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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

Thursday, June 27

5:30 p.m.: Junior Teeners at Warner, (DH)

5:30 p.m.: U12 Midgets host Warner, (DH)

6:00 p.m.: T-Ball hosts Claremont, Nelson Field (Gold)

7:00 p.m.: U10 Pee Wees host Claremont (W,B)

Friday, June 28

Noon: Legion at Aberdeen

Saturday, June 29

1:00 p.m.: Junior Teeners at Lake Norden, (DH)

U10 Pee Wees Tourney in Groton

Sunday, June 30

2:00 p.m.: Legion hosts Lake Norden, (DH)

U12 Midgets host Groton Tourney

6:00 p.m.: Locke Electric Amateurs vs. Groton 2 Amateurs (game to start after Legion (DH))

Monday, July 1

5:30 p.m.: Junior Legion hosts Milbank, (DH)

6:00 p.m.: Junior Teeners at Redfield, (DH)

6:00 p.m.: U12 Midgets host Britton, (DH)

6:00 p.m.: U10 Pee Wees host Britton, (DH) (R,W)

6:00 p.m.: U8 Pee Wees at Britton, (DH)s (R,B)

Softball at Sisseton, (DH)s (U10 at 6 p.m., U12 at 6 p.m.)

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The Groton Swimming Pool was shut down yesterday afternoon due to a "Brown Alert." (You figure out what means!) It was a quiet site in the early evening hours with the features running and no one around. The pool will be reopened for regular hours this afternoon. (Photo

by Paul Kosel)

Groton Kiwanis Group Votes to Disband

The oldest organization in Groton, the Groton Kiwanis Club, voted Wednesday to disband its organization. They have been sponsors of the Groton Snow Queen Contest among many other activities in the community. The organization was formed May 5, 1953 and just last year celebrated its 65th Anniversary.

Deployment ceremony scheduled for Pierre SD Guard unit

PIERRE, S.D. - A deployment ceremony is scheduled for about 70 Soldiers with the South Dakota Army National Guard's 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion on Saturday, July 27, at 2 p.m. at T.F. Riggs High School in Pierre.

The public is encouraged to attend the event as the units depart for a nine month deployment to the Middle East to provide multifunctional logistics and support operations.

Planned speakers for the ceremony include Gov. Kristi Noem, Pierre Mayor Steve Harding and Maj. Gen. Jeff Marlette, SDNG adjutant general.

The unit will report to Fort Hood, Texas, to complete several weeks of theater-specific training prior to deployment overseas.

This will be the second mobilization for the 152nd CSSB since the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The unit first deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2013.

Beware of Post-Disaster Scams

PIERRE, S.D. – Recovery officials urge South Dakota residents to watch for and report any suspicious activity or potential fraud from scam artists, identity thieves and other criminals who may try to prey on those who suffered losses in the severe winter storms and flooding from mid-March to late April.

Common post-disaster fraud practices include:

- Fake offers of state or federal aid:
 - o Beware if anyone claiming to be from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or the state visits, calls or emails asking for an applicant's Social Security number, bank account number or other sensitive information.
 - o Avoid scam artists who promise a disaster grant and ask for cash deposits or advance payments in full.
 - o Know that federal workers do not solicit or accept money. FEMA and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) staff never charge applicants for disaster assistance, inspections or help in filling out applications. Do not give out information and report people claiming to be government workers to local police.
 - o Provide your Social Security number and banking information only when registering for FEMA assistance, either by calling 800-621-3362, TTY 800-462-7585, or going online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or the smart phone FEMA App. If you use 711-Relay or Video Relay Services, call 800-621-3362. Operators are multilingual and calls are answered from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. local time seven days a week.
- Phony housing inspectors: Owners/applicants may be especially vulnerable to phony housing inspectors claiming to represent FEMA or SBA. An applicant should always:
 - o Ask to see the inspector's identification badge. All federal employees and contractors carry official, laminated photo identification.
 - o Inspectors also have each applicant's nine-digit registration number.
 - o FEMA inspectors never require banking information.

It is important to note that FEMA housing inspectors verify damage, but do not hire or endorse specific contractors to fix homes or recommend repairs. They do not determine your eligibility for assistance.

- Fraudulent building contractors: When hiring a contractor, be sure to:
 - o Use licensed local contractors backed by reliable references.
 - o Demand that contractors carry general liability insurance and worker's compensation.
- Bogus pleas for post-disaster donations: Unscrupulous solicitors may play on the sympathy for disaster survivors. Disaster aid solicitations may arrive by phone, email, letter or face-to-face visits. Verify legitimate solicitation:
 - o Ask for the charity's exact name, street address, phone number, and Web address, then call the charity directly and confirm that the person asking for funds is an employee or volunteer.
 - o Don't pay with cash.
 - o Request a receipt with the charity's name, street address, phone number and Web address (if applicable).

Anyone with knowledge of fraud, waste or abuse may call the FEMA Disaster Fraud Hotline at 866-720-5721 or report it to the Federal Trade Commission at www.ftccompliantassistant.gov

You may also send an email to DHSOIGHotline@dhs.gov

FEMA Hiring South Dakota Residents to Help With Disaster Recovery

Pierre, S.D. – The Federal Emergency Management Agency is now hiring for full-time, temporary jobs to help communities recover from the severe winter storms and flooding from mid-March to late April 2019. Positions will be based in Pierre, Sioux Falls, Rapid City and Aberdeen, and may require local travel.

FEMA will employ at least 25 locally-hired workers in a variety of positions.

“Hiring a portion of our recovery team locally provides local knowledge and experience and gives an added boost to South Dakota’s economy as well,” said FEMA’s Ricky Stephenson, Federal Coordinating Officer for the agency’s recovery efforts in the state. “Our local hires provide invaluable help for the recovery and supplement the current FEMA staff.”

FEMA is initially seeking people with experience in construction, cost estimating, program delivery and/or management, environmental protection, and historic preservation, or related areas. Additional positions may be announced later.

The typical term of employment is 120 days but may be extended in increments of 120 days for up to one year. Health benefits, sick leave and holiday pay are available.

All candidates must be a high school graduate or possess a GED, and pass a background investigation. For more information on these positions as they are posted, go to <https://go.usa.gov/xyckS> on the USAJOBS website.

Bluegill Tagged in Enemy Swim Lake

PIERRE, S.D. – South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) recently tagged 1,000 bluegills in Enemy Swim Lake in northeastern South Dakota. Anglers who catch a tagged bluegill are asked to report the tag number to GFP.

A portion of the tags are pink and have “REWARD” printed on them. Those tags are worth \$100.

“Anglers catching a tagged bluegill do not have to harvest the fish or remove the tag; however, physical proof is needed for a reward tag to be paid,” said fisheries biologist Brian Blackwell. “A picture of the tag showing the tag number can be included with the online tag reporting form, or it can be presented to the Webster GFP office.”

The reward tags will only be paid once.

The tagging is part of a project to gain information concerning bluegill abundance, mortality rates, and angler harvest in select lakes in northeast South Dakota. The information gained will be used to help evaluate the current regulations.

Additional information concerning the bluegill research in northeast South Dakota can be found at <https://gfp.sd.gov/pages/bluegill-research>.



Vietnam Memorial



The Vietnam Memorial is actually “hidden” in the side of a hill. You have to go down to the wall and personally reflect on the on the lives lost in that war. The memorial includes the names of over 58,000 servicemen and women who gave their lives in service in the Vietnam Conflict. The memorial includes the Vietnam Veterans Memorial “Wall,” the “Three Servicemen Statue” and the “Vietnam Women’s Memorial.” (Photo by Paul Kosel)

The Memorial Wall is made up of two 246-foot-9-inch (75.21 m) long black granite walls, polished to a high finish, and etched with the names of the servicemen being honored in 140 panels of horizontal rows with regular typeface and spacing.[2][3] The walls are sunken into the ground, with the earth behind them. At the highest tip (the apex where they meet), they are 10.1 feet (3.1 m) high, and they taper to a height of 8 inches (200 mm) at their extremities. Symbolically, this is described as a “wound that is closed and healing”. The stone for the 144 panels was quarried in Bangalore, India.

One wall points toward the Washington Monument, the other in the direction of the Lincoln Memorial, meeting at an angle of $125^{\circ} 12'$. Each wall has 72 panels, 70 listing names (numbered 1E through 70E and 70W through 1W) and two very small blank panels at the extremities. There is a pathway along the base of the Wall where visitors may walk.

The wall originally listed 57,939 names when it was dedicated in 1982;[4] however other names have since been added and as of May 2018 there were 58,320 names, including eight women. The number of names on the wall is different than the official number of U.S. Vietnam War deaths, which is 58,220 as of May 2018.[5] The names inscribed are not a complete list of those who are eligible for inclusion as some names were omitted at the request of families.

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Mary Johnson read a piece about Groton's own William Pasch who is listed on the Vietnam Memorial. You can see the name inscribed on the wall on the next page with what she read on the page following. William is the son of Lois and the late Walter Pasch of Groton. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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William Ernest Pasch

Groton, SD

October 3, 1947 – May 11, 1968

Panel 58E – Line 24

William Ernest Pasch was born on October 3, 1947, in Groton, South Dakota to Mr. & Mrs. Walter Pasch. He was drafted into the Army on October 20, 1966, in Groton, SD. He completed his basic training at Fort Hood, Texas and began his Vietnam tour on January 22, 1968 as a Specialist Fourth Class, H Troop, 3rd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. On May 11, 1968, Specialist Fourth Class William Pasch was killed in action while on a combat operation when the vehicle was hit by a hostile rocket. His body was recovered and returned to the U.S. Specialist Fourth Class Pasch was buried with military honors at the Groton Cemetery after a service at St. John Lutheran Church. He was awarded the Bronze Star (Merit), Purple Heart, and Good Conduct Medal.

Brown County 4-H Special Foods Contest

The 2019 Brown County 4-H Special Foods Contest was held on Tuesday, June 25th at Simmons Middle School. Renee Marzahn and Audrey Rider were the judges. The following are the results of the contest:

Alicia Davis- Bath- purple
Rayven Dutenhoffer- Aberdeen- purple
Anna Johnson- Aberdeen- purple
Cody Kiesz- Aberdeen- purple
Wyatt Kiesz- Aberdeen- purple
Lexi Osterman- Conde- purple
Jayda Siebert- Aberdeen- purple
Ada Sharp- Aberdeen- purple
Ashlynn Warrington- Groton- purple
Axel Warrington- Groton- purple
Logan Warrington- Groton- purple
Natalia Warrington- Groton- purple
Novalea Warrington- Groton- purple

In the 4-H Special Foods Contest, members select an item to prepare containing at least one serving from the food group in which the item is entered. Members are judged on their food preparation skills, nutrition knowledge for the age and food group in which the item is entered, the menu, the place setting that the meal will be served with, and the quality of the item prepared.

2019 Brown County 4-H Special Foods Contest Recipes

Calico Beans

Alicia Davis

1/2 lb. 90% lean ground beef`	1 small onion- chopped
3 strips bacon- crumbled (fried or microwaved)	1/4 tsp. pepper
1/4 tsp. salt	

Brown in pan on stove until meat shows 160 degrees on thermometer.
Add:

1/2 cup ketchup	1/4 cup brown sugar- packed
1 tsp. mustard	1 Tbsp. vinegar
1 can pinto beans or pork and beans	
1 can reduced sodium kidney beans- drained	
1 can reduced sodium baby butter beans	

Mix well and bring to a boil. Then simmer for 10 minutes. Stir occasionally

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Berries Sipper Smoothie

Rayven Dutenhoffer

2 (6 oz.) cartons lite strawberry yogurt
2 (6 oz.) cartons lite blueberry yogurt
½ cup blueberries
1 tsp. vanilla
1 cup milk
1 cup strawberries
3 Tbsp. Honey
2 cups ice

Directions: In a blender container, add yogurt, milk, honey and vanilla. Wash blueberries and strawberries. Scoop out the green stems on strawberries and cut them into smaller pieces. Reserve a strawberry and a blueberry for garnish for each serving. Add strawberries and blueberries to blender container. Put the blender container lid on. Then put the blender container on the blender stand. Add one cup of ice at a time. After each cup of ice, use the Ice Blend option. Then use the Smoothie option until well blended. Pour into a different pitcher to serve. Pour into cup and add the strawberry and blueberry garnish. Yields 4 servings.

Italian Sausage and Zucchini Stir-Fry

Anna Johnson

1 lb. Italian Sausage
½ c. chopped onion
2 c. chopped tomatoes
3 c. unpeeled zucchini
Julienne cuts
1 tsp. lemon juice
¼ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. Tabasco sauce
¼ tsp oregano
Parmesan cheese

Directions: Chop tomatoes and zucchini, put in bowl off to the side. Chop onions, set aside. Slice sausage in ½-1 inch slices, brown in wok or large skillet. Add onions when sausage is nearly done. Drain if needed. Add tomatoes, zucchini, salt, lemon juice, Tabasco sauce and oregano. Cook uncovered for about 10 minutes, stirring frequently. Remove to serving plates, sprinkle with cheese.
4 Servings

Cora's Pancakes

Cody Kiesz

Beat together:
1 egg
2 heaping t. baking powder
¼ t. vanilla
1 T sugar
pinch of salt
Alternately add in small amounts and whisk:
1 cup milk
1 cup flour

Directions: Pre-heat electric skillet to 325 degrees. Pour pancake mix onto skillet. Cook until bubbles start to form and outside of pancakes start to firm up. Flip pancakes and cook for another 30 sec.

Poppin' chicken

Wyatt Kiesz

1 lb. boneless, skinless chicken breast cut into 1-inch pieces
1 egg
½ t salt
1 ½ cups seasoned bread crumbs
2 T milk
1/8 t black pepper
2 T olive oil

Directions: Mix up egg, milk, salt, and pepper in a bowl. Pour bread crumbs into a different bowl. Dip each piece of chicken first into the egg wash. Then dip into the bread crumbs. When all the pieces are coated, heat the olive oil in a large skillet over med. Heat. Add the chicken and cook until golden, about 2 minutes on each side.

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Shrimp Fried Rice

Lexi Osterman

1 bag (12 oz.) medium or large shrimp, shelled and deveined
1/2 tsp. corn starch
4 cups cooked and completely cooled Success Basmati Rice
1 cup frozen peas and carrots, thawed
Soy sauce, to taste
3 Tbsp. Canola Oil
4 eggs, lightly beaten
salt and pepper, to taste

Directions: place shrimp in a bowl and season salt and pepper, toss with corn starch, set aside for 10 minutes. Heat oil in a large skillet over medium- high heat. Add shrimp and allow to cook for a minute; turnover cook for 30 seconds. Remove shrimp from pan and set aside Return pan to heat and lower to medium- low; add eggs and stir to scramble while they cook. Add cooked rice to the pan and mix well; continue to cook for 4 minutes, or until rice begins to sizzle. Cook 1-minute longer for crunchier texture. Add carrots, peas, shrimp, eggs, soy sauce, stir to combine. Cook for 2 minutes, or until heated through. Remove from heat and garnish. Serve.

Chewy Baked Blueberry Oatmeal Cups

Jayda Siebert

3 cups old fashioned rolled oats
1 tsp. baking powder
1 cup milk
1 1/2 cups fresh blueberries
1/2 cup honey
1 tsp. vanilla
2 large eggs

Directions: Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 12- cup muffin pan with cooking spray. In a large bowl, add oats and baking powder. Stir to combine. In a separate bowl, add milk, eggs, honey, and vanilla. Whisk until everything is evenly blended. Add liquid mixture to oats. Stir until all oats are coated in liquid. Fill each muffin mold to top with oats mixture, making sure to include the liquid. Bake for 25-30 minutes or until tops of oats are a light toasted brown and oats are cooked throughout.

Orange Cream Chiller

Ada Sharp

1/2 cup plain yogurt
1 sliced banana
3 oz. orange juice concentrated
1 tsp. agave
1/2 cup ice
1/2 cup milk
1/2 tsp. vanilla

Directions: Add all ingredients into blender cup. Blend until smooth. 2 servings.

Breakfast Burrito

Ashlynn Warrington

4 flour tortillas, warmed
1/2 cup milk
1 1/3 cups shredded cheddar cheese
2 cups hash browns with peppers and onions
8 eggs
1 lb. diced ham
1/8 tsp pepper
parsley for garnish

Directions: warm tortillas in microwave. Whisk eggs and milk together and set aside. Spray large with canola oil, and then cook ham. Remove meat from skillet and set aside. Add hash browns, peppers and onions, mix. Then add eggs and milk mixture. When eggs start to set, add ham. Continue stirring until eggs are cooked through. Remove from heat and top with cheese. Divide 1 cup of filling between the four tortillas. Roll each tortilla into a burrito. Serves 4.

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Southwest Chicken Salad

Axel Warrington

1 jalapeno pepper, chopped finely
2 tsp. southwestern seasoning mix or taco seasoning
1 lb. chicken tenderloins
1 cup cherry tomatoes, halved
1 cup canned black beans, drained and rinsed
½ cup avocado, peeled and chopped
6 cups romaine lettuce, chopped

¾ cup ranch dressing
2 Tbsp. lime juice
salt and pepper
½ cup whole kernel corn

Directions: combine jalapeno, ranch, seasoning, and lime juice in a small bowl. Refrigerate until ready to use. Preheat large skillet over medium heat for 3-5 minutes. Season chicken with salt and pepper. Add chicken to the pan and cook 3-4 minutes on each side. Remove to a bowl to cool. Meanwhile, combine tomatoes, bell pepper, beans, corn, and lettuce in a large bowl. Chop cooled chicken and add to lettuce mixture. Pour dressing over the salad and toss gently to coat. Top with avocado.

Baked corn

Logan Warrington

1 can creamed corn
1 can whole kernel corn
1 cup bisquick
1 beaten egg

2 Tbsp. melted butter
½ cup milk
½ lb. Monterey jack cheese

Directions: Mix corn, bisquick, egg, butter, and milk. Pour half of the mixture into ungreased 9 x 13 pan. Put half of cheese over mixture. Top with remaining corn mixture and remaining cheese. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes. Serves 10-12 people. Garnish- parsley.

Chocolate Chip Muffins

Natalia Warrington

1 large egg
1 cup Greek yogurt, plain (2% fat)
½ cup any milk
1 Tbsp. vanilla extract
1 Tbsp. baking powder, aluminum free
¾ cup mini chocolate chips

¼ cup extra virgin olive oil
1/3 cup honey
1 Tbsp. vanilla extract
¼ tsp baking soda
2 1/3 cups whole wheat flour

Directions: First, preheat the oven to 425 degrees F. Then in a large mixing bowl, whisk the egg for 10 seconds. Add yogurt, oil, honey, milk, vanilla, baking powder, and baking soda, and whisk to combine. Add flour and gently stir until well incorporated (batter will be thick) Do not over mix otherwise muffins will be tough. Add chocolate chips and give a few more gentle stirs. Finally, using an ice cream scoop, divide the batter between 12 muffin tins and bake for 7 minutes, reduce heat to 375 degrees F and bake for another 10-11 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Remove from the oven, let muffins cool for about 5 minutes and transfer to a cooling rack to cool off completely.

Happy Birthday Surprise

Novalea Warrington






3 c cold milk
12 oz. strawberry yogurt
1 tsp. honey

¾ c bananas sliced
10 oz. strawberries

Directions: Place milk, yogurt, honey and banana in blender until smooth. Add strawberries and blend quickly. Serve.

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Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
				
Severe Thunderstorms then Mostly Cloudy	Increasing Clouds	Decreasing Clouds	Partly Cloudy	Hot
High: 82 °F	Low: 63 °F	High: 87 °F	Low: 69 °F	High: 93 °F

Staying Safe in the Heat


- ☀ Limit Outdoor Activities
- ☀ Drink Plenty of Water
- ☀ Avoid Alcohol
- ☀ Wear Light Clothing
- ☀ Wear Sunscreen
- ☀ Work Outdoors Early or Very Late in the Day



weather.gov/heat

www.weather.gov/abr

Published on: 06/25/2019 at 10:14PM

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD 

Heat Safety: Limit Outdoor Activities, Drink Plenty of Water, Avoid Alcohol, Wear Light Clothing, Wear Sunscreen, Work Outdoors Early or Very Late in the Day.

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Today in Weather History

June 27, 1894: Three people were injured as a tornado destroyed a home 5 miles north of Houghton in Brown County. Lumber on a wagon was scattered for over a mile. This tornado was estimated to be an F2. Also, a second F2 tornado formed south of Aberdeen and moved northeast and went near Randolph, to beyond Bath. Several barns and two homes were destroyed along the narrow path. Three other small funnels were seen to touch down. Another tornado with estimated F2 strength moved ENE from northeast of St. Lawrence to Bonilla and Hitchcock. At least one home was destroyed. One person was killed in the destruction of her home, north of Wessington. An estimated F2 tornado hit 2 miles south of Henry. At least two small houses were blown away. There was another possible tornado 12 miles north of Henry. Numerous tornadoes continued into Minnesota.

June 27, 1928: A long-lived estimated F2 tornado moved southeast from 7 miles west of Faulkton, passing north and east of Orient. Buildings were damaged on nine farms. One home near Orient was riddled with timbers from a nearby grain elevator. This tornado was estimated to travel a distance of 40 miles.

1915: The temperature at Fort Yukon, Alaska soared to 100 degrees to establish a state record.

1995: The Madison County Flood on June 27, 1995, was the worst flash floods Virginia had seen since the remnants of Camille dropped up to 30 inches of rain one night in Nelson County in August 1969. The Nelson County flood ranked as one of the nation's worst flash floods of this century and resulted in the deaths of 117 people. The Madison County flood killed one person.

2011: Polar temperatures and unusual snowfall chill several cities in Brazil's southern states. Four cities in Santa Catarina state are blanketed in snow. The town of Urubici reported a temperature of 23.9 degrees Fahrenheit with a wind chill of 16.6 degrees below zero. In Florianopolis, the capital of Santa Catarina and a renowned sea resort, thermometers registered 21.2 degrees.

1901 - There was a rain of fish from the sky at Tiller's Ferry. Hundreds of fish were swimming between cotton rows after a heavy shower. (David Ludlum)

1915 - The temperature at Fort Yukon AK soared to 100 degrees to establish a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1957 - Hurricane Audrey smashed ashore at Cameron, LA, drowning 390 persons in the storm tide, and causing 150 million dollars damage in Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi. Audrey left only a brick courthouse and a cement-block icehouse standing at Cameron, and when the waters settled in the town of Crede, only four buildings remained. The powerful winds of Audrey tossed a fishing boat weighing 78 tons onto an off-shore drilling platform. Winds along the coast gusted to 105 mph, and oil rigs off the Louisiana coast reported wind gusts to 180 mph. A storm surge greater than twelve feet inundated the Louisiana coast as much as 25 miles inland. It was the deadliest June hurricane of record for the U.S. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms moving out of Nebraska produced severe weather in north central Kansas after midnight. Thunderstorm winds gusting to 100 mph damaged more than fifty camping trailers at the state park campground at Lake Waconda injuring sixteen persons. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 80 mph at Beloit and Sylvan Grove. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - The afternoon high of 107 degrees at Bismarck, ND, was a record for the month of June, and Pensacola, FL, equalled their June record with a reading of 101 degrees. Temperatures in the Great Lakes Region and the Ohio Valley dipped into the 40s. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from the Ohio Valley to western New England. Thunderstorm spawned six tornadoes, and there were 98 reports of large hail and damaging winds. Tropical Storm Allison spawned six tornadoes in Louisiana, injuring two persons at Hackberry. Fort Polk LA was drenched with 10.09 inches of rain in 36 hours, and 12.87 inches was reported at the Gorum Fire Tower in northern Louisiana. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

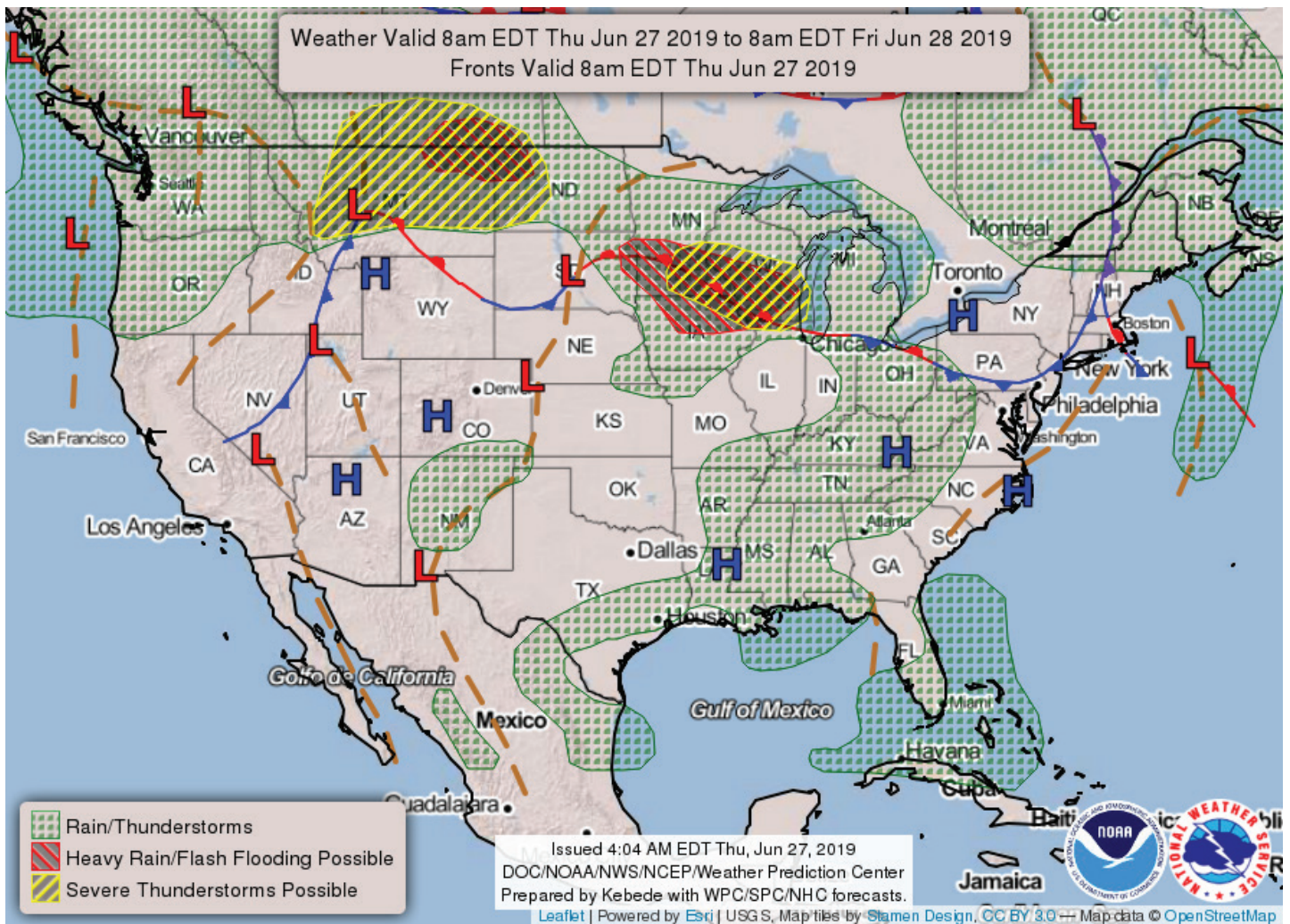
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 86 °F at 6:58 PM
Low Temp: 60 °F at 5:47 AM
Wind: 19 mph at 5:53 AM
Day Rain: 0.19 in (.34 this morning)

Record High: 104° in 1931, 1936
Record Low: 42° in 2017
Average High: 81°F
Average Low: 57°F
Average Precip in June.: 3.22
Precip to date in June.: 4.53
Average Precip to date: 10.36
Precip Year to Date: 12.31
Sunset Tonight: 9:26 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:48 a.m.



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GAINING FAVOR

Solomon had much to say about bribes. No doubt his success as king and his great wisdom made him extremely popular. Surely, those who were people of means would court his prestige and power and knew it would bring great dividends they could not achieve on their own. Actually, its no different today than it was when he was at the prime of his career.

A gift (actually a bribe) - opens the door for the giver and ushers him into the presence of the great, Solomon mused. A similar word for bribe is found in chapter 17 - verses 8 and 23. However, in this verse, it is much more general and really is not significant. But the idea in this verse is of one wanting to purchase favor from someone who has more power and influence than they, and wanting something they did not deserve or could not earn on their own.

Getting into the presence of the powerful, for most of us, would be difficult. The road to their seat is narrow and contains many barriers and blockades and is usually blocked by gate-keepers. But, if one is cunning and has acquired the fine art of manipulating others, many things become possible. The appropriate donation during a political campaign may be just what is needed after a victorious election. So, many hedge their bets.

Unfortunately, bribing anyone at any time for anything is wrong in the eyes of God. It encourages wickedness and dishonesty in the hearts of the receiver and the giver.

Living honestly and with integrity is Gods way to a successful life.

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to abandon all practices that are deceitful and displeasing to You. May we who call You Savior and Lord live honorably in Your sight! In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 18:16 A gift opens the door for the giver and ushers him into the presence of the great

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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 Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Wednesday:

Dakota Cash

04-14-15-19-33

(four, fourteen, fifteen, nineteen, thirty-three)

Estimated jackpot: \$591,000

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$71 million

Powerball

01-05-16-22-54, Powerball: 24, Power Play: 3

(one, five, sixteen, twenty-two, fifty-four; Powerball: twenty-four; Power Play: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$122 million

No peregrine falcon nests at Devils Tower this season

CASPER, Wyo. (AP) — For the first time in seven years, peregrine falcons at Devils Tower in northeast Wyoming did not have a successful nesting season.

The Casper Star-Tribune reports a pair of falcons showed behavior consistent with courtship, but the weather might have put a damper on breeding.

Rene Ohms, chief of resource management for the National Park Service, says this year's late-season snow, colder than normal temperatures and frequently heavy rain have made it "very difficult for them."

The species was listed as endangered in 1970 but had a remarkable recovery and was removed from the list in 1999. Falcons returned to Devils Tower in 2013 and successfully nested for the last six years.

Ohms says nests sometimes fail, but the population as a whole won't be affected.

Information from: Casper (Wyo.) Star-Tribune, <http://www.trib.com>

Plastic bag ban talks spur after floods in Sioux Falls

By JOE SNEVE Sioux Falls Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Receding flood waters in Sioux Falls this spring revealed thousands of plastic bags along the Big Sioux River's banks.

It drew the attention of the Friends of the Big Sioux River, a county official and the city's sustainability coordinator, who this week all told the Argus Leader more needs to be done in Sioux Falls to curb the use of plastic bags by retailers and consumers, especially since recycling centers here are no longer accepting those items.

"It was like a plastic bag forest," said Dana Loseke, chairman of Friends of the Big Sioux River, a nonprofit that works to clean up the river and its watershed while raising awareness about environmental sustainability. "It was absolutely about the ugliest thing you've ever seen in Sioux Falls."

Loseke said the number of plastic bags found in and along the river in Sioux Falls dwarfs the amount of litter his group sees when surveying the river in rural areas of the state. He credits that to the sheer number of retailers in Sioux Falls that use plastic to bag items they sell to customers.

In the past, grocery stores would offer paper bags to their customers, but plastic has become the bag of choice in recent years due to sustainability concerns around the use of paper made from trees and the cost of producing paper bags verse plastic bags.

According to data provided by Friends of the Big Sioux River, the average family uses about 1,500 plastic

bags each year. And those bags are used for less than 12 minutes, on average.

"This is all coming from the retailers and everybody who hands out a plastic bag with a bottle of aspirin," Loseke said.

Minnehaha County Commissioner Jeff Barth made mention of the amount of litter that lined the river banks this spring during a commission meeting this week while floating the idea that governments in Sioux Falls should consider placing restrictions on the use of single-use plastic bags.

It's not a novel idea. Other cities and two states around the country have taken similar steps, either banning the use of plastic bags or requiring a fee be applied to a customer's bill if they insist on using one.

California and Hawaii have completely banned plastic bags on a statewide level and more than 100 cities have bans or taxes on plastic bags.

"At some point we've got to think more long-term," Barth said. "We can do better than we are doing."

Jessica Sexe, sustainability coordinator for the city of Sioux Falls, said its unfortunate plastic bags aren't items that can be placed into single-stream recycling bins anymore, but she noted that many grocery stores like Sunshine Foods, Walmart and Hy-Vee will accept used plastic bags and have drop-off sites near their store entrances.

Spreading the word about that option is part of Sexe's office's educational initiative that will be launched in the coming weeks. Beyond that, she said the city will likely try to do outreach to retailers to encourage them to cut down on their use of plastic bags by offering reusable bags.

But she cautioned there can be unintended consequences to outright bans on plastic bags. For instance, in communities with plastic bag bans, the use of heavy-duty plastic garbage bags increases and that's even more problematic for the environment, she said.

"What they found was most effective was charging per bag. It decreased the use of plastic bags a lot more," she said. "So we're looking at what other communities are doing and what's working for them."

Some retailers, though, aren't waiting for a government mandate to take action. Costco and Aldi, for example, don't offer single-use plastic bags. Instead, customers there either use reusable bags, boxes or nothing at all.

Tina Potthoff, vice president of communications in Hy-Vee's corporate office, said their customers still have plastic bags as an option, but also are able to purchase reusable bags when they get to the check-out counter.

In 2018, Hy-Vee sold more than 200,000 reusable bags and recycled more than 2.7 million pounds of plastic bags and film, which included bags from other retailers, not just Hy-Vee.

This year, Hy-Vee also stopped using plastic to-go containers in its dining areas and instead began using a compostable material.

"This is certainly a topic that we're following as more communities are looking at reducing plastics," Potthoff said. "We are aware that it's a growing problem with plastics."

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

Pre-construction work continues for South Dakota pipeline

By DEB HOLLAND Black Hills Pioneer

RED OWL, S.D. (AP) — The actual construction of the may be at a standstill, but preparations continue in Meade County if and when TC Energy greenlights the project.

TransCanada Corp., which changed its name in May to TC Energy, has lost the 2019 construction season pending a Nebraska Supreme Court decision related to the pipeline's route and a lawsuit by two Native American communities in Montana, corporate officials said.

But the groundwork on gravel roads throughout Meade County continues in preparation for hundreds of truckloads of pipe and other products needed to build the pipeline.

Alan Lietz, project manager with TC Energy, spoke and answered questions of nearly 60 residents of central Meade County at the Red Owl Hall. His appearance was part of a special meeting of the Meade

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County Commission on June 19, the Black Hills Pioneer reported.

Lietz said TC Energy was hopeful that they would get a couple of the major permits that they needed, and hoped to be doing pipeline construction this summer, but that didn't happen.

"Until we get those, it's hard to give definitive plans about when we are going to do what," he said.

Lietz said even though Keystone XL has been ongoing for 10 years, the company is still committed to the project.

"We still believe it makes sense," he said.

But until TC Energy gets some of those other regulatory permits they won't know when they will be doing the main line construction.

"When we get those, we will be able to communicate more definitively back to you saying this is when we plan on doing this or such at a given time," he said.

The work on gravel roads is something that TC Energy already had started last year and wants to finish, Lietz said.

Hal Fuglevand, general manager for the Yellowstone Division of Knife River Corporation, said his company will oversee the road work and will have a full-time superintendent on the Meade road projects as well as a project manager.

Work will begin the week of June 24 on Avance Road off Highway 34 in the far northeast corner of the county. The Keystone XL pipe yard will be located along that road.

Fuglevand said construction was scheduled to start June 26.

The hauling and grading would continue for five or six days, and then it would be covered with mag chloride, a gravel road dust control agent.

The focus would then shift to Maurine and Opal roads in the far north central portions of Meade County which are near the Keystone XL pump station. That project would last about 15 days.

"Once we start, we will work continuously until we are done. We're hoping for a July 22 completion if everything goes right," Fuglevand said. "We hope to get out of your hair just as quick as we can."

Work hours will be 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. daily. Crews will work Monday through Saturday, but will take off for the Fourth of July holiday July 4-7.

Gravel for the Avance Road will come from the Morris gravel pit just off Highway 34. The gravel for Maurine and Opal will come from the Larson pit.

Gravel trucks for the Maurine and Opal roads will take Highway 34 west to its intersection with Highway 79. They will take Highway 79 north to Newell and take Highway 212 to Opal and Maurine.

"The intent is not to travel on gravel roads as far as haul roads. We are going to stay on all paved roads except the roads we are working on," Fuglevand said.

Knife River will have a crew of 25 trucks hauling during the projects.

And if there are delays, Knife River would most likely halt the hauling during the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, said Meade County Commissioner Rod Bradley who moderated the meeting last week.

Rural residents expressed concerns about rock chips in their windshields and blown tires on their vehicles from the large aggregate that was brought in to cover the gravel roads.

"If something falls off one of our trucks and chips your windshield, we will pay for it," Fuglevand said.

Residents also wanted assurances that they would not see a repeat of the fiasco when Brandenburg Drainage, a subcontractor on the Keystone XL project, filed 23 liens totaling \$1.01 million against Meade County landowners in mid-March. The lien amounts ranged from \$3,580.57 to \$243,478.76 and have since been lifted.

"What are you as company officials going to do to prevent your contractors or subcontractors from doing that to us again?" asked Darrell Vig.

Lietz said that the company is being more proactive with contracts to assure there is not a repeat of the lien situation.

"You try to screen who you partner up with. This time we went with someone (Knife River) we know has performed well both in South Dakota and Montana. We have confidence that they will do a good job,"

he said.

Information from: Black Hills Pioneer, <http://www.bhpioneer.com>

Hot local housing market has homebuyers scrambling

By JIM HOLLAND Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Nick and Kayla Hollenbeck really liked the house they looked at last week.

The 3,100-square-foot home at 3027 Sunny Hill Circle in southwest Rapid City featured vaulted ceilings, a fireplace, three bedrooms, 3-1/2 baths, an open kitchen and family room with panoramic views of the Black Hills skyline, a three-car garage, a finished basement and a large well-groomed yard.

What better place for an established family, or a house with room for a young family to grow?

The problem for the Hollenbecks, however, is the home is significantly out of their desired price range.

The Hollenbecks and their four-month-old daughter, Cora, have been caught in what has become a white-hot housing market in Rapid City.

The family recently moved here from Mitchell and are staying with Kayla Hollenbeck's parents while looking for a home of their own.

They have made offers on less expensive properties, only to be shut out.

"We have put in offers on three houses and lost all three of them," Kayla Hollenbeck told the Rapid City Journal. "It's been disappointing."

"One, we never had a chance to counter our original offer," Nick Hollenbeck added. "They just sold to a higher offer."

So now the couple is expanding their search to a higher price range and to areas of town they might not have looked at before.

"We're looking at everything, including houses that are more than we would be comfortable paying just in the hopes that we can find something," Kayla Hollenbeck said.

The current real estate crunch is as much a shortfall in the number of homes typically on the market in late spring and early summer — a prime time for home sales — as well as strong demand created by factors that include growth in the number of jobs in the local health care industry and younger couples moving up from apartment living.

A healthy housing market for the greater Rapid City area would be 600 to 700 homes for sale, said realtor Perry Grosz of EXIT Realty Black Hills of Rapid City.

As of June 21, there were fewer than half that number of homes and townhomes available in Rapid City and its surrounding bedroom communities, which includes Box Elder to the east, Piedmont, Elk Creek and Nemo Road to the west and Hermosa to the south.

"In all of that big area, a 20-mile circle, there's only 345 homes or townhomes you can buy," Grosz said.

The market has been especially hot for homes in the \$250,000 price range, with those listings being sold in some cases in a matter of hours.

"\$230,000 is the average. Anything under that is not on the market very long at all," said realtor Jennifer Brue of Keller Williams Black Hills Realty. "For a lot of sellers, if you're in the right price range at the right time, it goes within the first week of being on the market."

Grosz said homes are being purchased sight unseen. Realtors do a walk-through with live social media videos with their clients.

"They'll be writing offers basically sight unseen. They haven't been on site," he said.

Brue said the home on Sunny Hill Circle, viewed by the Hollenbecks last week, has been on the market since mid-May, initially priced at \$398,000 and drawing strong interest at first.

A recent \$10,000 reduction in the asking price combined with potential buyers needing to widen their range should increase the showings again, she said.

With the shortage of available properties, market pressure can only expand to higher and higher price ranges, Grosz said.

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"The numbers just keep moving up," he said.

The shortage of homes on the market also comes as the economy continues to stabilize from the deep recession a decade ago, with more people staying in their homes, said Pam Heiberger, president of the Black Hills Association of Realtors.

"This isn't a concentrated thing in just our Rapid City area. It's throughout the country as far as a housing shortage goes," she said. "We're not the only ones getting hit."

The economic outlook for Rapid City continues to look bright, with ongoing growth and the expected expansion at

Ellsworth Air Force Base with the deployment of the B-21 Raider bomber, expected in the mid-2020s.

"We're good here in the Rapid City area for the next five, if not probably up to 10 years, from what's going to happen," Grosz said.

For the Hollenbecks, just finding a place to live for their growing family is the priority.

"The search continues," Kayla said. "That's what we keep saying."

Heiberger said now is the time for anyone considering selling a home, as many families look to move now to be settled before school starts in the fall.

"It's a good time to be a seller," she said. "If buyers can be patient, the right home will come along."

Federal officials: Firefighters ready despite shutdown

By MEAD GRUVER Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — Firefighters and other federal employees in the central Rocky Mountain region and Black Hills went back to work during last winter's government shutdown to make sure they would be ready for wildfire season, federal officials said Wednesday.

So far this year, conditions haven't been severe enough to put them to the test. Fire danger remains fairly low and the region has seen few wildfires.

The shutdown amid a dispute between President Donald Trump and Congress over border security funding lasted from Dec. 22 to Jan. 25. U.S. Forest Service Region 2 called back firefighters and others during the shutdown so they could take part in previously scheduled training and hire others for fire season, Regional Forester Brian Ferebee said.

"When we acknowledged the length of the shutdown, we started prioritizing some of the work," Ferebee told news media at an event with Gov. Mark Gordon that highlighted cooperation between federal, state and local firefighters and land managers in Wyoming.

Ferebee's region covers Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska and most of South Dakota and Wyoming.

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management also called back employees in Wyoming whose work involves fighting wildfires, said Wyoming BLM State Director Mary Jo Rugwell.

"It's very important to us that we are ready well before fires start to burn because there's a lot of training that has to happen in order for firefighters to be safe and do their job," Rugwell said.

Several large wildfires were burning in the region by this time last year. Just because the past several months have been wet and cool doesn't mean severe wildfires won't yet happen this year, officials said.

Whether a bad fire season is in store "really depends on the weather we see for the next two months," Wyoming State Forester Bill Crapser said.

Follow Mead Gruver at <https://twitter.com/meadgruver>

Here's how South Dakota investigates police shootings

By KATIE NELSON Sioux Falls Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — On a weekday afternoon last month in Sioux Falls, 44-year-old George Rinzy was shot by a police officer in the parking lot of the Minnehaha County Jail. The scene was chaotic.

Emergency vehicles clogged the streets, the courthouse went into lockdown and curious onlookers

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gathered, watching as Rinzy was loaded into an ambulance and rushed to the hospital. He would later recover and be charged with aggravated assault on law enforcement.

Police say Rinzy, who has a lengthy criminal record, smashed the glass front door of the jail with a liquor bottle before facing off against the officers sent to arrest him. He carried a knife in each hand.

Cell phone video from a bystander showed Rinzy wildly dodging the officers who surrounded him before charging, with a knife above his head, toward Minnehaha County Sheriff's Deputy Craig Olson. The deputy fired two shots at Rinzy, who tumbled to the ground.

The midday scene was jarring, but the occurrence of a suspect being shot by law enforcement is not unique.

A Sioux Falls Argus Leader investigation took a closer look at the 44 officer-involved shootings in South Dakota since 2001 and the state-run investigations that followed.

In every one of those instances, the South Dakota Attorney General's office determined that the officers were justified in their decision to shoot.

That figure doesn't surprise Marty Jackley, a former attorney general who presided over 30 of those 44 investigations by the state's Department of Criminal Investigation.

"I stood by every one of those cases," Jackley told the Argus Leader. "(They) were never turned over by a judge, they were never turned over by a jury, and it's a testament to South Dakota law enforcement that I never had to make that hard decision (to deem an officer unjustified)."

The fact that no officers have been found at fault also does not surprise William Terrill, a criminology professor at Arizona State University who studies police culture and use of force. He once examined about 1,000 officer-involved shooting reports in San Antonio at the request of the city and found that every single case was declared justified.

"That's pretty common, believe it or not," Terrill said. "The state is very reluctant to rule that the officer was out of policy."

That reluctance runs counter to rising tensions nationally when deadly force is deemed excessive, especially when caught on video. Highly publicized incidents such as the 2014 shooting of Michael Brown near St. Louis and the 2016 shooting of Philando Castile in the Twin Cities sparked calls for more police accountability, such as independent investigations and expanded open records.

In South Dakota, some officers have used Marsy's Law, the controversial victims' rights law passed in 2016, to prevent their names from being released following a shooting, adding to calls for more information.

Most agree the best scenario is for citizens to feel confident that investigations are fair and balanced, without police bias or public outrage altering the outcome, and with lessons learned along the way to potentially reduce such incidents in the future.

"(The objective) after thorough investigation," said Jackley, "is to be able to say unequivocally, 'This is a tragedy, it was unfortunate, but the officer didn't have a choice.'"

Corey Milk wishes he could take back what happened the night he was shot by a cop.

It was July 20, 2015, and Milk, then 38, went to Grand Falls Casino to blow off some steam after arguing with his ex-girlfriend over custody of their young son. A few hours and several drinks later, he drove to Salem, where he had moved into a trailer only a month prior. He headed to the Brewery Bar on Main Street, parked his Ford Mustang out front and bought two rounds of drinks for the six people seated at the bar.

From there, the situation took an ugly turn.

Milk, who is half-Native American, claims that three of the men at the bar made racist comments and talked about jumping him. Angry, Milk confronted them, threatening to shoot the ceiling with the 9 mm handgun he had tucked into his waistband.

The bartender told Milk to leave, and he did. He walked out the front doors of the bar and, for reasons he himself can't explain, fired several shots into the air.

That's when he heard a voice from outside in the darkness: "Drop the (expletive) gun or I'll blow your (expletive) head off."

Frightened, Milk said he ran and hid behind the Mustang he had parked in front of the bar. He heard the voice say, "Show me your hands," and deduced it was coming from a police officer, although he said the

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officer never identified himself.

Milk got into the driver's seat of the Mustang and put the gun behind the front passenger seat. The officer was now standing in front of the car with his gun pointed, and Milk could see he was wearing a deputy's uniform. The attorney general's office later identified the officer as McCook County Sheriff's Deputy Randy Schwader, who declined an interview request for this story.

Milk began to back up the car, and Schwader, who later told authorities that he was afraid Milk would try to run him over, fired three rounds from his duty weapon into the hood to disable the vehicle, but it didn't work.

Backing up further, Milk says he put his hands up. Schwader told him to throw the keys out of the car door, but Milk says the car was in gear and he had his foot on the brake, so he reached down to put it in park. Schwader, who told authorities he thought Milk was reaching for a gun, unleashed another volley of shots.

"Oh my God, this guy's shooting at me," Milk remembers thinking. "Why is he shooting?"

He claims that Schwader then moved to the passenger's side door and fired several more shots. Milk was struck seven times, some of the shots hitting his right arm, and then his left, and then his side and chest. His car propelled forward, crashing into an office building before stopping.

Milk woke up 17 days later at Sanford Medical Center, where medical records show he lost six pints of blood and had multiple fractures. He sustained lacerations to his right kidney, stomach and large intestine, three feet of which had to be removed.

In an interview at the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls, where he is currently serving a 15-year sentence for aggravated assault on law enforcement, Milk thought back on the incident, which added to his lengthy criminal record.

"I regret everything that night," he said, but the way the shooting went down bothers him. "My hands were in the air. Why did he shoot me?"

Jackley said investigators interviewed associates of Milk who indicated he had discussed committing "suicide by cop." Milk denied he was suicidal and said the only person among his family and friends who was willing to speak with police was his ex-girlfriend.

According to the attorney general's report, there were two witnesses who reported seeing Schwader shoot Milk. One of them reported seeing Milk fire a gun at Schwader, a claim that was not mentioned anywhere else in the report by Schwader or anyone else.

Any doubts about what happened that night could have been cleared up by video footage, either from Schwader's dashboard camera or from a body-worn camera. Neither is mentioned in the attorney general's report.

Even when body camera footage is used in a shooting investigation, the results are not always conclusive. But there's no doubt that adding video to the scenario can help shed light on what actually happened.

A 2013 study by the National Institute of Justice, the research arm of the U.S. Department of Justice, found that 75% of departments do not use body cameras. But several police departments in South Dakota, including Sioux Falls and Yankton, have invested money into purchasing the cameras for at least some of their staff.

Body-worn cameras are not a perfect product, but they are a way to hold officers accountable for their behavior, Sioux Falls Police Chief Matt Burns said.

"There's accountability for the officer and making sure that they're being professional, that they're being courteous, that they're following policy," Burns said.

In 2016, video featured heavily in an officer-involved shooting in Hot Springs, where Officer Kyle Maciejewski's body camera captured suspect Dylan Huff approaching Maciejewski and fellow Officer Justin Evans, knife in hand, according to the report. The video purportedly shows Maciejewski and Evans telling Huff 15 times to drop the knife before Maciejewski shoots him.

That footage was not released to the public, where it could have provided a raw and unbiased account of what happened, rather than relying on a report from state investigators.

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"Not everyone's going to agree with the attorney general's interpretation," said Terrill, who has written two books and numerous articles on officer-involved shootings.

South Dakota is one of the few states that has neither passed nor proposed legislation regarding public access to body-worn camera footage.

In Minnesota, the law states that footage depicting "use of force by a peace officer that results in substantial bodily harm" is public record. South Dakota has no such law, meaning the choice to release the footage falls to the department involved in the shooting.

"It's not the attorney general's evidence, it's not the attorney general's property, it's in (the department's) custody and control, so it's really their decision," Jackley said.

Critics call that an impediment to transparency, since most cases where an officer is found to be at fault only come to light after damning video enters the public eye.

A recent example is the 2015 shooting death of Walter Scott in South Carolina. A jury sentenced a North Charleston police officer, Michael Slager, to 20 years in prison after Slager pleaded guilty to shooting Scott in the back as he ran away. A witness' cell phone video footage became a crucial piece of evidence in the case, proving Slager lied to his superiors when he told them Scott had grabbed for his taser.

Of course, body-worn cameras are only helpful when used correctly. In one South Dakota incident, an officer who shot a woman left his body camera in the car before going into the home where the incident occurred. In another, the officer wore the camera, but its memory was full, and the shooting was not recorded.

Even when the cameras are used correctly, they are not infallible. Burns said he has seen footage of an officer pointing a gun at a suspect, but their arms, hands and gun are blocking the camera.

"If you were trying to discern whether that person was threatening that officer with a weapon or not, well, you couldn't see it," he said. "(A body camera is) not this magic thing that makes everything immediately clear and immediately obvious about the specifics of a situation. It does have its limitations, too."

Retired Roberts County Sheriff's Deputy Tom McClelland knows what it's like to make the decision to pull the trigger: He shot and killed a man while on duty in 2005 and has struggled with the implications of that action ever since.

"I never thought it would come to that," says McClelland, 53, who now lives in Sioux Falls. "Nearly every day, I think about it."

On Oct. 15, 2005, McClelland was not even supposed to be at work. He was filling in for a fellow deputy who wanted to take the day off to go hunting. On his way to work, McClelland stopped to visit his parents and show off his new K-9 puppy. That's when he got a phone call from dispatch about a mentally challenged man who was threatening hunters near Wilmot.

As he drove to the call, McClelland tried to get more information from the dispatcher about the situation. Although Roberts County is a small place, McClelland had never heard of 46-year-old Eric Christianson.

He was told a group of hunters had called authorities along with Christianson's mother, saying Christianson was agitated about the hunters being near land owned by him and his mother. He had struck the hunters' vehicles with a stick and punctured their tires with a pitchfork.

Christianson wasn't there when McClelland pulled up on the gravel road near 466th Avenue, but McClelland soon saw him coming up the road, a baseball bat in his hand.

"He was walking toward us . almost at a power walk," recalled McClelland, who was standing with the hunters and Christianson's mom. "I thought, 'Oh boy, here we go.'"

Suddenly, McClelland heard a gunshot coming from where Christianson was standing. He and the others quickly ducked behind his car and McClelland began loading his shotgun, loudly, so Christianson could hear it. Slowly, he stepped out from behind the car and told Christianson several times to put the revolver he was holding down. Christianson didn't.

"I just kept telling myself, 'Don't shoot this guy,'" McClelland said.

Christianson began running toward McClelland. He raised his hand and pointed the revolver at McClelland, who fired one shot, striking Christianson in the jaw.

"He fell dead with the gun in his hand . and his finger on the trigger," McClelland said. "The thing that

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always haunted me was that his mom was standing right there.”

Larry Long, the state’s attorney general at the time, reviewed the case and found McClelland acted rightfully in his decision to shoot Christianson.

“Christianson’s family reports that Eric has had mental health problems and was resistant to (get) help for his disorder,” Long wrote in his conclusion. “Deputy McClelland had no choice but to fire his weapon in order to protect himself and the citizens with him.”

Although McClelland believes he did what he had to do that day, the incident stayed with him. For the rest of his career, he made even stronger efforts to try to talk someone down without using his gun, out of fear he would have to shoot someone else.

“It definitely affected my decision-making,” he said. “I had a fear that it would happen again.”

In some ways, South Dakota is ahead of national trends when it comes to the investigation of officer-involved shootings.

Last month, Democratic presidential candidate and former California attorney general Kamala Harris called for “independent investigations” into such cases. During her time as attorney general, Harris declined to support legislation that would have required her office to investigate the shootings, instead leaving it up to local district attorneys.

In South Dakota, removing a shooting probe from local agencies is the norm. Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) agents submit their evidence to the attorney general, who issues a ruling on whether the shooting was justified within 30 days of the incident.

It has been that way since at least 1991, said Long, the former attorney general who retired as a circuit court judge last year.

“It seems to have worked up to this point,” he told the Argus Leader. “They (police departments) needed some entity other than themselves to investigate a shooting.”

Jackley said there is no state statute that lays out how the investigations should be carried out.

“There isn’t a national model,” he said. “We had our own protocol that we developed here in South Dakota, we found that it worked, and I was proud enough of it that I laid it out nationally for other attorneys general to use.”

Still, there are questions that revolve around a system in which a law enforcement entity is in charge of probing the actions of police officers. Questioning the justification of a shooting could have consequences they are not prepared to deal with.

“There’s a kinship there,” said Terrill. “We all look at it through a different lens.”

One of the prevailing questions in the aftermath of Sioux Falls’ most recent officer-involved shooting is simple: How can the system improve?

Minnesota passed a law in 2016 that makes body camera footage public record if it involves a law enforcement officer causing someone substantial bodily harm through use of force.

South Dakota state senator Reynold Nesiba said he admired Minnesota’s straightforward approach to body cameras and the release of video.

“What I like about their statute is they have clear rules about authorizing the use of cameras,” said Nesiba, a Democrat from Sioux Falls. “That seems like a reasonable way.”

Meanwhile, in terms of transparency, South Dakota has actually regressed in some respects with the 2016 passage of Marsy’s Law.

The law was intended to protect the rights of victims of crime, including the right to “prevent the disclosure of information or records that could be used to locate or harass the victim or the victim’s family.”

But it was invoked in the case of a South Dakota Highway Patrol officer who shot a man on Interstate 29 in 2018, keeping her name from public disclosure. That decision, supported by the attorney general, sparked controversy over the limits of Marsy’s Law and whether it extends to police officers acting in an official capacity.

“The lack of transparency is concerning,” said Libby Skarin, policy director for the ACLU of South Dakota. “The public should have the right to information about the identity of a law enforcement officer engaging

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in perhaps the most high-stakes action possible: the use of deadly or potentially deadly force.”

As seen with last month’s incident at Minnehaha County Jail, emotions and reactions vary widely in the aftermath of a police shooting. That makes it even more important to provide as much information as possible to boost public confidence in investigations and create clear laws that ensure accountability for law enforcement.

“It would be far better to have a rule in place about how to authorize cameras and under what conditions that data is released,” said Nesiba, “than to have a case that requires people to protest in the street to push a local department to release something that it doesn’t want to release because the rules aren’t clear.”

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

Sanford donates \$3.5 million for theater renovation

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota billionaire Denny Sanford has donated \$3.5 million to restore a historic theater in downtown Sioux Falls.

And, Mayor Paul TenHaken says he’s committed to setting aside \$1.5 in city dollars to help remodel the State Theatre. Sanford and TenHaken announced the donation and restoration Wednesday.

The Argus Leader says the theater closed in 1990, and several attempts to reopen and renovate it since then have fallen short. The Sioux Falls State Theatre Company has been pushing for a complete renovation for the last decade, spending millions on asbestos removal and HVAC replacement.

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

Defendant in fish farm fraud back in jail, bond revoked

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A former executive accused of defrauding investors in a scheme to build an \$11 million fish farm in South Dakota is back in jail.

Tobias Ritesman had been free on bond after pleading guilty to 18 felonies in connection with the Global Aquaponics project near Brookings.

As part of his bond, Ritesman was ordered no to have contact with the victims of his scheme. Investors who put a minimum of \$25,000 each in the project lost hundreds of thousands of dollars because the fish farm never materialized. Investors were told that Global Aquaponics already had \$5.6 million in cash on hand for the project. Authorities say Ritesman and co-defendant Timothy Burns spent the money as quickly as it came in, the Argus Leader reported.

According to court records, Ritesman, who had nicknamed himself “The Tiger,” had repeated contacts with a victim identified as “J.B.” and asked to borrow \$3,000. J.B. refused to loan the money, but a short time after that meeting, Ritesman called J.B. to say that his heat had been turned off, so J.B. loaned Ritesman \$175, which Ritesman did not pay back by a Feb. 20 deadline, the documents said.

Federal Judge Karen Schreier on Monday ordered Tobias Ritesman jailed until his sentencing next month. A federal jury in April found Burns guilty of five counts of wire fraud. He’s awaiting sentencing.

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

Request to lower bond in Rapid City homicide denied

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A judge has denied a defense request to lower bond for one of two men accused of kill a teen in Rapid City.

Cole Waters and Andre Martinez, both 19, are accused of aiding and abetting the first-degree murder of Emmanuel Hinton. The 17-year-old was fatally shot while sitting in a car in an alley last February. Both men have pleaded not guilty to the charge.

KOTA-TV reports Waters’ lawyer on Tuesday asked the court to lower the cash bond from \$1 million to

\$50,000. However, Judge Gusinsky denied the request. A conviction could send the two to prison for life.

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

Trump in Japan for talks on trade, Iran, North Korea

By **ZEKE MILLER** and **JONATHAN LEMIRE** Associated Press

OSAKA, Japan (AP) — President Donald Trump on Thursday began what is likely his most consequential overseas trip of the year, one that will present the “America First” president with a flurry of international crises, tense negotiations and a growing global to-do list.

Trump landed in Osaka, Japan, for the annual Group of 20 summit amid a tropical cyclone that is predicted to turn into a typhoon — a possible metaphor for the four days of high-stakes diplomacy that lie ahead. As his re-election bid heats up, Trump was eager to produce breakthroughs on a series of foreign policy challenges including the showdown between the U.S. and Iran, a trade war with China, the threat of fresh election interference by Russia and stalled nuclear talks with North Korea.

As he faces mounting pressures to deliver results, the president will meet one-on-one with at least eight world leaders on the summit’s sidelines beginning with dinner with Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison. The agenda for his four days in Asia is as laden with hazards for the president as it is light on the ceremonial pomp that marked his recent state visits to Japan and the United Kingdom.

But White House officials are playing down prospects of specific accomplishments in what is the president’s third international trip in a month, even as Trump himself said of his “competitors” from other nations: “That’s OK. We’re doing great. We’re doing better than any of them.”

The week was set up to deliver a remarkable split-screen dynamic in American politics: While Trump is in Asia, the Democrats vying to replace him next year are holding their first primary debates. As Air Force One soared toward Japan, Trump delivered a succinct review on Twitter of part 1 of a two-night debate: “BORING!”

Later, the president, ever the media critic, repeatedly mocked NBC for an audio malfunction that briefly interrupted the proceedings.

His itinerary in Osaka includes sit-downs with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Turkey’s Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, all of whom have authoritarian tendencies, as well as disquieted allies including Germany’s Angela Merkel and more contented ones such as Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

The summit will be a test of both Trump’s go-it-alone style as well as his “America First” doctrine that has frustrated traditional allies over disputes on defense spending and trade and set the United States apart from global consensus on how to deal with international concerns like climate change and Iran’s nuclear program.

The president, who has shown little patience for the subtleties of global interactions and whose administration has struggled to grapple with simultaneous challenges, left Washington days after pulling back from the brink of armed conflict with Iran and as he trades threats over its nuclear program and support for terror groups. With Iran threatening to breach uranium enrichment limits set in the 2015 nuclear accord as soon as Thursday, Trump will be asked to articulate his strategy for containing Iran to skeptical world leaders after pulling the U.S. from the deal last year.

Trump will also find himself face-to-face with Putin for the first time since special counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation ended without finding evidence that the Trump campaign criminally conspired with Russia during the 2016 election. It will also be their first meeting since their summit in Helsinki in July 2018, when Trump declined to side with U.S. intelligence agencies over Putin on the question of election interference, leading to an uproar at home and abroad.

Trump told reporters as he left the White House that he expects a “very good conversation” with Putin but added that “what I say to him is none of your business.” His aides have grown worried that Trump may use the meeting to once again attack the Mueller probe, particularly since the special counsel now

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has a date to testify before Congress next month.

Last November, Trump canceled a planned meeting with Putin at the G-20 in Argentina after Russia seized two Ukrainian vessels and their crew in the Sea of Azov, but the continued detention of the crew members does not appear to be deterring the leaders from meeting this time. Aside from Iran, the leaders are expected to discuss hotspots in Syria and Venezuela, as well as nuclear weapons.

White House officials said there are no plans for a meeting in South Korea between Trump and North Korea's Kim Jong Un, with whom the president has restarted diplomacy-by-correspondence since their failed Hanoi summit in March. But there was speculation that the president would make another attempt to travel to the Demilitarized Zone between the Koreas after fog prevented him from taking a helicopter there in November 2017.

Trump is to speak with South Korean President Moon Jae-in about efforts to bring North Korea back to the negotiating table as the American holds out hope for an elusive legacy-making nuclear deal. Moon told The Associated Press and other news agencies Wednesday that the U.S. and North Korea are holding "behind-the-scenes talks" to arrange a third summit between the two leaders.

With Xi, a senior administration official said, Trump's top aim will be rebooting trade negotiations between the two countries after they collapsed earlier this year. In an interview with Fox Business Network on Wednesday, Trump threatened again to impose even stiffer tariffs on Chinese imports to the U.S. if talks remain stalemated. But officials in both nations are looking for an off-ramp as concerns mount about the economic impact of the yearlong trade war.

Trump will also meet with the Saudi crown prince, who U.S. intelligence services concluded ordered the grisly killing of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi, a U.S. resident. Despite the killing, Trump has continued to pursue a close relationship with Saudi Arabia, a lynchpin to the U.S. Middle East strategy to counter Iran over its support of militant groups, its nuclear program and role in furthering humanitarian disaster in Yemen's civil war.

On the eve of the trip, Trump showed a willingness to deliver broadsides at American allies, questioning the fairness of a mutual defense treaty with Japan, a bedrock of the two nations' alliance, while also tweeting a complaint about the tariffs India has placed on U.S. goods.

Never fully willing to pass up domestic politics, even when overseas, Trump will have to divide his attention between affairs of state and the debates. He will be in meetings with world leaders when Democratic front-runner Joe Biden and others take the debate stage on Thursday night. Trump aides believe the scheduling fluke will highlight the signature advantage of incumbency — that the president already occupies the job the Democrats want.

Follow Miller on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@zekejmilller> and Lemire at <http://twitter.com/@JonLemire>

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

Your daily look at late breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. DEMOCRATS RAISE CLASS WARFARE IN 1ST DEBATE

Ten Democrats rail against a national economy and a Republican administration they say exists only for the rich as the first wave of presidential candidates appeared onstage in Miami.

2. WHAT IS FOCUS OF G-20 SUMMIT

Trade and geopolitical tensions, and the looming threat of climate change, are on the agenda as leaders of the world's 20 major economies gather in Osaka, Japan.

3. TRUMP IN ASIA FOR TALKS ON TRADE, IRAN, NORTH KOREA

The showdown between Washington and Tehran, a trade war with China and election meddling by Russia are just some of the issues confronting the U.S. president.

4. IMMIGRANT ADVOCATES PORTRAY DIRE CONDITIONS FOR CHILD MIGRANTS

A federal judge is being asked to require inspections and let physicians into U.S. border detention faci-

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ties to care for neglected children living in squalid conditions.

5. SUPREME COURT TAKING UP POLITICALLY CHARGED TOPICS

The high court could decide whether to allow a citizenship question on the 2020 census and place limits on drawing electoral districts for partisan gain.

6. WHERE NAVAJO NATION CAN GET ONCOLOGY CARE

A hospital on the reservation begins offering cancer treatment to patients who previously had to travel long distances for care.

7. MORE WHITE SUPREMACIST PROPAGANDA SHOWING UP ON US CAMPUSES

A new report documents an increase in white supremacist fliers, stickers, posters and other material in the recently completed academic year.

8. LATEST SEX ACCUSATION AGAINST TRUMP LANDS WITH A THUD

Some see the muted response to author E. Jean Carroll's decades-old accusation as another symptom of the divisive politics of this unconventional administration.

9. ITALY'S 'CANNABIS LIGHT' CREATES BUZZ EVEN IF THE POT WON'T

Italian shop owners selling the mild marijuana are waiting for a court to issue an opinion on the legality of weak retail weed.

10. AP PICKS BASEBALL ALL-STAR TEAM

Cody Bellinger, Christian Yelich and Gary Sánchez are obvious selections and AP's baseball writer chooses who he thinks is most deserving to play in the Midsummer Classic in Cleveland next month.

Takeaways from the Democratic presidential debate

By **JUANA SUMMERS** and **NICHOLAS RICCARDI** Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Democrats hoping that Wednesday night's first presidential debate of the 2020 campaign would be clarifying probably came away disappointed. There were no major stumbles but few standout moments as 10 candidates vied for the nation's attention.

Takeaways from the prime-time event:

WARREN, CASTRO LEAD THE WAY

Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren dominated the debate's opening moments, calling for systemic change to the nation's economy and the end to the private insurance system.

Warren was the highest-polling candidate on stage and NBC moderators repeatedly tried to draw her rivals into challenging her liberal policies. But they largely passed on those opportunities, even when Warren was virtually alone in her stance on overhauling the health care industry.

Former Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julian Castro, who has struggled for months to break through in the crowded field, asserted himself as a leader on immigration, an issue sure to be at the forefront of the general election campaign against President Donald Trump. He challenged his rivals to join him in rewriting immigration laws so the mere illegal entry into the United States would no longer be a federal crime.

The question is whether Warren and Castro's performances still stand out after night two of the Democratic debate on Thursday, when former Vice President Joe Biden and nine other candidates take the stage.

WHOSE ECONOMY IS IT ANYWAY?

The debate kicked off with moderator Savannah Guthrie asking Warren if her many ambitious plans — free college, universal child care and health care — would hurt a booming economy.

"Who is this economy really working for?" Warren replied. "It's doing great for a thinner and thinner slice at the top."

It was soft toss of a question to Warren, and her response was echoed by other Democrats.

"Donald Trump just sits in the White House and gloats about what's going on, when you have so many people that are having trouble affording college and having trouble affording their premiums," said Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, a moderate who declined to swipe at Warren's ambitious plans.

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Former Rep. Beto O'Rourke of Texas slammed Trump's tax cut as part of "an economy that is rigged to corporations and to the very wealthiest."

And Rep. Tim Ryan, who represents several declining industrial areas in Ohio, said, "This issue we're talking about has been going on for 40 years."

Only former Rep. John Delaney of Maryland clearly disagreed and said many of Warren's promises were not realistic.

HOW FAR ON IMMIGRATION?

No issue in the first Democratic debate showcased the contrast with Trump more than immigration. But the issue also exposed significant rifts among his challengers — namely the two Texans on the stage.

Castro took sharp aim at O'Rourke, who has campaigned heavily on border issues, for not proposing decriminalizing illegal migration in his immigration blueprint. Such a step would make a significant change to U.S. immigration law.

"If you truly want to change the system, we have to change that section" of federal law, Castro said.

O'Rourke said he wanted to keep the provision so authorities could pursue drug and human traffickers. But Castro cut him off, noting there are separate laws that could be used against those crimes, and the entire stage broke down into crosstalk and shouting.

Several other contenders — including Warren, New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker and Washington Gov. Jay Inslee — have already signed on to Castro's approach.

APPEALS TO DIVERSE BASE

The diversity of the modern Democratic Party was on display Wednesday night — three women, one black man and a man of Mexican heritage vying for the presidential nomination. And the candidates made sure they were speaking to the party's base, which is becoming younger and less white.

O'Rourke showed off his fluent Spanish in his opening statement. Booker countered with his Spanish during a discussion of immigration, and also noted that he's probably the only candidate who lives in a poor, predominantly minority community. (Booker lives in Newark.) Castro spoke in Spanish during his closing statement and talked about saying "adios" to Trump.

New York Mayor Bill de Blasio noted he has an African American son as he urged the party to "stop acting like the party of elites."

A NEW DEMOCRATIC BOOGEYMAN?

Perhaps the hardest question for Democrats to answer was how the candidates would deal with a Republican. Not Trump, but Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

Republicans have a good chance of still controlling the Senate even if Democrats win the White House in 2020, and it's unlikely McConnell would allow any of the candidates' ambitious proposals on government-run health care or green energy to become law.

Warren promised she had a plan to deal with McConnell, though it seemed to center on rallying public opinion against him.

"We have to push from the outside and lead from the inside," she said.

Booker proposed that the party's presidential nominee campaign in longshot states like South Carolina in hopes of snaring enough seats to take over the Senate.

Inslee suggested eliminating the filibuster — which the president cannot do and which would strengthen McConnell's hand if the GOP remained in the majority.

Health care, immigration top issues at Democrats' 1st debate

By JUANA SUMMERS and STEVE PEOPLES Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Ten Democrats railed against a national economy and a Republican administration they argued exist only for the rich as presidential candidates debated onstage for the first time in the young

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2020 season, embracing inequality as a defining theme in their fight to deny President Donald Trump a second term in office.

Health care and immigration, more than any other issues, led the debate. And Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, more than anyone else, stood out — on her own at times — in calling for “fundamental change” across the nation’s economy and government to address a widening gap between the rich and the middle class.

“I think of it this way. Who is this economy really working for? It’s doing great for a thinner and thinner slice at the top,” Warren declared shortly before raising her hand as one of the only Democrats on stage willing to abolish her own private health insurance in favor of a government-run plan. “Health care is a basic human right, and I will fight for basic human rights.”

The debate marked a major step forward in the 2020 presidential campaign as Democrats fight to break out from a crowded field that has been consumed by one question above all: Who’s best positioned to defeat Trump? The candidates will spend the next eight months before primary voting scrapping over that question and the broader fight for the direction of their political party.

Another 10 candidates, including early front-runner Joe Biden, take their turn debating Thursday night.

While Trump is the ultimate target of many Democratic voters, the president wasn’t a major feature for most of Wednesday night. Washington Gov. Jay Inslee was one of the few to go hard after Trump, declaring, “The biggest threat to the security of the United States is Donald Trump.”

Instead of Trump, Democrats leaned into the issue that helped deliver the party the House majority last year: Health care. All supported the concept of providing universal health care, but they differed on how they would reach that goal.

Warren and New York Mayor Bill de Blasio backed abolishing private health insurance. Former Texas Rep. Beto O’Rourke and Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota favored preserving the private insurance market.

O’Rourke said people who like their health care plans should be able to keep them: “We preserve choice,” he said.

The exchange is almost certain to be revived on Thursday when Bernie Sanders is among the candidates who will be on stage. The Vermont senator has proposed a “Medicare for All” system without private insurance while Biden, who will also be debating, hasn’t gone that far.

Immigration was also on the candidates’ minds as they pointed to the searing photos of a drowned Salvadoran father and his toddler daughter at the Rio Grande and blamed Trump and his policies concerning migrants crossing into America illegally.

“Watching that image of Oscar and his daughter Valeria was heartbreaking,” said former Obama administration housing chief Julián Castro. “It should also piss us all off.”

He also assailed O’Rourke for not calling for fully decriminalizing crossing the U.S.-Mexico border illegally.

“I just think it’s a mistake, Beto,” he said, adding that O’Rourke would agree with him “if you did your homework on this issue.”

O’Rourke says he doesn’t support fully decriminalizing such border crossings because of fears about smugglers of drugs and people.

Other than those skirmishes, Democrats waged a largely civil debate with few instances of the type of bitter confrontation that has dominated politics in the Trump era. The candidates — at least for one night — were content to focus on their views of what America is and should be. No one openly stumbled.

Absent the ugly attacks or missteps of debates in past elections, the two-hour discussion allowed the party to show off its extraordinary diversity. Wednesday’s lineup featured three women — Hawaii Rep. Tulsi Gabbard in addition to Warren and Klobuchar — one black man and another man of Mexican heritage. Three candidates and a moderator spoke Spanish at times, while New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker, who’s black, talked about the violence that left seven people in his own urban neighborhood shot last week.

Inslee boasted that he alone among the 10 had signed a bill on reproductive rights for women.

Klobuchar spoke up for the women on stage: “I just want to say there’s three women up here who have fought pretty hard for a woman’s right to choose.”

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Warren spent the evening at center stage, a top-tier candidate whose campaign has gained ground in recent weeks as she has released a near-constant stream of policy proposals. She was flanked by several candidates, including O'Rourke and Booker, who needed a breakout moment. That proved elusive on a crowded stage with moderators pressing candidates to stick to strict time limits.

The sober policy discussion underscored a much louder internal fight over how aggressive Democrats should be on the nation's most pressing issues.

On one side: candidates like Warren who are demanding dramatic change that includes embracing liberal policy priorities like free universal health care, debt-free college, a forgiving immigration policy and higher taxes on the rich. On the other: pragmatic-minded Democrats like Biden — and little-known former Maryland Rep. Delaney — who are calling for modest policy solutions that could ultimately attract bipartisan support.

"We should be the party that keeps what's working and fixes what's broken," said Delaney, one of the few Democrats on stage who represented his party's moderate wing. "Why do we have to stand for taking away something from people?"

Trump, the elephant not in the room, was in the air traveling to Japan for a round of trade talks as Democrats faced the nation for the first time in the 2020 campaign. From Air Force One, he tweeted his take on the night: "BORING!"

Peoples reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Laurie Kellman and Elana Schor in Washington, Sara Burnett in Chicago, David Bauder in New York and Alexandra Jaffe in Miami contributed.

Census, redistricting decisions due on high court's last day

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two issues that could determine the distribution of political power for the next decade await resolution on the Supreme Court's final day of decisions before a long summer break.

Chief Justice John Roberts could well be the author of decisions on both politically charged topics Thursday, whether to allow a citizenship question on the 2020 census and place limits on drawing electoral districts for partisan gain. The census results and the rules by which political districts will be redrawn following the next population count help determine how districts are drawn and where.

Roberts has repeatedly said he doesn't want the public to view the court as just another political entity, even now that it has five conservatives appointed by Republican presidents and four liberals appointed by Democrats. Yet decisions in these cases could amplify criticism of the court.

The justices are set to take the bench at 10 a.m. EDT, with five cases in all still unresolved. Congressional redistricting is at issue in two cases, from Maryland and North Carolina. The others include control of a large portion of eastern Oklahoma that once belonged to Indian tribes and the rights of unconscious, suspected drunken drivers.

Roberts is the only justice who has yet to write an opinion in cases argued in March and April, when the court heard the redistricting and census cases, respectively. Justices customarily write at least one opinion every month that cases are argued. In addition, the chief justice often, but not always, takes on the burden of deciding the most difficult issues facing the court.

That he also is the justice closest to the center of the court only magnifies Roberts' role in the outcome of cases with the potential to alter political power across the United States.

The census case involves an attempt by the Trump administration to ask everyone about their citizenship status in the 2020 census. The last time the question was broadly asked was in 1950.

The administration argues it needs the data to improve enforcement of the Voting Rights Act, but the census' own experts have said that including the question would make the count less accurate. The Justice Department had never previously sought a citizenship question in the 54-year history of the landmark voting rights law.

Democratic-led states and cities, and civil rights groups challenging the citizenship case, have argued that the question would discourage immigrants from participating in the census, taking power away from

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cities and other places with large immigrant populations and reward less populated rural areas.

When the case was argued in April, it appeared that the conservative justices were poised to allow the question to be asked.

But the issue has become even more controversial in recent weeks with the public release of evidence found on the computer files of a now-dead Republican redistricting consultant. The question's opponents say the evidence shows the citizenship question is part of a broader plan to increase Republican power.

The administration has said the new allegations lack merit, but federal judges in New York and Maryland have said the matter deserves more investigation

The high court is reviewing two court decisions in which federal judges found that Republicans in North Carolina and Democrats in Maryland went too far in drawing congressional districts to benefit their party at the expense of the other party's voters.

The Supreme Court has never invalidated districts on partisan grounds, but the court has kept the door open to these claims. The court has struck down districts predominantly based on race.

North Carolina Republicans want the justices to rule out federal lawsuits making claims of partisan gerrymandering. The justices also could impose limits on the practice for the first time. It was not clear at arguments in March that any conservative justice was prepared to join the liberals to limit partisan line-drawing, which can result when one party controls the state legislature and the governor's office.

Border aid bill faces standoff in Congress over protections

By ANDREW TAYLOR and ALAN FRAM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress is at a standoff over a \$4.6 billion aid package for the southern border as House Democrats say a Senate-passed measure doesn't go far enough to care for thousands of migrant families and children.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi is considering a fresh vote Thursday. Democrats want to add more protections for the children — including medical and hygiene standards at facilities, and a requirement that any death of a minor be reported within 24 hours. Democratic leaders will convene early Thursday and Pelosi's spokesman says they plan to push the amended measure through the House quickly.

"The humanitarian emergency at our southern border challenges the conscience of America, and we must act," Pelosi said in a statement after meeting with key lawmakers late Wednesday. "For the children, we must do the best we can."

It's a risky stalemate over a border crisis that has captured global attention amid unsettling reports of gruesome conditions at federal facilities and the deaths of migrants and children. The funding is urgently needed to prevent the humanitarian emergency on the U.S.-Mexico border from worsening. Money runs out in a matter of days.

The GOP-led Senate on Wednesday passed a bipartisan \$4.6 billion measure on a sweeping 84-8 vote. Approval came less than 24 hours after the Democratic-controlled House approved a similar measure backed by liberals. The House bill, which contained tougher requirements for how detained children must be treated, faced a White House veto threat and was easily rejected by the Senate.

Pelosi called President Donald Trump before he departed for the G-20 Summit in Osaka, Japan, with an appeal to make changes. Trump seemed open, but it's unclear if the Senate will accept any amendments without assurances from the White House that Trump will sign the measure into law. Both chambers are racing the clock to come to an agreement before leaving town for a weeklong recess.

Trump said passing the legislation was urgent. "We are moving along very well with a bipartisan bill in the Senate," he said. "It's very far along and I believe the House is also going to also be getting together with the Senate to get something done. It's humanitarian aid. It's very important."

Republicans and the White House far prefer the Senate measure, but Pelosi is pressing for quick resolution — promising that Democrats won't knuckle under. Asked ahead of voting if the House would pass the Senate bill and send it to Trump, Pelosi said, "No."

Failure to act before the recess could bring a swift political rebuke and accusations of ignoring the plight

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of innocent immigrant children who are living in overcrowded, often inadequate federal facilities.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., blasted the House bill on Wednesday.

"It's a go-nowhere proposal filled with poison-pill riders which the president has indicated he would veto," McConnell said. The Senate rejected the House bill by a 55-37 vote.

Asked if he's open to adding some language sought by the House, McConnell said, "We're working on finishing up this week and getting it to the president."

Pelosi faces resistance to passing the Senate bill and may be short of votes. She quelled a mini-revolt by progressives and Hispanic lawmakers who won relatively modest changes to the House legislation.

Both House and Senate measures contain more than \$1 billion to shelter and feed migrants detained by the border patrol and almost \$3 billion to care for unaccompanied migrant children who are turned over the Department of Health and Human Services. The Senate measure is not as strict in setting conditions on the delivery of funding to care for unaccompanied children and contains funding opposed by House Democrats for the Pentagon and to ease a payroll pinch at Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Both House and Senate bills ensure funding could not be shifted to Trump's border wall and would block information on sponsors of immigrant children from being used to deport them. Trump would be denied additional funding for Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention beds.

The White House has threatened to veto the House bill, saying it would hamstring the administration's border security efforts, and is only reluctantly backing the Senate measure — it received only a single "nay" vote during a committee vote last week.

Lawmakers' sense of urgency to provide humanitarian aid was amplified by recent reports of conditions in a windowless Border Patrol station in Clint, Texas, where more than 300 infants and children were being housed. Many were kept there for weeks and were caring for each other in conditions that included inadequate food, water and sanitation.

The Border Patrol reported apprehending nearly 133,000 people last month — including many Central American families — as monthly totals have begun topping 100,000 for the first time since 2007. Federal agencies involved in immigration have reported being overwhelmed, depleting their budgets and housing large numbers of detainees in structures meant for handfuls of people.

AP Congressional Correspondent Lisa Mascaro contributed to this report.

Seoul sees US, NKorea diplomacy as contrast to Iran tensions

By ADAM SCHRECK and HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The U.S. and North Korea feel the need to resume diplomacy and are trying to narrow their differences for new summit talks, a top South Korean official said Wednesday as he contrasted their efforts with the tensions surrounding Iran's collapsing nuclear accord.

Unification Minister Kim Yeon-chul told reporters in Seoul that the two adversaries need to continue building up trust following the failed talks between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in February.

"The lesson that the U.S. and North Korea can have from the Hanoi summit is they must not repeat a failure," Kim told The Associated Press and six other news agencies during a roundtable interview on Wednesday.

After fears of war over the North's provocative run of weapons tests in 2017, Washington and Pyongyang held a series of talks including two summits between Trump and Kim. The Hanoi summit broke down due to squabbling over U.S.-led sanctions on North Korea, but the two leaders recently exchanged personal letters in an apparent effort to keep diplomacy alive.

Since the North's entrance to talks with the United States early last year, Kim Jong Un has sent Trump eight letters while Trump wrote him four letters, Kim Yeon-chul said. "The confidence between the leaders of North Korea and the U.S. is being maintained to some extent," he said.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in said this week that North Korean and U.S. officials are holding

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“behind-the-scenes talks” to arrange a third summit, though he and Kim Yeon-chul offered no details.

Kim Yeon-chul echoed Moon’s position that the resumption of inter-Korean economic projects, currently held by the sanctions imposed over North Korea’s nuclear and missile tests, could help induce further de-nuclearization steps from the North. The projects include the Koreas’ jointly run factory park at the North Korean border town of Kaesong and South Korean tourist to the North’s scenic Diamond Mountain resort, which were a rare source of foreign currency for Pyongyang.

“The projects, of course, could be resumed as an outcome of lifted sanctions,” he said. “Another way to consider is allowing the projects under exemptions when the process enters the early stage of sanctions relief, as part of a negotiation package to facilitate (disarmament).”

North Korea continued to express its dissatisfaction with South Korea after the Hanoi talks, saying Thursday it will never go through South Korea again in its dealing with the United States. The North’s Foreign Ministry also repeated its demand that Washington work out new proposals to revive diplomacy by the end of December.

Kim Yeon-chul’s Unification Ministry responded that the South’s push for peace on the Korean Peninsula through dialogue remains unchanged.

Trump is keeping observers guessing, too, telling reporters as he departed for the Group of 20 summit in Japan that while he wouldn’t be meeting Kim Jong Un at that event, he “may be speaking with him in a different forum.” Trump is scheduled to visit South Korea after his stop in Japan.

Hanging over the prospect of future talks with North Korea are the rising tensions between the U.S. and Iran. Those stem from a decision by the Trump administration last year to withdraw from a landmark 2015 agreement designed to limit Iran’s own nuclear ambitions.

The U.S. has slapped new sanctions on Tehran, including fresh ones directly targeting the country’s revered supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and his associates. Those came after tensions increased significantly when Iran shot down a U.S. surveillance drone over the Strait of Hormuz.

Last month, Iran announced that it was suspending its commitments under the 2015 deal. It imposed a July 7 ultimatum for European countries that are still part of the accord to offer a better deal and long-promised sanctions relief, or Iran will begin enriching uranium closer to weapons-grade levels.

Kim Yeon-chul said that while both the Iran and North Korea nuclear issues share some things in common, they should not be viewed in the same way because of what he called joint efforts by Washington and Pyongyang to salvage the stalemated nuclear talks.

“Both North Korea and the United States feel some sort of need for negotiations and they are trying to make efforts together to bridge their differences on sticking points. So I wonder we should look at (the two issues) bit differently,” he said in response to questions about Iran.

While Trump had been opposed to the Iran accord negotiated under his predecessor Barack Obama, the North Korean nuclear issue “is something that President Trump is trying to make some success” of based on previous experiences, Kim Yeon-chul added.

Moon, a liberal who met Kim three times last year, lobbied hard between Washington and Pyongyang to facilitate diplomacy and find a negotiated resolution to the North Korean nuclear issue.

The unification minister is South Korea’s point man for inter-Korean relations.

Before becoming Moon’s Unification Minister in April, Kim Yeon-chul was a well-known liberal scholar who expressed passionate support for engagement and economic cooperation with North Korea and skepticism about the usefulness of sanctions. He previously served as the president of the state-sponsored Korea Institute for National Unification and a professor at Inje University in South Korea’s Gangwon Province.

Kim Yeon-chul said a nuclear breakthrough could depend on whether North Korea finds meaningful concessions to pair with a verified dismantlement of its primary but aging nuclear complex in Yongbyon. That facility produces plutonium and highly enriched uranium — two main nuclear materials.

North Korea put Yongbyon’s dismantling on the table in Hanoi. The Americans rejected that offer as too little to justify major sanctions relief because North Korea’s arsenal of an estimated 60-70 nuclear weapons would remain intact and because North Korea is believed to be running multiple secret nuclear facilities.

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"Yongbyon still has an important meaning and role (in the process)," Kim Yeon-chul said. "Of course there are other sites. But the closure of Yongbyon would not only cease (the North's) plutonium production but also cut back its production of enriched uranium to a degree, so the meaning wouldn't be small."

Kim also said there are ongoing discussions between the United States and South Korea over inter-Korean economic projects.

During their third summit in Pyongyang last September, Moon and Kim Jong Un pledged to resume operations at the Kaesong complex and restart the Diamond Mountain tours when possible, voicing optimism that the sanctions would end and allow such activities.

Following the collapsed summit in Hanoi, however, North Korea has significantly reduced its engagement and diplomatic activities with South Korea. It has instead made nationalistic calls demanding that Moon break away from Washington and resume economic cooperation between the Koreas.

Associated Press writer Kim Tong-hyung contributed to this report.

NKorea urges South to stop mediating between North, US

By HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea said Thursday that South Korea must stop trying to mediate between Pyongyang and Washington, as it stepped up its pressure on the United States to work out new proposals to salvage deadlocked nuclear diplomacy.

The North Korean statement was an apparent continuation of its displeasure with Seoul and Washington over the stalled diplomacy. But there are no signs that North Korea would formally abandon talks anytime soon as an inter-Korean liaison office in North Korea remains operating and the North still talks about good relations between its leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump.

The statement came two days before Trump visits South Korea for a two-day trip.

There have been no public meetings between the United States and North Korea since the breakdown of the second summit between Trump and Kim in Hanoi in February. Kim returned home empty-handed after Trump refused to provide him with badly needed sanctions relief in return for a limited denuclearization step.

The summit's collapse was a blow to South Korean President Moon Jae-in, a liberal who shuttled between Washington and Pyongyang to facilitate talks between the countries to help find a diplomatic settlement of the North Korean nuclear crisis.

Talks of revival of diplomacy, however, has flared after Trump and Kim recently exchanged personal letters. Moon said earlier this week that U.S. and North Korean officials were holding "behind-the-scene talks" to try to set up a third summit between Trump and Kim. Moon also said talks between the two Koreas have been under way through unspecified "various channels."

On Thursday, Kwon Jong Gun, chief of the North Korean Foreign Ministry's U.S. affairs department, said it will "never go through" South Korea again when it deals with the United States. He also dismissed as false the comments by Moon and other South Korean officials that there are various exchanges and unofficial talks between the two Koreas.

"It's better for the South Korean authorities to mind their own business at home," Kwon said.

South Korea's Unification Ministry later Thursday said its push for peace and denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula through dialogue remains unchanged. A ministry statement didn't directly mention the latest North Korean statement.

Kwon's statement came after Chinese President Xi Jinping met with Kim during the first Chinese leader's visit to Pyongyang since 2005. Some experts said Xi's trip signaled Beijing, Pyongyang's main ally and aid benefactor, intended to play a greater role as a mediator in the nuclear issue to increase its leverage with Washington over trade disputes.

Kwon also reiterated Kim's previous demand that the United States to come up with acceptable nuclear

deals by the end of December.

“(North Korea)-U.S. talks won’t be held by themselves if the U.S. is repeating the resumption of dialogue like a parrot without thinking about realistic proposals that are in the interests of both sides,” he said.

He still said that North Korea-U.S. relations are proceeding based on the “friendly relations” between Kim and Trump.

The North’s Foreign Ministry said Wednesday it won’t surrender to U.S.-led sanctions and accused Washington of trying to “bring us to our knees.” U.S. officials have said the sanctions would stay in place unless North Korea takes significant steps toward nuclear disarmament.

Court case seeks inspections of child border facilities

By CEDAR ATTANASIO and AMY TAXIN Associated Press

CLINT, Texas (AP) — Migrant children being housed at a Border Patrol facility near El Paso appeared mostly clean and were being watched by hallway monitors on Wednesday, less than a week since they reported living there in squalid conditions with little care and inadequate food, water and sanitation.

U.S. officials opened the building to journalists, offering an inside glimpse of the station in Clint for the first time since lawyers who met with young migrants there told The Associated Press they saw 250 infants, children and teens locked up for up to 27 days in what was designed to be a short-term holding facility.

The tour came hours before immigrant advocates asked a federal judge to issue an emergency order requiring immediate inspections and access for doctors at border detention facilities like the one in Clint. The attorneys are also asking for the prompt release of children to parents and close relatives and for the government to be found in contempt of court.

The lawyers who visited the Clint facility described hearing about and seeing children taking care of children, and at least one sick 2-year-old boy without a diaper who had wet his pants, his shirt smeared in mucus. Those interviews contributed to the legal action brought late Wednesday in federal court.

A pediatrician visited with 39 detainees at another Border Patrol center in McAllen, Texas, all but one of them minors, and performed medical exams on 21 infants and children on June 15. In her declaration with the court, she described the conditions there as dire, and said many of the detainees were teen mothers.

“The conditions within which they are held could be compared to torture facilities,” said Dr. Dolly Lucio Sevier. “That is, extreme cold temperatures, lights on 24 hours a day, no adequate access to medical care, basic sanitation, water, or adequate food.”

Sevier said no child should be held in the facilities even for the minimum of 72 hours “because it is obvious that the dignity and well-being of children is not even an afterthought in the design of the center.”

On Wednesday, the situation in Clint seemed to have improved: children appeared to be wearing clean clothes, and at least a half dozen hallway monitors were brought in to help watch the 117 children being housed there — less than half the number of young migrants who were crammed into the facility last week.

The children were housed in an industrial garage filled with bunk beds, or in cells with bunk beds and cots that included a bathroom area separated by a cinder block partition. The doors were left unlocked and the kids were free to move around.

“Not ideal, but what we had to do,” Matt Harris, the Border Patrol agent in charge of the facility, said about adapting the space that was originally designed to hold adults.

The building still doesn’t have a proper kitchen, and the only warm meals were ones that could be cooked in a microwave. Journalists touring the building saw stacks of instant oatmeal and instant noodles. Officials said the children also were being served burritos, and had unlimited access to snacks.

Mostly, the children sat together in the cells, singing songs, talking and at least in one instance, braiding each other’s hair. In the garage, a group of boys kicked around a soccer ball.

The bleak portrait about the conditions in Clint on Thursday prompted an outcry, and the acting head of U.S. Customs and Border Protection stepped down this week.

Customs officials denied allegations that the children weren’t given enough food or clothing, and the tour came as the Trump administration faces growing calls to provide more access to journalists, doctors

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and court observers.

U.S. agencies have been scrambling to find adequate facilities for migrants streaming across the border with Mexico, and the Border Patrol has been detaining some children for weeks as opposed to the court mandated 72 hours, because the U.S. Department Health and Human Services said it doesn't have the capacity to take them.

Harris said children have been staying at the Clint facility an average of 6 to 10 days, and in some instances for as long as 30 days. And the facility, which was originally designed to hold a little over 100 people, at one point this year was housing 700 children, he added.

"This is not a detention center. It's a holding area," said Aaron Hull, chief of the El Paso Border Patrol sector, which encompasses all of New Mexico and parts of West Texas. He added that the Border Patrol is not built, staffed or funded to handle longer-term stays.

Last year, Border Patrol spent a little more than \$1,000 a day on supplies for migrants being held across the El Paso sector, Hull said. This year, because of the ballooning number of migrants and the backlog, the agency is spending \$4,000 a day just to buy enough food, medicines and other supplies to keep the Clint facility operating. Across the El Paso sector, the cost has risen to \$61,000 a day.

Health and Human Services said it has been clearing mold from a facility in South Texas that will soon house up to 1,300 migrant children.

The agency said it was working quickly to open the facility at Carrizo Springs, which used to be a camp for oilfield workers. In addition to removing mold spots, agency spokeswoman Evelyn Stauffer said it also needs air conditioning and pipeline work.

Marsha Griffin, a pediatrician who visited children at two other Texas facilities this week, said that while the conditions were not as dire as what had been described in Clint last week, there needs to be better access to such facilities.

"You have to go through a long process to get in," said Griffin, who is co-chair of the American Academy of Pediatrics Immigrant Health Special Interest Group.

In an interview last week, acting Commissioner John Sanders blamed the problems in detention on a lack of money and called on Congress to pass an emergency funding bill to address the crisis. The House and the Senate have since approved two separate bills providing funding, and congressional leaders hope to send President Donald Trump a compromise measure before lawmakers leave town for July 4 recess.

Nomaan Merchant in Houston, Texas, contributed to this story.

Latest sex accusation against Trump lands with a thud

By MARYCLAIRE DALE Associated Press

Nearly a week after the latest sexual misconduct accusation against President Donald Trump, the story has largely landed with a thud.

Some see the muted response to author E. Jean Carroll's allegation of Trump assaulting her in a department store dressing room more than two decades ago as yet another example of the divisive Politics of Trump: Those who support him dismiss it as fake news. Those against him see it as confirmation of what they knew all along.

"Essentially, you're either for him or against him, and if you're for him, it doesn't matter what he's done," said Larry Sabato, who directs the University of Virginia's Center for Politics. "It really is remarkable. He simply is exempt from the rules everyone else must obey."

It's a cycle that's been repeated before. After more than a dozen women came forward during Trump's 2016 campaign with allegations of sexual misconduct years earlier, Trump called them "liars" who sought to harm his campaign with "100-percent fabricated" stories. When the "Access Hollywood" tape emerged weeks before the election of him bragging about grabbing women by the genitals, he dismissed it as "locker room talk."

In the case of Carroll, a feature writer and longtime Elle advice columnist, her accusation was revealed

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in an excerpt to an upcoming book, leading Trump and others to cast her aside as an opportunist. Her book, "What Do We Need Men For? A Modest Proposal," describes what she calls a lifetime of encounters with predatory men, starting with her early years as an Indiana cheerleader and pageant winner.

She said that Trump, in the mid-1990s, followed her into a dressing room after a chance encounter at the high-end New York department store Bergdorf Goodman and proceeded to pull down her tights and sexually assault her. Trump, in denying the account on Monday, said she's "not my type," a stunning remark from a U.S. president that briefly breathed life into the story.

But even ranking Democrats such as Sen. Richard Durbin of Illinois were resigned to how it would all play out. "I wouldn't dismiss it," he told The Washington Post, "but let's be honest, he's going to deny it and little is going to come of it."

Lawyer Debra Katz, who represented Christine Blasey Ford in her Senate testimony on her alleged high school assault by then-Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, concurred.

"The electorate knew this about him. This is nothing new about his character or his behavior — at this point there have been, what, 13 credible accusers?" Katz said. "People have become inured to it. And it's disgraceful."

Carroll, who did not return messages left on her cell phone from The Associated Press this week, stopped short in various television interviews of calling what happened to her rape and described the experience as a "three-minute" ordeal that did not change her life. Carroll has said she doesn't plan to seek criminal charges and it appears the statute of limitations has run out.

"I'm a mature woman. I can handle it," she said on MSNBC. "My life has gone on. I'm a happy woman."

It didn't help that Carroll's book excerpt dropped late last Friday and was largely drowned out by events of the week: the refugee crisis at the border, the U.S. brinkmanship with Iran and the regular onslaught of news about the environment, the economy and the 2020 election.

"We are trauma-fatigued by the volume of despairing issues seemingly beyond our personal control," said Carrie Goldberg, a New York lawyer who represents victims of sexual assault and revenge porn. "When a solution feels beyond grasp, it can be impossible to muster an appropriate emotional reaction."

Sen. Mazie Hirono, a Hawaii Democrat, called it a sad day when a rape accusation against the president leaves the country numb.

"With this president you have the Iran situation going on, you have North Korea going on, you have the border crisis going on," she said. "So after a while you just practically throw up your hands."

AP writers Kali Robinson and AP video journalist Padmanda Rama contributed to this report from Washington.

AP FACT CHECK: Dems' missteps on climate, wages in debate By **CHRISTOPHER RUBAGER, SETH BORENSTEIN** and **CALVIN WOODWARD** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — This was no Trump rally. Ten Democrats kicked off the presidential debate season with a sober rendering of policy that featured a smattering of missteps on climate change, the economy and more but no whoppers.

The Democrats spoke largely in generalities Wednesday night and when they got into the nuts and bolts, their claims largely checked out. But not always.

A look at the rhetoric from the first debate, with 10 more Democrats taking the stage in Miami on Thursday:
CLIMATE CHANGE

JAY INSLEE, Washington's governor: "We are the first generation to feel the sting of climate change and we are the last that can do something about it. ... It is our last chance in an administration, next one, to do something about it."

THE FACTS: Not quite. This answer implies that after 2025 or 2029, when whoever is elected in 2020 leaves office, it will be too late to fight or limit climate change.

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That's a common misconception that stemmed from a U.N. scientific report that came out last fall, which talked about 2030, mostly because that's a key date in the Paris climate agreement. The report states that with every half a degree Celsius and with every year, global warming and its dangers get worse. However, it does not say at some point it is too late.

"The hotter it gets the worse it gets but there is no cliff edge," James Skea, co-chairman of the report and professor of sustainable energy at Imperial College London, told The Associated Press.

The report co-author, Swiss climate scientist Sonia I. Seneviratne this month tweeted, "Many scientists point - rightfully - to the fact that we cannot state with certainty that climate would suddenly go berserk in 12 years if we weren't doing any climate mitigation. But who can state with certainty that we would be safe beyond that stage or even before that?"

BETO O'ROURKE, referring to the international climate goal: "If all of us does all that we can, then we're going to be able to keep this planet from warming another 2 degrees Celsius and ensure that we match what this country can do and live up to our promise and our potential."

THE FACTS: O'Rourke gets the climate goal wrong.

Since 2009, international summits and the Paris climate agreement list the overarching goal as limiting climate change to no more than 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) from pre-industrial times. That's somewhere between 1850 and 1880, depending on who is calculating.

There's a big difference because since pre-industrial times, Earth has already warmed 1 degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit). So the world community is talking about 1 degree Celsius from now and O'Rourke is talking about twice that.

EQUAL PAY

JULIAN CASTRO, former federal housing secretary: "I would do several things, starting with something we should have done a long time ago, which is to pass the Equal Rights Amendment, finally, in this country. And, also, pursue legislation so that women are paid equal pay for equal work in this country."

THE FACTS: It would be past time if it hadn't already happened. It has been illegal to pay men more than women for the same work, or vice versa, since the passage of the Equal Pay Act in 1963. Disparities, however, persist despite the law.

TIM RYAN, U.S. representative from Ohio: "The bottom 60% haven't seen a raise since 1980. The top 1% control 90% of the wealth."

THE FACTS: Those figures exaggerate the state of income and wealth inequality. While few studies single out the bottom 60%, the Congressional Budget Office calculates that the bottom 80% of Americans have seen their incomes rise 32% since 1979. That is certainly lower than the doubling of income enjoyed by the top one-fifth of income earners. And the richest 1% possess 32% of the nation's wealth, according to data from the Federal Reserve, not 90%.

O'ROURKE: "That's how you explain an economy that is rigged to corporations and the very wealthiest. A \$2 trillion tax cut that favored corporations while they were sitting on record piles of cash and the very wealthiest in this country at a time of historic wealth inequality."

THE FACTS: The tax cut wasn't quite that big: The Joint Committee on Taxation estimates that it will reduce tax revenues by \$1.5 trillion over the next decade. And individuals, not corporations, will actually receive the bulk of those cuts — they're getting \$1.1 trillion while businesses get \$654 billion, offset by higher tax revenues from changes to international tax law.

The tax cuts did mostly favor richer Americans: The top one-fifth of income earners got 65% of the benefit from the tax cuts, with just 1% going to the poorest one-fifth, according to the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center.

Associated Press writers Hope Yen, Eric Tucker and Amanda Seitz contributed to this report.

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'They died in each other's arms,' migrant's mother says

By **MARCOS ALEMÁN** and **PETER ORSI** Associated Press

SAN MARTIN, El Salvador (AP) — The mother of a man who drowned alongside his 23-month-old daughter while trying to cross the Rio Grande into Texas says she finds a heartbreaking photograph of their bodies hard to look at but takes some comfort in knowing "they died in each other's arms."

Oscar Alberto Martínez Ramírez and his daughter Valeria were swept away by the current near Matamoros, Mexico, and Brownsville, Texas, this week. The grim photo shows the girl tucked inside her father's shirt for protection with her arm draped over his neck — an image that underscores the dangers migrants and asylum-seekers face trying to make it to the United States and the desperate measures they resort to in the face of policies designed to deter them.

"It's tough, it's kind of shocking, that image," the 25-year-old man's mother, Rosa Ramírez, told The Associated Press. "But at the same time, it fills me with tenderness. I feel so many things, because at no time did he let go of her."

"You can see how he protected her," she said. "They died in each other's arms."

Ramírez had shared a sea-green brick home with barred windows in San Martin on the outskirts of the capital, San Salvador, with her son, his 21-year-old wife Tania Vanessa Ávalos and their daughter until the young family decided to make the journey north.

In their working-class neighborhood of about 40,000, Martínez worked in a pizzeria and Ávalos as a cashier in a fast-food restaurant, Ramírez said.

The area has had problems with gang violence but these days it's calm, she said, adding that he never had any problems with gangs — they left for economic reasons.

Ramírez said that she had given them the big room in the two-bedroom house, but they dreamed of saving money for a place of their own and that drove the family to head for the United States in early April.

"I told him, 'Son, don't go. But if you do go, leave me the girl,'" Ramírez said.

"No, mamá," she said he replied. "How can you think that I would leave her?"

Now she feels a hole that "nobody can fill, but God gives me strength," she said.

Marta Argueta de Andrade, their 50-year-old neighbor, said she met the family about five years ago. She described them as "good people," and Martínez as an easygoing young man.

"I would see him walking with the girl. I called her 'little curly one,'" Argueta said. "She was very pretty."

"I would say to those who are thinking of migrating, they should think it over because not everyone can live that American dream you hear about," Ramírez said.

"We can put up a fight here," she added. "How much I would like to have my son and my granddaughter here. One way or another, we get by in our country."

The U.S.-Mexico border region has long been perilous for those trying to cross illegally into the United States between ports of entry, from the fast-moving Rio Grande to the scalding Sonoran Desert. A total of 283 people died while trying to cross last year; figures for 2019 have not yet been released.

On Sunday, Martínez decided to make that journey, swimming with Valeria from Matamoros to the Texas side of the Rio Grande, where he left her on the riverbank and started back to get his wife. Seeing him leave, the girl threw herself into the water. Martínez returned to get her, but both were swept away. Ávalos was not harmed.

Tamaulipas immigration official Enrique Maciel said Ávalos was "in a total shock" and would not be speaking to reporters. Covered in white sheets, the two bodies were placed into a morgue van to be driven to a funeral home. Ávalos was to fly back to El Salvador with them the following day.

Maciel said Ávalos had family in the United States and had hoped to reunite with them.

"She is afflicted. She is suffering. It is a dream they had to get ahead as a family, the three of them,

and she returns in mourning with only the bodies of her family," Maciel said.

He urged the governments of Mexico and the United States to view migration as people seeking life solutions, not a "trespassing problem."

"The governments should respect and protect migration," Maciel said.

News of the drownings, and the shocking photo, resonated in El Salvador among those considering heading north as part of what has been a surge of people from that country, Guatemala and Honduras fleeing poverty and violence.

In a Salvadoran chat group for people thinking about forming a migrant caravan — a phenomenon that drew the ire of U.S. President Donald Trump last year but has all but vanished after Mexican immigration enforcement started cracking down — members were having a raw discussion of the perils of the journey and whether it's right for parents to bring children.

"If one goes there, they shouldn't bring children, because going there is risking everything and a child is not prepared for that," read one message, adding that minors should be left with loved ones back home.

"The thing is, it's more likely that they give you help with children," another person replied.

"But that's only if they manage to arrive there ... and that help should come when they are on the road. ... But no, on the road there is no help for any child and there is where it's most needed," came the response.

Migration activists worry people may be driven to more risky measures by recent U.S. policies such as "metering" that dramatically reduce the numbers allowed to apply for refuge, as well as others that send asylum-seekers back across the border to wait in Mexico while their cases slog for months or even longer through a backlogged U.S. immigration court system. Wait lists for registering refugee claims with U.S. officials are in the thousands at some ports of entry.

Meanwhile, migrant shelters on the Mexico side are overflowing, and in places like Tamaulipas state, where Matamoros is located, cartels and gangs known to extort, kidnap and murder migrants are a major threat.

Associated Press writer Marcos Alemán reported this story in San Martin, El Salvador and AP writer Peter Orsi reported from Mexico City. AP writer Christopher Sherman in Matamoros, Mexico, contributed to this report.

Leaks, accusations and staff shuffle: Turmoil inside DHS

By COLLEEN LONG and JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Leaks. Pointed accusations. A top official's resignation. And above all, increasingly dire conditions for migrants — those who make it across the border and those who fail, as captured in the searing images of a father clutching his child, both drowned, on the banks of the Rio Grande.

Ever engulfed in turmoil under President Donald Trump, the Department of Homeland Security has entered a new stage of dysfunction and finger-pointing as the administration continues to rearrange staff and push hardline rhetoric and policies that have failed to contain a surge in illegal border crossings, according to more than a dozen current and former administration officials, congressional aides and people familiar with the events. Many spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss internal deliberations.

The squabbling and jockeying over jobs come amid outrage over reports of children being held in squalid conditions and families dying as they try to make it to the U.S.

Over the past week alone, a scrapped immigration roundup targeting families prompted infighting and accusations of leaking. The acting leaders at both U.S. Customs and Border Protection, which manages the border, and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which handles immigration enforcement inside the country, have either stepped down or been reassigned. And questions remain about whether the president has confidence in the man he recently tapped to head the sprawling DHS, acting secretary Kevin McAleenan.

The leadership merry-go-round has spun so many times that it's hard to keep track of who is in charge of what. And most of those leaders have not been officially nominated by Trump, let alone confirmed by

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the Senate.

"DHS is charged with keeping the nation secure, but the president is putting its leadership through a constant game of musical chairs to fit his political agenda," said Rep. Bennie Thompson, chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee.

The 240,000-person department is tasked with election and cyber security, disaster response and even the Secret Service. But in Trump's world, Homeland Security means one thing: immigration. The president's signature issue makes the department his focus and his ire. Balancing a White House eager to push major changes with the reality on the ground is a constant challenge.

Trump's efforts in recent weeks have featured whiplash-inducing threats and reversals. The White House did not respond to requests for comment.

Last week, Mark Morgan, newly installed as acting director of ICE, sought to please his boss by moving forward with a long-considered operation that would target families living in the U.S. illegally. But questions remained, including whether there was enough detention space available for families, what would happen to the children of arrested parents, and whether the effort made sense, given the crisis at the border.

McAleenan, according to several officials, had cautioned against the idea, much like other leaders who were eventually ousted.

Then Trump tweeted without warning that a massive deportation operation was in the works. Damage control quickly ensued, with heated meetings at the White House.

And on Friday, specific details of the operation leaked to the press, including information about when the operation would begin and which cities it would target.

Amid finger-pointing over where the leak had come from, ICE canceled it over concerns for officer safety. Trump later said he called off the raids at the request of Democrats.

But the leaks enraged ICE officials. Former ICE head Tom Homan, a strong proponent of Trump's policies, seemed to point a finger at McAleenan during an appearance on Fox News.

"This leak, which I know where it came from, we all know where it came from," he said. Homan said the leaks put "officers at greater risk of harm."

Homan told The Associated Press Wednesday that he had never said McAleenan was to blame.

"McAleenan's a very talented man. I think he's a smart man. And I hope he's successful. And I think he's done some good things," he said.

McAleenan hasn't commented. He has, however, pleaded with Congress for more money to help manage the influx of migrants at the border. Facilities are vastly strained, agents and officers are working around the clock, and the department is forced to divert funding and manpower. But the future of the emergency funding request is unclear, with the GOP-led Senate and the Democratic-led House passing different versions of the bill.

More immigration staffing also remains under discussion. Homan said he remains open to joining the administration as an immigration czar, even after Trump jumped the gun by saying on Fox that it was a done deal.

As for the turnover, Homan said he wouldn't second-guess Trump's decisions.

"I'm sure there's reasons he's making these changes. I think he's hitting the reset button and coming up with some fresh ideas," Homan said, adding that those selected for the jobs are all "career professionals. ... The people that are there, they're all talented, they all know the issues."

But at ICE, officials have now had three bosses in as many months, beginning with Ron Vitiello, whose nomination was pulled, followed by Matt Albence and then Morgan, who came to Trump's attention after defending his policies on Fox News. Morgan had been dismissed from his post at Customs and Border Protection shortly after Trump took office.

Morgan is now returning to the border agency after John Sanders, a wealthy businessman who took over as acting director after McAleenan was promoted, resigned Tuesday amid the outcry over border conditions. Albence will be returning as acting head of ICE, officials said.

While the political jockeying takes place, tens of thousands of migrant families are being held behind

chain-link fences at border stations that are not set up for long-term — or even short-term — detention.

Lawyers have decried the conditions inside the facilities, especially for children. Some say they have witnessed toddlers with no diapers and dirty clothes and older children caring for younger ones.

And then there is the image of the man and his 23-month-old daughter, face down in shallow water, her arm draped around his neck. The father, Oscar Alberto Martinez Ramirez, frustrated because his family was unable to present themselves to U.S. officials to claim asylum, swam across the river with little Valeria to the U.S. side, according to the journalist who shot the image. But when he turned around for his wife, the toddler threw herself back into the water and was swept away. Both drowned as he tried to save her.

Democrats blamed Trump's policies for the deaths, while the president blamed Democrats and defended his administration's treatment of children in its custody.

"We're taking care of them much better than President Obama took care of 'em, I can tell you that, much better," he said.

Associated Press writer Alexandra Jaffe contributed to this report from Miami.

Trump heads to Asia for global talks on trade, Iran and more

By ZEKE MILLER and JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The fun and flattery are largely over for President Donald Trump as he embarks on his third overseas trip in a month, this time facing a flurry of international crises, tense negotiations and a growing global to-do list.

Trump heads first to Osaka, Japan, for the annual Group of 20 summit, then on to South Korea for consultations on North Korea's nuclear program. The agenda for his four-day trip is as laden with hazards for the president as it is light on the ceremonial pomp that marked his recent state visits to Japan and the United Kingdom.

The showdown between the U.S. and Iran, a trade war with China and the threat of fresh election interference by Russia are just some of the issues confronting the American leader who has shown little patience for the subtleties of global interactions and whose administration has struggled to grapple with simultaneous challenges.

The president will meet one-on-one with at least eight world leaders on the summit's sidelines as he faces mounting pressures to deliver results on a lengthy roster of global concerns. But White House officials are playing down prospects of specific accomplishments in what will almost certainly be Trump's most consequential trip of the year.

Trump said before departing Wednesday that he'd be meeting "competitors" from other nations, adding, "That's OK. We're doing great. We're doing better than any of them."

His calendar includes sit-downs with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Turkey's Recep Teyyip Erdogan and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, all of whom have authoritarian tendencies, as well as disquieted allies including Germany's Angela Merkel and more contented ones such as Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

The president left Washington days after pulling back from the brink of armed conflict with Iran and as he trades threats over its nuclear program and support for terror groups. With Iran threatening to breach uranium enrichment limits set in the 2015 nuclear accord as soon as Thursday, Trump will be asked to articulate his strategy for containing Iran to skeptical world leaders after pulling the U.S. from the deal last year.

"The leaders are going to be pressing the president for clarity and then to get into a unified allied approach to the challenge, and it's just simply unclear to me whether we have that policy or that approach," said Heather Conley, director of the Center for Strategic and International Studies' Europe program.

Trump will also find himself face-to-face with Putin for the first time since special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation ended without finding evidence that the Trump campaign criminally conspired with Russia during the 2016 election. It will also be their first meeting since their summit in Helsinki in July 2018, when

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Trump declined to side with U.S. intelligence agencies over Putin on the question of election interference, leading to an uproar at home and abroad.

Trump told reporters as he left the White House that he expects a "very good conversation" with Putin but added that "what I say to him is none of your business."

White House officials said Trump would warn Putin to refrain from interfering in U.S. elections, though Trump has been criticized for joining with Putin in attacking Mueller's probe, and advisers worry he may do so once again.

Last November, Trump canceled a planned meeting with Putin at the G-20 in Argentina after Russia seized two Ukrainian vessels and their crew in the Sea of Azov, but the continued detention of the crew members does not appear to be deterring the leaders from meeting this time. Aside from Iran, the leaders are expected to discuss hotspots in Syria and Venezuela, as well as nuclear weapons.

With Xi, a senior administration official said, Trump's top aim will be rebooting trade negotiations between the two countries after they collapsed earlier this year. In an interview with Fox Business Network on Wednesday, Trump threatened again to impose even stiffer tariffs on Chinese imports to the U.S. if talks remain stalemated. But officials in both nations are looking for an off-ramp as concerns mount about the economic impact of the yearlong trade war.

Trump's meeting with Erdogan will be his first since announcing, and then backing off, a withdrawal of U.S. forces from Syria. There also is a growing rift between the two NATO allies over Turkey's planned purchase of a Russian surface-to-air missile system and a U.S. threat to suspend planned deliveries to Turkey of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.

Trump will also meet with Crown Prince Mohammed, who U.S. intelligence services concluded ordered the grisly killing of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi, a U.S. resident. Trump has long been loath to scold authoritarian leaders for human rights abuses. He has continued to pursue a close relationship with Saudi Arabia, a lynchpin to the U.S.' Middle East strategy to counter Iran, despite its role in furthering humanitarian disaster in Yemen's civil war.

White House officials said there are no plans for a meeting in South Korea between Trump and North Korea's Kim Jong Un, with whom the president has restarted diplomacy-by-correspondence since their failed Hanoi summit in March. But Trump is to speak with South Korean President Moon Jae-in about efforts to bring North Korea back to the negotiating table as the American holds out hope for an elusive legacy-making nuclear deal. Moon told The Associated Press and other news agencies Wednesday that the U.S. and North Korea are holding "behind-the-scenes talks" to arrange a third summit between the two leaders.

Never fully willing to pass up domestic politics, even when overseas, Trump will have to divide his attention between affairs of state and his reelection effort as Democrats are set to face off Wednesday and Thursday in their first debates in the process to select their nominee to challenge him next fall.

Trump, who was aboard Air Force One during the first matchup Wednesday evening, gave it a succinct review on Twitter: "BORING!"

But he will be in meetings with world leaders when Democratic front-runner Joe Biden and others take the stage on the second night. Trump aides believe the scheduling fluke will highlight the signature advantage of incumbency — that the president already occupies the job the Democrats want.

Lemire reported from Osaka, Japan.

Follow Miller on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@zekejmiller> and Lemire at <http://twitter.com/@JonLemire>

Girl who was in gov't custody inconsolable, lawyer says

By **GARANACE BURKE** and **MARTHA MENDOZA** Associated Press

Her attorney tried breathing exercises, stress putty, a toy. But a 7-year-old Salvadoran girl was inconsolable Wednesday even after the government moved her out of a Border Patrol station where infants,

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children and teens were being locked up with inadequate food, water and sanitation.

Hours after an immigration attorney met the girl in a day program for foster children, she said that although the girl's in a safer place, she still couldn't stop crying, even when the lawyer put her on Facetime with her parents.

"She just has these huge eyes and they're just filled with tears, she couldn't really talk, just nodded her head," attorney Taylor Levy said soon after their 45-minute visit. "When we started the call I asked them to please try to be strong for her, that they'll see her soon, but they kept passing the phone back and forth because they were trying not to cry."

Attorneys had said the girl seemed to be at high risk for emotional trauma last week, when she was found hysterical, despondent and unkempt in a Clint, Texas, Border Patrol station. She had her hair brushed and was in clean clothes Wednesday. She had arrived at an El Paso foster home last night, and attorneys are working to reunite her with her parents who live in the U.S.

Earlier Wednesday, after attorneys sent a legal notice to the Justice Department demanding the girl's release, her father told The Associated Press he was relieved to hear that she was out of the station in Clint.

Attorneys told him she had been placed in a children's shelter in El Paso, but he still felt frantic over his child's obvious distress.

"All she can do is cry and cry so much it sounds like she's drowning," said the girl's father, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear that divulging his name would impact his chances at reuniting with his daughter.

The little girl caught the attention of attorneys interviewing children in the Clint station last week, where they said she burst into tears when they asked her a question.

They called her father after finding his phone number written on a bracelet she wore labeled "U.S. parent." But she could barely talk to him on the phone.

He said when they spoke Saturday she was coughing and told him that guards had made her sleep on the floor as punishment for misplacing a lice comb a nurse had given children in her cell.

"I haven't slept because every day that goes by that I can't talk to her, I think, 'What if I am sleeping well and she's doing so badly alone in there?' This is terrifying," the man said.

Citing violations of the Flores settlement, a legal agreement that requires safe and sanitary detention for migrant children and families, the family's attorney, Amy Maldonado, said in a legal notice that they had planned to file a complaint in federal district court, requesting an emergency Temporary Restraining Order and preliminary injunction if the girl was not released to her parents.

"She was forced to sleep on the tile floor as punishment for using a comb," Maldonado said. "I want to find the name of the officer who did that to her."

The legal documents give a dizzying account of the girl's past few days.

On Sunday, she reportedly was moved to an Office of Refugee Resettlement shelter in Combes, Texas, a 12-hour drive, but her placement was canceled. She was then taken back across Texas to the Border Patrol station in Clint, to wait to be moved to a shelter in San Antonio.

The decision was then made to move her to another shelter in El Paso, and then again to San Antonio, the notice said. During the frantic four-day period the girl had no communication with her parents, it said.

A Customs and Border Protection official who briefed media Tuesday on condition of anonymity reiterated that with 2,000 children in custody, the agency is "in a crisis mode." By law, Customs is required to turn children over to the care of the Office of Refugee Resettlement, which runs shelters and camps where they wait to be reunited with family or sponsors.

He said allegations of civil rights abuse, mistreatment and detention are under investigation. Customs planned a media tour at Clint Wednesday.

The Office of Refugee Resettlement did not provide immediate comment, but Rep. Diana DeGette, D-Colo., said the agency's acting director, Jonathan Hayes, told her Wednesday their capacity is strained, so they can't always accept children Customs is trying to hand over. He said the agency runs 165 shelters in 23 states and plans to open two more in Texas and Oklahoma.

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"We need these agencies working together, and we have to find a way to break down any barriers that are preventing them from doing that," said DeGette. "Because, right now, what we have is a system that's breaking down, and when that happens it is ultimately the kids who are hurt the most."

After The Associated Press broke news of the situation inside the Clint station, lawmakers from both parties demanded change. Soon the girl and more than 200 other children up to age 17 were bused to another U.S. Customs and Border Protection facility on the north side of El Paso, a more temporary, tent-like facility with showers and sleeping mats.

By Monday morning, Rep. Veronica Escobar, D-Texas, said she had been told by Border Patrol that fewer than 30 children remained at Clint and federal officials said they were preparing to send nearly 250 others to ORR shelters, a first step toward reunification.

But in the passing days, Customs decided to resume using Clint as a child-holding facility, both for those who came alone and those separated from their parents and caregivers.

Staffers from several congressional offices said the girl had been slated to join those heading to shelters, and later on to her parents, who have lived in the U.S. for several years working in construction and the cleaning business.

They fled their native El Salvador because of gang violence and left their daughter in what they thought was a safer region of the country, in the care of her aunt. She was doing well in first grade, and each night would call her parents to tell them stories of school and how much she liked pretending to be a doctor who could cure sick people.

Then her aunt's relationship turned abusive, and she decided to try to take the little girl with her to safety in the United States, where she hoped she would be better off living with her mother and father.

Instead, her parents had no idea where she was for days, Maldonado said.

"I want to change the way they treat children in this country. They should treat them well and make sure they're with their parents," said the girl's father.

NRA splits with PR firm, lobbyist and TV amid infighting

By LISA MARIE PANE Associated Press

Infighting at the National Rifle Association exploded Wednesday, when the powerful association severed ties with its longtime public relations firm, suspended operations of its fiery online TV station and lost its top lobbyist.

The latest turmoil emerged just a year before the critical 2020 presidential elections when the NRA's ability to influence the outcome could decide the fate of gun rights.

Lobbyist Chris Cox, long viewed as the likely successor to longtime CEO Wayne LaPierre, was placed on administrative leave about a week ago by the NRA, which claimed he was part of a failed attempt to extort LaPierre and push him out.

It also came within hours of the association officially severing ties with Ackerman McQueen, the Oklahoma-based public relations firm that has shaped some of the NRA's most memorable messages in the past decades.

Cox had been the executive director of the NRA's lobbying arm, the Institute for Legislative Action, since 2002. He was credited with leading efforts to allow a decadelong ban on "assault weapons" to expire in 2004, an achievement that allowed the gun industry to resume selling what the industry calls "modern sporting rifles" and critics claim are used too often to exact mass carnage.

His resignation was confirmed by NRA spokesman Andrew Arulanandam. No other comment was immediately made about his departure.

Cox did not immediately return a message seeking comment. However, when he was suspended, Cox said in a statement obtained by The New York Times that allegations he had been part of a group seeking LaPierre's ouster were "offensive and patently false."

"For 24 years I have been a loyal and effective leader in this organization," he said.

Cox played his usual prominent role at the NRA's annual meeting in Indianapolis in April, and there was

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little public evidence that he and LaPierre or the NRA's board of directors were at odds. Infighting spilled out during what is normally a pep rally of sorts among gun-rights enthusiasts when Oliver North, then the NRA president, threatened to expose questionable personal and travel expenses unless LaPierre stepped down. Instead, LaPierre turned the tables on North and accused him of trying to extort him into submission.

Joel Friedman, a longtime NRA board member, told The Associated Press his first reaction when he heard that Cox was stepping down was surprise. He said he saw no indications during the annual meeting that Cox was in a dispute with LaPierre.

LaPierre announced Cox's resignation in an email sent Wednesday to staff and NRA board members that was obtained by the AP. The letter also said an investigation will continue into allegations that North sought to extort LaPierre and that the storied Marine veteran was aided by Cox, a claim first laid out in a lawsuit filed June 19.

In the past few months, the NRA has filed several lawsuits against Ackerman McQueen, accusing it of refusing to document its billings and of seeking to undermine the association. Ackerman McQueen has countersued, claiming the NRA is trying to renege on its financial obligations and smear the public relations firm.

Last year, NRA began asking all of its vendors for detailed documentation about its billings after New York authorities began threatening to investigate the NRA's nonprofit status. The NRA was founded shortly after the Civil War and is chartered in New York, giving that state broad authority to investigate its operations.

During its two decades by the NRA's side, Ackerman McQueen was responsible for crafting the association's aggressive messaging, including the now-famous "From my cold dead hands" line uttered by actor Charlton Heston in 2000 as he vowed to resist any effort to take away his guns. The line became a rallying cry for gun owners around the country.

Ackerman McQueen also created and operated NRATV. In a statement posted Wednesday on the NRA website, LaPierre said it would no longer be airing live programming and would be evaluating the station's future. It wasn't clear what would happen to its prominent hosts but there appeared to be no signs those on-air personalities, who are employees of Ackerman McQueen, would find spots at the NRA.

In a lawsuit, the NRA said some of its members had questioned NRATV's weighing in on "topics far afield of the Second Amendment."

In a statement Wednesday, Ackerman McQueen accused the NRA of trying to avoid its financial obligations by shuttering NRATV and implied its financial woes are partly the result of now paying for high-priced lawyers.

"When given the opportunity to do the right thing, the NRA once again has taken action that we believe is intended to harm our company even at the expense of the NRA itself," the company said.

"For Ackerman McQueen, it is time to move on to a new chapter without the chaos that has enveloped the NRA," the statement continued. "Ackerman McQueen will continue to fight against the NRA's repeated violations of its agreement with our company with every legal remedy available to us, but we will always be proud of the work that we completed during our 38-year relationship on behalf of the individual citizens that are the NRA."

New software glitch found in Boeing's troubled 737 Max jet

By DAVID KOENIG AP Airlines Writer

A new software problem has been found in the troubled Boeing 737 Max that could push the plane's nose down automatically, and fixing the flaw is almost certain to further delay the plane's return to flying after two deadly crashes.

Boeing said Wednesday that the FAA "identified an additional requirement" for software changes that the aircraft manufacturer has been working on for eight months, since shortly after the first crash.

"Boeing agrees with the FAA's decision and request, and is working on the required software to address the FAA's request," Boeing said in a statement.

Government test pilots trying out Boeing's updated Max software in a flight simulator last week found a

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flaw that could result in the plane's nose pitching down, according to two people familiar with the matter. In both Max crashes, the plane's flight-control software pushed the nose down based on faulty readings from one sensor.

The people said fixing the issue might be accomplished through software changes or by replacing a microprocessor in the plane's flight-control system. One said the latest setback is likely to delay the plane's return to service by an extra one to three months. Both spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss aspects of the review process that are not public.

In a statement, the Federal Aviation Administration said it will lift its grounding of the plane only when it deems the jet safe — there is no set timeline.

"On the most recent issue, the FAA's process is designed to discover and highlight potential risks. The FAA recently found a potential risk that Boeing must mitigate," the agency said.

The Max began passenger flights in 2017 and is Boeing's best-selling plane, although fewer than 400 have been delivered to airlines. A Max flown by Indonesia's Lion Air crashed in October, and an Ethiopian Airlines Max crashed in March. In all, 346 people died. Days after the second crash, regulators around the world grounded the plane.

Boeing is scaling back the power of flight-control software called MCAS to push the nose down. It is also linking the software's nose-down command to two sensors on each plane instead of relying on just one in the original design.

It is still uncertain what kind of training pilots will get for flying the plane with the new software — either computer-based or in-flight simulators.

Meanwhile, some airlines that own Max jets have had to cancel large numbers of flights while the planes remain grounded.

On Wednesday, United Airlines pushed back the scheduled return of its 14 Max jets until September. Southwest Airlines and American Airlines had already made similar announcements — an acknowledgment that the plane won't return to flying as soon as the airlines had hoped.

David Koenig can be reached at <http://twitter.com/airlinewriter>

Senate passes \$4.6B border aid measure; Pelosi seeks talks

By ANDREW TAYLOR and ALAN FRAM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The GOP-held Senate on Wednesday passed a bipartisan \$4.6 billion measure to deliver aid to the southern border before the government runs out of money to care for thousands of migrant families and unaccompanied children.

The sweeping 84-8 vote came less than 24 hours after the Democratic-controlled House approved a similar measure backed by liberals. The House bill, which contained tougher requirements for how detained children must be treated, faced a White House veto threat and was easily rejected by the Senate.

As a result, it remained unclear how the two chambers would resolve their differences and send President Donald Trump a compromise measure that he would sign.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said Democrats would propose changes to the Senate legislation on Thursday, and spokesman Drew Hammill said they planned to quickly push the amended measure through the House. That still left questions about whether the Senate and Trump would accept the revisions and how quickly the Senate could act.

"We pray that the White House and the Senate will join us in embracing the children and meeting their needs," Pelosi said in a written statement after meeting privately with other top House Democrats.

Pelosi's statement called for inclusion of provisions setting standards of care for children and limiting how long they could be detained. They would block Trump from shifting the bill's money to programs Congress has not specifically approved, tighten reporting requirements and let lawmakers visit immigration facilities without providing advance notice.

Pelosi called Trump Wednesday afternoon to discuss the measure. "There's some improvements that we

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think can be reconciled," Pelosi told reporters.

Trump said passing the legislation was urgent as he left the White House for Japan and he appeared to leave the door open for negotiations.

"We are moving along very well with a bipartisan bill in the Senate," Trump said. "It's very far along and I believe the House is also going to also be getting together with the Senate to get something done. It's humanitarian aid. It's very important."

The final outcome isn't clear.

Congress plans to leave Washington in a few days for a weeklong July 4 recess, and pressure is intense to wrap up the legislation before then. Failure to act could bring a swift political rebuke and accusations of ignoring the plight of innocent immigrant children who are living in overcrowded, often inadequate federal facilities.

The Senate vote comes less than 24 hours after the House passed its version largely along party lines. The funding is urgently needed to prevent the humanitarian emergency on the U.S.-Mexico border from worsening.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., blasted the House bill earlier Wednesday.

"They had to drag their bill way to the left to earn the support of most Democrats," McConnell said. "As a result, the House has not made much progress toward actually making a law, just more resistance theater."

Asked Wednesday if he's open to adding some language sought by the House, McConnell said, "We're working on finishing up this week and getting it to the president."

The Senate rejected the House bill by 55-37.

Both House and Senate measures contain more than \$1 billion to shelter and feed migrants detained by the border patrol and almost \$3 billion to care for unaccompanied migrant children who are turned over the Department of Health and Human Services. The Senate measure is not as strict in setting conditions on the delivery of funding to care for unaccompanied children and contains funding opposed by House Democrats for the Pentagon and to ease a payroll pinch at Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The House and Senate bills ensure funding could not be shifted to Trump's border wall and would block information on sponsors of immigrant children from being used to deport them. Trump would be denied additional funding for Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention beds.

Lawmakers' sense of urgency was amplified by a widely circulated, horrid photo of the bodies of a migrant father and toddler daughter who perished on the banks of the Rio Grande River.

Also building pressure were recent reports of gruesome conditions in a windowless Border Patrol station in Clint, Texas, where more than 300 infants and children were being housed. Many were kept there for weeks and were caring for each other in conditions that included inadequate food, water and sanitation.

The Border Patrol reported apprehending nearly 133,000 people last month — including many Central American families — as monthly totals have begun topping 100,000 for the first time since 2007. Federal agencies involved in immigration have reported being overwhelmed, depleting their budgets and housing large numbers of detainees in structures meant for handfuls of people.

Climate fight lays bare a divide between rural, urban Oregon

By GILLIAN FLACCUS Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — The divide in Oregon between the state's liberal cities and its conservative and economically depressed rural areas has made it fertile ground for the political crisis unfolding over a push by Democrats to enact sweeping climate legislation.

Eleven Republican senators were in the seventh day of a walkout Wednesday to deny the supermajority Democrats the number of lawmakers needed to vote on a cap and trade bill, which would be the second of its kind in the U.S. The stalemate has drawn international attention, in part because right-wing militias have rallied to the GOP cause.

One Republican lawmaker said state troopers dispatched to hunt down the striking lawmakers should "come heavily armed" if they want to bring him back to the Capitol.

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"This is not the Oregon way and cannot be rewarded," Democratic Gov. Kate Brown said. "The Republicans are driving us away from the values that Oregonians hold dear, and are moving us dangerously close to the self-serving stalemate in Washington, D.C."

Experts say the standoff was inevitable given the state's political makeup.

Oregon has a national reputation as a liberal bastion best known for its craft beer, doughnuts and award-winning wine. But while its cities lean left, about 40% of residents — mostly those in rural areas — consistently vote Republican, said Priscilla Southwell, a University of Oregon professor who wrote "Governing Oregon."

"The reality is that it is a much more divided state than people realize," she said. "It's kind of like a perfect storm for this kind of thing to happen."

That political divide also translates to an economic chasm for many. As Portland has boomed, huge swaths of the state have been left without enough money to keep libraries open or fully staff sheriff's departments.

Logging, which once thrived, has been significantly reduced because of environmental restrictions and a changing global economy. Rural voters worry the climate legislation would be the end for logging and trucking.

"It's going to ruin so many lives, it's going to put so many people out of work," said Bridger Hasbrouck, a self-employed logger from Dallas, Oregon. "If the guys that I'm cutting for can't afford to run their logging companies, then I have to figure out something different."

The proposal would dramatically reduce greenhouse gases over 30 years by capping carbon emissions and requiring businesses to buy or trade from an ever-dwindling pool of pollution "allowances."

Democrats say the legislation is critical to make Oregon a leader in the fight against climate change and will ultimately create jobs and transform the economy.

Republicans say it will kill jobs, raise the cost of fuel and other goods and gut small businesses. They also say they've been left out of policy negotiations, an assertion the governor called "hogwash."

Yet that sense of rural alienation gives right-wing groups such as the Oregon Three Percenters a way into the conversation by portraying the climate bill as a stand-in for a number of concerns held by rural, conservative voters nationally, said Chris Shortell, chairman of Portland State University's political science department.

"It highlights the ways in which local politics have become nationalized," he said. "It's not just about the climate change bill in Oregon. Now it's about, 'Are Democrats legitimate in acting this way?'"

Some worry the climate standoff could put Oregon back in the crosshairs of an anti-government movement that in 2016 used the federal prosecution of two ranchers to mobilize an armed takeover of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. One militia member was killed and another injured in a weeklong standoff protesting the U.S. government's management of vast swaths of the American West.

In the current standoff, one militia group offered safe passage to the GOP senators and the Capitol shut down last Saturday because of what police called a credible "militia threat."

Right-wing and nationalist groups have been increasingly visible in Oregon over the past five years as rural voters get more disillusioned, said Eric Ward, executive director of the Portland-based Western States Center.

"In frustration, there are organizations and individuals who have stepped into a leadership gap and are attempting to provide parallel leadership," he said. "But that leadership is led by ... bigotry and threats of violence."

For more than 50 years, the rural U.S. West has undergone tremendous change as federal protections for forests and endangered species reshaped residents' relationship with the land, said Patty Limerick, faculty director at the Center of the American West at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

"Sometimes a historical shakeup takes a couple of decades for people to adjust, and sometimes it takes a couple of centuries," Limerick said. "I think we ought to understand that this is a really different world from 50 years ago — and no wonder that some people feel that it's time for acts of desperation and dra-

matically staged opposition.”

For now, it's unclear how that drama will play out. The Senate president said Tuesday that the Democrats no longer have the votes needed to pass the bill even if Republicans were to return, but the GOP still stayed away.

Follow Gillian Flaccus on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/gflaccus>

This story has been corrected to show that the Senate president, not the governor, said the climate legislation doesn't have enough votes to pass.

AP Explains: What happens when migrants arrive at US border

By **ASTRID GALVAN** Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — The harrowing photo of a drowned toddler and her father along the Rio Grande has illustrated the risks migrants are willing to take to reach the U.S., even as increasingly hardline policies by President Donald Trump's administration aim to keep them out.

For many people trying to enter the country, it's a matter of waiting, waiting and waiting some more for the OK to come across — unless they try to force the issue and slip over the border, a dangerous and sometimes lethal undertaking that involves trekking through the scorching desert and fording the deceptively tricky Rio Grande.

Here is a look at how migrants try to reach the U.S. and what they encounter:

TWO WAYS

Hundreds of thousands of people have been arriving at the border in recent months, many of them families fleeing violence and poverty in Central America. Once they reach the border, they can take different paths to try to get into the U.S.

One way is by presenting themselves at official border crossings, also known as ports of entry, and requesting asylum. That marks the start of an often yearslong legal process in which they have to prove a well-founded fear of persecution in their homeland.

But the Trump administration has implemented a border-wide policy that limits the number of asylum applications a border crossing accepts each day. It's known as "metering," and it has created long lines as people wait for months on the often drug- and violence-riddled Mexican side for their chance to apply for asylum.

At the border crossing near San Diego, for example, about 80 people are handled each day. In some other cities, days go by without anyone being allowed to apply.

Various U.S. cities along the border have their own waiting lists. One recent estimate put the overall number of people waiting at 18,000.

And the waiting list isn't the only Trump administration practice keeping migrants in Mexico.

Under a policy announced in December, many migrants who have applied for asylum must then wait in Mexico while their cases wend their way through the U.S. immigration courts. The policy applies primarily to Central Americans.

Previously, many people applying for asylum were allowed to enter the U.S., where they were either detained or released into the country while their cases went through the system, a process that could take months or years and enabled some immigrants to disappear into the United States.

As a result of President Donald Trump's new policy, over 14,000 asylum applicants are waiting in Mexico while their cases are decided.

But many people get frustrated by the long wait or don't even bother with getting in line. So they take a different approach: They cross the border — secretly or openly — outside of the official crossings and turn themselves in to Border Patrol agents, who then take them into custody on the U.S. side.

In the case of the two dead El Salvadoran migrants in the photo, Óscar Alberto Martínez Ramírez and daughter Valeria, the girl's parents decided to cross the Rio Grande after waiting in Mexico for two months

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to apply for asylum, according to news reports. The girl's mother was not injured.

BORDER PATROL CUSTODY

When migrants who either walk or sneak across the border are apprehended, Border Patrol agents take them to facilities for processing, which includes a health screening and a criminal background check.

Because of the overwhelming surge of migrants, the Border Patrol has had to open several temporary facilities to hold and process them. Government inspectors and attorneys report that those places are extremely overcrowded.

A recent inspector general report on an El Paso, Texas, processing center found that up to 900 people were crammed into a space meant for less than 200. Some people were standing on toilets, and many said they had been there for weeks.

Immigrants refer to Border Patrol stations, usually the first place a migrant is held, as "hieleras," or iceboxes, because they are cold, and to processing facilities as "perreras," or dog cages, because of the fences.

People who are in Border Patrol custody are supposed to be released within 72 hours, but they are being held long past that.

WHAT ABOUT THE CHILDREN?

The government has two categories for children who come to the U.S., and they are treated differently: There are unaccompanied minors — that is, children who arrive without an adult — and there are youngsters who come to the border with their parents. Children who come with a relative but not a parent are often separated from that adult and treated as unaccompanied minors.

Unaccompanied children are supposed to be transferred to the U.S. Health and Human Services Department, which contracts with various companies and nonprofit organizations to run shelters where the youngsters can stay until a caseworker finds a suitable relative or parent in the U.S. to release them to.

But the growing number of unaccompanied minors — there were about 11,500 in May alone — has drained HHS resources, and it hasn't been able to take children in as quickly as it usually does, the agency says. That means youngsters languish in Border Patrol detention facilities for weeks. Five children have died after being taken in by the Border Patrol since December.

Lawyers who interviewed children at a Border Patrol station in Clint, Texas, described finding hungry, sick and unwashed youngsters.

As for families with children, they are typically held together as families for weeks in government custody, then set free in the U.S. to await decisions on their asylum requests. Often they are released to shelters or nonprofit organizations in border cities; sometimes they are dropped off at bus stations and forced to fend for themselves.

Church groups and other organizations have stepped in to help some of them. In Phoenix, for example, aid workers show up at the bus station and help arrange bus tickets or take migrants to a shelter.

AFTER THEIR RELEASE FROM GOVERNMENT CUSTODY

Many families set free in the U.S. go to live with relatives or friends. They are required to let Immigration and Customs Enforcement know what city they will be in, and their immigration case is transferred to whichever court is closest.

The families are expected to show up to court when they get a hearing date. Figures show that most of them do so, but the court system is so backlogged that it can take years for immigrants to have their asylum cases resolved.

AP FACT CHECK: Trump falsely accuses Mueller of a crime

By ERIC TUCKER, JOSH BOAK and HOPE YEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Wednesday falsely accused special counsel Robert Mueller of deleting messages that would support the president's contention that the Russia investigation was out to get him.

The provocative allegation of a "crime" by Mueller was one in a series of distorted claims made by the

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president in an interview on Fox Business Network and on Twitter on Wednesday.

TRUMP, on communications between two FBI employees: "Mueller terminated them illegally. He terminated the emails, he terminated all of the stuff between Strzok and Page, you know they sung like you've never seen. Robert Mueller terminated their text messages together. He would - he terminated them. They're gone. And that's illegal, he — that's a crime."

THE FACTS: Not true. Mueller had no role in deleting anti-Trump text messages traded by former FBI counterintelligence agent Peter Strzok and ex-FBI lawyer Lisa Page, and there's no basis for saying he was involved in anything illegal.

In fact, once Mueller learned of the existence of the texts, which were sent before his appointment as special counsel, he removed Strzok from his team investigating potential ties between Russia and the Trump campaign.

Trump appears to be referring to the fact that the FBI, for technical reasons, was initially unable to retrieve months of text messages between the two officials. But the FBI was ultimately able to recover them and there's never been any allegation that Mueller had anything to do with that process.

TRUMP on his tariffs on Chinese goods: "Don't let anyone tell you that we're paying. We're not paying, China's paying for it." — Fox Business Network interview.

THE FACTS: Americans are paying for it.

Trump refuses to recognize a reality that his own chief economic adviser, Larry Kudlow, has acknowledged. Tariffs are mainly if not entirely paid by companies and consumers in the country that imposes them. China is not sending billions of dollars to the U.S. treasury.

In a study in May, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, with Princeton and Columbia universities, estimated that tariffs from Trump's trade dispute with China were costing \$831 per U.S. household on an annual basis. And that was based on the situation in 2018, before tariffs escalated. Analysts also found that the burden of Trump's tariffs falls entirely on U.S. consumers and businesses that buy imported products.

Trump persistently mischaracterizes trade in all its dimensions, giving the wrong numbers for trade deficits, asserting that tariffs did not exist before him, and portraying them inaccurately as a windfall for the government and taxpayers. In that respect, he was correct when he said in the interview, "I view tariffs differently than a lot of other people."

TRUMP: "The poverty index is also best number EVER." — tweet.

THE FACTS: Not true. The current poverty rate of 12.3% is not the lowest ever; it's fallen below that several times over the last half-century, according to the Census Bureau's official count.

The poverty rate dropped only modestly under Trump's watch, to 12.3 percent in 2017 — the latest figure available — from 12.7 percent in 2016. At the same time, nearly 40 million Americans remained poor by the Census Bureau's count, statistically unchanged from 2016.

The poverty rate previously has stood at 12.3% as recently as 2006, and was 11.3% in 2000.

The U.S. poverty rate hit a record low of 11.1% in 1973.

TRUMP: "Obama's economy was ready to crash." — Fox Business Network interview.

THE FACTS: This is little more than blind speculation designed to make his own record look better. The data suggest he is wrong.

The U.S. economy added 2.5 million jobs in 2016, which was the final year of President Barack Obama's term, more than were added in 2017 or 2018 during the Trump administration. The Standard & Poor's 500 stock index climbed 11% over the course of 2016. Economic growth did slump to 1.6% in 2016, though that hardly suggested a downturn, as growth had been a healthy 2.9% in 2015 — the same level achieved in 2018 when Trump was boasting about having fostered the strongest economy in U.S. history.

Associated Press writers Cal Woodward, Paul Wiseman and Christopher Rugaber contributed to this report.

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German tourists run over, killed at Washington swimming hole

By GILLIAN FLACCUS Associated Press

WASHOUGAL, Wash. (AP) — Two German tourists visiting family in nearby Portland, Oregon, were run over and killed by a local man as they sunbathed by a swimming hole, police in Washington state said Wednesday.

Police arrested David E. Croswell, 71, of Washougal, Washington, and held him on suspicion of vehicular homicide while driving under the influence of intoxicants and hit-and-run driving that causes death.

Killed were Rudolf Hohstadt, 61, and Regina Hohstadt, 62, of Germany. The pair had arrived in the United States a few days ago to visit the Portland metropolitan area and took a trip to the Washougal River, police said. The river in southwest Washington is about a 30-minute drive from Portland.

It wasn't immediately clear where in Germany the Hohstadts were from.

A note on the gate at Croswell's home Wednesday said the family would not comment and asked reporters to leave the property.

Authorities say Croswell told them he had been drinking at a local restaurant Tuesday before the crash. Court documents show a preliminary breath test taken nearly four hours after crash found he had a blood-alcohol level of 0.085. In Washington, a blood alcohol level of 0.08 or greater is considered evidence of drunken driving.

He made a first court appearance Wednesday morning, where bail was set at \$500,000. He will be arraigned July 10.

The Columbian newspaper reports that Croswell's court-appointed attorney, Shon Bogar, said Croswell is a lifelong Washougal resident. Bogar said his client has medical problems, including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Bogar asked the judge to set a more reasonable bail amount.

In a statement, police said Croswell didn't stop or slow down after crashing through the fence. He tore down a steep embankment to the sunbathing area, turned hard to the left, ran over the victims and then circled up a berm, knocked over a sign and left through the other side of the parking lot. He was arrested several miles away, police said.

Authorities do not believe Croswell and the victims knew each other or had any interaction before the crash.

The incident shocked the small riverside town that has been growing rapidly in recent years as it gains popularity as a far-flung and more affordable bedroom community for Portland and Vancouver, Washington.

Residents stopped by Wednesday to leave flowers. A chain link fence edging a small parking lot was ripped out of the ground where a car had crashed through. Neon orange spray-paint in the grass marked the car's trajectory from the parking lot, which sits on a hill overlooking the river, to the grassy park and sandy beach below.

Triangles in the same orange paint indicated where the Hohstadts had been sunbathing when they were struck. Dark circles of dried blood appeared in the grass inside the triangles.

Resident Carrie Cox said the deaths upset her so much that she took a day off work. Her 14-year-old son, who is on summer break from school, comes to the swimming hole frequently, she said.

"It's very popular. Usually the road on a hot day is lined all the way back, both sides, this whole parking lot and all the way to the intersection," she said. "This is a very small community so you don't hear of things like this. My God, it's terrible."

Follow Gillian Flaccus on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/gflaccus>

Hawaii skydiving crash victims remembered by friends, family

By CALEB JONES and AUDREY McAVOY Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — All 11 people on board a skydiving plane died when it crashed and burned at a small airfield north of Honolulu last week. It was the worst civilian aviation accident in the U.S. since 2011.

The Honolulu Medical Examiner's office has identified nine victims, including a young couple from Colorado celebrating their first wedding anniversary, several skydiving instructors and a Navy sailor. Two victims have not yet been officially identified, including the pilot.

LARRY LEMASTER

Longtime skydiver and instructor Larry Lemaster, 50, was described as a kind friend who could fill a room with light.

"I can honestly say, Larry was one of those rare people that entered a room and light followed him," friend William Pemberton of Ashland, Kentucky, wrote to The Associated Press in a Facebook message. "Always smiling, never a bad vibe, it was nearly impossible to be in a bad mood around him."

"Larry was among the best of us," he added.

Lemaster jumped with a professional skydiving demonstration team that does performances around the country.

"Our hearts are broken," a post on the Team Fastrax Facebook page said. "In all the years we have known Larry he never said a negative word about anyone. He impacted everyone he met in a positive way through his kindness and love for all."

The native of Kentucky served in the U.S. Army. Later, as a professional in the skydiving world, the instructor at Oahu Parachute Center had over 8,000 jumps in his 22 years with the sport.

On the company website, Lemaster's profile said he enjoyed exploring Hawaii and base jumping, with over 700 jumps.

JOSHUA DRABLOS

The Navy said Lt. Joshua Drablos, 27, was "an invaluable member" of the U.S. Fleet Cyber Command, based in Kunia, Hawaii.

Drablos was a 2015 graduate of the Naval Academy where he studied quantitative economics, reported the Capital Gazette in Annapolis, Maryland.

Rory Quiller coached Drablos in track and field during his four years at the academy. He said Drablos had a passion for everything he did.

"Josh had an immediate and profound impact on people," said Quiller, a volunteer assistant track and field coach.

Quiller said the team always had Drablos take recruits around the academy because his personality would get them fired up about being there.

WSET in Lynchburg, Virginia, reported Drablos was a skilled pole vaulter at Jefferson Forest High School in Forest, Virginia.

His former high school coach, Michael Parker, said Drablos was fearless, fast and always up for an adventure.

NIKOLAS GLEBOV

The 28-year-old was a "kind, sweet and gentle young man" who loved bicycling and the outdoors, said his stepfather, Mike Mostad.

He loved and protected his little sister, who was eight years younger than him. Mostad called him "the best big brother a little sister could hope for."

"I loved him like he was my own son," Mostad said.

Glebov was born in Donetsk, Ukraine, and moved to St. Paul, Minnesota, when he was 13. He was mature for his age and dedicated to his studies. He played tennis and rode his bicycle so much he went through three bikes in four years.

"Even in January in 2 feet of snow he rode his bicycle," Mostad said.

He attended college, but found it wasn't for him and enlisted in the Air Force at age 20. More recently,

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he went to work for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on board a fisheries survey ship based in Kodiak, Alaska.

Glebov was at the end of a one-month, six-island Hawaii vacation at the time of the crash. He was scheduled to return to Alaska on Sunday, two days after the crash.

DANIEL HERNDON

The Oklahoma native worked as a skydiving instructor at Oahu Parachute Center.

Stacy Richmond told KTUL in Tulsa, Oklahoma, that her brother passed away doing what he loved.

"He told me when we were kids that he wanted to skydive when he grew up, and it's what he loved to do," she said.

She said Herndon's wife, Natt, would be spreading his ashes in the ocean because he loved the water.

Oahu Parachute Center's website said Herndon had over 10 years of experience and had completed 4,000 jumps. He was a certified instructor and videographer. The website said he enjoyed sharing the sport with others, exploring the islands and scuba diving.

Herndon's family plans a private memorial skydive in his honor. A public memorial service is scheduled for July 1 in Oklahoma.

MICHAEL MARTIN

The 32-year-old skydiving instructor also taught kite surfing.

His girlfriend, Alex Nakao, visited a growing memorial near the crash site over the weekend, Hawaii News Now reported .

"He did get stressed out at work sometimes, but he loved what he did," she said. "He died doing what he loved."

JORDAN TEHERO

Jordan Tehero, a 23-year-old from the Hawaii island of Kauai, took up skydiving a few years ago as a distraction from the breakup of a relationship, his father, Garret Tehero, said. Then his son "went and fell in love" with the sport, he said.

His parents were both worried about his new hobby.

"Because of our fear, we wanted him to stop," the father said. "But he didn't have the fear that we had, so he just continued."

Any fears he may have had were taken care of with prayer. "He always told me, 'Dad, I pray before every flight, before every jump, I pray,'" the father said.

ASHLEY and BRYAN WEIKEL

The Colorado Springs, Colorado, couple were celebrating their first wedding anniversary at the time of the crash.

Relatives told KCNC-TV that Bryan and Ashley Weikel were really excited to go skydiving but Bryan's mother, Kathy Reed-Gerk, said she had begged him not to go. Bryan was 27, and Ashley was 26 years old.

They posted images on social media leading up to the flight, including a final post of a video of the plane pulling up to them. The family says the tail number on the plane in the video matched that of the one that crashed.

Bryan's brother Kenneth Reed wrote on Facebook that his brother was "the absolute best person in the world" and that his wife was his "identical soul mate."

CASEY WILLIAMSON

Casey Williamson's love of adventure led him to winter snowboarding in Vail, Colorado, and summer skydiving in Moab, Utah. A year-and-a-half ago, he found his way to Hawaii, where he could skydive year-round.

The 29-year-old was his mother Carla Ajaga's only child, his cousin Natacha 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."

Williamson, who was from Yukon, Oklahoma, worked as an instructor and as a videographer who filmed customers as they dove. He was trying to earn more jumping hours and learn the trade, Mendenhall said.

The Honolulu Medical Examiner's office hasn't identified Williamson. But his family provided Honolulu police

with Williamson's name and date of birth, and the police confirmed he was on the flight, Mendenhall said.

Associated Press writers Rachel D'Oro and Mark Thiessen in Anchorage, Alaska, Colleen Slevin in Denver and AP Researcher Rhonda Shafner in New York contributed to this report.

'Dog the Bounty Hunter' co-star Beth Chapman dies at 51

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — Beth Chapman, who co-starred with her husband on the "Dog the Bounty Hunter" reality TV show and later spoke out against some bail reform measures as a leader of a national bail agents' organization, has died.

Chapman died early Wednesday at Queen's Medical Center after an almost 2-year battle with cancer, Mona Wood-Sword, a family spokeswoman, said in a statement. She was 51.

Chapman was diagnosed with throat cancer in September 2017 after getting a nagging cough checked out. A tumor was removed, and she was declared cancer-free. But in November 2018, she was diagnosed with stage four lung cancer.

"This is the time she would wake up to go hike Koko Head mountain," her husband, Duane "Dog" Chapman, posted on Twitter early Wednesday. "Only today, she hiked the stairway to heaven. We all love you, Beth. See you on the other side."

Celebrities also took to Twitter to express their condolences.

Jeanine Pirro, the host of Fox News' "Justice with Judge Jeanine" posted two photos of her with Beth Chapman and one with the couple on Twitter. Pirro added: "Rest in peace Beth Chapman. a good lady and a great American."

Actor Scott Baio tweeted: "RIP Sweet @MrsdogC. Sending our deepest sympathy and prayers to @DogBountyHunter and his family."

"Inside Edition" special correspondent Rita Crosby tweeted, "No words to describe this huge loss of my heroic and dear friend #BethChapman. Prayers needed for @DogBountyHunter and all of us who loved Beth so very much and her indomitable spirit."

On Friday, Chapman had difficulty breathing and passed out momentarily, Wood-Sword said. She was taken to a hospital, and doctors put her in a medically induced coma to spare her pain while treating her, the spokeswoman said.

Born Alice Elizabeth Smith in Denver, Chapman had lived in Honolulu since 1989. In 2006, she and Duane Chapman, the self-proclaimed world's best bounty hunter, married during a sunset ceremony at a Big Island resort after being together for 16 years.

"I've already been cuffed and shackled by Beth anyway," he told The Associated Press at the time.

The wedding took place a day after the death of Duane Chapman's 23-year-old daughter, Barbara Katy Chapman, who was killed in a car accident near her home in Fairbanks, Alaska, Wood-Sword recalled. The couple decided to go forward with the wedding to celebrate her life. The wedding was featured in an episode of the A&E series "Dog the Bounty Hunter," which followed the duo's exploits in apprehending people who have avoided arrest warrants.

The couple met when he posted her bond for a shoplifting arrest, she told Rosie O'Donnell on "The Rosie Show."

"He came walking out there, I said: 'Oh yes he will be mine,'" Chapman said.

There are 12 children between the couple. They had 15 grandchildren and one great-grandchild, Wood-Sword said.

In 2007, Hawaii lawmakers honored the couple for their work capturing criminals.

"It's kind of extraordinary to be called a crime fighter," she said at the time. "I'll have to go home and get my Wonder Woman outfit."

Duane Chapman gained fame after he nabbed serial rapist and Max Factor heir Andrew Luster in Mexico in 2003.

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"Dog the Bounty Hunter" was canceled in 2012. The show was pulled in 2007 following a racial outburst by Duane Chapman and then returned to the air in 2008. He was heard in a taped phone conversation using a racial slur in reference to his son's black girlfriend. He apologized and said he received counseling.

They later starred in Country Music Television's "Dog & Beth: On the Hunt."

WGN America is in production on "Dog's Most Wanted." A trailer for the show was released earlier this month.

Chapman was elected president of the Professional Bail Agents of the United States and opposed some bail reform measures nationwide. She opposed eliminating the cash bail system, saying it would put the public at risk. "People are not in jail because they are poor," she said in 2017. "They're in jail because they broke the law."

She boasted of being the youngest ever to receive a bail license in Colorado at 29. That record was beat by her stepdaughter Lyssa Chapman who became licensed at age 19, she said.

Funeral services are expected to be held in Honolulu and Colorado, Wood-Sword said.

This version corrects that the couple wed a day after the death of Duane Chapman's daughter.

Associated Press journalist Mark Thiessen contributed to this report from Anchorage, Alaska.

Trump: China needs to reach a trade deal more than he does

By PAUL WISEMAN AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Wednesday that he's under little pressure to reach a trade deal with China when he meets late this week with President Xi Jinping and is prepared to impose further tariffs on Chinese imports.

"The Chinese economy's going down the tubes," Trump said in an interview with Fox Business Network. "They want to make a deal more than I do."

The president has threatened to impose tariffs on an additional \$300 billion in Chinese imports — on top of the \$250 billion in goods he's already taxed — a move that would extend his import taxes to virtually everything China ships to the United States. He says the new tariffs might start at 10%. Earlier, the administration had said additional tariffs might reach 25%.

The two countries are sparring over the Trump administration's allegations that Beijing steals technology and coerces foreign companies into handing over trade secrets. Trump and Xi are scheduled to meet at the Group of 20 leaders' meeting Friday and Saturday in Osaka, Japan.

Speaking to reporters at a lunch in New York, former Chinese diplomat Zhao Weiping disputed U.S. complaints about Chinese technology policy, suggesting the trade war was meant to hobble a rising competitor. "We think the fundamental purpose is to check the development of China," said Zhao, vice president of the Chinese People's Institute for Foreign Affairs.

He later added, "Nobody will win the trade war. It's just a question of which side will lose more."

Also Wednesday, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross struck a somewhat more conciliatory note.

"We're not looking for a victory," Ross said in a separate interview with Fox Business Network. "What we're looking for is a sensible deal that addresses the legitimate issues that we have. This is not a thing where one (country) is going to be pinned to the floor and knocked out."

A meaningful agreement, Ross said, would involve persuading Beijing to curb abusive tech policies, buy more American products, narrow the U.S. trade deficit with China (a record \$381 billion last year) and, "hardest of all," devising ways to make sure Beijing lives up to its commitments.

Zhao said the Americans are being unrealistic about just how much China can do to reduce the trade imbalance. "The U.S. has asked us to purchase more than we can buy," he said.

Later, Zhao said, "The U.S. side should not be too ambitious. You have to be realistic."

In his interview, Trump also suggested that he may have identified a new trade adversary: Vietnam. Asked about reports that Chinese products were being diverted to Vietnam to avoid his tariffs on goods

from China, Trump asserted that "Vietnam takes advantage of us even worse than China."

Asked whether he was planning to impose tariffs on Vietnamese products, the president said his administration was "in discussions" with Vietnam.

Darlene Superville and Deb Riechmann in Washington and Brad Foss in New York contributed to this story.

Wayfair workers protest furniture sale to detention center

By **ALEXANDRA OLSON** and **STEVE LEBLANC** Associated Press Writers

BOSTON (AP) — Employees at online home furnishings retailer Wayfair walked out Wednesday to protest the company's decision to sell \$200,000 worth of furniture to a government contractor that runs a detention center for migrant children in Texas.

The protest triggered a broader backlash against the company, with some customers calling for a boycott. Several hundred people joined the protest at a plaza near the company's Boston headquarters, a mix of employees and people from outside the company.

More than 500 employees at the company's Boston headquarters signed a protest letter to executives when they found out about the contract. Wayfair refused to back out of the contract but told employees Wednesday morning that it would donate \$100,000 to the Red Cross.

"Last week, we found out about the sale and that we are profiting from this. And we are not comfortable with that," said Tom Brown, 33, a Wayfair engineer at the protest. "For me personally, there is more to life than profit."

Democratic presidential candidates Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders both said they stood by the Wayfair employees who are protesting, as did Congressional Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York.

Wayfair's stock initially slipped more than 5% Tuesday as word of the walkout spread. On Wednesday, the stock rose about 1%.

The protest comes amid a new uproar over revelations of terrible conditions at a Border Patrol facility in Clint, Texas, first reported by The Associated Press, including inadequate food, lack of medical care, no soap, and older children trying to care for toddlers. Emotions were also running high one day after photos published by the Mexican newspaper La Jornada and distributed worldwide by the AP showed the bodies of a migrant father and his young daughter who drowned while trying to cross the Rio Grande from Mexico to enter the United States without legal permission.

The unprecedented surge of migrant families has left U.S. immigration detention centers severely overcrowded and taxed the government's ability to provide medical care and other attention. Six children have died since September after being detained by border agents. As the controversy grew, the acting head of U.S. Customs and Border Protection resigned Tuesday, though he did not give a reason for leaving.

In a letter to the employees, Wayfair leaders said that it's standard practice to fulfill orders for any customer acting within the law.

"We believe it is our business to sell to any customer who is acting within the laws of the countries within which we operate," said the letter.

Wayfair said it would have no further comment on the protest.

Wayfair sold the beds to Baptist Children's Family Services, a non-profit with federal contracts to manage some of the camps along the border.

"We believe youth should sleep in beds with mattresses," the organization said in a brief statement.

Madeline Howard, a product manager at Wayfair, said company leaders had held a town hall earlier this week to listen to employee concerns but would not budge on their stance.

She said the company's donation to the Red Cross did not satisfy the demands of the employees, who had asked that the profit from the sale — about \$86,000 — be donated RAICES, a non-profit that is the largest immigration legal services provider in Texas.

In a statement, the Red Cross said it was "grateful for Wayfair's generous donation." The organization said it would put the funds toward "the increased aid we have provided for the past six months to community-based organizations helping with the border crisis in Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico."

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Brown, the Wayfair engineer, said there is no one answer on what the company policy should be, with some employees calling for the company to stop providing for the detention centers altogether, and others arguing it would be enough for Wayfair to forego profits from such sales.

Mimi Chakravorti, executive director of strategy at the brand consulting firm Landor, said Wayfair must decide whether the damage to their brand from the controversy will ultimately prove more costly than foregoing a \$200,000 contract.

"Unfortunately, they are not going to be able to get out of this without being burned on one side or the other," said Chakravorti. "Is it about moral standards? Or is it about the bottom line dollars, and being able to sell to anyone in a legal way?"

Other companies have also been drawn into the controversy over the Trump administration's immigration policies.

Last year, American Airlines and United Airlines said they asked the government not to put migrant children who have been separated from their parents on their flights. Employees have protested work by Amazon and Microsoft to assist police agencies and federal immigration agents with facial recognition and other tools. Microsoft executives defended the company's immigration contract despite a protest letter that circulated through the company over the summer.

The children's magazine Highlights jumped in Tuesday, with CEO Kent Johnson posting a statement on Twitter condemning the separation of families at the border and calling for "more humane treatment of immigrant children" at detention centers.

The country's politically polarized atmosphere has become a minefield for many businesses as workers increasingly take on their employers for issues they care about.

At Google, employees walked out of their offices last year to protest the tech company's mishandling of sexual misconduct allegations against executives. And workers at Amazon.com Inc. publicly published a letter addressed to CEO Jeff Bezos earlier this year to push the online shopping giant to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels.

Anne Gilson, a human resources expert at the employee benefits agency OneDigital, said companies have been traditionally more accustomed to handling employee discontent about internal workplace problems, not politics.

"This is new territory for many organizations," Gilson said, adding that companies need to strive to ensure employees feel they are heard before a controversy spills out into public view.

"Why do people feel they have to take drastic action?" Gilson said. "How was the conversation initially managed? Is the culture, 'Yeah, thanks Johnny,' and eye-rolling and sighs?"

Olson reported from New York. Associated Press writer Nomaan Merchant in Houston contributed to this report.

Gas prices could rise after fire-stricken refinery closes

By **MARC LEVY** and **CATHY BUSSEWITZ** Associated Press

The largest oil refinery on the East Coast said Wednesday that it will close after a devastating fire last week that set off explosions and damaged equipment, and analysts said consumers could see gas prices rise as summer travel hits full swing.

Philadelphia Energy Solutions sent a notice to state labor officials that it will shut the plant down Monday and lay off about 1,020 workers there in the next two weeks after that. The fire significantly damaged equipment and systems at a complex that was already struggling financially, the company said.

Gasoline futures prices spiked Tuesday night after the first news of the refinery's possible closure, and prices remained high Wednesday, according to the markets research company FactSet.

Motorists in the Mid-Atlantic region will likely see modest price increases as more summer travelers hit the road, AAA spokeswoman Jana Tidwell said in a statement.

The refinery has been an important source fueling transportation in the region, far from Gulf Coast re-

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fineries, and "at least temporarily, it's going to require some logistical shifting that could come at a cost," said Kevin Book, managing director at Clearview Energy Partners.

But while the amount of gasoline that will be lost from the refinery is sizable, it can easily be made up by imports from Europe or elsewhere, said Jonathan Aronson, a research analyst at Cornerstone Macro.

"We're not expecting any major shocks to retail gasoline (prices)," Aronson said. Consumers are more likely to feel gasoline prices increase due to the price of crude oil, which has been rallying in recent days, he said.

Philadelphia Energy Solutions is pursuing opportunities to restart the complex but cannot give any guarantees and, as a result, "all layoffs are expected to be permanent," the company said.

U.S. Sen. Pat Toomey said in a statement that his office was in touch with company officials and that he hopes that an alternative will emerge in coming weeks to prevent the refinery from closing permanently.

The company has shown a declining cash balance in the six months through March while its long-term debt grew, according to reports the company files in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Delaware.

The 150-year-old oil refining complex processes 335,000 barrels of crude oil daily, according to PES. The refinery turns the crude into gasoline, jet fuel, propane, home heating oil and other products.

It started as a bulk petroleum storage facility in 1866 and began refinery operations in 1870.

The company emerged from federal bankruptcy court last year after restructuring its debt, leaving its majority ownership in the hands of investment banking firms Credit Suisse Asset Management and Bardin Hill.

Friday's fire at the complex broke out early in the morning, and video showed an enormous orange blast bursting into the sky.

It set off three explosions felt miles away as the fire plowed through a tangle of pipes carrying fuel across the complex, the company has said. It happened at the Girard Point refinery, one of two at the PES complex in south Philadelphia.

The fire erupted in a tank containing a mixture of butane and propane, a fire official said.

Investigators haven't been able to go to some areas at the complex because they haven't yet been assessed by a structural engineer, the city fire commissioner's office said Wednesday.

United Steelworkers, which represents the refinery workers, is investigating whether the company had insurance coverage for a destroyed alkylation unit, Ryan O'Callaghan, the president of Local 10-1, told The Philadelphia Inquirer. It would push the company to rebuild the unit, he said.

"It appears they're cashing the check and heading for the doors," he said.

Levy reported from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Bussewitz reported from New York.

This story has been updated to correct that Philadelphia Energy Solutions said it would shut the plant down in a notice to labor officials, not in a statement.

Democrats hope Mueller testimony will have 'profound impact'

By MARY CLARE JALONICK, ERIC TUCKER and LISA MASCARO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chairman of the House Judiciary Committee says he expects special counsel Robert Mueller to have "a profound impact" when he testifies before Congress on July 17, even though Mueller has said he won't provide any new information.

Mueller's unusual back-to-back testimony in front of the House Judiciary and Intelligence committees is likely to be the most highly anticipated congressional hearing in years, particularly given Mueller's resolute silence throughout his two-year investigation into Russian contacts with President Donald Trump's campaign. Democrats negotiated for more than two months to obtain the testimony, hoping to focus public attention on the special counsel's 448-page report that they believe most Americans have not read.

"I think just if he says what was in the report and says it to the American people so they hear it, that will be very, very important," Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler told reporters Wednesday.

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"Whether he goes further than that, we'll see."

Nadler said he thinks Mueller will be a compelling witness given the nature of the report, which detailed Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election and reviewed several episodes in which Trump tried to influence Mueller's probe. He said he believes the hearing will have a "profound impact" because many people haven't read the report and don't know what's in it.

It will also be the first time Mueller has responded to questions since he was appointed special counsel in May 2017. Throughout his investigation, Mueller never responded to angry, public attacks from Trump, nor did he ever personally join his prosecutors in court or make announcements of criminal charges from the team. His sole public statement came from the Justice Department podium last month as he announced his departure, when he sought to explain his decision not to indict Trump or to accuse him of criminal conduct.

He also put lawmakers on notice that he was not eager to testify and did not ever intend to say more than what he put in the report.

"We chose those words carefully, and the work speaks for itself," Mueller said May 29. "I would not provide information beyond what is already public in any appearance before Congress."

Those remarks did little to settle the demands for his testimony. The two committees continued negotiations that had already been going on for weeks, saying they still wanted to hear from Mueller no matter how reluctant he was. The two committees announced Tuesday that he'd finally agreed to come under subpoena, and that they had issued the subpoenas that day.

The committee chairmen said there will be two hearings "back to back," one for each committee, and they will also separately meet with Mueller's staff in closed session. The Judiciary panel will go first, then Intelligence.

Nadler would not give details on the negotiations or why the subpoenas were needed. He just said "we reached a point where we believed that if we issued a subpoena he would obey it." The Justice Department declined to comment.

House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff expressed concerns that either the White House or Justice Department would try and block some or all of Mueller's testimony, possibly at the last minute, as they have with other administration witnesses. "I think every indication is that the president will continue interfering in any way he can," Schiff said.

On that point, though, Nadler said he doubts any such efforts would eventually succeed.

"Mr. Mueller is an honest man and understands that congressional subpoenas are not optional," Nadler said.

Trump himself simply tweeted, "Presidential Harassment!" He followed up on Wednesday morning in an interview with Fox Business Network, saying, "It never ends," then reiterating his grievances against the way the probe was conducted.

In the report issued in April, Mueller concluded there was not enough evidence to establish a conspiracy between Trump's presidential campaign and Russia, which was the original question that started the investigation. But he also said he could not exonerate Trump on obstruction of justice.

Democrats say it is now the job of Congress to assess the report's findings. Almost 80 Democrats have already announced that they believe an impeachment inquiry is needed, or around a third of the caucus. But House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has preferred a methodical approach that includes testimony from witnesses like Mueller.

Supporters of opening the impeachment process hope his open testimony will help galvanize their effort.

"I think having him testify will really illustrate the gravity of the allegations in the report and really have people understand why opening an inquiry is extraordinarily important for us to maintain the rule of law," said Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y.

Others were more cautious on what the testimony could achieve. "I think it will depend on what he says, and what people hear," said Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon, D-Pa., a member of the Judiciary panel.

Democrats are likely to confront the special counsel on why he did not come to a firm conclusion on obstruction of justice, seek his reaction to Trump's criticism and ask for his personal opinion about whether Trump would have been charged were he not the commander in chief. Republicans are likely to ask him

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about how the probe was conducted, and whether there was bias against Trump at the Justice Department. House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., questioned why they would still want to hear from Mueller after the lengthy report was issued. "He said he didn't want to talk to us anymore, didn't he?"

But Georgia Rep. Doug Collins, the top Republican on the Judiciary panel, has said he has no objections to Mueller's testimony.

"May this testimony bring to House Democrats the closure that the rest of America has enjoyed for months, and may it enable them to return to the business of legislating," Collins said.

Associated Press writer Michael Balsamo contributed to this report.

Asian shares rise on optimism around Trump-Xi meeting

By ANNABELLE LIANG Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — Asian stocks advanced Thursday ahead of a meeting between President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping at the G-20 summit in Japan this week.

Tokyo's benchmark Nikkei 225 rose 0.8% to 21,262.10 and the Kospi in South Korea climbed 0.9% to 2,139.91. Hong Kong's Hang Seng was up 0.9% at 28,466.09. The Shanghai Composite jumped 0.7% to 2,995.82 and Australia's S&P/ASX 200 added 0.1% to 6,644.90. Shares rose in Taiwan and throughout Southeast Asia.

The meeting is undoubtedly the economic highlight of the summit, held in Osaka, Japan, on Friday and Saturday. Investors hope that the presidents will move toward resolving a trade dispute that has raised business costs and weighed on global financial markets.

Trump has said he was prepared to place tariffs on \$300 billion more in Chinese imports, covering everything China ships to the United States, if the talks with Xi don't end in progress.

"The Chinese economy's going down the tubes," he said in an interview with Fox Business Network on Wednesday. "They want to make a deal more than I do."

On Wednesday, U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told CNBC that the two nations "were about 90% of the way there" with a trade deal. American and Chinese negotiators have completed 11 rounds of trade talks with no agreement.

Stephen Innes of Vanguard Markets believes the upcoming talks will be a "formality at best."

"Although Mnuchin suggested we are 90% there to a trade deal, that remaining 10% has always been the gap too far to bridge — especially that trust gap where the U.S. wants to keep existing tariffs in place to ensure China compliance," he added.

Wall Street made early gains Wednesday on optimism over the talks. But the rally fizzled and most major benchmarks were lower at the closing bell.

The S&P 500 index eased 0.1% to 2,913.78 and the Dow Jones Industrial Average shed less than 0.1% to 26,536.82. The Nasdaq composite added 0.3% to 7,909.97 while the Russell 2000 index of smaller company stocks slipped 0.2% to 1,517.78.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude lost 16 cents to \$59.22 a barrel. It picked up \$1.55 to settle at \$59.38 a barrel on Wednesday. Brent crude oil, the international standard, shed 21 cents to \$65.48 a barrel. The contract gained \$1.41 to \$65.69 a barrel in the previous session.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 107.97 yen from 107.79 yen late Wednesday. The euro weakened to \$1.1364 from \$1.1371.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, June 27, the 178th day of 2019. There are 187 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 27, 1991, Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, the first black jurist to sit on the nation's

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highest court, announced his retirement. (His departure led to the contentious nomination of Clarence Thomas to succeed him.)

On this date:

In 1844, Mormon leader Joseph Smith and his brother, Hyrum, were killed by a mob in Carthage, Illinois.

In 1846, New York and Boston were linked by telegraph wires.

In 1880, author-lecturer Helen Keller, who lived most of her life without sight or hearing, was born in Tuscumbia, Alabama.

In 1905, the Industrial Workers of the World was founded in Chicago.

In 1944, during World War II, American forces liberated the French port of Cherbourg (SHEHR'-boorg) from the Germans.

In 1957, Hurricane Audrey slammed into coastal Louisiana and Texas as a Category 4 storm; the official death toll from the storm was placed at 390, although a variety of state, federal and local sources have estimated the number of fatalities at between 400 and 600.

In 1974, President Richard Nixon opened an official visit to the Soviet Union.

In 1984, the Supreme Court ended the National Collegiate Athletic Association's monopoly on controlling college football telecasts, ruling such control violated antitrust law.

In 1988, at least 56 people were killed when a commuter train ran into a stationary train at the Gare de Lyon terminal in Paris. In 1988, Mike Tyson retained the undisputed heavyweight crown as he knocked out Michael Spinks 91 seconds into the first round of a championship fight in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

In 1990, NASA announced that a flaw in the orbiting Hubble Space Telescope was preventing the instrument from achieving optimum focus. (The problem was traced to a mirror that had not been ground to exact specifications; corrective optics were later installed to fix the problem.)

In 2005, the Supreme Court ruled, in a pair of 5-4 decisions, that displaying the Ten Commandments on government property was constitutionally permissible in some cases but not in others. BTK serial killer Dennis Rader pleaded guilty to ten murders that had spread fear across Wichita, Kansas, beginning in the 1970s. (Rader later received multiple life sentences.)

In 2008, North Korea destroyed the most visible symbol of its nuclear weapons program, the cooling tower at its main atomic reactor at Yongbyon. (However, North Korea announced in September 2008 that it was restoring its nuclear facilities.)

Ten years ago: Dr. Conrad Murray, the cardiologist who was with Michael Jackson during the pop star's final moments two days earlier, sat down with investigators for the first time to explain his actions. Actress Gale Storm, 87, died in Danville, California.

Five years ago: Over Russian objections, Ukraine's new president, Petro Poroshenko (por-oh-SHEHN'-koh), signed a free-trade agreement binding his country more closely to Western Europe. Leslie Manigat, 83, a prominent figure in the Haitian political establishment whose rule as president was cut short by a military coup in 1988, died in Port-au-Prince. Bobby Womack, 70, a colorful and highly influential R&B singer-songwriter who had influenced artists from the Rolling Stones to Damon Albarn, died in Los Angeles.

One year ago: Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy, whose vote often decided cases on abortion, gay rights and other contentious issues, announced his retirement. The Supreme Court ruled that government workers can't be forced to contribute to labor unions that represent them in collective bargaining. Joe Jackson, the patriarch of the singing Jackson family, died in Las Vegas at the age of 89.

Today's Birthdays: Business executive Ross Perot is 89. Former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt is 81. Singer-musician Bruce Johnston (The Beach Boys) is 77. Fashion designer Vera Wang is 70. Actress Julia Duffy is 68. Actress Isabelle Adjani is 64. Country singer Lorrie Morgan is 60. Actor Brian Drillinger is 59. Writer-producer-director J.J. Abrams is 53. Former Sen. Kelly Ayotte (AY'-aht), R-N.H., is 51. Olympic gold and bronze medal figure skater Viktor Petrenko (peh-TREHN'-koh) is 50. Actor Edward "Grapevine" Fordham Jr. is 49. TV personality Jo Frost is 49. Actor Yancey Arias is 48. Actor Christian Kane is 47. Actor Tobey Maguire is 44. Rock singer Bernhoft is 43. Gospel singer Leigh Nash is 43. Christian rock singer Zach Williams is 41. Musician Chris Eldridge (Punch Brothers) is 37. Reality TV star Khloe Kardashian (kar-DASH'-ee-uhn) is 35. Actor Drake Bell is 33. Actor Sam Claflin is 33. Actress India de Beaufort is 32. Actor

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Ed Westwick is 32. Actor Matthew Lewis (Film: "Harry Potter"; TV: "Ripper Street") is 30. Actress Madylin Sweeten is 28. Pop singer Lauren Jauregui (Fifth Harmony) (TV: "The X Factor") is 23. R&B singer H.E.R. is 22. Actor Chandler Riggs is 20.

Thought for Today: "The main dangers in this life are the people who want to change everything — or nothing." — Viscountess Nancy Astor, American-born British politician (1879-1964).