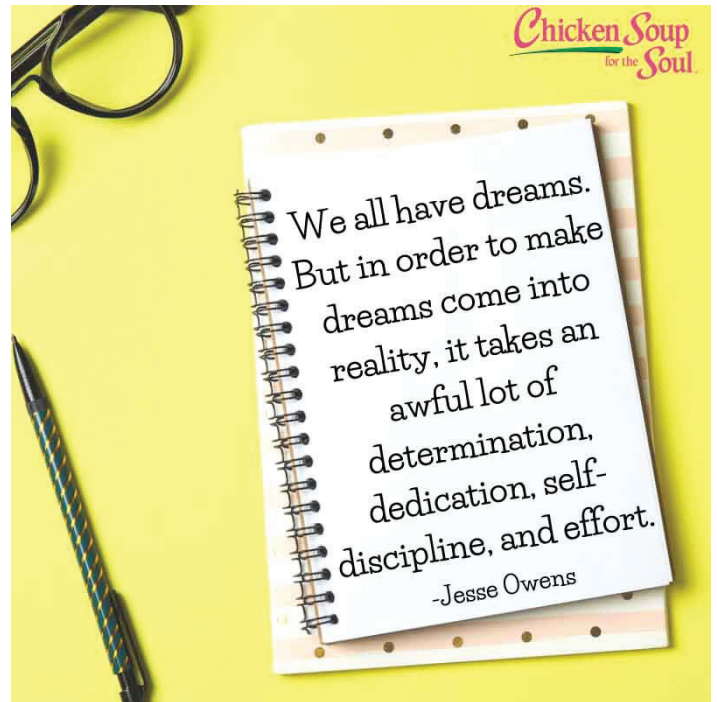


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CLOSED: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

Tuesday, July 9

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

5:30 p.m.: U8 Pee Wees vs. Borge at Manor Park (R)

6:30 p.m.: U12 Midgets vs. Borge at Manor Park
Softball U14 hosts Frankfort, (DH), 6 p.m.

Wednesday, July 10

5:30 p.m.: U8 Pee Wees host Warner, (DH) (R)

6:00 p.m.: U8 Pee Wees host Jacobson, (DH) (B)

6:00 p.m.: T-Ball at Columbia (Gold)

Thursday, July 11

Cancelled: Legion at Castlewood, (DH)

6:00 p.m.: T-Ball at Claremont (Black)

Softball hosts Webster (U10 at 6 p.m. (1 game), U12 at 7 p.m. (2 games))

Softball hosts Faulkton, (DH), 6 p.m.

July 12-14

Legion at Clark Tourney

U12 Midgets State Tournament, TBD

U10 Pee Wees State Tournament, TBD

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Budget is reviewed, some prices adjusted

The budget was the big ticket item at the Groton Area School Board meeting held Monday evening. Business Manager Mike Weber talked about lowering the request for the bond payment as the Arena will be paid for in December 2020. He said that he would not need to ask for the full amount to cover the remaining payments. The board still has time to mull over the budget before it has to be approved.

Meanwhile the board also learned that Groton Area will not receive any state aid next year. The district received about \$50,000 this past school year. The district will also save some money on wages as two full time positions will not be filled. Jodi Sternhagen's school counselor position will be absorbed by Jodi Schwan and Ashley Seeklander.

None of the admission charges or breakfast and lunch tickets will be increased; however, the second serving will increase by 25 cents. Superintendent Joe Schwan reported that a little over 10,000 second servings were served this past year. In a report filed with the state, the current fee for the second serving barely covers the cost so the increase was necessary. Also going up is the OST rate by 25 cents an hour.

The board accepted the resignation/retirement of Kathy Harry as administrative assistant and hired Trent Traphagen as the assistant girls basketball coach and Dalton Locke as the volunteer assistant football coach.

Steve Smith was re-elected as board president and Marty Weismantel was re-elected as board vice-president. Grant Rix will serve as the voting member of the North Central Special Education Cooperative Governing Board. Tigh Flihs was sworn in as the new board member and Deb Gengerke took her oath of office as the incumbent. New board member TJ Harder was not present. Board members leaving were Merle Harder and Clint Fjelstad.

The salaries for the board members will remain at \$50 per meeting with the board chairman getting \$75 per meeting, the rate for the substitute teachers will remain at \$100 per day and the substitute bus driver rate will remain at \$65 per day.

Middle/High School Principal Kiersten Sombke reminded the board that the sixth grade orientation will be held August 16th and that the Groton PAC will be giving out book covers in the school library after the tour.



Position available for full-time Police Officer

"Position available for full-time Police Officer. Experience and SD Certification preferred. Salary negotiable DOE. Please send application and resume to the City of Groton, PO Box 587 Groton, SD 57445. This position is open until filled. Applications may be found at <https://city.grotonsd.gov/forms/ApplicationForCityEmployee.pdf> For more information, please call 605-397-8422 Equal opportunity employer."

(0704.0710)



2 bedroom apt
\$750/month plus utilities
attached garage
major appliances furnished

480-980-8513
or
605-397-7118

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Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

This week, I want to get to a question that I get asked quite often: who is the best player in Minnesota Vikings' history? While it's nearly impossible to say who the "best" player in team history is, over the next few weeks we'll take a look at some positions and try to figure out who the best quarterbacks, wide receivers and defensive linemen are.

This week we look at the quarterback position, where the Vikings have had a bunch of talent throughout the years. Unfortunately, the Vikings have been prone to sign veteran quarterbacks who were near the end of their careers. While it would be fun to talk about the exploits of NFL greats like Brett Favre, Warren Moon and Randall Cunningham, this list is reserved for quarterbacks who spent a good chunk of their careers in Minnesota.

#3 – Daunte Culpepper

Drafted with the 11th overall pick in the 1999 draft, Daunte Culpepper was lucky enough to sit on the bench his first year, learning the ropes from Randall Cunningham and Jeff George. When he finally got a chance to start in 2000, Culpepper threw for nearly 4,000 yards and a league leading 33 touchdowns – leading the team to an 11-5 record and making the Pro Bowl.

His best season came in 2004, when he threw for 4,717 yards and 39 touchdowns. Culpepper was looking like a true star and a franchise quarterback for the Vikings. Unfortunately for Culpepper and the Vikings, the following season saw him sustain a knee injury in week eight against the Carolina Panthers which he was unable to recover from. The team released him the following offseason. Culpepper played four more seasons in the NFL (Miami in 2006, Oakland in 2007, and Detroit in 2008-2009) but he never regained his elite level of play. There is a very good chance that if he never got injured, he would be ranked higher on this list.

#2 – Tommy Kramer

At first glance, Tommy Kramer shouldn't be number two on this list. Over his thirteen seasons with the Minnesota Vikings, Kramer actually had a losing record (54-56) and threw for almost as many interceptions as touchdowns (159 touchdowns, 158 interceptions). He was also only named to one Pro Bowl (1986).

However, Kramer embodied the Minnesota Vikings' never-back-down attitude. In week 12 of the 1977 season, the Vikings were getting blown out by the San Francisco 49ers. Down 24-7 in the second half, Kramer got to see the field for the first time in his career. He proceeded to throw three touchdowns, including a 69-yarder to Sammy White which sealed the first of what would become many come-from-behind victories for "Two-Minute Tommy".

Through sheer grit and determination, Kramer threw for 24,775 yards and 159 touchdowns as a Minnesota Vikings, stats that are still second in team history.

#1 – Fran Tarkenton

This one really is a no-brainer. Tarkenton played for the Vikings for 13 seasons and still sits atop the Vikings leaderboard in wins (91), passing yards (33,098) and passing touchdowns (239). He also led the team to three Super Bowls.

Tarkenton's legacy started against the Chicago Bears on Sunday, September 17, 1961 – which just so happened to be the Vikings' first game in the NFL. Tarkenton came off the bench and ended up throwing for 250 yards, four touchdowns and a rushing touchdown in the upset win.

Fran Tarkenton is one of the best quarterbacks in NFL history. His style of play revolutionized the quarterback position and led the way for the mobile, dual threat quarterbacks we see in the league today. And even though the NFL has changed into a passing league, Tarkenton's career stats are still some of the best of all time. Skoll!

What do you think about the quarterback rankings? Reach out to me on Twitter and let me know what you think (@JordanWrightNFL).

THINKING ABOUT HEALTH

Caregiving Costs Are Not Just for the Elderly

By Trudy Lieberman, Rural Health News Service

Is the U.S. ready for a discussion about paying for caregiving, an increasingly vexing and costly problem for a growing number of Americans?

The answer may be "yes." It has become obvious that long-term-care insurance is not the answer to paying for nursing home and other kinds of care for the elderly. Sales for this product have been declining, the result of sky-high premiums, rate increases, and the difficulty of qualifying for a policy if you're sick.

But the elderly are not the only Americans needing care. At the other end of the age spectrum, paying for childcare is becoming harder and harder except for families with the fattest salaries.

In between are middle-aged women, many of whom have left the workforce to become caregivers for elderly parents. Not only do they not get paid for the care they give, but they jeopardize their own income security and health care when they reach retirement age because they have quit paying into Social Security.

The need for financial help is clear and growing. Among those turning 65 today, 70 percent will eventually need help with one activity of daily living such as eating and bathing. Fifty-two percent will need significant long-term services and supports for two activities of daily living. Among those needing such supports now, 40 percent are working-age adults, many of whom need lifetime care, according to the National Academy of Social Insurance (NASI), a non-profit, nonpartisan Washington-based organization, which fosters the understanding of America's social insurance programs: Social Security and Medicare.

But what if there were a program where Americans paid a little bit each month through their entire working life just as they do now to qualify for Social Security and Medicare benefits? Over a lifetime, a person would be entitled to a benefit just as paying into Social Security entitles them to receive disability benefits and their surviving spouse or children to receive survivors' benefits should the person die.

In the last 20 or 30 years policy proposals in this area didn't match the magnitude of the problem, says Marc Cohen, a co-director of the LeadingAge LTSS Center at UMass, Boston. But now a more far-reaching proposal has surfaced.

An advocacy group, Caring Across Generations, has just released a document outlining options for a long-term care benefit for states to consider. The work is the result of panel convened by the National Academy of Social Insurance.

For too long, policy makers and the media have avoided discussing the reality of the caregiving problem, although it has surfaced in the presidential campaign with a nod to the challenges of paying for childcare.

"Universal family care is a more comprehensive approach to the care crisis," says Dr. Benjamin Veghte, research director at Caring Across Generations who led the NASI study panel. "This is very feasible. We know how to do this."

The study panel lays out a number of options for the states to consider. For example, should there be only modest benefits, or should there be more generous benefits that would cost more? Should a program cover just workers, or should it be more universal?

Another decision, Veghte says, might be deciding to finance the benefits exclusively through worker contributions or include some general revenues. Medicare Part B, and Part D, which provides the drug benefit, are heavily funded with general tax revenues.

This spring Washington state passed a law, the first of its kind in the country, that establishes a social insurance program for long-term care. All residents will pay 58 cents on every \$100 of income into a state trust fund. That's estimated to cost the average worker about \$18 per month. When they become eligible for services, they can receive benefits of \$100 a day up to a lifetime cap of \$36,500.

Those receiving care can choose what kind of services they want or need. They can even use it for financial support for family caregivers.

You might be thinking the plan is not very generous considering that the average price of a semi-private room in a nursing home is about \$7,400 per month, but it's a start.

It's more than just a start, though. It's a huge step forward to solve what has become a growing and seemingly intractable problem for Americans. Washington state is thinking outside the box. Time will tell if others do, too.

What problems have you had paying for long-term care? Write to Trudy at trudy.lieberman@gmail.com.

Summer Gas Prices Heating Up Across the Country

July 8, 2019 - Gas prices are heating up alongside summer temperatures. In the last 15 days state averages have jumped, pushing up the national average nearly a dime to \$2.75. In addition to rising gasoline demand, 13 states this month have introduced new gas taxes that have contributed to the national average increase. Those states include California, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee and Vermont.

South Dakota Average Gas Prices:

Current Avg. \$2.685
Yesterday Avg. \$2.690
Week Ago Avg. \$2.678
Month Ago Avg. \$2.764
Year Ago Avg. \$2.876

"The only motorists seeing relief at the pump are in a handful of states in the West Coast and Rockies regions where prices are trending cheaper, but still rank among the most expensive in the country," said Marilyn Buskohl, AAA spokesperson. "The majority of motorists can expect more expensive gas prices throughout July, but the national average is still not likely to hit \$3/gallon."

Today's average is four cents more than last week, but less than one cent cheaper than last month and 11 cents less expensive than a year ago.

Quick Stats

The nation's top 10 largest weekly increases are: Illinois (+14 cents), Florida (+13 cents), Ohio (+9 cents), Michigan (+7 cents), Georgia (+6 cents), Alabama (+6 cents), Indiana (+5 cents), Texas (+5 cents), Maryland (+5 cents) and Tennessee (+5 cents).

The nation's top 10 least expensive markets are: Mississippi (\$2.34), Arkansas (\$2.36), Louisiana (\$2.38), Alabama (\$2.39), South Carolina (\$2.41), Oklahoma (\$2.41), Missouri (\$2.46), Tennessee (\$2.46), Texas (\$2.47) and Virginia (\$2.47).

Central States and Great Lakes Region

Pump prices are pushing more expensive across the Great Lakes and Central states. Illinois (+14 cents), Ohio (+9 cents), Michigan (+7 cents) and Indiana (+5 cents) rank among the top 10 states with the largest weekly increases. Illinois tops the nationwide chart. Part of the increase can be attributed to new gas taxes that went into effect on July 4 in each of these states.

With the latest jumps, Illinois (+8 cents year over year) is one of only three states in the country to have more expensive gas prices than at the same time last year. Compared to a month ago, Ohio (+13 cents), Illinois (+11 cents) and Michigan (+8 cents) are among states nationwide with more expensive pump prices.

Oil market dynamics

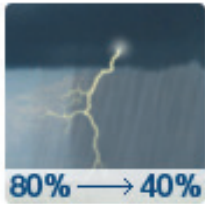
At the close of Friday's formal trading session on the NYMEX, WTI increased by 17 cents to settle at \$57.51. Crude prices ended last week down from the previous week as global demand concerns continue to worry market observers as the U.S. and China continue to resolve their trade dispute. The fall in prices occurred despite EIA's data showing that total domestic crude inventories fell by 1 million bbl to 468.5 million bbl. Moving into this week, if it appears that the U.S. and China are not closer to a trade resolution, crude prices could continue to decrease. However, if tension between the U.S. and Iran escalates, crude prices could surge amid market concerns of conflict in the Middle East, which could limit oil flows from the region.

Motorists can find current gas prices along their route with the free AAA Mobile app for iPhone, iPad and Android. The app can also be used to map a route, find discounts, book a hotel and access AAA roadside assistance. Learn more at AAA.com/mobile.

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Today



80% → 40%

T-storms then
Chance
T-storms

High: 83 °F

Tonight



40%

Chance
T-storms

Low: 62 °F

Wednesday



30%

Chance
T-storms and
Breezy

High: 78 °F

Wednesday
Night



Mostly Clear

Low: 58 °F

Thursday



Sunny

High: 85 °F

MARGINAL RISK of Severe T-Storms

WHAT

Isolated severe storms possible. These storms could produce large hail up to quarter size and wind gusts up to 60 mph.

WHERE

Across central South Dakota, including Murdo, Kennebec and Oacoma.

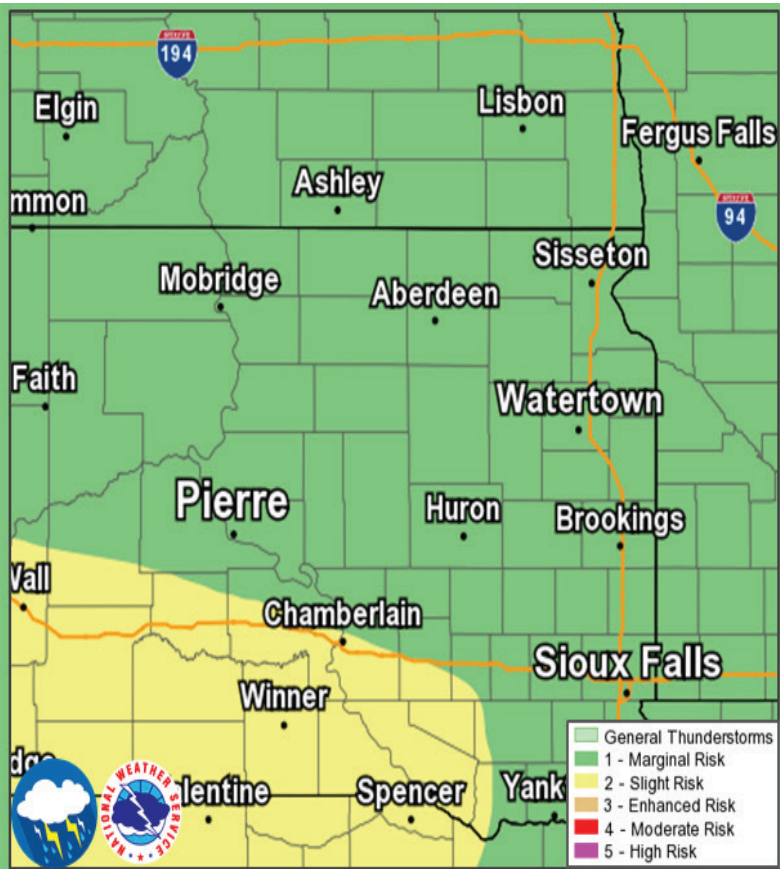
WHEN

This afternoon into the early evening hours. The highest risk period will be from 1 pm – 8 pm.

ACTION

Monitor the weather and have a plan of action if severe weather approaches your area.

ISSUED: 5:02 AM - Tuesday, July 09, 2019



Published on: 07/09/2019 at 1:08AM

Most of the region is under a Marginal Risk for an isolated severe thunderstorm mainly this afternoon. The Slight Risk area does cover portions of south central and southwestern South Dakota. But, overall coverage of strong to severe storms today is limited. The highest risk period will be from around 1 pm today until 8 pm this evening. Damaging winds and large hail are the main threats with any strong storms that develop. Strong northwest winds will develop tonight behind a cold frontal passage.

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Today in Weather History

July 9, 1938: A deadly, estimated F4 tornado moved ESE across the eastern edge of Andover to the north of Bristol. Seventeen buildings were destroyed at Andover, and at least one home was completely swept away. Seven homes and a church also suffered damage. One person was killed at the western edge of Andover, and a couple died in a house at the southern side of town. About two hours later, another estimated F4 tornado moved ENE from 2 miles northeast of White, South Dakota in Brookings County to Hendricks, Minnesota. Only one person was injured from this storm.

July 9, 1972: Wind gusts up to 89 mph caused considerable damage in the Pierre and Oahe Dam area. A drive-in movie screen was destroyed. A camper trailer was turned over pinning seven members of a family inside. Five of them were hospitalized. Numerous trees were uprooted at the Oahe Dam campground. A tourist information building was caved in. Hail broke out car windows on ten vehicles.

July 9, 2009: Severe storms developed over Fall River County and moved eastward across southwestern and south central South Dakota. The thunderstorms produced large hail and strong wind gusts. Two tornadoes were observed in Todd County, and two tornadoes touched down in southern Tripp County. A small EF-1 tornado tracked across Dog Ear Township from 311th Avenue to near the intersection of 289th Street and 312th Avenue, or a little over a one-mile track. The storm blew down large cottonwood trees.

July 9, 2013: A pair of severe storms moved across northeastern South Dakota during the evening hours of the 9th. These storms caused extensive damage to crops, mainly west of Frederick in Brown County where beans and corn fields were destroyed. As the storms moved from Barnard, through Columbia, and into the Groton area, the hail increased to baseball size. There was also some structural damage to siding along with broken windows.

1979: Hurricane Bob was born in the Gulf of Mexico, becoming the first Atlantic Hurricane to be given a male name.

1997: Torrential rains in the Carpathian Mountains caused severe flooding in the Czech Republic, Poland, and German. In all, 104 people died as a result of the deluge. In the aftermath, authorities from each country blamed the others for the extent of the disaster.

2007: The Argentine capital experiences its first major snowfall since June 22, 1918, as wet snow spreads a thin white mantle over the area. The storm hits on Argentina's Independence Day holiday thus adding to a festive air. Thousands of Argentines cheer the event, throwing snowballs in the streets. Local radio stations dust off an old tango song inspired by the 1918 snowfall: What a night!

1860 - A hot blast of air in the middle of a sweltering summer pushed the mercury up to 115 degrees at Fort Scott and Lawrence, KS. (David Ludlum)

1882 - Ice formed on the streets of Cheyenne, WY, during a rare summer freeze. (David Ludlum)

1936 - The temperature hit an all-time record high of 106 degrees at the Central Park Observatory in New York City, a record which lasted until LaGuardia Airport hit 107 degrees on July 3rd in 1966. (The Weather Channel)

1968 - Columbus, MS received 15.68 inches of rain in 24 hours to establish a record for the state. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in Michigan. A tornado near Munising, MI, destroyed part of a commercial dog kennel, and one of the missing dogs was later found unharmed in a tree top half a mile away. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Twenty-three cities in the eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Alpena, MI, and Buffalo, NY, suffered through their sixth straight day of record heat. The percentage of total area in the country in the grips of severe to extreme drought reached 43 percent, the fourth highest total of record. The record of 61 percent occurred during the summer of 1934. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Morning thunderstorms produced very heavy rain in southern Lower Michigan and northern Indiana. Up to 5.6 inches of rain was reported in Berrien County, MI. Sioux Falls SD reported a record high of 108 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

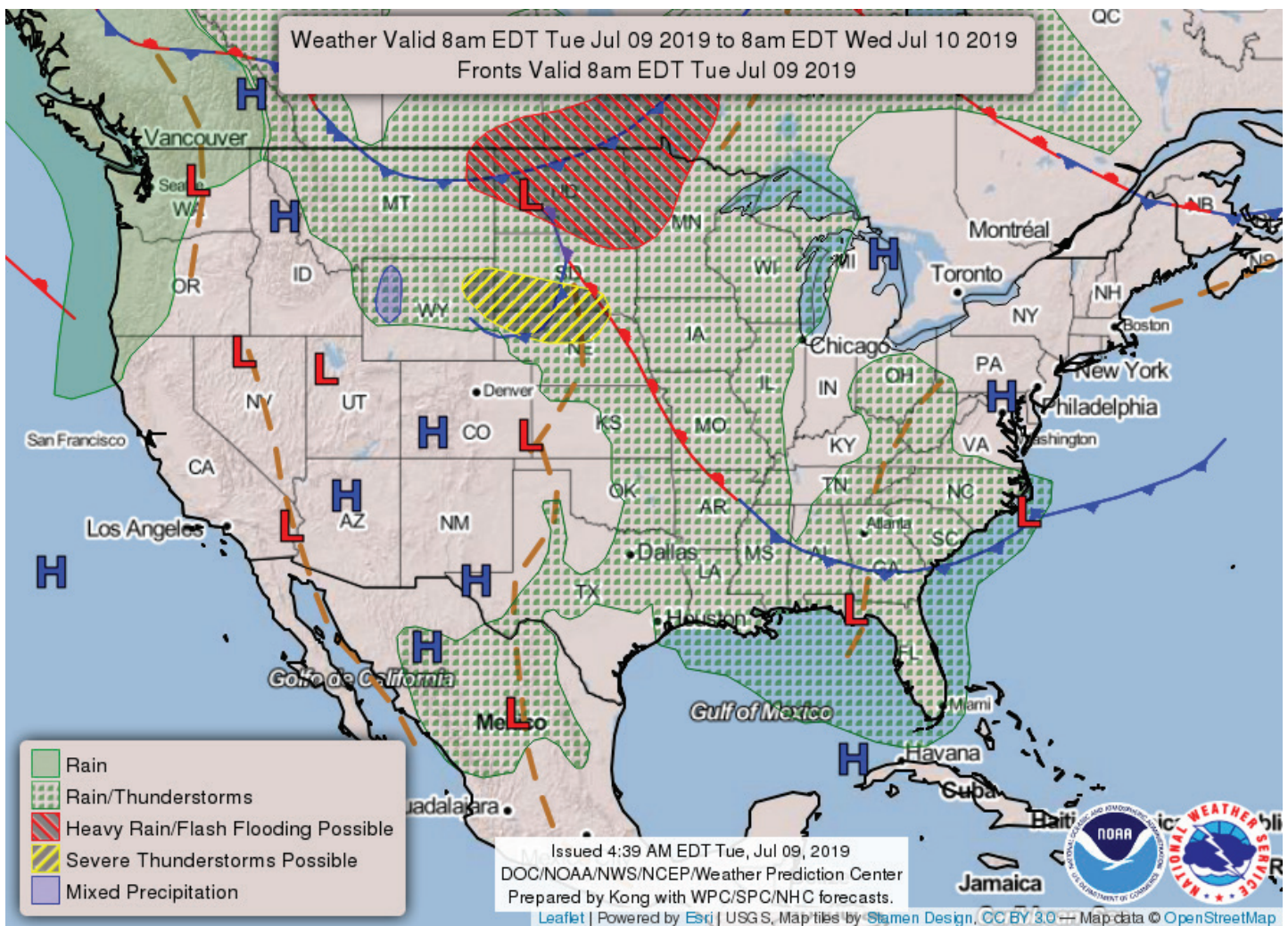
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 87 °F at 4:34 PM
Low Temp: 71 °F at 12:25 AM
Wind: 32 mph at 5:14 PM
Day Rain: 0.27 this morning

Record High: 115° in 1936
Record Low: 42° in 1981
Average High: 83°F
Average Low: 59°F
Average Precip in July.: 0.86
Precip to date in July.: 1.17
Average Precip to date: 11.70
Precip Year to Date: 13.89
Sunset Tonight: 9:23 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:54 a.m.





HONOR THE POOR

We were sitting in the break room having lunch. I had been invited to eat with the employees to connect with a young man who was having serious financial and marital problems. When he finished eating, he took his plastic dinnerware to the sink, washed them, wrapped them in a napkin, and put them in his pocket.

Another employee noticed what he did and said sarcastically, Wow, youre really having it tough. Want mine too? No doubt your family could use them.

When those words pierced his heart, he burst into tears, dropped his head to his chest and stood quietly, not knowing what to say. One more blow for him deal with and struggle to overcome on his path to survival.

I walked up to him, put my arm around his shoulder and said, Ive gone through difficult times, too. Im glad I had to do without when I was your age because now I understand your feelings and know you will survive.

The one who oppresses the poor is not a friend of God. In fact, such behavior reflects their attitude toward the One who created both. If anyone has contempt for another person, it spills over onto God - for He gave life for both and they are of equal value in His sight. We sometimes forget that His Son died for both - as He did for each of us.

Whatever anyone has is a gift from God to be used to honor Him including plastic dinnerware. Jesus made that extremely clear when He said, I tell you the truth, whatever you did to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me. When we share our love and resources with those in need, as Solomon said, we honor God.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we ask for hearts filled with compassion to care for those in need of love and lifes essentials. May we care for them as You care for us. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 14:31 Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.

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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

Noem appoints Steckel interim Human Resources commissioner

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem has appointed Thomas Steckel interim commissioner of the Bureau of Human Resources.

Noem announced Steckel's appointment Monday. It follows the appointment of current Bureau of Human Resources Commissioner Laurie Gill as secretary of social services, and takes effect Tuesday.

Noem calls Steckel "a critical part of the leadership team at the Bureau of Human Resources."

Steckel says he looks forward to working with the Republican governor "as we continue supporting state employees and making the state a premier place to work."

Steckel currently serves as director of employee benefits within the Bureau of Human Resources, a position he has held since 2014. In that role, he has managed the budget and execution of the State Employee Health Plan program and worker's compensation program.

Spring wheat, soybean development lags in South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Spring wheat and soybean development in South Dakota is lagging behind last year's pace.

According to the weekly federal crop report, 96 percent of South Dakota's soybean crop has emerged. That's near the 100 percent mark from last year and the five-year average. But only 3 percent of soybeans are blooming, which is well behind 27 percent last year and the average of 31 percent.

More than 50 percent of the soybean crop is rated in good to excellent condition.

Spring wheat is 61 percent headed, well behind last year's pace of 89 percent and the average of 90 percent. Spring wheat is rated 71 percent good to excellent, 28 percent fair and only 1 percent poor or very poor.

Pasture and range land is 86 percent good to excellent.

South Dakotans soon access court records from any computer

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Unified Judicial System is piloting a program that will eventually allow the public access to court records from any computer.

The public can now only view court records on computers at state courthouses during work hours from Monday to Friday, which means some people face long drives to access the records.

"We recognize that the (computer) terminals are kind of limited in their functionality," said Greg Sattizahn, administrator of the South Dakota Unified Judicial System.

The new website, set to go live late 2019 or early 2020, is aimed at improving public access to court records by allowing people to view them online from any computer at the cost of 10 cents per page.

The public computers at the courthouses only let people search by case number. But the new website will allow people to search by name, date of birth, county and date range of the alleged offense. Obtaining complete criminal backgrounds will cost \$20.

The fees will help cover enhanced technology within the Unified Judicial System, Sattizahn told the Rapid City Journal.

The new website should help cut down on paper and printing costs. But in the meantime, people can expect to pay more when printing documents in courts. Recent software upgrades no longer allow double-sided printing, said Kent Grode, information technology director for the system.

Now, with only single-sided printing, people will be charged 20 cents per page. Most documents are free to view on computers made available to the public.

"Certainly cost was a factor that was taken into consideration," Sattizahn said. "However, the need to meet system security standards for the information held by the UJS was an overriding concern."

"The UJS database includes highly confidential information, sealed court records and personally identifiable information in addition to publicly accessible records, and we must be vigilant in safeguarding those records."

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

Police: Motorcyclist swerved at Sioux Falls officers

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police in Sioux Falls say a man tried to hit officers with a motorcycle. Several officers were helping with traffic control outside of a bar early Sunday when they heard someone revving a motorcycle.

Police went to speak with the motorcyclist, who allegedly hit one officer in the leg before swerving at them and driving away. The officer did not need medical attention. The cyclist returned and swerved at officers again, telling them he would kill them.

The Argus Leader reports police tracked the motorcycle's owner down and determined he was not the person who had been riding it that morning but had loaned the cycle to someone else.

Police arrested the 31-year-old suspect at a friend's house. He faces charges of aggravated assault, exhibition driving and threatening law enforcement.

Johnson co-sponsors opioid legislation

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson has co-sponsored legislation that addresses the opioid crisis on college campuses.

The bill aims to help colleges and universities implement programs to prevent drug abuse and support those who are addicted. Johnson says more needs to be done to meet students on campus and connect them to available resources.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 130 Americans die each day of an opioid overdose.

Johnson's co-sponsor is Rep. David Trone of Maryland.

Activists worry about potential abuse of face scans for ICE

By FRANK BAJAK AP Technology Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Civil rights activists complained Monday of the potential for widespread abuse following confirmation that at least three states have scanned millions of driver's license photos on behalf of Immigration and Customs Enforcement without the drivers' knowledge or consent.

Public records obtained by the Georgetown Law Center on Privacy and Technology provided the first proof that ICE had sought such scans, which were conducted in Utah, Vermont and Washington.

All three states — which offer driving privileges to immigrants who are in the U.S. illegally — agreed to the ICE requests, according to documents shared with The Associated Press on Monday and first reported by The Washington Post.

"States asked undocumented people to come out of the shadows to get licenses. Then ICE turns around and uses that to find them," Alvaro Bedoya, the center's director, said Monday.

ICE spokesman Matthew Bourke did not directly address written questions, including whether the agency used the scans to arrest or deport anyone.

"During the course of an investigation, ICE has the ability to collaborate with external local, federal and international agencies to obtain information that may assist in case completion and prosecution efforts," Bourke said in a written response. "This is an established procedure that is consistent with other law-enforcement agencies."

At least two cases in Utah and one in Washington state appeared to involve immigration enforcement, but the vast majority of requests from ICE in Utah were from its Homeland Security Investigations divi-

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sion, which has a limited role in immigration enforcement.

The documents for Vermont and Washington involved just a handful of records. The Utah document obtained by Georgetown was a ledger with details on more than 1,800 cases spanning two years of requests from multiple agencies, including other states, the FBI and the State Department.

The use of facial-recognition by state, federal and local law enforcement agencies has grown over the past decade as an FBI pilot project evolved into a full-scale program.

Twenty-one states and Washington, D.C., let the FBI access their drivers' license and identification photos, according to a Government Accountability Office report published last month. The report said the FBI currently has access to 640 million photos — including for U.S. visa applicants — with more than 390,000 photos searched for matches since 2011, the year the agency augmented its fingerprint database with facial analysis.

Privacy concerns over the burgeoning use of facial recognition are on the rise as public awareness of the virtually unregulated practice grows. San Francisco and Somerville, Massachusetts, have in recent weeks become the first U.S. cities to ban the use of facial recognition by their police and city agencies. Amazon and has come under fierce criticism for providing facial recognition tech to law enforcement.

One major concern of activists is that the technology could be abused in the Trump administration crackdown on immigration. Shankar Narayan, director of the technology and liberty project at the American Civil Liberties Union in Washington, said federal agencies "are seeing a huge opportunity to use technologies ... to enforce immigration statutes in a way that was never intended."

In July 2017, Georgetown researchers filed Freedom of Information Act requests with every state seeking documents on how they responded to requests for facial recognition information from Law enforcement agencies, Bedoya said.

Many states ignored or denied the requests. Utah, Vermont and Washington provided useful responses.

In Utah, ICE asked to search the database containing license images 49 times between October 2015 and November 2017, said Department of Public Safety spokeswoman Marissa Cote. No search warrant or subpoena was required, but all searches involved potential criminal suspects, she said.

State officials are not always informed if ICE catches a suspect, though the agency has been informed in some cases where a suspect was identified, including heroin trafficking, narcotics smuggling and credit-card identity theft, Cote said.

The state does not run searches for people whose only infraction is living in the country without proper documentation, Cote said.

But Democratic state Rep. Angela Romero called the searches "government overreach" with the potential to spread fear.

"For me, it's the federal government accessing information without the legislature's knowledge or permission," she said.

A spokeswoman for Vermont's Republican governor, Phil Scott, said Vermont officials stopped sharing facial-recognition information with federal immigration authorities in May 2017.

In Washington state, the Department of Licensing said it has not received a facial-recognition request since 2017 and noted that as of 2018, all requests must be court ordered.

Jaime Smith, a spokeswoman for Gov. Jay Inslee, said "at no point do federal agencies have access to that database."

"We really want to make clear that we're not going to allow the federal government to commandeer the use of our state resources to use as part of their immigration effort."

A law that Inslee signed earlier this year broadly prohibits local law enforcement agencies from asking about immigration status or place of birth unless directly connected to a criminal investigation.

Associated Press writers Lindsay Whitehurst in Salt Lake City; Wilson Ring in Montpelier, Vermont; Rachel La Corte in Olympia, Washington; Matthew O'Brien in Providence, Rhode Island; and Elliot Spagat in San Diego contributed to this report.

What did Epstein's famous friends know and see?

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jeffrey Epstein has hobnobbed with some of the world's most powerful people during his jet-setting life. Future President Donald Trump called him a "terrific guy." Former President Bill Clinton praised his intellect and philanthropic efforts and was a frequent flyer aboard his private jet.

The arrest of the billionaire financier on child sex trafficking charges is raising questions about how much his high-powered associates knew about the hedge fund manager's interactions with underage girls, and whether they turned a blind eye to potentially illegal conduct.

It's also putting new scrutiny on Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta, who, as U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Florida, was involved in a 2008 secret plea deal that allowed Epstein to avoid federal charges.

The White House did not respond to repeated questions Monday about when Trump was last in contact with Epstein or if he had witnessed Epstein engage in illegal activity with underage girls.

In his most extensive known public comments about Epstein, Trump told New York magazine in 2002 that he'd known the financier for 15 years and praised him as a "terrific guy."

"He's a lot of fun to be with," Trump was quoted as saying. "It is even said that he likes beautiful women as much as I do, and many of them are on the younger side. No doubt about it - Jeffrey enjoys his social life."

Trump Organization attorney Alan Garten has since distanced Trump from Epstein, telling Politico in 2017 that Trump "had no relationship with Mr. Epstein and had no knowledge whatsoever of his conduct."

Asked about the charges on Sunday, Trump said, "I don't know about it."

Epstein was also an associate of Clinton's, repeatedly lending the former president his jet to travel overseas. Flight logs obtained by Fox News showed the former president took at least 26 trips aboard Epstein's Boeing 727, nicknamed the "Lolita Express," from 2001 to 2003. That "included extended junkets around the world with Epstein and fellow passengers identified on manifests by their initials or first names, including 'Tatiana,'" the outlet found.

"Jeffrey is both a highly successful financier and a committed philanthropist with a keen sense of global markets and an in-depth knowledge of twenty-first-century science," Clinton told New York magazine through a spokesman for that same 2002 story. "I especially appreciated his insights and generosity during the recent trip to Africa to work on democratization, empowering the poor, citizen service, and combating HIV/AIDS."

Clinton spokesman Angel Ureña said the former president "knows nothing about the terrible crimes Jeffrey Epstein pleaded guilty to in Florida some years ago, or those with which he has been recently charged in New York." He said that, in 2002 and 2003, Clinton took four trips on Epstein's plane with multiple stops and that staff and his Secret Service detail traveled on every leg.

"He's not spoken to Epstein in well over a decade, and has never been to Little St. James Island, Epstein's ranch in New Mexico, or his residence in Florida," Ureña added.

Also back in the spotlight is Acosta, Trump's labor secretary, due to his role in the deal that ended an earlier investigation involving at least 40 teenage girls. The deal allowed Epstein to avoid federal charges and a possible life sentence. Instead, Epstein pleaded guilty to state charges and served 13 months in jail, during which he was allowed to leave for work during the day.

"I want real justice for these underage survivors - and Acosta to finally answer for his weak plea agreement," tweeted Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, who was among a number of congressional Democrats who had asked the Justice Department to reopen the case.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi went further, tweeting Monday night that Acosta should resign from Trump's Cabinet. "As US Attorney, he engaged in an unconscionable agreement w/ Jeffrey Epstein kept secret from courageous, young victims preventing them from seeking justice," Pelosi wrote.

The White House did not respond to questions Monday about Acosta's future. The Department of Labor referred questions to the Department of Justice, which did not immediately respond to a request for

comment.

Then-White House press secretary Sarah Sanders had told reporters in February that the White House was looking into Acosta's handling of the case, but she never offered further details. Trump said in February that he didn't know much about the case but volunteered that Acosta had done "a great job" as labor secretary. As for the Epstein case, Trump added, "That seems like a long time ago."

Acosta has previously called the deal appropriate.

Epstein is accused of paying underage girls hundreds of dollars in cash for massages and then molesting them at his homes in Florida and New York. He "intentionally sought out minors and knew that many of his victims were in fact under the age of 18," according to prosecutors, who said he also paid some of his victims to "recruit additional girls to be similarly abused."

Epstein pleaded not guilty Monday to sex trafficking charges.

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

Hong Kong protesters to continue after bill declared 'dead'

By KATIE TAM and CHRISTOPHER BODEEN Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong protest leaders opposed to the administration of Chief Executive Carrie Lam said Tuesday that they will continue their demonstrations, even after Lam declared the effort to amend a highly contentious extradition bill "dead."

Protesters are persisting in their demands for the bill to be formally withdrawn and an investigation opened into heavy-handed tactics used by police against demonstrators. Hundreds of thousands have joined the monthlong protests, expressing growing concerns about the steady erosion of civil rights in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

"We cannot find the word 'dead' in any of the laws in Hong Kong or in any legal proceedings in the Legislative Council," protest leaders Jimmy Sham and Bonnie Leung said in statements in English and Cantonese.

"So how can the government tell us that we should preserve our rule of law, when (Lam) herself does not use the principle of the rule of law," the two said.

The protest leaders also said Lam was being hypocritical in claiming to have met demonstrators' demands without actually speaking to them directly.

"Instead, she should really stand out and talk to the young protesters," Leung said. "The young protesters have been out in the street outside her house, outside government headquarters, for weeks, roaring to be heard."

Details about future protest actions will be announced at a later time, Leung said.

Lam acknowledged at a news conference earlier Tuesday that there were "lingering doubts about the government's sincerity or worries about whether it would seek to bring the legislation back for a vote." But she said: "I reiterate here, there is no such plan. The bill is dead."

The protests against the proposed extradition legislation have given voice to fears that Hong Kong is losing the freedoms guaranteed to it when the former British colony was returned to China in 1997.

The legislation would allow criminal suspects to be extradited to mainland China. Critics fear suspects would face unfair and politicized trials, and that opponents of China's ruling Communist Party would be targeted.

In the most recent protest on Sunday, tens of thousands of people, chanting "Free Hong Kong" and some carrying British colonial-era flags, marched toward a high-speed railway station that connects Hong Kong to the Chinese mainland. They said they wanted to carry their protest message to those on the mainland, where state-run media have not covered the protests widely but have focused instead on clashes with police and property damage.

On July 1, the 22nd anniversary of Hong Kong's handover from Britain back to China, a peaceful march drew hundreds of thousands of people but was overshadowed by an assault on the territory's legislative building. A few hundred demonstrators shattered thick glass panels to enter the building and wreaked

havoc for three hours, spray-painting slogans on the chamber walls, overturning furniture and damaging electronic voting and fire prevention systems.

Protesters are demanding an independent investigation into alleged police abuse of force against demonstrators on June 12, when officers used tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse crowds blocking major streets.

Lam said Tuesday that investigations would take place under the Department of Justice "in accordance with the evidence, the law and also the prosecution code."

Bodeen reported from Beijing.

US women's team boldly embraces off-the-field activist role

By DAVID CRARY AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Setting itself apart from other great American sports teams, the U.S. women's soccer team is embracing a front-line role in social justice causes even as it savors a fourth world championship.

The players are now world leaders in the push for gender equity in the workplace, having sued the U.S. Soccer Federation for equal pay and treatment vis-a-vis the men's national team. With a lesbian coach and several lesbian players, including World Cup MVP Megan Rapinoe, they're a proud symbol of LGBTQ inclusion. And they have stood firmly behind Rapinoe after she said she'd refuse to visit the White House if invited by President Donald Trump.

Far from being daunted by these off-the-field roles, the players seem to relish them.

"I feel like this team is in the midst of changing the world around us as we live, and it's just an incredible feeling," Rapinoe said after the team's 2-0 victory over the Netherlands in Sunday's title match in Lyon, France. The team won all seven of its matches, scoring 26 goals, allowing just three.

Individual athletes — notably Muhammad Ali, more recently Colin Kaepernick — have risked their careers in the past by taking political stances. Some teams in the NBA and WNBA wore warm-up outfits a few years ago protesting police brutality and supporting the Black Lives Matter movement.

But it's difficult to think of another high-profile U.S. team sticking its neck out, in the run-up to its most important competition, the way the women's soccer team did by suing the USSF in March. The two sides have agreed to mediate the lawsuit now that the World Cup is over.

"These athletes generate more revenue and garner higher TV ratings but get paid less simply because they are women," said Molly Levinson, spokeswoman for the players in their lawsuit. "It is time for the federation to correct this once and for all."

Debra Katz, a Washington attorney who specializes in sexual harassment cases, said the U.S. team had earned global support for the causes it is embracing.

"Their message is, 'You're not going to divide us. We're united for nondiscriminatory treatment for all of us.'"

The victory in Lyon, coupled with the drive for equal pay, will further entrench the U.S. team as a symbol for female athletes elsewhere. Indeed, Title IX, the 1972 federal legislation that required equal sporting opportunities for girls and women, has benefited not only the top U.S. players but also many World Cup players from other countries who honed their skills on U.S. college teams.

For LGBTQ Americans — many of them frustrated by the lack of openly gay players in major league baseball, the NFL, NBA and NHL — the women's soccer team has been a source of pride and celebration. Two of its players, Ashlyn Harris and Ali Krieger, are engaged to each other. On hand as a spectator in Lyon was Rapinoe's girlfriend, WNBA star Sue Bird.

"Science is science. Gays rule," Rapinoe tweeted on Sunday.

A spokeswoman for the largest U.S. LGBTQ-rights organization, Matilda Young of the Human Rights Campaign, said the impact of the team's inclusiveness would be profound.

"Young LGBTQ athletes, who all too frequently are made to feel unwelcome, have seen themselves reflected in these history-making champions," Young said. "Having Americans from every corner of our

country embrace these women who are unabashedly proud of their country and of who they are sends a powerful message not only to LGBTQ people, but to sports fans around the world that we are here, we are queer, and we just won the World Cup — again.”

Congratulations to the team came from a wide array of celebrities and politicians, including Trump and many of the Democratic presidential candidates hoping to defeat him. One of them, New York Mayor Bill de Blasio, swiftly arranged for the team to have a victory parade Wednesday through the Canyon of Heroes in Manhattan.

“Congrats to the record breakers on the @USWNT, an incredible team that’s always pushing themselves_and the rest of us_to be even better,” tweeted former President Barack Obama. U.S Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, the New York Democrat with a huge following on social media, tweeted “At this point we shouldn’t even be asking for #EqualPay for the #USWNT. We should demand they be paid at least twice as much.”

On Monday, the top Democrats in Congress invited the team to the Capitol “to celebrate their inspiring victory,” House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said.

At the National Women’s Law Center in Washington, the U.S. team’s victories and outspokenness were welcomed by a staff that has campaigned vigorous for equality in the workplace and on the playing field.

“This team is so dominant because they work together — they lift each other up,” said Sabrina Stevens, the center’s senior manager of campaign and digital strategies.

“It resonates for so many of us — women especially — to work your heart out and be so good at what do, and still not get the pay or recognition you deserve,” she said. “We’re rooting for them because we’re rooting for ourselves.”

AP Sports Writer Anne M. Peterson in Lyon, France, contributed to this report.

1 Justice Department, 2 views on sex charges against Epstein

By CURT ANDERSON AP Legal Affairs Writer

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — There is only one Justice Department, but two of its largest U.S. attorneys’ offices came to vastly different conclusions about what to do with financier Jeffrey Epstein over allegations he sexually molested dozens of underage girls.

Eleven years ago, Miami U.S. Attorney Alexander Acosta — now President Donald Trump’s labor secretary — approved an extraordinary secret agreement in which Epstein pleaded guilty to lesser state charges rather than face much tougher federal prosecution on charges he sexually abused underage girls at his homes in Florida and New York from 2002 through 2005.

On Monday, Manhattan U.S. Attorney Geoffrey Berman announced the indictment of Epstein, 66, on sex trafficking and conspiracy charges stemming from at least some of the same conduct that was covered in the agreement over a decade ago. Epstein, who served 13 months after his 2008 Florida plea deal, is now looking at 45 years behind bars if convicted in New York.

Epstein pleaded not guilty Monday to the new charges and is being held until a bail hearing next week. Prosecutors want him detained until the case is resolved, contending he is a flight risk because of his extraordinary wealth.

It’s highly unusual for one federal prosecutor to pass on an indictment only to have another located elsewhere to determine otherwise, defense attorneys say. And Epstein’s lawyers argued Monday that the previous deal more than covers the new charges brought, and therefore their client cannot be prosecuted. But federal prosecutors in New York said the deal made in Miami does not apply to them.

“A 10-year-old prosecution like this one by a different district is extremely rare and dangerous, even if the previous plea agreement is later viewed as a really bad one,” said David O. Markus, a prominent Miami defense attorney not involved in the case. “We have one federal government, and defendants and their lawyers should be able to trust that a deal is a deal.”

The allegations are that abuse occurred in both Palm Beach, Florida, and New York, but that has been

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publicly known for years, though authorities say there are some crimes specific to New York.

But at a Monday court hearing, Epstein attorney Reid Weingarten dismissed the idea that the new indictment would reveal anything new: "This is ancient stuff. This is essentially a redo. "

The non-prosecution agreement notes that Epstein "seeks to resolve globally" the entire case against him. There is some debate about that.

Berman credited what he called "investigative journalism" — certainly referring to a series last fall on the Epstein case by the Miami Herald — for providing his office with an avenue to take on the case. He also said the agreement signed by South Florida prosecutors and Epstein does not apply in New York.

"Too often adults in our society have turned a blind eye to the type of criminal behavior alleged here. We have seen the excuses," said William Sweeney, head of the FBI's New York field office.

The current head of the Justice Department, William Barr, declined to comment and said he has recused himself from the case because he once worked for a law firm that once represented Epstein. He didn't name the firm.

Under the 2008 agreement, Epstein pleaded guilty to state prostitution-related charges and was allowed to go to his office during the day while he served his sentence. He also registered as a sex offender and agreed to pay millions of dollars to dozens of his victims.

But he didn't have to face a federal indictment in Florida that would have meant a much longer prison sentence, possibly even life.

Acosta has defended the deal as appropriate under the circumstances. He also has noted how his prosecutors persisted in securing a conviction despite tremendous pressure from the defense, which included high-profile attorneys such as Kenneth Starr, Alan Dershowitz and Roy Black. They all have denied wrongdoing.

"One member of the defense team warned me that the office's excess zeal in forcing a good man to serve time in jail might be the subject of a book if we continued," Acosta wrote in a letter he made public after the non-prosecution agreement finally was revealed in a civil case. "Defense counsel investigated individual prosecutors and their families."

Starr and others involved in Epstein's defense in the Florida case wrote in a March letter to The New York Times that the deal was proper and fully reviewed at high levels of the Justice Department.

"An agreement rather than a trial is how over 97 percent of federal cases get resolved, through negotiations by two teams of experienced professionals," Starr and the others wrote. "The case lacked the credible and compelling proof that is required by federal criminal statutes."

Two victims have sued the federal government contending that prosecutors in Florida violated the Crime Victims' Rights Act by failing to consult with or even inform them of Epstein's deal. The Justice Department in that case — through prosecutors in the Atlanta U.S. attorney's office — recently defended the plea agreement as proper. A judge, however, said it violated the victims' act and is considering whether to void it.

Berman, the Manhattan U.S. attorney, however, said the victims whose cases remain unresolved were a key reason his office decided to pursue the indictment.

"They deserve their day in court. We are proud to be standing up for them by bringing this indictment," Berman said.

Follow Curt Anderson on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/Miamicurt>

Barr sees a legal way to ask about citizenship on census

By MIKE BALSAMO Associated Press

EDGEFIELD, S.C. (AP) — Attorney General William Barr said Monday he sees a way to legally require 2020 census respondents to declare whether or not they are citizens, despite a Supreme Court ruling that forbade asking the question.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Barr said the Trump administration will take action in the coming days that he believes will allow the government to add the controversial census query. Barr would not

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detail the plans, though a senior official said President Donald Trump is expected to issue a memorandum to the Commerce Department instructing it to include the question on census forms.

The Supreme Court recently blocked the question, at least temporarily, saying the administration's justification "seems to have been contrived." That was a blow to Trump, who has been pressing for the government to demand information about citizenship.

The U.S. Census Bureau's experts have said requiring such information would discourage immigrants from participating in the survey and result in a less accurate count. That in turn would redistribute money and political power away from Democratic-led cities where immigrants tend to cluster to whiter, rural areas where Republicans do well.

Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Monday that Trump wants to add the demand for citizenship information because he wants to "make America white again."

Meanwhile, the Justice Department is replacing the legal team that has been pursuing Trump's efforts, putting in place a new team consisting of both career and politically appointed attorneys.

The new team, named in court papers, includes Deputy Assistant Attorney General David Morrell, a former Trump White House lawyer and law clerk to Justice Clarence Thomas; Christopher Bates, who previously worked for Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah, and four career Justice Department attorneys, Glenn Girdharry, Colin Kisor, Christopher Reimer and Daniel Schiffer.

James Burnham, a top lawyer in the department's civil division who had been leading the team, had told Barr that a number of people who had been litigating the case preferred "not to continue during this new phase," the attorney general said.

The new team may find it easier to argue the administration's new position, said an administration official, speaking only on condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to comment for attribution.

Barr said he didn't have details on why the attorneys didn't want to continue, but "as far as I know, they don't think we are legally wrong."

Barr said he has been in regular contact with Trump over the issue of the citizenship question. "I agree with him that the Supreme Court decision was wrong," the attorney general said. He said he believes there is "an opportunity potentially to cure the lack of clarity that was the problem and we might as well take a shot at doing that."

The Trump administration has argued that it wanted the question included to aid in enforcing the Voting Rights Act, which protects minority voters' access to the ballot box. But Chief Justice John Roberts joined the court's four more liberal members in last month's Supreme Court decision, openly skeptical about that justification.

It's unclear what new rationale for asking the question the administration might include in a presidential memorandum.

Barr said the change in attorneys working on the issue came about after Burnham approached him and "indicated it was a logical breaking point since a new decision would be made and the issues going forward would hopefully be separate from the historical debates."

"If they prefer not to embark on this next phase, then I thought it could make sense to change," Barr said.

Pelosi, meanwhile, said in a letter to colleagues that the full House would be moving forward with a vote to hold Barr and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross in contempt of Congress after the administration failed to comply with subpoenas regarding the census question.

Barr spoke to the AP after touring a federal prison in Edgefield, South Carolina, where he met with inmates and staff members to discuss the criminal justice reform law that Congress approved and Trump signed into law last year.

Associated Press writers Zeke Miller and Alan Fram in Washington contributed to this report.

23 US governors join Calif. in opposing Trump mileage freeze

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Citing climate-damaging tailpipe emissions, 23 U.S. governors signed a pledge backing California leaders in their showdown with the Trump administration over its plans to relax vehicle mileage standards.

The stand by leaders of states and Puerto Rico — nearly all Democrats — comes as the Trump administration moves to freeze tougher mileage standards laid out by former President Barack Obama, in one of the previous administration's key efforts against climate change.

The Trump administration says American consumers increasingly want bigger, gas-guzzling SUVs and pickup trucks. It also argues that demanding ever-more fuel-efficient vehicles will drive up automobile costs and keep less-safe, older vehicles on the road longer. Many engineers have challenged that claim.

The governors' pledge on Tuesday commits to sticking to the pre-Trump mileage goals — a program of annual tightening in mileage standards that reduce climate-changing carbon emissions.

"We will not compromise on our responsibility to protect the health of our communities, our climate, and the savings consumers stand to gain at the pump," said the pledge, also signed by California Gov. Gavin Newsom. "We will continue to pursue additional concrete actions to fulfill this duty and defend against any threats."

Besides California and Puerto Rico, leaders of Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin signed the mileage pledge.

The Environmental Protection Agency didn't immediately comment on the pledge, which was made public overnight.

The commitment underscores prospects for years of legal challenges and regulatory uncertainty for automakers if the Trump administration moves ahead on the mileage freeze over objections from California and other states.

President Donald Trump has pushed automakers to support him in his bid to relax mileage standards. Last month, major automakers instead appealed for the administration to return to talks with California, after breaking off negotiations.

Newsom indicated he wasn't optimistic about any breakthroughs with the administration ahead of it issuing its mileage rule.

"I don't sense they're sincere in their commitment to sit down and negotiate," he said, and cited the administration's overall backing for the country's oil and gas industry.

Congress for decades has granted California authority to set its own, tougher mileage standards as a way of fighting the state's chronic smog. About a dozen states follow California's mileage standards, although under Obama the federal and state mileage standards were the same.

Big earthquakes raise interest in West Coast warning system

By JOHN ANTCZAK and CHRISTOPHER WEBER Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The powerful Mojave Desert earthquakes that rocked California ended a years-long lull in major seismic activity and raised new interest in an early warning system being developed for the West Coast.

The ShakeAlert system is substantially built in California and overall is about 55% complete, with much of the remaining installation of seismic sensor stations to be done in the Pacific Northwest, said Robert de Groot of the U.S. Geological Survey.

Areas that have the appropriate number of sensors include Southern California, San Francisco Bay Area and the Seattle-Tacoma region, de Groot said.

The system does not predict earthquakes. Rather, it detects that an earthquake is occurring, rapidly calculates expected intensity levels and sends out alerts that may give warnings ranging from several

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seconds to perhaps a minute before potentially damaging shaking hits locations away from the epicenter. Depending on the distance, that could be enough time to automatically slow trains, stop industrial machines, start generators, pull a surgical knife away from a patient or tell students to put the "drop, cover and hold" drill into action.

For alerts to be useful, delivery has to be timely, and that's a problem with current cellphone technology. For cellphone delivery, the USGS ultimately intends to use the same system that delivers Amber Alerts, sending signals to everyone in reach of cellphone towers in defined areas where damaging shaking is expected.

Pilot programs involving select users have been underway for several years. In October, the USGS announced the system was ready to be used broadly by businesses, utilities, schools and other entities following a software update that reduced problems such as false alerts typically caused by a big quake somewhere in the world being misidentified as a local quake.

Currently, the only mass public notification is possible through a mobile app developed for the city of Los Angeles and functional only within Los Angeles County.

The ShakeAlertLA app did not send alerts for last week's two big quakes, but officials said it functioned as designed because the expected level of shaking in the LA area — more than 100 miles from the epicenters— was below a trigger threshold.

Thresholds for alerting are important because California has daily earthquakes.

"Imagine getting 10 ShakeAlerts on your phone for really small earthquakes that may not affect you," de Groot said. "If people get saturated with these messages it's going to make people not care as much."

In the Mojave Desert on Monday, rattled residents cleaned up and officials assessed damage in the aftermath of Thursday's magnitude 6.4 earthquake and Friday's magnitude 7.1 quake centered near Ridgecrest.

President Donald Trump on Monday declared an emergency exists in California because of the quakes, paving the way for federal aid. The declaration authorized the Federal Emergency Management Agency to coordinate disaster relief efforts.

It could be several more days before water service is restored to the small town of Trona, where officials trucked in portable toilets and showers, said San Bernardino County spokesman David Wert.

Ten residences in Trona were red-tagged as uninhabitable and officials expect that number to increase as inspectors complete surveys. Wert said he's seen homes that shifted 6 feet (nearly 2 meters) off their foundations.

Electricity was restored to Trona over the weekend, allowing people to use much-needed air conditioners as daytime temperatures approached 100 degrees (38 Celsius).

Teams will need several more days to finish assessments in nearby Ridgecrest, where the number of damaged buildings will likely be in the dozens, Kern County spokeswoman Megan Person said.

Person says officials are bringing in counselors to help residents still on edge as aftershocks rattle the area.

"You can't feel every single one, but you can feel a lot of them," she said. "Those poor people have been dealing with shaking ground non-stop since Thursday."

Run-in with Pamplona bull made American 'fear for my life'

ÁLVARO BARRIENTOS and ARITZ PARRA Associated Press

PAMPLONA, Spain (AP) — The desire to have a selfie as a souvenir from running with the bulls in Spain turned into a near-death experience an American lawyer says he'll never forget.

A charging bull ran over and gored San Francisco resident Jaime Alvarez in the neck during the first run of this year's San Fermin festival in Pamplona, an event immortalized by writer Ernest Hemingway nearly a century ago.

"The joy and the excitement of being in the bullring quickly turned into a scare, into real fear for my life," Alvarez, 46, said Monday at a regional hospital where he was recovering from surgery.

Doctors told Alvarez the bull's horn went deep into his neck and fractured part of a cheekbone. That it

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didn't hit the jugular vein or major arteries was described to the injured patient as "beyond miraculous."

Alvarez, who works as a public defender in Santa Clara County, California, said he realized how severely he'd been hurt during his encounter with the bull Sunday morning when he touched his neck and his hand came away covered with blood.

"In the course of a few seconds, a million thoughts came to my mind, and that of dying was definitely one of them," he said.

Once it appeared certain he would live, the run-in brought rebukes from Alvarez's wife and daughter. The three stopped in Pamplona to check out the famous San Fermin festival while in route to another city where the couple's son was playing in a soccer tournament.

While his daughter and wife cautioned him against joining the crowd that would race the bulls, Alvarez said the energy in the streets of Pamplona on the festival's opening day was too strong to resist.

The running of the bulls — and the nine days of seamless partying that accompanies the festival — draws about 1 million spectators to the city of 200,000 every year. Many foreigners imagine following the footsteps of Hemingway, who channeled his experience in the 1926 novel "The Sun Also Rises."

Hundreds of runners with varying degrees of fitness and hours of sleep race ahead of or next to the bulls charging through a cobblestone and barricaded street course to Pamplona's bullring. Records dating back to 1910 list 16 deaths from the event.

Alvarez says he ran most of the 913-yard (850-meter) course ahead of the bulls. But by the time they entered the bullfighting plaza at the end, the pack of animals had caught up with him.

He said he climbed onto a fence for safety and only returned to the arena to shoot a short video when he thought that the danger had passed. He wanted "a 5-second video scene to say 'Here I am, I did it.'"

That's when the stray bull came at him running fast. The bulls chosen to race in Pamplona often weigh in the range of 500-600 kilos (1,102-1,323 pounds.)

"The impact was unlike anything I've ever felt. It was like being hit by a car or a truck," Alvarez said. "It was scary."

"I was really out of it, really stunned, I didn't know what direction to go," he recalled.

Someone grabbed Alvarez by the arm and pushed through the crowds to get to paramedics, possibly saving the American's life.

His urgent surgery Sunday took 2 ½ hours but Alvarez says his stable condition means he could be discharged as soon as Tuesday. He has promised himself a return to Pamplona to enjoy the festival as a spectator but not a bull racer.

Two other Americans have been injured so far this year. Video footage showed how a bull approached Aaron Froelicher of Florence, Kentucky, from the back, tossed him into the air and gored him in the left thigh. Authorities said the 23-year-old remained hospitalized Monday while recovering from surgery.

Monday's bull run lasting 2 minutes and 23 seconds yielded less serious injuries, despite the fierceness traditionally attributed to bulls from the Cebada Gago ranch, which supplied the second day's pack.

They were surrounded by tame cattle for most of the route, leaving runners scrambling for limited space close to their horns.

Three Spanish runners, including a 19-year-old woman, and a 48-year-old American citizen, were bruised and treated at hospitals.

Another man was stabbed in the back with a bull's horn and treated on the spot, a Red Cross spokesman said.

This version has been corrected to show the bulls in Pamplona typically weigh 500-600 kilos and removes reference to specific bull weighing 6 tons.

Parra reported from Madrid.

Warren raises \$19.1M, topping Sanders in new fundraising

By ELANA SCHOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Elizabeth Warren raised \$19.1 million in the second quarter, her campaign said Monday, cementing her status in the top tier of Democratic presidential contenders and surpassing Bernie Sanders, her main liberal rival.

The strong showing leaves the Massachusetts senator behind only Pete Buttigieg, the South Bend, Indiana, mayor who reported nearly \$25 million, and former Vice President Joe Biden, who has tallied \$21.5 million since his candidacy began in late April.

Perhaps most notably, Warren raised more money than Sanders, who is also vying for liberal voters and is the only other candidate who has joined her in swearing off high-dollar fundraisers.

The strong showing signals the grip Warren is gaining over the party's progressive base. Sanders easily won over these voters during the 2016 presidential primary as the sole liberal alternative to Hillary Clinton. But he faces more competition during his second run, and Warren's steady stream of ambitious policy plans may come at his expense.

"To sum it up: We raised more money than any other 100% grassroots-funded campaign," said Roger Lau, Warren's campaign manager, said in a glancing reference to Sanders. "That's big."

Warren more than tripled the \$6 million she raised in the first three months of 2019, when she silenced some skeptics of her long-term fundraising viability following her decision to rely on grassroots rather than high-dollar donations. The campaign's \$19.1 million came from more than 384,000 contributors giving more than 683,000 donations.

That's less than the nearly 1 million individual donations Sanders' campaign reported, but comparable with the 725,000 online donations that President Donald Trump's reelection campaign reported during the second quarter. More than 80% of Warren's second-quarter donors were first-time contributors.

Warren's extensive organizing apparatus, particularly in early voting primary states, remains both a formidable asset — and a significant cost — as the campaign prepares to report \$19.7 million in cash on hand. Her operation counts more than 300 paid staff members, 60% of whom are in the four early voting states of Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada, according to the campaign.

While a staffing footprint of that size is likely to spark questions about Warren's high spending rate among some of her presidential rivals, her team has already underlined its confidence that the campaign will have enough resources for the long term.

"Overall, the Warren operation has a six-figure number of people who own a piece of the campaign and an eight-figure amount of money to go execute the plan. So, game on," Warren adviser Joe Rospars tweeted after her first quarter fundraising tally emerged.

Beyond Sanders, Warren's success also could pose a threat to California Sen. Kamala Harris, whose \$12 million second quarter fundraising got a major boost in the final days of last month from her performance in the first Democratic debate. Both Warren and Harris hold a natural appeal to Democratic voters seeking to select a female nominee to go up against Trump, and Warren is seeking to make headway with black women even as Harris seeks a foothold as the primary's lone black female candidate.

After a campaign event in New Hampshire on Monday, Warren said that grassroots support is "going to be our comparative advantage come 2020."

"And even more importantly, that's going to be the momentum to get real change come January 2021," she said.

As Warren rises in the fundraising chase, she has also gained strength in some Democratic primary polls conducted since the first round of debates. While Biden appears to remain the front-runner, his margin over the pack of candidates that includes Warren, Sanders and Harris has narrowed. A national poll released last week by Quinnipiac University also found Warren increasing her standing among voters as the candidate with superior policy proposals.

Warren's energetic output of policy proposals has helped her push past a rocky start in the primary. That fast pace isn't likely to change as the Democratic campaign nears an expected winnowing from about

two dozen candidates.

This week alone, Warren is scheduled to hold a town hall in Milwaukee after joining a half-dozen other Democratic presidential hopefuls at a gathering hosted by the League of United Latin American Citizens. She'll then head to Philadelphia for Netroots Nation, an annual conference for progressive activists.

"In the weeks and months ahead, we'll keep growing our movement across the country and Elizabeth will keep rolling out new plans to level the playing field for working people," Lau wrote in an email to supporters.

Warren was already a guaranteed presence in this fall's Democratic primary debates, which require at least 130,000 donors as well as minimum polling performance, according to rules set by the Democratic National Committee. She'll likely be joined on that stage in the fall by a rival whose showing she praised after last month's first debate: former Housing Secretary Julián Castro, who reported on Monday that he had met the higher donor threshold needed to qualify.

Associated Press writer Hunter Woodall contributed to this report from Peterborough, N.H.

Iran breaches key uranium enrichment limit in nuclear deal

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran on Monday began enriching uranium to 4.5%, just breaking the limit set by its nuclear deal with world powers, while it is still seeking a way for Europe to help it bypass U.S. sanctions amid heightened tensions between Tehran and Washington.

The acknowledgement by the spokesman of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran to The Associated Press shows that the Islamic Republic is trying to increase pressure on those still in the 2015 nuclear deal. It also comes just days after Iran acknowledged breaking the 300-kilogram (661-pound) limit on its low-enriched uranium stockpile, another term of the accord.

The International Atomic Energy Agency, the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog, confirmed that Iran surpassed the enrichment threshold.

Experts warn that higher enrichment and a growing stockpile could begin to narrow the one-year window Iran would need to have enough material for an atomic weapon, something Iran denies it wants but the deal prevented. While the steps now taken by Iran remain quickly reversible, Europe so far has struggled to respond.

There are fears that a miscalculation in the crisis could explode into open conflict. President Donald Trump, who withdrew the U.S. from the nuclear deal over a year ago and re-imposed crippling economic sanctions on Iran, nearly bombed the country last month after Tehran shot down a U.S. military surveillance drone. Even China, engaged in delicate trade negotiations with the White House, openly criticized America's policy toward Iran.

"What I want to emphasize is that the maximum pressure the U.S. imposes on Iran is the root cause of the crisis in the Iranian nuclear issue," said Geng Shuang, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman. "It has been proven that unilateral bullying has become a worsening tumor and is creating more problems and greater crises on a global scale."

On Sunday, Trump warned that "Iran better be careful." He didn't elaborate on what actions the U.S. might consider but told reporters: "Iran's doing a lot of bad things."

Under the deal, Iran has been closely monitored by inspectors from the IAEA, which on Monday verified "that Iran is enriching uranium above 3.67%." The Vienna-based agency did not specify how much beyond the threshold Iran has gone.

Enriched uranium at the 3.67% level is enough for peaceful pursuits but is far below weapons-grade levels of 90%. At the 4.5% level, it is enough to help power Iran's Bushehr reactor, the country's only nuclear power plant.

Behrouz Kamalvandi, a spokesman for Iran's nuclear agency, confirmed the increased enrichment to the AP.

"At the moment our enrichment is at around 4.5%," Kamalvandi said. He did not elaborate.

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Kamalvandi separately hinted in a state TV interview broadcast Monday that Iran might consider going to 20% enrichment or higher as a third step, if the material is needed and the country still hasn't gotten what it wants from Europe. That would worry nuclear nonproliferation experts because 20% is a short technical step away from reaching weapons-grade levels of 90%. Kamalvandi also suggested using new or more centrifuges, which are limited by the deal.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said Iran appreciated the efforts of some nations to save the deal, but offered a jaded tone on whether Tehran trusted anyone in the negotiations.

"We have no hope nor trust in anyone, nor any country, but the door of diplomacy is open," Mousavi said.

He also gave a sharp, yet unelaborated warning to Europe about another 60-day deadline that Iran set Sunday. That deadline is Sept. 5, though Iran's senior Vice President Eshaq Jahangiri described it as being Sept. 7. The different dates could not be immediately reconciled.

"If the remaining countries in the deal, especially the Europeans, do not fulfill their commitments seriously, and not do anything more than talk, Iran's third step will be harder, more steadfast and somehow stunning," he said. The remaining signatories to the deal with Iran are Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia.

The U.S. will not waver from its course of maximum pressure against Iran and "will never allow Iran to obtain a nuclear weapon," Vice President Mike Pence told a pro-Israel Christian organization in Washington.

"Iran must choose between caring for its people and continuing to fund its proxies who spread violence and terrorism throughout the region and breathe out murderous hatred against Israel," Pence said, in comments that were reinforced by national security adviser John Bolton, a longtime advocate of tough measures against Iran, and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

America has implemented the "strongest pressure campaign in history against the Iranian regime," Pompeo told the group, adding, "and we are not done."

The U.S. has sent thousands of troops, an aircraft carrier, nuclear-capable B-52 bombers and advanced fighter jets to the Middle East. Mysterious oil tanker attacks near the Strait of Hormuz, attacks by Iranian-backed rebels in Yemen on Saudi Arabia and Iran's downing of a U.S. military drone have raised fears of a wider conflict engulfing the region.

French President Emmanuel Macron has spoken with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and said they are trying to find a way by July 15 to resume international dialogue with Iran. It remains unclear what Europe can do, because Iran wants it to help Tehran sell its crude oil abroad.

Macron is sending his chief diplomatic adviser, Emmanuel Bonne, to Tehran on Tuesday, although it was not immediately clear how long he would stay or with whom he would meet.

U.S. sanctions have targeted Iran's oil sales and top officials, including Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. It's also unclear what international company would risk U.S. sanctions to help Europe trade with Iran outside of the exceptions granted for food and medicine.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres believes Iran's action would neither help preserve the agreement "nor secure tangible economic benefits for the Iranian people," according to U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq.

Mousavi said he didn't know where an Iranian supertanker was heading when it was seized off the coast of Gibraltar. Authorities there said they seized the Grace 1 last week and confirmed Monday it was fully loaded with crude oil. Its suspected destination was a refinery in Syria that is under European Union sanctions.

Hard-liners in Iran have demanded a British oil tanker be seized in response. State TV said Britain's ambassador to Tehran had been summoned Monday for a third time.

A lawmaker also has suggested that Iran charge ships moving through the Strait of Hormuz, something Mousavi dismissed while insisting Iran's right to patrol the waters off its coast.

"We are responsible for maritime protection of the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz. This is our region. This is our gulf," he said, reiterating Iran's longtime stance. "This is our innate duty to secure this region and sustain its security. Countries that claim from thousands of miles from here that they should

guarantee the maritime security here are speaking exaggeratedly.”

Iran’s Defense Minister Gen. Amir Hatami also offered his own warning to the British over the tanker’s seizure: “It won’t remain without a response.”

Associated Press producers Mohammad Nasiri and Mehdi Fattahi and writer Nasser Karimi in Tehran, Kiyoko Metzler in Vienna and Tami Abdollah in Washington contributed.

Barr: Mueller’s Hill testimony will be ‘public spectacle’

By MICHAEL BALSAMO Associated Press

EDGEFIELD, S.C. (AP) — Attorney General William Barr on Monday accused Democrats of trying to create a “public spectacle” by subpoenaing Special Counsel Robert Mueller to testify before Congress about the Russia investigation.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Barr said the Justice Department would support Mueller if he decides he “doesn’t want to subject himself” to congressional testimony. Barr also said the Justice Department would seek to block any attempt by Congress to subpoena members of the special counsel’s team.

There’s no indication that Mueller does not wish to appear before Congress on July 17. But he put lawmakers on notice that any testimony he gives will not go beyond his 448-page report that was released in April. At a news conference in May, Mueller said the team chose the words in the report carefully and that the work speaks for itself.

“I’m not sure what purpose is served by dragging him up there and trying to grill him,” Barr said. “I don’t think Mueller should be treated that way or subject himself to that, if he doesn’t want to.”

Mueller no longer works for the Justice Department, but the department could attempt to limit his testimony about decisions he made as special counsel.

Barr spoke to the AP Monday in South Carolina, where he visited a prison to discuss the criminal justice reform Trump signed into law last year.

Democrats have criticized Barr, saying he acts more like the president’s personal lawyer than the attorney general.

Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., chairman of the House intelligence committee, tweeted Monday that Barr’s remarks were “no surprise.”

“Barr misled the public about Mueller’s report, and wants his own deception to stand,” Schiff wrote. “The public has a right to hear the truth, from Mueller himself, about Trump’s misconduct and ongoing national security risks.”

Barr enthusiastically embraced Trump’s political agenda, cast Mueller’s report as a vindication for the president and launched an investigation into the origins of the probe — something Trump has repeatedly said should happen.

Barr said the investigation is ongoing and said, from what he’s seen so far, it is “essential to take a deeper look at how things unfolded.” He said he has not received a satisfactory answer about why a counterintelligence investigation was opened on the Trump campaign, or whether there would’ve been a less drastic measure that could’ve been taken at the time.

Mueller’s report detailed extensive Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election but he did not find a criminal conspiracy between the Trump campaign and Moscow. He did not recommend charging any Trump associates as agents of the Russian government or with campaign finance violations.

The report also outlined several instances where Trump tried to influence the investigation but people around him either refused or quietly allowed the matters to drop. Mueller pointedly said he would have exonerated Trump if he could have but did not. He also cited Justice Department guidelines that say a sitting president cannot be indicted.

Mueller will appear before lawmakers in both public and private sessions later this month. Despite the limitations Mueller placed on his own testimony, Democrats insisted the American public be allowed to watch him respond to questions for the first time since he was appointed special counsel in May 2017.

Barr declined to say how he thought Mueller handled the Russia investigation that shadowed Donald Trump's presidency for nearly two years. He said he believes his relationship with Mueller, who has been his friend for three decades, is "fine."

Barr sees a way for census to legally ask about citizenship

By MIKE BALSAMO Associated Press

EDGEFIELD, S.C. (AP) — Attorney General William Barr said Monday he sees a way to legally require 2020 census respondents to declare whether or not they are citizens, despite a Supreme Court ruling that forbade asking the question.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Barr said the Trump administration will take action in the coming days that he believes will allow the government to add the controversial census query. Barr would not detail the plans, though a senior official said President Donald Trump is expected to issue a memorandum to the Commerce Department instructing it to include the question on census forms.

The Supreme Court recently blocked the question, at least temporarily, saying the administration's justification "seems to have been contrived." That was a blow to Trump, who has been pressing for the government to demand information about citizenship.

The U.S. Census Bureau's experts have said requiring such information would discourage immigrants from participating in the survey and result in a less accurate count. That in turn would redistribute money and political power away from Democratic-led cities where immigrants tend to cluster to whiter, rural areas where Republicans do well.

Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Monday that Trump wants to add the demand for citizenship information because he wants to "make America white again."

Meanwhile, the Justice Department is replacing the legal team that has been pursuing Trump's efforts, putting in place a new team consisting of both career and politically appointed attorneys.

The new team, named in court papers, includes Deputy Assistant Attorney General David Morrell, a former Trump White House lawyer and law clerk to Justice Clarence Thomas; Christopher Bates, who previously worked for Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah, and four career Justice Department attorneys, Glenn Girdharry, Colin Kisor, Christopher Reimer and Daniel Schiffer.

James Burnham, a top lawyer in the department's civil division who had been leading the team, had told Barr that a number of people who had been litigating the case preferred "not to continue during this new phase," the attorney general said.

The new team may find it easier to argue the administration's new position, said an administration official, speaking only on condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to comment for attribution.

Barr said he didn't have details on why the attorneys didn't want to continue, but "as far as I know, they don't think we are legally wrong."

Barr said he has been in regular contact with Trump over the issue of the citizenship question. "I agree with him that the Supreme Court decision was wrong," the attorney general said. He said he believes there is "an opportunity potentially to cure the lack of clarity that was the problem and we might as well take a shot at doing that."

The Trump administration has argued that it wanted the question included to aid in enforcing the Voting Rights Act, which protects minority voters' access to the ballot box. But Chief Justice John Roberts joined the court's four more liberal members in last month's Supreme Court decision, openly skeptical about that justification.

It's unclear what new rationale for asking the question the administration might include in a presidential memorandum.

Barr said the change in attorneys working on the issue came about after Burnham approached him and "indicated it was a logical breaking point since a new decision would be made and the issues going forward would hopefully be separate from the historical debates."

"If they prefer not to embark on this next phase, then I thought it could make sense to change," Barr said.

Pelosi, meanwhile, said in a letter to colleagues that the full House would be moving forward with a vote to hold Barr and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross in contempt of Congress after the administration failed to comply with subpoenas regarding the census question.

Barr spoke to the AP after touring a federal prison in Edgefield, South Carolina, where he met with inmates and staff members to discuss the criminal justice reform law that Congress approved and Trump signed into law last year.

Associated Press writers Zeke Miller and Alan Fram in Washington contributed to this report.

Wealthy financier charged with molesting dozens of girls

By MICHAEL R. SISAk and JIM MUSTIAN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — In a startling reversal of fortune, billionaire financier Jeffrey Epstein was charged Monday with sexually abusing dozens of underage girls in a case brought more than a decade after he secretly cut a deal with federal prosecutors to dispose of nearly identical allegations.

The 66-year-old hedge fund manager who once socialized with some of the world's most powerful people was charged in a newly unsealed federal indictment with sex trafficking and conspiracy during the early 2000s. He could get up to 45 years in prison if convicted.

The case sets the stage for another #MeToo-era trial fraught with questions of wealth and influence. Epstein's powerful friends over the years have included President Donald Trump, former President Bill Clinton and Britain's Prince Andrew.

Prosecutors said the evidence against Epstein included a "vast trove" of hundreds or even thousands of lewd photographs of young women or girls, discovered in a weekend search of his New York City mansion. Authorities also found papers and phone records corroborating the alleged crimes, and a massage room still set up the way accusers said it appeared, prosecutors said.

Epstein, who was arrested Saturday as he arrived in the U.S. from Paris aboard his private jet, was brought into court Monday in a blue jail uniform, his hair disheveled, and pleaded not guilty. He was jailed for a bail hearing next Monday, when prosecutors plan to argue that the rich world traveler might flee if released.

His lawyers argued that the sex-crime allegations had been settled in 2008 with a plea agreement in Florida that was overseen by Alexander Acosta, who was the U.S. attorney in Miami at the time and is now Trump's labor secretary.

"This is ancient stuff," Epstein attorney Reid Weingarten said in court, calling the case essentially a "redo" by the government.

But U.S. Attorney Geoffrey Berman of New York said that the non-prosecution agreement that spared Epstein from a heavy prison sentence a decade ago is binding only on federal prosecutors in Florida, not on authorities in New York.

The alleged victims "deserve their day in court," Berman said. "We are proud to be standing up for them by bringing this indictment."

Epstein was accused in the indictment of paying underage girls hundreds of dollars in cash for massages and then molesting them at his homes in Palm Beach, Florida, and New York from 2002 through 2005.

He "intentionally sought out minors and knew that many of his victims were in fact under the age of 18," prosecutors said. He also paid some of his victims to recruit additional girls, creating "a vast network of underage victims for him to sexually exploit," prosecutors said.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Alex Rossmiller said that while there is some overlap between the Florida and New York cases, one of the counts is based entirely on New York victims.

Federal authorities said new accusers have come forward since Epstein's arrest, and they urged other possible victims to contact the FBI.

Some of Epstein's accusers welcomed the indictment.

"The news of my abuser's arrest today is a step in the right direction to finally hold Epstein accountable for his crimes and restore my faith that power and money can't triumph over justice," Sarah Ransome

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said through her lawyer.

Prosecutors in New York are seeking the forfeiture of Epstein's mansion, a seven-story, 21,000-square-foot townhouse less than a block from Central Park. The home, formerly a prep school, is across the street from a home owned by Bill Cosby and has been valued at approximately \$77 million.

Epstein's arrest came amid increased #MeToo-era scrutiny of the 2008 non-prosecution agreement, which caused a furor in recent years as the details came to light, many of them exposed in a series of stories by The Miami Herald.

Under the deal, Epstein was allowed to plead guilty to state charges of soliciting a minor for prostitution. He avoided a possible life sentence and served 13 months in jail, during which he was allowed out to go to his office during the day. The deal also required that he reach financial settlements with dozens of his alleged victims and register as a sex offender.

"The last couple of years have helped build this environment where the public isn't willing to see these cases swept under the rug anymore," said Scott Berkowitz, president of RAINN, the anti-sexual violence organization.

"I also think there was such outrage over the sentence that he got and what seemed like a very special deal that he got the first time. So I think similar to the first attempt to prosecute Cosby, I think there was a lot of public outrage at justice not being done. And so that helped lead the drive."

Acosta has defended the agreement as appropriate, though the White House said in February that it was looking into his handling of the case.

The new charges were brought by the public corruption unit within the U.S. attorney's office in New York, which normally handles cases against politicians. Berman would not say why that was done. Attorney General William Barr declined to comment on Epstein's case, saying he has recused himself from the matter.

Former federal prosecutor David Weinstein agreed that the non-prosecution deal applies only to federal prosecutors in the Florida, not those in New York.

Authorities in Florida have said at least 40 underage girls were brought into Epstein's Palm Beach mansion for sexual purposes after being recruited around the world.

Some of the alleged victims have accused Prince Andrew and former Harvard law professor Alan Dershowitz of taking part in Epstein's sex ring. Buckingham Palace has vehemently denied any involvement by Andrew, and Dershowitz has accused the victims of lying about him.

The non-prosecution agreement is being challenged in court in Florida. A federal judge ruled earlier this year that Epstein's victims should have been consulted under the law about the agreement, and he is now weighing whether to throw it out.

Federal prosecutors recently filed court papers in the Florida case contending the deal must stand. "The past cannot be undone; the government committed itself to the NPA, and the parties have not disputed that Epstein complied with its provisions," prosecutors wrote.

Prosecutors said they would oppose Epstein's release on bail. The defendant owns airplanes as well as homes in Paris and on a Caribbean island.

"He has enormous wealth. The charges are very serious and carry with them a maximum sentence of 45 years, which to someone of Epstein's age is basically a life sentence," Berman said, "so we think he has every incentive to try and flee the jurisdiction."

This story has been corrected to show that the maximum penalty is 45 years in prison.

Associated Press writers Ali Swenson and Jocelyn Noveck in New York, Curt Anderson in Miami and Michael Balsamo in Edgefield, South Carolina contributed to this report.

US Rep. Swalwell ends presidential bid, will seek reelection

By ELANA SCHOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. Eric Swalwell on Monday became the first candidate in the crowded 2020 Democratic presidential primary to exit the campaign, saying he would run for reelection to his California congressional seat next year.

Swalwell, 38, announced his exit in his home district, describing his decision as “the beginning of an opportunity in Congress with a new perspective” influenced by his 3-month-long presidential bid.

The four-term congressman’s White House effort never progressed significantly with voters, a fact Swalwell acknowledged on Monday in saying that “polls have had their way” in determining his viability. He had signaled before departing the race that he would consider bowing out if he was in danger of missing the cutoff for the next nationally televised Democratic debate, which is based on separate polling and donor qualifications.

Montana Gov. Steve Bullock missed the threshold for last month’s debate but was ahead of Swalwell in the competition for this month’s televised Democratic faceoff.

Asked about whether other candidates with similarly lackluster success so far in the packed Democratic primary should also consider dropping out, Swalwell demurred, describing the abandonment of a campaign as “really a personal decision.” He also declined to indicate which of his onetime presidential rivals he might endorse in the primary and said he had not planned to seek the presidency as “a vanity project” or “to write a book.”

As Swalwell prepares to seek another term in Congress, he said that he would not “take anything for granted.” Indeed, he already has a challenger in his liberal-leaning district: Democrat Aisha Wahab, a city councilwoman in Hayward.

But Swalwell is viewed as a rising star in the House Democratic majority, with Speaker Nancy Pelosi lauding him during an appearance in San Francisco on Monday. “He had a message of national security and gun safety that he wanted to convey to the country and he did that,” Pelosi told reporters.

Associated Press writer Samantha Maldonado in San Francisco contributed to this report.

AP: Federal grand jury probing GOP fundraiser Elliott Broidy

By JIM MUSTIAN and DESMOND BUTLER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A federal grand jury in New York is investigating top Republican fundraiser Elliott Broidy, examining whether he used his position as vice chair of President Donald Trump’s inaugural committee to drum up business deals with foreign leaders, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press and people familiar with the matter.

A wide-ranging subpoena the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Brooklyn recently sent to Trump’s inaugural committee seeks records relating to 20 individuals and businesses. All have connections to Broidy, his investment and defense contracting firms, and foreign officials he pursued deals with — including the current president of Angola and two politicians in Romania.

Prosecutors appear to be investigating whether Broidy exploited his access to Trump for personal gain and violated the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, which makes it illegal for U.S. citizens to offer foreign officials “anything of value” to gain a business advantage. Things of value in this case could have been an invitation to the January 2017 inaugural events or access to Trump.

A statement released to the AP by Broidy’s attorneys said that at no point did Broidy or his global security firm Circinus have a contract or exchange of money with “any Romanian government agency, proxy or agent.” It also said that while Circinus did reach an agreement with Angola in 2016 there was no connection whatsoever to the inauguration or Broidy’s role on the inaugural committee.

“Any implication to the contrary is completely false,” the statement said.

The Brooklyn probe appears to be distinct from an inquiry by Manhattan federal prosecutors into the

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inaugural committee's record \$107 million fundraising and whether foreigners unlawfully contributed.

It followed a request last year by Democratic U.S. Sens. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut that the Justice Department investigate whether Broidy "used access to President Trump as a valuable enticement to foreign officials who may be in a position to advance Mr. Broidy's business interests abroad."

Brooklyn federal prosecutors and the president's inaugural committee declined to comment on the grand jury proceedings, which are secret. But two people familiar with the matter told the AP that the committee has already complied with the subpoena, issued in April, and a third said the FBI has interviewed at least one of Broidy's business associates named in the subpoena.

The people spoke to the AP on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the ongoing investigation.

Broidy, a 61-year-old Los Angeles businessman, made a fortune in investments before moving into defense contracting and has played prominent roles in GOP fundraising, including as finance chairman of the Republican National Committee from 2006 to 2008 and vice chair of the Trump Victory Committee in 2016.

But there have been problems along the way. In 2009, investigators looked into the New York state pension fund's decision to invest \$250 million with Broidy and found he had plied state officials with nearly \$1 million in illegal gifts. Broidy pleaded guilty to a felony but it was later knocked down to a misdemeanor after he agreed to cooperate with prosecutors and pay back \$18 million in management fees.

Another scandal came last year when Broidy stepped down as deputy finance chair of the RNC after reports that he agreed to pay \$1.6 million as part of a confidentiality agreement to a former Playboy model with whom he had an affair. That payment was arranged in 2017 by Trump's longtime lawyer Michael Cohen.

In the Brooklyn federal probe, Broidy's is the first name listed in the grand jury subpoena, followed by his Los Angeles investment firm and four limited liability companies linked to him.

It also sought records related to George Nader, a Broidy associate who served as an adviser to the United Arab Emirates, provided grand jury testimony to special counsel Robert Mueller and was recently jailed on federal child pornography charges.

Several of the names included in the subpoena also appeared in a cache of leaked emails anonymously distributed last year to several news organizations, including the AP. Broidy has contended the emails were hacked from his account, and that several of the documents were altered or forged. His attorneys declined to specify to the AP which emails they believed were doctored.

As provided to the AP, the emails show Broidy invited two Angolan leaders named in the subpoena to Trump's inaugural, and that the invitation was accompanied by a multimillion-dollar contract for Circinus to provide security services in Angola that Broidy asked be signed ahead of the events.

In a follow-up note to one of the Angolans — then-Defense Minister and current President João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço — Broidy discussed a planned visit to Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida, and in the same correspondence demanded a past-due payment for Circinus' services.

"Many preparations have been made in advance of your visit," Broidy wrote in February 2017, "including additional meetings at the Capitol and the Department of Treasury."

The Angolan Embassy in Washington did not respond to a request for comment.

The grand jury subpoena also included several names associated with Broidy's work on behalf of Romanian politicians at a time when Broidy's defense company was seeking a lucrative contract to provide security services to the Romanian government — a deal Broidy's representatives said never came to fruition.

Those names included Sorin Grindeanu, who at the time was prime minister, and Liviu Dragnea, a former parliamentary leader who began serving a 3½-year prison sentence in May for abuse of power. Both officials also attended inaugural events.

Dragnea became a focus of European Union efforts to bolster the rule of law because of his efforts to remove an anti-corruption prosecutor, Laura Kovesi, who investigated him. According to the emails obtained by the AP, Broidy tried to persuade California Republican Rep. Ed Royce, then the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, not to meet with Kovesi during a planned visit to Bucharest in 2017.

"This meeting will not only cause significant issues within the present government (but) potentially

diminish the good will which we wish to achieve amongst the Romanian people," Broidy wrote to Royce. The emails show a Cirinus lawyer, Matt Britton, resigned in October 2017 after expressing alarm to company executives about corruption concerns related to the firm's Romanian contract negotiations.

"These are FULL STOP issues in my judgment," the attorney wrote. "NO MATTER HOW LONG THAT TAKES IT ALL MUST BE DONE IN ADVANCE OF ANY CONTRACT WITH ROMANIA."

Britton, who did not respond to a request for comment, is not among those named in the subpoena.

Butler reported from Washington.

Greece creditors say no changes in bailout terms for new PM

By **DEREK GATOPOULOS, ELENA BECATOROS and RAF CASERT Associated Press**

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greece's bailout creditors on Monday bluntly rejected calls from the country's new conservative government to ease draconian budget conditions agreed as part of its rescue program.

Conservative party leader Kyriakos Mitsotakis was sworn in as Greece's new prime minister Monday, a day after his resounding election victory on campaign pledges to cut taxes and negotiate new terms with international lenders.

Euro area finance ministers meeting hours later in Brussels said key targets already agreed with Athens would not be changed.

"Commitments are commitments, and if we break them, credibility is the first thing to fall apart. That brings about a lack of confidence and investment," Mario Centeno, the Eurogroup president, told reporters after the meeting.

Greece ended its third consecutive international bailout last summer — programs that rescued the country's euro membership and staved off bankruptcy but also deepened poverty and unemployment as successive governments in Athens were forced to make spending cuts in return for the rescue loans.

As part of those agreements, Greece has pledged to achieve government budget surpluses, before debt costs, of 3.5% of GDP for the coming years. That condition has shackled government spending and, critics say, stifled the country's recovery.

Klaus Regling, head of the euro area rescue fund and lead Greek bailout creditor, said the high surplus target would remain a key condition.

"It's very hard to see how debt sustainability can be achieved without it," he said. "The 3.5% surplus is a cornerstone of the program. It was a cornerstone of the program from the beginning."

Mitsotakis, whose late father, Constantine Mitsotakis, was a conservative prime minister in the early 1990s, has promised to make Greece more business-friendly by lowering taxes and cutting red tape. But his new government faces pressing financial challenges, including a national debt that exceeds 180% of GDP and banks saddled 45% of their loans unpaid or in trouble.

Analysts said Mitsotakis would be able to pursue growth-friendly policies despite the bailout constraints and financial challenges.

"The main take-away is that New Democracy's government will be the first one-party government in Greece after nearly ten years," said Spyridoula Tzima, a senior financial analyst at Global Sovereign Ratings. "Mitsotakis (has) a strong mandate to implement his policy agenda."

In the election, Mitsotakis' center-right New Democracy party won 39.8% of the votes and 158 seats in the 300-member parliament, a comfortable majority.

"The people gave us a strong mandate to change Greece, and we will honor that commandment in full," Mitsotakis said after his swearing-in ceremony. "We will make the start today with hard work, with full confidence in our ability to respond to the circumstances."

Hundreds of conservative supporters braved the summer heat to greet him outside the prime minister's official residence, chanting: "There his is! There he is! The Prime Minister!"

He replaced Alexis Tsipras, whose left-wing Syriza party got 31.5% of the vote. Tsipras became the latest in a series of Greek political leaders to suffer election defeat after implementing tough policies prescribed

by bailout creditors from the euro area and International Monetary Fund since 2010.

The extreme right Golden Dawn party, the third largest in parliament at the height of the financial crisis, failed to make the 3% vote threshold needed to get seats in parliament.

Mitsotakis' new Cabinet will rely heavily on experienced politicians who served in previous conservative governments. The finance minister will be Christos Staikouras, an engineer and economist who previously served as deputy minister. Nikos Dendias, the new foreign minister, held previous Cabinet posts at the ministries of public order, development, and defense.

Associated Press writers Derek Gatopoulos and Elena Becatoros reported this story in Athens and AP writer Raf Casert reported from Brussels.

Derek Gatopoulos on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/dgatopoulos>

Elena Becatoros on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ElenaBec>

Raf Casert on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/rcasert>

AP's full coverage on Greece: <https://www.apnews.com/Greece>

Man who says Spacey groped him invokes right not to testify

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER Associated press

BOSTON (AP) — The man who accused Kevin Spacey of groping him at a Massachusetts resort island bar in 2016 asserted his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination and refused to testify Monday after being questioned about text messages the defense claims were deleted.

The man's decision not to testify caused the judge to question the viability of the case against the two-time Oscar winner, whose career collapsed in 2017 amid a string of sexual misconduct allegations.

Spacey's accuser was ordered to take the stand after he said he lost a cellphone sought by the defense, which says the man deleted messages that support Spacey's claims of innocence and provided investigators with manipulated screenshots of conversations.

The accuser, speaking publicly for the first time, said he gave police what he had "available" to him "at the time" and did not alter any of the messages.

"I have no knowledge of any deletions of messages on my phone," the man said.

The Associated Press does not typically name people who say they are the victims of sexual assault unless they identify themselves publicly. Spacey pleaded not guilty to indecent assault and battery in January.

After being pressed by Spacey's lawyer about whether he knew that altering evidence used in a prosecution is a crime, the man invoked his right against self-incrimination, and the judge said his testimony Monday would be stricken from the record.

Spacey's lawyer urged the judge to dismiss the case, calling it "completely compromised."

The judge said he would not immediately dismiss the case, but acknowledged prosecutors would have a tough time bringing it to trial if the man won't testify.

"Once exercised, it may be pretty hard to get around this privilege at trial," Judge Thomas Barrett said. "The matter may well be dismissed for the reasons indicated," he said.

The man's cellphone has been a key issue in the case against Spacey, who is accused of groping the then 18-year-old at a popular Nantucket bar and restaurant, where the man worked as a busboy. The allegations were first made in 2017 by the man's mother, former Boston TV anchor Heather Unruh.

The accuser's lawyer, Mitchell Garabedian, said they cannot find the phone, but were able to retrieve a copy of its contents that had been backed up to a computer.

But Spacey's lawyer said that's not enough.

"None of that answers the central question, which is: Where is the actual phone? That's what we want. That's what we're entitled to, and we still don't have it," Attorney Alan Jackson said.

Unruh told investigators that she deleted items concerning her son's "frat boy activities" from the phone

before giving it to authorities. She acknowledged Monday deleting things that "concerned" her but denied touching text messages or anything else relevant to the case.

Spacey was not required to attend Monday's hearing, and he did not appear.

The accuser's testimony came days after he voluntarily dismissed a lawsuit that he had filed against the actor about a week earlier.

There was no settlement, Unruh said Monday. The man's lawyer said the case was dropped because the accuser is on an "emotional rollercoaster" and wants to focus on the criminal matter.

"He only wanted one roller coaster ride at a time. The criminal case is enough," Garabedian said.

The man told police he went over to talk to Spacey after his shift ended at Nantucket's Club Car bar because he wanted to get a picture with the actor. He said Spacey bought him several drinks and tried to persuade him to come home with him before unzipping the man's pants and groping him for about three minutes.

The accuser told police he tried to move Spacey's hands, but the groping continued, and he didn't know what to do because he didn't want to get in trouble for drinking because he was underage. The man said he fled when Spacey went to the bathroom.

Spacey's lawyer indicated that the defense would file a written motion to dismiss the case in the coming days. The judge set another hearing for July 31.

Follow Alanna Durkin Richer at <http://www.twitter.com/aedurkinricher>

Trump administration reviews human rights' role in US policy

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration said Monday that it will review the role of human rights in American foreign policy, appointing a commission expected to elevate concerns about religious freedom and abortion.

Human rights groups accused the administration of politicizing foreign policy in a way that could undermine protections for marginalized populations, including the gay, lesbian and transgender community. Democratic senators have raised concerns about the panel's intent and composition, fearing it would consist of members who "hold views hostile to women's rights" and blow away existing standards and definitions.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced the creation of the Commission on Unalienable Rights, saying the country must be "vigilant that human rights discourse not be corrupted or hijacked or used for dubious or malignant purposes." As human rights claims have "proliferated," he said, nations are in conflict about what constitutes a human right and which rights should be respected and treated as valid.

"I hope that the commission will revisit the most basic of questions: What does it mean to say, or claim, that something is in fact a human right?" Pompeo said. "How do we know, or how do we determine that this — or that — is a human right. Is it true, and therefore ought it to be honored?"

He said he expected the most comprehensive review on the subject since the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was adopted by the United Nations and laid out broadly accepted rights and freedoms.

The commission will be chaired by Harvard Law School professor Mary Ann Glendon, a former U.S. ambassador to the Holy See. A conservative scholar and author, Glendon turned down an honor from Notre Dame the year President Barack Obama gave a commencement address there, protesting the school's decision to recognize him in spite of his support for abortion rights.

Monday's announcement alarmed human rights groups, which said they feared the commission could roll back progress in establishing protections for marginalized group.

Amnesty International USA said there was no reason for such a review given the decades-old protections in place, while the American Civil Liberties Union said "taxpayer resources would be better spent assessing the administration's failure to meet basic human rights obligations, rather than redefining those rights."

Adotei Akwei, Amnesty International's deputy director for advocacy and government relations, said he

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was concerned that the commission, in its use of the word "unalienable," was aiming to redefine human rights in the narrow way America's founding fathers understood them.

"Let's face it: The founding fathers didn't have a very large universe of rights they were talking about," Akwei said in an interview.

A group of Democratic senators said in a letter last month that they were dismayed that the commission was being assembled without congressional oversight. Several of the names of people reported to be on it, they charged, support discriminatory policies against gays and lesbians, "hold views hostile to women's rights, and/or to support positions at odds with U.S. treaty obligations."

"We believe the extent to which this administration has undermined American leadership and credibility on promoting fundamental human rights is of historic proportions," the senators wrote. "The department's proposed Commission on Unalienable Rights must not serve as a platform to further erode U.S. leadership and undercut U.S. interests."

Glendon, who joined Pompeo at the State Department for the announcement, said she was honored to do the job at a time when "basic human rights are being misunderstood by many, manipulated by many and ignored by the world's worst human rights violators."

Follow Eric Tucker on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/etuckerAP>

Trump will 'no longer deal' with UK envoy who panned him

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — President Donald Trump threatened Monday to cut off contact with Britain's ambassador to the United States after leaked diplomatic cables revealed the envoy called the Trump administration "dysfunctional" and "inept."

The U.S. leader tweeted about Ambassador Kim Darroch a day after a British newspaper published the diplomat's unflattering assessments of the current administration in Washington.

"I do not know the Ambassador, but he is not liked or well thought of within the US. We will no longer deal with him," Trump wrote.

The documents — published in the Mail on Sunday newspaper — have created awkwardness between two countries that are longtime allies. British officials said they were hunting for the culprit behind the leak, which was both an embarrassment to Prime Minister Theresa May's government and a major breach of diplomatic security.

Darroch has served as Britain's envoy to Washington since 2016, and the cables cover a period from 2017 to recent weeks.

In the leaked documents he called the Trump administration's policy toward Iran "incoherent," said the president might be indebted to "dodgy Russians" and raised doubts about whether the White House "will ever look competent."

"We don't really believe this administration is going to become substantially more normal; less dysfunctional; less unpredictable; less faction riven; less diplomatically clumsy and inept," one missive said.

The documents were intended for senior U.K. ministers and civil servants. Government officials think the mole will be found among British politicians or officials, not foreign governments or hackers.

"I've seen nothing to suggest hostile state actors were involved," said May's spokesman, James Slack.

Some U.K. diplomatic cables go to more than 100 recipients, though more sensitive messages have a smaller distribution list.

The inquiry is being led by civil servants in the Cabinet Office, and Slack said police would only be called in "if evidence of criminality is found."

But Conservative U.K. lawmaker Tom Tugendhat, who chairs Parliament's foreign affairs committee, said he had written to the chief of London's Metropolitan Police asking for a criminal investigation into the leak.

It's possible the leaker could be charged with breaching the Official Secrets Act, which bars public servants from making "damaging" disclosures of classified material. Breaching the act carries a maximum

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sentence of two years in prison, though prosecutions are rare.

Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said there would be "very serious consequences" if the culprit was caught. He said the ability to communicate frankly was "fundamental" to diplomacy.

Amid the trans-Atlantic strain, Trump on Monday renewed his criticism of the outgoing prime minister's handling of Britain's stalled departure from the European Union.

"I have been very critical about the way the U.K. and Prime Minister Theresa May handled Brexit," he tweeted. "What a mess she and her representatives have created. I told her how it should be done, but she decided to go another way."

He added: "The good news for the wonderful United Kingdom is that they will soon have a new Prime Minister."

May is set to step down later this month, replaced either by Hunt or by his predecessor as foreign secretary, former London mayor Boris Johnson. Trump has previously praised both men.

Slack said May had "full faith" in Darroch, a long-serving diplomat, though didn't agree with the ambassador's characterization of the Trump administration.

He said ambassadors were hired to provide "honest, unvarnished assessments" of politics in the countries where they served, which didn't necessarily reflect the views of the British government.

But Trump's tweets increased the pressure on Britain's government over Darroch, who also has been accused by some Brexit-backing U.K. politicians of having a lack of enthusiasm for Britain's departure from the EU.

The journalist who reported the leak, Isabel Oakeshott, is a strong supporter of Brexit and an ally of Brexit Party leader Nigel Farage, who also is Britain's leading champion of Trump.

Trump said in 2016 that Farage would "do a great job" as an ambassador to Washington.

Farage brushed off that idea Monday, saying "I'm not a diplomat, and I think that's quite an understatement."

But Farage said Darroch's comments were "pretty irresponsible."

Robin Renwick, who served as Britain's ambassador to Washington in the 1990s, said Darroch had done nothing wrong but the leaked cables had made his position "untenable."

"There will of course be a decent interval. He will then have to be moved on," Renwick told the BBC.

International Trade Secretary Liam Fox called the leak "malicious."

"I think it is unconscionable that any professional person in either politics or the civil service can behave in this way," he said.

Fox, who was meeting Trump's daughter Ivanka in Washington on Monday, told the BBC he would apologize for the fact that standards of "either our civil service or elements of our political class" had "lapsed in a most extraordinary and unacceptable way."

GOP scoffs at law allowing release of Trump's state taxes

By DAVID KLEPPER Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — President Donald Trump's New York tax returns could be given to Congress under a new law in his home state that was signed Monday by the Democratic governor and dismissed by Republicans as a partisan game that wouldn't stand up in court.

The measure signed by Gov. Andrew Cuomo directs state tax officials to share state returns of certain elected and appointed officials upon written request from the chairpersons of one of three committees: House Ways and Means, Senate Finance or Joint Committee on Taxation.

Designed to give Congress a way around the Republican president's refusal to release his returns, the new law is expected to face legal challenges. And it's unclear whether Congress will request access to Trump's state returns, which tax experts say would include many of the same details as his federal return.

"No one person — no matter what office they might hold — is above the law," said Sen. Brad Hoylman, a Manhattan Democrat and the Senate sponsor of the legislation.

All sides expect legal challenges and requests for injunctions, meaning it could be many months before

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any state tax returns are handed over. The White House did not return a message seeking comment Monday on the law.

Trump has long filed taxes in New York as a resident of the state. He is the first president since Watergate to decline to make his returns public, often claiming that he would release them if he were not under audit.

The president has not weighed in on the new law but has repeatedly accused New York Democrats of using their positions to harass him and his allies. Republicans in New York say that while the law was written to target Trump, it could be used to go after any other official who pays taxes in the state.

"This is purely political," state Republican Party Chairman Nick Langworthy told reporters Monday. "It is an attempt to settle political scores."

Langworthy predicted the law "will never stand up in the courts."

Democrats are eager to get ahold of the returns, which could reveal details about his business dealings, his debts and international financial ties.

If Congress does request and obtain Trump's state tax returns, that doesn't mean the public gets to see them. Under federal law, the confidential information in the returns is supposed to be for the committee's eyes only.

To address concerns about the tax privacy of everyday New Yorkers, state lawmakers narrowed the measure so it applies only to the state income tax returns elected officials, party leaders and top public officials, like judges — as well as any businesses or legal entities they control.

In addition, state tax officials would be required to redact personal information, such as Social Security numbers or personal addresses, before handing over the documents.

Top lawmakers in Washington have differed on whether congressional committees should make use of the new law.

U.S. House Judiciary Chairman Jerrold Nadler, a New York Democrat, has touted the bill as "a workaround to a White House that continues to obstruct and stonewall the legitimate oversight work of Congress."

Ways and Means Chairman Richard Neal, D-Massachusetts, however, has signaled that he may not be interested. Neal is already pursuing Trump's federal returns and has threatened to go to court in order to get the administration to comply.

"The difficulty is that we don't have control over state taxes," Neal said in May when asked about the New York legislation. "For the moment, we're still proceeding on our own path."

The group Stand Up America, created in 2016 to mobilize opposition to Trump, urged Democrats in Washington to immediately request Trump's state returns.

"New York has provided Congress a new route for getting answers on behalf of the American people — and all they have to do is ask," Ryan Thomas, a spokesman for the organization, said in a statement. "Any further delay is an injustice to the American people who deserve transparency about Trump's foreign entanglements and massive conflicts of interest."

Neal has issued subpoenas for six years of Trump's tax documents, but Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin has so far resisted, saying Congress' request "lacks a legitimate legislative purpose."

Vatican lifts French archbishop's immunity in groping probe

PARIS (AP) — The Vatican said Monday it has decided to lift the diplomatic immunity of its ambassador to France, who is accused of groping and inappropriate touching by multiple men.

The announcement followed the French Foreign Ministry saying earlier in the day that it "received confirmation from the Holy See of a waiver of immunity" so Archbishop Luigi Ventura could be properly investigated.

The Paris prosecutor's office has opened an investigation into alleged sexual aggression by Ventura. The Vatican has said its envoy was cooperating, but one of the accusers, Mathieu de La Souchere, asserted last week that the probe was essentially stalled over the immunity question.

De La Souchere filed a police report in Paris earlier this year accusing Ventura of touching his buttocks repeatedly during a Jan. 17 reception at Paris City Hall.

Speaking to The Associated Press on Monday, de La Souchere said he was "astonished" by the Vatican's decision.

"I had been told that the fight was lost in advance and (am) happy because we will be entitled to a trial," he said. "Now, a new fight opens: the judicial fight."

Ventura has repeatedly denied wrongdoing. His whereabouts are unknown, but he attended a meeting at the Vatican last month of all the Holy See's apostolic nuncios, or ambassadors.

Ventura did agree to investigators' request to take part in a "confrontation" with his accusers in May, according to French media reports. All accused him of putting his hands on their buttocks, sometimes repeatedly, or making other inappropriate gestures.

The Vatican invoked immunity for a high-ranking churchman during the recently concluded trial in France that convicted French Cardinal Philippe Barbarin of failing to report an admitted pedophile to police. A Vatican official, Cardinal Luis Ladaria, also was accused in the case.

Ladaria now heads the Vatican office in charge of handling sex abuse cases.

Nicole Winfield in Rome contributed to this report.

Views on clergy vary by age, education, religious identity

By The Associated Press

Americans' age, education level and religious affiliation matter greatly when it comes to their opinions on a prospective clergy member's sexual orientation, gender, marital status or views on social issues such as same-sex marriage or abortion, a new poll shows.

The survey released Monday by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds that among all Americans who identify with a specific religion, about 8 in 10 say their faith should allow women and divorced people to be clergy members and just over half say the same about gay men.

Here are some of the poll's findings:

ON ACCEPTING GAY MEN AS CLERGY MEMBERS

— 44% of Americans ages 60 or over who affiliate with a religion think their faith should allow a gay man to become a clergy member, compared with 54% of those ages 45 through 59 and nearly two-thirds of those under age 45.

— Nearly two-thirds of those with a college degree say a gay man should be able to become clergy in their faith, compared with 50% of those without a college degree.

— About a third of evangelical Protestants think a gay man should be accepted as a clergy member in their faith, compared with about twice as many Catholics and mainline Protestants.

ON THE ORDINATION OF WOMEN AND DIVORCED PEOPLE

— At least three-quarters of evangelical Protestants, mainline Protestants and Catholics think a woman should be able to become a clergy member in their respective faiths.

— Majorities across religious groups think someone who is divorced should be able to be ordained. Catholics, however, are slightly less likely than Protestants to find it acceptable.

ON SUPPORT FOR THE SOCIAL VIEWS OF CLERGY

— About half of Americans identifying with a religion say their faith should allow clergy members who believe that abortion should be legal, that gays and lesbians should be allowed to marry or that sex before marriage is morally acceptable.

— Religious Americans ages 60 or older are less likely than those younger to think clergy in their faith can include someone who believes sex before marriage is morally acceptable, 43% versus 59%, or someone who believes same-sex marriage should be legal, 38% versus 60%.

— 35% of older religious Americans support their faith ordaining someone who thinks abortion should be legal, compared with 54% of those younger.

— Majorities of those who attend church monthly or less often think their faith should allow clergy members who believe that abortion should be legal, that same-sex marriage should be legal or that sex

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before marriage should be accepted. About a third of those who attend religious services at least twice a month think the same.

The AP-NORC poll of 1,137 adults was conducted May 17-20 using a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak Panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 4.1 percentage points.

Associated Press religion coverage receives support from the Lilly Endowment through the Religion News Foundation. The AP is solely responsible for this content.

Asian shares retreat ahead of Fed statement to Congress

By YURI KAGEYAMA AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares retreated Tuesday in quiet trading as investors awaited signs of what might be ahead for U.S. interest rates.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 was flat at 21,526.22, while Australia's S&P/ASX 200 dipped 0.3% to 6,653.60. South Korea's Kospi was marginally lower, down 0.1% at 2,063.14. Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 0.4% to 28,221.67, while the Shanghai Composite lost 0.2% to 2,927.34.

Shares fell on Wall Street overnight amid growing speculation an unexpectedly strong pickup in U.S. employment growth last month lead the Federal Reserve to hold back on aggressively cutting its benchmark interest rate. Many investors still expect a cut of a quarter percentage point, but fewer are now expecting a half-point reduction.

The market rallied through much of June after the Federal Reserve signaled that it's prepared to cut interest rates to offset slowing global growth and the fallout from U.S. trade conflicts.

The S&P 500 fell 0.5% to 2,975.95. The Dow Jones Industrial Average slid 0.4% to 26,806.14. The Nasdaq composite lost 0.8% to 8,098.38. The Russell 2000 index of smaller company stocks dropped 0.9% to 1,561.39.

Investors will be listening closely for any hints on the central bank's interest rate policy on Wednesday and Thursday, when Powell delivers the Fed's semi-annual monetary report to Congress.

"After getting accustomed to trading the bad news is good news regime, investors are still struggling with the good news is the bad direction," Stephen Innes, managing partner at Vanguard Markets in Singapore said in a commentary.

"They shouldn't be as on the macro level; there is still no sign of a turnaround for eurozone activity data or China for that matter," Innes said. "Suggesting downside global growth momentum remains the path of least resistance and if this doesn't trigger a deluge of central bank easing, not sure what will."

ENERGY: Benchmark crude oil dipped 15 cents to \$57.51 a barrel. It rose 15 cents to \$57.66 a barrel Monday. Brent crude oil, the international standard, fell 16 cents to \$63.95 a barrel.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 108.86 Japanese yen from 108.40 yen Monday. The euro weakened to \$1.1213 from \$1.1230.

AP Business Writer Alex Veiga contributed to this report.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, July 9, the 190th day of 2019. There are 175 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 9, 1850, the 12th president of the United States, Zachary Taylor, died after serving only 16 months of his term. (He was succeeded by Millard Fillmore.)

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On this date:

In 1755, British General Edward Braddock was mortally wounded as his troops suffered a massive defeat during the French and Indian War (he died four days later).

In 1776, the Declaration of Independence was read aloud to Gen. George Washington's troops in New York.

In 1816, Argentina declared independence from Spain.

In 1918, 101 people were killed in a train collision in Nashville, Tennessee. The Distinguished Service Cross was established by an Act of Congress.

In 1937, a fire at 20th Century Fox's film storage facility in Little Ferry, New Jersey, destroyed most of the studio's silent films.

In 1947, the engagement of Britain's Princess Elizabeth to Lt. Philip Mountbatten was announced.

In 1962, pop artist Andy Warhol's exhibit of 32 paintings of Campbell's soup cans opened at the Ferus Gallery in Los Angeles.

In 1974, former U.S. Chief Justice Earl Warren died in Washington at age 83.

In 1982, Pan Am Flight 759, a Boeing 727, crashed in Kenner, Louisiana, shortly after takeoff from New Orleans International Airport, killing all 145 people aboard and eight people on the ground.

In 1992, Democrat Bill Clinton tapped Tennessee Sen. Al Gore to be his running mate. Former CBS News commentator Eric Sevareid died in Washington at age 79.

In 1995, Jerry Garcia performed for the final time as frontman of the Grateful Dead during a concert at Chicago's Soldier Field (Garcia died a month later).

In 2001, a divided court in Chile ruled that Gen. Augusto Pinochet could not be tried on human rights charges because of his deteriorating health and mental condition, a ruling that effectively brought the 85-year-old former dictator's legal troubles to an end.

Ten years ago: The Group of Eight industrialized nations opened their summit in L'Aquila, Italy, to Group of Five developing countries Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa, as well as Egypt. The Dutch government turned over dozens of antiquities stolen from Iraq to Baghdad's ambassador. Michael Phelps broke the then-world record in the 100-meter butterfly at the U.S. national championships in Indianapolis, swimming the two-lap final in 50.22 seconds.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama began a two-day visit to Texas, where he met with state officials, including Gov. Rick Perry, to discuss the influx of unaccompanied children at the U.S.-Mexico border. Modeling agency founder Eileen Ford, 92, died in Morristown, New Jersey.

One year ago: President Donald Trump chose Brett Kavanaugh, a solidly conservative, politically connected federal appeals court judge, for the Supreme Court to fill the seat left vacant by the retirement of Justice Anthony Kennedy. (Kavanaugh would be confirmed in October after a contentious nomination fight.) Starbucks announced that it would eliminate plastic straws from all of its locations within two years, citing the environmental threat to oceans. Former movie mogul Harvey Weinstein pleaded not guilty to new sexual assault charges involving a third woman.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-singer Ed Ames is 92. Former Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld is 87. Actor James Hampton is 83. Actor Brian Dennehy is 81. Actor Richard Roundtree is 77. Singer Dee Dee Kenniebrew (The Crystals) is 74. Author Dean Koontz is 74. Football Hall of Famer O.J. Simpson is 72. Actor Chris Cooper is 68. TV personality John Tesh is 67. Country singer David Ball is 66. Business executive/TV personality Kevin O'Leary (TV: "Shark Tank") is 65. Rhythm-and-blues singer Debbie Sledge (Sister Sledge) is 65. Actor Jimmy Smits is 64. Actress Lisa Banes is 64. Actor Tom Hanks is 63. Singer Marc Almond is 62. Actress Kelly McGillis is 62. Rock singer Jim Kerr (Simple Minds) is 60. Actress-rock singer Courtney Love is 55. Rock musician Frank Bello (Anthrax) is 54. Actor David O'Hara is 54. Actress Pamela Adlon is 53. Rock musician Xavier Muriel is 51. Actor Scott Grimes is 48. Actor Enrique Murciano is 46. Rock singer-musician Isaac Brock (Modest Mouse) is 44. Musician/producer Jack White is 44. Rock musician Dan Estrin (Hoobastank) is 43. Actor-director Fred Savage is 43. Country musician Pat Allingham is 41. Actress Linda Park is 41. Actress Megan Parlen is 39. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kiely Williams (3lw)

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is 33. Actor Mitchel (cq) Musso is 28. Actress Georgie Henley is 24.

Thought for Today: "If writers were good business men, they'd have too much sense to be writers." —
Irvin S. Cobb, American humorist (1876-1944).

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