

Groton Daily Independent

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*To survive in peace and
harmony, united and strong,
we must have one people,
one nation, one flag.*

Pauline Hanson



*Chicken Soup
for the Soul*

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

July 12-14

Legion at Clark Tourney
U12 Midgets State Tournament, TBD
U10 Pee Wees State Tournament, TBD

Saturday, July 13

1:00 p.m.: Locke Electric Amateurs at Mt. Vernon (Tentative)

Sunday, July 14

1:00 p.m.: Locke Electric Amateurs vs. Groton 2 Amateurs

Monday, July 15

6:00 p.m.: U8 Pee Wees host Sisseton (R,B)

Tuesday, July 16

5:30 p.m.: Junior Legion at Clark, (DH)
Softball hosts Ipswich (U8 at 6 p.m. (1 game), U10 at 7 p.m. (2 games))

Wednesday, July 17

7:00 p.m.: Legion hosts Sisseton

Thursday, July 18

5:00 p.m.: Junior Legion hosts Aberdeen, (DH)
6:00 p.m.: U8 Pee Wees vs. Jacobson at manor

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In back, left to right, are Coach Aaron Severson, Ryan Groeblinghoff, Cade Larson, Jordan Bjerke, Colby Dunker, Bradin Altoff, Tate Larson, Andrew Marzahn, Coach Spencer Locke; in front, left to right, are Kaleb Antonson, Jacob Lewandowski, Lane Tietz, Caleb Hanten, Cole Simon, Caleb Hoover. (Photo by Joni Groeblinghoff)

Groton Jr. Teeners are off to state!

The Groton Junior Teener baseball team won two games on Thursday to advance to the State Junior Teener Tournament set for July 19-21 in Elkton. In region play in Faulkton, Groton defeated Selby, 30-0, then lost to Redfield, 7-4. The top two teams advance to the state tournament and Redfield remained undefeated, leaving the rest of the field battling it out for the rite to advance. On Wednesday, Groton defeated Onida, 7-3. Groton had to win two games on Thursday. In the first game, Groton jumped out to a 10-2 lead over Mt. Vernon/Plankinton, but Mt. Vernon/Plankinton battled back to tie the game at 10. Groton went on to win, 11-10. Then in the night cap, Groton took on the host team, Faulkton Hitmen. Groton exploded for a 13-2 lead after scoring 11 runs in the bottom of the second inning. Faulkton scored nine runs in the top of the fourth to make it 15-11. Groton led, 17-11, and in the bottom of the fifth inning, Jordan Bjerke drove in two runs to end the game and Groton got a 22-11 win. (Thanks to Joni Groeblinghoff of the updates of the games and for providing the photo after the game).



**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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Groton Jr. Teeners 14U 30 - 0 SDVFW 14U Selby

📍 Away 🏆 League 📅 Monday July 08, 2019

	1	2	3	R	H	E
GRTN	14	9	7	30	14	0
SDVF	0	0	0	0	2	4

BATTING

Groton Jr. Te	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB
A Marzahn (...)	2	4	1	2	3	0	3
C Simon (P	2	2	0	1	2	1	5
J Bjerke (3B	4	5	2	5	1	0	0
C Dunker (SS	4	4	3	2	0	0	1
K Hoover (2B	1	3	1	3	2	0	0
L Tietz (2B	0	2	0	1	1	0	0
B Althoff (1B	3	2	1	2	1	0	3
A Johnson...	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
R Groebing...	1	2	0	0	2	0	1
K Antonse...	1	1	1	2	1	0	0
T Larson (RF	4	3	3	5	1	1	3
C Larson (C	3	2	2	2	1	0	2
Totals	25	30	14	26	16	2	7

2B: K Antonsen, T Larson, K Hoover, **3B:** J Bjerke, B Althoff, **HR:** A Marzahn, **TB:** C Dunker 3, K Antonsen 2, T Larson 4, A Marzahn 4, J Bjerke 4, B Althoff 3, C Larson 2, K Hoover 2, **SF:** C Simon, **HBP:** C Dunker, A Marzahn, C Larson, K Hoover, **SB:** C Dunker, T Larson, A Marzahn 2, J Bjerke, C Simon, C Larson, K Hoover, **LOB:** 7

PITCHING

Groton Jr. Te	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
C Simon	3.0	2	0	0	0	1	0
Totals	3.0	2	0	0	0	1	0

WP: C Simon, **P-S:** C Simon 36-20, **BF:** C Simon 10

SDVFW 14U S	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB
T Gill (CF	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
B Begeman...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
C Tisdall (P,...	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
G Hannan (1...	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
D Brockel (LF	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
B Schilling (...)	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
M Vetter (2B	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
C Zabel (SS...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
M Opp (RF	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Totals	10	0	2	0	0	1	1

2B: C Tisdall, **TB:** D Brockel, C Tisdall 2, **LOB:** 1

SDVFW 14U S	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
C Tisdall	0.2	6	14	12	7	0	0
B Schilling	1.0	5	9	0	3	1	1
C Zabel	0.2	2	7	7	6	0	0
G Hannan	0.2	1	0	0	0	1	0
Totals	3.0	14	30	20	16	2	1

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Groton Jr. Teeners 14U 4 - 7 Redfield SD 14U

📍 Away 🏆 League 📅 Wednesday July 10, 2019

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
GRTN	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	4	9	1
RDFL	1	0	2	1	0	3	X	7	4	1

BATTING

Groton Jr. Te	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB
A Marzahn (...)	4	1	1	0	0	1	2
J Bjerke (P,...)	4	1	2	1	0	1	0
C Dunker (SS)	3	1	1	1	0	0	2
B Althoff (1B)	4	0	1	1	0	0	2
K Hoover (3...)	3	0	1	1	0	1	1
C Simon (2B)	3	0	0	0	0	2	3
R Groebling...	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
T Larson (RF)	3	0	0	0	0	2	2
C Larson (C)	3	0	3	0	0	0	0
CR: L Tietz	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	29	4	9	4	1	7	6

2B: C Dunker, **3B:** J Bjerke, **TB:** C Dunker 2, A Marzahn, J Bjerke 4, B Althoff, C Larson 3, K Hoover, **CS:** A Marzahn, **HBP:** C Dunker, **LOB:** 6

PITCHING

Groton Jr. Te	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
J Bjerke	2.1	1	3	3	5	3	0
K Hoover	3.2	3	4	4	2	6	0
Totals	6.0	4	7	7	7	9	0

LP: J Bjerke, **P-S:** J Bjerke 60-28, K Hoover 62-37, **WP:** K Hoover, **HBP:** J Bjerke 2, K Hoover, **BF:** J Bjerke 15, K Hoover 17

Redfield SD 1	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB
O Osborn (2B)	1	3	0	0	3	0	0
C Osborn (SS)	2	3	2	1	1	0	0
P Osborn (P)	3	1	2	3	1	0	1
S Seibrecht...	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
K Rohlfis (C)	3	0	0	0	0	1	1
E Komraus (...)	1	0	0	1	2	1	0
E Salmon (3B)	3	0	0	0	0	2	3
J Fehlman (...)	3	0	0	0	0	2	4
N Gall (LF)	3	0	0	0	0	2	2
Totals	20	7	4	5	7	9	7

2B: P Osborn, **TB:** C Osborn 2, P Osborn 3, **SAC:** S Seibrecht, **SF:** C Osborn, **HBP:** K Rohlfis, S Seibrecht 2, **SB:** E Komraus, O Osborn 4, C Osborn 2, P Osborn 2, **LOB:** 7

Redfield SD 1	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
P Osborn	7.0	9	4	4	1	7	0
Totals	7.0	9	4	4	1	7	0

WP: P Osborn, **P-S:** P Osborn 97-72, **HBP:** P Osborn, **BF:** P Osborn 31

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Groton Jr. Teeners 14U **7 - 3** Onida Post 79 14U

📍 Away 🏆 League 📅 Wednesday July 10, 2019

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
GRTN	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	4	7	8	1
ONDP	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	3

BATTING

Groton Jr. Te	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB
A Marzahn (...)	4	1	1	0	1	1	2
C Dunker (P...)	4	2	1	1	0	1	1
J Bjerke (3B)	4	1	2	2	1	0	2
B Althoff (1B)	5	0	1	3	0	0	2
K Hoover (2...)	5	1	0	0	0	1	2
K Antonsen...	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
T Larson (P)	3	0	0	0	0	2	1
C Larson (LF)	3	0	1	1	1	1	0
L Tietz (SS)	3	0	1	0	0	1	2
C Simon (2B)	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
R Groebling...	2	1	0	0	2	0	3
Totals	35	7	8	7	5	8	7

2B: C Simon, **TB:** C Dunker, L Tietz, A Marzahn, J Bjerke 2, C Simon 2, B Althoff, C Larson, **SF:** C Dunker, **CS:** A Marzahn, **SB:** C Dunker 3, L Tietz, R Groeblinghoff, J Bjerke 3, C Larson, K Hoover, **LOB:** 7

PITCHING

Groton Jr. Te	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
C Dunker	2.2	1	3	3	8	1	0
T Larson	6.1	3	0	0	3	5	0
Totals	9.0	4	3	3	11	6	0

WP: T Larson, **P-S:** C Dunker 76-27, T Larson 90-53, **WP:** C Dunker 2, **HBP:** T Larson, **BF:** C Dunker 16, T Larson 26

Onida Post 79	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB
W Witter (2B)	2	0	0	0	2	0	1
M Witter (S...)	4	1	1	0	1	0	3
T Farries (P,...)	4	0	2	0	1	0	2
D Kinney (C)	5	0	0	0	0	0	6
L Hepter (1B)	4	1	0	0	1	0	5
T Paxton (DH)	3	0	0	0	2	3	3
R Voorhees...	1	1	0	0	3	1	0
S Duffel (3B)	4	0	0	0	0	1	2
G Colson (RF)	3	0	1	0	1	1	1
Totals	30	3	4	0	11	6	12

TB: T Farries 2, M Witter, G Colson, **HBP:** W Witter, **SB:** L Hepter 3, T Farries 3, W Witter 2, G Colson, R Voorhees, **LOB:** 12

Onida Post 79	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
T Farries	5.2	4	3	1	4	6	0
M Witter	3.1	4	4	4	1	2	0
Totals	9.0	8	7	5	5	8	0

LP: T Farries, **P-S:** T Farries 97-63, M Witter 58-39, **WP:** M Witter, **BF:** T Farries 26, M Witter 15

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Groton Jr. Teeners 14U **11 - 10** VFW Post 5548
Wessington Springs 14U

📍 Away 🏆 League 📅 Thursday July 11, 2019

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
GRTN	2	0	1	3	1	3	1	11	8	2
VFWP	1	0	0	0	1	8	0	10	9	5

BATTING

Groton Jr. Te	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB
A Marzahn (...)	3	3	2	2	1	0	2
R Groebing...	4	2	2	0	0	0	1
L Tietz (P)	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
C Dunker (SS)	4	1	1	1	0	0	5
J Bjerke (3B)	4	0	1	3	0	0	4
K Hoover (2B)	4	2	2	0	0	0	1
B Althoff (1B)	4	1	0	0	0	0	0
C Simon (LF)	3	1	0	0	1	0	0
C Larson (C)	2	1	0	0	1	0	1
T Larson (RF)	2	0	0	0	2	1	3
CR: J Lewa...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	31	11	8	6	5	2	7

2B: C Dunker, J Bjerke, **TB:** C Dunker 2, R Groebinghoff 2, A Marzahn 2, J Bjerke 2, K Hoover 2, **CS:** J Bjerke, **HBP:** C Dunker, A Marzahn, C Larson, **SB:** R Groebinghoff, A Marzahn 4, J Lewandoski, C Simon, B Althoff 2, C Larson 3, K Hoover 2, **LOB:** 7

PITCHING

Groton Jr. Te	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
R Groebing...	5.0	7	5	5	6	4	0
L Tietz	2.0	2	5	4	3	1	0
Totals	7.0	9	10	9	9	5	0

WP: R Groebinghoff, **P-S:** L Tietz 38-20, R Groebinghoff 89-46, **HBP:** L Tietz, **BF:** L Tietz 11, R Groebinghoff 25

VFW Post 55	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB
D Gerlach (...)	2	3	1	0	2	1	2
B Bohr (SS,...	3	1	1	1	1	0	2
M Hetland (C)	1	1	1	1	2	0	0
D Laufman...	4	1	1	2	0	1	2
G Tobin (CF)	4	2	2	1	0	0	2
H Tobin (3B)	3	1	1	0	1	1	3
C Tobin (2B...	3	0	2	0	1	0	0
T Sweet (RF)	3	0	0	1	1	0	3
C Mayer (LF)	3	1	0	0	1	2	3
Totals	26	10	9	6	9	5	5

2B: B Bohr, **TB:** D Laufman, H Tobin, D Gerlach, B Bohr 2, C Tobin 2, G Tobin 2, M Hetland, **CS:** H Tobin, B Bohr 2, **HBP:** M Hetland, **SB:** D Gerlach 3, G Tobin, M Hetland, C Mayer, **LOB:** 5

VFW Post 55	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
D Gerlach	5.1	7	10	4	3	1	0
C Tobin	1.2	1	1	1	2	1	0
Totals	7.0	8	11	5	5	2	0

LP: D Gerlach, **P-S:** D Gerlach 97-59, C Tobin 35-20, **WP:** D Gerlach, **HBP:** D Gerlach 3, **BF:** D Gerlach 31, C Tobin 8

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Faulkton 14U 11 - 22 Groton Jr. Teeners 14U

📍 Home 🏠 League 📅 Thursday July 11, 2019

	1	2	3	4	5	R	H	E
FLKT	0	2	0	9	0	11	8	4
GRTN	2	11	2	2	5	22	11	0

BATTING

Faulkton 14U	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB
Carson (1B	1	1	1	3	2	0	0
Gunner (P	0	1	0	1	3	0	0
Layne (SS	3	2	1	2	1	1	3
Alex (LF	3	1	2	3	1	0	3
Gus (C	2	2	1	0	2	0	2
Peyton (3B	3	1	2	0	0	0	1
Tucker (RF	1	1	0	0	1	0	1
#9 (2B	3	1	1	0	0	0	5
Dawson (CF	1	1	0	0	2	0	2
Totals	17	11	8	9	12	1	7

2B: Gus, **TB:** Peyton 2, Gus 2, Alex 2, #9, Carson, Layne, **CS:** Alex, **HBP:** Tucker, **SB:** Gus, Carson 3, Layne 2, **LOB:** 7

PITCHING

Faulkton 14U	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
Gunner	3.2	11	18	14	6	0	0
Totals	3.2	11	22	14	6	0	0

LP: Gunner, **P-S:** Gunner 108-50, **HBP:** Gunner, **BF:** Gunner 33

Groton Jr. Te	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB
A Marzahn (...	3	4	2	2	0	0	2
R Groebling...	2	2	0	2	2	0	2
L Tietz (P,...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C Dunker (1...	4	4	3	6	0	0	1
J Bjerke (3B	4	0	2	4	0	0	0
K Hoover (SS	3	1	1	0	0	0	0
B Althoff (P,...	4	2	2	1	0	0	3
C Simon (2...	2	2	0	0	1	0	2
C Larson (C	1	1	0	0	2	0	2
T Larson (RF	2	1	1	0	0	0	1
K Antonse...	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Totals	25	22	11	15	6	0	2

2B: C Dunker, J Bjerke, B Althoff, **3B:** J Bjerke, **TB:** C Dunker 4, T Larson, A Marzahn 2, J Bjerke 5, B Althoff 3, K Hoover, **SF:** J Bjerke, **HBP:** A Marzahn, **SB:** C Dunker 3, R Groeblinghoff, A Marzahn, C Simon, C Larson, K Hoover, **LOB:** 2

Groton Jr. Te	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
B Althoff	2.0	4	7	7	9	1	0
L Tietz	0.2	2	4	4	2	0	0
C Simon	1.1	2	0	0	1	0	0
Totals	4.0	8	11	11	12	1	0

WP: B Althoff, **P-S:** L Tietz 28-10, C Simon 25-12, B Althoff 74-31, **WP:** B Althoff, **HBP:** L Tietz, **BF:** L Tietz 6, C Simon 6, B Althoff 18

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The following was posted on the Groton Kiwanis Facebook Page

It is with deep sadness that after 66 years in service to the community of Groton, the Groton Kiwanis Club announces that the service organization has made the difficult decision to close the local chapter.

A decline in membership numbers for the Groton chapter was cited as a major factor in the decision. The experience of the Groton Kiwanis mirrors that of countless other service organizations across the country. Service clubs nationwide struggle to maintain viable membership numbers, in today's internet connected constant connection society.

Kiwanis members will continue their legacy of service to the Groton Community as part of other community organizations. Meetings will be held in the future to determine the plan for the club's assets.

Groton Kiwanis Club is grateful for the many years of support they have received from the Groton community.

Groton C&MA VBS

The Groton Christian & Missionary Alliance Church invites all the children in Groton and the surrounding area to join us at Kingdom of the Sun!

Pastor Josh Jetto is the pastor of the church and Jana Duncan is the VBS Director. We're ready for a Vacation Bible School your children will never forget! Kingdom of the Sun creates a fun and exciting safari atmosphere where children will discover that "God Listens," "God Provides," "God Protects" and "God Rules!" We will have a great time with lively songs, hilarious skits, creative crafts, exciting games, Bible stories and tasty snacks! On top of that, we will be helping children learn to know God through prayer.

We're looking forward to sharing this exciting event with the children and parents in our neighborhoods. We hope they all will join us at Kingdom of the Sun.

Kingdom of the Sun begins Sunday, July 21st and continues through Thursday, July 25th from 6:15 pm to 8:30 pm each evening at the church located at 706 N. Main Street, Groton. Children ages 3 years through 6th grade are welcome.

For more information, call Jana at 397-7471.

"Color My World"

**Ladies' Luncheon & Program
Wednesday, July 17 at noon
Bethesda Lutheran Church,
Bristol**

**Silent Auction at 10:30 a.m.
Door prizes**

**Kristi Anderson, speaker
Advance tickets please: \$10
Call Kay Espeland 492-3507 or**

**The Groton Area School District is hiring for the
2019-2020 School Year.**

**MS/HS Administrative Assistant/Study Hall
Supervisor**

Yearbook Advisor

Assistant Boys Basketball Coach

Applications are available at www.grotonrea.com
under the employment tab. Contact Joe Schwan,
Superintendent with questions at 605-397-2351.

Applications should be sent to
Groton Area School District
Joe Schwan, Superintendent
PO Box 410
Groton, SD 57445

The Groton Area School District is an Equal
Opportunity Employer.

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Today



Mostly Sunny

High: 87 °F

Tonight



Partly Cloudy

Low: 66 °F

Saturday



Sunny

High: 89 °F

Saturday Night



Partly Cloudy
then Slight
Chance
T-storms

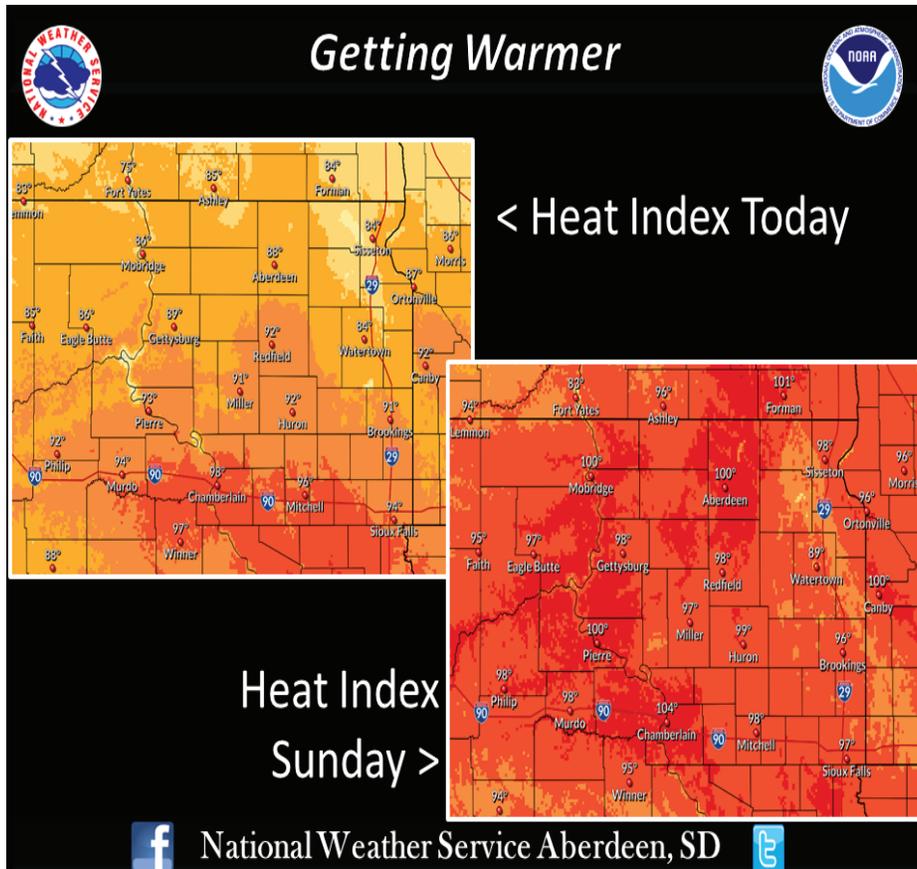
Low: 71 °F

Sunday



Hot

High: 94 °F



Warm, humid air will surge into the region over the weekend. Late day and overnight showers and thunderstorms will be possible each day. A couple may be strong to severe.

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Today in Weather History

July 12, 1993: A thunderstorm dumped up to four inches of rain in 30 minutes, 25 miles west of Pierre. This storm washed hay into big blocks up to five feet high. The heavy rains also caused water to spill over an irrigation dam. Another severe thunderstorm occurred over Dewey County and produced strong winds, damaging hail, and flooding rains which destroyed crops and hay fields. The storm knocked out windows and screens in the Lantry area. Runoff from the storm rushed through the streets of Eagle Butte causing water damage to homes and businesses. Water was reported flowing four to five feet deep through a cafe. High winds also tipped over a house trailer.

July 12, 2004: Hail up to the size of softballs fell in and around Onaka, in Faulk County, damaging vehicles, farm equipment, and homes. Lightning struck a house in Britton starting a fire in the attic, which resulted in significant damage to the home. High winds along with hail up to the size of baseballs caused some structural, vehicle, crop, and tree damage in and around Astoria and Toronto in Deuel County.

1995: An intense heat wave affected much of the Midwest for a 4-day period beginning on this day. The worst effects of the heat were noted in the Chicago metropolitan area, where 583 people died from the heat. Temperatures across the region reached as high as 104 degrees, overnight lows on falling to the upper 70s to low 80s. Dew point temperatures in the upper 70s to low 80s created heat indexes peaking at 125 degrees. Electricity and water usage reached record levels, causing periodic outages.

1996: Hurricane Bertha makes landfall near Wrightsville Beach, NC with maximum winds of 105 mph, but the storm surge dealt the most devastation. The U.S. Virgin Islands, along with North Carolina, were declared federal disaster areas. Surveys indicate that Bertha damaged almost 2,500 homes on St. Thomas and St. John. For many, it was the second hit in the ten months since Hurricane Marilyn devastated the same area. The primary effects in North Carolina were to the coastal counties and included storm surge flooding and beach erosion, roof damage, piers washed away, fallen trees and damage to crops. Over 5,000 homes were damaged, mostly from storm surge. Storm total rainfall amounts ranged from 5 to 8 inches along a coastal strip from South Carolina to Maine. Overall, as many as 12 deaths resulted with 8 in the U.S. and territories.

1951 - The Kaw River flood occurred. The month of June that year was the wettest of record for the state of Kansas, and during the four days preceding the flood much of eastern Kansas and western Missouri received more than ten inches of rain. Flooding in the Midwest claimed 41 lives, left 200 thousand persons homeless, and caused a billion dollars property damage. Kansas City was hardest hit. The central industrial district sustained 870 million dollars property damage. (The Kansas City Weather Almanac)

1980 - Lightning struck a large broiler house in Branford, FL, and the ensuing fire broiled 11,000 nearly ready broilers. Firemen were able to save a few thousand chickens, however. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Cool air invaded the High Plains Region. Eight cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Sheridan, WY, with a reading of 37 degrees. Thunderstorms developing along the cold front in the central U.S. produced 6.5 inches of rain at Fort Dodge, IA, and 2.5 inches in one hour at St. Joseph MO. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Evening thunderstorms produced severe weather over the Dakotas, including baseball size hail at Aberdeen, SD, and softball size hail near Fullerton, ND. Thunderstorms produced heavy rain in Arkansas and northeastern Texas, with 6.59 inches reported at Mesquite, TX, in just an hour and fifteen minutes. Garland, TX, reported water up to the tops of cars following a torrential downpour. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Early morning thunderstorms over eastern Kansas deluged McFarland with more than six inches of rain. Afternoon thunderstorms in Wyoming produced up to eighteen inches of dime size hail near Rock Springs, along with torrential rains, and a three foot high wall of mud and water swept into the town causing more than 1.5 million dollars damage. Evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in Oklahoma and Arkansas, deluging Dardanelle, AR, with 3.50 inches of rain in less than twenty minutes. About seventy cows were killed when lightning struck a tree in Jones County, TX. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

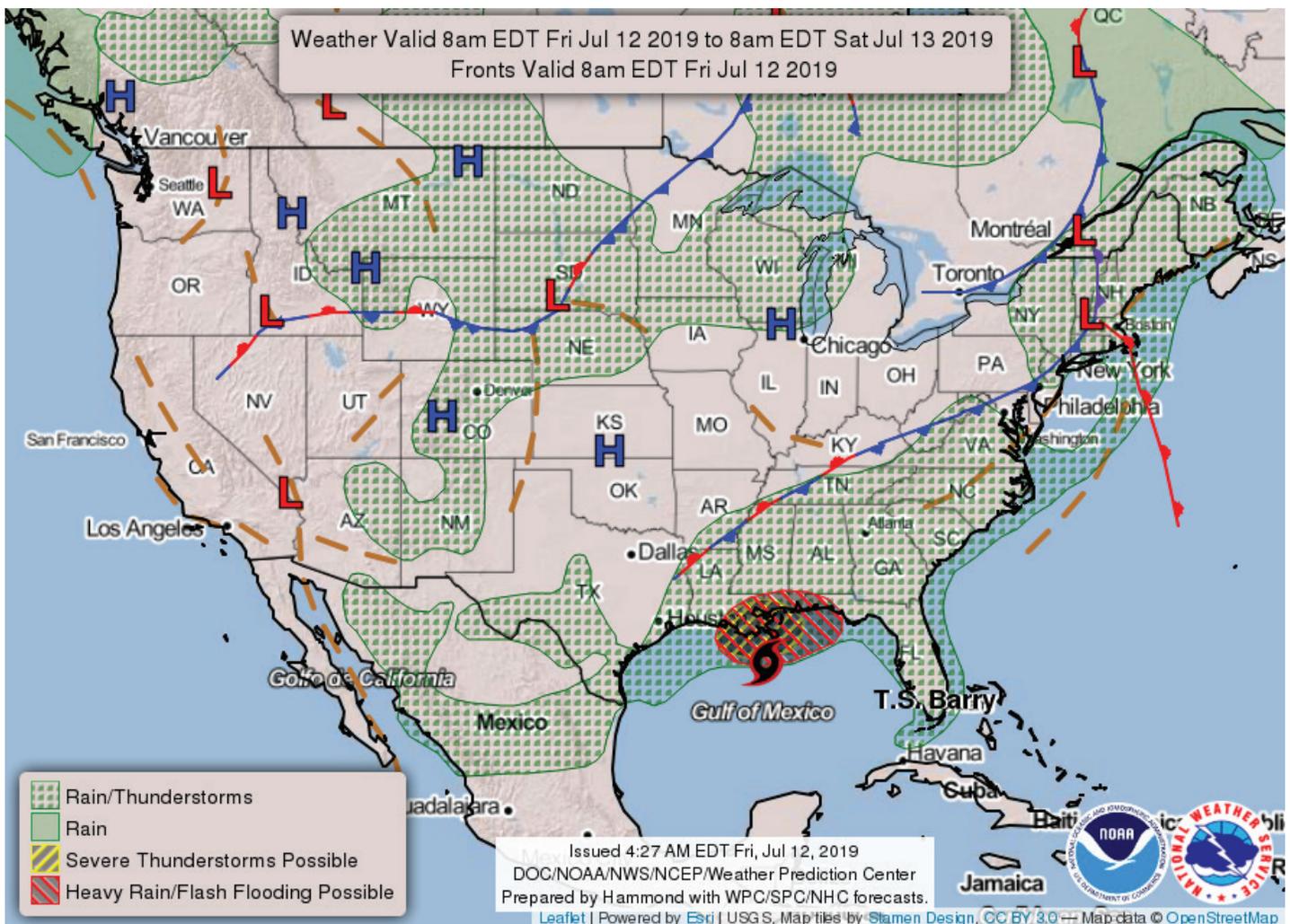
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 85 °F at 5:49 PM
Low Temp: 60 °F at 5:51 AM
Wind: 21 mph at 1:59 PM
Day Rain: 0.00

Record High: 107° in 1936
Record Low: 40° in 1941
Average High: 84°F
Average Low: 59°F
Average Precip in July.: 1.18
Precip to date in July.: 1.22
Average Precip to date: 12.02
Precip Year to Date: 13.94
Sunset Tonight: 9:21 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:58 a.m.



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ONE FACT REMAINS?

Is it wrong for Christians to drink? Does the Bible forbid drinking? Was the alcohol content of wine any different in Biblical times than it is today? Was it really wine at the Lords Supper or unfermented grape juice? What is the correct position for church members to take when it comes to attending functions where alcoholic beverages are served?

There never has been a time or place in my life when alcohol was not part of someones agenda. In fact, the thesis I wrote for my Master of Theology degree addressed this topic. The program took two years, and I visited some of the greatest libraries in the world looking for a definitive answer. I did much of my research at Stanford University, the University of California at Berkeley, and the Graduate Theological Union which were near the seminary I attended.

However, Solomon, who no doubt hosted many events that included alcoholic beverages, presents his observations about the consequences of drinking. It seems to eliminate any reason to look any further for an answer: Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise. The consequences for alcohol abuse are obvious.

Alcohol is a depressant. It allows what we consider sacred or reserved, valuable or private, personal and private, hidden and buried deep within us an opportunity to escape and harm ourselves and others. A mocker is someone who becomes arrogant and ridicules God by word and deed. The mocker has no need for anyone - including God - and can do it all by myself. And the brawler is one who is indiscreet, obnoxious, and has no shame.

So, the first part of the verse leads to the second: Alcohol leads people to act independently of Gods wisdom. Anyone who allows their behavior to be altered - one way or another - by any depressant is unwise - hence, ungodly. A wise person once said to me: A wise person will not get drunk, and a drunk person is not wise.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to realize the dangers that await us if we compromise Your wisdom. May we avoid the use of alcohol and the negative consequences that follow. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 20:1 Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise.

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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)

Lake Thompson area residents still dealing with flooding

DE SMET, S.D. (AP) — Hundreds of residents in eastern South Dakota are still dealing with floodwater more than two months after spring storms caused widespread damage.

Main access roads in Kingsbury County's Lake Thompson area are damaged or under water. Property owner Jim Knight says many residents are concerned because if a need for emergency services would arise, the first responders would have no access. Knight and his family use a four-wheeler to make their way through two feet of floodwater to buy groceries.

The Argus Leader reports Knight and other residents are hoping state and county leaders will agree to clear out vegetation and sediment buildup that is clogging the lake's outlet. That would allow a small amount of water to flow, but not flood other areas along the Vermillion River, into which Lake Thompson flows.

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

South Dakota town mourns 2 who drove into a hole in the road

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A small South Dakota town has been hit hard by the deaths of two people who drove into a hole that appeared in a dark North Dakota highway after a flash flood washed through.

Jim Vanderwal, 65, and Trudy Peterson, 60, both of Mobridge, South Dakota, were retrieved Tuesday from the hole on the Standing Rock Reservation in Sioux County, the Bismarck Tribune reported.

Mark Kaiser said his former colleague Peterson worked at the dialysis unit at the Indian Health Service in Fort Yates.

"She had a bubbly personality," Kaiser said. "I'll remember her laugh. She had a great, unique laugh."

Peterson was a grandmother and the mother of three. Prior to her body being found, the news that she was missing traveled swiftly at the Mobridge hospital, said Dr. Travis Henderson.

"People were trying to do their job, but it was surreal, too," he said.

The two deaths have affected the entire Mobridge community, but it particularly hurt the United Congregational Church, where Peterson and Vanderwal attended.

"It's very noticeable," said Misti Henderson, church secretary and Travis Henderson's wife. "Every business I walk into, they're talking about Trudy. And the fact that it's two people, both from our church."

Vanderwal's sister, Cindy Fjeldheim, said he was a driver for a U.S. mail contractor who made the run between Bismarck and Mobridge six days a week.

"He was almost home," Fjeldheim said.

Vanderwal was the father of four grown children, two boys and two girls, and had several grandchildren.

Information from: Bismarck Tribune, <http://www.bismarcktribune.com>

South Dakota woman charged again in her baby's drug death

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — An appeals court has revived a federal involuntary manslaughter charge against a South Dakota woman whose baby died hours after he was born from the illegal drugs found in his system.

Samantha Flute was charged with the crime in 2016 when prosecutors said she killed her baby boy by ingesting cocaine and multiple prescription drugs while pregnant.

But when she appealed the indictment, U.S. District Judge Charles B. Kornmann dismissed the charge in 2017, the Argus Leader reported. He ruled that federal assault and murder statutes cannot be applied to a pregnant woman for any actions she takes with respect to her unborn child.

Flute tested positive for cocaine and multiple prescription drugs when she was admitted to the hospital

at 38 weeks pregnant. She said she knew the drugs would harm the baby, but that "she needed to get high," according to the appeals court decision. An autopsy found that the combined drug toxicity from the substances Flute ingested while pregnant caused the baby's death.

The U.S. Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed Kornmann's ruling last week, arguing that the baby falls under the umbrella of victims protected by the federal involuntary manslaughter statute because he was born alive.

"The federal involuntary manslaughter statute applies to a child born alive, who later succumbed to injury suffered in utero, even where that injury was inflicted by the unborn child's own mother," the ruling said.

The 2-1 decision cited the 2002 Born Alive Infants Protection Act that defines "human being" as "every infant member of the species homo sapiens who is born alive at any stage of development."

U.S. Circuit Judge Steven Colloton disagreed, adding that Congress has "not adopted a manslaughter statute that imposes criminal liability on a mother for prenatal conduct that results in the tragic death of her child."

"No federal statute enacted after 1909 has expanded the manslaughter statute to encompass a mother's prenatal neglect," Colloton said.

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

FBI IDs 5-year-old girl found dead in South Dakota creek

CHERRY CREEK, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have released the name of a 5-year-old girl whose body was recovered from a swollen creek in north-central South Dakota.

The FBI identifies the girl as Ariya Huapapi.

Ziebach County Sheriff Gary Cudmore says the girl was reported missing Tuesday after she had reportedly been playing in Cherry Creek.

The Rapid City Journal reports dozens of searchers looked for the girl on foot and horseback along the banks of the creek, as well as in boats and in an airplane.

The girl's body was found Wednesday by volunteer searchers who were on a bridge over Cherry Creek. Two people jumped into the creek to retrieve her body.

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Chairman Harold Frazier commended volunteers and tribal agencies "that never gave up and searched tirelessly through the night," and thanked various government agencies.

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

Opponents want hearing on Dakota Access pipeline expansion

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Dakota Access oil pipeline opponents plan to request a hearing on a proposal to nearly double the pipeline's capacity.

The North Dakota Public Service Commission decided unanimously Wednesday to open the proposal up for public input.

Earthjustice attorney Jan Hasselman, who represents the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, said the tribe wants the pipeline shut down, but since there is a proposal to expand its capacity, "Someone needs to be accountable to make sure that's safe and legal."

The commission should hold a hearing and demand an engineering analysis of the proposed expansion, Hasselman told The Bismarck Tribune.

The line's operator, Texas-based Energy Transfer, said last month that it plans to expand the pipeline's capacity from more than 500,000 barrels per day to as much as 1.1 million barrels. It said the expansion would let the company meet growing demand without having to turn to additional pipelines or rail shipments.

The company, which was formerly known as Energy Transfer Partners, would build additional pumping stations in North Dakota, South Dakota and Illinois. Since some of the land in North Dakota falls outside of the pipeline corridor, permission would be needed from the PSC.

Commissioner Julie Fedorchak said the PSC would consider requests from the public for a hearing like it did in the past for the original pipeline.

"This is a process that is something the commission uses on a very routine basis," Fedorchak said.

The public has until Aug. 9 to request a hearing. Standing Rock Chairman Mike Faith said the tribe will push for one, citing environmental concerns and the potential for more pressure along the pipeline. Representatives from the Sierra Club and Lakota People's Law Project also plan to call for a hearing.

"We should be moving away from fossil fuels to renewable and alternative fuels," said Wayde Schafer, conservation organizer for the Sierra Club. "Long-term, we should be putting our effort toward that."

The Dakota Access pipeline carries oil from North Dakota through South Dakota and Iowa to a shipping point in Illinois. The company said last year that it was planning to ship more crude to the Gulf Coast.

The pipeline sparked massive protests near the Standing Rock Indian reservation before it was completed and began moving oil in 2017.

Information from: Bismarck Tribune, <http://www.bismarcktribune.com>

Proposal would repeal US laws that hurt Native Americans

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Leaders of Oklahoma-based Native American tribes are praising a proposal to repeal unenforced federal laws that discriminate against Native Americans.

Legislation sponsored by members of Congress from Oklahoma, Arizona and South Dakota would repeal discriminatory policies toward Native Americans still written in federal law, The Oklahoman reported .

"Though no longer enforced, these laws are a painful reminder of the past suffering and poor treatment experienced by Native Americans," said Oklahoma Republican Rep. Tom Cole, a co-sponsor of the measure and a member of the Chickasaw Nation.

Among laws the measure would repeal is one that allows for the forced removal of Native American children from their homes to be sent to boarding schools and subject Native Americans to forced labor.

Another of the measure's co-sponsors, Oklahoma Republican Sen. James Lankford, said it "ensures that we acknowledge and work to solve some of our nation's previous belittling of Native Americans through our laws."

Chickasaw Nation Gov. Bill Anoatubby said the proposal will help "provide a foundation of mutual respect and understanding for our government-to-government relationship, which is vital as we work together for the benefit of everyone concerned."

Kim Teehee, vice president of government relations for the Cherokee Nation, said the tribe supports efforts to repeal laws viewed as hostile toward American Indians.

"In the modern world where we strive to embrace tolerance and understanding, there is no room for these relics of the past that promote misconceptions, stereotypes and stigmas of federally recognized tribes," Teehee said.

School of Mines, Air Force partner on environment

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota School of Mines & Technology in Rapid City will work with the Air Force Civil Engineer Center at the Ellsworth base on environmental stewardship goals.

The school's experts in ecology, hydrology, environmental engineering and other disciplines will help the Air Force clean up contaminated sites, reduce or prevent future pollution and comply with environmental rules and law at its installations.

Mines President Jim Rankin says the partnership boosts top-tier science and engineering research and education at the school while supporting the Department of Defense efforts on environmental challenges.

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Trade group running ads in support of Rounds

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A trade group says it will spend \$69,000 on radio and TV ads in support of U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds and his re-election.

The announcement by the American Chemistry Council comes a week after state Rep. Scyller Borglum launched a challenge to Rounds in the June 2020 Republican primary election.

Rounds won election to the Senate in 2014 after serving two terms as governor.

The Rapid City Journal reports ACC President and CEO Cal Dooley calls Rounds a leader on taxes who has helped ease the burden on middle class families and small businesses in South Dakota. The ACC will run the ads for two weeks. It represents nearly 200 companies, including DuPont and ExxonMobil.

Borglum is an engineer who was elected to the state House last year.

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

Former student athlete killed in crash near Madison

MADISON, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say the teen killed in a weekend crash near Madison had recently graduated from high school where he played football.

Eighteen-year-old Tavian Shaw was a passenger in a car that rear-ended a semi on Highway 34 Saturday. A teammate at Washington High School in Sioux Falls was behind the wheel.

The State Patrol says 19-year-old Tyler Milliron was seriously injured in the crash. Shaw and Milliron graduated in May.

Tropical Storm Barry's wind and rain hit Louisiana coast

By KEVIN MCGILL and JANET McCONNAUGHEY Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Tropical Storm Barry's wind and rain began hitting parts of Louisiana Friday as New Orleans and coastal communities braced for a drenching from what could be the season's first hurricane.

A hurricane warning was in effect along the Louisiana coast, with forecasters predicting landfall as a hurricane by early Saturday.

The storm's rains are expected to pose a severe test of New Orleans' improved post-Katrina flood defenses. Barry is forecast to bring more than a foot and a half (0.5 meters) of rain to parts of the state as it moves slowly inland.

"There are three ways that Louisiana can flood: storm surge, high rivers and rain," Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards said. "We're going to have all three."

Edwards warned of a dangerous combination with the already-high Mississippi River, which has been swelled by heavy rain and snowmelt upriver this spring. He said authorities do not expect the river to spill over its levees, but cautioned that a change in the storm's direction or intensity could alter that.

National Hurricane Center Director Ken Graham said pockets of Louisiana could have as much as 25 inches (63 centimeters) of rain.

"So here's the takeaway: Dangerous situation," he said during an online presentation Thursday. "That kind of rainfall in this system could cause flash flooding, cause ponding of water."

National Guard troops and rescue crews were stationed around the state with boats and high-water vehicles. Helicopters were also on standby, and supplies including drinking water and blankets were ready for distribution, the Guard said.

President Donald Trump on Thursday night declared a federal declaration of emergency for Louisiana, authorizing the Department of Homeland Security and Federal Emergency Management Agency to coordinate all disaster relief efforts.

Barry could have winds of about 75 mph (120 kph), just barely over the 74 mph threshold for a hurricane, when it comes ashore, making it a Category 1 storm. Forecasters said Friday morning that while their models don't "explicitly show Barry becoming a hurricane, it is still possible for that to occur before landfall."

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As of early Friday, Barry was about 80 miles (130 kilometers) south of the mouth of the Mississippi, with winds around 50 mph (80 kph). Tracking forecasts showed the brunt of the storm blowing into the Louisiana delta west of New Orleans on a path that could continue toward Chicago, swelling the Mississippi River basin with water that must eventually flow south again.

Louisiana's low-lying southeastern tip was getting hit first. Many heeded evacuation orders affecting 10,000 people in Plaquemines Parish, leaving communities largely empty by Thursday afternoon.

Among the last to leave the town of Phoenix was 65-year-old Clarence Brocks and his family. The Plaquemines Parish native has evacuated many times and had to rebuild after Katrina wiped out his home. But he said that he wouldn't want to live anywhere else, despite the yearly threat of hurricanes.

"I was born and raised here. This is all I know," the Air Force veteran said. "I've been all over the world and guess where I want to be at? Right here."

Jesse Schaffer III of Meraux (MEE-roh) in St. Bernard Parish to the north was helping his relatives in Plaquemines Parish get to family members' houses in safer areas. He said around 20 relatives were staying with him and his wife because their house is safer.

"We're trying to evacuate and get all of our family members up and go to St. Bernard Parish," he said.

With lightning flashing in the distance and some streets already covered with water from heavy rains, shoppers at an Albertsons grocery store in Baton Rouge stripped shelves bare of bread by Thursday night. Half the shelves normally filled with bottled water were empty.

A radar loop of Barry filled a TV screen at a brewery near downtown. Nearby, the sign outside a convenience store read: "Barry needs a beer and a nap."

Meanwhile, utility crews with bucket trucks that could be needed after the storm filled hotel parking lots along Interstate 59 in southern Mississippi.

The National Hurricane Center said as much as 20 inches (50 centimeters) of rain could fall in parts of eastern Louisiana, including Baton Rouge, and the entire region could get as much as 10 inches (25 centimeters). The New Orleans area could get 10 to 15 inches (25 to 38 centimeters) through Sunday, forecasters said.

New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell said Thursday that the pumping system that drains the city's streets is working as designed but that Barry could dump water faster than the pumps can move it.

"We cannot pump our way out of the water levels ... that are expected to hit the city of New Orleans," she warned.

However, the city did not plan to order evacuations because Barry was so close and because it was not expected to grow into a major hurricane. Officials instead advised people to keep at least three days of supplies on hand and to keep their neighborhood storm drains clear so water can move quickly.

Hurricane Katrina caused catastrophic flooding in New Orleans in 2005 and was blamed altogether for more than 1,800 deaths in Louisiana and other states, by some estimates.

In its aftermath, the Army Corps of Engineers began a multibillion-dollar hurricane-protection system that isn't complete. The work included repairs and improvements to some 350 miles (560 kilometers) of levees and more than 70 pump stations that are used to remove floodwaters.

Associated Press reporters Chevel Johnson and Rebecca Santana in New Orleans, Sarah Blake Morgan in Plaquemines Parish and Jay Reeves in Baton Rouge contributed to this report.

India prepares to land rover on moon in global space race

By ASHOK SHARMA Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — India is looking to take a giant leap in its space program and solidify its place among the world's spacefaring nations with its second unmanned mission to the moon, this one aimed at landing a rover near the unexplored south pole.

The Indian Space Research Organization plans to launch a spacecraft using homegrown technology on Monday, and it is scheduled to touch down on the moon Sept. 6 or 7. The \$141 million Chandrayaan-2

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mission will analyze minerals, map the moon's surface and search for water.

It will "boldly go where no country has ever gone before," ISRO said in a statement.

With India poised to become the world's fifth-largest economy, the ardently nationalist government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is eager to show off the country's prowess in security and technology.

India successfully test-fired an anti-satellite weapon in March, which Modi said demonstrated the country's capacity as a space power alongside the United States, Russia and China. India also plans to send humans into space by 2022, becoming only the fourth nation to do so.

The country's ambitions are playing out amid a resurgent space race.

The U.S. — which is marking the 50th anniversary this month of the Apollo 11 mission that made Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin the first humans on the moon — is working to send a manned spacecraft to the lunar south pole by 2024. In April, an unmanned Israeli craft crashed into the moon in a failed attempt at the first privately funded lunar landing.

Decades of space research have allowed India to develop satellite, communications and remote sensing technologies that are helping solve everyday problems at home, from forecasting fish migration to predicting storms and floods.

India's first lunar mission, Chandrayaan-1, whose name is Sanskrit for "moon craft," orbited the moon in 2008 and helped confirm the presence of water. In 2013-14, India put a satellite into orbit around Mars in the nation's first interplanetary mission.

Some have questioned the expense in a country of 1.3 billion people with widespread poverty and one of the world's highest child mortality rates. But author and economic commentator Gurcharan Das said that the cost of the second moonshot is small compared with India's overall budget and that the project could have a multiplier effect on the economy.

He called on India to get the country's private sector more involved in research and development, which he said could yield "huge benefits" beyond the realm of space travel.

The spacecraft will have a lunar orbiter, lander and a rover. The lander will carry a camera, a seismometer, a thermal instrument and a NASA-supplied laser retroreflector that will help calculate the distance between the Earth and the moon.

The lunar south pole is especially interesting because a much larger portion of it is in shadow than the north pole, presenting a greater possibility of water. Water is an essential ingredient for life, and finding it is part of science's broader goal of determining whether there is life elsewhere in our solar system.

This will be the first rover to look for water at the south pole.

"These days, it has become the place to go," said space expert N. Rathnasree.

Associated Press writers Emily Schmall and Rishabh R. Jain contributed to this report.

New Orleans' levees face a hard test as storm bears down

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN Associated Press

Even as Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans, the Mississippi River's levees held up when those in other parts of the city did not.

But as Tropical Storm Barry threatened New Orleans with torrential rains that will test the city's flood defenses this weekend, the height of the city's river levees was the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' greatest concern, spokesman Ricky Boyett said Thursday.

The danger to New Orleans — bound by the Mississippi River on its south side, Lake Pontchartrain on its north side and tributaries leading into the nearby Gulf of Mexico on the east — is threefold: storm surges from the sea, rain from the sky and water from the rising river if the levees fail.

While the Corps wasn't expecting the swollen river to spill over into the city, the threat from Barry was real with a storm that was forecast to dump 10 to 20 inches (25 to 50 centimeters) of rain on New Orleans through Sunday, with isolated areas getting 25 inches (64 centimeters).

The river was expected to crest at about 19 feet (5.8 meters) on Saturday in New Orleans, where the

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levees protecting it from the water range from about 20 to 25 feet (6 to 7.5 meters) in height, said Jeff Grasel, a hydrologist with the National Weather Service.

The weather service also was expecting the water to stay below the river's levees, which haven't been overtopped in New Orleans since the early 1920s. But state officials warned that a change in the storm's direction or intensity could change that.

To prepare, workers were shoring up at least two areas along the city's levee system, Boyett said. They piled up "stoplogs," or metal beams, and topped them with sheet metal to add height to Harvey Lock, a break in the levee across the river from the city's Lower 9th Ward, which was all but wiped out during Katrina. Workers also used Hesco baskets, a type of flood barrier, to add 3 feet (almost 1 meter) to the river levee at the Corps' headquarters in New Orleans.

"We're confident in the integrity of the levees," Boyett said. "They're designed to hold this pressure."

But 14 years after Katrina's monster storm surge roared ashore and inundated most of the city, many New Orleans residents still distrust the Corps, which built the levees and floodwalls that failed near Lake Pontchartrain and along the Lower 9th Ward.

While the levees protecting the city from the Mississippi River held during the August 2005 storm, the flooding was exacerbated by the size and configuration of a shipping channel that the Corps dredged decades ago between New Orleans and the Gulf of Mexico.

"The models for Hurricane Katrina were all wrong," said Levees.org president Sandy Rosenthal, who founded the grassroots organization shortly after Katrina. "We don't care what the model says. The model is an educated guess. That's all it is."

Residents waited nervously as the storm approached.

Cooter Brown's Tavern, a popular bar less than one-quarter mile from the Corps' headquarters in New Orleans, didn't flood during Katrina. But co-owner Ivan Burgess said they were debating whether to stay open or close this weekend given concerns about Barry's flood risks.

"We've been really lucky, but that's only part of it. We have our employees' safety to consider," he said.

Author and historian John Barry, who served on a board that was created after Katrina to oversee the levee system of greater New Orleans on the east bank of the Mississippi River, said he was "very confident" in the structural integrity of the river levees and would be "astounded" if they breached.

"Because engineers built them correctly," he added. "They were built against the worst-case scenario they could imagine."

Kunzelman reported from College Park, Maryland.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

1. TROPICAL STORM LASHES SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA

Barry's wind and rain start to lash Louisiana as New Orleans and coastal communities brace for a drenching from what's expected to be the first hurricane of the season.

2. PRESIDENT ABANDONS BID TO INCLUDE CITIZENSHIP QUESTION ON CENSUS

Trump abandoned his effort to insert a citizenship question into next year's census, directing federal agencies to try to compile the information using existing databases instead.

3. WHO WAS ARRESTED AGAIN ON FEDERAL SEX CHARGES

Singer R. Kelly was arrested in Chicago on a federal grand jury indictment listing 13 counts including sex crimes and obstruction of justice.

4. INDIA SHOOTING FOR THE MOON

India is looking to take a giant leap in its space program and solidify its place among the world's space-faring nations with its second unmanned mission to the moon.

5. TRUMP UNLOADS ON PAUL RYAN

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The president via Twitter called the Republican former House Speaker a "lame duck failure." Ryan is very critical of Trump in a new book which says he could not stand the idea of another two years with the president and saw retirement as an "escape hatch."

6. PENTAGON IN LEADERSHIP LIMBO

The United States still has no confirmed defense secretary even with the nation facing potential armed conflict with Iran.

7. FRESHMEN DEMOCRATS IN SPOTLIGHT AT IMMIGRATION HEARING

Four Democratic freshmen who reported squalid conditions at migrant detention stations at the southern border are taking the spotlight at a House committee hearing.

8. WHAT IS BECOMING A NEW FLASHPOINT FOR HOUSE DEMOCRATS

Race has become a new flashpoint in the debate between Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and other House Democrats over migrant children in detention at the border.

9. CHINA IMPORTS FROM THE U.S. PLUNGE 31 PERCENT

Imports of U.S. goods fell 31.4% from a year earlier to \$9.4 billion, while exports to the American market declined 7.8% to \$39.3 billion, customs data shows.

10. WHICH TOP NBA POINT GUARDS ARE SWAPPED IN TRADE

A person with knowledge of the situation says the Oklahoma City Thunder have traded Russell Westbrook to the Houston Rockets for Chris Paul.

Trump drops bid to have a citizenship question on the census

By JILL COLVIN, MARK SHERMAN and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Just a week after insisting that he was "absolutely moving forward," President Donald Trump abandoned his effort to insert a citizenship question into next year's census.

He directed federal agencies to try to compile the information using existing databases instead.

"It is essential that we have a clear breakdown of the number of citizens and non-citizens that make up the U.S. populations," Trump declared in a Rose Garden announcement, insisting that he was "not backing down."

But the decision was clearly a reversal, after the Supreme Court blocked his effort by disputing his administration's rationale for demanding that census respondents declare whether or not they were citizens. Trump had said last week that he was "very seriously" considering an executive order to try to force the question. But the government has already begun the lengthy and expensive process of printing the census questionnaire without it, and such a move would surely have drawn an immediate legal challenge.

Instead, Trump said Thursday that he would be signing an executive order directing every federal department and agency to provide the Commerce Department with all records pertaining to the number of citizens and noncitizens in the country.

Late Thursday, Justice Department lawyers sent a copy of the executive order to the judge presiding over a challenge to the citizenship question in Manhattan federal court, saying they will confer with lawyers for the plaintiffs to see how to proceed in the case.

Trump's order said the Supreme Court "has now made it impossible, as a practical matter, to include a citizenship question on the 2020 decennial census questionnaire."

"After examining every possible alternative, the Attorney General and the Secretary of Commerce have informed me that the logistics and timing for carrying out the census, combined with delays from continuing litigation, leave no practical mechanism for including the question on the 2020 decennial census," Trump said.

Trump's efforts to add the question on the decennial census had drawn fury and backlash from critics who complained that it would discourage participation, not only by people living in the country illegally but also by citizens who fear that participating would expose noncitizen family members to repercussions.

Dale Ho, director of the American Civil Liberties Union's Voting Rights Project, and the lawyer who argued the Supreme Court case, celebrated Thursday's announcement by the president, saying: "Trump's attempt

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to weaponize the census ends not with a bang but a whimper.”

Trump said his order would apply to every agency, including the Department of Homeland Security and the Social Security Administration. The Census Bureau already has access to Social Security, food stamp and federal prison records, all of which contain citizenship information.

Trump, citing Census Bureau projections, predicted that using previously available records, the administration could determine the citizenship of 90 percent of the population “or more.”

“Ultimately this will allow us to have a more complete count of citizens than through asking the single question alone,” he contended.

But it is still unclear what Trump intends to do with the citizenship information. Federal law prohibits the use of census information to identify individuals, though that restriction has been breached in the past. The executive order’s text states that “generating accurate data concerning the total number of citizens, non-citizens, and illegal aliens in the country has nothing to do with enforcing immigration laws against particular individuals,” and that information would be used “solely to produce statistics” and would not be used to “bring immigration enforcement actions against particular individuals.”

Still, it requests extensive and detailed information, including national-level files of all lawful permanent residents, Customs and Border arrival and departure data, and Social Security Administration master beneficiary records.

It also instructs the Commerce Secretary to consider beginning the process of including the question on the 2030 census count.

Civil rights group, meanwhile said the president’s efforts had already sown fear and discord in vulnerable communities, making the task of an accurate count even harder.

“The damage has already been done,” said Lizette Escobedo of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Educational Fund.

The Census Bureau had stressed repeatedly that it could produce better citizenship data without adding the question and had recommended combining information from the annual American Community Survey with records held by other federal agencies that already include citizenship records.

But Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, who oversees the Census Bureau, ultimately rejected that approach and ordered the citizenship question be added to the census.

The American Community Survey, which polls 3.5 million U.S. households every year, already includes questions about respondents’ citizenship.

“It’s a retreat back to what he should have done from the beginning,” said Kenneth Prewitt, a former Census Bureau director.

Trump’s administration had faced numerous roadblocks to adding the question, beginning with the ruling by the Supreme Court temporarily barring its inclusion on the grounds that the government’s justification was insufficient. But Trump insisted his administration was pushing forward, publicly contradicting government lawyers and his commerce secretary, who had previously conceded the case was closed, as well as the Census Bureau, which had started the process of printing the 2020 questionnaire without the controversial query after the Supreme Court decision.

As he has many times before, Trump exploded the situation with a tweet, calling reports that the fight was over “FAKE!”

“We are absolutely moving forward, as we must, because of the importance of the answer to this question,” he wrote.

A week of speculation about the administration’s plans and renewed court battles ensued as Trump threw out ideas, including suggesting last week that officials might be able to add an addendum to the questionnaire with the question after it was printed. And he toyed with the idea of halting the constitutionally mandated survey entirely while the court battle played out.

Attorney General William Barr, however, said that the government had no interest in delaying the count and that, while he was confident the census question would have eventually survived legal review, the process would have taken too long to work its way through the courts.

Trump had offered multiple explanations for why he believed the question was necessary to include in the once-a-decade population count that determines the allocation of seats in the House of Representatives for the next 10 years and the distribution of some \$675 billion in federal spending.

"You need it for Congress, for districting. You need it for appropriations. Where are the funds going? How many people are there? Are they citizens? Are they not citizens? You need it for many reasons," he told reporters last week, despite the fact that congressional districts are based on total population, regardless of residents' national origin or immigration status.

He said Thursday the data could also help states that "may want to draw state and local legislative districts based upon the voter-eligible population." That would mark a change from how districts are drawn currently, based on the entire population, and could increase Republican political power.

If immigrants are undercounted, Democrats fear that would pull money and political power away from Democratic-led cities where immigrants tend to cluster, and shift it to whiter, rural areas where Republicans do well.

Associated Press writers Darlene Superville, Matthew Daly, Kevin Freking, Larry Neumeister in New York City and Geoff Mulvihill in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, contributed to this report.

R. Kelly arrested again in Chicago on federal sex charges

By The Associated Press undefined

CHICAGO (AP) — Singer R. Kelly, already facing sexual abuse charges brought by Illinois prosecutors, was arrested in Chicago Thursday on a federal grand jury indictment listing 13 counts including sex crimes and obstruction of justice.

U.S. Attorney's Office spokesman Joseph Fitzpatrick said the R&B singer was taken into custody about 7 p.m. local time and was being held by federal authorities. According to the Federal Bureau of Prisons website, Kelly is being held at the Metropolitan Correctional Center, Chicago.

He was arrested after the indictment was handed down earlier Thursday in federal court for the Northern District of Illinois.

"The counts include child porn, enticement of a minor and obstruction of justice," Fitzpatrick said, adding that further details would be released Friday.

The arrest was the second time this year that Kelly has been taken into custody in Chicago on sex charges. The 52-year-old Grammy winner, whose real name is Robert Kelly, was arrested in February on 10 counts in Illinois involving four women, three of whom were minors when the alleged abuse occurred. He pleaded not guilty to those charges and was released on bail.

Then on May 30, Cook County prosecutors added 11 more sex-related counts involving one of the women who accused him of sexually abusing her when she was underage.

His attorneys could not immediately be reached for comment on the federal charges. Fitzpatrick said Kelly's arraignment date and time had not yet been set.

Kelly has faced mounting legal troubles this year after Lifetime aired a documentary "Surviving R. Kelly," which revisited allegations of sexual abuse of girls. The series followed the BBC's "R Kelly: Sex, Girls & Videotapes," released in 2018, that alleged the singer was holding women against their will and running a "sex cult."

Soon after the release of the Lifetime documentary, Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx said her office had been inundated with calls about the allegations in the documentary. Her office's investigation led to the charges in February and additional counts added in May.

Kelly avoided prison after similar allegations were made more than a decade ago. A jury in 2008 acquitted him of child pornography charges that stemmed from a videotape, obtained by the Chicago Sun-Times, allegedly showing Kelly having sex with a minor.

Trump to tout trade, economy in formerly blue Wisconsin

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and TODD RICHMOND Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump loves to reminisce about his upset Wisconsin win in the 2016 election after Democrat Hillary Clinton took the state for granted.

He's determined not to make the same mistake himself.

Once part of the Rust Belt's blue wall meant to keep Trump out of the White House, Wisconsin now counts as a pivotal state for the president's reelection chances in the view of his campaign.

Trump on Friday will visit Wisconsin for the sixth time since taking office. It's one of two Midwest stops that day designed to warm up Trump's 2020 campaign engine with fundraisers. He'll also use the visit to try to showcase the strong economy and push for Congress to pass the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, which could squarely impact Wisconsin.

Trump became the first Republican to win Wisconsin since Ronald Reagan in 1984, defeating Clinton by just 22,748 votes. Along with Michigan and Pennsylvania, the state was meant to be the Democrats' safety net against Trump, but Clinton failed to visit the state even once during the general election campaign — a fact the president has mentioned time and time again.

"The Republicans haven't won the great state of Wisconsin in decades," Trump incongruously reminisced in Florida in March. "I went there a lot and in all fairness, her husband Bill, who's a good politician — they didn't listen to him. He said, 'You better go to Wisconsin.'"

The state remains starkly divided over the president and appears a toss-up again in 2020.

The latest Marquette University Law School poll in April found 52% of respondents disapproved of how Trump is handling his job, while 46% approved. The poll also found that 54% of respondents said they would definitely or probably vote for someone else in 2020, while 42% said they would definitely or probably vote to re-elect him.

In a troubling sign for Trump's chances in the state, Democrats swept every statewide office in the 2018 fall elections.

In the most notable victory for Democrats, Tony Evers defeated Republican Gov. Scott Walker after eight years in office. Republicans retained their tight grip on the state Legislature but they benefited from district boundaries they redrew to consolidate their power in 2011. And Republicans pushed back this past spring, when conservative Brian Hagedorn won election to the state Supreme Court.

The Trump campaign believes the state is winnable and plans an all-out blitz there again. But the president's approval rating has slipped in several key Midwest battlegrounds.

Trump will make two stops in Milwaukee, one a fundraiser, and the other a visit to Derco Aerospace Inc., a subsidiary of aviation giant Lockheed Martin that provides parts, logistics and repair services to fixed-wing aircraft. White House officials said the president would use the visit to push for the USMCA, whose fate is uncertain in Congress.

Canada and Mexico are Wisconsin's top two foreign export markets. Last year the state exported \$31 million worth of products to Canada and \$15.2 million worth of products to Mexico, according to census data.

Wisconsin imported \$15.5 million worth of goods from Canada in 2018, behind only China. The state imported \$9.3 million worth of goods from Mexico last year, the fourth highest amount of imports among the state's foreign trade partners.

Kurt Bauer, president of Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce, the state's largest business group, said it's no coincidence that Trump decided to promote the USMCA in a swing state where the manufacturing sector contributes to nearly 20 percent of the state gross domestic product. Bauer said a new agreement with Mexico and Canada would cement markets with the state's top two export targets.

"Having an agreement with those two countries is absolutely pivotal" for Wisconsin manufacturers, Bauer said.

Karen Gefvert, executive director of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, said the USMCA could help dairy farmers struggling with low milk prices.

The agreement allows the U.S. to increase the amount of dairy exports to Canada and removes retalia-

tory tariffs Mexico has placed on U.S. exports, Gefvert said, which should boost Wisconsin cheese exports by making them cheaper.

Derco Aerospace was accused of fraud in a 2014 lawsuit by the federal government that alleges it and two related companies schemed to overbill on a Navy contract for airplane maintenance. The case is pending in federal court in Milwaukee. The companies have denied wrongdoing.

After his visit to Wisconsin, Trump will travel to Ohio for a fundraiser in Cleveland. Democrats are criticizing the president for appearing with Brian Colleran, a nursing home magnate who was forced to pay \$19.5 million by the Justice Department for his role in a Medicare fraud nursing home scheme.

Richmond reported from Madison, Wisconsin. Associated Press reporter Julie Carr Smyth in Cleveland contributed to this report.

Follow Lemire on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@JonLemire> and Richmond at <http://twitter.com/@trichmond1>

One boy's tale of family separation heads to court

By **NOMAAN MERCHANT** Associated Press

BUDA, Texas (AP) — There were water balloons at Byron Xol's birthday party — bunches of them, filled a dozen at a time. He squeezed them with both hands, until the water burst on his face and chest.

"Super good!" the 9-year-old yelled, again and again.

It's a new catchphrase — but then, Byron spoke no English at all 15 months ago.

It was then that he was packed in a wooden crate by smugglers and shipped from Guatemala to the U.S., only to be grabbed immediately by border agents and ripped away from his father.

His dad was deported. Byron remained, locked away with the thousands of children separated from their parents at the U.S.-Mexico border by the Trump administration. More than a year after the practice ended, a small number of children like Byron remain in limbo, far from their families.

The boy spent his ninth birthday in central Texas, with a host family devoted to giving him a loving home. For weeks they'd planned this day: the party in their leafy, suburban backyard, the grilled sausages, the rainbow-colored cakes, the water balloons.

His parents, meanwhile, passed the day a thousand miles away, in the gang-ridden forests Byron and his father had tried to escape. They have not seen their child in more than a year.

But they have hope. A federal judge could soon decide whether to let the father return to the U.S. If he rejects the motion, Byron may be sent home to Guatemala. So much hangs in the balance.

"I think I'm going to go with you, or you're going to come here," the boy told his father, David, when they spoke on his birthday. "I don't know what's going to happen to me."

Back home in Guatemala, Byron always asked his parents if it was his birthday, no matter whether June 24 was a week or several months away.

"We'd tell him how many days were left," his father said, smiling.

When the day arrived, David Xol would buy a small cake — a "pastelito" — for Byron to share with his two younger brothers. Then, between 10 p.m. and 11 p.m., they would gather to pray during the hour that Byron was born, to give thanks that God blessed them with their first son.

San Miguel el Limón is a day's drive away from the capital on narrow, winding roads. Most people are subsistence farmers or laborers. The village itself consists of around 100 small homes, most built of wood. There's a one-story school and several evangelical churches, sanctuaries of a faith spread through Guatemala in part by American missionaries in the 1970s.

Byron's first language was Q'eqchi, one of several dialects that trace back to Mayan times.

David, 27, worked a series of jobs as a laborer. He and his wife Florinda, 23, raised Byron and his brothers in their two-room, cinderblock-and-wood home. The parents slept in one bed; the brothers slept in another.

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They went to church almost every day. David says he preached the word of God, just as his father did. His preaching caught the notice of gangsters who tried to recruit him; when he refused, citing his faith's prohibition of violence, they threatened David and his eldest son, he says.

On May 4, 2018, David and Byron left San Miguel to seek asylum in the United States.

Like tens of thousands of Guatemalans who have fled north, David hired a human smuggler, or "coyote," for 45,000 Guatemalan quetzals, or about \$6,000. He borrowed the money.

They were smuggled through Mexico by truck in a wooden crate. In the middle of the night, the coyote sent them and about 20 other migrants across the Rio Grande, the river that separates the U.S. and Mexico.

The Border Patrol was waiting on the other side.

They were taken to the central processing center, a converted warehouse where hundreds of adults and children were detained in large cages of chain-link fencing.

David was charged with illegal entry on May 19, the day after they were detained.

Two days later, an officer at the warehouse escorted him into a private room and presented him with a document he couldn't read. If he signed it, the officer said, he could be deported with Byron. David refused.

A second officer entered. David says he was told that if he tried to seek asylum, the two would be separated. David would be detained for at least two years, while Byron would be given up for adoption. Their only option was to sign the document and be deported together.

He signed, renouncing his asylum claim. He didn't know the document would allow the agents to take his son away.

As soon as he signed the document, he says, Byron was taken away from him.

Seven days later, he was deported.

David returned to San Miguel el Limón. Florinda screamed when she saw him arrive alone.

Months later, he recounted the last words he exchanged with Byron in the processing center.

"If I don't return to see you, remember that I am your father," he says he told Byron.

"He told me, 'It's OK, Dad. Don't worry. I'm going to be OK.'"

Byron was sent to an old elementary school just outside Houston that had been converted to house 160 children. Operated by the nonprofit Baptist Child and Family Services, the facility had beds, common areas, classes, phones to call family and lawyers, and three meals a day.

Byron was given weekly phone calls home. He cried during the first several weeks and begged his parents to bring him back to San Miguel. At times, he angrily refused to speak to his father.

More than a month after he was placed in the facility, on June 26, 2018, a judge ordered the Trump administration to stop separating families and reunite parents and children. Judge Dana Sabraw's order required children under 5 years old to be returned to their parents in 14 days, and every other child to be returned within 30.

Children and parents began to be re-united in detention facilities, then released. But by the time Sabraw issued his order, more than 400 parents had already been deported without their children, including David.

The parents faced a choice: Should they request that their children be returned to them in places they had fled? Or should they keep their children in the U.S., waiting in facilities until a relative could sponsor them?

The Xol family had no relatives or friends in the U.S. who could take Byron. With no potential sponsors, Byron could be detained indefinitely.

But David's life back in Guatemala was troubled. He found work chopping trees at a palm oil plant an hour's drive away. Otherwise, he stayed at home as much as possible. He knew the gang members were still out there.

The other men in San Miguel question how he could have come home without his son and mock him as a crybaby when he tears up about Byron.

The debt he had undertaken to pay the coyote has grown from \$6,000 to \$8,000. His monthly salary at the palm oil plant is about \$400. His payments on the debt take up almost all of that. To pay for food, he

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worked extra hours. He sold his cellphone to help pay for the debt.

His hopes were flagging. But then he met Ricardo de Anda, a human rights lawyer who would eventually bring David's case to the American Civil Liberties Union.

Alerted to the Xols' case by news coverage, de Anda went to Guatemala to discuss an option: David should petition to return to the United States, while Byron remained there.

While de Anda had brought other children back to their parents in Central America, both he and David agreed that Byron would be in danger if he returned to Guatemala. And de Anda believed David had a strong case for asylum due to religious persecution — a case he says border agents wrongly made David drop. But Byron had to stay in the United States while the case went forward.

"Byron was the key," de Anda said. "If Byron had been repatriated, there would have been no basis, no standing, for either of them to come back."

David agreed. Byron would stay.

De Anda visited the boy, first in the suburban Houston facility where he was initially taken, then at two of the three others where he was transferred. He could tell Byron was picking up Spanish from the other boys in detention. They could speak more easily about the case.

De Anda described seeing children become depressed and unresponsive after months of detention, but Byron "wasn't overwhelmed by his experience. His curiosity never seemed to be dampened."

The process of applying for David to re-enter the U.S. would take months. De Anda needed to find another place for Byron to live in the meantime.

Through other lawyers, he found a family.

Matthew and Holly Sewell live in a spacious, five-bedroom house near Austin, Texas. Matthew, 49, works as a software engineer; Holly, 41, stays at home with their children, 6-year-old Desmond and 5-year-old Windy.

Watching the news last summer, they heard that children were being detained after their parents had been deported. And they thought: Why not provide a real home for at least one child?

"The conversation we had is, somebody needs to do it," Matthew said. "If not us, who?"

De Anda connected the Sewells to Byron and his family. After months of phone conversations, David and Florinda Xol said Byron could live with the Sewells while David's case moved forward.

Though David and Florinda approved, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services refused several requests from the Sewells to sponsor Byron because they weren't related to him and had no prior relationship with his family.

HHS argues those rules are necessary to protect children. De Anda and the Sewells claimed the department was detaining Byron for no reason.

De Anda sued HHS in February. A federal judge in April ordered HHS to consider the Sewells as sponsors.

The Sewells got the call: Byron was being flown to Austin, and they needed to bring a wheelchair. A few weeks earlier, they had been told, Byron had broken his right leg playing soccer.

They brought him home. The Sewells had hung a banner above the bed in the downstairs guest room: "Bienvenido Byron."

Holly Sewell requested medical records from the facility that she shared with The Associated Press. They show that Byron's thigh fracture was misdiagnosed at one point as a broken ankle.

Several days passed after the injury before Byron placed in a full cast. And the break was on Byron's growth plate, the soft area in his leg that had not yet hardened to bone. If not treated properly, the break could stunt his growth.

BCFS, the nonprofit that ran the facility, says it's confident that Byron received appropriate medical care.

The Sewells took him to a doctor specializing in pediatric foot injuries and enrolled him in physical therapy.

According to the Sewells, the government took the position that sponsors must care for the children they're sheltering. The family paid for doctor's appointments out of pocket before Matthew Sewell's employer agreed to re-open its insurance contract so that Byron could be covered.

As he recovered, the Sewells started to see more of his personality — his wide smile, his sense of hu-

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mor — and his ability to adapt.

He loves to yell commands at Alexa, the digital assistant in their kitchen, in a mix of the languages he's picked up over time: Q'eqchi, Spanish, and English. When the assistant doesn't respond, he yells, over and over: "Hey Alexa!"

At the beginning, they relied on Google's translation app. Holly or Matthew would ask a question in English and wait for the Spanish translation to be read out so Byron could respond.

Soon, they didn't need to use the app for most conversations as Byron started to pick up more English. The sticky notes they had placed all over the house with English and Spanish translations — the door, the microwave, the bathroom — were rarely necessary.

He plays easily with Windy, their gregarious younger daughter. And while he and Desmond sometimes fight, the two boys learned to get along and play cooperatively — to throw the ball to each other and not at each other.

But they've also seen signs of what he's been through.

He told the Sewells about his nightmares. In one, monsters tried to put him in a cage. In another, he was reunited with his parents, but they didn't look like his parents anymore.

Once, when the children were playing, Holly saw Byron grab Desmond by the neck. She took him aside and asked him where he had learned to play that way.

An older boy in detention used to grab him that way, he said.

For 11 months in government facilities, staffers watching Byron weren't allowed to hug him. At his birthday party, he ran up to Holly several times for an embrace or to ride on her back.

"I say, 'Do you need a hug,' and the answer is always yes," Holly said.

They've made sure Byron stays in touch with his family. They call Byron's parents several times a week. On the bottom bunk where he sleeps below Desmond, Byron has photos of his parents and two brothers taped to the wall.

"We have to make sure they know: We're not trying to adopt," Matthew says. "We're not trying to take."

After the kids went to bed one night, they sat in their living room and talked. What would happen if David wasn't allowed back into the United States and Byron had to return to Guatemala? How would he adjust? How would they and their children adjust? Would they ever see him again?

Holly starts to cry.

"(If) we know nothing about it other than they're safe? That's fine. That's perfectly fine. We still were able to provide a place for him."

When his sons ask David when their brother was coming home, his answer is always the same, optimistic but indefinite.

"Pronto," he says. Soon.

Everything hinges on the judge's decision.

David is one of 21 parents included in the American Civil Liberties Union's motion that they be allowed to re-enter the country and seek asylum.

The ACLU argues that David and the others were denied a fair chance to request asylum, which would have allowed them to live and work in the U.S. under protections for refugees fleeing political or religious repression.

The government argues that the settlement between the government and the ACLU that paved the way for reunifications doesn't guarantee that families be reunified in America. If David and other parents want to be with their children, the government says, they should agree to have those children returned to them.

Judge Sabraw, who originally ordered the re-unification of families last year, will decide. The case is scheduled to be heard Friday.

If the ACLU wins, David could be in the U.S. in a matter of weeks. He could eventually petition for the admission of Florinda and their other two children.

If it loses, Byron will most likely return to Guatemala and all its dangers.

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Several weeks ago, David sent the recording of a song to Holly. She played it for Byron.

"Donde quiera que estés, donde quiera que vayas, por favor, te lo pido que regreses a mi lado, nuestro niño perdido, porque solo un milagro nos lo devolverá," the song goes.

It translates: "Wherever you are, wherever you go, I ask you to please return to my side, our lost son, because only a miracle will bring you back to us."

Sonny Figueroa reported from San Miguel de Limón.

Asian shares mostly higher after Wall St sets new records

By ELAINE KURTENBACH AP Business Writer

BANGKOK (AP) — Shares in Asia are mostly higher after a turbulent day on Wall Street ended with the Dow Jones Industrial Average closing above 27,000 for the first time.

Japan's Nikkei 225 index edged 0.1% higher to 21,674.14 and the Hang Seng in Hong Kong added 0.5% to 28,575.96. The Shanghai Composite index also rose 0.5%, to 2,931.12 while Australia's S&P ASX 200 edged 2.6 points lower to 6,713.50. South Korea's Kospi climbed 0.3% to 2,087.46. Shares fell in Taiwan but rose in Bangkok and Singapore.

Regional investors were watching for Chinese trade data due out later Friday.

The Wall Street milestones came on a day when the S&P 500 briefly topped 3,000 for the second straight day before the rally ran out of steam

The market lost some ground after an auction of long-term U.S. government bonds failed to drum up strong demand. That pulled bond prices lower, sending the yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note to 2.13% from 2.06% late Wednesday, a big move.

Stocks have been trending higher for much of the week as investors have grown more confident that the Federal Reserve may cut interest rates for the first time in a decade as soon as the end of this month.

The S&P 500 rose 0.2% to 2,999.91 and has set three straight record highs. The Dow gained 0.8% to 27,088.08. The Nasdaq composite gave up an early gain, sliding 0.1% to 8,196.04, while the Russell 2000 index of smaller company stocks dropped 0.5% to 1,557.92.

Stocks rose from the get-go Thursday as investors looked ahead to Fed Chairman Jerome Powell testifying before a Congressional committee for the second straight day.

Powell stressed that the Fed is prepared to cut interest rates to support the economy, raising hopes that the first reduction in its key policy rate in a decade could happen later this month.

He noted that "uncertainties around trade tensions and concerns about the strength of the global economy continue to weigh on the U.S. economic outlook."

New government data released Thursday showed consumer prices rose in June from a year earlier. The bump in inflation wasn't expected to give the Fed reason to reconsider whether it should lower rates, if necessary. Inflation has remained muted through much of the economy's 10-year expansion, which Powell has said cited as a justification for potentially lowering rates.

"With the latest inflation data uptick led by volatile categories, equity investors quickly brushed it aside and continued to relish in the afterglow of a far more dovish than expected Chair Powell as rate cut fever remains alive and well," Stephen Innes of Vanguard Markets said in a commentary.

ENERGY: Benchmark crude oil rose 37 cents to \$60.57 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. On Thursday, it lost 23 cents to settle at \$60.20 a barrel. Brent crude oil, the international standard, added 44 cents to \$66.96 per barrel. It dropped 49 cents to close at \$66.52 a barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar fell to 108.37 Japanese yen from 108.50 yen on Thursday. The euro strengthened to \$1.1271 from \$1.1254.

Glenn Greenwald becomes focus of Brazil press freedom debate

By ANNA JEAN KAISER Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Several weeks after publishing explosive reports about a key member of Brazil's far-right government, U.S. journalist Glenn Greenwald was called before a congressional committee to face hostile questions.

"Who should be judged, convicted and in prison is the journalist!" shouted congresswoman Katia Sastre, an ally of President Jair Bolsonaro.

And by some accounts that wasn't an empty threat: A conservative website reported that federal police had requested that financial regulators investigate Greenwald's finances. The Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and his Brazilian husband also say they have been receiving detailed death threats, calls for his deportation and homophobic comments in an increasingly hostile political environment.

Greenwald, an attorney-turned-journalist who has long been a free-speech advocate, has found himself at the center of the first major test of press freedom under Bolsonaro, who took office on Jan. 1 and has openly expressed nostalgia for Brazil's 1964-1985 military dictatorship — a period when newspapers were censored and some journalists tortured.

"It's a very concerning moment for press freedom in Brazil, especially those covering something so divisive as politics. We've seen an administration that vocally criticizes journalists with an open anti-press rhetoric," said Natalie Southwick, the Central and South American program coordinator for the Committee to Protect Journalists.

Greenwald's The Intercept news website last month published text messages purportedly showing then-judge and now Justice Minister Sergio Moro had improperly advised prosecutors in the corruption trial that jailed former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

The Intercept also alleged political bias by Moro and prosecutors in a sweeping corruption investigation that brought down many of the country's business and political elite and turned Moro into a hero to many. The website said it got the leaked messages from an anonymous source and that it has "vast archive" of information it has not released.

Moro has dismissed its reports as sensationalist and said a "criminal group" was aiming to invalidate convictions handed down when he was a crusading anti-corruption judge. He later tweeted that The Intercept was "a site aligned with criminal hackers."

The reports infuriated Bolsonaro's backers.

During the June 25 hearing at the chamber's Human Rights and Minorities Commission, lawmaker Carla Zambelli told Greenwald: "If you don't prove this information, it is fake and you're a liar. If it's true, then you're a criminal because you hacked someone's phone."

Greenwald responded: "The government's party evidently has a lot of confusion about the journalism we did."

Bolsonaro has repeatedly lashed out at the news media as untruthful, biased toward the left and for publishing "fake news," though he has sometimes said he believes in a free press.

When the Supreme Court tried to censor a critical story about one of its justices, Bolsonaro conceded to reporters, "It's better to have a press that's sometimes flawed than to not have a press at all. ... To the Brazilian press: We're in this together."

A special target of Bolsonaro's ire has been the Folha de S. Paulo newspaper. He sent a video message a week before the election saying that if he won, Brazil would be "without lies, without fake news and without the Folha de S. Paulo."

He has also referred to Globo, Brazil's largest media company, as "the enemy" in WhatsApp messages that were leaked to the press.

As for The Intercept's reporting, Bolsonaro has defended his justice minister, saying what Moro did for Brazil as an anti-corruption judge was "priceless."

"We don't know ... how far they're willing to go to fulfill this authoritarian vision that Bolsonaro has spent the last 30 years advocating," Greenwald told The Associated Press, referring the president's record in

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Congress.

"They were elected based on a promise to change Brazil in multiple ways, including eroding core freedoms that a democracy requires in order to survive — and one of those is a free press," said Greenwald.

While provincial journalists sometimes face grave dangers in Brazil — two owners of local media outlets were recently shot and killed in a coastal town outside Rio de Janeiro — the federal government in recent decades has rarely tried to stifle reporters. One exception was when then-President da Silva briefly tried to deport New York Times correspondent Larry Rohter in 2004 after a report that suggested he drank heavily.

Greenwald, who lives in Rio de Janeiro, is now accompanied by private security guards and says he and other staff at The Intercept have received sophisticated, detailed death threats that sometimes include private personal information.

Being the center of controversy is nothing new for Greenwald, who was part of a team at The Guardian newspaper that won a Pulitzer for reports about government surveillance programs based on classified documents disclosed by Edward Snowden.

At recent nationwide demonstrations, backers of Bolsonaro and Moro repeatedly denounced Greenwald — often by focusing on his sexuality and his husband, leftist Brazilian congressman David Miranda. Bolsonaro himself has famously said that he would rather have a dead son than a gay son.

"GlennGreenwald, get out of Brazil! You are disgusting," read one sign. An online campaign with the hashtag #DeportGlennGreenwald was popular on Brazilian Twitter.

Pro-Bolsonaro members of Brazil's congress have called for Greenwald's imprisonment and deportation.

"I'm a good villain for this right-wing campaign," Greenwald said. "I'm not a Brazilian citizen and therefore can be called a foreigner. I'm also a gay man in a country where anti-gay has become an important part of the political climate, and my husband is member of the socialist party ... so it kind of checks off every box."

When the website O Antagonista reported that police were asking financial regulators to investigate Greenwald's finances, a Brazilian court ordered the regulators and the ministry that oversees them to clarify. The official responses left unclear whether there was an investigation.

Southwick said such a probe would be "an escalation of the attempts to delegitimize and undermine the Brazilian press."

"At the very least it's designed to intimidate, to create climate of tension and fear so that not just me and the journalists I'm working with, but all journalists think that if they report on powerful political officials they can be targeted by law enforcement and suffer retribution," Greenwald said.

Ivana Bentes, a communications professor at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, said the Bolsonaro camp is zeroing in on Greenwald, trying to put him into "the gallery of public enemies of Bolsonaro. They're treating him as a political enemy when he is a journalist, which is very serious. They want to criminalize a journalistic investigation."

Greenwald says he's not sure when he'll feel safe to go out in public in Brazil without security guards, if ever.

"Bolsonaro ran against the media, he talked about the Brazilian media as being agents of communism," he said. "I think they see this as a very important test case to create a precedent and environment and climate that sends a strong signal that whoever opposes them through journalism or activism will suffer serious consequences."

Pakistani family visits school where exchange student shot

By JUAN A. LOZANO Associated Press

SANTA FE, Texas (AP) — The family of a Pakistani exchange student who was one of 10 people killed in a mass shooting at a Texas high school last year traveled to the U.S and visited the school and community this week, wanting to learn more about the nine months she had spent there, including her final moments.

Sabika Aziz Sheikh's father, three siblings and cousin entered the Santa Fe High School art classroom where the 17-year-old was shot as she hid with other students in a storage closet. Her mother, Farah Naz, couldn't bring herself to take the final steps into the room, explaining in Urdu through an interpreter that

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the image "would stay with me ... throughout my whole life."

Although the family knew their two-week visit to the Houston area would be difficult, they felt Sabika would have wanted them to make the trip from Karachi, which also allowed them to personally thank people for their support, particularly residents of Santa Fe.

"We're still trying to grapple with the puzzle pieces, what her final moments were for her. The thought of it is so traumatizing," said Sabika's cousin Shaheera Jalil Albasit, who served as the family's interpreter during an interview Wednesday with The Associated Press. Although Albasit came to Santa Fe right after the shooting, it is the first visit for the rest of the family.

In addition to visiting the school, they met with Sabika's Santa Fe host family and with the prosecutors handling the case against the student charged with carrying out the attack. They also plan to meet with family members of other shooting victims.

"I knew this was going to be hard, but I had to do it," Sania Aziz Sheikh, Sabika's 15-year-old sister, said about visiting Santa Fe. Also on the trip were her 11-year-old sister, Soha, and her 14-year old brother, Ali.

Sabika, seven other students and two teachers were killed in the May 18, 2018, attack at the school, which is about 55 miles (88 kilometers) southeast of Houston. Thirteen other people were wounded. The student accused in the attack, 18-year-old Dimitrios Pagourtzis, is scheduled to stand trial in January on state murder charges. He also faces federal charges.

Sabika came to Santa Fe, a city of about 13,000 residents, through a federal program in which high school students from countries with significant Muslim populations study in the U.S.

While Sabika fully embraced living in America — going trick-or-treating on Halloween and attending prom with friends — she also worked to educate Santa Fe residents about Pakistan and Islam.

Her parents said Sabika was committed to being a cultural ambassador for Pakistan and representing her religion and country in a positive light.

Her father, Abdul Aziz, said it was important to tour Sabika's school and learn about her life there. On Tuesday, the family was given a tour of the campus, which was empty because of the summer break.

With Sabika's schedule in hand, they went from classroom to classroom and sat where she once did. They eventually went to the art room, where the family members who ventured inside sat on the floor where Sabika died and were able to more or less envision what her final moments looked like, Albasit said. Sabika was less than three weeks from returning home when she was killed.

Sania said she took comfort in learning from one of Sabika's friends that she had been "very happy" the night before the shooting.

Abdul Aziz, 52, who works as a distributor of cosmetics and plastic products in Pakistan, said despite what happened, he "feels very positively" about the U.S. and Santa Fe. But he and his wife said they had been unaware of the prevalence of gun violence in the U.S.

Sabika's parents are part of a group of family members of shooting victims who sued Pagourtzis' parents, claiming they had been negligent in entrusting him with guns.

Albasit said that although Sabika's parents are confident Pagourtzis will be convicted, finding justice for Sabika would require more of a systemic change in U.S. gun violence.

"No matter what happens, it's not going to bring back my daughter. But that will give me some sense of peace," said Naz, 45.

Albasit, 27, who recently finished graduate school in Washington, D.C., became active in the gun control movement following her cousin's death.

Abdul Aziz, who visits his daughter's grave in Karachi every day, said her presence in their lives remains as real as it was before, but that it's not something that can be seen.

"She's here in everything we do. That is not going to change," he said.

Follow Juan A. Lozano on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/juanlozano70>

AP source: Russell Westbrook going to Rockets for Chris Paul

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Basketball Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Russell Westbrook and James Harden are together again, and Chris Paul is leaving Houston to make that reunion happen.

A person with knowledge of the situation says the Oklahoma City Thunder have traded Westbrook to the Houston Rockets for Paul in a swapping of top point guards. The Thunder also are getting first-round picks in 2024 and 2026, plus the right to swap first-rounders in two other seasons, according to the person who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Thursday because the trade has not been announced.

ESPN first reported the agreement.

Paul is a nine-time All-Star, Westbrook an eight-time selection. Paul has 9,181 career assists, the most among active players. Westbrook has 138 triple-doubles, tied with Magic Johnson for second-most in NBA history behind only Oscar Robertson's 181. Both members of Houston's new glitzy backcourt are recent MVPs: Westbrook won it in 2017, Harden won it in 2018. And the trade means that the NBA's two highest scorers over the last five seasons — Harden with 11,958 points, Westbrook with 10,025 — are now teammates.

Westbrook and Harden were Thunder teammates for three seasons, the last of those being the 2011-12 campaign when that duo and Kevin Durant took Oklahoma City to the NBA Finals. They lost in five games to LeBron James, Dwyane Wade and the Miami Heat, and Harden departed that summer for Houston — where he's been an All-Star ever since.

But when the Thunder agreed last week to trade Paul George to the Los Angeles Clippers — in a move that essentially sealed 2019 NBA Finals MVP Kawhi Leonard's decision to leave Toronto for the Clippers — it became clear quickly that Westbrook would be on the move as well. And this trade, when completed, will mean that Thunder general manager Sam Presti has added eight first-round picks to the team's stockpile in the last week or so.

Oklahoma City got five first-round future selections as part of the George trade. The Thunder are getting two more in this trade, and got a 2020 first-round pick in the deal completed earlier this week that sent Jerami Grant to Denver.

It's the latest bold transaction in a wild offseason of movement that already saw Leonard become the first reigning Finals MVP change teams in the offseason after winning that award, Anthony Davis get traded from New Orleans to the Los Angeles Lakers, All-Star point guards like Kyrie Irving (Boston to Brooklyn), Kemba Walker (Charlotte to Boston) and D'Angelo Russell (Brooklyn to Golden State) change teams, Durant leave the Warriors for Brooklyn, Jimmy Butler go from Philadelphia to Miami in a sign-and-trade, Al Horford move from Philadelphia from Boston.

"Craziest NBA summer by far," longtime NBA guard Jamal Crawford tweeted.

Paul and Harden were teammates for two seasons in Houston. The Rockets had a 3-2 lead over Golden State in the 2018 Western Conference finals when Paul injured a hamstring, and the Warriors rallied to win that series in seven games on the way to the NBA title. This past season, Houston was ousted in the second round by the Warriors.

The 34-year-old Paul is owed roughly \$125 million over the final three years of his contract, including a \$44.2 million option for 2021-22. Westbrook, who turns 31 early next season, is owed \$171 million over the final four years of his existing deal.

Paul has called Oklahoma City home before.

He played his first two NBA seasons with the New Orleans-Oklahoma City Hornets while the team was displaced from Louisiana by the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

"Every game we played, I've never seen fan support like that," Paul told The Oklahoman for a story in February 2014 about his time in Oklahoma City.

The trade will become final after NBA approval, which is standard procedure.

More AP NBA: <https://apnews.com/NBA> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Defense lawyers seek detention at home for Jeffrey Epstein

By LARRY NEUMEISTER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Financier Jeffrey Epstein's lawyers, seeking bail for their client, said Thursday that he had long lived with the fear that federal prosecutors might pursue sexual abuse charges against him again — and yet had never sought to flee the country.

Epstein, 66, was arrested Saturday night in New Jersey as he arrived from Paris and now faces sex trafficking charges alleging he abused dozens of underage girls in Florida and New York in the early 2000s. His lawyers have argued that a non-prosecution agreement made more than a decade ago with federal prosecutors covers the same ground as the new charges.

He pleaded not guilty Monday, and a judge asked defense lawyers and prosecutors to submit their bail arguments prior to a hearing next week.

His lawyers recommended house arrest in Epstein's \$77 million Manhattan mansion and electronic monitoring as they countered what they described as a "drastic demand" by prosecutors that he be detained until trial.

They said their client was willing to offer the Manhattan property as collateral while he lives there, along with his private jet, which would be grounded, as he fights the charges.

In seeking detention, prosecutors said a trove of what seemed to be nude pictures of underage girls was found in his mansion after his arrest on charges that he sexually exploited and abused underage girls.

In their submission in Manhattan federal court, lawyers said Epstein always knew federal authorities might renege on a non-prosecution deal signed in 2007, under which Epstein pleaded guilty to state charges in Florida, served a 13-month jail sentence and registered as a sex offender.

"Indeed, Mr. Epstein feared the toxic political climate might tempt the government to try and end-run the NPA — yet continually returned home from travel abroad, fully prepared to vindicate his rights under the agreement and otherwise mount a full-throated defense," they wrote.

The lawyers also said Epstein was in "perfect compliance" with sex offender registration requirements.

The defense also gave some insight into arguments they might eventually use at future hearings and at trial, saying that the accusations against Epstein are "outside the margins of federal criminal law" and don't constitute sex trafficking since there were no allegations he "trafficked anybody for commercial profit; that he forced, coerced, defrauded, or enslaved anybody."

Late Thursday, Epstein's lawyers also asked for permission to file his financial disclosure under seal, citing the "exceptional amount of publicity that has been generated by this case, much of which relates specifically to his finances." The judge did not immediately rule.

The indictment filed in New York accuses Epstein 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. The charges carry the potential for up to 45 years in prison.

Since the charges were filed, a woman has come forward to say Epstein raped her at his New York mansion when she was 15. Epstein's attorneys have not responded to that accusation, and prosecutors declined to comment on it.

A massage therapist who says she traveled to one of Epstein's private Caribbean islands to work dozens of times in the early 2000s told The Associated Press that she saw "nothing out of the ordinary" there.

She said she saw girls there on two occasions: One girl appeared to be 16 or 17 and excitedly rode around the island on an ATV. She glimpsed another girl hurrying from Epstein's house to a nearby cottage.

The woman spoke on condition of being identified only by her initials, H.W., because she feared losing business.

H.W., who was then in her 50s, said she was never asked to do anything improper and didn't make anything of seeing the girls on Little St. James Island, Epstein's main retreat in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Several employees who worked on Epstein's property have refused to talk because they signed non-

disclosure agreements.

The once-secret agreement with federal prosecutors in Florida has been widely criticized as a sweetheart deal. The criticism has fallen heavily on Labor Secretary Alex Acosta, who was the U.S. attorney in Miami at the time of the agreement.

Members of a House Judiciary subcommittee sent a letter to the Justice Department on Thursday requesting a briefing on the agreement.

Epstein's arrest has drawn attention to his past friendships with powerful people, including Donald Trump before he became president and former President Bill Clinton. Both have recently said they haven't seen Epstein in years and didn't know about any misconduct.

On Thursday, former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak also sought to distance himself from Epstein after U.S. tax records emerged that Barak received some \$2 million in grants last decade from the Wexner Foundation. At the time of the grants, Epstein was a trustee of the foundation.

In a radio interview, Barak said he met Epstein several times but said he "didn't support me or pay me."

Associated Press writer Dánica Coto contributed to this report from San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Trump applauds far-right social media provocateurs

By KEVIN FREKING and MARCY GORDON Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump used a White House conference Thursday to applaud far-right social media provocateurs even as he conceded that some of them are extreme in their views.

Trump, who has weaponized social media to eviscerate opponents and promote himself, led a "social media summit" of like-minded critics of Big Tech, excluding representatives from the very platforms he exploits.

The president used the event to air grievances over his treatment by Big Tech, but also to praise some of the most caustic voices on the right, who help energize Trump's political base.

"Some of you guys are out there," he told them. "I mean it's genius, but it's bad."

Trump singled out for praise James O'Keefe, the right-wing activist whose Project Veritas organization once tried to plant a false story in The Washington Post. In May 2010, O'Keefe and three others pleaded guilty in federal court to a misdemeanor in a scheme in which they posed as telephone repairmen in Sen. Mary Landrieu's New Orleans district office.

"He's not controversial, he's truthful," Trump insisted of O'Keefe.

Playing to the friendly crowd in the East Room, Trump was at ease, joking about everything from his spelling in tweets (blaming his thumbs, not his brain, for any mistakes) to his hair (saying the rainy weather at his July 4 outdoor speech at least proved his hair was real.)

"With amazing creativity and determination, you are bypassing the corrupt establishment, and it is corrupt," Trump said. "And you're bypassing the very, very corrupt media."

In lengthy remarks, he said: "You're challenging the media gatekeepers and corporate censors to bring the truth to the American people. ... You communicate directly with our citizens without going through the fake news filter."

Earlier Thursday, Trump sent a stream of Twitter messages lashing out at social media companies and the press, familiar targets that resonate with his conservative base.

The meeting represented an escalation of Trump's battle with companies like Facebook, Google and even his preferred communications outlet, Twitter, where he has an estimated 61 million followers. The president has claimed, without evidence, that the companies are "against me" and even suggested U.S. regulators should sue them on grounds of anti-conservative bias.

He announced Thursday that he is directing his administration to explore "all regulatory and legislative solutions to protect free speech and the free-speech rights of all Americans."

And Trump said he is inviting executives from major social media platforms to join him at the White House over the next month or so.

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The firms already are under closer scrutiny than ever by regulators and in Congress following a stream of scandals, including Facebook's lapses opening the personal data of millions of users to Trump's 2016 campaign. A bipartisan push for new data privacy legislation has emerged in Congress. Regulators at the Justice Department and the Federal Trade Commission are pursuing antitrust investigations of Facebook, Google, Apple and Amazon.

Trump unleashed a volley of Twitter messages Thursday leading up to the conference. The targets were familiar — "certain companies," the press and his Democratic rivals. The president predicted, without foundation, the demise of the press and the social media platforms if he loses to a Democrat in 2020.

After the conference, Trump published a series of tweets slamming Bitcoin and other types of digital currency — including Facebook's recently announced Libra.

Among the other conservative organizations participating in the White House meeting were Turning Point USA, a nonprofit; PragerU, short for Prager University, which puts out short videos with a conservative perspective on politics and economics; the Media Research Center; and the Heritage Foundation, a Washington think tank.

Accusations commonly leveled by conservatives against the social media platforms include anti-religious bias, a tilt against abortion foes and censorship of conservative political views.

Trump has made it a priority to reach out to voters who oppose abortion. The anti-abortion groups Live Action and Susan B. Anthony List say Twitter has blocked their advertising. Twitter policy prohibits paid ads with content "that is inflammatory or provocative and is likely to evoke a strong negative reaction."

Lila Rose, president of Live Action, said at the event that her group has been banned from advertising on Twitter while Planned Parenthood is allowed to do so. Pinterest also suspended the group from its platform, she said.

"This double standard and bias is a growing problem in big tech," Rose said.

While some Silicon Valley company executives may lean liberal, they have asserted that their products are without political bias.

Representatives for Facebook, Google and Twitter have declined to comment specifically on the White House meeting. The Internet Association, the industry's major trade group representing Facebook, Google and dozens of other companies, said online platforms "are the best tool for promoting voices from all political perspectives in history."

"Internet companies are not biased against any political ideology, and conservative voices in particular have used social media to great effect," the group's president Michael Beckerman said in a statement Thursday.

Facebook has banned extremist figures such as Alex Jones of Infowars and Louis Farrakhan of the Nation of Islam. Twitter has banned hate speech on the basis of someone's race, gender and other categories. Twitter broadened its policy this week to include banning language that dehumanizes others based on religion, and the company said it may also ban similar language aimed at other groups, such as those defined by gender, race and sexual orientation.

"I've never seen evidence of tech firm bias against conservatives," said Rep. David Cicilline, D-R.I., who has been sharply critical of the big companies because of their market dominance and effect on competition. He leads a House Judiciary subcommittee that has opened a bipartisan probe into the tech giants' market conduct.

"If someone wants to show me some empirical data, instead of some alt-right member's paranoid claims, I'd appreciate it," Cicilline said in a statement Wednesday.

Trump administration plans immigration enforcement operation

By SOPHIA TAREEN and COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — The Trump administration is moving forward with a nationwide immigration enforcement operation targeting migrant families, despite loud opposition from Democrats and questions over whether it's the best use of resources given the crisis at the border.

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The operation could happen as soon as this weekend after being postponed by President Donald Trump late last month. It would pursue people with final deportation orders, including families whose immigration cases were fast-tracked by judges in 10 major cities such as Chicago, Los Angeles, New York and Miami.

The plan has sparked outrage and concern among immigrant-rights advocates and lawmakers.

"Our communities have been in constant fear," Estela Vara, a Chicago-area organizer said Thursday at a rally outside the city's Immigration and Custom Enforcement offices where some activists chanted "Immigration Not Deportation!"

The sweep remains in flux and could begin later, according to two administration officials, who were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. The American Civil Liberties Union pre-emptively filed a lawsuit Thursday in an attempt to protect asylum seekers.

Meanwhile, activists ramped up efforts to prepare by bolstering know-your-rights pocket guides, circulating information about hotlines and planning public demonstrations. Vigils outside of detention centers and hundreds of other locations nationwide were set for Friday evening, to be followed by protests Saturday in Miami and Chicago.

The operation is similar to ones conducted regularly since 2003 that often produce hundreds of arrests. It is slightly unusual to target families, as opposed to immigrants with criminal histories, but it's not unprecedented. The Obama and Trump administrations have targeted families in previous operations.

This latest effort is notable because of the politics swirling around it.

Trump announced on Twitter last month that the sweep would mark the beginning of a push to deport millions of people who are in the country illegally, a near-impossibility given the limited resources of ICE, which makes the arrests and carries out deportation orders.

Then he abruptly canceled the operation after a phone call with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a California Democrat, while lawmakers worked to pass a \$4.6 billion border aid package. Plus, details had leaked, and authorities worried about the safety of ICE officers.

The agency said it would not discuss specifics about enforcement operations.

"As always, ICE prioritizes the arrest and removal of unlawfully present aliens who pose a threat to national security, public safety and border security," it said in a statement.

Trump started hinting anew in recent days that more removals were coming. He said last weekend they would be starting "fairly soon."

"Well, I don't call them raids," he said. "I say they came in illegally and we're bringing them out legally."

Ken Cuccinelli, the new head of Citizenship and Immigration Services, told CNN on Wednesday that the raids were "absolutely going to happen."

Pelosi said she hoped the administration would reconsider. "Families belong together," she said.

Advocates in border areas have "received word" that up to 1,000 families are expected to arrive at an immigration center in Dilley, Texas, according to attorneys representing separated families in a long-running lawsuit.

In court papers filed Thursday, the attorneys said the government has not responded to questions about the operation.

The administration has been straining to manage a border crisis, and some officials believe flashy shows of force in deporting families would deter others migrants from coming. But others have criticized any move that draws resources away from the border at a time when the Border Patrol is detaining four times the number of people it can hold. Also, a watchdog report found filthy, potentially dangerous conditions at some stations.

Democratic Rep. Pramila Jayapal of Washington state, co-chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus and a former immigrant advocate, accused the administration of showing a "willingness to be cruel at every turn."

House Minority Leader Rep. Kevin McCarthy, a California Republican, blamed Pelosi for the raids, saying she had done "nothing" since they were delayed. "It is the speaker who caused this problem," he said.

He said Trump would have postponed the raids again if he saw progress in House.

Some activists said they were gearing up for operations to start Sunday and planned to protest. Organiz-

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ers estimated a rally planned for Saturday in Chicago would draw around 10,000 people.

"We will not be swayed by fear and fiat," said Justin Valas with Asian Americans Advancing Justice in Chicago.

In New Orleans, any operations were put on hold due to severe weather. The city tweeted that it confirmed with ICE that enforcement would be suspended through the weekend as the region braced for the first hurricane of the season.

The ACLU lawsuit, filed in federal court in New York, argued that thousands of migrants fleeing violence in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras were not allowed a fair chance to request asylum due but were still ordered removed from the country. They are asking that those individuals get another hearing.

Others said they were skeptical that Trump would follow through on the threat.

Advocates have ramped up know-your-rights training since Trump took office, reminding immigrants, regardless of their immigration status, about their right to remain silent and to ask authorities for proper paperwork.

They have also explained that immigrants can often avoid arrest simply by not opening doors to agents, who need permission to enter private homes. That has forced ICE officers to wait outside courthouses and other public places to make arrests.

"We don't want to alarm folks, but we want to alert folks," said Melissa Taveras of the Florida Immigrant Coalition.

Long reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Lisa Mascaro and Mary Clare Jalonick contributed to this report.

Trump abandons bid to include citizenship question on census

By JILL COLVIN, MARK SHERMAN and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump abandoned his controversial bid to inject a citizenship question into next year's census Thursday, instead directing federal agencies to try to compile the information using existing databases.

He insisted he was "not backing down," declaring in a Rose Garden announcement that the goal was simple and reasonable: "a clear breakdown of the number of citizens and non-citizens that make up the United States population."

But the decision was clearly a reversal, after the Supreme Court blocked his effort by disputing his administration's rationale for demanding that census respondents declare whether or not they were citizens. Trump had said last week that he was "very seriously" considering an executive order to try to force the question. But the government has already begun the lengthy and expensive process of printing the census questionnaire without it, and such a move would surely have drawn an immediate legal challenge.

Instead, Trump said Thursday that he would be signing an executive order directing every federal department and agency to provide the Commerce Department with all records pertaining to the number of citizens and noncitizens in the country.

Trump's efforts to add the question on the decennial census had drawn fury and backlash from critics who complained that it was political, meant to discourage participation, not only by people living in the country illegally but also by citizens who fear that participating would expose noncitizen family members to repercussions.

Dale Ho, director of the American Civil Liberties Union's Voting Rights Project, and the lawyer who argued the Supreme Court case, celebrated Thursday's announcement by the president, saying: "Trump's attempt to weaponize the census ends not with a bang but a whimper."

Trump said his order would apply to every agency, including the Department of Homeland Security and the Social Security Administration. The Census Bureau already has access to Social Security, food stamp and federal prison records, all of which contain citizenship information.

Trump, citing Census Bureau projections, predicted that using previously available records, the admin-

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istration could determine the citizenship of 90 percent of the population "or more."

"Ultimately this will allow us to have a more complete count of citizens than through asking the single question alone," he contended.

But it is still unclear what Trump intends to do with the citizenship information. Federal law prohibits the use of census information to identify individuals, though that restriction has been breached in the past.

At one point, Trump suggested it could help states that "may want to draw state and local legislative districts based upon the voter-eligible population." That would mark a change from how districts are drawn currently, based on the entire population, and could increase Republican political power.

Civil rights groups said the president's efforts had already sown fear and discord in vulnerable communities, making the task of an accurate count even harder.

"The damage has already been done," said Lizette Escobedo of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Educational Fund.

The Census Bureau had stressed repeatedly that it could produce better citizenship data without adding the question.

In fact, the bureau had recommended combining information from the annual American Community Survey with records held by other federal agencies that already include citizenship records.

"This would result in higher quality data produced at lower cost," deputy Census Bureau Director Ron Jarmin had written in a December 2017 email to a Justice Department official.

But Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, who oversees the Census Bureau, ultimately rejected that approach and ordered the citizenship question be added to the census.

The American Community Survey, which polls 3.5 million U.S. households every year, already includes questions about respondents' citizenship.

"It's a retreat back to what he should have done from the beginning," said Kenneth Prewitt, a former Census Bureau director.

Trump's administration had faced numerous roadblocks to adding the question, beginning with the ruling by the Supreme Court temporarily barring its inclusion on the grounds that the government's justification was insufficient. Two federal judges also rejected the Justice Department's plan to replace the legal team fighting for inclusion.

But Trump insisted his administration was pushing forward anyway, publicly contradicting government lawyers and his commerce secretary, who had previously conceded the case was closed, as well as the Census Bureau, which had started the process of printing the 2020 questionnaire without the controversial query after the Supreme Court decision.

As he has many times before, Trump exploded the situation with a tweet, calling reports that the fight was over "FAKE!"

A week of speculation about the administration's plans and renewed court battles ensued as Trump threw out ideas, including suggesting last week that officials might be able to add an addendum to the questionnaire with the question after it was printed. And he toyed with the idea of halting the constitutionally mandated survey entirely while the court battle played out.

Attorney General William Barr, however, said that the government had no interest in delaying the count and that, while he was confident the census question would have eventually survived legal review, the process would have taken too long to work its way through the courts.

Trump had offered multiple explanations for why he believed the question was necessary to include in the once-a-decade population count that determines the allocation of seats in the House of Representatives for the next 10 years and the distribution of some \$675 billion in federal spending.

"You need it for Congress, for districting. You need it for appropriations. Where are the funds going? How many people are there? Are they citizens? Are they not citizens? You need it for many reasons," he told reporters last week, despite the fact that congressional districts are based on total population, regardless of residents' national origin or immigration status.

If immigrants are undercounted, Democrats fear that would pull money and political power away from

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Democratic-led cities where immigrants tend to cluster, and shift it to whiter, rural areas where Republicans do well.

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer on Thursday accused Trump of pushing the question "to intimidate minorities, particularly Latinos, from answering the census so that it undercounts those communities and Republicans can redraw congressional districts to their advantage."

He later called Trump's move a "retreat" that "was long overdue and is a significant victory for democracy and fair representation."

Associated Press writers Darlene Superville, Matthew Daly, Kevin Freking and Geoff Mulvihill in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, contributed to this report.

As Dems debate busing, southern schools slowly desegregate

By JEFF AMY Associated Press

CLEVELAND, Miss. (AP) — This small Mississippi Delta town serves as a reminder that fierce debates over the integration of black and white students are not a thing of the past.

Two rival high schools in Cleveland, one historically black and the other historically white, had to be merged just two years ago after a judge determined that all-black student bodies in the 3,400-student district were illegal vestiges of segregation. It is one of scores of school districts around the U.S. still facing federal desegregation mandates, and the decision followed a fight over the town's segregated schools that dates back to 1965.

The federal government's role in integrating schools came into the national spotlight following an exchange during the 2020 Democratic presidential debate between Joe Biden and Sen. Kamala Harris. The former vice president was attacked for his work as a senator in the 1970s to oppose federally-ordered busing to achieve a racial balance in schools. Harris pointed to the fact that she was a beneficiary of a busing program that allowed her to attend an integrated elementary school in California.

The clash proved to be a stumbling block for Biden's campaign, but the debate's focus on 1970s-era busing — when the practice was at its peak — belied the fact that federally ordered integration efforts still exist in many places.

Joseph Wardenski, the Justice Department's lead lawyer during the 2015 trial, said Cleveland is an example of why school desegregation isn't "ancient history" and said he was surprised at comments made by Biden in the debate that indicated a lack of support for court-ordered busing.

"There is still very much of a role for courts and the federal government to get the job done," said Wardenski, who is now in private practice.

Since Cleveland's consolidated high school opened in 2017, there have been some points of tension, including a pair of lawsuits claiming administrators unfairly altered grade-point-averages to give white students valedictorian and salutatorian honors. But many see the consolidation as progress.

"It's better that they brought the schools together as far as having the races interact," said Allison Tyler, whose 16-year-old daughter, Valecia, is black and a junior at the high school.

The district's majority-white school board resisted the merger for several years, despite federal pressure, with some predicting white flight to private schools.

Indeed, the district's white student enrollment has dropped sharply since the 2014-2015 school year, the last before changes were ordered, even though Census figures show Cleveland's number of white children has held steady. White enrollment that had been around 30% has fallen three years in a row, to 23% last year, according to reports filed in the case.

The two sons of Carmen Oguz are among the white children who have stayed to attend Cleveland Central High School this fall. Oguz said the family chose to remain in the district, in part because her younger son wanted a more competitive football team. She said she's also happy with the academics.

"We pay tax dollars. We wanted the public school system to work," she said.

However, Oguz said that most of her younger son's friends made a different choice on graduating from

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a magnet elementary school and left the district. "He was definitely in the minority," she said.

Currently, an estimated 150 to 200 school districts nationwide are operating under desegregation orders, according to Erica Frankenberg, a Pennsylvania State University professor, who said nobody keeps a precise count.

Schools in the South are better integrated racially than those elsewhere because of desegregation plans implemented in the 1960s and 1970s, Frankenberg said. And while every district is different, she said "what we can say pretty definitively is that desegregation has been shown to have a wide range of academic and social benefits."

Districts released from court orders have tended to relax their integration efforts, a major factor in the resegregation of many schools nationwide, according to Sheneka Williams, an associate professor at the University of Georgia.

Communities may support desegregation in the abstract, but "oftentimes, they don't want to shuffle their kids around for racial balance," Williams said. "They think it's a good idea on the whole, but as an individual, do they really want to go through all it takes to maintain it? That answer is no."

In districts released from federal desegregation orders, as well as districts that were never under court order, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that race can't be used as the driving factor in assigning students to public schools, whether to integrate or segregate them. However, a 2016 Century Foundation report found at least 100 districts and charter schools nationwide have voluntary desegregation plans that work around the ruling by mixing students from families with different incomes or educational levels, factors often associated with race. Those plans may consider race as one factor, using magnet schools or voluntary transfers to try to achieve balance.

Through earlier integration efforts, Cleveland High and its neighboring middle school, once all-white, were by 2011 about half white and half black. But East Side High School and its associated middle school, once all-black by law, remained almost entirely black. The school district and even some African-Americans defended the two sets of schools, pointing to community pride in East Side's athletic teams and traditions.

The district began operating a new Cleveland Central High School based at the former Cleveland High in August 2017. The football team went undefeated that season before losing in the playoffs, and donations are funding an expanded program for high school students to take college classes at neighboring Delta State University.

"It's not as bad as I thought it would be," Valecia Tyler said as she was leaving a summer program one day last week.

But advocates are watching closely. The Rev. Edward Duvall, a Baptist pastor and part of a group of African Americans who pushed for consolidation in the district, advocated for a new high school building that could be symbolic break from the segregated past, and he's disappointed the district chose instead to renovate old buildings.

"This is a microcosm of the nation," he said. "How do we merge these two cultures together? If we work and put it together, we can be an example for the nation."

Associated Press writer Martha Waggoner contributed from Raleigh, North Carolina.

Follow Jeff Amy at: <http://twitter.com/jeffamy>

Sudan military council says it foils attempted military coup

By **FAY ABUELGASIM** and **SAMY MAGDY** Associated Press

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — Sudan's ruling military council said it foiled an attempted military coup Thursday, just days after the military and a pro-democracy coalition agreed on a joint sovereign council to rule the country during a transition period until elections are held.

Lt. Gen. Gamal Omar, a member of the military council, said in a statement that at least 16 active and retired military officers were arrested. Security forces were pursuing the group's leader and additional

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officers who took part in plotting the coup attempt, he said.

The council did not reveal the name of the attempted leader, his rank or other details. The statement also said five of the arrested officers were retired.

The military and a pro-democracy coalition agreed last Friday on a joint sovereign council that will rule for a little over three years while elections are organized. Both sides say a diplomatic push by the U.S. and its Arab allies was key to ending a weekslong standoff that raised fears of all-out civil war.

"The attempted coup came in a critical time, ahead of the deal with the Forces for Declaration of Freedom and Change," Omar said, referring to the group that speaks for the pro-democracy demonstrators.

Sudan has been in political deadlock since the overthrow of autocratic President Omar al-Bashir in April.

On Sunday, Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, Sudan's top general, said the military council that assumed power after al-Bashir's overthrow would be dissolved with the implementation of the power-sharing deal.

The deal was meant to end the impasse between the military council and the protest movement since security forces razed a massive pro-democracy sit-in in Khartoum early last month, killing more than 100 people, according to protest organizers.

In the ensuing weeks, protesters stayed in the streets, demanding that the generals hand power to civilian leadership.

The deal was reached after tens of thousands of people flooded the streets of Sudan's main cities on June 30 in the biggest demonstrations since the sit-in camp was razed. At least 11 people were killed in clashes with security forces, according to protest organizers.

The power-sharing arrangement is to include a joint sovereign council of five civilians representing the protest movement and five military members. An 11th seat is to go to a civilian chosen by both sides. The protesters will select a Cabinet of technocrats, and a legislative council is to be formed after three months.

The two sides also agreed on an independent Sudanese investigation into the deadly crackdown, but the details have yet to be worked out.

Magdy reported from Cairo.

Setbacks for Trump's drive to lower prescription drug costs

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — After two setbacks this week, President Donald Trump is now focusing his drive to curb drug costs on congressional efforts aimed at helping people on Medicare and younger generations covered by workplace plans.

The White House on Thursday yanked its own regulation to ease the financial bite of costly medications for those on Medicare by letting them receive rebates that drugmakers now pay to insurers and middlemen. A congressional agency's estimate that the plan would have cost taxpayers \$177 billion over 10 years seemed to seal its fate.

Earlier a federal judge ruled that the administration lacked the legal authority to require drugmakers to disclose list prices in their TV ads. The ruling Monday blocked a highly visible change expected to have started this week.

Both price disclosure and the rebate idea were part of a strategy on drug costs that Trump announced at the White House with much fanfare last year.

"This is a big setback," said Peter Bach, director of the Center for Health Policy and Outcomes at New York's Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. The rebate rule "was not good policy (since) it would have increased spending on prescription drugs even if it mildly reduced out-of-pocket costs in some cases. But nevertheless this was a cornerstone of the blueprint."

White House spokesman Judd Deere said the rebate proposal was withdrawn "based on careful analysis and thorough consideration."

Deere said Trump is not backing away from his promise to lower drug prices, and the administration is setting its sights on bipartisan legislation. One idea would cap drug copays for people with Medicare,

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which would produce savings for seniors taking costly drugs. That's another way to achieve a similar goal as the rebate plan.

"The Trump administration is encouraged by continuing bipartisan conversations about legislation to reduce outrageous drug costs imposed on the American people, and President Trump will consider using any and all tools to ensure that prescription drug costs will continue to decline," Deere said in a statement.

While agreeing it's a setback for Trump, John Rother of the National Coalition on Health Care said that if legislation could be worked out, "that might actually lead to a better outcome." His organization is an umbrella group that represents a cross section of business and consumer groups.

The chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, Charles Grassley of Iowa, and the committee's top Democrat, Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon, are trying for a compromise centered on lowering drug costs for government programs such as Medicare and Medicaid. Top administration officials this week participated in a closed-door meeting between Grassley and Republican senators on his committee.

Grassley said in a statement that he had concerns about the administration's rebate rule, but was confident about the prospects for legislation. "While the final details are still being negotiated, we're on track to report a bill out of committee very soon," he said.

Separately, Grassley and Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin, the chamber's second-ranking Democrat, are pushing legislation that would grant the government the power to require drug companies to disclose their prices in consumer advertising.

House committees are also working on legislation and Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., remains in contact with the White House on a drug cost compromise. Changes to Medicare often have an impact on employer insurance, but the main dividend for working families could come from legislation to promote pharmaceutical competition.

The rebate plan was crafted by Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar but ran into opposition from White House budget officials. That pushback stiffened after the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimated that the plan would have little effect on manufacturer prices and would cost Medicare \$177 billion over 10 years by leading to higher premiums subsidized by taxpayers.

Trump's reversal on rebates was a win for insurers and middlemen called "pharmacy benefit managers" who administer prescription drug plans for large blocks of insured patients.

It was a defeat for the pharmaceutical industry, which had lobbied to promote rebates. Drugmakers prefer that to other approaches lawmakers are considering. Those include "inflation rebates" that drugmakers would pay directly to Medicare if they raise prices beyond a yet-to-be-determined measure.

"The administration has abandoned one of the only policy solutions that would have truly lowered what patients are forced to pay out of pocket for the medicines they need," Jim Greenwood, head of the Biotechnology Innovation Organization, said in a statement.

Shares of pharmaceutical companies dropped Thursday but drug store chains and insurers gained. Drugmaker Merck & Co. dropped 4.5% while UnitedHealth climbed 5.5% and CVS Health gained 4.7%.

Rebates are a largely unseen part of the complex world of drug pricing.

Under the administration's plan, drugmaker rebates now paid to insurance companies and their middlemen would have gone directly to seniors in Medicare's Part D program when they filled their prescriptions.

But congressional analysts concluded that drug companies were unlikely to lower list prices across the board in response to the plan. Meanwhile, insurers would raise premiums to compensate for the loss of rebates.

Labor Department data indicate that changes may be afoot with drug prices.

Overall prescription drug inflation seems to have stabilized, with more monthly declines than increases recently. The White House credits Trump for that change, but independent experts say the trend isn't totally clear yet.

The administration's rebate reversal was first reported by Axios.

AP Health Writer Tom Murphy in Indianapolis contributed to this report.

Hospital fires 23 workers in case of excessive doses, deaths

By KANTELE FRANKO Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — The Ohio hospital system where excessive painkiller doses were given to dozens of patients who died fired 23 nurses, pharmacists and managers Thursday and said it is changing leadership, a sign that professional fallout from the scandal has expanded far beyond the intensive care doctor accused of ordering the drugs.

The announcement by the Columbus-area Mount Carmel Health System comes five weeks after that doctor, William Husel, pleaded not guilty to murder charges in 25 of the deaths, marking one of the biggest cases of its kind against an American health care professional.

The newly fired employees include five physician, nursing and pharmacy management team members, President and CEO Ed Lamb said in a statement.

Mount Carmel said the other 18 fired were among the nurses and pharmacists who had been on administrative leave during its internal review.

One employee remains on administrative leave, and 11 are being given the chance to return to work if they complete additional training, Lamb said. Mount Carmel didn't specify whether those employees are nurses and pharmacists who administered or approved the excessive doses.

Authorities have said the nurses and pharmacists involved aren't being prosecuted, though dozens have been reported to their respective professional boards for review and potential disciplinary action.

Lamb also said that he is resigning this month and that Mount Carmel's chief clinical officer is retiring in September, paving the way for new leadership that could "facilitate healing and help restore the trust of the community."

Mount Carmel fired Husel in December and concluded he had ordered potentially fatal doses for 29 patients who died over the past few years, including five who might have received the drugs when there still was a chance of improving their conditions with treatment.

The hospital system said six more patients got doses that were excessive but likely not the cause of their deaths.

His lawyer in the criminal case has said Husel was providing comfort care to dying patients, not trying to kill them.

Husel, 43, was charged with murder only in cases involving 500 to 2000 micrograms of the powerful painkiller fentanyl, amounts far larger than typical doses.

Mount Carmel has tightened its drug policies and access and publicly apologized, noting it should have expedited its investigation. It acknowledged that Husel wasn't removed from patient care until four weeks after a concern about him was raised last fall, and that three patients died during those weeks after getting excessive doses he ordered.

The hospital system has resolved some of the related wrongful death lawsuits, reaching nearly \$4.5 million in settlements so far.

"We are deeply sorry for the additional grief and frustration this has caused and are working to provide reasonable settlements with affected families," Lamb said in the statement Thursday.

Twenty-two lawsuits remain pending.

In new filings this week, Husel's lawyer in the civil cases again argued they should be put on hold because of the criminal case.

A court magistrate previously declined to halt the lawsuits but did block the plaintiffs' lawyers from pursuing a sworn statement from Husel. Lawyer Gregory Foliano argues that isn't enough to protect Husel's right to a fair trial, in part because plaintiffs still can seek information from other Mount Carmel employees.

The hospital also wants the lawsuits put on hold and has filed objections to the magistrate's decision.

One reason for a Fed cut: Powell now fears too-low inflation

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a shift from just a few months ago, Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell is worried that too-low inflation could persist for a while — and undercut the U.S. economy.

Powell's concern is a key reason why the Fed will likely cut short-term interest rates late this month for the first time in a decade: A rate cut — and especially if it's followed by others — could help lift inflation closer to the Fed's target level.

The chairman's newly expressed worries about chronically low inflation reflect another sea change at the Fed: Powell and other officials seem to have jettisoned a long-standing economic rule of thumb that a long streak of low unemployment will inevitably raise inflation too high.

The U.S. unemployment rate has remained under 5% for roughly three years. And yet annual inflation has consistently failed to reach the Fed's 2% target.

All of which suggests that the Fed is now prepared to keep borrowing costs low for households and businesses indefinitely — even if the job market and the economy keep growing steadily. It's a prospect that has delighted investors, who have lifted stock indexes to record highs.

"The connection between the level of unemployment and inflation was very strong if you go back 50 years, and it's gotten weaker and weaker and weaker to the point where it's a faint heartbeat," Powell testified on Capitol Hill this week in response to questions from Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a New York Democrat. "We really have learned that the economy can sustain much lower unemployment than we thought without troubling levels of inflation."

Kathy Bostjancic, an economist at Oxford Economics, a consulting firm, said Powell's comments marked a sharp turnaround from last year. The Fed had justified its four rate hikes in 2018 in part by arguing that robust hiring would eventually ignite inflation.

"There's been a big shift in their thinking," Bostjancic said. "The Fed's been slow to this idea."

Typically in the past, when unemployment has fallen very low — such as to the current 3.7% — employers are compelled to offer higher pay to attract and keep workers. These employers, in turn, raise prices to offset the cost of their higher wages.

Yet that dynamic, which economists call the "Phillips Curve," has yet to kick in during the decade-long expansion. Consumer inflation in June, for example, was up just 1.6% in June compared with 12 months earlier, below the Fed's target.

Most Americans, of course, prefer low prices. But the Fed has reasons to worry when inflation stays consistently below its target level. Their biggest concern is that when businesses and consumers expect ultra-low inflation to remain in place, they factor it into decisions, such as how much they're willing to spend or raise pay. Why spend or pay more now if prices aren't likely to rise and might even fall?

Once such low expectations become entrenched, Powell warned in congressional testimony Wednesday, they're difficult to dislodge. Central banks in Japan and Europe have cut their interest rates into negative territory — meaning that holders of government bonds actually lose money — in desperate efforts to accelerate growth and prices.

"You don't want to get behind the curve and let inflation drop below 2%," Powell said Wednesday before the Senate Banking Committee, the second of two days of testimony.

Yet according to the Fed's preferred inflation gauge, it has been below 2% for nearly the entire seven years since the central bank chose that target.

As recently as a May 1 news conference, Powell had characterized lower inflation since the start of the year as merely "transitory," blaming trends such as a drop in clothing prices. But in his congressional testimony this week, he acknowledged "a risk that weak inflation will be even more persistent than we anticipate."

Economists point to a range of factors that are holding inflation to ultra-low levels. Globalization has enabled the production of many goods in low-wage countries, thereby lowering costs. The so-called "Amazon effect" of online shopping, which allows real-time, across-the-board price comparisons, has made it

difficult for retailers to charge more.

Fewer workers belong to unions and so have less bargaining power to seek higher pay. And by some measures, the U.S. workforce is, on average, less efficient: Growth in productivity, which measures output per hour worked, has remained notoriously weak during the expansion. That has given companies less incentive to raise pay.

Powell and other Fed officials have expressed hope that a rate cut will make it cheaper to borrow and buy a home or car or make other purchases and thereby speed the economy. Faster economic growth could nudge inflation up, at least slightly.

Higher inflation does offer some benefits. It helps grease the wheels of the economy: People are more likely to buy something if they fear it will cost more later. Companies are more likely to raise pay to keep up with higher prices, which makes it easier to pay off debts.

Still, further Fed rate cuts do carry risks: A few Fed officials warned at its last meeting in June that a rate cut could help fuel a bubble in the stock market. That's because lower interest rates would likely lead more and more investors to abandon low-yielding bonds and seek higher returns in stocks.

But overall, there is rare bipartisan agreement about the need for the Fed to lower its benchmark rate.

Larry Kudlow, a top White House economic adviser, praised Ocasio-Cortez on Fox News Channel's "Fox & Friends" for challenging Powell on the Fed's long-held belief that low unemployment would accelerate inflation.

"I got to give the hats off — Ms. AOC kind of nailed that," Kudlow conceded.

Judge approves new Weinstein legal team led by #MeToo critic

By MICHAEL R. SISK and ALI SWENSON Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A judge gave Harvey Weinstein the green light Thursday to shake up his defense team yet again — this time a mere two months before the disgraced movie mogul whose case inspired the #MeToo movement is due to stand trial in New York on sexual assault charges.

One lawyer had already bolted amid public backlash. Now Jose Baez, known for representing high-profile clients such as Casey Anthony, is out after saying he and Weinstein just can't get along. Donna Rotunno, a #MeToo critic specializing in defending men accused of sexual misconduct, and Damon Cheronis are in.

The judge, James Burke, approved the swap after questioning Weinstein to ensure it was what he wanted and getting the new lawyers to promise they won't seek to delay the trial from its scheduled Sept. 9 start.

Baez signaled last month that he wanted to leave the case, telling Burke in a letter that Weinstein had tarnished their relationship by communicating only through other lawyers and by failing to abide by a fee agreement.

Weinstein engaged in behavior that made representing him "unreasonably difficult to carry out effectively" and insisted on taking actions "with which I have fundamental disagreements," Baez wrote.

Bounding out of the courtroom Thursday after getting sprung from the case, Baez said: "I feel like I won the lottery. Just kidding."

Weinstein responded through his spokesman, saying: "With a lawyer like Donna Rotunno, I feel like I'm the one who won the lottery."

Rotunno has espoused a philosophy that the #MeToo movement, spurred by revelations about Weinstein's alleged behavior, is overblown and that women are "responsible for the choices they make."

"I chose to represent Harvey Weinstein because I think these are the types of cases that lawyers that do what I do live for," Rotunno said outside the courthouse after the hearing.

"It gives us an opportunity to have a forum to speak what we believe, and I believe that the facts and evidence in this case are actually very favorable to Mr. Weinstein."

Gloria Allred, who represents one of the accusers in the criminal case, offered a different perspective, saying: "I agree that women are responsible for their own choices, but when will Mr. Weinstein be held responsible for his?"

Rotunno and Cheronis practice in Chicago.

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They join three New York City lawyers: Arthur Aidala, whose clients have included rapper 50 Cent and former Harvard law professor Alan Dershowitz; Diana Fabi Samson; and Barry Kamins, who as a judge oversaw New York City's criminal courts.

The lawyers and prosecutors said they'll work out a schedule for exchanging witness lists and for prosecutors to turn over evidence, such as emails from Weinstein's movie studio that pertain to potential witnesses.

Baez is the latest defection from what was once seen as a modern version of O.J. Simpson's "dream team" of attorneys. Harvard law professor Ronald Sullivan left in May amid backlash about his involvement.

Sullivan's involvement in the case drew protests from some students and faculty members on the Cambridge, Massachusetts, campus. Buildings were defaced with graffiti that included the slogans "Down w Sullivan!", "Your Silence is Violence" and "Whose Side Are You On?"

Thursday's hearing on the lawyer switch played out in open court, but two conversations among the judge and lawyers happened in secrecy.

After approving Baez's request to withdraw from the case, Burke called him to the bench for a one-on-one chat that lasted about five minutes with no court reporter to transcribe the conversation.

Later, he called all the lawyers to the bench for a 10-minute discussion of how they'll proceed when it comes time for jury selection. Again, there was no court reporter to make a record of the conversation.

Aidala appeared perturbed by what he called the judge's "extended private conversation" with Baez. He asked whether he could also approach the bench, but Burke waved him off.

Weinstein, 67, is charged with raping a woman in 2013 and performing a forcible sex act on a different woman in 2006. He denies the allegations, has pleaded not guilty and is free on \$1 million bail.

Baez and Sullivan started representing Weinstein in January, when the former movie producer overhauled his legal team for the first time. That happened after his original lawyer, Benjamin Brafman, lost a hard-fought bid to get the case thrown out.

Pamela Robillard Mackey, who represented Kobe Bryant in his 2003 Colorado sexual assault case, and ex-Manhattan prosecutor Duncan Levin were also hired in January and have since left.

AP videojournalist Ted Shaffrey contributed to this report. Follow Sisak at twitter.com/mikesisak and Swenson at twitter.com/aliswenson.

Biden promises to end 'forever wars' as president

By **BILL BARROW** Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Joe Biden promised on Thursday his White House would end "forever wars" and reassert American leadership to combat authoritarianism and global instability, which he says are proliferating under President Donald Trump.

"The world's democracies look to America to stand for the values that unite us. ... Donald Trump seems to be on the other team," Biden said during a foreign policy speech in New York, hammering the president for "embracing dictators who appeal to his vanity" and emboldening a worldwide rise of nationalism, xenophobia and isolationism.

The remarks offered Biden a chance to ignore his Democratic rivals and instead return to the issues he's most comfortable talking about: foreign policy and the dangers posed by Trump. The decision to make the speech reflects Biden's belief that his experience as a longtime senator and former chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee combined with his eight years as vice president distinguish him in the crowded Democratic field.

But that long record also subjects the 76-year-old to criticism, particularly from progressives who cast Biden as someone who enabled a more hawkish foreign policy establishment.

Acknowledging those forces, Biden promised to "end the forever wars in Afghanistan and the Middle East" and terminate U.S. involvement in the Yemen civil war. He did not mention his support for the 2003 invasion of Iraq under President George W. Bush, a vote that hampered Biden's brief 2007 presidential campaign and continues to draw criticism from 2020 rivals, including Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and

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Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, who both voted against the action as House members.

Republicans, meanwhile, have gleefully noted that Biden opposed the 1991 U.S. military actions to drive Iraq out of Kuwait and that he was an outlier in the Obama administration in warning against the raid that ultimately killed Osama bin Laden, the mastermind behind the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Biden said on Thursday that military force will always be an option, but must be a "last resort" with a "defined" and "achievable mission." He also pledged to "elevate diplomacy as the principle tool of our foreign policy" and said he'd rebuild expertise in the State Department after an exodus of diplomats under Trump.

His promise to stop "endless wars" also came with qualification; he called for removing most combat troops from Afghanistan in favor of "narrowly focusing our mission" in the region.

Biden envisioned not just a return to the traditional U.S. role in the post-World War II international order, but to use that power and influence to take on 21st century problems. He emphasized the urgency for U.S.-led global alliances to combat the climate crisis, forge new trade agreements to create a more even international economy and to recommit to nuclear proliferation.

Biden said in the first year of his presidency, he would convene a global summit of democracy, bringing together political and civic leaders, along with those from the private sector. He singled out "tech companies and social media giants" as necessary partners.

"I believe they have a duty to make sure their algorithms and platforms are not used to sow division here at home," he said, referring to U.S. intelligence findings that Russian actors have used social media platforms like Facebook to influence American politics.

Biden's speech comes at a time of trade tensions with China; increasing tensions with Iran, with Tehran announcing that it is enriching uranium beyond the levels allowed by a 2015 nuclear deal that Trump had abandoned; and after Trump again met with North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un, with the Republican president saying he wants to restart negotiations for a nuclear agreement.

As president, Biden said he'd re-engage with Iran if it returns to the limits of the 2015 deal. He also promised to immediately rejoin the Paris climate agreements and urge the world's leading economies — principally China — to commit to aggressively curtail carbon emissions.

He noted Beijing is investing heavily in cleaner energy technologies but still financing traditional fossil fuel projects with trillions of dollars in infrastructure development across Asia.

Biden's commitment to ending longtime wars stopped short of pledges by more liberal rivals like Sanders and Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who link military conflict to a world economy dominated by multinational corporations, including those that have benefited from the trillions of dollars the U.S. has spent on foreign wars in recent decades.

Though he didn't nod to that military-industrial complex, Biden argued that economic conditions play a fundamental role in global stability. He criticized Trump's reliance on tariffs but tacitly agreed with the president's notions that some economic rivals have taken advantage of the U.S., specifically China.

Biden said he'd push for trade agreements that don't hamper the international exchange of goods but don't disadvantage American consumers or business, while also holding China accountable for intellectual property abuses.

"There's not going to be a back to business-as-usual on trade," he said. "We need new rules. We need new processes."

Follow Bill Barrow on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/BillBarrowAP>

APNewsBreak: Customs clarifies policy on plane ID searches

By COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Customs and Border Protection is clarifying that airline passengers aren't required to submit to identification checks when getting off planes if there's no law enforcement-related reason.

The new policy directive comes as a result of a settlement in a lawsuit; the documents were obtained

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by The Associated Press on Thursday.

The lawsuit was filed by passengers who had been on Delta Air Lines Flight 1583 from San Francisco to New York's Kennedy Airport in February 2017, soon after President Donald Trump's initial travel ban. They were told by the flight crew that all the passengers would have to show identification to get off the airplane. They were greeted by two Customs officers when they landed and were forced to wait aboard the plane as each passenger was checked.

The officers were searching, at the request of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, for an immigrant with a deportation order after criminal convictions for domestic assault and other crimes. The person was not identified and was not aboard. The officers didn't tell passengers the search was voluntary, said the American Civil Liberties Union, which represented the passengers in the lawsuit.

It's not uncommon for law enforcement officers to board a plane to apprehend a criminal suspect: Former International Monetary Fund leader Dominique Strauss-Kahn was pulled from a flight out of Kennedy in 2011 to face sex assault charges that were later dropped. But it's highly unusual for authorities to wait outside an airplane and ask for ID from each passenger.

But Customs officials initially characterized the searches as routine policy, but then argued before the court in an effort to dismiss the case that it was not a written policy.

Judge Nicholas Garaufis refused to throw out the lawsuit, saying: "Defendants cannot, now, have their cake and eat it too: They responded to various media inquiries by saying they were following a policy, and the court will take them at their word."

The ID checks happened just a few weeks after Trump's initial travel ban, which sparked mass confusion at airports around the country and had immigration lawyers camped out in places like Kennedy Airport to help stranded passengers.

Many of the passengers felt they had no choice but to submit to the search, even though they didn't understand why they were being asked for their identification. A new policy directive being issued by Customs officials should make clear that's not the case.

"One of the great things about this country is that we have protections, and when those protections are violated, we can speak up," plaintiff Kelley Amadei said in a statement. "And sometimes, in cases like this, we get the result we need to protect us and our fellow citizens."

Under the settlement, a directive will be given to Customs and Border Protection staff nationwide making clear they must comply with the Constitution's Fourth Amendment, which protects against unreasonable search and seizure.

The notice will highlight that the agency "does not have a policy or routine practice of compelling or requesting that passengers deplaning domestic flights submit to suspicionless document checks," according to the language in the settlement agreement.

And when officers do conduct voluntary ID searches, the directive provides restrictions, including that passengers must understand the searches are not required. Officers must also ask airline employees to communicate over the intercom that searches are voluntary. They can't block passengers from deplaning and must make clear there will be no punishment for passengers who refuse to show ID.

Customs and Border Protection officials had no immediate comment Thursday. Attorneys with the Eastern District of New York, where the case was filed, had no comment.

The government also agreed to pay \$40,000 in legal fees. Both parties notified the judge of the settlement, which will be finalized after the directive goes out.

Greece: Emergency declared after deadly storm hits resorts

By COSTAS KANTOURIS Associated Press

THESSALONIKI, Greece (AP) — A state of emergency has been declared in an area of northern Greece after a violent storm tore through seaside resorts, killing six tourists. A fisherman, who had been missing, was also found dead Thursday taking the death toll to seven.

The widespread damage wrought by the storm has renewed calls from civil protection experts, environ-

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mental groups, and the country's Orthodox Church for a shift in policies to address the impact of climate change on Greece's coastline terrain.

Powerful gales late Wednesday hammered the Halkidiki peninsula snapping trees and power pylons, tossing vehicles and flinging beach lounge chairs into trees, leaving swathes of debris across the coastline.

Authorities said 22 people remain hospitalized, including a woman in critical condition, and more than 100 others received medical attention. Six of the dead were tourists: two each from Russia, the Czech Republic and Romania.

Two of those who died were killed when high winds overturned their recreational vehicle, while an 8-year-old boy and his mother were killed when an outdoor restaurant's lean-to roof collapsed. Another two were killed by falling trees.

The storm occurred nearly a year after a wildfire near Athens killed at least 100 people during a heat-wave, and prompted concern over more frequent damaging weather events.

"From now on, these phenomena will occur with increasing frequency, especially in the Mediterranean area which is sensitive to climate change," Efthymis Lekkas, a professor at Athens University's Department of Geology and Geo-environment, who heads a public agency for earthquake and disaster planning, told state-run TV.

"We must definitely adapt our civil protection plans and incorporate updated scientific knowledge and know-how to deal with these phenomena."

The environmental group Greenpeace called in the government to abandon plans to expand offshore natural gas exploitation and invest in renewable alternatives.

"We know that increased temperatures produce more catastrophic weather events," said Nikos Charalambides, head of Greenpeace in Greece. "We only have a few years left to address our lack of response to climate change."

Greece's Orthodox Church leader, Archbishop Ieronymos, criticized the "indiscriminate use of natural resources that burden the atmosphere and ultimately causes climate change."

The storm in Halkidiki was the first major event to be addressed by the country's new conservative government following a general election Sunday. The army was ordered to help civilian agencies restore power and running water to damaged areas and end road closures and disruptions to rail services.

The Culture Ministry said monasteries at the nearby Orthodox Christian monastic sanctuary of Mount Athos — the easternmost section of the three-finger Halkidiki peninsula — did not suffer any serious damage.

Elena Becatoros and Derek Gatopoulos in Athens contributed

<https://twitter.com/CostasKantouris>

Full AP coverage at <https://apnews.com/Greece>

'Not about 24': Williams to face Halep in Wimbledon final

By **HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer**

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Hours before her Wimbledon semifinal, Serena Williams spent some time deep in thought and arrived at a couple of conclusions.

For one thing, she shouldn't focus too much on trying to raise her Grand Slam title total to 24, a number achieved by just one other player in tennis history. And for another, she needs to stay calm on the court.

With that in mind, Williams went out Thursday and made it all look so easy, overwhelming Barbora Strýcová of the Czech Republic 6-1, 6-2 in 59 minutes to once again put herself on the verge of an eighth championship at the All England Club and major No. 24 overall.

"It's really not about 24 or 23 or 25. It's really just about going out there and giving my best effort, no matter what. No matter what I do, I will always have a great career," said Williams, who at 37 is the oldest woman to reach a Grand Slam final in the professional era. "Like, I just kind of let it go this morning."

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On Saturday, she will take on No. 7-seeded Simona Halep of Romania, a 6-1, 6-3 winner over No. 8 Elina Svitolina of Ukraine under a cloudy sky at Centre Court.

It's the 11th final at the All England Club for Williams, the first for Halep, whose only major trophy came at the French Open last year.

They've played each other 10 previous times, with Williams winning nine, including a three-setter at the Australian Open in January.

"I respect a lot what she has done and what she's doing," said Halep, who, like Williams, used to be ranked No. 1. "But now I feel stronger, mentally, facing her. We will see what is going to happen. It's just a big challenge for me."

For anyone, really, when Williams is at her best.

And after an up-and-down first half of the year, due in part to injury and illness, she sure does appear to have lifted her level considerably.

Williams was limited to 12 matches in 2019 until last week. After a third-round loss at Roland Garros on June 1, she stayed in France for medical treatment and finally felt pain-free while preparing for Wimbledon.

"Well, if she will play like this in the final," said Strycova, 33, the oldest first-time Grand Slam semifinalist in the modern era, "it's going to be very hard for Simona."

After a three-set struggle against Alison Riske in the quarterfinals Tuesday, Williams was dominant against Strycova, who was limited by a leg muscle problem that cropped up in the very first game.

Strycova would repeatedly flex or shake her legs between points or try to stretch in her sideline chair by pulling her right foot onto her left knee and rocking her leg.

Not an ideal situation. Especially when facing Williams if she's this dialed-in.

Williams played cleanly, accumulating nearly twice as many winners as unforced errors, 28-10. She was at her usual court-covering best, which helped limit Strycova to 10 winners.

"I just need to ... relax and do what I can do," Williams said, referring again to her deep thoughts from the morning.

"I was calm today," she said, then rolled her eyes and added: "It's a day-to-day basis with me. We all know that. I'm far from perfect."

Williams has been this close to adding to her title total before: In 2018, her first season back on tour after the birth of her daughter, Olympia, Williams reached the finals at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open but lost each time.

That has left her Grand Slam total at 23, a record for the professional era that she established when she won the 2017 Australian Open while pregnant — but one fewer than Margaret Court accumulated while playing part of her career against amateur competition.

At the All England Club, she was beaten by Angelique Kerber. At Flushing Meadows, she was outplayed by Naomi Osaka in a match that descended into chaos after Williams was docked a game for a heated argument with the chair umpire. She said in a first-person essay she wrote for Harper's Bazaar that she met with a therapist and wrote to Osaka to apologize for the whole episode.

A rare show of emotion from Williams on Thursday could have been the semifinal's turning point.

Ahead 2-1 in the first set while Strycova served at 30-all, Williams sailed a backhand return way long and let out a cry of "Aaaaah!"

Maybe that got her going. Williams seized seven points in a row and 16 of 20 to close out that set.

Halep seemed headed for a long day when her semifinal against Svitolina began with a pair of games encompassing 32 points across 20 minutes. Five of the first 11 points lasted at least 10 strokes; two went 23.

Soon enough, though, Halep was in control.

Now comes a tougher task: beating Williams.

Follow Howard Fendrich on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/HowardFendrich>

More AP tennis coverage: <https://www.apnews.com/apf-Tennis> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, July 12, the 193rd day of 2019. There are 172 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 12, 1984, Democratic presidential candidate Walter F. Mondale announced his choice of U.S. Rep. Geraldine A. Ferraro of New York to be his running-mate; Ferraro was the first woman to run for vice president on a major-party ticket.

On this date:

In 1543, England's King Henry VIII married his sixth and last wife, Catherine Parr.

In 1817, author, poet and naturalist Henry David Thoreau was born in Concord, Massachusetts.

In 1862, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln signed a bill authorizing the Army Medal of Honor.

In 1909, the House of Representatives joined the Senate in passing the 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, allowing for a federal income tax, and submitted it to the states. (It was declared ratified in February 1913.)

In 1957, President Dwight D. Eisenhower was flown by helicopter from the White House to a secret mountaintop location as part of a drill involving a mock nuclear attack on Washington.

In 1960, the Etch A Sketch Magic Screen drawing toy, invented by French electrician Andre Cassagnes, was first produced by the Ohio Art Co.

In 1962, The Rolling Stones played their first-ever gig at The Marquee in London.

In 1967, rioting erupted in Newark, New Jersey, over the police beating of a black taxi driver; 26 people were killed in the five days of violence that followed.

In 1977, President Jimmy Carter defended Supreme Court limits on government payments for poor women's abortions, saying, "There are many things in life that are not fair."

In 1994, President Bill Clinton, visiting Germany, went to the eastern sector of Berlin, the first U.S. president to do so since Harry Truman.

In 2003, the USS Ronald Reagan, the first carrier named for a living president, was commissioned in Norfolk, Va.

In 2005, Prince Albert II of Monaco acceded to the throne of a 700-year-old dynasty.

Ten years ago: Rebels in Nigeria set fire to an oil depot and loading tankers in Lagos, killing five people in the group's first attack outside the Delta region. Eun Hee Ji of South Korea made a 20-foot birdie putt on the 72nd hole, finishing off an even-par 71 to win the U.S. Women's Open.

Five years ago: Afghanistan's two rival candidates reached a breakthrough agreement brokered by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry to allow a complete audit of their contested presidential election. (Former Finance Minister Ashraf Ghani emerged the winner over former Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah.)

One year ago: After an emergency gathering of NATO leaders held to address his criticisms, President Donald Trump said the U.S. commitment to the alliance "remains very strong," despite reports that he had threatened to pull out in a dispute over defense spending. Trump then flew to Great Britain for his first visit as president. Syria's government raised its flag over the southern city of Daraa, the cradle of the 2011 uprising against President Bashar Assad, after rebels in the city surrendered. "Game of Thrones" led the way with 22 Emmy nominations; Netflix programs captured 112 nominations, taking away HBO's front-runner title.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Monte Hellman is 90. Actor-comedian Bill Cosby is 82. Singer-musician Christine McVie is 76. Actress Denise Nicholas is 75. Singer-songwriter Butch Hancock is 74. Fitness guru Richard Simmons is 71. Singer Walter Egan is 71. Writer-producer Brian Grazer is 68. Actress Cheryl Ladd is 68. Country singer Julie Miller is 63. Gospel singer Sandi Patty is 63. Actress Mel Harris is 63. Actor Buddy Foster is 62. Rock guitarist Dan Murphy (Soul Asylum) is 57. Actress Judi Evans is 55. Rock singer Robin Wilson (Gin Blossoms) is 54. Actress Natalie Desselle Reid is 52. Actress Lisa Nicole Carson is 50. Olympic

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gold medal figure skater Kristi Yamaguchi is 48. Country singer Shannon Lawson is 46. Rapper Magoo is 46. CBS newsman Jeff Glor is 44. Actress Anna Friel is 43. Rhythm-and-blues singer Tracie Spencer is 43. Actress Alison Wright is 43. Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., is 43. Actor Steve Howey is 42. Actor Topher Grace is 41. Actress Michelle Rodriguez is 41. Actress Kristen Connolly is 39. Country singer-musician Kimberly Perry (The Band Perry) is 36. Actor Matt Cook (TV: "Man With a Plan") is 35. Actress Natalie Martinez is 35. Actor Bernard David Jones is 34. Actress Ta'Rhonda Jones is 31. Golfer Inbee Park is 31. Actress Melissa O'Neil is 31. Actress Rachel Brosnahan is 29. Actor Erik Per Sullivan is 28. Olympic gold medal gymnast Jordyn Wieber is 24. Nobel Peace laureate Malala Yousafzai (mah-LAH'-lah YOO'-suhf-zeye) is 22.

Thought for Today: "A man who fears suffering is already suffering from what he fears." — Michel de Montaigne, French philosopher (1533-1592).

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