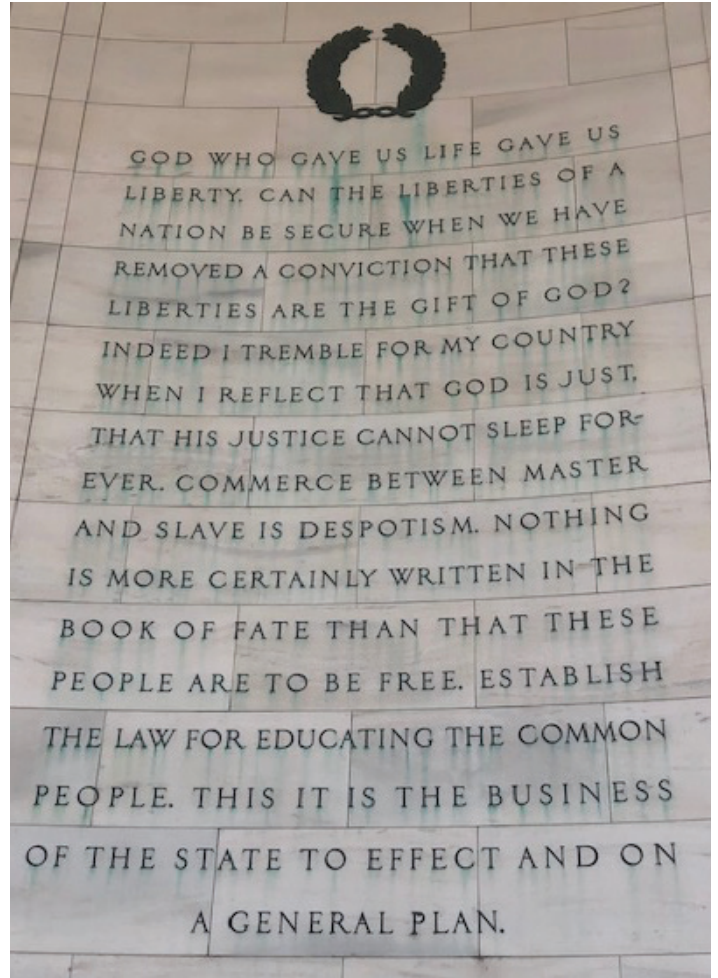
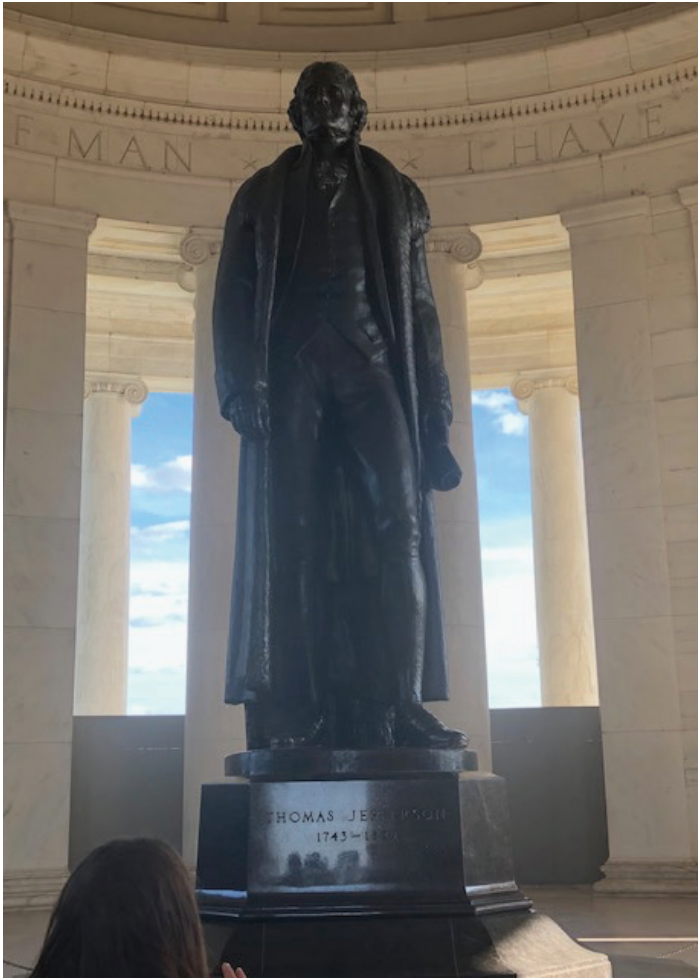
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**A tour guide in training was explaining about the Thomas Jefferson memorial.**

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The statue of President Thomas Jefferson and the right photo features one of four quotes inscribed on the wall inside the building.



This is as close as we will get to the Pentagon.



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**The day was finished with a meal at Chevy's.**

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## Lennox Jr Legion Bandits 0 - 5 Groton Jr Legion

📍 Home 🏆 Tournament 📅 Saturday June 22, 2019

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
LNK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3
GRTN	0	2	0	3	0	0	X	5	8	1

### BATTING

Lennox Jr Leç	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB
Spieler (2B,...	2	0	0	0	1	0	1
C Vanhoute...	3	0	0	0	0	2	1
P Eich (SS	3	0	0	0	0	2	0
B Fodness (C	2	0	0	0	0	1	0
M Bambas	3	0	1	0	0	0	1
Sancali (3B,...	2	0	1	0	0	0	1
C Benning (...	2	0	0	0	1	1	2
Otte (CF	3	0	0	0	0	2	4
T Miller (P,...	2	0	0	0	0	2	3
A Zimmer	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>

**TB:** Sancali, M Bambas, **SB:** B Fodness, **LOB:** 5

### PITCHING

Lennox Jr Leç	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
T Miller	4.2	8	5	4	5	4	0
Sancali	1.1	0	0	0	0	2	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>

**LP:** Sancali, **P-S:** Sancali 13-8, T Miller 101-48, **WP:** Sancali, T Miller 3, **HBP:** Sancali, T Miller, **BF:** Sancali 5, T Miller 28

Groton Jr Leç	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB
D Shabazz (...	3	1	3	0	1	0	0
P Kettering...	3	0	1	1	0	1	2
A Morris (P	3	0	1	2	1	0	1
E Nehls (P	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
C Larson (SS	3	0	0	0	1	0	2
P Johnson (...	3	0	0	0	0	2	3
K Kurtz (C	3	0	2	0	1	1	0
A Schinkel...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
L Simon (RF	3	0	0	0	0	2	2
J Cogley (3B	3	0	0	1	0	0	0
J Zak (2B	2	2	1	0	1	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>

**2B:** D Shabazz, A Morris, **TB:** J Zak, K Kurtz 2, D Shabazz 4, A Morris 2, P Kettering, **CS:** D Shabazz, **HBP:** P Kettering, P Johnson, **SB:** E Nehls 4, J Zak, K Kurtz, D Shabazz, A Morris, **LOB:** 10

Groton Jr Leç	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
A Morris	7.0	2	0	0	1	11	0
E Nehls	0.0	0	0	0	1	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>

**WP:** A Morris, **P-S:** E Nehls 6-2, A Morris 100-61, **BF:** E Nehls, A Morris 25

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## Wesstington Springs 5 - 8 Groton Jr Legion

📍 Home 🏆 Tournament 📅 Saturday June 22, 2019

	1	2	3	4	5	6	R	H	E
WSTN	0	0	1	0	4	0	5	3	2
GRTN	1	0	2	5	0	X	8	7	1

### BATTING

Wesstington	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB
C Hainy (SS)	2	0	1	1	1	1	0
D Schimke (...)	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
G Brandenb...	2	0	0	0	0	1	0
Q Christens...	3	0	0	0	0	1	2
C Onlinger (...)	3	0	0	0	0	0	2
C Slyhuis (1B)	2	1	0	0	1	0	0
T Fastnacht...	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
D Thomps...	1	1	0	0	1	1	0
B Labore (LF)	1	2	1	0	1	0	0
C Mohling (...)	2	1	0	2	0	0	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>

**TB:** C Hainy, B Labore, T Fastnacht, **HBP:** G Brandenburg, **SB:** B Labore, **LOB:** 3

### PITCHING

Wesstington	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
M Schelske	3.1	6	7	6	4	5	0
Q Christens...	1.2	1	1	1	3	1	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>

**LP:** Q Christensen, **P-S:** Q Christensen 29-14, M Schelske 81-49, **BF:** Q Christensen 9, M Schelske 22

Groton Jr Leç	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB
D Shabazz (...)	4	2	1	0	0	1	1
P Kettering...	2	2	1	1	2	1	0
A Morris (3B)	3	2	2	0	1	1	1
C Larson (SS)	2	1	0	1	1	0	3
P Johnson (...)	3	1	2	3	0	0	2
K Kurtz (C)	2	0	1	0	1	0	2
E Nehls (C)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
J Cogley (P,...)	3	0	0	1	0	2	2
R Thurston...	3	0	0	0	0	1	3
J Zak (RF)	1	0	0	0	2	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>

**2B:** D Shabazz, **TB:** K Kurtz, D Shabazz 2, A Morris 2, P Kettering, P Johnson 2, **SAC:** C Larson, **SB:** K Kurtz 2, C Larson 2, A Morris 2, P Kettering, P Johnson 3, **LOB:** 8

Groton Jr Leç	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
J Cogley	4.0	3	5	3	3	3	0
D Shabazz	1.2	0	0	0	1	1	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>

**WP:** D Shabazz, **P-S:** J Cogley 76-40, D Shabazz 26-16, **HBP:** D Shabazz, **BF:** J Cogley 18, D Shabazz 7

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## Faulkton 0 - 12 Lennox Jr Legion Bandits

📍 Home 🏆 Tournament 📅 Saturday June 22, 2019

	1	2	3	R	H	E
FLKT	0	0	0	0	1	4
LNKX	6	4	2	12	10	0

### BATTING

Faulkton	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB
P Geditz (P)	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
P McDonnel...	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
S Bowar (SS)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
R Bollwg (C)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
L Catton (LF)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
G Bruegge...	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
T Hadrick (RF)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
A Sorenson...	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
C Stephens...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>

**TB:** P Geditz

### PITCHING

Faulkton	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
P Geditz	2.0	10	12	6	6	2	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>

**LP:** P Geditz, **P-S:** P Geditz 90-46, **BF:** P Geditz 26

Lennox Jr Leq	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB
Spieler (P)	2	1	1	0	1	1	3
C Vanhoute...	3	0	0	0	0	1	5
P Eich (SS)	3	2	1	1	0	0	3
B Fodness (C)	3	3	2	1	0	0	0
M Bambas	2	3	1	1	1	0	2
Sancali (3B)	2	2	1	1	1	0	1
C Benning (...)	2	1	2	2	1	0	0
Otte (CF)	1	0	0	3	2	0	1
T Miller (2B)	2	0	2	1	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>

**TB:** Spieler, Sancali, T Miller 2, P Eich, C Benning 2, B Fodness 2, M Bambas, **SB:** Spieler 3, Sancali, T Miller, P Eich 3, B Fodness 3, M Bambas, **LOB:** 5

Lennox Jr Leq	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
Spieler	3.0	1	0	0	0	3	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>

**WP:** Spieler, **P-S:** Spieler 37-23, **BF:** Spieler 9

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## Groton Jr. Teeners vs. 13/14 teeners Lakers

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
<b>GRTN</b>	0	0	0	0	0	2	X	2	0	0
<b>13/1</b>	4	0	0	0	0	X	X	4	5	1

Hits

1

D. Noem, 13/1

L. Fraser, 13/1 1

J. Nefzger, 13/1 1

Walks

2

T. Larson, GRTN

K. Swenson, 13/1 2

B. Althoff, GRTN 1

RBIs

1

L. Fraser, 13/1

J. Nefzger, 13/1 1

C. Rodriguez, 13/1 1

QABs

3

G. Jensen, 13/1

R. Warrington, 13/1 3

T. Larson, GRTN 2

### PITCHING HIGHLIGHTS

[Away Pitching Stats](#) | [Home Pitching Stats](#) | [Season Pitching Stats](#)

Innings

6.0

C. Rodriguez, 13/1

T. Larson, GRTN 2.2

A. Johnson, GRTN 1.2

First Pitch  
Strikes

12

C. Rodriguez, 13/1

T. Larson, GRTN 5

A. Johnson, GRTN 4

Strikeouts

9

C. Rodriguez, 13/1

A. Johnson, GRTN 3

T. Larson, GRTN 3

WHIP

0.67

C. Rodriguez, 13/1

T. Larson, GRTN 0.75

A. Johnson, GRTN 5.40

## Missouri River Corps of Rediscovery Column

"We are now several hundred miles within the bosom of this wild and mountainous country, where game may rationally be expected shortly to become scarce and subsistence precarious without any information with respect to the country not knowing how far these mountains continue, or wher to direct our course to pass them to advantage or intercept a navigable branch of the Columbia, or even were we on such an one the probability is that we should not find any timber within these mountains large enough for canoes if we judge from the portion of them through which we have passed."

--Meriwether Lewis at the Missouri Headwaters, July 27, 1805

### Missouri River Corps of Rediscovery Six months Paddling a Dugout Canoe

The dream of carving a dugout canoe and paddling it down the river has long tickled my imagination. Last year I had the opportunity to carve that canoe and the privilege of working side-by-side with Churchill Clark, the great-great-great-great grandson of Captain William Clark of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

This year, my friends and I launch the dugout as part of a small fleet of canoes embarking on a six-month "Missouri River Corps of Rediscovery" to explore the 2,341-mile river from its beginning near Three Forks, Montana to it's end, where the Missouri spills into the Mississippi at St. Louis.

Paddling the river in a dugout canoe is the realization of several persistent dreams that serendipitously came together for the journey. With my youngest out of the nest, I chose 2019 as the year I would embark on an adventure to either walk the Appalachian Trail, bicycle across the United States, or paddle the Missouri. This latter dream won out when the dugout canoe project came to fruition.

As president of the Jefferson River Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, and as a wilderness survival instructor with an emphasis on primitive skills and bushcraft, I had long dreamed of carving a dugout canoe, yet lacked a suitable tree for the project.

As Meriwether Lewis observed, large cottonwoods are scarce here above the Missouri Headwaters where the larger plains cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*) gives way to the skinnier narrowleaf cottonwood (*P. angustifolia*).

The dream resurfaced after connecting with Churchill Clark. He retraced the Lewis and Clark journey to the Pacific Ocean and back in a dugout canoe during the bicentennial, from 2004 to 2006, and now travels the country "carving dugout canoes and paddling trees."

I found what seemed like a large enough tree, so Churchill came to Montana to oversee the project. However, as Churchill pointed out, there isn't much left after removing the bark and the softer sapwood to expose the solid wood that makes a nice canoe. Anything less than 36 inches in diameter is too small for a good canoe, and my tree was just too small.

In a pinch and panic, we called around in search of a big enough tree. I ultimately bought a massive old Douglas fir from a sawmill.

Douglas fir is not a traditional canoe wood, being hard and full of knots, and because it cracks and pops like popcorn as it dries, but we believed it would work. The knots necessitated extensive use of power tools to aid the traditional adze work.

It took nearly three months of sawing, chopping, grinding, and sanding--plus a good bit of epoxy, linseed oil, and varnish--to turn the 10,000-pound log into a 500-pound canoe.

Early in the process, Churchill observed the image of a beaver face in the bow of the canoe and sculpted it into the design. I had merely envisioned a functional canoe, but he created a work of art, which is so beautiful that I ultimately named her Belladonna Beaver.

I was admittedly skeptical ahead of our first test of the canoe. We drove 260 miles to spend a week paddling the Marias River in north-central Montana, and it didn't seem like there was enough water to float the boat.

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As Churchill noted, a cottonwood loses half its weight as it dries, while a Douglas fir loses only ten percent. It is a very heavy canoe. Nevertheless, Belladonna Beaver floated beautifully and paddled like a dream. We enjoyed a week exploring the Marias River as a good test run to prepare for the Missouri Expedition.

My goal in leading this Missouri River Corps of Rediscovery isn't merely to race to the end, but rather to paddle the river as a conduit for exploring the land and meeting its inhabitants. We will be botanizing, foraging, fishing, and hunting as we explore the geographical landscape and meet the indigenous and newly integrated flora, fauna, and human habitations.

It is also my goal to raise a minimum of \$38,722 towards the purchase of a new public campsite on the Jefferson River Canoe Trail segment of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. That amount was the sum total cost of the original Corps of Discovery, according to Lewis's post-expedition accounting. The fundraiser will help us secure matching grants for land acquisition, enhancing the river trail experience for generations to come.

We invite the public to join us for the journey through this weekly column or to find us along the way to paddle a stretch of the river together.


Thomas J. Elpel is the founder of Green University® LLC in Pony, Montana and the author of seven books. His video "Dugout Canoe Carving: The Story of Belladonna Beaver" has had more than one million views on YouTube. Please go to [www.Elpel.info](http://www.Elpel.info) to learn more about the expedition and the fundraising effort for the Jefferson River Canoe Trail.



*“Peace and Friendship”*  
Missouri River  
Corps of Rediscovery  
Expedition 2019



Jefferson River  
Canoe Trail



PEACE  
AND  
FRIENDSHIP

MISSOURI RIVER  
CORPS OF REDISCOVERY 2019  
[www.Elpel.info](http://www.Elpel.info)

Fundraiser for the  
Jefferson River Canoe Trail

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Today



Areas Dense Fog then Partly Sunny

High: 76 °F

Tonight



Mostly Cloudy

Low: 55 °F

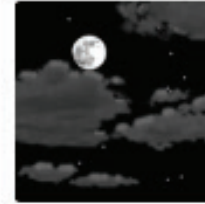
Monday



Partly Sunny then Slight Chance T-storms

High: 81 °F

Monday Night



Partly Cloudy

Low: 58 °F

Tuesday



Sunny

High: 83 °F

Today, Scattered Afternoon Showers. Highs in the 70s.

Monday, Scattered Afternoon Showers. Highs around 80°F

Tuesday, Mostly Sunny. Highs 80-85°F

ISSUED: 4:28 AM - Sunday, June 23, 2019, National Weather Service, Aberdeen SD  
Published on: 06/23/2019 at 12:30AM

**Daytime heating could bring showers and isolated thunderstorms to the region both today, and again on Monday. Tuesday should be dry, and warmer.**



## Today in Weather History

June 23, 1914: A destructive, estimated F3 tornado moved east across Altamont Township in Brown County. All buildings were destroyed on at least four farms. A man was killed trying to keep his family from being blown out of a shallow cellar.

Another storm moved east from the southeastern part of Watertown to north of Goodwin. Over 200 homes were heavily damaged at Watertown by both an estimated F2 tornado and downburst winds. Barns were destroyed on three farms east of Watertown. The estimated cost was at \$200,000.

June 23, 2002: A powerful supercell thunderstorm produced six tornados from eastern McPherson County and across northern Brown County during the evening hours. The first tornado to touchdown was a brief F0, and occurred 6.4 miles northeast of Leola and resulted in no damage. The second tornado was an F1 and touched down 8.5 miles northeast of Leola and crossed over into Brown County where it dissipated 9 miles northwest of Barnard. This tornado brought down many trees and a barn and caused damage to the siding and the roof of a farmhouse in McPherson County. A third weak satellite F0 tornado occurred following the dissipation of the second tornado and resulted in no damage. A fourth, stronger F3 tornado developed 6 miles west of Barnard and moved east before dissipating 3 miles southeast of Barnard. This tornado brought down some high power lines along with a support tower and tossed a pickup truck 100 yards into a group of trees. The pickup truck was totaled. The tornado caused extensive damage to two farmhouses, several farm buildings, and farm equipment. One farmhouse lost the garage and had many trees completely snapped off down low and debarked. The fifth tornado developed 5 miles southeast of Barnard and became a violent F4 tornado. This tornado caused damage to one farmhouse, several outbuildings, trees, and equipment as it moved northeast and strengthened. The tornado then completely demolished two unoccupied homes, several outbuildings, along with destroying or damaging some farm equipment before dissipating 7.6 miles northeast of Barnard. The sixth tornado was a weak satellite F0, which occurred with this violent tornado and caused no damage. The F4 tornado was the first recorded in Brown County and one of few recorded in South Dakota. The total estimated property loss exceeded a million dollars. [Click HERE](#) for pictures from Silver Lining Tours.

1944: The deadliest and strongest tornado in the state of West Virginia occurred on this day. The Shinnston Tornado that ravaged a path of destruction from Shinnston to Cheat Mountain, then on to Maryland and ending in Pennsylvania in the Allegheny Mountains, is the only twister to produce F4 damage in West Virginia. This tornado killed 103 people. [Click HERE](#) for more information from the History Channel. [Click HERE](#) for damage pictures from West Virginia Division of Culture and History.

2010: An F2 tornado destroyed approximately 50 homes and caused damages estimated to be \$15 million in Midland, Ontario. 12 people were reported to be injured. Ontario provided immediate provincial assistance of up to \$1 million to aid in cleanup and repairs.

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 70 °F at 4:54 PM**

**Low Temp: 55 °F at 6:13 AM**

**Wind: 8 mph at 12:32 PM**

**Day Rain: 0.01 in**

**Record High: 104° in 1911**

**Record Low: 33° in 1942**

**Average High: 80°F**

**Average Low: 56°F**

**Average Precip in June.: 2.71**

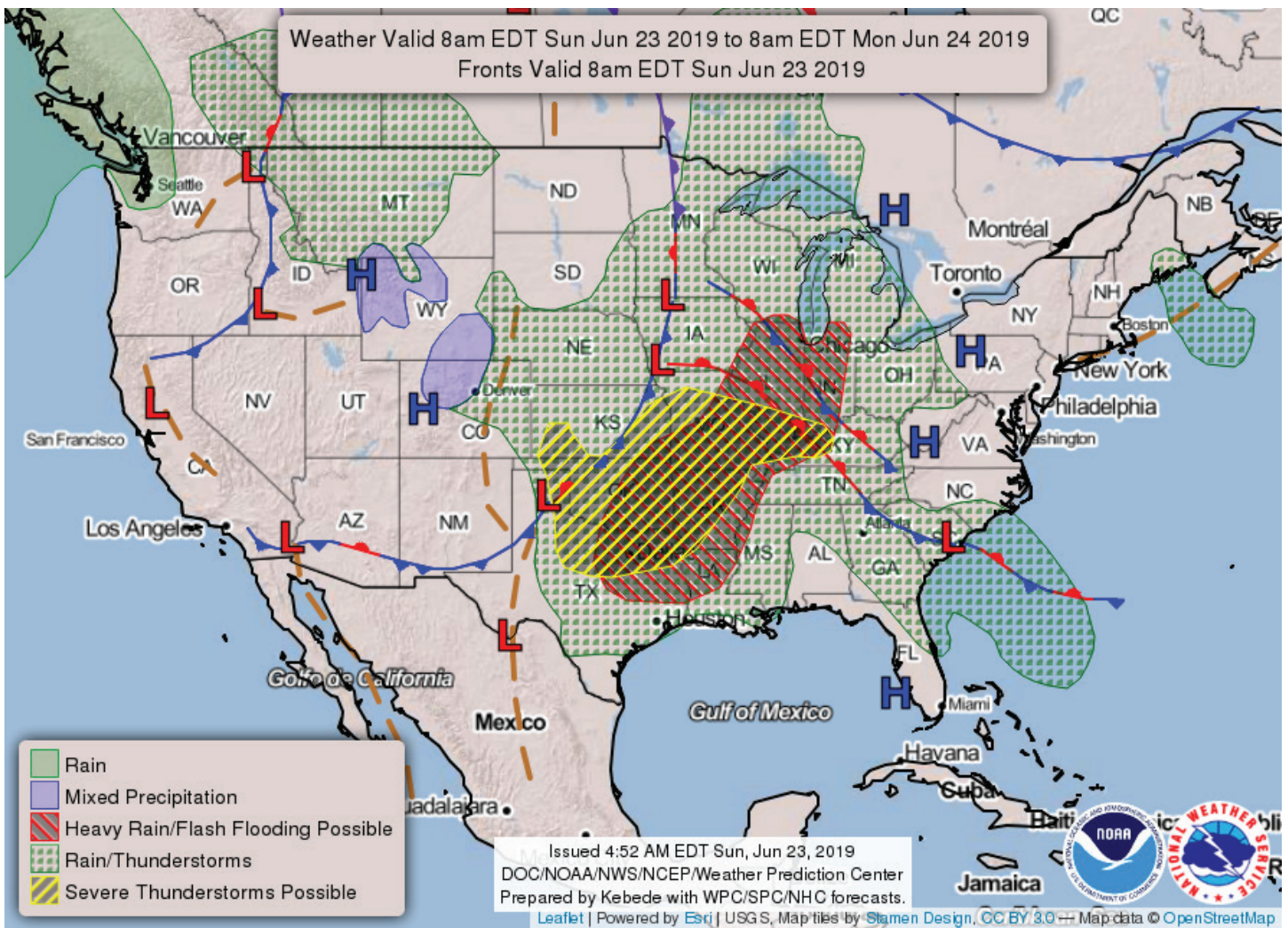
**Precip to date in June.: 3.79**

**Average Precip to date: 9.85**

**Precip Year to Date: 11.57**

**Sunset Tonight: 9:26 p.m.**

**Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:46 a.m.**



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## LISTEN UP!

There is a tremendous difference between listening and hearing. We can hear without listening but cannot listen without hearing. Our ears have become accustomed to being bombarded by so many loud noises that we often hear things without listening to what is actually going on or being said. It is reminiscent of the old adage that there is something going in one ear and out the other without being noticed. This can create problems for us.

He who answers without listening - that is his folly and shame, is a wise admonishment. All too often when we are talking with one another, we are more interested in what we are thinking about than what the other person is saying to us. Unless we place a high value on what they are saying, we are apt to misunderstand what that person is saying to us or needing from us.

There are those who think a quick answer is a sign of intellect, knowledge, or wisdom. Actually, it may be none of them. In fact, this proverb insists that to give an answer to someone without listening is, in fact, the sign of a foolish person. Furthermore, there is a strong suggestion in this proverb that the person who responds without careful thought is foolish, and will ultimately bring shame on him or herself.

But there is even a more subtle hint here that is well worth thinking about. A person who carefully and thoughtfully listens to another person shows that person respect. It is as if we are saying, You are as important to me as you are to God. I must listen to you as He would!

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to honor and respect others who come to us in times of need. Help us to listen carefully and willingly, and to show others that we are there for them. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 18:13 He who answers without listening - that is his folly and shame.

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## 2019 Groton SD Community Events

- 01/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
- 03/17/2019 Legion Post #39 Spring Fundraiser (Sunday closest to St. Patrick's Day, every other year)
- 04/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 04/27/2019 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 05/04/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/27/2019 Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program (Memorial Day)
- 06/13/2019 Transit Fundraiser (Thursday Mid-June)
- 06/14/2019 SDSU Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 06/15/2019 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 06/21/2019 Best Ball Golf Tourney
- 06/22-23/2019 Groton Junior Legion Tournament
- 06/29/2019 Groton U10/U12 Round Robin Tournament
- 07/04/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 07/14/2019 Summer Fest/Car Show (Sunday Mid-July)
- 07/18/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Pro Am Tournament
- 07/21/2019 Granary Ice Cream Social & Family Music Fest
- 08/02/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Wine on Nine
- 08/09-11/2019 State Junior Legion Tournament in Groton
- 08/22/2019 First Day of School
- 09/07/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 09/08/2019 Sunflower Classic at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 09/08/2019 Granary Living History Fall Festival
- 10/12/2019 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/11/2019 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2019 Trunk or Treat/Halloween on Main (Halloween)
- 11/09/2019 Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/07/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Holiday Party
- 12/07/2019 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
- Bingo: every Wednesday at the Legion Post #39

## 2020 Groton SD Community Events

- 4/4/2020 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 4/25/2020 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 5/2/2020 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)

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News from the **AP** Associated Press

## SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash

08-10-13-29-33

(eight, ten, thirteen, twenty-nine, thirty-three)

Estimated jackpot: \$572,000

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$60 million

Powerball

03-06-11-14-66, Powerball: 21, Power Play: 2

(three, six, eleven, fourteen, sixty-six; Powerball: twenty-one; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$108 million

## GOP lawmakers create hurdles for citizen ballot initiatives

By ANDREW DeMILLO Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Arkansas voters have been active in recent years, passing ballot initiatives that legalized medical marijuana, raised the minimum wage and expanded casino gambling.

That hasn't gone over well with Republicans.

Arkansas' GOP-dominated Legislature has taken steps this year that will make it harder to put such proposals before voters, and they are not the only ones.

Florida, North Dakota, South Dakota and Utah also have enacted restrictions on the public's ability to place initiatives on the ballot. In Michigan, the state's top election official is being sued over Republican-enacted requirements that make it harder to qualify proposals for the ballot.

In all, lawmakers in 16 states introduced more than 120 bills this year that would weaken the initiative process, according to the Ballot Initiative Strategy Center. The moves worry advocates who say they undermine the idea of direct democracy and could effectively shut down the initiative process in some states.

"This is a way to make sure that there is absolutely no way that anyone can do something that (Republican lawmakers) don't already approve," said Florida state Sen. Oscar Braynon, a Democrat who opposed state restrictions recently signed into law.

In Arkansas, the changes came after voters legalized medical marijuana in 2016 and last year approved raising the state's minimum wage to \$12 an hour by 2021.

The state's governor signed into law legislation overhauling the way measures are approved for the ballot so that a proposed initiative and the signatures collected in favor of it are reviewed at the same time. The change, critics say, would mean groups could waste time and money circulating petitions only to find out afterward that there was a problem with the wording that would disqualify it from the ballot.

Arkansas lawmakers also placed on next year's ballot a measure that, if approved by voters, would impose additional restrictions. Those would include tripling the number of counties where initiative sponsors must collect a minimum number of signatures and eliminating a 30-day period groups have to gather additional signatures if they initially fall short. The lawmakers' ballot measure also would move up by several months the deadline for submitting petitions.

"Everything they have done has ... the ultimate goal to eliminate the petitioning process so that the people have no voice, and it is outrageous," said Melissa Fults, executive director of the Drug Policy Education Group, who plans to try and get a recreational marijuana proposal on next year's ballot.

The success of the medical marijuana initiative was celebrated by Arkansas residents such as Joanie

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Hopson, who was one of the first in line when retailers started selling marijuana last month. The 36-year-old said she suffers from a host of ailments, including muscle spasms, seizures and a connective tissue disorder, and cried when she was finally able to buy cannabis legally to ease her pain.

"We were really on the verge of moving out of the state because I need my medicine," said Hopson, who lives in the community of East End, a short drive south of Little Rock.

Lawmakers pushing the restrictions said they are trying to rein in an initiative process that has been an easy target for out-of-state groups. Previous initiatives included unsuccessful attempts by pro-casino groups to give certain companies a gambling monopoly in the state.

Republican state Sen. Mat Pitsch, who co-sponsored the changes in Arkansas, said the state's constitution has been changed 20 times over the past seven elections — a number that also includes measures lawmakers themselves put before voters.

"When you change your constitution three times every other year, that's more like legislating than having a constitution," said Pitsch, who noted the proposal on next year's ballot also would raise the threshold for lawmakers to send measures to voters.

A similar argument was used in Florida when the governor this month signed wide-ranging legislation that erects a number of hurdles to those trying to get initiatives before votes.

The new Florida laws require paid petition gatherers to register with the secretary of state, prohibit payments based on the number of signatures collected and levy fines if petitions aren't turned in within 30 days. The petitions also must include the name and permanent address of the signature-gatherer.

Gov. Ron DeSantis defended the bill, saying it is aimed at protecting the Florida Constitution from outsiders. The governor said he wants to take more steps to revise the process of changing the constitution.

"This is not supposed to be driven by out-of-state special interests; it's supposed to be driven by Floridians, but that's really not what's happened," DeSantis said. "If people really feel the need to do it, then you band together, you do your organizations, you do it. Right now, you just have one guy write a check and you pay these people per signature. It creates a lot of bad incentives."

Florida voters have approved a number of petition-driven amendments that Republicans don't like, including limits on class sizes, preschool education for all, medical marijuana legalization and, last fall, restoring voting rights for felons who have completed their sentences. In the works are petition drives for 2020 seeking to ban assault rifles and raise the minimum wage.

In Utah, where voters last year approved medical marijuana, Medicaid expansion and redistricting proposals, the state's Republican governor signed legislation delaying the implementation of successful initiatives to give lawmakers a chance to change them.

Rep. Brad Daw, the bill's Republican sponsor, said the change allows lawmakers to keep state agencies running smoothly by revising portions of voter-approved laws that conflict with other rules before they go into effect.

"The fact is, the Legislature can make changes one way or another," he said.

But critics say they worry the changes will leave voters feeling powerless.

"When you pass a ballot measure, you want to see something change," said Yoram Bauman with Clean the Darn Air, which is pushing to get on the 2020 ballot with a proposed a carbon tax to curb pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. "If you have to wait an extra year to see something change, that's frustrating, especially when you feel like during that extra time the Legislature can come in and monkey with it."

Not all changes are winning favor in Republican states. Idaho Gov. Brad Little vetoed proposals that would have made it tougher to qualify a measure for the ballot, saying he didn't believe the restrictions would stand up in court. The legislation was seen primarily as a reaction by the Republican-dominated Legislature to last year's voter approval of Medicaid expansion.

"We argued that for a change to constitutional rights of this magnitude, the correct process is to take that to the voters as a constitutional amendment," said Rebecca Schroeder, executive director of Reclaim Idaho, the group behind the Medicaid expansion initiative.

In Arkansas, the fight over initiative restrictions may not be over, with groups opposing them preparing a lawsuit. David Couch, the attorney who sponsored the minimum wage and medical marijuana initiatives,

also sees another path to fighting back — placing an initiative on next year's ballot that competes with the one pushed by the Legislature.

Associated Press Writers Brendan Farrington in Tallahassee, Florida, Keith Ridler in Boise, Idaho, and Lindsay Whitehurst in Salt Lake City contributed to this report.

## Cool weather causes pool closures in Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Cool temperatures have caused the closure of all outdoor pools in Sioux Falls. The Argus Leader reports the city said Saturday all of its six public pools and a spray park will be closed. The National Weather Service says the high in Sioux Falls on Saturday is expected to be 72 degrees. The temperature was 68 degrees around noon Saturday. The Midco Aquatic Center will still be open Saturday.

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

## Bolton warns Iran not to mistake US 'prudence' for weakness

By ARON HELLER Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton said Sunday that Iran should not "mistake U.S. prudence and discretion for weakness," after the U.S. abruptly called off military strikes against the Iran in response to the shooting down of an unmanned American surveillance drone.

Bolton's tough message seemed to be aimed not only at Tehran, but also at reassuring key U.S. allies that the White House remains committed to maintaining pressure on Iran. Israel, along with Arab countries in the Gulf, considers Iran to be their greatest threat, and Trump's last-minute about face appears to have raised questions about U.S. willingness to use force against the Islamic Republic.

The downing of the aircraft on Thursday marked a new high in the rising tensions between the United States and Iran in the Persian Gulf. The Trump administration has vowed to combine a "maximum pressure" campaign of economic sanctions with a buildup of American forces in the region, following the U.S. withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers.

President Donald Trump says he backed away from the planned strikes after learning 150 people would be killed. But Bolton, a longtime Iran hawk, emphasized that the U.S. reserved the right to attack at a later point. He also said a new set of sanctions on Iran are expected to be announced Monday.

"No one has granted them a hunting license in the Middle East. As President Trump said on Friday our military is rebuilt, new and ready to go," Bolton said in Jerusalem alongside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, himself a vocal critic of Iran over the years.

"And as he made clear yesterday, referring to his earlier remarks, the president said, 'I just stopped the strike from going forward at this time,'" Bolton added.

Bolton is visiting Israel for three-way talks with his Israeli and Russian counterparts that are expected to focus on Iranian involvement in conflicts across the region, including in neighboring Syria.

Israel's prime minister has been a vocal critic of Iran over the years, accusing the Islamic Republic of sinister intentions at every opportunity.

But Netanyahu, a longtime critic of the nuclear deal, has remained uncharacteristically quiet throughout the current crisis between the U.S. and Iran. The Israeli leader appears to be wary of being seen as pushing the U.S. into a new Middle Eastern military conflict.

Standing alongside Bolton, Netanyahu sided with the Americans. He said Iranian involvement in conflicts across the region had increased as a result of the nuclear deal, which gave the country a new cash infusion, and had nothing to do with the U.S. exit from the agreement.

"After the deal, but before recent events, Iran has been on a campaign of aggression," he said. "Those who describe the recent actions as somehow opening a hornet's nest are living on another planet."

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Netanyahu made no mention of the called-off airstrike and said he was "pleased" by U.S. plans for increased economic pressure. But Israeli commentators said that Trump's about-face was a cause for concern.

"It further undermined the already limited confidence of other Western leaders in Trump's judgment, it cast the U.S. president as a paper tiger and provided a moment of triumph for the ayatollahs in Tehran and it raised new doubts about the rationale behind Netanyahu's drive to persuade Trump to abandon the 2015 nuclear deal," wrote Haaretz columnist Chemi Shalev.

Netanyahu has repeatedly accused Iran of seeking to develop nuclear weapons — a charge Tehran denies.

Earlier in his decade-long tenure, Netanyahu and other Israeli officials had strongly considered attacking Iranian nuclear installations. Under heavy pressure from the Obama administration and his own security chiefs, Netanyahu ultimately decided against military action.

A top Iranian military commander warned Sunday that any conflict with Iran would have uncontrollable consequences across the region and endanger the lives of U.S. forces. Maj. Gen. Gholamali Rashid's remarks, published by the semi-official Fars news agency, were made while addressing Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guards Corps during a field visit to a command center for Iranian radars and missile systems. The general oversees and coordinates joint military operations in the Iranian Armed Forces.

U.S. military cyber forces on Thursday launched a strike against Iranian military computer systems, according to U.S. officials. The cyberattacks disabled Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps computer systems that controlled its rocket and missile launchers, the officials said.

Throughout the recent crisis, Trump has wavered between bellicose language and actions toward Iran and a more accommodating tone. His administration is aiming to cripple Iran's economy and force policy changes by re-imposing sanctions, including on Iranian oil exports.

However, Trump said Saturday he appreciated that Iran did not fire on a U.S. spy plane with a crew of over 30 people that was flying Thursday over the same area as the drone that was shot down.

He also dangled the prospect of eventually becoming an unlikely "best friend" of America's longtime Middle Eastern adversary.

Iranian lawmakers on Sunday chanted "death to America" during an open session when acting parliament speaker Masoud Pezeshkian condemned what he said was the violation of Iranian airspace by the U.S. drone.

The regional tensions have prompted major international carriers, including Saudi Arabia's state airline Saudia, to divert flight routes away from the Gulf of Oman and Strait of Hormuz.

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration's on Friday barred U.S.-registered aircraft from operating over parts of the Persian Gulf.

The U.S. blames Iran for apparent attacks on six oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman in recent weeks, which Iran denies. Iranian-allied rebels in Yemen have also recently launched attacks on a civilian airport in Saudi Arabia, a desalination plant and key oil pipeline in the kingdom. The kingdom has been at war in Yemen against the rebels since 2015.

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Nasser Karimi reported from Tehran, Iran. Aya Batrawy contributed reporting from Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

## **Bikers, military vets mourn 7 killed in rural highway crash**

**By MICHAEL CASEY and PATRICK WHITTLE Associated Press**

RANDOLPH, N.H. (AP) — Motorcyclists and military veterans mourned Sunday as authorities sought help in determining why a pickup truck collided with a group of bikers on a rural highway, killing seven of them.

The crash in remote northern New Hampshire involved members of Marine JarHeads MC, a motorcycle club that includes Marines and their spouses. Authorities said they might begin identifying victims by name as soon as Sunday.

The tragedy left the close-knit motorcycle community in shock, with many remembering their own close calls on the road.



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"Seven people. C'mon. It's senseless," said Bill Brown, a 73-year-old Vietnam War veteran and motorcyclist, who visited the accident scene on Saturday to put down flags. "Somebody made a mistake, and it turned out to be pretty deadly."

A pickup truck towing a flatbed trailer collided with the group of 10 motorcycles around 6:30 p.m. Friday on U.S. 2, a two-lane highway in the tiny North Woods community of Randolph. The pickup truck caught fire, and witnesses described a "devastating" scene as bystanders tried to help the injured amid shattered motorcycles.

This weekend's long-planned "Blessing of the Bikes" ceremony an hour to the north of the accident was expected to be especially emotional this year. Meanwhile, members of the motorcycle community had already begun organizing help for the victims' families, said Cat Wilson, who organizes a motorcycle charity event in Massachusetts and is a friend of some of the crash victims.

Investigators on Saturday identified the pickup driver as Volodymyr Zhukovskyy, 23, an employee of Westfield Transport, a company in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Zhukovskyy survived the accident, did not need to be hospitalized and has not been charged, authorities said, but they didn't address details on his whereabouts. A phone listing for him couldn't be found.

Dartanyan Gasanov, the owner of Westfield Transport, told The Boston Globe that he planned to talk to investigators Monday and has been unable to reach Zhukovskyy, who has not been answering phone calls.

The National Transportation Safety Board is among the agencies investigating. Authorities asked for the public's help in the form of videos, photos or other information about the accident or the vehicles involved.

"This is one of the worst tragic incidents that we have investigated here in the state," New Hampshire State Police Col. Chris Wagner said Saturday. "It's going to be a very lengthy investigation."

Along with the seven dead, state police said three people were taken to hospitals. Two of them were released Saturday.

Whittle reported from Portland, Maine. Associated Press writer David Sharp in Portland contributed to this report.

## Sentencing looms in Charlottesville attack; man seeks mercy

By ALAN SUDERMAN Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — The self-avowed white supremacist who plowed his car into counterdemonstrators opposing a white nationalist rally in Virginia two years ago, killing one person and injuring dozens, has asked a judge for mercy and a sentence shorter than life in prison.

Lawyers for James Alex Fields Jr., 22, said in a sentencing memo submitted in court documents Friday that the defendant should not spend his entire life in prison because of his age, a traumatic childhood and a history of mental illness. Fields pleaded guilty to federal hate crimes in March and is set to be sentenced on June 28.

"No amount of punishment imposed on James can repair the damage he caused to dozens of innocent people. But this Court should find that retribution has limits," his attorneys wrote.

But prosecutors countered that the avowed anti-Semite and Adolf Hitler admirer has shown no remorse since he drove the car into the counterdemonstrators on Aug. 12, 2017, killing anti-racism activist Heather Heyer and injuring others protesting against the white nationalists.

The attorneys for Fields said that giving him something less than a life sentence would be akin to an "expression of mercy" and a "conviction that no individual is wholly defined by their worst moments."

But prosecutors said Friday that Fields deserves a life sentence, adding that would help deter others from committing "similar acts of domestic terrorism."

The dueling memos were filed week as the federal sentencing looms on Friday.

Fields' case stirred racial tensions around the country. Fields pleaded in March to federal hate crime charges and admitted that he intentionally plowed his speeding car into a crowd of anti-racism protesters, killing a woman and injuring dozens.

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Under a plea deal, federal prosecutors agreed not to pursue the death penalty against Fields. The charges he pleaded guilty to call for life in prison under federal sentencing guidelines.

Fields was convicted in December in a Virginia court of first-degree murder and other state charges for killing anti-racism activist Heather Heyer and injuring others who were protesting against the white nationalists. Sentencing on the state charges is scheduled for next month.

The rally in 2017 drew hundreds of white nationalists to Charlottesville to protest the planned removal of a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. Hundreds of counterprotesters demonstrated against the white nationalists.

In Friday's memo, Fields' attorneys highlighted his difficult upbringing and history of mental illness, but many of the details were redacted from public viewing. He was raised by a paraplegic single mother and suffered "trauma" by growing up knowing that his Jewish grandfather had murdered his grandmother before committing suicide, his lawyers said.

Prosecutors focused on years of documented racist and anti-Semitic behavior by Fields, which they said included keeping a picture of Adolf Hitler on his bedside table. They also said in court documents that he was recorded on a jail phone call making disparaging remarks about Heyer's mother as recently as last month.

Prosecutors also said that while Fields has a history of mental illness issues, it doesn't excuse his behavior in a way that would require a lenient sentence.

"Any mental health concerns raised by the defendant do not overcome the defendant's demonstrated lack of remorse and his prior history of substantial racial animus," prosecutors wrote.

## Amid tough talk, Trump says he could be Iran's 'best friend'

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Saturday that military action against Iran was still an option for its downing of an unmanned U.S. military aircraft, but amid heightened tensions he dangled the prospect of eventually becoming an unlikely "best friend" of America's longtime Middle Eastern adversary.

Trump also said "we very much appreciate" that Iran's Revolutionary Guard chose not to target a U.S. spy plane carrying more than 30 people.

The president's softer tone Saturday marked a stark contrast to the anti-Iran rhetoric he employed throughout the presidential campaign and presidency, including his use of punishing economic sanctions in an attempt to pressure Iran to give up its quest to build nuclear weapons.

"The fact is we're not going to have Iran have a nuclear weapon," he said as he left the White House for a weekend at the Camp David presidential retreat. "And when they agree to that, they are going to have a wealthy country, they're going to be so happy and I'm going to be their best friend."

"I hope that happens. I hope that happens, but it may not," Trump said. He later said Iran will be hit with unspecified new sanctions on Monday.

Another event earlier this week put a different cast on Trump's more optimistic rhetoric. U.S. military cyber forces launched a strike against Iranian military computer systems on Thursday in response to the loss of the military drone. U.S. officials told The Associated Press that the cyberattacks, which disabled Iranian computer systems that controlled its rocket and missile launchers, had been authorized by Trump.

On Saturday, days after he said it was "hard to believe" the shoot-down of the U.S. drone was intentional, Trump did an about-face and accused Iran of "knowingly" targeting the plane. And he reiterated that he aborted a planned military strike set for Thursday after learning approximately 150 Iranians would be killed.

"Everybody was saying I'm a war monger. And now they say I'm a dove. And I think I'm neither, if you want to know the truth," Trump told reporters. "I'm a man with common sense. And that's what we need in this country, is common sense. But I didn't like the idea of them knowingly shooting down an unmanned drone and then we kill 150 people."

He added: "I don't want to kill 150 Iranians. I don't want to kill 150 of anything or anybody unless it's absolutely necessary."

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Trump's comments came as Iran summoned the United Arab Emirates' top envoy to Tehran to protest the neighboring Arab nation's decision to allow the U.S. to use one of its military bases to launch the drone that Iran says entered its airspace, state media reported Saturday.

Iran issued a "strong protest" to the UAE diplomat, saying Iran does not tolerate the facilitation of foreign forces that violate its territory, the report by the official IRNA news agency said.

The U.S. said its RQ-4A Global Hawk was shot down Thursday over international waters in the Strait of Hormuz, not inside Iranian airspace.

The shoot-down by elite Iranian Revolutionary Guard forces marked the first time the Islamic Republic directly attacked the American military amid mounting tensions over Tehran's unraveling nuclear deal with world powers.

The two countries disputed the circumstances leading up to an Iranian surface-to-air missile bringing down the drone, an unmanned aircraft with a wingspan larger than a Boeing 737 jetliner and costing over \$100 million.

British diplomat Andrew Murrison planned to visit Iran on Sunday to call for the "urgent de-escalation in the region and raise U.K. and international concerns about Iran's regional conduct" during talks with Tehran's government, Britain's Foreign Office said in a statement Saturday.

Trump said U.S. sanctions on Iran have turned the country into an "economic mess" and he tweeted later Saturday about new penalties to be imposed on Monday, without providing details. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said Friday that Iran's financial sector would be penalized soon if it doesn't work to stop evading international guidelines designed to combat money laundering.

The drone incident immediately heightened the crisis already gripping the wider region, which is rooted in Trump withdrawing the U.S. a year ago from Iran's 2015 nuclear deal and imposing crippling new sanctions on Tehran.

Recently, Iran quadrupled its production of low-enriched uranium to be on pace to break one of the deal's terms by next week, while threatening to raise enrichment closer to weapons-grade levels on July 7 if Europe doesn't offer it a new deal.

In Iraq, security measures were increased at one of the country's largest air bases, which houses American trainers, a top Iraqi air force commander said Saturday. The U.S. military said operations at the base were going on as usual and there were no plans to evacuate personnel.

Associated Press writer Nasser Karimi in Tehran, Iran, contributed to this report.

## **AP sources: US struck Iranian military computers this week**

**By TAMI ABDOLLAH Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. military cyber forces launched a strike against Iranian military computer systems on Thursday as President Donald Trump backed away from plans for a more conventional military strike in response to Iran's downing of a U.S. surveillance drone, U.S. officials said Saturday.

Two officials told The Associated Press that the strikes were conducted with approval from Trump. A third official confirmed the broad outlines of the strike. All spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the operation.

The cyberattacks — a contingency plan developed over weeks amid escalating tensions — disabled Iranian computer systems that controlled its rocket and missile launchers, the officials said. Two of the officials said the attacks, which specifically targeted Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps computer system, were provided as options after Iranian forces blew up two oil tankers earlier this month.

The IRGC, which was designated a foreign terrorist group by the Trump administration earlier this year, is a branch of the Iranian military.

The action by U.S. Cyber Command was a demonstration of the U.S.'s increasingly mature cyber military capabilities and its more aggressive cyber strategy under the Trump administration. Over the last year U.S. officials have focused on persistently engaging with adversaries in cyberspace and undertaking more

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offensive operations.

There was no immediate reaction Sunday morning in Iran to the U.S. claims. Iran has hardened and disconnected much of its infrastructure from the internet after the Stuxnet computer virus, widely believed to be a joint U.S.-Israeli creation, disrupted thousands of Iranian centrifuges in the late 2000s.

Tensions have escalated between the two countries ever since the U.S. withdrew last year from the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran and began a policy of "maximum pressure." Iran has since been hit by multiple rounds of sanctions. Tensions spiked this past week after Iran shot down an unmanned U.S. drone — an incident that nearly led to a U.S. military strike against Iran on Thursday evening.

The cyberattacks are the latest chapter in the U.S. and Iran's ongoing cyber operations targeting the other. Yahoo News first reported the cyber strike.

In recent weeks, hackers believed to be working for the Iranian government have targeted U.S. government agencies, as well as sectors of the economy, including finance, oil and gas, sending waves of spear-phishing emails, according to representatives of cybersecurity companies CrowdStrike and FireEye, which regularly track such activity. This new campaign appears to have started shortly after the Trump administration imposed sanctions on the Iranian petrochemical sector this month.

It was not known if any of the hackers managed to gain access to the targeted networks with the emails, which typically mimic legitimate emails but contain malicious software.

Tensions have run high between the two countries since the U.S. withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran last year and began a policy of "maximum pressure." Iran has since been hit by multiple rounds of sanctions. Then Iran shot down an unmanned U.S. drone this week.

"Both sides are desperate to know what the other side is thinking," said John Hultquist, director of intelligence analysis at FireEye. "You can absolutely expect the regime to be leveraging every tool they have available to reduce the uncertainty about what's going to happen next, about what the U.S.'s next move will be."

CrowdStrike shared images of the spear-phishing emails with the AP.

One such email that was confirmed by FireEye appeared to come from the Executive Office of the President and seemed to be trying to recruit people for an economic adviser position. Another email was more generic and appeared to include details on updating Microsoft Outlook's global address book.

The Iranian actor involved in the cyberattack, dubbed "Refined Kitten" by CrowdStrike, has for years targeted the U.S. energy and defense sectors, as well as allies such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, said Adam Meyers, vice president of intelligence at CrowdStrike.

The Department of Homeland Security said in a statement released Saturday that its agency tasked with infrastructure security has been aware of a recent rise in malicious cyber activities directed at U.S. government agencies by Iranian regime actors and proxies.

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency Director Christopher C. Krebs said the agency has been working with the intelligence community and cybersecurity partners to monitor Iranian cyber activity and ensure the U.S. and its allies are safe.

"What might start as an account compromise, where you think you might just lose data, can quickly become a situation where you've lost your whole network," Krebs said.

The National Security Agency would not discuss Iranian cyber actions specifically, but said in a statement to the AP on Friday that "there have been serious issues with malicious Iranian cyber actions in the past."

"In these times of heightened tensions, it is appropriate for everyone to be alert to signs of Iranian aggression in cyberspace and ensure appropriate defenses are in place," the NSA said.

Iran has long targeted the U.S. oil and gas sectors and other critical infrastructure, but those efforts dropped significantly after the nuclear agreement was signed. After Trump withdrew the U.S. from the deal in May 2018, cyber experts said they have seen an increase in Iranian hacking efforts.

"This is not a remote war (anymore)," said Sergio Caltagirone, vice president of threat intelligence at Dragos Inc. "This is one where Iranians could quote unquote bring the war home to the United States."

Caltagirone said as nations increase their abilities to engage offensively in cyberspace, the ability of the United States to pick a fight internationally and have that fight stay out of the United States physically is

increasingly reduced.

The U.S. has had a contentious cyber history with Iran.

In 2010, the so-called Stuxnet virus disrupted the operation of thousands of centrifuges at a uranium enrichment facility in Iran. Iran accused the U.S. and Israel of trying to undermine its nuclear program through covert operations.

Iran has also shown a willingness to conduct destructive campaigns. Iranian hackers in 2012 launched an attack against state-owned oil company Saudi Aramco, releasing a virus that erased data on 30,000 computers and left an image of a burning American flag on screens.

In 2016, the U.S. indicted Iranian hackers for a series of punishing cyberattacks on U.S. banks and a small dam outside of New York City.

The Defense Department refused to comment on the latest Iranian activity. "As a matter of policy and for operational security, we do not discuss cyberspace operations, intelligence or planning," Pentagon spokeswoman Heather Babb said in a statement. The White House did not respond to a request for comment.

Despite the apparent cyber campaign, experts say the Iranians would not necessarily immediately exploit any access they gain into computer systems and may seek to maintain future capabilities should their relationship with the U.S. further deteriorate.

"It's important to remember that cyber is not some magic offensive nuke you can fly over and drop one day," said Oren Falkowitz, a former National Security Agency analyst. It takes years of planning, he said, but as tensions increase, "cyber impact is going to be one of the tools they use and one of the hardest things to defend against."

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Associated Press writer Lolita C. Baldor in Washington and Jon Gambrell in Dubai contributed to this report. Follow Tami Abdollah on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/latams>

## **'We all feel it': Bikers mourn 7 of their own killed on road**

**By MICHAEL CASEY and PATRICK WHITTLE Associated Press**

RANDOLPH, N.H. (AP) — Investigators pleaded Saturday for members of the public to come forward with information that could help them determine why a pickup truck hauling a trailer collided with a group of 10 motorcycles on a rural highway, killing seven bikers.

The crash in remote northern New Hampshire involved members of Marine JarHeads, a motorcycle club that includes Marines and their spouses, authorities said. The tragedy sent shockwaves through New England's communities of motorcyclists and military veterans, which often overlap.

"When something like this happens, we all feel it," said Cat Wilson, who organizes a motorcycle charity event in Massachusetts and is a friend of some of the crash victims. "There is no tighter community than our biker community."

Authorities identified the pickup driver as Volodoymyr Zhukovskyy, 23, an employee of a Springfield, Massachusetts, company called Westfield Transport.

Zhukovskyy survived the accident, did not need to be hospitalized and has not been charged, authorities said, but they didn't address details on his whereabouts. A phone listing for him couldn't be found.

Dartanyan Gasanov, the owner of Westfield Transport, told The Boston Globe that he planned to talk to investigators Monday and has been unable to reach Zhukovskyy, who has not been answering phone calls.

The National Transportation Safety Board is among the agencies investigating. Authorities asked for the public's help in the form of videos, photos or other information about the accident or the vehicles involved.

"This is one of the worst tragic incidents that we have investigated here in the state," New Hampshire State Police Col. Chris Wagner said at a Saturday news conference in nearby Lancaster. "It's going to be a very lengthy investigation."

A black 2016 Dodge 2500 pickup truck towing a flatbed trailer of the kind used to haul cars collided with the bikers around 6:30 p.m. Friday on U.S. 2, a two-lane highway in Randolph, police said. Randolph is

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about a two-hour drive north of Concord, the capital, and a three-hour drive from Boston.

Along with the seven dead, state police said, three people were taken to hospitals. Two of them were released Saturday. Police did not provide names of the injured or dead but said they could release the names of victims as early as Sunday.

The road reopened Saturday, when skid marks were still visible for several hundred feet on the road, which has mountains and fields full of wildflowers as a backdrop. Nothing was left of the broken motorcycles, but a patch of burned grass and tire marks in the mud remained.

For much the day, residents and bikers stopped by to pay respects. Some prayed, reminisced about their own close calls or planted American flags.

Bill Brown, a 73-year-old Vietnam veteran and motorcyclist, arrived at the scene near a gentle curve in the road to put down flags, calling the victims "brothers in arms," vowing to keep riding and expressing shock.

"Seven people. C'mon. It's senseless," he said. "Somebody made a mistake, and it turned out to be pretty deadly."

Down the road, over a dozen members of the Marine JarHeads gathered at a motel. Dressed in motorcycle jackets with "JarHeads" written on the back, they hugged one another and wept. Earlier in the day, they prayed with a pastor.

Members of the motorcycle community are already organizing help for the victims' families, Wilson said.

A small memorial was held at a church in nearby Berlin on Saturday evening.

On Friday, witnesses described a "devastating" scene as bystanders tried to help riders lying in the road. Broke motorcycles and the bodies of riders littered the highway and the pickup sent off the road and burst into flames.

"There was debris everywhere," said Miranda Thompson, 21, of Manchester, who was several cars back and recalled seeing a truck in flames on the side of the highway and six motorcycles.

"People were in the grass," she said. "There were people putting tourniquets on people, trying to make sure they didn't move."

Whittle reported from Portland, Maine. Associated Press writer David Sharp in Portland contributed.

This story has been updated to correct that three others were taken to hospitals, not two.

## Skydiving plane in Hawaii crash had scary 2016 mishap

By **AUDREY McAVOY** and **ANDREW SELSKY** Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — A skydiving plane that crashed in Hawaii, killing 11 people, was involved in a terrifying midair incident three years ago in Northern California that prompted the 14 skydivers aboard to jump earlier than planned to safety, according to government investigative records.

The Beechcraft King Air plane crashed and burned on Oahu island's north shore Friday evening after witnesses said it appeared to turn back shortly after takeoff.

In the July 23, 2016, incident near Byron, California, the twin-engine plane stalled three times and spun repeatedly before the pilot at that time managed to land it safely, the National Transportation Safety Board said in its investigative report. The agency blamed pilot error.

No one aboard survived the Hawaii crash, which left a small pile of smoky wreckage near the chain link fence surrounding Dillingham Airfield, a one-runway seaside airfield.

Steven Tickemyer saw the plane take flight, get 75 to 100 feet (22 to 30 meters) off the ground and turn away from the mountain range nearby.

He said the plane started to nosedive, then flipped over belly forward so that it was upside down. The aircraft then flipped over again, and hit the ground nose first. He said there was an explosion when it hit the ground.

Tickemyer told The Associated Press this all happened in about 20 to 30 seconds.

He and his friends were watching from a beach across the street. They hopped in his truck, called au-

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thorities and drove to the crash site.

They screamed to see if anyone would call for help, but no one responded, he said.

The crash appeared to be the worst U.S. civil aviation accident since a 2011 accident at the Reno Air Show in Nevada that killed the pilot and 10 spectators.

Officials in Hawaii initially reported that nine people had died and that three of them were customers of the skydiving company operating the plane and that six were employees. But the Hawaii Department of Transportation tweeted Saturday that officials later "confirmed there were 11 people on board the plane" and no survivors. They were not identified.

The flight was operated by the Oahu Parachute Center skydiving company. The ratio of employees to customers aboard suggested that tandem jumps may have been planned in which the customers would have jumped while attached to experienced skydivers, Tim Sakahara, a spokesman for the Hawaii Department of Transportation, told reporters.

Some family members of those aboard were at the airport when the plane went down at about 6:30 p.m., Honolulu Police Chief Manuel Neves said.

Witness Wylie Schoonover saw the plane flying over trees while driving from a nearby YMCA camp after picking up a friend. Then she saw smoke billowing from the airfield and drove over.

There was an "insane amount of fire," she said.

"It didn't even look like a plane. A bunch of people were asking 'what is this?' It was completely gone," Schoonover said.

Natacha Mendenhall said her cousin Casey Williamson, who worked at Oahu Parachute Center, was on board the plane. She said her family has not been officially notified of his death. But they provided Honolulu police with Williamson's name and date of birth, and the police confirmed he was on the flight, she said.

The 29-year-old Yukon, Oklahoma native started skydiving about two-and-a-half years ago. He moved to Hawaii a year and a half ago to focus on sky-diving full time. He was an adventurer, she said, who lived in Vail, Colorado, to snowboard and Moab, Utah, to skydive.

Williamson was his mother Carla Ajaga's only child, Mendenhall said.

"We're all very upset," said Mendenhall, speaking from her home in Fort Worth, Texas. "She cannot really talk right now. What she wants everyone to know is how full of life her son was, how loving he was."

The family has created a GoFundMe page to raise money for his funeral expenses.

Two Federal Aviation Administration inspectors went to the crash site Friday, and National Transportation Safety Board investigators were expected to arrive Saturday evening, safety board spokesman Eric Weiss said.

The plane with two turboprop engines was manufactured in 1967, FAA records said.

The NTSB report on the 2016 incident in Northern California said the plane rotated nine times during one of the three spins it experienced. Investigators found that the plane had lost a piece of horizontal stabilizer and that the plane's elevator had broken off. The plane was also too heavily weighted toward the back, which was also blamed on the pilot.

No one answered the phone at Oahu Parachute Center, which advertises its services on a web site saying its jumps offer people "a magical experience." Tandem jumps are featured at prices ranging from \$170 to \$250.

Videos from the company's Facebook page show jumps from the plane that crashed, with customers strapped to employee skydivers jumping out the side door of the aircraft from 10,000 feet (3,000 meters) or higher, with the Pacific Ocean and the Oahu's green mountains far below.

Dillingham Airfield is used mostly for skydiving and glider flights. Hawaii shares the airfield with the Army, which uses it for helicopter night-vision training.

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This story corrects the spelling of witness Steven Tickemyer's last name.

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Selsky reported from Bend, Oregon. Associated Press writers David Koenig in Dallas and Caleb Jones in

Honolulu contributed to this report.

## White House unveils \$50 billion Palestinian economic plan

By MATTHEW LEE AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration on Saturday unveiled a \$50 billion Palestinian investment and infrastructure proposal intended to be the economic engine to power its much-anticipated but still unreleased “deal of the century” Middle East peace plan.

The scheme, which calls for a mix of public and private financing and intends to create at least a million new jobs for Palestinians, was posted to the White House website ahead of a two-day conference in Bahrain that is being held amid heavy skepticism about its viability and outright opposition from the Palestinians. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Saturday reiterated his rejection of the proposal and the conference.

The “Peace to Prosperity” workshop on Tuesday and Wednesday will also take place amid heightened regional tensions over Iran that threaten to overshadow its goals.

With no official participation from the two main protagonists, Israel and the Palestinians, and scant enthusiasm from others, continued uncertainty and strong doubts over the plan’s political vision and the distraction of potential U.S.-Iran conflict, expectations are decidedly low. President Donald Trump’s senior adviser and son-in-law Jared Kushner faces high hurdles in building support for the initiative.

The 10-year plan calls for projects worth \$27.5 billion in the West Bank and Gaza, and \$9.1 billion, \$7.4 billion and \$6.3 billion for Palestinians in Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon, respectively. Projects envisioned include those in the health care, education, power, water, high-tech, tourism, and agriculture sectors. It calls for the creation of a “master fund” to administer the finances and implementation of the projects that it says are akin to the Marshall Plan that rebuilt Europe after World War II.

The plan foresees more than doubling the Palestinian gross domestic product, reducing the Palestinian poverty rate by 50 percent and cutting the sky-high Palestinian unemployment rate to nearly single digits, according to the documents, which do not specify exactly how the projects will be funded.

It also calls for linking the West Bank and Gaza with a modern transportation network, including high-speed rail service. Such ideas have been floated in the past in previous peace proposals but have run into Israeli security concerns.

“Generations of Palestinians have lived under adversity and loss, but the next chapter can be defined by freedom and dignity,” the White House said, calling the plan “the most ambitious international effort for the Palestinian people to date.”

But an already tough sell that has vexed U.S. administrations for decades is made tougher not least because Trump and his aides have refused to endorse a two-state solution to the conflict that has long been seen as the only viable path to lasting peace. They have also suggested they are open to unilateral Israeli annexation of occupied territory in the West Bank. And, officials say there is no intention of discussing either issue or the most contentious parts of their proposal to end the long-running conflict.

Thus, the core political issues that are key to resolving the dispute, such as borders, the status of the holy city of Jerusalem, Israel’s security and the fate of Palestinian refugees, will not be raised. Such matters, U.S. officials have said, may have to wait until the fall, after Israeli elections, leaving numerous questions that potential investors almost certainly want answers to before making even tentative financial commitments.

Palestinian leaders, angered by what they and their supporters see as blatant U.S. bias toward Israel, want nothing to do with the workshop and will not participate. The Palestinians have called for mass demonstrations against the conference on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

“The plan cannot pass because it ends the Palestinian cause,” Abbas said on Saturday. “We are not going to attend this workshop, the reason is that the economic situation should not be discussed before a political situation, so long as there is no political situation, we do not deal with any economic situation.”

An economic adviser to Abbas said projects envisaged in the U.S. proposal could be considered, but



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only after the political question is agreed upon. "Yes, we need to build the infrastructure, the investment, the tourism sector ... but that cannot come before ending the Israeli occupation," Mohammed Mustafa, head of Palestinian Investment Fund, told The Associated Press.

In Gaza, the rival Hamas militant group has also condemned the conference. "In one voice, we say no to the Manama workshop and the deal of the century," Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh said. He appealed to Bahrain's king to "take a brave, strong, authentic Arab decision not to host this workshop" and called on Arab countries to cancel their planned participation.

Complicating the Bahrain meeting is the fact that it coincides with a pledging conference in New York for the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, a 70-year-old institution that the Trump administration has defunded and wants to eliminate entirely. The U.N. Relief and Works Agency, or UNRWA, already provides health, education and other services to millions of Palestinians.

Its supporters suspect the administration purposely scheduled the Bahrain conference to conflict with its event, noting that Kushner's peace plan partner Jason Greenblatt has publicly called for UNRWA's dissolution. Greenblatt argued last month that the agency perpetuates Palestinian victimhood, abets anti-Israel sentiment and is an inefficient drain on funds that could be better directed.

Kushner's plan includes large sums of money for Jordan and Lebanon, countries with large Palestinian refugee populations, in an apparent attempt to have them absorbed into these nations.

Regardless of American intent, the dueling meetings are likely to leave donors, particularly European nations, in an awkward position: torn between supporting an established international organization or a mystery concept being put together by a U.S. administration that has in two years reversed a half-century of American Middle East policy.

Since Trump took office, he has recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital, moving the U.S. embassy there from Tel Aviv, downgraded the consulate devoted to Palestinian issues, shut down the Palestinian office in Washington and slashed hundreds of millions of dollars in assistance to the West Bank and Gaza.

Such steps have made Kushner's prospects for success in Bahrain even slimmer, according to experts.

"This is trying to dangle some benefits to the Palestinians to accept terms they already rejected," said Shibley Telhami, a Mideast scholar and the Anwar Sadat professor for peace and development at the University of Maryland. "A lure to get the Palestinians to accept the unacceptable is not going to work. It's impossible."

Although Washington's Gulf Arab allies are supportive of the plan, Israel's immediate neighbors have been more reluctant to embrace it.

Jordan and Egypt, the only two Arab countries with peace deals with Israel, are sending mid-ranking officials from their finance ministries and not Cabinet ministers to Bahrain.

Jordanian foreign ministry spokesman Sufian al-Qudah reiterated Amman's position that a two-state solution, with a Palestinian state on the pre-1967 borders and a capital in east Jerusalem, "is the only way to resolve the conflict and achieve security, stability and comprehensive peace in the region."

Egypt supports the same conditions, the state-run news agency quoted Foreign Ministry spokesman Ahmed Hafez as saying.

— Mohammed Daraghmeh in Ramallah, West Bank, contributed.

## 2020 Democrats strongly defend abortion rights at forum

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Twenty Democratic presidential candidates attending a Planned Parenthood forum on Saturday vowed to defend abortion rights under nearly any circumstance while largely ignoring nuances around the issue that have already roiled their party heading into the 2020 election.

The event sponsored by Planned Parenthood Action Fund — the group's political arm — was the first of the election season centered on abortion. It came on the sidelines of the South Carolina Democratic Party's state convention, a pivotal gathering of the party faithful in the South's first primary state.

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The candidates were united in decrying a series of tough, recent abortion restrictions approved by Republican-controlled legislatures around the country geared to ultimately provoke a Supreme Court case that could overturn the landmark Roe v. Wade decision.

Those efforts have come alongside attempts to strip taxpayer funding from Planned Parenthood, which abortion rights advocates and some leading medical groups say would make it harder for low-income women to get access to basic health care, not only abortion.

"We've been on defense for 47 years and it's not working," Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren said of Roe v. Wade, which legalized abortion. Warren, who turned 70 on Saturday, said trying to restrict abortion usually boils down to sexism.

"You're not going to lock women back in the kitchen. You're not going to tell us what to do," she declared, eliciting a standing ovation from hundreds in the crowd, many sporting pink Planned Parenthood T-shirts.

Most Democratic voters support abortion rights, though the issue doesn't always energize the party's base in South Carolina and other conservative states. Despite that, the Democrats vying for the chance to try and unseat President Donald Trump next year were unwavering in their support for the procedure and in their defense of Planned Parenthood — showing just how far the party has moved compared to presidential races in recent memory.

"If President Trump wants a war on America's women, it's a war he's going to have and it's a war he's going to lose," declared New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand.

California Sen. Kamala Harris promised to create a federal system of "preclearance" mandating that states passing major abortion restrictions be subject to federal review, similar to how states with histories of racial discrimination long had their electoral rules scrutinized under the Voting Rights Act.

Ilyse Hogue, president of NARAL Pro-Choice America, said things have come a long way since even the 2016 Democratic primary, when activists had to fight to get moderators at general subject debates to ask about abortion and often faced responses like, "They're all pro-choice so why should we waste time talking to that?"

Even as the party's top candidates more openly embrace abortion rights, tensions around them have nonetheless already shaken up the 2020 Democratic field. Former Vice President Joe Biden, who leads in early polls, long supported the "Hyde Amendment," a congressional ban on using taxpayer money to pay for most abortions. But Biden dramatically reversed himself earlier this month amid intense criticism from his fellow Democrats.

Pressed by forum moderators about that change of heart and his overall "mixed record" on abortion rights, Biden responded, "I'm not sure about the mixed record part."

Later, a tearful audience member declared that the Hyde Amendment did disproportional damage to low-income women who rely on government funding for many health care services, including abortion.

Biden noted that he helped former President Barack Obama pass that administration's signature health care law which expanded women's health insurance coverage, including improved access to birth control. He also referred several times to written notes and seemed unnerved by the forum's 15-minute per candidate limit, joking, "What, do I have 10 seconds left or something?"

The other candidates avoided mentioning Biden by name, and most didn't reference his Hyde Amendment flip-flop. An exception was New York Mayor Bill de Blasio, who told the crowd, "Can we just be clear that, if you're a Democrat you're against the Hyde Amendment, period?"

The forum comes before the field gathers in Miami next week for the first Democratic presidential debates. Gillibrand suggested that the success of male candidates could keep female and minority White House hopefuls from subsequent debates since they've struggled to meet minimum, required thresholds in fundraising and polling support to secure invites.

"Pick your top five. Send them money. Make sure they make it to the debate stage," Gillibrand said of female and minority candidates.

The forum drew some protesters who spent part of the morning outside it, waving black-and-white signs reading, "I am the Pro-life Generation" and "Defund Planned Parenthood." South Carolina Republican Party Chairman Drew McKissick called the Democratic candidates "a group of radicals."

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"In what is many of these Democrats first visit to South Carolina, it's amazing to see that their first stop is to go pay homage to the radical pro-abortion lobby at Planned Parenthood," McKissick said in a statement.

## Harris, Warren, others counter Biden's electability argument

By **BILL BARROW** and **MEG KINNARD** Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Standing before a throng of party faithful in a key early primary state, Joe Biden's leading rivals for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination sought Saturday to undercut the former vice president's argument that he's the ideal Democrat to oust President Donald Trump.

They did it without mentioning the 76-year-old front-runner at all. Biden, in turn, didn't mention them either.

California Sen. Kamala Harris charged straight at Trump as she addressed hundreds of activists at the South Carolina Democratic Party Convention.

"We need somebody on our stage when it comes for that general election, who knows how to recognize a rap sheet when they see it and prosecute the case," Harris said, playing off her experience as a state and local prosecutor as she shredded Trump on a litany of policy fronts.

Then, in a seeming reference to Biden, the 54-year-old senator added that South Carolina voters mustn't "turn back the clock" but instead, "Let's start the next chapter. Let's turn the page."

It was a demonstration that Biden, who's drawn fire in recent weeks for his reversal on opposing taxpayer funding of abortion and his recollections of working with long-dead segregationist senators, won't become the Democratic nominee without an intense fight, no matter his front-runner's strategy.

Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren pitched her progressive policies as an agenda with wide reach. "People across this nation understand it is time for big, structural change in America. The time for small ideas is over," Warren said, adding the approach can draw in Democrats and Republicans."

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, meanwhile, pushed back at a centrist Democratic group, "Third Way," and some of its members' assertions that his democratic socialism is an "existential threat" to the party's 2020 hopes.

Sanders countered that his left-flank agenda can win the White House. "We defeat Trump by running a campaign of energy and enthusiasm that substantially grows voter turnout ... in a way we have never seen," he said.

Biden had the luxury of the last word Saturday, using his draw as the last of 20 candidates at the rostrum to deliver a rapid-fire litany of policy proposals, including a new pitch for an \$8,000 tax credit for child care services.

The former vice president avoided mention of his recent spat with New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker, who'd called for the former vice president to apologize after recalling how he had to work with virulent segregationists when he was first elected to the Senate in 1972. Booker took particularly exception to Biden noting that Mississippi Sen. James Eastland "never called me boy," only "son."

In an interview with MSNBC after his speech Saturday, Biden did not apologize, saying his remarks got twisted. "I do understand the consequence of the word boy, but it wasn't said in any of that context at all," Biden says.

Biden said he was trying to illustrate that Eastland didn't respect him, then the youngest senator. Biden has said he mentioned the segregationists in the first place only to underscore that Congress once functioned better than today even with men like Eastland in the mix, because members worked together despite fundamental disagreements.

The convention Saturday was part of big political weekend in South Carolina that also included a Friday night party gala; the annual fish fry hosted by House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn; and a Saturday forum hosted by Planned Parenthood.

For South Carolina Democrats, it was the culmination of several decades raising the state's profile to compete with Iowa and New Hampshire, the two states that for decades have led off presidential voting. For Biden and his rivals, it was a key test in a crucial primary state and a last public tune-up ahead of

next week's inaugural 2020 debates in Miami.

South Carolina boasts the largest electorate of the four early nominating states, and its mix of black voters and moderate whites gives candidates a proving ground ahead of a Super Tuesday slate of similar Southern states with hundreds of delegates at stake.

Biden has led national Democratic polls since he announced his bid in April. He has shown particular strength in South Carolina, where he has deep relationships from previous presidential runs, friendships with two of state's towering former senators and, perhaps most important in 2020, his eight years as President Barack Obama's vice president.

The South Carolina crowd roared when Biden mentioned his old boss and compared his demeanor to Trump's. "Our children are watching, they're watching, and it matters what presidents say and do," Biden said. "Barack Obama they watched, and they emulated. They wanted to be like him."

The wide-ranging arguments in response revealed a Democratic field without a settled counter to the front-runner's early advantages. But it was clear that Biden's rivals won't yield South Carolina or the Super Tuesday map.

Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, who campaigns heavily on her electoral success in Midwest states that swept Trump to office, tried to apply that to Republican-run South Carolina. "I know how to win," she said.

Mayor Pete Buttigieg of South Bend, Indiana, made his first appearance of the weekend on Saturday, a white politician whose relationships with black constituents are in the spotlight. Buttigieg had canceled his Friday plans in South Carolina to remain at home after a South Bend police officer shot and killed a black man last weekend.

"We will heal and we will become stronger in the broken places," Buttigieg promised on the morning after he was jeered in his hometown.

Buttigieg later promised massive investments in the black community on the scale of the Marshall Plan in post-World War II Europe.

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

## **Trump postpones nationwide immigration enforcement sweep** By COLLEEN LONG and LISA MASCARO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Saturday delayed a nationwide immigration sweep to deport people living the United States illegally, including families, saying he would give lawmakers two weeks to work out solutions for the southern border.

The move came after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called Trump on Friday asking him to call off the raids. But three administration officials said scrapping the operation was not just about politics. They said Immigration and Customs Enforcement leaders had expressed serious concerns that officers' safety would be in jeopardy because too many details about the raids had been made public.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to speak about private discussions.

"At the request of Democrats, I have delayed the Illegal Immigration Removal Process (Deportation) for two weeks to see if the Democrats and Republicans can get together and work out a solution to the Asylum and Loophole problems at the Southern Border," Trump wrote on Twitter. "If not, Deportations start!"

The operation, which sparked outrage and concern among immigrant advocates, had been expected to begin Sunday and would target people with final orders of removal, including families whose immigration cases had been fast-tracked by judges.

The cancellation was another sign of the Trump administration's difficulty managing the border crisis. The number of people crossing the U.S.-Mexico border has risen dramatically under Trump, despite his tough rhetoric and hard-line policies. Balancing a White House eager to push major operational changes with the reality on the ground is a constant challenge for the Department of Homeland Security.

Trump gave the first public word of the planned sweep earlier this week, saying in a tweet that an operation was coming up and the agency would begin to remove "millions" of people who were in the United

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States illegally. Later, leaks to the media included sensitive law enforcement details, such as the day it was to begin, Sunday, plus specific cities and other operational details.

On Saturday, ICE spokeswoman Carol Danko criticized the leaks in context of their potential impact on ICE personnel, saying in a statement that "any leaks telegraphing sensitive law enforcement operations is egregious and puts our officers' safety in danger."

Pelosi called Trump on Friday night and the two spoke for about 12 minutes, according to a person familiar with the situation and not authorized to discuss it publicly. She asked him to call off the raids and he said he would consider the request, the person said.

It's unclear what else was said during the call. But in a statement Saturday before the president's decision was announced, Pelosi appealed to the same compassion Trump expressed in declining to strike Iran because of the potential for lost lives.

"The President spoke about the importance of avoiding the collateral damage of 150 lives in Iran. I would hope he would apply that same value to avoiding the collateral damage to tens of thousands of children who are frightened by his actions," she said.

She called the raids "heartless."

Pelosi responded to Trump's announcement with her own tweet, saying: "Mr. President, delay is welcome. Time is needed for comprehensive immigration reform. Families belong together."

Halting the flow of illegal immigration has been Trump's signature campaign issue, but Congress has been unable to push his proposals into law with resistance from both Democrats and Republicans. Bipartisan talks over the immigration system have started and stalled but are again underway among some in the Senate.

Lawmakers are considering whether to give \$4.6 billion in emergency funding to help border agencies struggling to manage a growing number of migrants crossing the border. The measure passed a Senate committee on a 30-1 vote. But the House is considering its own measure. Funding is running out and Congress is trying to approve legislation before the House and Senate recess next week.

Earlier Saturday, Trump hinted the operation was still on, saying the people ICE was looking for "have already been ordered to be deported."

"This means that they have run from the law and run from the courts," Trump said.

Coordinated enforcement operations take months to plan. Surprise is also an important element. ICE officers don't have a search warrant and are working from files with addresses and must go to people's home and ask to be let inside. Immigrants are not required to open their doors, and increasingly they don't. Officers generally capture about 30% to 40% of targets.

The planned operation was heavily criticized by Democratic lawmakers as cruel, and many local mayors said they would refuse to cooperate with ICE. Immigrant advocates stepped up know-your-rights campaigns.

Another complication is that ICE needs travel paperwork from a home country to deport someone, so immigrants often end up detained at least temporarily waiting for a flight. ICE was reserving hotel rooms for families in the event the operation went off as planned Sunday.

The adult population of detainees was 53,141 as of June 8, though the agency is only budgeted for 45,000. There were 1,662 in family detention, also at capacity, and one of the family detention centers is currently housing single adults.

## Activists step up trainings amid Trump deportation threats

By SOPHIA TAREEN Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Ceci Garcia believes that if her husband had a better understanding of his rights, he would have avoided deportation to Mexico after telling a suburban Chicago police officer during a 2012 traffic stop that he was living in the U.S. illegally.

"He failed to remain silent," said the U.S. citizen mother of five. "He proceeded and told the truth."

The Chicago woman now spends her time teaching others how to avoid her husband's fate, part of a growing national effort since President Donald Trump took office that took on new urgency in recent days. As he kicked off his 2020 campaign, Trump had proclaimed that his administration would launch a new

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operation in the coming days to deport millions living in the country illegally. On Saturday, he tweeted that he had delayed the plan two weeks in hopes that Democrats and Republicans could work out solutions to "Asylum and Loophole problems at the Southern Border."

From Los Angeles to Atlanta, advocates and attorneys have brought "know-your-rights" workshops to schools, churches, storefronts and consulates, tailoring their efforts on what to do if Immigration and Customs Enforcement shows up at home or on the road. They've role-played interactions, handed out pocket guides, provided hotlines, hosted webinars and offered scripts. The result, advocates argue, is more savvy immigrants who are increasingly refusing to open their doors or provide information, something they hope will blunt any impact of any operation.

"It's more about making sure that people feel like they have some power over what is happening in their lives," said Katarina Ramos, a National Immigrant Justice Center staff attorney. "And that they have some control over what is inherently a very scary situation."

Whether it's the American Civil Liberties Union or a neighborhood nonprofit, the trainings focus on the same ideas: the right to remain silent; refusing officers entry into a home; not signing anything without legal representation; and asking for paperwork from agents. They are rights attorneys say apply to everyone regardless of citizenship status.

Opening the door to an agent is an invitation that could lead to collateral arrests, so activists suggest talking through a door or a window, something the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights Los Angeles depicts in an animated know-your-rights video. A booklet by political organization Mijente advises immigrants not to carry identification with country of origin to avoid having evidence that could end up in immigration court. The Chicago-based Resurrection Project tells immigrants to film interactions. If the agent asks to drop the phone, activists tell trainees to comply but not turn off the recorder.

"We don't want things to escalate," said immigration organizer Laura Mendoza. "That's why we constantly, constantly talk about know your rights."

A glossy blue and white flyer script distributed by the group tells the person to ask for "a judicial warrant signed by a judge" to gain entry into the home and shows a picture of one next to an administrative warrant, which is signed only by ICE.

As concerns rose about Trump's initial announcement, advocates ratcheted up their actions.

The American Business Immigration Coalition hosted a Thursday webinar and told the businesses on the call — hotel managers, restaurateurs and dairy farmers — to not immediately turn over employment records in case of a raid. The head of the Immigrants' Assistance Center in the Massachusetts fishing city of New Bedford said she would speak in the coming days about contingency plans for children's care to church congregations and on local Spanish and Portuguese language TV and radio stations. Chicago activists vowed more public demonstrations.

ICE's new acting director Mark Morgan had said the operation would be nationwide and continue for weeks and no one would be exempt from deportations, including families. Morgan said there had been 2,000 letters sent to families telling them they had been ordered removed and he implored people to come in so they didn't have to go out and find them.

That's the scenario organizers planned for, particularly challenging for families with mixed citizenship status.

National Immigrant Justice Center organizers suggested authorizing someone outside the family to pick up children from day care ahead of time and not only having an emergency contact, but memorizing the phone number in case a cellphone is confiscated. The Resurrection Project has walked families through asset protection, like how to manage a bank account if the head of household is detained.

While activists argue their efforts are successful, it's difficult to gauge. Chicago advocates say their reach has been deep; a city legal fund established after Trump took office helped pay for more than 460 trainings from January 2017 until October 2018, involving approximately 40,000 people. The National Partnership for New Americans, with affiliated organizations in 31 states, boasts of 150 attorneys and legal staff nationally.

Advocates also point to anecdotal evidence.

In May, a New York activist used tactics he learned in training to keep immigration enforcement officers from taking two people with him into custody, something he filmed and posted online. Ceci Garcia said

that a person she trained — who did not speak English — called and put her on speaker phone through a window when an ICE agent showed up and was deterred.

Julieta Bolivar, 50, wished she had the training when she was taken into ICE custody in 2002 during a traffic stop and signed papers agreeing to voluntary departure.

Orphaned as a young girl in Bolivia, she was brought to the U.S. by a godmother on a visitor visa and overstayed. She worked cash jobs to support her three American-born children. She eventually became a legal resident after making her case to a judge, but being arrested in front of her children still haunts her.

She uses her story while conducting trainings in Chicago for The Resurrection Project. Among her top lessons: Talk to children and make sure they know the plan.

"Don't open the door," she said. "And don't let the kids open the door."

Associated Press writer Andrea Smith in Atlanta, Philip Marcelo in Boston, and Colleen Long in Washington, D.C., contributed to this report.

Follow Sophia Tareen on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/sophiatareen>

## Trump denies knowing NY woman accusing him of sexual assault

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump says a New York-based advice columnist who claims he sexually assaulted her in a Manhattan department store dressing room in the mid-1990s made a "totally false accusation" against him and he denied knowing the woman.

"I have no idea who this woman is," Trump said Saturday as he left the White House for the Camp David presidential retreat.

The president scoffed when questioned about a photo of himself with his accuser, E. Jean Carroll, which New York magazine published on its website along with Carroll's description of the alleged assault by Trump. Also in the photo were Trump's then-wife, Ivana Trump, and Carroll's then-husband, New York newscaster John Johnson.

"Standing with my coat on in a line. Give me a break," Trump said of the 1987 photo. "With my back to the camera."

The allegation against Trump is included in Carroll's upcoming book about the "hideous men" the Elle magazine columnist says she has encountered throughout her life. Trump also accused New York magazine of publishing Carroll's claims against him and others to boost its readership.

Trump's first comment came in a White House statement Friday in which he deemed the accusation "fake news" and said there was no evidence.

The Associated Press has not independently verified Carroll's account and she did not return the AP's telephone request for comment. The Trump Organization, which Trump still owns, also did not respond to a request for comment.

Carroll wrote that a friendly encounter with Trump at Bergdorf Goodman in 1995 or 1996 turned violent when 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.

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 the Fifth Avenue store 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

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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 them by name.

Trump noted the lack of evidence in his Friday statement. Bergdorf told New York magazine it no longer had security tapes from that time period.

"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," Trump said.

Trump was caught boasting on tape in 2005 about 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 said it was 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.

Follow Darlene Superville on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/dsupervilleap>

## 'Michael Jackson drug' still prompts curiosity from patients

By CARLA K. JOHNSON AP Medical Writer

It remains the most widely used anesthetic in U.S. hospitals, but many patients still remember propofol as the drug that killed Michael Jackson.

Most are no longer afraid of it, doctors say, though many still ask if they will get "the Michael Jackson drug" before an operation. And most of them will.

Jackson died 10 years ago at his Los Angeles home after receiving a lethal dose of the drug intended for use only during surgery and other medical procedures — not for insomnia.

As Jackson rehearsed for his comeback tour, he struggled to sleep. Prosecutors said Jackson's personal doctor Conrad Murray gave the singer propofol, as he had many times before, then left him unattended. Murray, who maintains his innocence, was convicted of involuntary manslaughter in 2011.

A look at the history and safety of propofol:

### MILK OF AMNESIA

Jackson called propofol his "milk." It's a white, oily solution injected into a vein. It acts fast, in about 40 seconds, and wears off quickly too. Patients wake up with no hangover or nausea. They don't remember much, earning the drug its nickname "milk of amnesia."

Propofol was a noteworthy advance when it was launched in the late 1980s, but it almost didn't make it out of the lab. An early version caused allergic reactions.

Discoverer John B. Glen kept at it and found a better formula using soybean oil. Thirteen years after its discovery, propofol rapidly replaced sodium thiopental in most operating rooms. Up to 50 million U.S. patients receive propofol annually.



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The World Health Organization deemed it an "essential medicine." Glen, who retired from the pharmaceutical firm AstraZeneca, was honored with the prestigious Lasker medical research award last year.

HOW SAFE IS IT?

Because propofol lowers blood pressure and suppresses breathing, patients need to be monitored.

"It's quite safe in an anesthesiologist's hands," said Dr. Beverly Philip of the American Society of Anesthesiologists.

These days, patients aren't as afraid of going under, she said. "Now it's more of a matter of curiosity rather than being afraid for their own safety."

Dr. Steven Shafer of Stanford University, a propofol expert who testified at Murray's trial, endorses the appropriate use of propofol.

"Michael Jackson was killed by a reckless and incompetent physician," he said.

Police rarely encounter the drug. It's not a controlled substance under federal law.

There's little abuse in the general public. Almost all cases involve health care workers. They steal it at work to get a pleasant but dangerous high. At least 18 deaths were reported among medical professionals from 1992 to 2009.

WHAT'S NEW?

University of Utah psychiatrist Dr. Brian Mickey is studying propofol for depression in people who don't get relief from medications or psychotherapy. Other treatments may include brain stimulation such as electroconvulsive therapy, but that can have side effects such as confusion and memory loss.

Mickey and his colleagues published a preliminary study last year that tested a series of high doses of propofol in 10 patients with moderate to severe depression. Half improved and maintained better moods for three months.

Now the researchers are planning a larger study that will test propofol against a sedative called midazolam.

Mickey doesn't know how propofol may help depression, but said it may be triggering the brain to reorganize itself. It may be "coaxing the brain into getting unstuck from this bad, depressed state that it's in," he said.

The study was done in a hospital with an anesthesiologist giving propofol through an IV.

"Don't do this at home," Mickey said.

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## **GOP lawmakers create hurdles for citizen ballot initiatives**

**By ANDREW DeMILLO Associated Press**

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Arkansas voters have been active in recent years, passing ballot initiatives that legalized medical marijuana, raised the minimum wage and expanded casino gambling.

That hasn't gone over well with Republicans.

Arkansas' GOP-dominated Legislature has taken steps this year that will make it harder to put such proposals before voters, and they are not the only ones.

Florida, North Dakota, South Dakota and Utah also have enacted restrictions on the public's ability to place initiatives on the ballot. In Michigan, the state's top election official is being sued over Republican-enacted requirements that make it harder to qualify proposals for the ballot.

In all, lawmakers in 16 states introduced more than 120 bills this year that would weaken the initiative process, according to the Ballot Initiative Strategy Center. The moves worry advocates who say they undermine the idea of direct democracy and could effectively shut down the initiative process in some states.

"This is a way to make sure that there is absolutely no way that anyone can do something that (Republican lawmakers) don't already approve," said Florida state Sen. Oscar Brayton, a Democrat who opposed state restrictions recently signed into law.

In Arkansas, the changes came after voters legalized medical marijuana in 2016 and last year approved

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raising the state's minimum wage to \$12 an hour by 2021.

The state's governor signed into law legislation overhauling the way measures are approved for the ballot so that a proposed initiative and the signatures collected in favor of it are reviewed at the same time. The change, critics say, would mean groups could waste time and money circulating petitions only to find out afterward that there was a problem with the wording that would disqualify it from the ballot.

Arkansas lawmakers also placed on next year's ballot a measure that, if approved by voters, would impose additional restrictions. Those would include tripling the number of counties where initiative sponsors must collect a minimum number of signatures and eliminating a 30-day period groups have to gather additional signatures if they initially fall short. The lawmakers' ballot measure also would move up by several months the deadline for submitting petitions.

"Everything they have done has ... the ultimate goal to eliminate the petitioning process so that the people have no voice, and it is outrageous," said Melissa Fults, executive director of the Drug Policy Education Group, who plans to try and get a recreational marijuana proposal on next year's ballot.

The success of the medical marijuana initiative was celebrated by Arkansas residents such as Joanie Hopson, who was one of the first in line when retailers started selling marijuana last month. The 36-year-old said she suffers from a host of ailments, including muscle spasms, seizures and a connective tissue disorder, and cried when she was finally able to buy cannabis legally to ease her pain.

"We were really on the verge of moving out of the state because I need my medicine," said Hopson, who lives in the community of East End, a short drive south of Little Rock.

Lawmakers pushing the restrictions said they are trying to rein in an initiative process that has been an easy target for out-of-state groups. Previous initiatives included unsuccessful attempts by pro-casino groups to give certain companies a gambling monopoly in the state.

Republican state Sen. Mat Pitsch, who co-sponsored the changes in Arkansas, said the state's constitution has been changed 20 times over the past seven elections — a number that also includes measures lawmakers themselves put before voters.

"When you change your constitution three times every other year, that's more like legislating than having a constitution," said Pitsch, who noted the proposal on next year's ballot also would raise the threshold for lawmakers to send measures to voters.

A similar argument was used in Florida when the governor this month signed wide-ranging legislation that erects a number of hurdles to those trying to get initiatives before votes.

The new Florida laws require paid petition gatherers to register with the secretary of state, prohibit payments based on the number of signatures collected and levy fines if petitions aren't turned in within 30 days. The petitions also must include the name and permanent address of the signature-gatherer.

Gov. Ron DeSantis defended the bill, saying it is aimed at protecting the Florida Constitution from outsiders. The governor said he wants to take more steps to revise the process of changing the constitution.

"This is not supposed to be driven by out-of-state special interests; it's supposed to be driven by Floridians, but that's really not what's happened," DeSantis said. "If people really feel the need to do it, then you band together, you do your organizations, you do it. Right now, you just have one guy write a check and you pay these people per signature. It creates a lot of bad incentives."

Florida voters have approved a number of petition-driven amendments that Republicans don't like, including limits on class sizes, preschool education for all, medical marijuana legalization and, last fall, restoring voting rights for felons who have completed their sentences. In the works are petition drives for 2020 seeking to ban assault rifles and raise the minimum wage.

In Utah, where voters last year approved medical marijuana, Medicaid expansion and redistricting proposals, the state's Republican governor signed legislation delaying the implementation of successful initiatives to give lawmakers a chance to change them.

Rep. Brad Daw, the bill's Republican sponsor, said the change allows lawmakers to keep state agencies running smoothly by revising portions of voter-approved laws that conflict with other rules before they go into effect.

"The fact is, the Legislature can make changes one way or another," he said.

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But critics say they worry the changes will leave voters feeling powerless.

"When you pass a ballot measure, you want to see something change," said Yoram Bauman with Clean the Darn Air, which is pushing to get on the 2020 ballot with a proposed a carbon tax to curb pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. "If you have to wait an extra year to see something change, that's frustrating, especially when you feel like during that extra time the Legislature can come in and monkey with it."

Not all changes are winning favor in Republican states. Idaho Gov. Brad Little vetoed proposals that would have made it tougher to qualify a measure for the ballot, saying he didn't believe the restrictions would stand up in court. The legislation was seen primarily as a reaction by the Republican-dominated Legislature to last year's voter approval of Medicaid expansion.

"We argued that for a change to constitutional rights of this magnitude, the correct process is to take that to the voters as a constitutional amendment," said Rebecca Schroeder, executive director of Reclaim Idaho, the group behind the Medicaid expansion initiative.

In Arkansas, the fight over initiative restrictions may not be over, with groups opposing them preparing a lawsuit. David Couch, the attorney who sponsored the minimum wage and medical marijuana initiatives, also sees another path to fighting back — placing an initiative on next year's ballot that competes with the one pushed by the Legislature.

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Associated Press Writers Brendan Farrington in Tallahassee, Florida, Keith Ridler in Boise, Idaho, and Lindsay Whitehurst in Salt Lake City contributed to this report.

## 10 years later, a look at people surrounding Michael Jackson

By **ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A look at the status of the major figures in the life and death of Michael Jackson after 10 years, starting with the King of Pop himself:

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**MICHAEL JACKSON:** Jackson, who would be 60 years old were he alive, was rehearsing for a tour intended to rehabilitate his career, finances and image when he died at age 50 of an overdose of the anesthetic propofol on June 25, 2009. His death would be a watershed moment, with an outpouring of public affection expressed in an era of burgeoning social media. There was a public memorial service viewed around the world, and a revival of his music and stardom. Posthumous albums, a film drawn from the rehearsals for his final tour and a pair of Cirque du Soleil shows using his music helped him become as profitable a pop star in death as he was in life. Allegations of child molestation that dogged him in his final years and peaked with a 2005 trial that ended in his acquittal on criminal charges were mostly forgotten, at least until a revival of them in a documentary earlier this year. He was buried at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Glendale, California, nearly two months after his death.

**JOSEPH JACKSON, FATHER:** Joe Jackson died on June 27, 2018, at age 89, becoming the only person in Michael Jackson's immediate family who has passed in the decade since the singer's death. A demanding and fearsome patriarch who guided his son's career through The Jackson 5 and early solo years, Joe Jackson had a difficult relationship with his son. He was omitted from his son's will, and waged a fruitless legal battle seeking compensation. He was buried in the same cemetery as his son.

**KATHERINE JACKSON, MOTHER:** Now 89, Katherine Jackson became more famous after her son's death than she had ever been. She received roughly half her son's estate in his will, and acted as guardian to his three young children immediately after his death, a role her nephew T.J. Jackson has shared in recent years. She was the lead plaintiff in a wrongful death lawsuit against concert promoter AEG Live, alleging that the company's hiring of Dr. Conrad Murray, the physician who administered the drugs that killed Jackson, made the company responsible for his death. A jury rejected the claim in 2015.

**JANET JACKSON, SISTER:** The only one of Michael Jackson's siblings who has remotely approached her brother's success as a solo artist, Janet Jackson, 53, has remained popular in the decade since her brother's death. She appeared in films including 2010's "For Colored Girls," and released a self-help book

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titled "True You: A Journey to Finding and Loving Yourself" in 2011. That same year she went on a 35-city greatest hits concert tour, and was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame earlier this year. She has also focused on charity work and caring for her son, who was born in January 2017.

**JACKIE, TITO, MARLON, JERMAINE AND RANDY JACKSON, BROTHERS:** Jackson's brothers have kept the family act alive since his death with tours, recordings and shows in various groupings and as solo artists. Many of the siblings, all of whom were left out of Michael's will, were harshly critical of the administration of Jackson's estate. Youngest brother Randy — who does not tour with his brothers but has co-founded a label with sister Janet — has accused the executors of fraud. The brothers were quick to defend Michael's legacy when the HBO documentary "Leaving Neverland" was released this year. They immediately left a tour of Australia to give interviews. "I thought, 'Oh here we go again,'" Jackson's oldest brother, Jackie, told The Associated Press in February. Tito Jackson added, "He's not here no more. He's passed, and, we're his brothers, we're supposed to do this."

**LA TOYA AND REBBIE JACKSON, SISTERS**

La Toya Jackson, now 63, was among the first family members to arrive at the Los Angeles hospital where her brother was declared dead, and is listed on his death certificate as the person who officially gave notice of his death. A minor pop star who frequently appeared in tabloids in the 1980s and 1990s, LaToya Jackson's career has been mostly in reality TV in the past decade. She was a contestant on "Celebrity Apprentice," and had her own reality show, "Life With La Toya," on Oprah Winfrey's OWN cable channel for two seasons starting in 2013. Maureen "Rebbie" Jackson, at 69 the eldest of the Jackson children, is a singer who has continued recording and touring in the past 10 years.

**MICHAEL JOSEPH JACKSON II, SON:** Michael Jackson's oldest child, who goes by "Prince," was 12 when his father died and is now 22. He graduated in May from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, where he got a bachelor's degree in business administration. He shared graduation-day photos of himself with relatives on an Instagram account where he posts often, leading a relatively public life compared to his childhood, when his father often had him and his two siblings wear masks in public. After their father's death, the three kids were raised by their grandmother Katherine Jackson and cousin T.J. Jackson.

**PARIS JACKSON, DAUGHTER:** Now 21, Paris at 11 years old became the public face of grief for the singer when she took the microphone in tears at her father's public memorial and said, "I just want to say, ever since I was born, Daddy has been the best father you could ever imagine. And I just want to say I love him so much." She told Rolling Stone in a 2017 interview that she struggled with drugs and depression in the years after her father's death and attempted suicide in 2015 before finding sobriety and stability. She has dabbled in modeling, acting and music and is a sought-after celebrity who is also subject of intense tabloid interest. "Basically, as a person, she is who my dad is," her big brother Prince Jackson told Rolling Stone, "in all of her strengths, and almost all her weaknesses as well. She's very passionate." She told the magazine she has at least nine tattoos devoted to her father. "He brought me nothing but joy," Paris Jackson said. "So why not have constant reminders of joy?"

**PRINCE JACKSON II, SON:** Confusingly, the Jackson child whose birth name is Prince is not the one who goes by Prince (that's the elder brother). Seventeen-year-old Prince Jackson II, the son of Michael and an unknown surrogate, gained strange fame as a baby when his father jokingly dangled him over a balcony. He was known for most of his life as "Blanket." His father said the nickname was meant to mean being wrapped in blessings, as in being "blanketed" with love. At 17, he now goes by the name "Bigi" (BEE'-gee). He has been the most private of the Jackson siblings. He currently attends the private Buckley School in Los Angeles.

**DEBBIE ROWE, SECOND WIFE:** Michael Jackson's second wife, a nurse he met when she worked for his dermatologist, Rowe is the mother of his two older children. She was absent from the kids' life when their father was alive, but reached an agreement with Katherine Jackson after his death that led to visits with them, though it's not clear how much of a relationship she has with them.

**CONRAD MURRAY, DOCTOR:** Murray, now 66, had been hired just a few weeks before he administered what turned out to be a fatal dose of the anesthetic propofol to Jackson. Murray, who had no training in the use of the drug, was charged with involuntary manslaughter. After a televised trial that took more than six

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weeks in 2011, a Los Angeles jury found him guilty. A judge called him "a disgrace to the medical profession" and sentenced him to four years in prison. He was released two years ahead of schedule because of good behavior and California's prison overcrowding. He lost medical licenses in California, Nevada and Texas, and was rejected in 2013 when he tried to regain the Texas license. He has kept a low profile since his release, most recently living alone in a condominium in Florida. He spoke to Inside Edition in 2016, maintaining that he had done nothing wrong. "I lost everything," he told the TV show. "Everything I've amassed has been taken from me as a result of an unjust verdict. I am and I remain an innocent man."

**DAVID B. WALGREN AND DEBORAH S. BRAZIL, PROSECUTORS:** The two deputy district attorneys who prosecuted Murray for manslaughter in his televised trial are now both Los Angeles Superior Court judges.

**EDWARD CHERNOFF AND J. MICHAEL FLANAGAN, DEFENSE ATTORNEYS:** The men who defended Murray at his trial remain prominent defense attorneys.

**QUINCY JONES, PRODUCER:** The 86-year-old who produced Michael's biggest hits was awarded \$9.4 million from the Jackson estate by a jury in 2017 that ruled he was owed production fees for "Billie Jean," "Thriller" and other recordings. Jones had sought \$30 million.

**WADE ROBSON AND JAMES SAFECHUCK, ACCUSERS:** Robson and Safechuck, both of whom spent long stretches with Michael Jackson as boys, told authorities when he was accused of child molestation that he had never inappropriately touched them, with Robson testifying as much in the 2005 criminal trial that ended in the pop star's acquittal. But Robson, who became a popular pop-music choreographer as an adult, filed a lawsuit in 2013 alleging that Jackson had in fact molested him. Safechuck filed his own suit with similar allegations the same year. Both suits were thrown out on technical grounds, and are now on appeal. Earlier this year, they told their stories in graphic detail in the HBO documentary "Leaving Neverland," reviving public discussion of Jackson as alleged sexual abuser. Jackson's estate and family have denounced the men's stories as full of falsehoods.

**JOHN BRANCA, EXECUTOR OF ESTATE** — Branca, an entertainment attorney who worked with Michael Jackson at the height of his fame in the 1980s, had just returned to Jackson's fold eight days before the singer's death. He has played a major role since then as the co-executor of Jackson's estate, turning nearly \$500 million in debt into assets of over \$1 billion.

Follow AP Entertainment Writer Andrew Dalton on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/andyjamesdalton> .

## **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

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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."

## Prosecutor could decide on seventh trial in Mississippi case

By JEFF AMY Associated Press

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JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — A Mississippi prosecutor has tried and failed six times to send Curtis Flowers to the death chamber, with the latest trial conviction and death sentence overturned on Friday because of racial bias in jury selection. Now, that same prosecutor must decide whether to try Flowers a seventh time.

Doug Evans, who's running unopposed this year for an eighth four-year term as district attorney for a seven-county swath of rural northern Mississippi, has shown no inclination to give up.

Flowers is accused of killing four people, execution-style, in a furniture store in 1996 in the town of Winona. Evans has tried Flowers six times, with four convictions overturned and two other cases ended in mistrials.

Evans' efforts to keep black jurors off of Flowers' case were at the center of Flowers' appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. In an opinion by Justice Brett Kavanaugh, the court ruled 7-2 on Friday that during more than 20 years, Evans pursued a "relentless, determined effort to rid the jury of black individuals," with the goal of an all-white jury.

"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."

Evans didn't return an email seeking comment Friday, and phones at his office in Grenada went unanswered. He told reporters for American Public Media's "In the Dark" podcast that he hadn't decided whether to try Flowers again, but remained confident of his guilt.

"There's no question about (Flowers') guilt. There never has been," Evans told the podcast. "Courts are just like me and you. Everybody's got opinions."

He disputes the high court's conclusion that he sought to exclude black jurors

"If they said that, that is not true," Evans told the podcast.

The case began July 16, 1996, when four people were found shot to death inside Tardy Furniture in downtown Winona: 59-year-old owner Bertha Tardy and three employees — 45-year-old Carmen Rigby, 42-year-old Robert Golden and 16-year-old Derrick "Bobo" Stewart.

Months later, authorities arrested Flowers for the slayings. Prosecutors say he was a disgruntled former employee who sought revenge because Tardy fired him and withheld most of his pay to cover the cost of merchandise he damaged. Nearly \$300 was missing after the killings.

Relatives of the victims are steadfast that Flowers is the killer.

"There is no justice," Carmen Rigby's widower, Benny Rigby, told the Clarion Ledger on Friday. "If he was white, he would have been executed by now."

The defense, however, says it's not just that jury selection was flawed — it's that Flowers is innocent. They say 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 "In the Dark." Those reporters also turned up at least one possible other suspect whose existence was never disclosed to defense lawyers.

Flowers' lawyers in a separate state court appeal were also raising questions about evidence, meaning the prosecution could face a stronger defense in a seventh trial.

Friday's Supreme Court ruling could also enable the now-49-year-old Flowers to get out from behind bars for the first time since his arrest, even if there is another trial. Many Mississippi judges are reluctant to grant bail to defendants in cases where the death penalty is on the line. But a little-known state law says a judge must set bail in cases where there have been two mistrials on an indictment charging someone with a capital crime.

"There's a strong argument that the statute requires bail to be set for Mr. Flowers," said Tom Fortner, a prominent Mississippi defense lawyer who has cited that law in another case.

Defense attorneys could also seek to remove Evans and state court Judge Joseph Loper from the case. The defense asked Loper to recuse himself in the 2010 trial, claiming he was biased because he had ordered two jurors arrested for perjury at the end of the 2008 trial. Loper refused.

"The remedy might be the defense files a motion to force the DA to be recused because of misconduct,"

Fortner said. "Then the court would have to appoint another prosecutor."

During oral arguments, Supreme Court justices asked why Mississippi Attorney General Jim Hood hadn't intervened. But Hood contends he can't take over for Evans unless Evans invites him. Hood's office has the power to prosecute some kinds of cases directly, such as white collar crime or child pornography. But some case law suggests he can't barge in on other types of cases without permission from the local district attorney.

"It will be up to the DA as to whether to re-evaluate or retry," Hood said Friday in Biloxi. "I'm confident that the Supreme Court's comments will be followed. I don't have the authority to go take a case away from a DA."

If Evans steps away or is recused, Hood said he would prefer that another district attorney be named to try the case, citing the small number of prosecutors in his office. Hood, a Democrat and former small-town district attorney who's running for governor, said he hadn't talked to Evans.

"I think Doug will follow what the U.S. Supreme Court's directives are ...," Hood said. "I don't want to come out like I'm saying Doug ought to recuse himself. Please make that clear."

Associated Press writer Emily Wagster Pettus in Biloxi, Mississippi, contributed to this report.

## AP FACT CHECK: The silent partner in Trump's boasts

By HOPE YEN and CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump has a silent partner behind several of the accomplishments he likes to boast about: Barack Obama.

Despite assailing his Democratic predecessor for waging a "cruel and heartless war on American energy," for example, Trump can brag about U.S. energy supremacy thanks to the sector's growth in the Obama years.

And the Obama-Trump decade is soon to yield an economic record if things stay on track a little longer — the most sustained expansion in U.S. history. Though Trump claims all the credit, the expansion started in Obama's first year, continued through his presidency and has been maintained under Trump.

There are no fist bumps in the offing, however.

The past week saw the kickoff of Trump's 2020 campaign with a rally in Florida. That and other events provided Trump a platform that he used to exaggerate what he's done, take some factually challenged swipes at Obama and Democrats at large, and make promises that will be hard to keep.

A sampling:

MIGRANTS

TRUMP, on separating children from adults at the Mexican border: "When I became president, President Obama had a separation policy. I didn't have it. He had it. I brought the families together. I'm the one that brought 'em together. Now, I said something when I did that. I'm the one that put people together. ... They separated. I put 'em together." — interview with Telemundo broadcast Thursday.

JOSE DIAZ-BALART, interviewer: "You did not."

THE FACTS: Trump is not telling the truth. The separation of thousands of migrant children from their parents resulted from his "zero tolerance" policy. Obama had no such policy. After a public uproar and under a court order, Trump ceased the separations.

Zero tolerance meant that U.S. authorities would criminally prosecute all adults caught crossing into the U.S. illegally. Doing so meant detention for adults and the removal of their children while their parents were in custody. During the Obama administration, such family separations were the exception. They became the practice under Trump's policy, which he suspended a year ago.

Before Trump's zero-tolerance policy, migrant families caught illegally entering the U.S. were usually referred for civil deportation proceedings, not requiring separation, unless they were known to have a criminal record. Then and now, immigration officials may take a child from a parent in certain cases, such as serious criminal charges against a parent, concerns over the health and welfare of a child or medical



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concerns.

TRUMP on detention centers at the border: "President Obama is the one that built those prison cells." — Telemundo interview.

THE FACTS: He has a point. Whether they are called prison cells or something else, Obama held children in temporary, ill-equipped facilities and built a large center in McAllen, Texas, that is used now.

Democrats routinely and inaccurately blame Trump for creating "cages" for children. They are actually referring to chain-link fencing inside the McAllen center — Obama's creation.

Conditions for detained migrants deteriorated sharply during a surge of Central American arrivals under Trump, particularly in El Paso, Texas.

## TRADE

TRUMP: "This will be the largest trade deal ever made, and it won't even be close. If you take a look at the numbers, second is so far away, you don't even call it second. So it's very exciting. And very exciting for Mexico; very exciting for Canada." — remarks Thursday with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

THE FACTS: That's wrong, simply by virtue of the number of trade partners involved.

The proposed new agreement, replacing the North American Free Trade agreement, covers the same three countries. The Trans-Pacific Partnership, negotiated by the Obama administration, included the three NAFTA partners — United States, Canada and Mexico — plus Japan and eight other Pacific Rim countries. Trump withdrew the United States from the pact on his third day in office.

Even the Pacific deal pales in comparison with one that did go into effect with the U.S. on board, the Uruguay Round. Concluded in 1994, the round of negotiations created the World Trade Organization and was signed by 123 countries. The Federal Reserve Bank of Boston said the WTO's initial membership accounted for more than 90 percent of global economic output.

TRUMP on his tariffs: "We are taking in billions and billions of dollars into our treasury. ... We have never taken 10 cents from China." — rally Tuesday in Orlando, Florida.

THE FACTS: It's false to say the U.S. never collected a dime in tariffs on Chinese goods before he took action. They are simply higher in some cases than they were before. It's also wrong to suggest that the tariffs are being paid by China. Tariff money coming into the treasury is mainly from U.S. businesses and consumers, not from China. Tariffs are primarily if not entirely a tax paid domestically.

## IRAN

TRUMP: "President Obama made a desperate and terrible deal with Iran - Gave them 150 Billion Dollars plus I.8 Billion Dollars in CASH! Iran was in big trouble and he bailed them out. Gave them a free path to Nuclear Weapons, and SOON. Instead of saying thank you, Iran yelled ... Death to America. I terminated deal." — tweet Friday.

TRUMP, on his accomplishments: "And then terminating one of the worst deals ever made, the Iran deal that was made by President Obama — paid \$150 billion. Paid \$1.8 billion in cash. I terminated that and Iran is a much different country." — Fox News interview Wednesday.

THE FACTS: There was no \$150 billion payout from the U.S. treasury. The money he refers to represents Iranian assets held abroad that were frozen until the international deal was reached and Tehran was allowed to access its funds.

The payout of about \$1.8 billion is a separate matter. That dates to the 1970s, when Iran paid the U.S. \$400 million for military equipment that was never delivered because the government was overthrown and diplomatic relations ruptured.

That left people, businesses and governments in each country indebted to partners in the other, and these complex claims took decades to sort out in tribunals and arbitration. For its part, Iran paid settlements of more than \$2.5 billion to U.S. citizens and businesses.

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The day after the nuclear deal was implemented, the U.S. and Iran announced they had settled the claim over the 1970s military equipment order, with the U.S. agreeing to pay the \$400 million principal along with about \$1.3 billion in interest. The \$400 million was paid in cash and flown to Tehran on a cargo plane, which gave rise to Trump's dramatic accounts of money stuffed in barrels or boxes and delivered in the dead of night. The arrangement provided for the interest to be paid later, not crammed into containers.

## ENERGY

TRUMP: "We've ended the last administration's cruel and heartless war on American energy. What they were doing to our energy should never be forgotten. The United States is now the No. 1 producer of oil and natural gas anywhere in the world." — Orlando rally.

TRUMP: "We're now No. 1 in the world in energy." — Fox News interview Wednesday.

THE FACTS: As he's done many times before, Trump is crediting himself with things that happened under Obama.

Here's what the government's U.S. Energy Information Administration says: "The United States has been the world's top producer of natural gas since 2009, when U.S. natural gas production surpassed that of Russia, and the world's top producer of petroleum hydrocarbons since 2013, when U.S. production exceeded Saudi Arabia's."

## JOBS

TRUMP: "Almost 160 million people are working. That's more than ever before." — Orlando rally.

THE FACTS: True but that's a tribute to Americans making babies and immigrants coming to the country. Population growth, in other words.

Other than during recessions, employment growth has been trending upward since 1939, when the Labor Department started counting. The phenomenon is not a marker of leadership; it has spanned successful and failed presidents.

More on point, the annual rate of job growth has been within the same range since roughly 2011. It was 1.6% through May.

Another measure is the proportion of Americans with jobs, and that is still below record highs. The Labor Department says 60.6 percent of people in the U.S. 16 years and older were working in May. That's below the all-time high of 64.7 percent in April 2000 during Bill Clinton's administration, though higher than the 59.9 percent when Trump was inaugurated in January 2017.

TRUMP: "Women's unemployment is now the lowest it's been in 74 years." — Orlando rally.

THE FACTS: No, the jobless rate for women of 3.1% in April was the lowest in 66 years, not 74, and it ticked up in May to 3.2%.

## ECONOMY

TRUMP: "It's soaring to incredible new heights. Perhaps the greatest economy we've had in the history of our country." — Orlando rally.

THE FACTS: The economy is not one of the best in the country's history. It expanded at an annual rate of 3.2 percent in the first quarter of this year. That growth was the highest in just four years for the first quarter.

In the late 1990s, growth topped 4 percent for four straight years, a level it has not yet reached on an annual basis under Trump. Growth even reached 7.2 percent in 1984.

The economy grew 2.9% in 2018 — the same pace it reached in 2015 under Obama — and simply hasn't hit historically high growth rates.

Trump has legitimate claim to a good economy but when it comes to records, there's one he will have to share with Obama. The economy is on track to achieve its longest expansion ever, in July. Much of that decade-long growth came during Obama's presidency, an achievement that Trump so far has largely

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sustained. Other than in its durability, the economy is far from the finest in history.

## THE WALL

TRUMP: "We'll have over 400 miles built by the end of next year." — Fox News interview Wednesday.

TRUMP: "We're going to have over 400 miles of wall built by the end of next year. It's moving very rapidly." — Orlando rally.

THE FACTS: That's highly unlikely, and even if so, the great majority of the wall he's talking about would be replacement barrier, not new miles of construction. Trump has added strikingly little length to barriers along the Mexico border despite his pre-eminent 2016 campaign promise to get a wall done.

Even to reach 400 miles or 640 kilometers, he would have to prevail in legal challenges to his declaration of a national emergency or get Congress to find more money to get anywhere close.

So far, the administration has awarded contracts for 247 miles (395 km) of wall construction, but that initiative has been constrained by court cases that are still playing out.

In any event, all but 17 miles (27 km) of his awarded contracts so far would replace existing barriers.

## TAXES

TRUMP: "We've done so much ... with the biggest tax cut in history." — Orlando rally.

THE FACTS: His tax cuts are nowhere close to the biggest in U.S. history.

It's a \$1.5 trillion tax cut over 10 years. As a share of the total economy, a tax cut of that size ranks 12th, according to the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. President Ronald Reagan's 1981 cut is the biggest, followed by the 1945 rollback of taxes that financed World War II.

Post-Reagan tax cuts also stand among the historically significant: President George W. Bush's cuts in the early 2000s and Obama's renewal of them a decade later.

## ENVIRONMENT

TRUMP: "Our water and our air today is cleaner than it ever was. ... Our air — it's the best it ever was." — Fox News interview Wednesday.

TRUMP: "Our air and water are the cleanest they've ever been by far." — Orlando rally.

THE FACTS: Not true about air quality, which hasn't gotten better under the Trump administration. U.S. drinking water is among the best by one leading measure.

After decades of improvement, progress in air quality has stalled. Over the last two years the U.S. had more polluted air days than just a few years earlier, federal data show.

There were 15% more days with unhealthy air in America both last year and the year before than there were on average from 2013 through 2016, the four years when America had its fewest number of those days since at least 1980.

The Obama administration, in fact, set records for the fewest air polluted days, in 2016.

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

## JUDGES

TRUMP on the confirmation of federal judges: "President Obama was very nice to us. He didn't fill the positions." — Orlando rally.

THE FACTS: Trump's sarcasm aside, he does have a better success rate than Obama in filling judicial vacancies. The Republican-controlled Senate in Obama's last two years avoided taking action on many of his nominees. Republicans still control the Senate and have been able to confirm about 120 of Trump's picks despite their slim majority. That's about 35 more than Obama had confirmed at this point in his presidency.

## HEALTH CARE

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TRUMP: "We will always protect patients with pre-existing conditions. Always." — Orlando rally.

THE FACTS: His administration's actions say otherwise. It is pressing in court for full repeal of Obama's health law, which requires insurers to take all applicants, regardless of medical history, and charge the same standard premiums to healthy people and those who had medical problems before or when they signed up.

Trump and other Republicans say they'll have a plan to preserve protections for people with pre-existing conditions, but the White House has provided no details.

## ABORTION

TRUMP: "Leading Democrats have even opposed measures to prevent the execution of children after birth." — Orlando rally.

THE FACTS: Executing children is already a crime.

Trump is offering here a somewhat toned down version of a distorted story he's been telling for months that falsely suggests Democrats are OK with murder.

His account arises from extremely rare instances when babies are born alive as a result of an attempted abortion. When these cases occur, "execution" is not an option.

When a baby is born with anomalies so severe that he or she would die soon after birth, a family may choose what's known as palliative care or comfort care. This might involve allowing the baby to die naturally without medical intervention. Providing comfort without life-extending treatment is not specific to newborns. It may happen with fatally ill patients of any age.

## VETERANS

TRUMP: "We passed VA Choice. ...They've been trying to get that passed also for about 44 years." — Orlando rally.

THE FACTS: No, Congress approved the private-sector Veterans Choice health program in 2014 and Obama signed it into law. Trump signed an expansion of it.

## RUSSIA INVESTIGATION

TRUMP: "I'm the most transparent president in history. I let Mueller have everything they wanted." — Fox News interview Wednesday.

THE FACTS: It's highly questionable to say Trump was fully cooperative in the Russia investigation.

Trump declined to sit for an interview with Robert Mueller's team, gave written answers that investigators described as "inadequate" and "incomplete," said more than 30 times that he could not remember something he was asked about in writing, and — according to the report — tried to get aides to fire the special counsel or otherwise shut or limit the inquiry.

In the end, the Mueller report found no criminal conspiracy between the Trump campaign and Russia but left open the question of whether Trump obstructed justice.

According to the report, Mueller's team declined to make a prosecutorial judgment on whether to charge partly because of a Justice Department legal opinion that said sitting presidents shouldn't be indicted. The report instead factually laid out instances in which Trump might have obstructed justice, specifically leaving it open for Congress to take up the matter.

Associated Press writers Josh Boak, Christopher Rugaber, Matthew Daly, Seth Borenstein, Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar and Colleen Long in Washington and Elliot Spagat in San Diego contributed to this report.

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## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, June 23, the 174th day of 2019. There are 191 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 23, 1972, President Richard Nixon and White House chief of staff H.R. Haldeman discussed using the CIA to obstruct the FBI's Watergate investigation. (Revelation of the tape recording of this conversation sparked Nixon's resignation in 1974.) President Nixon signed Title IX barring discrimination on the basis of sex for "any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

On this date:

In 1537, Spanish explorer Pedro de Mendoza, the founder of Buenos Aires, died aboard his ship while heading back to Spain.

In 1836, Congress approved the Deposit Act, which contained a provision for turning over surplus federal revenue to the states.

In 1868, Christopher Latham Sholes received a patent for his "Type-Writer," featuring a QWERTY keyboard; it was the first commercially successful typewriter.

In 1892, the Democratic National Convention in Chicago nominated former President Grover Cleveland on the first ballot.

In 1938, the Civil Aeronautics Authority was established.

In 1947, the Senate joined the House in overriding President Harry S. Truman's veto of the Taft-Hartley Act, designed to limit the power of organized labor.

In 1950, Northwest Orient Airlines Flight 2501, a DC-4, crashed into Lake Michigan with the loss of all 58 people on board.

In 1968, a syndicated newspaper column by Joseph Kraft coined the term "Middle America."

In 1969, Warren E. Burger was sworn in as chief justice of the United States by the man he was succeeding, Earl Warren.

In 1985, all 329 people aboard an Air India Boeing 747 were killed when the plane crashed into the Atlantic Ocean near Ireland because of a bomb authorities believe was planted by Sikh separatists.

In 1988, James E. Hansen, a climatologist at the Goddard Institute for Space Studies, told a Senate panel that global warming of the earth caused by the "greenhouse effect" was a reality.

In 1995, Dr. Jonas Salk, the medical pioneer who developed the first vaccine to halt the crippling rampage of polio, died in La Jolla (HOY'-ah), California, at age 80.

Ten years ago: Hardening the U.S. reaction to Iran's disputed elections and bloody aftermath, President Barack Obama condemned the violence against protesters and lent his strongest support yet to their accusations that the hardline victory was a fraud. "Tonight Show" sidekick Ed McMahon died in Los Angeles at 86. Dr. Jerri Nielsen FitzGerald, who'd diagnosed and treated her own breast cancer before a dramatic rescue from a South Pole station, died in Southwick, Massachusetts, at 57.

Five years ago: U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, visiting Baghdad, told leaders of Iraq's factions they had to keep their commitments to seat a new parliament before a Sunni insurgency swept away hopes for a lasting peace. President Barack Obama, speaking at the White House Summit on Working Families, said the United States should join the rest of the industrialized world and offer paid leave for mothers of newborns. Dominik Hasek (HAH'-shik), Peter Forsberg, Rob Blake, Mike Modano (moh-DAH'-noh) and coach Pat Burns and referee Bill McCreary were elected to the Hockey Hall of Fame.

One year ago: Trump administration officials said the government knew the location of all children in its custody after separating them from their families at the border, and that it was working to reunite them. The Vatican tribunal convicted a former Holy See diplomat, Monsignor Carlo Capella, and sentenced him to five years in prison for possessing and distributing child pornography.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Diana Trask is 79. Musical conductor James Levine (luh-VYN') is 76. Actor Ted Shackelford is 73. Actor Bryan Brown is 72. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas is 71. Actor Jim Metzler

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is 68. "American Idol" ex-judge Randy Jackson is 63. Actress Frances McDormand is 62. Rock musician Steve Shelley (Sonic Youth) is 57. Actor Paul La Greca is 57. Writer-director Joss Whedon is 55. Rhythm and blues singer Chico DeBarge is 49. Actress Selma Blair is 47. Actor Joel Edgerton is 45. Rock singer KT Tunstall is 44. Rhythm and blues singer Virgo Williams (Ghostowns DJs) is 44. Actress Emmanuelle Vaugier is 43. Singer-songwriter Jason Mraz is 42. Football Hall of Famer LaDainian Tomlinson is 40. Actress Melissa Rauch is 39. Rock singer Duffy is 35. Country singer Katie Armiger is 28.

Thought for Today: "Loneliness is the poverty of self; solitude is the richness of self." — May Sarton, Belgian-born American poet (1912-1995).