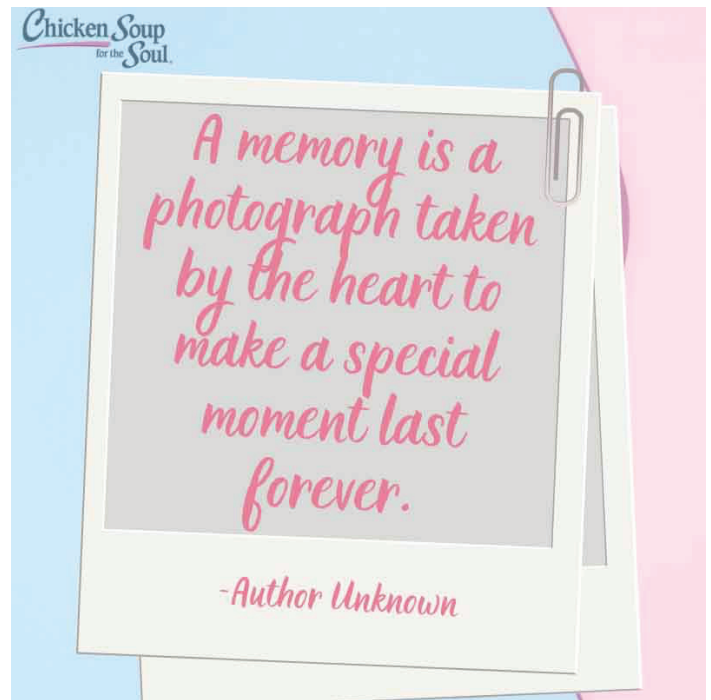


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CLOSED: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

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.)

Tuesday, July 2

- 6:00 p.m.: Junior Legion at Claremont, (DH)
- 6:00 p.m.: Junior Teeners at Selby, (DH)
- 6:00 p.m.: U8 Pee Wees at Sisseton, (DH) (R,B)
- 6:00 p.m.: T-Ball hosts Andover, Falk Field (Black)
- 7:00 p.m.: U10 Pee Wees host Andover (R,B)
- Softball U12 hosts Ipswich, (DH), 6 p.m.
- Softball U14 at Frankfort, (DH), 6 p.m.

Sunday, July 7

- 2:00 p.m.: Legion at Redfield, (DH)
- 2:00 p.m.: U12 Midgets vs. Backous & Pierre at Manor Park

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The Library of Congress is one of the architecture wonders of the United States. The builders want to showcase to the world that it can also build fancy structures like they do overseas.



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The Reading Room.

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BASEBALL THEN AND NOW

"The best teams today are better than the best teams then. But the worst teams now are worse than the worst teams then."

—Whitey Herzog, St. Louis Cardinals manager, comparing the major league baseball clubs of 1950 with those in 1990

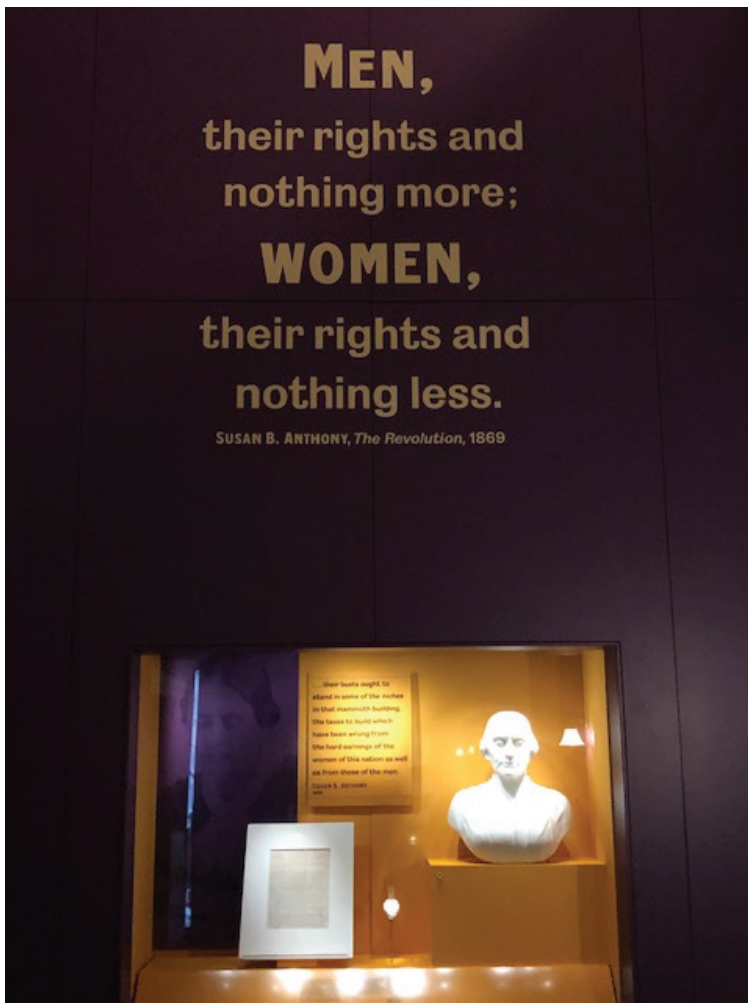
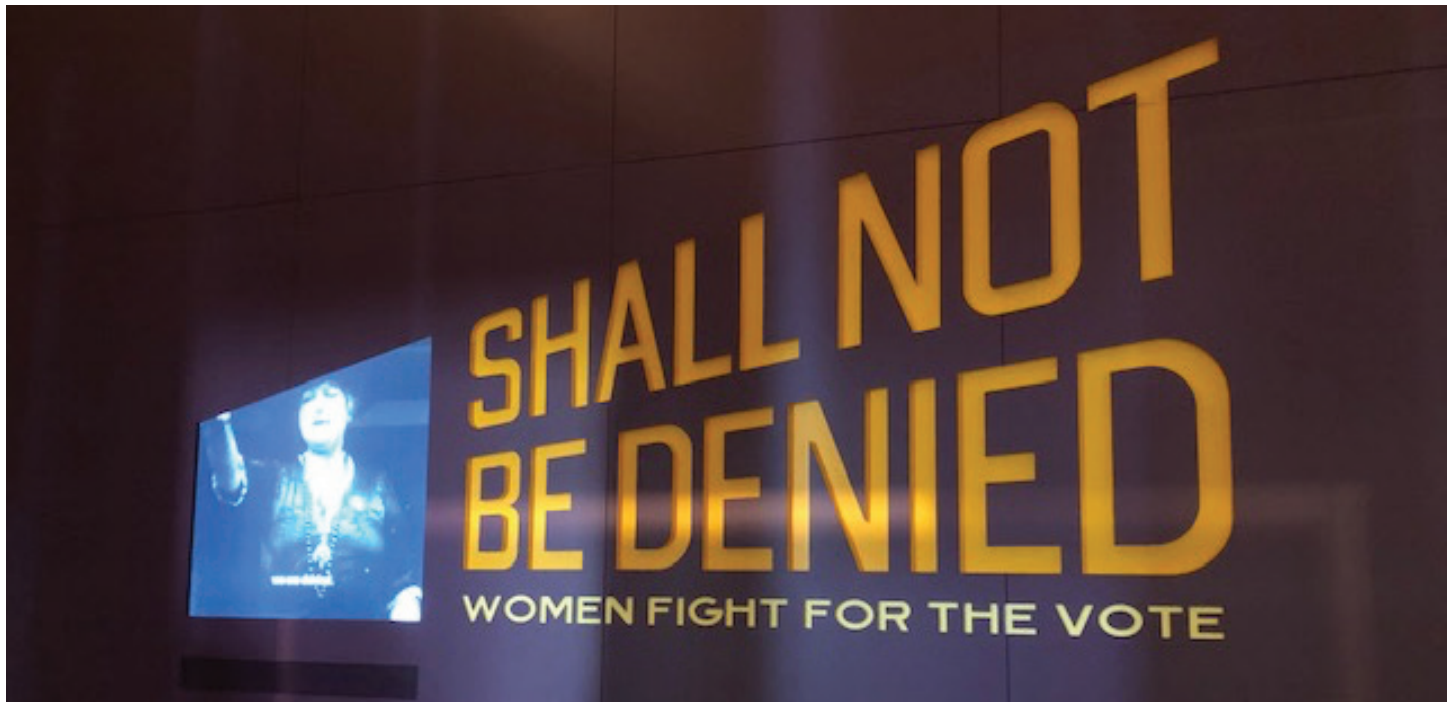
How do teams playing today compare with other eras? Right off the bat, Whitey Herzog has prompted a baseball conversation before you have gotten past the entrance to this exhibition. It is a conversation that might continue between you and other fans long after you have left the Library of Congress. That's one of the great things about baseball—it brings people together to watch or play the game, and then spurs discussion, analysis, and debate that can lead to agony or exaltation.

The items in this case from then and now are also part of the conversation. What if three-time American League batting champion José Altuve played a hundred years ago—hitting with a mushroom handle bat? Would New York Yankees catcher Yogi Berra have donned a hockey-style mask? And what if you had to play shortstop with fingerless gloves?



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There were exhibits on display in the Library of Congress. One was on Women's Right to Vote and the other was on American Baseball.

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"I cannot live without books"

Thomas Jefferson, June 10, 1815

Thomas Jefferson's Library

Throughout his life, books were vital to Thomas Jefferson's education and well being. His books provided Jefferson with a broader knowledge of the contemporary and ancient worlds than many of his contemporaries had obtained through personal experience.

Jefferson's library, which developed through several stages, was always critically important to him. In the midst of the American Revolution and while he was United States minister to France in the 1780s, Jefferson acquired thousands of books for his library at Monticello. By 1814, when the British burned the Capitol and with it the Congressional Library, Thomas Jefferson had acquired the largest personal collection of books in the United States.

Short of funds and wanting to see the library re-established, Jefferson offered to sell his personal library to Congress as a replacement for the destroyed collection. After some controversy, Congress purchased his library for \$23,950 in 1815. Although a second fire on Christmas Eve of 1851 destroyed nearly two thirds of the 6,487 volumes

Congress had purchased from Jefferson, the Jefferson books remain the core from which the present collections of the Library of Congress—the world's largest library—developed.

In this reconstruction of Jefferson's library, the books have been arranged in an order that Jefferson described as "sometimes analytical, sometimes chronological, and sometimes a combination of both." Jefferson followed a modified version of the organization of knowledge created by British philosopher Francis Bacon (1561-1626). The books were divided into categories of "Memory," "Reason," and "Imagination"—which Jefferson interpreted as "History," "Philosophy," and "Fine Arts"—and further divided into forty-four "chapters." Included in this re-creation are 2,000 volumes from the original Jefferson Collection. An additional 3,000 or so volumes—editions that match those lost in the fire that struck the Capitol in 1851—come from other collections in the Library of Congress. Other missing works have been acquired through gifts. Several hundred volumes have been purchased since 2000.

*The reconstruction of Thomas Jefferson's Library was made possible by
Jerry and Gene Jones*

*This exhibition was made possible by
Peter D. and Julie Fisher Cummings and the Marjorie M. Fisher Fund*

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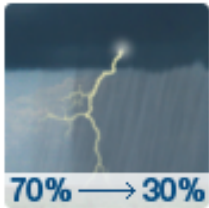
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Today



T-storms
Likely then
Chance
T-storms

High: 79 °F

Tonight



Partly Cloudy

Low: 61 °F

Tuesday



Mostly Sunny

High: 86 °F

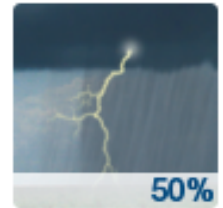
Tuesday
Night



Chance
T-storms

Low: 66 °F

Wednesday



Chance
T-storms

High: 83 °F



Wet Weather Slowly Diminishing West to East

Showers and a Few Thunderstorms ending over central SD by early afternoon, and lingering across eastern SD and western MN



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

weather.gov/abr

Graphic Created
7/1/2019 5:19 AM

Published on: 07/01/2019 at 1:26AM

Our wet weather will be slowly coming to an end west to east through the day. Temperatures will top out in the upper 70s. Looking ahead, precipitation chances return Tuesday night, and continue through much of the work week.

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Today in Weather History

July 1, 1928: A powerful, estimated F4 tornado moved southeast from 6 miles west of Miller, Hand County, destroying farms near the start of the path. All buildings were leveled to the ground, including two homes. A checkbook from one residence was found 10 miles away. Estimated property damaged was set at \$50,000.

July 1, 1955: An estimated F2 tornado moved northeast near Bowdle. Two barns were destroyed. A small girl and a pony were reportedly carried a quarter mile without injury. A tornado was also spotted in Emmons County in North Dakota, causing \$10,000 worth of damage.

July 1, 2005: Torrential rains of three to seven inches fell across far eastern Brown, western and northern Day, and most of Marshall Counties in late June causing widespread flooding. The flood waters slowly receded through July 10th. Many township roads and highways were flooded along with thousands of acres of cropland. Water surrounded several homes resulting in people being rescued. Some of the houses were flooded. Many bridges were damaged, and roads and culverts were washed out. In Day County, 30 roads were washed out, and 15 bridges needed repairs.

July 1, 2006: With continued little or no rainfall along with much above average temperatures, a drought expanded and intensified through July across central and north central South Dakota. Severe (D2) to an extreme (D3) drought early in July worsened to an extreme (D3) to exceptional (D4) across all of the areas by the middle of July and remained there until the end of the month. Rainfall was 1.50 inches to 2.25 inches below average for the month and from 7 to 8 inches below average for the year. Soil moisture was 4 to 5 inches below average, and lakes and river flows were well below normal. Crops and pastures were devastated due to the extreme dryness and burn bans were in effect across all of the areas. Many ranchers had to sell off much of their cattle. Throughout July, periodic high winds, low relative humidity values, along with many lightning storms resulted in several fires across central and north central South Dakota. The fires burned tens of thousands of acres of pastureland and cropland. Hundreds of firefighters worked throughout the month to contain the flames. The governor of South Dakota declared a statewide emergency and the United States Department of Agriculture declared all of the counties drought disasters. Swan Lake, in north-central South Dakota between Lowry and Hoven, had completely dried up from the long period of dryness. The last time this happened to the lake was 30 years prior in 1976. Also, Lake Oahe at Pierre was four feet above its all-time low.

1792 - A tremendous storm (a tornado or hurricane) hit Philadelphia and New York City. Many young people were drowned while out boating on that Sunday. (David Ludlum)

1861: Cherrapunji, Meghalaya, India measured 366 inches of rain during the month of July 1861. From August 1, 1860, to July 31, 1861, Cherrapunji received a record-breaking 1,041.75 inches of precipitation.

1911 - The high of just 79 degrees at Phoenix AZ was their coolest daily maximum of record for the month of July. The normal daily high for July 1st is 105 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1979 - It snowed almost half a foot (5.8 inches) at Stampede Pass WA, a July record. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Lake Charles LA was drenched with a month's worth of rain during the early morning. More than five inches of rain soaked the city, including 2.68 inches in one hour. A thunderstorm in the southern Yakima Valley of Washington State produced high winds which downed trees up to six feet in diameter. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Twenty-six cities in the north central and northeastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date. Lows of 48 degrees at Providence RI, 48 degrees at Roanoke VA, 49 degrees at Stratford CT, and 48 degrees at Wilmington, DE, were records for the month of July. Boston MA equalled their record for July with a low of 50 degrees. Five inches of snow whitened Mount Washington NH. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Showers and thunderstorms associated with the low pressure system which was once Tropical Storm Allison continued to drench parts of Mississippi, Louisiana and eastern Texas. Late night thunderstorms produced 12.58 inches of rain at Biloxi, MS, in six hours, and 10.73 inches at Gulfport MS. Flooding in Mississippi over the first six days of the month caused 55 million dollars damage. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 87 °F at 1:54 PM

Low Temp: 76 °F at 8:01 AM

Wind: 25 mph at 9:10 AM

Day Rain: 0.35

Record High: 100° in 1911

Record Low: 41° in 1995

Average High: 82°F

Average Low: 58°F

Average Precip in June.: 3.70

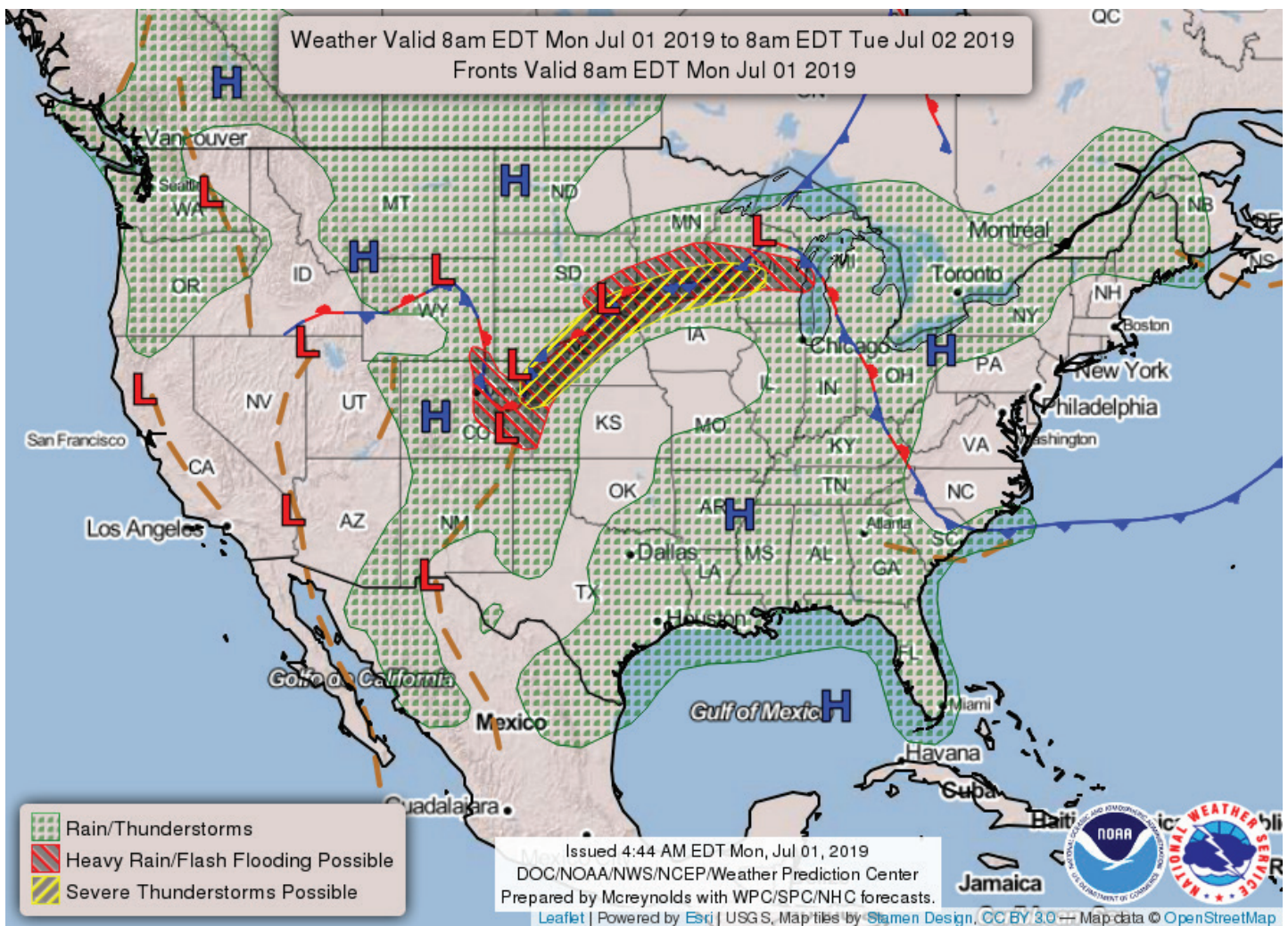
Precip to date in June.: 4.88

Average Precip to date: 10.84

Precip Year to Date: 12.66

Sunset Tonight: 9:26 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:50 a.m.



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GET READIES

At first it seemed as though it was an insult. But the longer I thought about it, the more sense it made, and I finally accepted it as a compliment. One thing about you, Guido, he said, is that you go through several get readies before you do anything. First you get ready, then after you study your get ready, you usually get ready all over again to make sure your plans are complete. One thing is certain, your get readies eliminate, not all, but many mistakes.

Sometime later I realized that Solomon had something in mind that was similar to my get readies. Hear this important bit of wisdom: It is not good to have zeal without knowledge, nor to be hasty and miss the way. The important point in this Proverb, however, is not about worldly knowledge alone, but how and what does Gods Word say about what we may be planning to do.

To do something that may bring us notoriety or success in the eyes of the world may eventually cause our downfall. Perhaps our destruction or death. It is a great tragedy to be uninformed if, when we do something, it is contrary to Gods will or interests. If our plans are deceitful and our goals purely selfish, if we are only doing what we are doing to glorify ourselves and not God, we have a serious problem. We cannot expect God to bless us or what we want to do if it is not in agreement with His Word or way. Imagine praying: God bless me for being a liar.

Basic to honoring God is being open and honest in everything we do. If we use deceit to sell a product or idea or provide an item that does not meet Gods or mans standards, we are dishonoring God and cannot expect His blessings on our work or ways. To profess to know God and not honor Him is very dangerous and causes serious consequences.

Whatever we do must always be consistent with knowledge found in and established on Gods Word. Anything less than that misses His way.

Prayer: Lord, guard us against doing anything that is contrary to Your will. May we honor You constantly in all our words and our ways and glorify You in everything. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 19:2 It is not good to have zeal without knowledge, nor to be hasty and miss the way.

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2019 Groton SD Community Events

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

2020 Groton SD Community Events

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

News from the Associated Press

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 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

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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>

Motorcycle driver dies from injuries suffered in collision

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a 55-year-old man driving a motorcycle has died from injuries sustained in a crash with a car in Yankton.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol says the incident happened about 2:30 p.m. Thursday. The patrol says the 16-year-old driver of the car was westbound on state Highway 50 when she attempted a left-hand turn and collided with the eastbound motorcycle.

The motorcycle driver was taken first to a Yankton hospital and later flown to a Sioux Falls hospital, where he died Sunday.

The patrol says charges are pending against the driver of the car, who was not injured. The motorcycle driver was not wearing a helmet.

Names involved in the crash have not been released.

Authorities identify man who died in crash west of Elkton

ELKTON, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have released the name of a man who died in a two-vehicle crash west of Elkton.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol says 69-year-old Robert Rochel, of Elkton, was pronounced dead at the scene of Monday afternoon's crash.

The patrol says Rochel was driving a pickup truck west on state Highway 13 when he made a U-turn at an intersection. The pickup crossed the centerline into the westbound lane and into the path of semitrailer loaded with gravel.

The semi driver was not injured.

Nebraska measure could tip the number of states with casinos

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By GRANT SCHULTE Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska voters may decide next year whether to legalize casino gambling in a ballot measure that could tip the number of states that allow commercial gambling into the majority.

Supporters of legalized casinos have launched a petition drive to place the issue on the 2020 ballot with financial backing from the economic development corporation owned by the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska.

Twenty-five states — including neighboring Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and South Dakota — allow commercial casino gambling with games such as slot machines, craps and roulette wheels, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Iowa casinos near Omaha, in particular, cater to Nebraska residents looking to gamble.

“Hundreds of millions of dollars go across the border every year,” said Lance Morgan, the CEO of Ho-Chunk Inc., the corporation pushing the measure on the tribe’s behalf. “For a Nebraskan to do gaming, you have to go half a mile. It’s the height of paternalism to try to try to restrict it.”

Morgan said he’s confident, based on the group’s internal polling, that voters will approve the measure if it appears on the ballot.

Only two states, Hawaii and Utah, have a complete ban on gambling. Nebraska is among states that allow Native American tribal casinos that are limited to bingo and card games where the house has no stake in the outcome, such as poker. Nebraska also offers keno, horse racing and a lottery. Commercial casinos, by contrast, have slot machines, craps, roulette wheels and card games such as blackjack.

The measure is certain to face opposition from leading conservatives, including Republican Gov. Pete Ricketts and former University of Nebraska football coach and athletic director Tom Osborne.

“Casinos are bad for families and bad for business,” said Nate Grasz, policy director for the Nebraska Family Alliance, a conservative policy group that plans to fight the measure. “All men and women deserve an opportunity to build the best lives for themselves, and state-sanctioned gambling robs them of that opportunity.”

Gambling opponents successfully defeated ballot measures in 2004 and 2006, despite being outspent by wealthy casino interests. In 2014, they challenged a gambling measure in court and persuaded the Nebraska Supreme Court to declare it unconstitutional, striking it from the ballot.

But some gambling opponents acknowledge public support has grown in recent years.

“It’s going to be hard,” said Pat Loontjer, executive director of Gambling with the Good Life. “We’ve been doing this for 24 years, and, well, the atmosphere in the state has changed.”

Supporters said they’ve changed the ballot measure to withstand a court challenge. The latest campaign will require three petitions — a constitutional amendment to allow casino gambling at state-licensed horse racing tracks and two state law changes to regulate and tax the industry. The state Supreme Court rejected a previous measure because it merged those issues onto one ballot, forcing voters to give one yes-or-no answer to multiple questions.

“We’ve learned from our mistakes in the past,” said Bob Moser, president of the Nebraska Horsemen’s Benevolent and Protective Association. “We have a really good plan and great partners, and we’re very optimistic about our chances this time.”

Moser said allowing casinos at state-licensed horse racing tracks would increase purse sizes and make horse races larger and more competitive, and thus revive the struggling industry.

A similar effort failed to gain enough signatures in 2016, but independent observers blame poor management, not a lack of support. The company that managed that petition drive claimed to have collected more than enough signatures, but nearly 42,000 were later declared invalid. The company now faces a lawsuit over the petition drive.

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

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Protests escalate as Hong Kong marks handover to China

By KEN MORITSUGU Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Frustration among protesters in Hong Kong boiled over Monday, with one group attacking the legislative building and tens of thousands of others marching through the city to demand expanded democracy on the 22nd anniversary of the former British colony's return to China.

Black-clad protesters wearing hard hats and face masks smashed a large hole through the bottom of a floor-to-ceiling window at the legislature in the early afternoon.

They repeatedly rammed a cargo cart and large poles into the glass while police with riot shields lined up inside to prevent anyone from entering. Officers grabbed the cart after it became wedged in the broken glass and repelled the protesters with pepper spray.

Five hours later, protesters smashed more windows and dismantled a towering metal grate protecting a section of the building, which was ordered closed and workers sent home.

The actions prompted march organizers to change the endpoint of their protest from the legislature to a nearby park, after police asked them to either call it off or change the route. Police wanted the march to end earlier in the Wan Chai district, but organizers said that would leave out many people who planned to join the march along the way.

Hong Kong has been wracked by weeks of protests over a government attempt to change extradition laws to allow suspects to be sent to China to face trial. The proposed legislation, on which debate has been suspended indefinitely, increased fears of eroding freedoms in the territory, which Britain returned to China on July 1, 1997.

Protesters want the bills formally withdrawn and Hong Kong's embattled leader, Carrie Lam, to resign.

Lam, who has come under withering criticism for trying to push the legislation through, pledged to be more responsive to public sentiment but has not responded directly to protesters' demands.

In an address after a flag-raising ceremony marking the anniversary of the handover, Lam said the protests and two marches that attracted hundreds of thousands of participants have taught her that she needs to listen better to youth and people in general.

"This has made me fully realize that I, as a politician, have to remind myself all the time of the need to grasp public sentiments accurately," she told the gathering in the city's cavernous convention center.

She insisted her government has good intentions, but said "I will learn the lesson and ensure that the government's future work will be closer and more responsive to the aspirations, sentiments and opinions of the community."

Security guards pushed pro-democracy lawmaker Helena Wong out of the room as she shouted at Lam to resign and withdraw the "evil" legislation. She later told reporters she was voicing the grievances and opinions of the protesters, who could not get into the event.

The extradition bill controversy has given fresh momentum to Hong Kong's pro-democracy opposition movement, awakening broader concerns that China is chipping away at the rights guaranteed to Hong Kong for 50 years under a "one country, two systems" framework. The two marches in June drew more than a million people, according to organizer estimates.

Jimmy Sham, a leader of the pro-democracy group that organized the march, told the crowd that Lam had not responded to their demands because she is not democratically elected. The leader of Hong Kong is chosen by a committee dominated by pro-China elites.

"We know that Carrie Lam can be so arrogant," Sham said, rallying the crowd under a blazing sun before the start of the march at Victoria Park. "She is protected by our flawed system."

The protesters are also demanding an independent inquiry into police actions during a June 12 protest, when officers used tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse a demonstration that blocked the legislature on the day that debate on the bill had been scheduled to resume.

The police say the use of force was justified, but since then have largely adopted softer tactics, even as protesters besieged police headquarters in recent days, pelting it with eggs and spray-painting slogans on its outer walls.

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The area around Golden Bauhinia Square, where the flag-raising ceremony took place, was blocked off from Saturday to prevent protesters from gathering to disrupt it. Before the morning ceremony, protesters trying to force their way to the square were driven back by officers with plastic shields and batons, the retreating protesters pointing open umbrellas to ward off pepper spray.

"We are horrified, this is our obligation to do this, we are protecting our home," said Jack, a 26-year-old office worker who would only give his first name. "I don't know why the government is harming us. It's harming the rule of law, the rule of law is the last firewall between us and the Chinese Communist Party."

The extradition legislation has drawn opposition from the legal profession, commercial groups and foreign nations, reflecting Hong Kong's status as an international business center with a strong independent judiciary and high degree of transparency.

During a brief visit to Mongolia on Monday, U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton said Washington expects "China like every other country to adhere to its international obligations" regarding Hong Kong.

China rejects all such statements as foreign interference. In Beijing, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told reporters at a daily briefing that "Hong Kong affairs are purely China's internal affairs, and no foreign country has the right to intervene."

Associated Press journalists Raf Wober, Alice Fung, Johnson Lai and Dake Kang contributed to this report.

Duty free owners wield quiet influence in right-wing Israel

By URI BLAU and JOSEF FEDERMAN The Associated Press

HEBRON, West Bank (AP) — When travelers shop at dozens of duty free stores at airports worldwide, they may be paying for more than a bottle of vodka or a box of chocolates.

The Falic family of Florida, owners of the ubiquitous chain of Duty Free Americas shops, funds a generous and sometimes controversial philanthropic empire in Israel that runs through the corridors of power and stretches deep into the occupied West Bank. An Associated Press investigation shows that the family has donated at least \$5.6 million to settler groups in the West Bank and east Jerusalem over the past decade, funding synagogues, schools and social services along with far-right causes considered extreme even in Israel.

The Falics support the ultranationalist Jewish community in Hebron, whose members include several prominent followers of a late rabbi banned from Israeli politics for his racist views, and whose movement is outlawed by the U.S. as a terrorist organization. They back Jewish groups that covertly buy up Palestinian properties in east Jerusalem, and they helped fund an unauthorized settlement outpost in the West Bank.

They have supported groups that are pushing for the establishment of a Third Temple for Jews at the holiest and most contested site in the Holy Land. They also have given more money than any other donor to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a strong supporter of settlements, and have donated to other leaders of his Likud party.

The Falics' philanthropy is not limited to the settlements, and they support many mainstream causes in the U.S. and Israel, such as hospitals, athletics and helping the needy. But they are a key example of how wealthy U.S. donors have bolstered the contentious settlement movement.

"Far-right foreign donors are a pillar of the settlement enterprise," said Brian Reeves, a spokesman for Peace Now, an Israeli anti-settlement watchdog group.

Most of the world considers Jewish settlements in the West Bank and east Jerusalem to be obstacles to peace that gobble up territories claimed by the Palestinians for a future independent state. The international community overwhelmingly believes the settlements violate international law, which prohibits an occupying power from transferring its own population into the territory it occupies.

However, Israel considers the territories "disputed," and says the fate of the settlements should be determined through negotiations.

In a response to AP questions through his lawyer, Simon Falic, who spoke on behalf of the family, said Jews should be able to live anywhere in the Holy Land, whether it's Israel, Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem

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or the West Bank. He condemned violence and claimed none of the groups he supports do anything illegal under Israeli law.

"We are proud to support organizations that help promote Jewish life all over the Land of Israel," said Falic, whose business is based in Miami, Florida. "The idea that the mere existence of Jewish life in any geographical area is an impediment to peace makes no sense to us."

Since the capture of the West Bank and east Jerusalem in the 1967 Mideast war, the settler population has grown to about 700,000 people, roughly 10% of Israel's Jewish population. In recent years, it has received a boost from Netanyahu's pro-settler government and from a far more tolerant attitude by President Donald Trump, whose top Mideast advisers are longtime settlement supporters.

This growth has been fueled in part by fundraising arms for leading settlement groups in the United States, which allow them to collect tax-deductible contributions from thousands of American donors.

Data on American philanthropic support for settlements is limited, mainly due to a lack of transparency requirements. But according to a past investigation of U.S. tax forms by the Israeli daily Haaretz, fundraising organizations in the U.S. raised more than \$230 million for settlement causes between 2009 and 2013 alone.

Other big donors include casino magnate Sheldon Adelson, a backer of Netanyahu and Trump, who donated \$5 million in 2014 through his charitable foundation to the Israeli university in the West Bank settlement of Ariel, according to IRS records. Billionaire Ira Rennert, financier Roger Hertog and the U.S. ambassador to Israel, David Friedman, are also among prominent Jewish-American donors to settlement causes. The names of scores of lesser-known donors adorn buildings, playgrounds and even park benches throughout the West Bank.

The Falics stand out for the wide scope of groups they support and their close ties with leading Israeli politicians.

The family has two main charitable organizations, the U.S.-based Falic Family Private Foundation and the Segal Foundation in Israel. It is not clear whether the U.S. foundation contributed to the settlements, because its financial reports do not outline its recipients.

The Segal foundation, operating since 2007, gave away roughly \$15 million in its first decade. This foundation's financial reports also do not outline recipients, but the AP analysis identified at least \$5.6 million in donations to settlement and far-right causes by searching through the Israeli records of more than two dozen settlement organizations. Other funds went to other causes, including the country's amateur American football league, a Jerusalem hospital and a Jewish seminary in northern Israel.

Falic said the family's support for Jewish life "should not imply the exclusion of anyone else, including Christians and Muslims." However, critics say activities billed as harmless philanthropy have come at the expense of Palestinians and their claim to a state.

"Everyone should be aware that when they shop at 'Duty Free Americas,' their dollars could potentially finance some of the most extreme right-wing actors in Israel," said Ran Cohen, founder of the Israeli Democratic Bloc, which aims to expose anti-democratic trends.

Duty Free Americas is headed by three Falic brothers: Simon, Jerome and Leon. The chain operates over 180 stores at airports and border crossings in the U.S. and Latin America, including New York's JFK, Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson, Ronald Reagan and Dulles in Washington, and Miami International, according to the company website. Leon Falic told the trade publication TRBusiness that the privately held company last year posted over \$1.65 billion in sales.

Simon Falic said that under Jewish tradition, it is customary to donate 10% of one's earnings to charity.

During the decade ending in 2017, they donated about \$35 million, according to U.S. and Israeli tax records. Over that time, their U.S. foundation distributed about \$20 million. Their U.S. tax filings say that nearly all of the foundation's contributions went to "various worldwide Jewish organizations," but do not offer details.

Simon Falic provided the AP with a detailed breakdown of the foundation's 2017 donations, much of which went to mainstream Jewish causes such as WIZO, a women's organization that operates scores of

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Israeli daycare centers, shelters and training programs; Friends of the IDF, a fundraising branch that assists Israeli soldiers; and Chabad, a network of religious institutions. They also contribute generously in the U.S. to medical research, synagogues and Jewish schools.

Most of their donations in Israel, however, do not appear in these forms. Instead, that money is channeled from Panamanian-based companies through the Israel-based Segal foundation, whose name is a Hebrew acronym based on the brothers' first names.

Falic said the reason for this is not because Panama is a tax haven, but because his brother Leon lives there, and a number of their companies are based in Panama. But the lack of transparency there makes tracking their donations more difficult.

Falic described himself as a "big supporter" of Netanyahu, who has allowed Israeli settlements to flourish during his 10 years in office. Although Falic said he has not contributed to Netanyahu since 2014, collectively the Falics have donated more than \$100,000 to Netanyahu over the years, making them his biggest donors, according to Israeli public records.

The Falics are also prominent figures in Israeli right-wing circles. In April, Simon Falic mingled with the mayor of Jerusalem, Ambassador Friedman and other dignitaries in the VIP section of a special Passover service at the Western Wall in Jerusalem. Friedman, Florida Sen. Rick Scott, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, evangelical preacher John Hagee, conservative TV host Mike Huckabee and Netanyahu's son, Yair, have been among the many politicians and VIPs to attend parties at Simon Falic's Jerusalem home.

The Falics also support American politicians, both Democratic and Republican. Since 2000, they have given over \$1.7 million to pro-Israel politicians, including Trump, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, New York Sen. Chuck Schumer and Florida Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz.

Oded Revivi, a settler leader, described Simon Falic and his family as generous and influential, but also modest and shunning publicity.

"You understand that he knows the most important people. He sits in the most influential junction," said Revivi. "They've been extremely helpful and extremely generous."

Among the projects and investments the Falics have in the West Bank is the Psagot winery, an award-winning vintner that is also a centerpiece of the burgeoning settler tourism industry. The family has also built a sprawling biblical theme park in the West Bank settlement of Shilo, revered as the ancient site of the biblical tabernacle. The site attracts tens of thousands of evangelical Christian tourists each year, but has also drawn criticism for what some say is a narrow historical interpretation that minimizes Muslim history.

The Falics funded the construction of a synagogue and mikveh, or ritual bath, in 2014 in what was then the unauthorized West Bank outpost of Kerem Reim. Kerem Reim was retroactively legalized three years later.

"All of these donations were entirely legal," wrote Falic. "Any insinuation or allegation to the contrary is patently false and defamatory."

Israeli records show the Falics also granted over \$100,000 to two groups that seek the re-establishment of the Jewish Temple on a contested site in Jerusalem. Revered by Jews as the Temple Mount, that same area houses the Al-Aqsa Mosque, Islam's third-holiest site. The competing claims to the hilltop compound are a frequent flashpoint of violence.

Falic said the family is not involved in efforts to establish the Third Temple. But he described Yehuda Glick, a former lawmaker and leading figure in the Third Temple movement, as a friend, and said he finds it "ludicrous" that Jews cannot pray at their holiest site. Glick, who survived a 2014 Palestinian assassination attempt, was among the guests at a Passover barbecue hosted by the Falics at the winery for families who had lost relatives in Palestinian attacks.

Perhaps the Falics' most controversial area of activity is Hebron, a city where several hundred ultranationalist settlers live in heavily guarded enclaves amid some 200,000 Palestinians.

Relations between the populations are notoriously tense, and some of the Jewish leaders are followers of the late Rabbi Meir Kahane, whose "Kach" party was outlawed in Israel in the 1980s for calling for a mass expulsion of Arabs from the country. The U.S. also branded Kach a terrorist group.

Falic's associates in Hebron include Baruch Marzel, Kahane's former aide, who remains a prominent

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political activist in Israel.

According to the AP analysis, the Falics donated roughly \$600,000 to "Hachnasat Orchim Hebron," a group that hosts visitors to the Jewish community and provides snacks to Israeli soldiers protecting the settlers. Marzel's wife Sarah is one of the group's founders, and Marzel is deeply involved.

They also have given about \$50,000 to the "Fund for the Rescue of the People of Israel," which served as a fundraising arm of Lehava, a group that opposes Jewish-Arab couples in an anti-assimilation campaign and often is accused of using intimidation or even violence.

Falic said he was not aware of any connection to Lehava, and said the donations, made in 2011 and 2012, were to assist needy families. He noted that he opposes assimilation and intermarriage but also rejects violence. Israeli financial records show the fund has links to several Kahane disciples, including Marzel.

Marzel is a well-known figure in Israel, easily recognized with a wild brown beard. He continues to call for mass expulsions of Arabs, and has a long history of clashes with the police. During the recent election campaign, he was a leading figure in "Jewish Power," a hard-line party led by Kahane followers.

Marzel said the Falics "do a lot of good things" and called them "good Jews," but said they did not work closely together. Yet photos and videos on Facebook show Simon Falic and Marzel warmly embracing at social events in Hebron and Jerusalem. In one 2016 video, taken at Falic's spacious Jerusalem home, the two men and Third Temple activist Glick hug and sway together as a well-known Israeli pop singer serenades them.

Falic said his connections to Marzel were primarily through a "beautiful project" that runs food trucks serving pizza, ice cream and snacks to Israeli soldiers protecting the residents of Hebron.

"While I may not agree with everything he has said, the work we have done that has been affiliated with the Hebron community has been positive, non-controversial and enhances Jewish life in the Hebron area — which we strongly support," he said.

Issa Amro, a Palestinian activist in Hebron, disagrees. He said the seemingly harmless project serves the settler cause at the expense of Palestinians.

"We are suffering from settler violence," he said. "When I tell the soldiers 'protect me,' they tell me 'we are not here to protect you. We are with our own people, who are the settlers.'"

In Jerusalem, the family contributed more than \$1 million to causes affiliated with Ateret Cohanim, which facilitates the sale of Palestinian properties in and around the Old City to Jewish settlers, an act of treason in Palestinian society.

Aviv Tartasky of Ir Amim, a monitoring group looking at Israeli-Palestinian relations in Jerusalem, said Ateret Cohanim often hides the identities of the purchasers, who are religious, nationalist Jews.

"When they come to live inside a Palestinian community, it can disrupt life for the community," he said.

Ateret Cohanim says the Jewish people have a right to live anywhere in Jerusalem. Executive director Daniel Luria declined to comment on the Falic family, saying he does not discuss his donors.

But Falic doesn't hide his support for what he called Ateret Cohanim's efforts "to bring Jewish life back to all of Jerusalem."

"It is unfortunate," he added, "that a Jewish family dedicated to this cause is newsworthy."

Rules that control drive time for truckers set to be relaxed

By RICHARD LARDNER Associated Press

OPAL, Va. (AP) — Truck driver Lucson Francois was forced to hit the brakes just five minutes from his home in Pennsylvania.

He'd reached the maximum number of hours in a day he's allowed to be on duty. Francois couldn't leave the truck unattended. So he parked and climbed into the sleeper berth in the back of the cab. Ten hours would have to pass before he could start driving again.

"You don't want even a one-minute violation," said Francois, a 39-year-old Haitian immigrant, recalling his dilemma during a break at a truck stop in this small crossroads town southwest of Washington.

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The Transportation Department is moving to relax the federal regulations that required Francois to pull over, a long sought goal of the trucking industry and a move that would highlight its influence with the Trump administration. Interest groups that represent motor carriers and truck drivers have lobbied for revisions they say would make the rigid "hours of service" rules more flexible.

But highway safety advocates are warning the contemplated changes would dangerously weaken the regulations, resulting in truckers putting in even longer days at a time when they say driver fatigue is such a serious problem. They point to new government data that shows fatal crashes involving trucks weighing as much as 80,000 pounds have increased.

"I think flexibility is a code word for deregulation," said Cathy Chase, president of Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety, an alliance of insurance companies and consumer, public health and safety groups. She said the hours of service requirements, which permit truckers to drive up to 11 hours each day, are already "exceedingly liberal in our estimation."

There were 4,657 large trucks involved in fatal crashes in 2017, a 10% increase from the year before, according to a May report issued by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, an agency of the Transportation Department. Sixty of the truckers in these accidents were identified as "asleep or fatigued," although the National Transportation Safety Board has said this type of driver impairment is likely under-reported on police crash forms.

The NTSB has declared fatigue a "pervasive problem" in all forms of transportation and added reducing fatigue-related accidents to its 2019-2020 "most wanted list" of safety improvements. A groundbreaking study by the Transportation Department more than a decade ago reported 13% of truck drivers involved in crashes that resulted in fatalities or injuries were fatigued at the time of the accidents.

The trucking industry has developed a strong relationship with President Donald Trump, who has made rolling back layers of regulatory oversight a top priority. At least a dozen transportation safety rules under development or already adopted were repealed, withdrawn, delayed or put on the back burner during Trump's first year in office.

"First of all, this administration is not as aggressive as the prior," said Bill Sullivan, the top lobbyist for the powerful American Trucking Associations, whose members include the nation's largest motor carriers and truck manufacturing companies. "Most importantly, the partnership with them has not been as suspicious of industry as in the past."

Trucking interests had pressed the administration and Congress for the rule changes and last year secured support from 30 senators, mostly Republicans. The lawmakers wrote in a May 2018 letter to Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration chief Ray Martinez that the rules "do not provide the appropriate level of flexibility" and asked him to explore improvements.

Independent truckers in particular have chafed at what they see as a one-size-fits-all directive written by Washington bureaucrats who don't understand what they face on the highways.

"How can you judge me and what I do by sitting in a cubicle in an office?" said Terry Button, a burly hay farmer from upstate New York who owns his truck. Button estimates he's logged about 4 million miles since he started driving a truck in 1976. He said he's never caused an accident, although he's been hit twice by passenger vehicles.

The regulations have existed since the 1930s and are enforced by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. The proposed revisions are being reviewed by the White House's Office of Management and Budget and have not yet been released, according to a spokesman for the motor carrier safety office.

The regulations currently limit long-haul truckers to 11 hours of driving time within a 14-hour on-duty window. They must have had 10 consecutive hours off duty before the on-duty clock starts anew. And a driver who is going to be driving for more than eight hours must take a 30-minute break before hitting the eight-hour mark.

Breaking the rules can be costly. A trucker might be declared "out of service" for a day or longer for going beyond the time limits. Many are paid by the mile, so if they're not driving they're not making money. Francois, who was hauling 45,000 pounds of drinking water to a Walmart warehouse in Woodland, Pennsylvania, said he gets 50 cents a mile and earns, after taxes, around \$900 a week.

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Off-duty and on-duty time for most truckers is recorded automatically and precisely by electronic logging devices, or ELDs. Responding to a congressional directive, the Obama administration set in motion the mandated use of ELDs as of December 2017 — a regulatory requirement that Trump has not overturned.

Paper logs could be fudged pretty easily, but not the ELD, which is wired to the truck's engine and has a display screen visible to the driver. Chase's organization says an accurate accounting of a trucker's hours is one of the most effective ways to help prevent drowsy driving. But for many truckers, the logging devices have only highlighted the inflexibility and complexity of the regulations.

"If you run out of time in the middle of the George Washington Bridge, are you just going to pull over and park?" said Button, referring to the world's busiest span connecting New Jersey and New York.

The Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association, which represents small business truckers like Button, said the schedule dictated by the rules is out of step with the daily realities confronting most of their members. Heavy traffic, foul weather and long waits for cargo to be loaded or unloaded keep them idle. All the while, the 14-hour clock keeps on ticking, pushing them to go faster to make up lost time.

Especially vexing is the mandatory break requirement, according to organization president, Todd Spencer. The pause forces drivers to pull over when they don't really need to rest, he said. And parking for a big rig is often hard to find and they may end up stopping in unsafe places, such as highway shoulders.

Spencer's organization, which says it has more than 160,000 members, has been pushing for the 30-minute break to be eliminated. In comments filed with the Transportation Department, the group recommended that truckers instead be allowed to effectively stop the 14-hour clock for up to three consecutive hours. During this off-duty period, drivers could rest or simply wait out heavy traffic.

"This is not rocket science stuff," Spencer said. "Rest when it makes sense to rest. Drive when it makes sense to drive."

But critics of the stop-the-clock idea said that would result in a 17-hour work window, heightening the risk of drowsy driving and accidents. There's no guarantee a trucker can or will sleep during that three-hour stop and a number of them would be driving at the end of a long period of being awake, according to the American Academy of Sleep Medicine, a professional society of doctors and scientists.

Harry Adler, executive director of the Truck Safety Coalition, criticized the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration for "appeasing industry." He said the agency has made the potential rule changes a higher priority than pushing forward with safety technologies such as software that electronically limits a truck's speed. Bipartisan legislation was introduced in the Senate last week that, if passed, would circumvent the Trump administration's indefinite delay of a proposed rule requiring new trucks to be outfitted with speed limiters.

"None of this should be up for consideration," he said. "There is no reason for any of this."

Follow Richard Lardner on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/rplardner>

Japan resumes commercial whaling despite low demand

By MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japan resumed commercial whaling Monday after 31 years, meeting a long-cherished goal of traditionalists that's seen as a largely lost cause due to slowing demand for the meat and changing views on conservation.

Whaling boats embarked on their first commercial hunts since 1988, when Japan switched to so-called research whaling, but will stay within the country's exclusive economic waters. Japan's had given six-month's notice that it was withdrawing from the International Whaling Commission, a move that went into effect Sunday.

The Fisheries Agency said the catch quota through the end of this year was set at 227 whales, fewer than the 333 Japan hunted in the Antarctic in recent years. The announcement of the quota for this season's catch, originally planned for release in late June, was withheld until Monday in an apparent move to avoid criticism during this past weekend's Group of 20 summit in Osaka.

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As the boats left port, whalers, their families and local officials in two major whaling towns, Shimonoseki in southwestern Japan and Kushiro in the north, celebrated the fresh start, hoping for a safe return and a good catch. Shimonoseki is Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's electoral constituency.

"We hope commercial whaling will be on track as soon as possible, contribute to local prosperity and carry on Japan's rich whale culture to the next generation," Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasutoshi Nishimura told reporters in Tokyo.

While the resumption of commercial whaling is condemned by many conservation groups, others see it as a face-saving way to let the government's embattled and expensive whaling program gradually succumb to changing times and tastes.

Despite the massive attention and tax money and political support from ruling party lawmakers, whaling in Japan involved only a few hundred people and accounted for less than 0.1 percent of total meat consumption in fiscal 2017, according to the latest government data on food sufficiency.

Whale meat was an affordable source of protein during the lean times after World War II, with consumption peaking at 223,000 tons in 1962. But whale was quickly replaced by other meats. Whale meat supply was down to 6,000 tons in 1986, the year before the commercial whaling moratorium imposed by the IWC banned hunting several whale species.

Under the research hunts, which were criticized as a cover for commercial hunts as the meat was sold on the market, Japan at its peak caught as many as 1,200 whales. It drastically cut back on its catch in recent years after international protests escalated and whale meat consumption slumped at home.

Today, about 4,000-5,000 tons are supplied to Japan annually, or 30-40 grams of whale meat consumed per person a year, Fisheries Agency officials say.

The research whaling program lost money for years — 1.6 billion yen (\$15 million) in the last year alone.

Japan will stick to a very strict catch quota with respect to the IWC findings, and will continue conducting research, said Hideki Moronuki, a Fisheries Agency official and a chief negotiator at the IWC. He said Japan's commercial whaling will never harm its stock.

The commercial whaling will be carried out by two groups. The mother boat Nisshin-maru and two support boats that used to go to the Antarctic will travel as far as the 200 nautical mile exclusive economic zone to catch minke, Bryde's and sei whales. Five other smaller ships will stay closer to the coast but also hunt minke, in addition to 168 Baird's beaked and two other kinds of small whales they used to catch outside of IWC jurisdictions. Altogether, they will catch 52 minke, 150 Bryde's and 25 sei whales through Dec. 31.

Whales caught in coastal waters are expected to be brought back for fresh local consumption at any of six local whaling hubs that are mainly in northern Japan but include Taiji, the home constituency of ruling Liberal Democratic Party heavyweight Toshihiro Nikai. The town is also known for dolphin hunts shown in the documentary film "The Cove."

Whale meat caught further off the coast will be frozen and distributed for wider consumption.

Moronuki says the fate of commercial whaling depends on whether whale meat is widely accepted by consumers since it won't be getting as many subsidies as it used to get.

The government, however, plans to provide as much as 5 billion yen (\$46 million) for projects to help stabilize commercial whaling, including development of rich whale hunting ground, research and development in the first few years, officials said.

Moronuki said he hoped whale meat would be reasonably priced so that it will gain popularity in the long-term instead of becoming an expensive delicacy for a limited clientele. The government used to sell portions of whale meat caught in the scientific program for school lunch programs at discounted prices, he said.

"The future of commercial whaling depends on how popular whale meat can be," he said. "Whale meat is a traditional food in Japan and I would like many people to try and develop taste for it, especially younger people."

A 2017 survey by the Japan Whaling Association showed about 64 percent of respondents in ages ranging from teens to 50s said they have eaten whale meat but most of them said they haven't eaten once

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for more than five years.

Ultimately, the resumption of the traditional whaling may end up saving both huge government subsidies and the lives of many whales, experts say.

"What we are seeing is the beginning of the end of Japanese whaling," said Patrick Ramage, director of the International Fund for Animal Welfare. "It is a win-win solution that results in a better situation for whales, a better situation for Japan, a better situation for international marine conservation efforts and is therefore to be welcomed."

Whaling is losing support in other whaling nations including Norway and Iceland, where whalers have cut back on catches in recent years amid criticism that commercial hunts are bad for their national image and tourism.

Iceland caught only 17 whales, while Norway hunted 432 for the 2017-2018 season, way below their catch quota of 378 and 1,278 respectively, according to the IWC.

Japanese are also beginning to see ecotourism as a better option for whales than hunting them for food. "People in coastal communities all do better when whales are seen and not hurt," Ramage said.

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On edge: 2020 Dems face prospect of being cut from debates

By **STEVE PEOPLES** and **BRIAN SLODYSKO** Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — The largest presidential field in modern Democratic politics could quickly shrink as more than half of the contenders are in real danger of failing to meet tougher requirements to participate in the fall round of debates.

Short on support and money and bound by tough party rules, once soaring politicians may soon be seen as also-rans. They include Julian Castro, who is seeking to capitalize on his strong debate performance last week; Kirsten Gillibrand, one of her party's most outspoken feminists; and Cory Booker, who rose to stardom as the energetic mayor of Newark, New Jersey.

A difficult period lies ahead as the party begins to sort through its expansive roster of candidates. The process will help Democrats zero in on someone to challenge President Donald Trump. But it is also forcing candidates to burn through cash to stay competitive and could result in a field that's older, whiter and more male — an uncomfortable development for a party that says it prizes diversity.

"There are some campaigns that are in something of a Hail Mary mode," said technology entrepreneur Andrew Yang, one of the lesser-known White House hopefuls who expressed confidence in his own chances.

Of the 20 candidates who qualified for the first round of debates in June and July, just six are sure to appear in the September-October round, when the Democratic National Committee requires participants to hit 2% in multiple polls and 130,000 individual donors. Though many campaigns are worried, DNC Chairman Tom Perez has resisted pressure to relax the requirements.

"We put our rules out for debate participation months earlier because we wanted to give people time," Perez said in an interview. "We want to be fair to everyone."

There's still time for struggling candidates to recover. All 20 contenders who appeared on the debate stage last week will return for the late July debates. And, for now, only a fraction of voters are paying close attention to the unfolding Democratic contest.

But failing to qualify for the September-October debates could be lethal to any candidate, regardless of whether they formally drop out of the race.

Currently, the only locks for the fall debates are former Vice President Joe Biden, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, California Sen. Kamala Harris and South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg. Former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke is likely to qualify, but after an underwhelming debate performance last week, even he is not guaranteed to make the polling threshold. Only polls taken between June 28 and Aug. 28 will count.

The governors in the contest and no less than nine current or former members of Congress have yet

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to qualify. The bubble candidates include Booker, the New Jersey senator and the only black man in the race; and Castro, the only White House hopeful of Hispanic heritage. Four of the six female contenders — including Sens. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota and Gillibrand of New York — have yet to meet the donor or polling thresholds.

The do-or-die nature of making the debates has forced many second-tier candidates to dump money into online advertising at an unprecedented rate to generate new donors. Some strategists concede campaigns are spending upward of \$40 on average for every email address of a prospective small-dollar donor, an unsustainable ratio that has forced cutbacks on hiring, candidate travel and organizing support on the ground in key states.

The dynamic has some larger donors worried that their money is being used to build out the small-donor network instead of a traditional campaign operation

“No one wants to give anyone money to buy donors,” said Robert Wolf, a former economic adviser to Obama.

The donor requirements have forced candidates to prioritize spending on online ads targeting areas with a large number of possible donors, rather than communicating with potential supporters in the states that matter most in the primary. The overwhelming majority of Facebook ads target Democratic fundraising hubs or the candidates’ home states, where they are best known. California tops the list, followed by New York, Texas, Florida and Washington state.

And the message behind many online ads has been focused on qualifying for debates — not “persuasion” ads that highlight Democrats’ plans or Trump’s weaknesses.

Online ads aimed at boosting the number of small-dollar donors dominated digital spending between the end of March and late June, according to an Associated Press analysis of fundraising records and online ad data compiled by the Democratic digital firm Bully Pulpit Interactive. Candidates spent more money — about \$2.8 million — during that time on debate-themed ads than on any other subject, including health care, climate change, the economy and Trump, the data shows.

For some of the lesser-known candidates, the spending soaked up a major chunk of their early fundraising haul.

The \$416,000 that Castro spent on debate-themed social media and internet ads amounted to about 37% of what he raised during the year’s first quarter. Washington Gov. Jay Inslee spent about 17% of the money he’s reported raising since getting in the race, according to the AP’s analysis.

The candidates on the edge of being cut are expressing growing alarm to their supporters

Booker noted in a weekend fundraising message that he’s more than 30,000 donors away from the threshold. His campaign insists he will hit polling and fundraising marks, but his allies are concerned by what they see as an inherent bias among online donors who traditionally skew white.

Steve Phillips, an African American donor, activist and civil rights lawyer, said the fundraising requirements are unfair to black voters.

“The pool of people who have discretionary income to be donors is overwhelmingly, if not disproportionately, white,” said Phillips, whose Dream United super PAC supports Booker.

Since the debate, Castro’s campaign peppered social media with donation requests and sold T-shirts featuring one of his closing lines: “Adios Trump.” In the two days immediately after the debate, they blasted out at least 10 emails asking for money to help qualify for the next round.

His campaign said it had seen a “four-digit percentage spike” in fundraising on Wednesday night and Castro himself said it was “safe to say ... we probably had our best fundraising night of the campaign.”

Notably, his campaign did not say he had qualified for the fall debates.

Peoples reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Will Weissert in Washington and Sara Burnett in Chicago contributed to this report.

Trump and Kim's DMZ meeting mixes show and substance

By ZEKE MILLER and JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

PANMUNJOM, Korea (AP) — "Ok, let's do it."

With those words, a deliberate step and a pat on the arm of Kim Jong Un, President Donald Trump became the first sitting American leader to step into North Korea on Sunday as the two made history at the heavily fortified Demilitarized Zone. The made-for-television moment was unthinkable just two years ago, when the men were trading base insults and grim threats.

Trump's three-hour stop at the DMZ — of which about 80 minutes were spent with Kim — was a display of handshake-diplomacy for the history books, but also a chaotic spectacle reflective of the last-minute nature of the invitation to the authoritarian leader to join him at the border between the Koreas.

Afterward, it was unclear whether the meeting was more show than substance. Other than the headline-grabbing moment and the unprecedented images, Trump's only accomplishment appeared to be securing an agreement to restart nuclear talks that he himself had walked out on in February during his last summit with Kim in Vietnam.

Trump had long planned a visit to the DMZ, dating to 2017 when a scheduled trip was canceled by fog, but aides said the public invitation for Kim to join him there was as spontaneous as it seemed. In typical Trump fashion, it started with a tweet.

"I would meet him at the Border/DMZ just to shake his hand and say Hello(?)" Trump posted about 30 hours before the visit.

The secrecy that had surrounded the ill-fated attempted visit two years ago was replaced by a media frenzy stoked by the president himself.

Trump said North Korea quickly responded and expressed interest in the invitation. U.S. and North Korean officials spent much of Saturday evening and early Sunday trying to surmount the immense logistical and security hurdles on such a tight timetable.

Even Kim seemed unable to contain his surprise when the meeting occurred.

"I never expected to meet you at this place," he told Trump as they shook hands across the concrete slab marking the Military Demarcation Line between North and South.

It was Trump who first broached the notion of walking into North Korea. "Would you like me to step across?" he asked Kim as an interpreter translated his words to Korean. "Would you like me to?"

Kim waved Trump over, replying through an interpreter of his own: "If your excellency would step forward, you will be the first U.S. president to cross the border."

As Trump took his first steps, the former reality television star quickly moved to stage-manage the show of his own creation.

"Come on," he said to Kim, tapping his elbow, as they walked side by side 10 paces into the North.

After a moment, they turned to face the press waiting in the South.

Trump escorted Kim back to the South as a scuffle broke out between reporters and North Korean security guards, with officials shoving and trying to block the press from capturing the moment.

The jostling intensified as the leaders moved to the Freedom House on the southern side of Panmunjom, where they made brief remarks to reporters and then met for roughly 50 minutes. A photographer was knocked to the ground and one reporter was seen in tears.

At one point, incoming White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham side-checked a North Korean guard who was blocking reporters from the room while others security officials frantically tried to cordon off the area with yellow rope.

Grisham ended up with bruises from the fracas. The U.S. Secret Service intervened in the pushing and shoving match.

The president was joined in the Freedom House conversation with Kim by his daughter and son-in-law, Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner, both senior White House advisers. Chief of staff Mick Mulvaney milled about with other aides. National security adviser John Bolton, a skeptic of the talks with Kim, was en route to Ulaanbaatar to consult with Mongolian officials on regional security issues.

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At one point, Ivanka Trump and Kushner stopped to enter one of the blue huts straddling the border between the two Koreas. Asked by a reporter about her trip to the North, she replied, "Surreal." And a sequel could be in the works: Trump told reporters he had invited Kim to Washington.

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

Powerful bomb blast rocks Afghan capital, scores wounded

By AMIR SHAH and KATHY GANNON Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A powerful bomb blast rocked the Afghan capital early Monday, rattling windows, sending smoke billowing from Kabul's downtown area and wounding at least 65 people, including nine children hurt by flying glass, officials said.

The Taliban claimed the attack, which came as the insurgents were holding their latest round of talks with U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad in the Gulf state of Qatar, where they have a political office.

The explosion occurred as the streets in the capital were packed with morning commuters. Officials and police were at the scene of the blast and few details were available. Ambulance sirens screamed throughout the downtown area.

Mohammad Karim, a police official in the area of the attack, said a car bomb exploded outside a Defense Ministry building. Militants then ran into a nearby high-rise located in a crowded market and began firing down on the ministry. Police and special Afghan security forces poured into the area and cordoned it off.

Mohammad Farooq, the owner of a nearby restaurant, said the explosion blew out the windows of a private school, wounding several students.

Kabul's chief police spokesman, Firdous Faramaz, confirmed the explosion but did not provide details on the target or the type of explosive device. Health Ministry official Wahid Mayer said at least 65 people were wounded. He said it is difficult to reach the area because of the ongoing gunbattle between police and militants.

The capital has been relatively quiet in recent months following a spate of bombings, many claimed by the local Islamic State affiliate. The Taliban have carried out scores of attacks in Kabul, mostly targeting Afghan and U.S. military installations or convoys.

Pakistan condemned Monday's attack, saying "such attacks are detrimental to the cause of peace, security and stability in Afghanistan." Pakistan and Afghanistan routinely exchange accusations of harboring the other's militant enemies.

Pakistan has reportedly pressed the Taliban — many of whom have homes in Pakistan — into talks. Last week it hosted Afghan President Ashraf Ghani for the first time as the two countries sought to reset their troubled relationship.

The latest talks between the United States and the Taliban meanwhile stretched into a third day. The Taliban said their focus is on getting an announcement of a timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. and NATO troops from Afghanistan. The announcement is likely to be accompanied by a Taliban promise to hold intra-Afghan talks and agree to an eventual cease-fire.

Suhail Shaheen, spokesman for the Taliban's political office in Doha, told The Associated Press on Monday that "our main concern is to make sure a timeline for troop pullout is announced."

Taliban officials have previously told the AP they want all foreign troops withdrawn within six months, while Washington has pushed for a longer timeline of a year to 18 months.

The Taliban have refused to hold talks with the Afghan government, calling it a U.S. puppet, and have continued to carry out daily attacks on Afghan forces. They say Washington is the final arbiter on the troop withdrawal, which the insurgents see as the central issue.

Washington accelerated attempts to find a negotiated end to America's longest war with the appointment last September of Khalilzad, who was a special presidential representative to Afghanistan and later U.S. ambassador in Kabul in the years immediately following the 2001 U.S.-led invasion that ousted the Taliban.

During a visit last week to the Afghan capital, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Washington

would like to see an agreement before Sept. 1, considered an ambitious deadline by analysts but likely linked to Afghan presidential polls scheduled for later that month. Washington has expressed concern the elections could hamper a peace deal and has quietly advocated for an interim administration for up to two years following an agreement.

_____ Gannon reported from Islamabad

10 killed when small plane crashes on takeoff in Texas

By JAKE BLEIBERG Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — All ten people on board a small plane were killed in a fiery crash Sunday morning when the aircraft struggled to gain altitude after taking off from a suburban Dallas airport, veered to one side and plunged into a hangar, local authorities and witnesses said.

Federal officials said two crew members and eight passengers were killed when the twin-engine plane, scheduled to fly to St. Petersburg, Florida, crashed at the Addison Municipal Airport at 9:11 a.m. The identities of those killed were not immediately released.

"We don't know a lot about the people on board at this point," National Transportation Safety Board Vice Chairman Bruce Landsberg said.

Officials say the Beechcraft BE-350 King Air hit a hangar that then burst into flames with black smoke billowing from the building as firefighters sprayed it with water. A plane and helicopter in the hangar were damaged, but there were no people in the building.

The crash left a gaping hole in the hangar, which sits not far from a busy commercial strip and densely populated residential neighborhoods of the northern suburb of Dallas.

Landsberg said the plane had recently changed hands so its tail number was not yet certain. Jennifer Rodi, the NTSB's lead investigator on the accident, said it had previously been owned by a private charter company in Chicago.

Edward Martelle, a spokesman for the town of Addison, said the plane was taking off at the south end of the airport and had just lifted off the runway when it veered left, dropped its left wing and went into the hangar.

Asked if the behavior of the plane indicated engine failure, Landsberg said: "We cannot confirm that there was an engine failure at this point."

"There are any number of possibilities that could occur," he said.

David Snell, who was getting ready to fly from Addison with a friend Sunday morning, told KDFW TV that the plane didn't sound right on takeoff.

"It looked like it was clearly reduced power. I didn't know if it was on purpose or not, but then, when the plane started to veer to the left, you could tell it couldn't climb. My friend and I looked at each other and we're like, 'Oh my God. They're going to crash,'" Snell said.

Peter Drake says he saw the plane crash into the hangar.

"He got onto the runway, went down the runway, started taking off. He got to about 200 feet, and I saw him starting to lose power and his altitude, and then I see him just roll over and came straight down right into the building," Drake said.

Air traffic control tower audio from around the time of the crash does not capture any pilot indicating an emergency or trouble with a plane. But pilots waiting to take off soon thereafter can be heard seeking updates and being told repeatedly to wait.

"Everybody just stand by," a controller said. "We had an accident on the field, so expect not to go out anytime soon."

Dallas County was helping the city of Addison set up a family assistance center for people affected by the crash, Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins said. The center is staffed with chaplains, counselors and other mental health and support workers, he said.

"It's a horrible, sad, shocking thing to lose a family member like this," Jenkins told The Associated Press.

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"So we're doing whatever we can to comfort them."

AP writers Jamie Stengle and David Koenig in Dallas contributed to this report.

AP FACT CHECK: Trump on NKorea, wages, climate; Dem misfires **By HOPE YEN, SETH BORENSTEIN and CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Straining for deals on trade and nukes in Asia, President Donald Trump hailed a meeting with North Korea's leader that he falsely claimed President Barack Obama coveted, asserted a U.S. auto renaissance that isn't and wrongly stated air in the U.S. is the cleanest ever as he dismissed climate change.

He also ignored the reality in suggesting that nobody had implicated Saudi's crown prince in the killing of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi. Trump's own intelligence agencies and a U.N. investigator, in fact, have pointed a finger at the prince.

The president's misstatements over the weekend capped several days of extraordinary claims, including a false one accusing special counsel Robert Mueller of a crime and misrepresenting trade in multiple dimensions.

Democratic presidential candidates, meantime, stepped forward for their first debates and tripped at times on issues dear to them: climate change, health care and immigration among them.

A look at the misstatements:

NORTH KOREA

TRUMP: "President Obama wanted to meet, and Chairman Kim would not meet him. The Obama administration was begging for a meeting. They were begging for meetings constantly. And Chairman Kim would not meet with him." — joint news conference Sunday with South Korea's president in Seoul.

THE FACTS: That's not the case.

While Obama came into his presidency saying he'd be willing to meet with North Korea's Kim Jong Un and other U.S. adversaries "without preconditions," he never publicly sought a meeting with Kim. Obama eventually met Cuba's President Raul Castro and spoke to Iranian President Hassan Rouhani by phone but took a different stance with Kim in 2009 as North Korea was escalating missile and nuclear tests.

"This is the same kind of pattern that we saw his father engage in, and his grandfather before that," Obama said in 2013. "Since I came into office, the one thing I was clear about was, we're not going to reward this kind of provocative behavior. You don't get to bang your — your spoon on the table and somehow you get your way."

Ben Rhodes, who was on Obama's national security team for both terms, tweeted: "Obama never sought a meeting with Kim Jong Un."

Trump has portrayed his diplomacy with Kim as happening due to a special personal chemistry and friendship, saying he's in "no rush" to get Kim to commit fully to denuclearization.

INCOME INEQUALITY

TRUMP: "Blue-collar workers are doing fantastic. They're the biggest beneficiary of the tax cuts, the blue collar." — news conference Saturday at G-20 summit in Japan.

THE FACTS: Wrong.

While most middle-income taxpayers did see a tax cut this year, Trump's tax cut clearly skewed to the wealthy rather than lower-income groups such as manufacturing workers, according to the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center. It found that taxpayers making \$308,000 to \$733,000 stood to benefit the most.

The Joint Committee on Taxation separately found the tax cuts were particularly helpful to businesses and people making more than \$100,000 annually.

LARRY KUDLOW, White House economic adviser: "The United States economy is booming. It's running at roughly 3 percent average since President Trump took office two and a half years ago. On this business

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about bad distribution, the blue-collar workers, the nonsupervisory workers have done the best. They're the ones running wages at 3-1/2 percent. Their growth and incomes and wages is exceeding the growth of their supervisors." — interview on "Fox News Sunday."

THE FACTS: There's some truth to the claim that low-income workers have seen better wage gains than others in the workforce. This trend predates Trump's presidency and has continued. But the blue-collar workforce has lagged behind lower-wage workers in pay gains.

Some of the gains reflect higher minimum wages passed at the state and local level, not just the rate of economic growth. The Trump administration opposes an increase to the federal minimum wage.

With the unemployment rate at 3.6%, the lowest since December 1969, employers are struggling to fill jobs. They have pushed up pay for the lowest-paid one-quarter of workers more quickly than for everyone else since 2015. In April, the poorest 25% saw their paychecks increase 4.4% from a year earlier, compared with 3.1% for the richest one-quarter.

But when measured by industry, wages are rising more quickly for lower-paid service workers. Hourly pay for retail workers has risen 4.1% in the past year and 3.8% for hotel and restaurant employees. Manufacturing workers — the blue collars — have seen pay rise just 2.2% and construction workers, 3.2%.

SEN. BERNIE SANDERS: "Eighty-three percent of your tax benefits go to the top 1%."— Democratic presidential debate Thursday.

THE FACTS: That statistic is not close to true now. The Vermont senator is referring to 2027, not the present day. He didn't include that critical context in his statement.

His figures come from an analysis by the Tax Policy Center. That analysis found that in 2027 the top 1% of earners would get 83% of the savings from the tax overhaul signed into law by Trump. Why is that? Most of the tax cuts for individuals are set to expire after 2025, so their benefits go away while cuts for corporations continue. The 2017 tax overhaul does disproportionately favor the wealthy and corporations, but just 20.5% of the benefits went to the top 1% last year.

REP. TIM RYAN: "The bottom 60% haven't seen a raise since 1980. The top 1% control 90% of the wealth." — Democratic presidential debate Wednesday.

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%.

BETO O'ROURKE, former U.S. representative from Texas: "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." — debate Wednesday.

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 in 2018 with just 1% going to the poorest one-fifth, according to the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center.

AUTOMAKERS

TRUMP: "Many, many companies — including South Korea — but many companies are coming into the United States. ... Car companies, in particular. They're going to Michigan. They're going to Ohio and

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North Carolina and Pennsylvania, Florida. ... We hadn't had a plant built in years — in decades, actually. And now we have many plants being built all throughout the United States — cars." — remarks Sunday to Korean business leaders in Seoul.

THE FACTS: Car companies are not pouring into the U.S. as Trump suggests, nor does he deserve all the credit for those that have moved here. He's also wrong in saying that auto plants haven't been built in decades. A number of automakers — Toyota, BMW, Honda, Hyundai, Mercedes-Benz and Volkswagen among them — opened plants in recent decades, mostly in the South.

The only automaker announcing plans to reopen a plant in Michigan is Fiat Chrysler, which is restarting an old engine plant to build three-row SUVs. It's been planning to do so since before Trump was elected. GM is even closing two Detroit-area factories: one that builds cars and another that builds transmissions. Toyota is building a new factory in Alabama with Mazda, and Volvo opened a plant in South Carolina last year, but in each case, that was in the works before Trump took office.

Automakers have made announcements about new models being built in Michigan, but no other factories have been reopened. Ford stopped building the Focus compact car in the Detroit suburb of Wayne last year, but it's being replaced by the manufacture of a small pickup and a new SUV. That announcement was made in December 2016, before Trump took office.

GM, meantime, is closing factories in Ohio and Maryland.

Trump can plausibly claim that his policies have encouraged some activity in the domestic auto industry. Corporate tax cuts freed more money for investment, and potential tariff increases on imported vehicles are an incentive to build in the U.S. But when expansion does happen, it's not all because of him.

Fiat Chrysler has been planning the SUVs for several years and has been looking at expansion in the Detroit area, where it has unused building space and an abundant, trainable automotive labor force.

Normally it takes at least three years for an automaker to plan a new vehicle, which is the case with the three-row Jeep Grand Cherokee and the larger Wagoneer and Grand Wagoneer SUVs that will fill the restarting Detroit-area plant and an existing one. Several years ago then-CEO Sergio Marchionne said the Wagoneer would be built in the Detroit area.

KHASHOGGI

TRUMP, on the murder of Khashoggi: "Nobody, so far, has pointed directly a finger at the future King of Saudi Arabia." — news conference Saturday at G-20 summit in Japan.

THE FACTS: In fact, U.S. intelligence agencies and a U.N. investigator have pointed a finger at him.

U.S. intelligence agencies have assessed that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman must have at least been aware of a plot to kill Khashoggi when the journalist went to the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on Oct. 2 to pick up documents to marry his Turkish fiancée. Last month, an independent U.N. report into the killing of Khashoggi said there was "credible evidence" to warrant further investigation into the possible role of the crown prince, and suggested sanctions on his personal assets.

Khashoggi, who had been living in the U.S., criticized the Saudi royal family in his writings.

CLIMATE CHANGE

TRUMP, playing down the need to address climate change: "We have the cleanest air we've ever had." — news conference Saturday at G-20 summit in Japan.

THE FACTS: That's false, and air quality hasn't improved under the Trump administration. Dozens of nations having less smoggy air than the U.S.

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

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

The Obama administration set records for the fewest air polluted days.

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The non-profit Health Effects Institute's "State of Global Air 2019" report ranked the United States 37th dirtiest out of 195 countries for ozone, also known as smog, worse than the global average for population-weighted pollution. Countries such as Britain, Japan, Spain, Portugal, France, Germany, Albania, Cuba, Russia, Vietnam, New Zealand and Canada have less smoggy air. The U.S. ranks 8th cleanest on the more deadly category of fine particles in the air. It's still behind countries such as Canada and New Zealand but better than the global average.

JOE BIDEN, on Obama's record: "He is the first man to bring together the entire world — 196 nations — to commit to deal with climate change." — debate Thursday.

THE FACTS: Not really. The former vice president is minimizing a major climate deal from 22 years ago, a decade before Obama became president.

In 1997, nations across the world met in Japan and hammered out the Kyoto Protocol to limit climate change in a treaty that involved more than 190 countries at different points in time. That treaty itself stemmed from the 1992 U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Biden is referring to an agreement that came out of a 2015 meeting in Paris that was the 21st climate change convention meeting.

The Kyoto Protocol only required specific greenhouse gas emission cuts of developed nations, fewer than half the countries in the world. The Paris agreement, where several world leaders pushed hard, including France's president, has every country agreeing to do something. But each country proposed its own goals.

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." — debate Wednesday.

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.

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?"

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." — debate Wednesday.

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.

MUELLER

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

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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." — interview Wednesday on Fox Business Network.

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. Also, the communications didn't vanish.

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.

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.

RACE

SEN. KAMALA HARRIS: "Vice President Biden, do you agree today that you were wrong to oppose busing in America, then?"

BIDEN: "I did not oppose busing in America. What I opposed is busing ordered by the Department of Education. That's what I opposed." — debate Thursday.

THE FACTS: That's hairsplitting.

Biden is claiming that he only opposed the U.S. Education Department's push for busing to integrate schools because he didn't want federal mandates forced on local school boards. But in the early and mid-1970s, those were the fault lines in almost every U.S. community, from New Orleans to Boston, where there was stiff opposition to busing. If you were a politician opposing federally enforced busing, you were enabling any local school board or city government that was fighting against it.

As a senator in the late 1970s, Biden supported several measures, including one signed by President Jimmy Carter, that restricted the federal government's authority in forced busing.

Biden told NPR in 1975 that he would support a constitutional amendment to ban court-ordered busing "if it can't be done through a piece of legislation."

MIGRANT CHILDREN

BIDEN, on Trump's treatment of migrant children at the border: "The idea that he's in court with his Justice Department saying, children in cages do not need a bed, do not need a blanket, do not need a toothbrush — that is outrageous."

HARRIS: "I will release children from cages."

JOHN HICKENLOOPER, former Colorado governor: "If you would have ever told me any time in my life that this country would sanction federal agents to take children from the arms of their parents, put them in cages, actually put them up for adoption — in Colorado we call that kidnapping — I would have told you it was unbelievable." — debate Thursday.

THE FACTS: They are tapping into a misleading and common insinuation by Democrats about Trump placing "children in cages."

The cages are chain-link fences and the Obama-Biden administration used them, too.

Children and adults are held behind them, inside holding Border Patrol facilities, under the Trump administration as well.

President Barack Obama's administration detained large numbers of unaccompanied children inside chain link fences in 2014. Images that circulated online of children in cages during the height of Trump's family separations controversy were actually from 2014 when Obama was in office.

Children are placed in such areas by age and sex for safety reasons and are supposed to be held for no longer than 72 hours by the Border Patrol. But as the number of migrants continues to grow under the Trump administration, the system is clogged at every end, so Health and Human Services, which manages the care of children in custody, can't come get the children in time. Officials say they are increasingly holding children for 5 days or longer.

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HHS facilities are better equipped to manage the care of children. But, facing budget concerns, officials cut activities such as soccer, English classes and legal aid for children in their care.

As for Hickenlooper's claim about the government forcing those children into unwanted adoption, that is not federal policy.

HEALTH CARE

SANDERS: Under "Medicare for All," "the vast majority of the people in this country will be paying significantly less for health care than they are now." — debate Thursday.

THE FACTS: Probably true, but that's only part of the equation for a family. Sanders' plan for a government-run health care system to replace private insurance calls for no premiums, and no copays and deductibles. But taxes would have to go up significantly as the government takes on trillions of dollars in health care costs now covered by employers and individuals. Independent studies estimate the government would be spending an additional \$28 trillion to \$36 trillion over 10 years, although Medicare for All supporters say that's overstating it.

How those tax increases would be divvied up remains to be seen, as Sanders has not released a blueprint for how to finance his plan.

TRUMP ON ECONOMY

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 Wednesday.

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.

Associated Press writers Josh Boak, Christopher Rugaber, Colleen Long, Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, Stephen Braun, Eric Tucker, and Paul Wiseman in Washington, Tom Krisher in Detroit, Foster Klug in Tokyo, and Amanda Seitz in Chicago contributed to this report.

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Navy SEAL trial exposes divide in normally secretive force

By JULIE WATSON Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — It was called the “The Sewing Circle,” an unlikely name for a secret subset of Navy SEALs. Its purpose was even more improbable: A chat forum to discuss alleged war crimes they said their chief, a decorated sniper and medic, committed on a recent tour of duty in Iraq.

The WhatsApp group would eventually lead to formal allegations that Special Operations Chief Edward Gallagher fatally stabbed a wounded Islamic State captive in his care and shot civilians in Iraq in 2017.

Gallagher, 40, has pleaded not guilty to the charges.

A jury of mostly combat Marines will ultimately decide the fate of the 19-year-veteran and Bronze Star recipient charged with murder, attempted murder and conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline for posing with the corpse for photographs.

No matter the outcome, the court-martial at Naval Base San Diego has provided a rare view into the insular Navy SEAL community and likely will have a long-term impact on one of the military’s most secretive and revered forces. It has pitted veterans against each other both inside the courtroom and out in a fierce debate over brotherhood, morality and loyalty.

“SEALs, it seems to me, have been seeing themselves as God-like on the battlefield, and there is a real danger in taking that view of one’s unit or one’s self,” said Gary Solis, a former military judge and Marine Corps prosecutor who teaches law at Georgetown University. “I think this will alert the SEAL community that the rules apply to them.”

The case has laid bare challenges among U.S. special forces as the United States increasingly relies on such troops, which make up only 2% of the military yet carry out most of its battles around the globe.

A number of special forces members are on trial this year. A U.S. Navy SEAL last month pleaded guilty to hazing and assault charges for his role in the 2017 strangulation of a U.S. Army Green Beret in Africa.

The scandals have prompted a review by the Navy’s top commanders into the behavior of the special warfare teams. During Gallagher’s trial, it was revealed that nearly all his platoon members readily posed for photos with the dead militant and watched as Gallagher read his reenlistment oath near the body in an impromptu ceremony.

Lt. Jacob Portier, the officer in charge, has been charged separately for overseeing the ceremony and not reporting the alleged stabbing.

The trial also has shown the struggles of military courts in prosecuting alleged war crimes. The lead prosecutor was removed after allegedly tracking the defense team’s emails to find a news leak, and the lead investigator acknowledged on the stand making mistakes.

Closing arguments are expected Monday. A jury of five Marines and two sailors, one a SEAL, will weigh whether Gallagher, on his eighth deployment, went off the rails and fatally stabbed the war prisoner as a kind of trophy kill, or if the boy died from wounds sustained in an airstrike and Gallagher is being falsely accused by junior SEALs trying to permanently oust a platoon chief they hate.

Nearly a dozen SEALs have testified over the past two weeks. Most were granted immunity to protect them from being prosecuted for acts they described on the stand.

Seven SEALs said Gallagher unexpectedly stabbed the prisoner on May 3, 2017, moments after he and the other medics treated the 17-year-old boy.

Two SEALs testified they saw Gallagher plunge his knife into his neck, including Special Operator Corey Scott, who stunned the court when he said he was the one who ultimately killed the teen by plugging his breathing tube with his thumb as an act of mercy. The Navy has said it’s considering perjury charges against Scott.

An Iraqi general who handed the wounded prisoner to the SEALs testified that Gallagher did not stab the boy. And Marine Staff Sgt. Giorgio Kirylo said after the militant died that he moved the body to take a “cool guy trophy” photo with it and saw no stab wounds on his neck.

Gallagher also took photos of himself with the corpse. In one picture, he’s holding up his knife in one hand and holding the militant by his hair with his other hand. He later boasted in a text, “got him with my hunting knife.” Defense lawyers say it was just a warrior’s attempt at dark humor.

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"The Sewing Circle," the WhatsApp group chat, formed with a select few members of Alpha platoon after they returned to San Diego from their deployment in 2017.

In the thread, Gallagher was referred to as "El Diablo," Spanish for "the devil."

"Not sure how to handle him," Scott texted. "But he is ready to fight and kill."

Gallagher's lawyers say the group chat was used to orchestrate a smear campaign to bring down their demanding platoon chief. A SEAL troop commander told the court that the allegations, which he took no action on for months, were suspect because they came about as Gallagher was being considered for a Silver Star and a promotion. Platoon members testified that the team was fractured, and the running joke was that if something was missing from a care package, Eddie took it.

But his accusers said it went beyond the theft of sunglasses and snacks. "The Sewing Circle" members tried to distinguish themselves as the "True Brotherhood" vs. the "Real Brotherhood," which supporters of Gallagher have coined for themselves.

"The Real Brotherhood is people who are OK with war crimes," said Dylan Dille, a former SEAL sniper from the platoon who testified that Gallagher took shots at civilians from the sniper tower, hitting an old man and young girl. He did not see him pull the trigger either time.

Defense attorney Timothy Parlatore shot back that maybe the Real Brotherhood "are older guys who don't like you and other SEALs who tell lies."

Special Operations Chief Craig Miller, who was also part of "The Sewing Circle," testified that he saw Gallagher stab the captive multiple times with a custom-made knife Gallagher would carry in the belt loops of his pants. Miller said he told the platoon's officer in charge about the stabbing during their tour but that nothing happened.

SEAL sniper Dalton Tolbert told the court he did not recall who started the chat group but that the intent was to talk with others who were disturbed by what they saw on the deployment and decide what to do.

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

After plans were discussed about going to the commodore, an investigation was opened and Gallagher was arrested.

Weeks before the trial, Tolbert, who was accepted to the famed SEAL Team 6 that killed Osama bin Laden, sent a text urging his teammates to speak up no matter what was at stake.

He told the court his dream of doing covert operations with Team 6 is likely over now that he's been publicly identified in the case.

NYC pride parade is one of largest in movement's history

By **SABRINA CASERTA** and **REBECCA GIBIAN** Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Exuberant crowds carrying rainbow colors filled New York City streets Sunday for one of the largest pride parades in the history of the gay-rights movement, a dazzling celebration of the 50th anniversary of the infamous police raid on the Stonewall Inn.

Marchers and onlookers took over much of midtown Manhattan with a procession that lasted hours and paid tribute to the uprising that began at the tavern when patrons resisted officers on June 28, 1969. The parade in New York and others like it across the nation concluded a month of events marking the anniversary.

Eraina Clay, 63, of suburban New Rochelle, came to celebrate a half-century of fighting for equality.

"I think that we should be able to say we've been here for so long, and so many people are gay that everybody should be able to have the chance to enjoy their lives and be who they are," Clay said. "I have a family. I raised kids. I'm just like everybody else."

Alyssa Christianson, 29, of New York City, was topless, wearing just sparkly pasties and boy shorts underwear. A Pride flag was tied around her neck like a cape.

"I've been to the Pride parade before, but this is the first year I kind of wanted to dress up and get into it," she said.

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Christianson said she was concerned that the movement could suffer setbacks during the Trump administration, which has moved to revoke newly won health care protections for transgender people, restrict their presence in the military and withdraw federal guidance that trans students should be able to use bathrooms of their choice.

"I'm definitely a little scared of how things are going, just the anger and violence that comes out of it and just the tone of conversation about it. We've come so far, especially in the last few decades, that I don't want to see that repressed in any way."

In May, Trump tweeted about Pride Month and praised the "outstanding contributions" of LGBT people. But his administration has also aligned with some religious conservatives in arguing that nondiscrimination protections for those same people can infringe on the religious beliefs of others who oppose same-sex marriage and transgender rights.

Earlier in the day, a crowd of about 2,000 people gathered outside the Stonewall Inn. At the Queer Liberation March near the bar, some participants said the larger Pride parade had become too commercialized and heavily policed.

"What's important to remember is that this is a protest against the monetization of the Pride parade, against the police brutality of our community, against the poor treatment of sections of our community, of black and brown folk, of immigrants," said Jake Seller, a 24-year-old Indiana native who now lives in Brooklyn and worked as one of the march's volunteers.

Protesters carried anti-Trump and queer liberation signs, chanting, "Whose streets? Our streets!"

"We march for the liberation of our community so they can live and celebrate their identity. So they can reclaim it. This will always remain a protest, not an advertisement," Seller said.

Other attendees focused on the progress that's been made within the LGBTQ community over the last few decades.

"We've come so far in the past 20 years," said 55-year-old Gary Piper, who came from Kansas to celebrate Pride with his partner. "I remember friends who would be snatched off the streets in Texas for dressing in drag. They'd have to worry about being persecuted for their identity."

"But now we're so much more accepted. I'm not saying we don't have ways to go, but let's celebrate how far we've come," he said.

The police presence at the massive march was heavy, with several officers posted at every corner. Metal barricades were erected along the entire parade route.

In San Francisco, a similar police presence sparked a mid-parade protest that halted the march.

About 40 people interrupted the parade for just under an hour and two people were arrested while protesting police and corporation presence, the San Francisco Chronicle reported.

Protesters broke down barricades and threw water bottles at officers as they rushed onto the parade route. At least one protester fought with police and one officer was injured, police said.

Also in San Francisco, a contingent of Google employees petitioned the Pride parade's board of directors to revoke Google's sponsorship over what they called harassment and hate speech directed at LGBTQ people on YouTube and other Google platforms.

San Francisco Pride declined to revoke the sponsorship or remove the company from the parade, but Pride officials said the Google critics could protest the company's policies as part of the parade's "resistance contingent."

Lorraine and Peter Browne, who were visiting from Australia, told the San Francisco Chronicle they had never seen anything like the parade's rainbow-colored display.

"Look at the costumes!" 80-year-old Peter Browne said.

In Illinois, Gov. J.B. Pritzker chose the parade day to sign an executive order creating a task force to study the rights of transgender students. The task force will look at what schools are doing to promote LGBTQ rights to make sure students have "welcoming" and "inclusive" environments.

In Chicago's parade, the city's first openly gay mayor, Lori Lightfoot, was one of seven grand marshals. Lightfoot, who took office in May, walked alongside her wife and wore a "Chicago Proud" T-shirt with

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rainbow lettering. The couple held hands at times, drawing cheers from onlookers. The procession was cut short as thunderstorms rolled through the area, forcing police to cancel the event about three hours after it began.

The larger New York Pride parade had 677 contingents, including community groups, major corporations and cast members from FX's "Pose." Organizers expected at least 150,000 people to march, with hundreds of thousands more lining the streets to watch.

Other Stonewall commemorations in New York included rallies, parties, film showings and a human rights conference. The celebration coincided with WorldPride, an international LGBTQ event that started in Rome in 2000 and was held in New York this past week.

The New York City celebrations wrapped up Sunday night with a closing ceremony in Times Square featuring speeches and performances by Melissa Etheridge, Deborah Cox, Melanie C, MNEK, Jake Shears and others.

Find complete AP Stonewall anniversary coverage here: <https://apnews.com/Stonewallat50>

At DMZ, step into history for Trump as he offers hand to Kim

By ZEKE MILLER and JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

PANMUNJOM, Korea (AP) — With wide grins and a historic handshake, President Donald Trump and North Korea's Kim Jong Un met at the heavily fortified Demilitarized Zone on Sunday and agreed to revive talks on the pariah nation's nuclear program. Trump, pressing his bid for a legacy-defining deal, became the first sitting American leader to step into North Korea.

What was intended to be an impromptu exchange of pleasantries turned into a 50-minute meeting, another historic first in the yearlong rapprochement between the two technically warring nations. It marked a return to face-to-face contact between the leaders after talks broke down during a summit in Vietnam in February. Significant doubts remain, though, about the future of the negotiations and the North's willingness to give up its stockpile of nuclear weapons.

The border encounter was a made-for television moment. The men strode toward one another from opposite sides of the Joint Security Area and shook hands over the raised patch of concrete at the Military Demarcation Line as cameras clicked and photographers jostled to capture the scene.

After asking if Kim wanted him to cross, Trump took 10 steps into the North with Kim at his side, then escorted Kim back to the South for talks at Freedom House, where they agreed to revive the stalled negotiations.

The spectacle marked the latest milestone in two years of roller-coaster diplomacy between the two nations. Personal taunts of "Little Rocket Man" (by Trump) and "mentally deranged U.S. dotard" (by Kim) and threats to destroy one other have given way to on-again, off-again talks, professions of love and flowery letters.

"I was proud to step over the line," Trump told Kim as they met in on the South Korean side of the truce village of Panmunjom. "It is a great day for the world."

Kim hailed the moment, saying of Trump, "I believe this is an expression of his willingness to eliminate all the unfortunate past and open a new future." Kim added that he was "surprised" when Trump issued an unorthodox meeting invitation by tweet on Saturday.

As he left South Korea on his flight to Washington, Trump tweeted that he had "a wonderful meeting" with Kim. "Stood on the soil of North Korea, an important statement for all, and a great honor!"

Trump had predicted the two would greet one another for about "two minutes," but they ended up spending more than an hour together. The president was joined in the Freedom House conversation with Kim by his daughter and son-in-law, Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner, both senior White House advisers.

Substantive talks between the countries had largely broken down after the last Trump-Kim summit in Hanoi, which ended early when the leaders hit an impasse.

The North has balked at Trump's insistence that it give up its weapons before it sees relief from crushing

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international sanctions. The U.S. has said the North must submit to "complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization" before sanctions are lifted.

As he announced the resumption of talks, Trump told reporters "we're not looking for speed. We're looking to get it right."

He added that economic sanctions on the North would remain. But he seemed to move off the administration's previous rejection of scaling back sanctions in return for piecemeal North Korean concessions, saying, "At some point during the negotiation things can happen."

Peering into North Korea from atop Observation Post Ouellette, Trump told reporters before he greeted Kim that there had been "tremendous" improvement since his first meeting with the North's leader in Singapore last year.

Trump claimed the situation used to be marked by "tremendous danger" but "after our first summit, all of the danger went away."

But the North has yet to provide an accounting of its nuclear stockpile, let alone begin the process of dismantling its arsenal.

The latest meeting, with the U.S. president coming to Kim, represented a striking acknowledgement by Trump of the authoritarian Kim's legitimacy over a nation with an abysmal human rights record. Kim is suspected of having ordered the killing of his half brother through a plot using a nerve agent at a Malaysian airport in 2017. Meantime, the United Nations said in May that about 10 million people in North Korea are suffering from "severe food shortages" after the North had one of the worst harvests in a decade.

Trump told reporters he invited the North Korean leader to the United States, and potentially even to the White House.

"I would invite him right now," Trump said, standing next to Kim. Speaking through a translator, Kim responded that it would be an "honor" to invite Trump to the North Korean capital of Pyongyang "at the right time."

North Korea's state media later described the meeting as "an amazing event."

Trump became the first sitting U.S. president to meet with the leader of the isolated nation last year when they signed an agreement in Singapore to bring the North toward denuclearization.

In the midst of the DMZ gathering, Trump repeatedly complained that he was not receiving more praise for de-escalating tensions on the Korean Peninsula through his personal diplomacy with Kim. Critics say Trump had actually inflamed tensions with his threats to rain "fire and fury" on North Korea, before embracing a diplomatic approach.

North Korea's nuclear threat has not been contained, according to Richard Haas, president of the New York-based Council on Foreign Relations. He tweeted Sunday that the threat of conflict has subsided only because the Trump administration has decided it can live with North Korea's "nuclear program while it pursues the chimera of denuclearization."

Every president since Ronald Reagan has visited the 1953 armistice line, except for George H.W. Bush, who visited when he was vice president. The show of bravado and support for South Korea, one of America's closest military allies, has evolved over the years to include binoculars and bomber jackets.

While North Korea has not recently tested a long-range missile that could reach the U.S., last month it fired off a series of short-range missiles. Trump has brushed off the significance of those tests, even as his own national security adviser, John Bolton, has said they violated U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Associated Press writers Jill Colvin and Darlene Superville in Washington contributed to this report.

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

At least 7 dead as Sudanese stage protests against army rule

By HUSSEIN MALLA and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — Tens of thousands of protesters took to the streets in Sudan's capital and elsewhere in the country Sunday calling for civilian rule nearly three months after the army forced out long-ruling autocrat Omar al-Bashir.

A government official said at least seven people had been killed and nearly 200 injured during the demonstrations.

The protests came amid a weeklong standoff between the ruling military council and protest leaders. Talks between the two sides over a power-sharing agreement collapsed earlier this month when security forces violently broke up a protest camp in Khartoum.

The ensuing clampdown resulted in at least 128 people killed across Sudan, according to protest organizers. Authorities put the death toll at 61, including three security forces.

Soliman Abdel-Gabar, acting undersecretary of health, reported Sunday night that at least seven people died during the day's disturbances. He said 181 people were injured, including 27 with bullet wounds.

The marches, the first since the June 3 crackdown, also mark the 30th anniversary of the Islamist-backed coup that brought al-Bashir to power in 1989, toppling Sudan's last elected government. The military removed al-Bashir in April amid mass protests against his rule.

The crowds gathered at several points across the capital and its sister city of Omdurman before marching toward the homes of those killed since the uprising began.

"This is a very important day for the Sudanese people," protester Hamdi Karamallah said.

The protest movement erupted in December, triggered by an economic crisis. The protesters remained in the streets after al-Bashir was overthrown and jailed, fearing that the military would cling to power or preserve much of his regime.

Osman Mirghani, a Sudanese analyst and the editor of the daily newspaper al-Tayar, said the marches "changed the equation" in favor of the Forces for Declaration of Freedom and Change, which represents the protesters.

"Now, all pressure cards are in the hands of the FDFC. The marches corrected the situation," he said.

On Sunday, protesters chanted anti-military slogans like "Burhan's council, just fall", according to video clips circulated online. Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan is head of the military council.

Video clips showed protesters running away from security forces in the streets of Khartoum and seeking shelter from clouds of tear gas.

On a highway leading to Khartoum's international airport, a convoy of troops and riot police allowed some demonstrators to pass through as they headed toward the house of a protester who was killed earlier this month.

The protester's mother was standing outside and joined the demonstration. They waved Sudanese flags and chanted slogans calling for civilian rule.

Mohammed Yousef al-Mustafa, a spokesman for the Sudanese Professionals' Association, a leading protest organization, told The Associated Press that security forces used tear gas to disperse protesters in Omdurman and the district of Bahri in the capital.

He said protests also erupted in Atbara, a railway city north of the capital and the birthplace of the uprising that led to al-Bashir's ouster.

The Sudan Doctors Committee, the medical arm of the SPA, said a protester in his 20s was shot dead in Atbara. Nazim Sirraj, a prominent activist, said at least four people were killed in Omdurman.

The SPA later called on protesters to march on the Nile-side presidential palace in Khartoum, as security forces closed off roads and bridges leading to the palace. The groups later said security forces barred the protesters from reaching their destination.

The FDFC called on protesters to head to other squares in Khartoum and Omdurman.

Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, deputy head of the military council, said the generals want to reach an "urgent and comprehensive agreement with no exclusion."

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"We in the military council are totally neutral. We are the guardians of the revolution. We do not want to be part of the dispute," he told a gathering of army supporters.

He said three troops from the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces were wounded during the protests in Khartoum. Dagalo, better known as Hemedti, is the leader of the Rapid Support Forces.

"Our mission is to protect people and any peaceful revolution," he said.

The previous day, the military council said it did not oppose the demonstrations but warned protest leaders that they would be held responsible for any vandalism or violence during the marches.

The African Union and Ethiopia have meanwhile stepped up their efforts to mediate an end to the crisis and reach a deal over setting up a new transitional government.

Earlier this week the AU and Ethiopia extended a joint proposal. The generals and the protesters voiced their approval but did not immediately restart negotiations.

The military council said in a statement that it submitted its response to the envoys, and that the generals are ready to resume negotiations on Sunday based on the AU and Ethiopian proposal. Lt. Gen. Shams Eddin Kabashi, a spokesman for the council, said it was hoping to reach a "comprehensive political solution" under the umbrella of the AU.

However, the Forces for Declaration of Freedom and Change, which represents the protesters, said talks could only begin once the military has officially ratified the AU-Ethiopian proposal. Al-Mustafa said talks would resume "directly after the military council signs the proposal."

Associated Press writer Hussein Malla reported this story in Khartoum and AP writer Samy Magdy reported from Cairo.

Migrants stranded in Libya endure sewage, maggots, disease

By MAGGIE MICHAEL Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — For hundreds of African migrants, dreams of a new life in Europe have instead ended in a detention center in the remote desert of war-torn Libya, where they say they have been held for months amid raw sewage, piles of garbage, disease, maggots and barely enough food to survive.

Their plight, detailed in interviews with The Associated Press and social media images leaked last month, brings new attention to the waves of migrants from across Africa who have flowed into Libya in recent years seeking passage across the Mediterranean to Europe — and the highly effective efforts to stop them in their tracks.

"Our life is worse and terrible from day to day," wrote an Eritrean migrant who is among 700 held in the detention center run by one of Libya's militias out of a complex dominated by a hangar near the western town of Zintan.

Others who spoke on condition of anonymity because they feared retribution said in texts to the AP that at least 22 migrants have died since September — a figure confirmed by United Nations and Doctors Without Borders aid workers — and that at least 100 migrants were sick with disease, mainly tuberculosis. Some migrants said the center includes 100 minors who live side by side with adults.

"We need emergency evacuation from Zintan," one told the AP. "We suffer physically, mentally and emotionally."

Photos and videos taken by migrants showed heaps of garbage in the hangar, parts of the center flooded with sewage and plates of food crawling with maggots. The hangar had only four toilets, along with buckets for detainees to urinate in.

Migrants said they were not allowed out to see the sun, and the head of the center would often deprive them of food and water for days as a form of punishment. Those who were given food got only a small plate of pasta or couscous each day and had to share water that a few detainees were allowed to fetch once a day in buckets.

Internal memos and emails obtained by the AP show disagreement among aid agencies over conditions at the center, with one nonprofit working on behalf of the United Nations denying there was lack of food,

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even as it acknowledged it had not been able to see most of the migrants held there.

Migrants in the Zintan center and their advocates accused U.N. aid agencies of being slow to respond or forgetting them altogether. But the U.N. refugee agency, or UNHCR, disputes that, saying the Libyan militias who run the facility have denied their workers access to all parts of it.

UNHCR chief Filippo Grandi told the AP that after photos from inside the site emerged last month, the agency intervened and evacuated 96 migrants from a separate building at the facility where it had access. They were sent to the one U.N.-run center for migrants in Tripoli.

"It is not because of lack of will or not even because of lack of resources," Grandi said. "Access in Libya is the fundamental obstacle to saving more lives."

Col. Nasser Nakoua, part of the militias who run the detention center in Zintan, denied there was any lack of access to the facility.

"Those saying that they have no access are just lying. The doors are open, and we want the agencies to come and help or just shut the place down, because there is severe shortage in everything," he told the AP by phone.

He blamed the government, which is nominally in control of the facility, for failing to fund its operations. "We received nothing from Department for Combating Illegal Migration," he said, referring to the body in charge of the facilities, "not a single penny."

Libya became a major crossing point for migrants to Europe after the ouster and killing of longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi in 2011, when the North African nation was thrown into chaos, armed militias proliferated and central authority fell apart.

Currently, a U.N.-aligned but weak administration in Tripoli oversees the west, where Zintan is located, but much of its powers are in the hands of militias. Eastern Libya is controlled by a rival government aligned with the self-styled Libyan National Army led by Field Marshal Khalifa Hifter, who in April launched an offensive on Tripoli.

Some human rights advocates blame the European Union for the migrant crisis because it has funded Libya's coast guard to stop the crossers at sea. That effort has been highly effective, with the number of people entering the EU via the central Mediterranean cut from 180,000 in 2016 to 23,400 last year and just 880 in the first four months of this year, according to the EU border agency Frontex.

At least 6,000 migrants from such nations as Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan are locked in dozens of detention facilities run by militias accused of torture and other human rights abuses. And that comes after often-arduous journeys at the mercy of traffickers who are known to abuse migrants and hold them for ransom money from families back home.

The EU said in a statement that it is not ignoring what it described as the "dire" situation of refugees and migrants stranded in Libya. It said it has repeatedly denounced inhumane conditions in detention centers and demanded their closure.

Responding to questions from the AP, the EU said a joint task force with the African Union and the United Nations is seeking safer alternatives for migrants outside Libya, including by stepping up evacuations and legal resettlement.

Grandi said UNHCR has succeeded in sending 4,000 migrants to Niger to await resettlement, while the International Organization for Migration has helped some 35,000 return to their home countries.

But for those in Zintan, little has changed. The facility, originally a youth summer camp, has such a bad reputation that migrants in other detention centers caught in the crossfire of fighting between Libya's warring factions refuse to be sent there.

"They prefer to die under bombs and not go through the slow death in Zintan," said Giulia Tranchina, a human rights lawyer from the UK-based Wilsons Solicitors who has been in direct contact with migrants trapped in Zintan and other places.

An official with International Medical Corps said in memos obtained by AP that it had established a clinic at a smaller building at the center and was providing health care. He said reports of lack of food and water were untrue, though quality was poor, and that guards sometimes withheld water as punishment.

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He acknowledged that his group could not get into the hangar where most of the migrants were held until last month, and that it was up to guards to bring out detainees for medical treatment.

But Doctors Without Borders, an aid agency that did manage to visit the detention facility, said it found several malnourished migrants and confirmed the tuberculosis outbreak.

Julien Raickman of Doctors Without Borders in Libya called on other countries to step forward to take in migrants for resettlement and criticized the European Union, saying it made a choice to empower Libya's coast guard to intercept migrants at sea and bring them back to Libya.

"These people are returned back to one of the most dangerous places on Earth," he said.

Associated Press writers Jamey Keaten in Geneva and Dorothee Thiesing in Berlin contributed to this report.

Afghan Taliban say latest talks with US are 'critical'

By KATHY GANNON Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — The Taliban said Sunday that the latest round of peace talks with the United States is "critical" as the two sides "rewrite" a draft agreement in which American forces would withdraw from Afghanistan in exchange for guarantees from the insurgents that they would fight terrorism.

"We are working to rewrite the draft agreement and incorporate in it clauses that have been agreed upon," Taliban spokesman Suhail Shaheen told The Associated Press on the second day of talks with U.S. peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad in Qatar, where the militant group maintains a political office.

He cautioned that while the work was continuing, it is "not finished yet."

The two sides are trying to hammer out agreements that would see the eventual withdrawal of over 20,000 U.S. and NATO troops from Afghanistan and the end of America's longest-running war. The agreements are expected to include guarantees that Afghanistan will not harbor groups like al-Qaida, which was based there in the lead-up to the Sept. 11 attacks, and that the Taliban will continue fighting the Islamic State group, which has expanded its footprint in recent years.

The latest round of talks began on Saturday and is expected to continue into the next week.

The two sides sat down to negotiate just days after U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Washington was hopeful of reaching a deal by Sept. 1 to end Afghanistan's protracted war.

"Getting a comprehensive peace agreement with the Taliban before Sept. 1 would be nothing short of a miracle," said Michael Kugelman, deputy director of the Asia Program at the U.S.-based Wilson Center.

"That said, I could certainly envision a more limited deal being in place by Sept. 1 on a U.S. troop withdrawal, given that there's already been ample progress on this issue."

Pompeo and Khalilzad have both said the final accord will include not only agreements with the Taliban on troop withdrawal and guarantees of a non-threatening Afghanistan, but also agreement on intra-Afghan dialogue and a permanent cease-fire.

Until now the Taliban have refused direct talks with the Afghan government while holding two separate meetings with a wide array of prominent Afghans, including former president Hamid Karzai, members of the former northern alliance that fought the Taliban during its five-year rule and individual members of the government.

The Taliban view President Ashraf Ghani's government as an American puppet but have said they will meet with members of his administration as individuals. The insurgents, who effectively control half the country, have refused a cease-fire until the U.S. withdrawal is complete.

The accelerated pace of negotiations and the sudden announcement of a Sept. 1 target date for an agreement could be linked to Ghani's insistence on presidential polls scheduled for Sept. 28, analysts said.

His political opponents have objected to the election schedule, pointing to last October's poorly run parliamentary polls. The voting was so badly mismanaged that Ghani fired the entire Independent Election Commission. Several parliamentary seats are still being contested.

A biometric identification system aimed at reducing election fraud was prematurely rolled out for the polls,

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with the few people trained on the machines not showing up on election day. While there were incidents of violence, analysts widely agreed the greatest flaw was the widespread mismanagement and fraud.

Khalilzad has suggested that presidential elections could hinder peace efforts.

"I do think the U.S. government recognizes that the election could pose a major obstacle to peace talks, given that it will be a distraction and given that it will accentuate and intensify the fractures and rivalries in the Afghan political environment that undercut reconciliation prospects," said Kugelman.

"Another reason for the focus on Sept. 1 is much simpler: President Trump wants out, and he wants a deal as soon as possible," he added.

Schumer: ATF should investigate Dominican Republic deaths

By MICHAEL BALSAMO Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The Senate's top Democrat said Sunday that the U.S. government should step up efforts to investigate the deaths of at least eight Americans in the Dominican Republic this year.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives should lend support to the FBI and local law enforcement, said Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., noting the agency has offices in the Caribbean and the technical and forensic expertise that could aid the investigation.

"Given that we still have a whole lot of questions and very few answers into just what, if anything, is cause for the recent spate of sicknesses and several deaths of Americans in the Dominican Republic, the feds should double their efforts on helping get to the bottom of things," Schumer said in a statement.

Family members of the tourists who died have called on authorities to investigate any possible connections. Relatives have raised the possibility that the deaths may have been caused by adulterated alcohol or misused pesticides.

ATF spokeswoman April Langwell said the Treasury Department primarily handles investigations involving potentially tainted alcohol. But she said ATF has offered its assistance and would work with other law enforcement agencies to keep Americans safe.

The ATF primarily investigates firearms-related crimes but is also charged with regulating alcohol and tobacco.

Francisco Javier García, the tourism minister in the Dominican Republic, said earlier this month that the deaths were not part of any mysterious series of fatalities but a statistically normal phenomenon lumped together by the U.S. media. He said autopsies show the tourists died of natural causes.

Five of the autopsies were complete as of last week, while three were undergoing further toxicological analysis with the help from the FBI because of the circumstances of the deaths.

Survey suggests Midwest economic growth will continue

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A new report says a June survey of business supply managers suggests economic growth will continue over the next three to six months in nine Midwest and Plains states.

The report issued Monday says the Mid-America Business Conditions Index rose to 55.4 last month from 54.3 in May. The April figure was 55.9.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss oversees the survey, and he says "weak farm income, produced partially by tariffs and flooding, pulled regional growth below that of the nation."

The survey results are compiled into a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Survey organizers say any score above 50 suggests growth. A score below that suggests decline.

The survey covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

Today in History
By The Associated Press

Today in History

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Today is Monday, July 1, the 182nd day of 2019. There are 183 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 1, 1991, President George H.W. Bush nominated federal appeals court judge Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court, beginning an ultimately successful confirmation process marked by allegations of sexual harassment.

On this date:

In 1863, the pivotal, three-day Civil War Battle of Gettysburg, resulting in a Union victory, began in Pennsylvania.

In 1867, Canada became a self-governing dominion of Great Britain as the British North America Act took effect.

In 1934, Hollywood began enforcing its Production Code subjecting motion pictures to censorship review.

In 1944, delegates from 44 countries began meeting at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, where they agreed to establish the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

In 1946, the United States exploded a 20-kiloton atomic bomb near Bikini Atoll in the Pacific.

In 1961, Diana, the princess of Wales, was born in Sandringham, England. (She died in a 1997 car crash in Paris at age 36.)

In 1963, the U.S. Post Office inaugurated its five-digit ZIP codes.

In 1973, the Drug Enforcement Administration was established.

In 1991, the Warsaw Pact formally disbanded.

In 1995, rock-and-roll disc jockey Wolfman Jack died in Belvidere, North Carolina, at age 57.

In 1997, Hong Kong reverted to Chinese rule after 156 years as a British colony. Actor Robert Mitchum died in Santa Barbara, California, at age 79.

In 2002, the world's first permanent war crimes tribunal, the International Criminal Court, came into existence. A Russian passenger jet collided with a cargo plane over southern Germany, killing all 69 people, including 45 schoolchildren, on the Russian plane and the cargo jet pilots.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama held an hour-long town hall forum on health care reform in Annandale, Virginia, where, in an emotional moment, he hugged cancer patient Debby Smith, a volunteer for Obama's political operation, Organizing for America. Academy Award-winning actor Karl Malden, 97, died in Brentwood, California.

Five years ago: David Greenglass, the star witness in the trial of his sister, Ethel Rosenberg, and her husband, Julius, died in New York City at age 92. (The Rosenbergs were executed in 1953 for conspiring to pass secrets about the atomic bomb to the Soviet Union; Greenglass served 10 years in prison for espionage followed by years of living under an assumed name.)

One year ago: Mexican voters, angry over corruption and violence, elected leftist Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador as president. Canada began imposing tariffs on \$12.6 billion in U.S. goods as retaliation for the Trump administration's new taxes on steel and aluminum imported to the United States. LeBron James announced that he would be signing with the Los Angeles Lakers, leaving Cleveland for the second time in his career.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Olivia de Havilland is 103. Actress-dancer Leslie Caron is 88. Actress Jean Marsh is 85. Actor Jamie Farr is 85. Actor David Prowse is 84. Cookiemaker Wally Amos is 83. Dancer-choreographer Twyla Tharp is 78. Actress Genevieve Bujold is 77. Rock singer-actress Deborah Harry is 74. Movie-TV producer-director Michael Pressman is 69. Actor Daryl Anderson is 68. Actor Trevor Eve is 68. Actor Terrence Mann is 68. Rock singer Fred Schneider (B-52's) is 68. Pop singer Victor Willis (Village People) is 68. Actor-comedian Dan Aykroyd is 67. Actress Lorna Patterson is 63. Actor Alan Ruck is 63. Rhythm and blues singer Evelyn "Champagne" King is 59. Olympic gold medal track star Carl Lewis is 58. Country singer Michelle Wright is 58. Actor Andre Braugher is 57. Actor Dominic Keating is 57. Actress Pamela Anderson is 52. Rock musician Mark Pirro is 49. Rock musician Fanny Griffiths (Space) is 49. Actor Henry Simmons is 49. Hip-hop artist Missy Elliott is 48. Actress Julianne Nicholson is 48. Actress Melissa Peterman is 48. Actress/writer Jill Kargman is 45. Rock musician Bryan Devendorf (The National) is 44. Singer/songwriter Sufjan Stevens is 44. Actor Thomas Sadoski is 43. Actress Liv Tyler is 42. Bluegrass

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musician Adam Haynes (Dailey & Vincent) is 40. Actress Hilarie Burton is 37. Actress Lynsey Bartilson is 36. Actress Lea Seydoux is 34. Actor Evan Ellingson is 31. Actors Andrew and Steven Cavarano are 27. Actress/singer Chloe Bailey is 21. Actress Storm Reid is 16.

Thought for Today: "In an age of multiple and massive innovations, obsolescence becomes the major obsession." — Marshall McLuhan, Canadian communications theorist (1911-1980).