

Groton Daily Independent

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CLOSED: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

Swimming Pool Hours

Open Swim Daily: 1 p.m. to 4:50 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to 8:50 p.m.

Fun Night is every Friday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:50 p.m.

Adult Water Aerobics: Monday through Thursday: 8 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. to 6:15 pm

Adult Lap Swim: Monday through Friday: 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.; Monday through Thursday: 5:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.; Friday-Sunday: 4:50 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Swimming Lessons: First Session: June 17-27

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 Park, (DH) (B)

6:00 p.m.: T-Ball Scrimmage (both)

July 19-21

State Junior Teener Tournament in Elkton

Friday, July 19

6:00 p.m.: Junior Legion at Faulkton, (DH)

Sunday, July 21

1:00 p.m.: Groton 2 Amateurs host Redfield

4:00 p.m.: Locke Electric Amateurs at Northville

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Council debates Washington St. drainage issue

Paul Eckrich came before the council and asked to make sure his driveway is dry with all of the construction going on the street on Washington St. And Sixth Avenue. Mayor Scott Hanlon told the council that he and Terry Herron had talked with Ken Hier of Clark Engineering to discuss options. It would cost an additional \$1,600 to make the necessary changes for drainage. Councilman Jay Peterson said that he is perplexed about the whole situation, siting that there is also drainage issues on the east side of the street. "We paid them to fix the drainage," Peterson said. "I'm reluctant to throw more money into it without knowing all of the drainage issues are taken care of." He said that he had talked with Jeff Stolle who asked why there was work being done on the west side of the street and not on the east side. "Now is the time to get it right," Peterson said.

The council authorized a payment request for \$43,715.18 to H.F. Jacobs & Son Construction for work completed to date. Also, an extension was given for completion of the project which was approved for September 15, 2019, due to the rain.

The council rescinded the resolution to not install the east-west stop signs on Washington Street and West Fifth Avenue. It passed, 3-1 with Councilman David Blackmun voting no.

The council accepted the resignation of Damian Bahr as police officer with July 16 being his final date. WEB Water has notified the city that the city's usage rate will increase by 20 cents per one-thousand gallons. The council will review passing on any rate increase to the September meeting.

Beer and wine will be allowed for a private party at the swimming pool on July 19th was approved by the council. The renters will also be responsible for clean-up.

After a short executive session, the council hired Lee Iverson has a grounds keeper. Also, David Hunter was hired as a temporary police officer until the full time position is filled. His wage will be what he made when he resigned.



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

South Dakota

GAME, FISH AND PARKS



GFP Commission Proposes Changes to Deer and Elk Carcass Transportation

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission proposed a change to the way hunters would be allowed to transport deer, elk, or moose carcasses from areas that have been identified as Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) endemic areas.

The Commission made three proposed rule changes to help manage the spread of CWD.

1. A wildlife processing facility shall dispose of all remaining deer, moose, and elk carcass parts taken from another state or a South Dakota chronic wasting disease endemic area with a waste management provider or permitted landfill. Game processors licensed by U.S. Department of Agriculture or S.D. Animal Industry Board shall dispose of carcasses as required by the conditions associated with such license.

2. Importation of whole deer, moose and elk carcasses and high-risk carcass parts into South Dakota is restricted from other states, regardless of CWD status of the exporting state.

Exceptions:

Only the following portions of hunter-harvested deer, moose and elk carcasses may be brought into South Dakota: cut and wrapped meat; quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached; antlers, hides or teeth; finished taxidermy mounts; and antlers attached to skull caps that are cleaned of all brain tissue.

Hunters could enter the state with a whole carcass or head with antlers attached if delivered to a licensed taxidermist, game processor, or to the hunter's domicile. A hunter shall dispose of all remaining carcass parts from the above mentioned exceptions taken from another state with a waste management provider or permitted landfill within 14 days of processing.

Those carcasses only traveling through South Dakota and those carcasses that test negative for CWD would be exempt from this regulation.

3. Hunter-harvested deer, moose, and elk carcasses shall not leave a known CWD endemic area within South Dakota.

Exceptions:

Only the following portions of hunter-harvested deer, moose, and elk carcasses may leave a known CWD endemic area within South Dakota: cut and wrapped meat; quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached; antlers, hides or teeth; finished taxidermy mounts; and antlers attached to skull caps that are cleaned of all brain tissue.

Whole deer, moose, and elk carcasses and high-risk carcass parts from harvested these animals may be transported from known CWD endemic areas only if the carcass is delivered to a licensed taxidermist, commercial processor, or to the hunter's domicile. A hunter shall dispose of all remaining carcass parts from the above mentioned exceptions taken from a known CWD endemic area with a waste management provider or permitted landfill within 14 days of processing.

Those carcasses that test negative for CWD would be exempt from this regulation.

To comment in person, the public hearing will be held Sept. 5 at 2 p.m. MDT at the Spearfish Holiday Inn. Individuals can submit comments online at gfp.sd.gov/forms/positions/ or mail them to 523 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501. To be included in the public record and to be considered by the Commission, comments must include a full name and city of residence and meet the submission deadline of 72 hours before the public hearing (not including the day of the public hearing) per HB 1006.

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GFP Commission Proposes Repealing Velvet Antler Tagging

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission proposed to repeal the state mandate of tagging hunter-harvested deer and elk antlers.

The proposal follows the South Dakota Legislature's actions during the 2019 legislative session.

To comment in person, the public hearing will be held Sept. 5 at 2 p.m. MDT at the Spearfish Holiday Inn. Individuals can submit comments online at or mail them to 523 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501. To be included in the public record and to be considered by the Commission, comments must include a full name and city of residence and meet the submission deadline of 72 hours before the public hearing (not including the day of the public hearing) per HB 1006. gfp.sd.gov/forms/positions/

GFP Commission Proposes Changes to Big Game Baiting Dates

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission proposed a change to the dates allowed for baiting big game animals.

The proposal would move the restricted dates from the current, Aug. 15-Feb. 1 and March 15-May 31, to Aug. 1-Feb. 1 and March 15-May 31.

This move would coincide with the earlier start date of the South Dakota archery season.

To comment in person, the public hearing will be held Sept. 5 at 2 p.m. MDT at the Spearfish Holiday Inn. Individuals can submit comments online at gfp.sd.gov/forms/positions/ or mail them to 523 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501. To be included in the public record and to be considered by the Commission, comments must include a full name and city of residence and meet the submission deadline of 72 hours before the public hearing (not including the day of the public hearing) per HB 1006.

GFP Commission Changes to Sand Lake Refuge Archery Season

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission moved the start date for archery hunters wanting to hunt the Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Brown County.

Currently, archers may hunt the refuge beginning the third Saturday of October. At the request of Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge staff, the Commission made Sept. 1 the start date, which aligns with the start of the state-wide archery season.

GFP Commission Modifies Rifle and Archery Antelope Hunting Units

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission modified the firearm and archery antelope units and adjusted firearm licenses for the 2019 and 2020 hunting seasons.

The Commission made the following changes for the firearms antelope season:

Adjusted the number of West River resident licenses from no more than 4,665 one-tag antelope licenses and no more than 300 two-tag antelope licenses to 4,235 one-tag antelope licenses and no more than 600 two-tag antelope licenses.

Adjusted the number of East River resident licenses from no more than 100 one-tag antelope licenses to 85 one-tag antelope licenses.

Modified Unit 36A (Hughes County) by removing Hyde County.

Established Unit 38A to include Buffalo, Hand and Hyde counties.

Modified Unit 50A (Mellette County) to include Todd County.

The firearms antelope hunting seasons will be:

September 28 – October 13, 2019

October 3 – October 18, 2020

The Commission added Todd County to the area where archery antelope hunting would be allowed and removed Brule County from the archery season.

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The antelope archery season dates will be:

2019: August 17 – October 31, except when the prairie (firearm) antelope season is open.

2020: August 15 – October 31, except when the prairie (firearm) antelope season is open.

GFP Commission Restricts Firearms and Muzzleloader Use on American Crow Creek Game Production Area Near Oacoma

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission eliminated the use of firearms and muzzleloaders on the American Crow Creek public hunting area near Oacoma.

The proposal came via the Commission's petition process. Safety concerns were the primary reason for making the change. Shotguns and archery equipment will still be allowed in the area.

GFP Commission Proposes Trap Check Time Petition

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission proposed a rule that would shorten the time a trapper would have to check active traps.

The proposal originated from the Prairie Hills Audubon Society, through the Commission's petition procedure and would give trappers 24 hours in between checking traps or snares.

The current GFP rule states "traps, including snares, must be checked prior to midnight of the second full calendar day (from the time the trap is set or last checked) east of the Missouri River and prior to midnight of the third full calendar day west of the Missouri River."

The petition also would grant GFP the ability to allow extensions to the 24 hour check time due to unanticipated complications or emergencies. The petition also would call for a GFP staff person to release or euthanize an animal held in a trap longer than 24 hours.

To comment in person, the public hearing will be held Sept. 5 at 2 p.m. MDT at the Spearfish Holiday Inn. Individuals can submit comments online at gfp.sd.gov/forms/positions/ or mail them to 523 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501. To be included in the public record and to be considered by the Commission, comments must include a full name and city of residence, and meet the submission deadline of 72 hours before the public hearing (not including the day of the public hearing) per HB 1006.

GFP Commission Proposes Muzzleloader Optics Change Petition

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Park (GFP) Commission proposed a rule that would allow muzzleloader hunters to use 1-4x or 1-6x powered optics during the muzzleloader deer season.

The proposal originated through the Commission's petition procedure due to the difficulty of finding a legal, 1x power scope.

To comment in person, the public hearing will be held Sept. 5 at 2 p.m. MDT at the Spearfish Holiday Inn. Individuals can submit comments online at gfp.sd.gov/forms/positions/ or mail them to 523 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501. To be included in the public record and to be considered by the Commission, comments must include a full name and city of residence, and meet the submission deadline of 72 hours before the public hearing (not including the day of the public hearing) per HB 1006.

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City of Groton Financial Report for June 2019

June 2019

1st State Bank Checking Acct	\$ 1,440,062.46
General Cash	\$ 300.00
SD FIT Acct	\$ 1,435,044.46
1st State Bank Water CD	\$ 82,418.00
SD FIT Water CD	\$ -
BB Trust CD	\$ 1,500.00
SD FIT CD	\$ 100,000.00
Cemetery Perp Care CD	\$ 32,876.69

Invested In		
Cash	\$ 300.00	0.01%
1st State Bank	\$ 1,556,857.15	50.35%
SD Fit	\$ 1,535,044.46	49.64%
Total	\$ 3,092,201.61	100.00%

Total	\$ 3,092,201.61
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	Beginning Cash Balance	Receipts	Expenditures	Transfers	Ending Cash Balance
General	\$ 800,524.05	\$ 189,032.73	\$ 84,150.29		\$ 905,406.49
Bed, Board, Booze Tax	\$ 36,003.25	\$ 2,753.81	\$ -		\$ 38,757.06
Baseball Uniforms	\$ 1,710.20				\$ 1,710.20
Airport	\$ 8,725.47	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 8,725.47
**Debt Service	\$ 318,031.11	\$ 5,075.36	\$ -		\$ 323,106.47
Cemetery Perpetual Care	\$ 34,706.69				\$ 34,706.69
Water Tower	\$ 180,000.00				\$ 180,000.00
Water	\$ 161,722.62	\$ 26,466.29	\$ 16,723.48		\$ 171,465.43
Electric	\$ 960,612.97	\$ 128,491.07	\$ 62,101.20		\$ 1,027,002.84
Wastewater	\$ 224,725.70	\$ 17,745.45	\$ 8,963.65		\$ 233,507.50
Solid Waste	\$ 16,449.10	\$ 6,611.23	\$ 8,557.91		\$ 14,502.42
Family Crisis	\$ 6,920.82	\$ -			\$ 6,920.82
Sales Tax	\$ 19,029.36	\$ 10,424.04	\$ 10,187.54		\$ 19,265.86
Employment	\$ 4,122.16	\$ -	\$ 1,994.60		\$ 2,127.56
Utility Prepayments	\$ 47,575.13	\$ 4,770.34	\$ 2.86		\$ 52,342.61
Utility Deposits	\$ 72,899.58	\$ 250.00	\$ 850.00		\$ 72,299.58
Other	\$ 354.61	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 354.61
Totals	\$ 2,894,112.82	\$ 391,620.32	\$ 193,531.53	\$ -	\$ 3,092,201.61

**Debt to be Paid		
**2015 Refinance	\$ 2,575,375.00	by 12/1/2035
**West Sewer	\$ 107,317.99	by 10/15/2022
**RR Sewer Crossing	\$ 62,765.21	by 7/15/22
Total Debt	\$ 2,745,458.20	

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Groton Garden Club

The Groton Garden club met at the home of Arlis Kluess at 5:30 pm July 15, for their monthly meeting. Ten members answered roll call and recited the pledges. Laurie Mitchell, Arlys Kluess, Pam Rix, and Bev Sombke were the committee that weeded the park in June. It will be weeded again when the heat and mosquitos subside. The August meeting will be held at the home of Pam Rix, with Linda Anderson assisting. Laurie Mitchell will give the program.



Geist Bridal Shower

Please join us for a
bridal shower honoring
Andee Geist,
Bride-to-be of Kody Conlon
Saturday, July 27th, at 1 pm
Aberdeen Senior Citizens Center
1303 7th Ave SE
Aberdeen, SD

The couple is registered at Target, on
Amazon.com, and Lori's Pharmacy

**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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U8 Boys Red Pee-Wees

Volunteer Dads/Coaches: Travis Antonsen, Joel Kroll, Cody Hanten, Jeff Flihs, Chris Ehresmann

Back Row: Connor Kroll, Noah Scepaniak, Kolton Antonsen, Axel Abeln, Zach Flihs, Sam Crank

Front Row: Haden Harder, Gavin Hanten, Kyson Kucker, Bentley Ehresmann, Keegan Kucker, Parker Lambertz. (Courtesy Photo)



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

GROTON C & MA CHURCH

706 N. MAIN

JULY 21 – JULY 25

FOR AGES 3 THROUGH GRADE 6

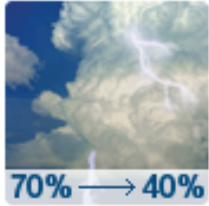
6:15 – 8:30 PM

QUESTIONS? CALL JANA 397-7471

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Today



T-storms
Likely then
Chance
T-storms

High: 83 °F

Tonight



Increasing
Clouds

Low: 67 °F

Thursday



Sunny

High: 89 °F

Thursday
Night



Chance
T-storms

Low: 68 °F

Friday



Mostly Sunny

High: 84 °F

Marginal Risk

of severe thunderstorms

① 2 3 4 5

Hazards

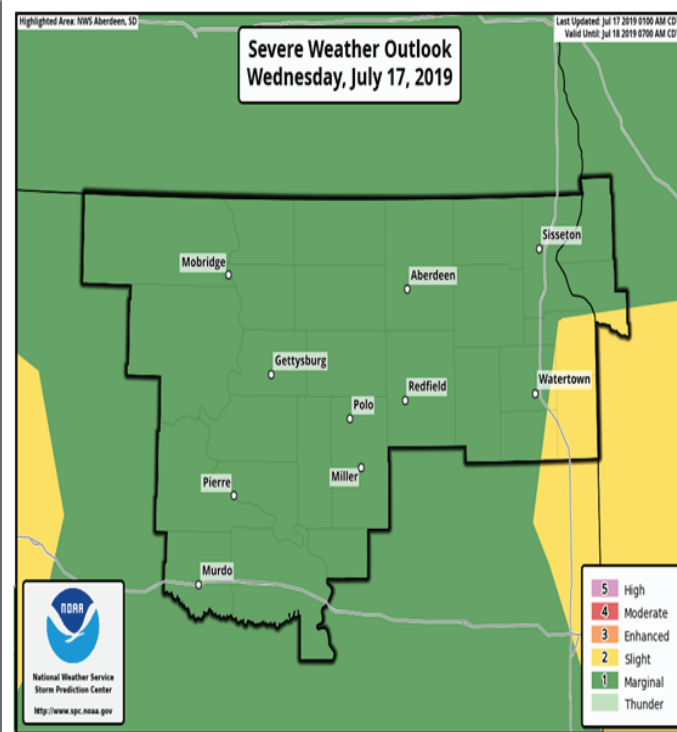
A few thunderstorms may become strong to severe, having the potential to produce lightning, hail to quarter size and wind gusts to 60 mph

Timing

Early this morning, then again this afternoon and evening

Some Cities at Risk

Aberdeen, Mobridge, Sisseton, Watertown, Pierre, Miller, Redfield



ISSUED: 4:55 AM - Wednesday, July 17, 2019

Published on: 07/17/2019 at 12:58AM

Most of the forecast area is under a marginal risk for severe storms today, which means the threat for severe storms is a bit less than Tuesday. That said, the area can still see a few strong to perhaps severe storms today, with hail and strong winds. The heat and humidity return for Thursday!

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Today in Weather History

July 17, 1985: An F1 tornado touched down, ten miles east of Raymond, in Clark County, destroying two cattle sheds and damaged several buildings. A garage was moved off its foundation. Heavy rains, high winds and hail up to 2.75 inches in diameter produced considerable damage to farm buildings between Raymond and Garden City. Rainfall amounts of three to six inches caused additional crop losses from erosion. In the city of Clark, some basement flooding occurred, and water ran across Highway 212 west of Clark. Some storm total rainfall amounts include; 3.77 inches in Clark; 3.15 in Clear Lake; 2.85 in Redfield; and 2.31 inches in 3 miles NE of Raymond. This thunderstorm began near Kennebec, in Lyman County, where winds gusted to 80 mph, and small hail was observed. A few trees were uprooted, and numerous branches were downed. Several car windows were broke from the winds and small hail. A half inch of rain fell in ten minutes, filling ditches. High winds continued into Spink County where extensive damage to a farm estate east of Redfield occurred. Heavy rains of three to five inches caused road and basement flooding. A damage path from wind and hail continued to Clear Lake, to the south of Gary and into Minnesota to the east of Canby. Winds gusted to 70 mph, and hail ranged from one to almost two inches in diameter. In Clear Lake, four businesses were damaged, and power poles were downed. One building had the fiberglass siding and roofing torn off. A second building had a metal roof blown off. Highway 77, south of Clear Lake was impassable due to hail on the ground.

July 17, 1993: Torrential rains of three to seven inches fell in Grant County resulting in the overflow of Lake Farley into the city of Milbank. The dam held, but an emergency dike broke on the evening of the 17th releasing water into residential streets and a trailer court in Milbank. The broken barrier forced the evacuation of at least 200 people. Damage included 120 mobile homes, and 26 houses were affected by floodwaters. Also, a man died when his pickup truck hit a washout on a gravel road south of Milbank and was swept into the floodwaters of a nearby creek.

July 17, 2010: Several supercell thunderstorms moving southeast across the region brought large hail up to softball size along with damaging winds to parts of northeast South Dakota. Numerous homes, vehicles, along with thousands of acres of crops were destroyed. Hail up to the size of softballs occurred near Westport, in Brown County. Golf ball to baseball size hail fell at the National Weather Service office causing damage to several vehicles. The rear window was broken out of one of the vehicles. A supercell thunderstorm was tracking southeast across Clark County produced anywhere from a quarter to baseball size hail along with wind gusts over 70 mph from Crocker to Clark to Naples to Vienna. The large hail and winds caused extensive damage to homes, outbuildings, vehicles, and thousands of acres of crops. Many trees and gardens were also damaged or destroyed by the hail and high winds. The storm entered western Hamlin County. Winds measured at 90 mph in Hayti along with some large hail broke numerous windows out of several homes and vehicles, damaged several roofs, and downed many trees. A concrete silo was also destroyed. The highway shop lost half of its roof along with severe damage to the ceiling of a trucking business in Hayti.

1942: A great flood developed over the Smethport area in Pennsylvania, resulting in an estimated 34.50 inches of rain in just one day, including 30.60 inches in only six hours, setting a world record. The official observing site, Smethport Highway Shed, reported only 13.08 inches for the entire month because the flood consumed the gauge after 6.68" of rain. The total results from the substitution of the officially estimated amount for the amount measured.

1981: Severe thunderstorm winds ripped a 10,000 square foot hole in a 90-foot high pavilion at Sea World in Orlando, FL. The storm panicked a crowd of 550 tourists. One death occurred due to injury and heart attack, and 15 people were injured. The canopy was made of fiberglass and Teflon, designed to withstand 120 mph winds.

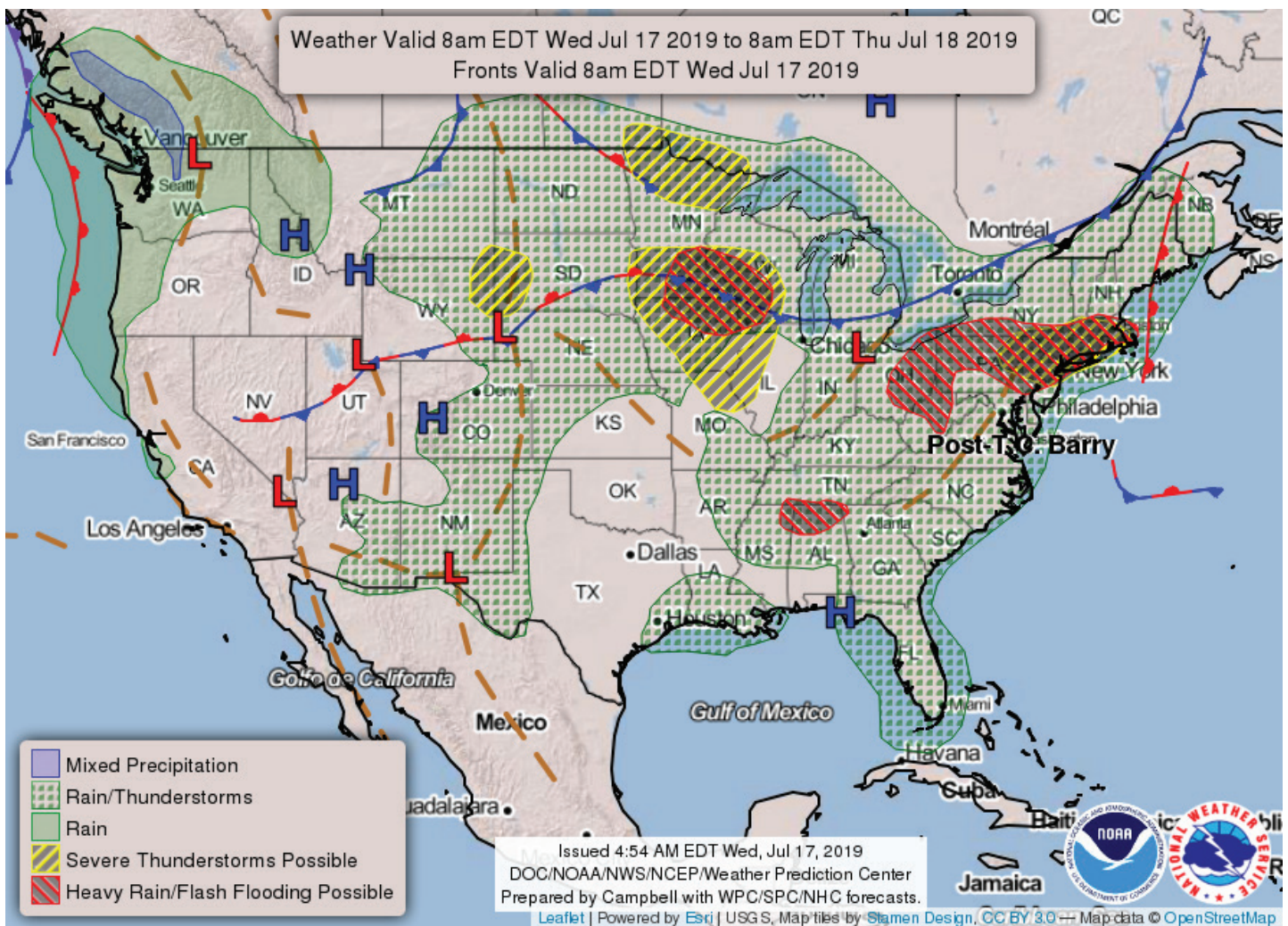
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 87 °F at 5:15 PM
Low Temp: 68 °F at 6:20 AM
Wind: 18 mph at 9:21 PM
Day Rain: 0.30 this morning

Record High: 111° in 1936
Record Low: 44° in 1895
Average High: 84°F
Average Low: 59°F
Average Precip in July.: 1.68
Precip to date in July.: 1.79
Average Precip to date: 12.52
Precip Year to Date: 14.51
Sunset Tonight: 9:18 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:02 a.m.



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LET GOD MAKE THINGS RIGHT

Resentments fill hearts and control minds. They are easy to collect and store in dark crevices deep inside while we wait for the right moment to settle a score. It is amazing how much more room we seem to have for resentments than we do for love. Perhaps it is because we want to be like God and set standards and pass judgment on what others do to us. It seems like we want to be the prosecutor, then the jury, become the judge, and finally the executioner.

If we could ever look at this getting even objectively, it might amaze us. Unless there is an accepted way to measure a wrong, it is impossible to know the appropriate method to apply to get even. It might be too little, or too much, and rarely just right.

For example: What are we to do if someone treats us or a loved one unfairly? Or speaks a lie or half-truth about us? Maybe exaggerate our faults? Refuse to pay back the money we loaned them? Try to ruin our reputation? Have you been ridiculed for an honest mistake? Someone perhaps, may have sold us an inferior product, then refused to honor their service contract.

Most of our getting even are subjective and devised to achieve what we think and feel is appropriate. However, in Gods Word we are warned not to do that!

Do not say, Ill pay you back for this wrong! Wait for the Lord, and He will avenge you. One translator inserts the word expectantly after the word wait. In other words, You know that this is up to God, and He, in His impeccable timing, will come to your aid. God is our Savior and Redeemer and He will do what is right in His eyes - not our eyes.

There is a warning in Genesis that demands our attention: Far be it from you (to do the work of God)! Will not the Judge of all the earth do what is right?

We must never assume Gods responsibilities! Never!

Prayer: Father, getting even is a natural, normal thing to want to do. But it is never the right thing to do. Help us to turn vengeance over to You for You are the Judge! In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 20:22 Do not say, Ill pay you back for this wrong! Wait for the Lord, and He will avenge you.

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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

- 04/4/2020 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 04/25/2020 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 05/2/2020 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 06/8-10/2020 St. John's VBS 6/8-10/2020
- 07/12/2020 Summer Fest/Car Show 7/12/2020
- 10/10/2020 Pumpkin Fest 10/10/2020

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News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

08-16-31-48-52, Mega Ball: 23, Megaplier: 3

(eight, sixteen, thirty-one, forty-eight, fifty-two; Mega Ball: twenty-three; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$137 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$40 million

Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press

Argus Leader, Sioux Falls, July 12

Public parks shouldn't rely on private donations

More than most cities its size, Sioux Falls is well-versed in the benefits of private donations.

Some of the most public successes of the past decade have been spurred by such contributions, improving quality of life by boosting enterprises such as the Washington Pavilion, Denny Sanford Premier Center, Midco Aquatic Center and most recently the State Theatre.

On a statewide level, neither of South Dakota's Division I universities would have updated athletic facilities if it weren't for private or corporate support, nor would Sanford Health be, well, Sanford Health.

But there's a fine line between appreciating these gestures and knowing when to distinguish between private influence and public concerns. That line is becoming increasingly blurred within city government.

Mayor Paul TenHaken, as part of his five-year capital spending outlook, called for a 16-percent spending increase to focus on repairing damaged highways and roads, to the tune of a \$30 million.

That means less money for the Sioux Falls parks system, where large-scale enhancements will be curtailed unless private donations are able to offset the shift in budgetary muscle.

This pilot initiative to get the private sector to invest \$10 million in the parks system by 2022 is one of TenHaken's "Big Hairy Audacious Goals," but it might end with people pulling their hair out.

One of Sioux Falls' most appealing features is its vast array of public parks. The city's status as a desirable place to live and raise a family is partly based on these public spaces, whether it's strolling through the Japanese Gardens at Terrace Park, swimming at Laurel Oak, sledding at Tuthill or enjoying the bandshell at McKennan.

The preservation, management and improvement of these resources is key to helping our community thrive, and that is part of the city government's compact — like public safety, utilities, transportation and, yes, fixing roads.

Simply maintaining the status quo and relying on benefactors to enrich the parks system comes off as sloppy stewardship of one of the city's most visible and family-friendly assets, particularly with no clear plan on who will be in charge of soliciting donations.

When municipalities start relying on private funding of public parks, troubling themes emerge. The decline in government funding tends to become permanent, even as alternate revenue sources grow sporadic and create uncertainties for capital improvements and growth.

Since donations are often site-specific, they can lead to inequality in terms of which parks or neighborhoods receive attention, rather than a citywide appraisal based on usage and need.

In a general sense, relying on private investors for public works can lead to inordinate levels of influence for certain individuals or corporations, a concern of which Sioux Falls civic leaders should be fully aware.

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Are there times when big-ticket improvements might call for public-private partnership? Sure. Do we think that the city's green spaces will suddenly fall into disrepair because of this pilot plan? Of course not.

But the sense of ownership that taxpayers feel with city parks should not be underestimated, nor should the notion that all these parcels have value to those who use them, regardless of location.

When the city's capital improvement plan falls short of funding street repairs and park upgrades at the same time, there's an imbalance of priorities somewhere. If you're looking for audacious goals, fixing that problem is a good place to start.

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, July 15

Wounded Knee and Medals of Honor

History, the saying goes, is written by the winners, a fact that can often produce one-side, one-dimensional views on the past, unless other voices are considered and heard. This can lead to some history being rewritten (we hesitate to call it a revision, for that has a negative connotation) and/or reconsidered by future generations.

One such event is the 1890 incident at Wounded Knee Creek in South Dakota. For generations, the official history — and the history that most South Dakota kids were taught — referred to it as the "battle" of Wounded Knee on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The incident came about as soldiers from the U.S. 7th Cavalry Regiment ordered a group of Native Americans camped by the creek to disarm. The tribal members started doing what was called a "Ghost Dance," which troops reportedly mistook for a war dance. When a soldier tried to confiscate a weapon from a belligerent tribal member, the gun discharged, igniting a mad storm of confusion. Some of the Lakota members reportedly tried to fight back before deciding instead to run. An estimated 250-300 Native Americans, mostly women and children, were killed in the incident. About 25-30 U.S. soldiers were killed.

But American records reported this incident as a battle, to the point that 20 U.S. soldiers were awarded the nation's highest military citation, the Medal of Honor, for their actions.

Now, renewed efforts are being made in Washington to rescind the 20 medals that were awarded for a battle that never was, for a slaughter that still haunts and angers Native American tribes.

Rescinding these medals would be the right thing to do.

Legislation was introduced in Congress last month to do just that in an effort to right, at least somewhat, a terrible wrong in our history. According to the Washington Examiner, the measure — introduced by Democratic Reps. Denny Heck of Washington and Deb Haaland of New Mexico and Republican Rep. Paul Cook of California — is called the Remove the Stain Act. It is also being promoted by O.J. Semans, a member of the Rosebud Sioux tribe and co-founder of Four Directions, a Native American voting rights organization.

"I believe the introduction of this bill today shows the continued work and strength of the Native American people who have fought for over a century for the United States to acknowledge the genocide of our people that has taken place on this soil," Haaland said.

Seeking to historically right the wrong perception of Wounded Knee is not a new quest. In 1990, Congress officially apologized to the descendants of the victims of Wounded Knee, but left the 20 Medals of Honor in place. The Associated Press reported that, in 1996, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, chaired by Sen. John McCain (R-Arizona) received a petition to rescind the medals, but McCain replied in a letter that a change in historical view on the massacre did not warrant the revocation.

However, without revoking these Medals of Honor, the winner's history seems to be having it both ways. The apology appears to acknowledge the mistake, but keeping these honors in place indicates that the 1890 event is still classified at some level as a military battle.

These two views cannot be reconciled historically or militarily, and the apology effectively means nothing without the revocation of the medals. That is the only logical action that can be taken.

Rapid City Journal, July 11

State should guarantee ambulance service for rally

In a few days, hundreds of thousands of visitors will begin roaring into the Black Hills with the ultimate destination being the Sturgis motorcycle rally — an event that puts this area on the world stage.

These motorcyclists will pump millions of dollars into South Dakota's economy and one of the biggest beneficiaries is state and local governments. Last year, the state reported collecting \$1.3 million in sales tax alone from temporary vendors.

As state Revenue Supervisor Lori Haupt so aptly said after the 2018 rally, "The Sturgis motorcycle rally is an important event for South Dakota."

The vendor figure, however, represents just a small portion of the tax bounty collected when 400,000 or 500,000 mostly well-heeled baby boomers visit the area over a 10-day period.

Convenience stores, hotels, restaurants, bars, campgrounds, mechanics, retailers, motorcycle dealerships, tourist attractions and others all collect sales tax from them while they enjoy the ride and the Black Hills.

In return, the state should do all it can to be good hosts and help provide essential services to our visitors. It is, as we like to say, the South Dakota way.

This year, however, a problem exists that could cast a cloud over South Dakota's premiere event if revenue is the deciding factor. There's a real possibility that ambulance service will not be available to many of our visitors.

The city-run Sturgis Ambulance Service, like similar operations across the nation, is running a deficit — in this case \$85,000 — and is on the verge of reducing its coverage area to slow the bleeding. At this very moment, the Sturgis City Council is trying to find a solution to what has become a complicated local problem.

It will again try to find a workable solution at its next meeting, which is Monday. If none is arrived at, it's a real possibility that no ambulance service will be available for thousands and thousands of visitors, people who will be pouring money into the economy.

The clock is ticking. The rally officially starts on Aug. 2, but motorcyclists as well as vendors will be showing up before then.

It's time for the state to step in and do something.

One of the reasons the Sturgis Ambulance Service is running a deficit is the rally. This relatively small operation faces a daunting challenge every year, one that would test any ambulance service. The state certainly recognizes that challenge in other areas. For example, it provides additional law enforcement resources during the rally.

Why can't the state do the same thing for the ambulance service this year?

If the state is worried about a return on a public health investment, it should stop and think about the costs of someone dying that it is attributed to the lack of an ambulance service. The ensuing publicity would not be good, but it likely would go viral.

It's just not visitors who could be affected by this. Many Black Hills residents and their loved ones stay at or go to concerts and other events at the many campgrounds that would lose ambulance service if some entity doesn't step up and at least provide a short-term solution.

Then one must consider that the majority of these visitors are baby boomers, who are far more likely to need medical attention for a number of serious ailments. Every year clinics and hospitals are strained by the large influx of patients during the rally.

It would be a wise move for a state that has received millions of dollars in tax revenue over the years and seen its tourism profile boosted immeasurably by the rally to spend a little money to guarantee ambulance service during this year's rally and give Sturgis more time to solve a problem that is in part due to the rally.

No one wants the state to get involved in every county ambulance dispute, but this one is too important to let ride as is.

A one-time emergency has presented itself and the state needs to act before it is too late.

Oglala Sioux Tribe legalizes same-sex marriage

PINE RIDGE, S.D. (AP) — The Oglala Sioux say they are the first tribe in South Dakota to legalize same-sex marriage.

The tribal council last week approved a same-gender marriage ordinance in a 12-3 vote with one abstention. The new marriage ordinance amends marital and domestic law that has not changed on the Pine Ridge reservation since 1935.

Monique “Muffie” Mousseau and Felipa De Leon grew up on the reservation, but found they could not be married there in 2015. The couple received a license in Pennington County and wed at a group ceremony at Mount Rushmore.

The two women began petitioning for changes in the reservation’s law, resulting in the passage of same-sex marriage.

“We are looking out for future generations, for protections and for equality,” Mousseau told the Rapid City Journal . “These foundations of laws have to be in place because we have grandkids. And that next generation coming up, we don’t want them experiencing the same (gay) bashing, we don’t want them to get to a point where somebody says a bad word to them because they like somebody of the same sex and they hang themselves. We don’t want that.”

Mousseau and De Leon live in Rapid City, but three of their five children and four of their five grandchildren live on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

The U.S. Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage in 2015, but not for the 573 federally recognized tribes.

“Tribes have the right to make the decision themselves,” said Marcia Zug, a professor at the University of South Carolina School of Law who specializes in family and federal Indian law.

In 2016, the Cherokee Nation’s attorney general legalized gay marriage for the tribe, which at the time was among a handful of federal recognized tribes that had explicit bans on gay marriage. After a two-year legal battle, a tribal court cleared the way in 2017 for gay couples to marry on an American Indian reservation in the Phoenix area. The court ruled that same-sex couples have a fundamental right to marry under the constitution of the Ak-Chin community and the Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968.

Mousseau said she was happy to see the tribe approve of same-sex marriage through its own sovereign process even if meant waiting longer.

“We’re doing this for all the children, everybody’s grandchildren, everybody’s great-grandchildren. Not just ours. But all the whole next generation,” De Leon added.

Lawmaker: Expand compensation from nuclear weapons testing

By SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — A compensation program for those exposed to radiation from years of nuclear weapons testing and uranium mining would be expanded under legislation that seeks to address fallout across the western United States, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

U.S. Rep. Ben Ray Lujan rolled out the measure Tuesday on the 74th anniversary of the Trinity Test.

As part of the top-secret Manhattan Project, government scientists and the U.S. military dropped the first atomic bomb in the New Mexico desert in 1945. Nearly 200 atmospheric tests followed. Uranium mining persisted even after the tests ceased.

Tens of thousands of people — from miners and truck drivers to those living in communities near test sites — were exposed to radiation that has resulted in cancer, birth defects and other illnesses, said Lujan, a New Mexico Democrat.

He said radiation exposure has disproportionately affected Native American communities as well as those who have lived in the shadow of that first test.

“Radiation exposure has taken the lives of too many and continues to hurt our communities. I know how important this legislation is for New Mexico families that have been affected,” he said.

The Radiation Exposure Compensation Act was first passed in 1990 as an alternative to costly litigation

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to ensure the federal government met its financial responsibilities to workers who became sick as a result of the radiation hazards of their jobs. Coverage was broadened a decade later.

Compensation currently ranges from lump sums of \$100,000 for uranium workers to \$50,000 for those who lived downwind of the Nevada Test Site.

Supporters of the legislation have argued for years that there are many more people who were exposed but not eligible to file claims under the program.

This includes downwinders in New Mexico's Tularosa Basin, where the Trinity Test was conducted.

The Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium say many who lived near the site weren't told it involved an atomic weapon until the U.S. dropped bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and World War II ended.

"The government did nothing at the time to monitor what was happening with the fallout," said Tina Cordova, a co-founder of the group and cancer survivor. "They did nothing to protect our health at the time of the test. They did nothing to warn before or after and people were dying."

Despite the lack of comprehensive epidemiological studies, Cordova pointed to a paper published this week in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists on state health data that showed a spike in infant mortality with no known cause other than it began a month after the Trinity Test.

She said the increase followed what had been a steady decline in infant mortality in New Mexico up until August 1945.

"This is significant," she said of the data, saying it can help frame the debate as the bill moves through the U.S. House.

Similar legislation has been introduced by U.S. Sens. Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich.

Nearly three dozen House members have signed on to Lujan's measure and his office is confident this could be the year that other downwinders are added to the list of those who can get compensation.

Lawmakers also are facing a deadline as authorization for the compensation program will expire in two years. Lujan said that will leave thousands of people without the ability to pay for medical care for illnesses linked to exposure.

The legislation would extend the program until 2045 and the timeframe for those exposed while working in the uranium industry would be extended to Dec. 31, 1990.

The measure also would require Congress to issue an apology to those exposed in New Mexico, Idaho, Colorado, Arizona, Utah, Texas, Wyoming, Oregon, Washington, South Dakota, North Dakota, Nevada, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

The definition of downwind states would be expanded to include Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Guam.

U.S. Rep. Michael San Nicolas of Guam said nuclear fallout has left behind a deadly legacy.

"It is about cancer. It is about the major impact these diseases have on our families," he said. "It is about the life and death of loved ones past, present, and future."

Netanyahu makes history as Israel's longest-serving leader

By ARON HELLER Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — As Benjamin Netanyahu becomes Israel's longest-serving prime minister, he is solidifying his place as the country's greatest political survivor and the most dominant force in Israeli politics in his generation.

He has persevered through scandals, crises and conflicts, winning election after election even as the country grows more bitterly polarized. His supporters credit him with keeping Israel safe and prosperous, maintaining its Jewish character and boosting its standing internationally.

His opponents, with equally visceral emotion, claim he has dashed hopes for peace with the Palestinians, torn society apart with vicious attacks on minority Arabs and left-wing opponents, and infused politics with a culture of corruption.

But as the longevity of his 13-year rule is set to surpass that of Israel's founding father David Ben-Gurion

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on July 20, all agree Netanyahu has left a permanent imprint on Israel.

"He thinks that he is the right guy in the right place. That he is the one who will save Israel and lead Israel to a safe haven," said Aviv Bushinsky, a former Netanyahu aide. Israelis think that "things are good, so why should we change a winning horse," he added.

Just as he is about to cross a milestone, Netanyahu faces perhaps his greatest political challenge yet. After failing to form a parliamentary majority following April elections, the country is holding a repeat vote on Sept. 17. The following month, he faces a hearing with Israel's attorney general, who has recommended indicting Netanyahu on corruption charges. If formal charges are filed, Netanyahu could be forced to step aside.

In contrast to his predecessors, the 69-year-old hasn't left his mark by winning a war or signing a peace accord. He has proudly resisted various peace initiatives and allowed West Bank settlements to flourish. The signature achievements most associated with him, such as combatting Iran's nuclear program, covertly striking weapons shipments to Israel's enemies and building a border fence to stop the flow of African migrants, had begun taking shape before he assumed office.

"His rule has been characterized by conservatism and hesitancy," said opposition lawmaker Tamar Zandberg. "If he is going to be remembered for anything it's going to be his idleness."

Netanyahu has often said he would like to be remembered as the "protector of Israel." But admirers and critics alike say that what sets him apart is his unparalleled political acumen, a ruthless drive to win at all costs and an uncanny ability to sell his shifting policies to the public.

"He so deeply believes in himself and what he is doing, and his marketing skills are so amazing that he can argue for one thing and then the opposite with the same conviction. It's an art form," said Bushinsky.

A gifted orator in both English and Hebrew, he was elected for a single term in the late 1990s on a platform of opposing the Oslo accords with the Palestinians. But once in office, he continued implementing them and even met with arch-enemy Yasser Arafat.

As finance minister in the early 2000s, he cut taxes and rolled back entitlements to the ultra-Orthodox Jewish community — only to reverse course once he returned to power to secure their political backing. He wrote counterterrorism books in which he preached never to negotiate under threat, but as prime minister he released more than 1,000 prisoners in exchange for a single captive Israeli soldier in 2011.

Despite his tough talk, Netanyahu has shown relative moderation when it comes to using military force. Over the past year, he has resisted calls by hard-line constituents to strike harder against Gaza militants.

Even after so long in power, Netanyahu has maintained an outsider image, railing at perceived enemies in the media, judiciary and opposition. His tactics have mirrored those of his good friend, President Donald Trump, as well as other right-wing populist leaders like Hungary's Viktor Orban and Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro — both of whom he has welcomed to Israel.

The anti-establishment rhetoric, along with occasional incitement against the country's Arab minority and the political left, has played well among his base of traditional, working-class voters.

The son of a historian — and a keen student of history himself — Netanyahu already holds the record for being Israel's youngest elected prime minister and for serving the longest consecutive term.

Anshel Pfeffer, a columnist at the Haaretz daily and author of a Netanyahu biography, called the prime minister an "incredibly good political strategist" who has presided over a period of prosperity and relative quiet. Netanyahu often boasts of expanding ties with countries that once shunned Israel — including Arab states that share Israel's enmity toward Iran — while rejecting demands for a Palestinian state.

"If you want one ideological legacy it's that he has broken the paradigm that we need to end the occupation or else we will be isolated," said Pfeffer. "He has proven that is not true."

Palestinian official Saeb Erekat said Netanyahu will be remembered as the one who "buried" the peace process and paved the way to a future apartheid state by deepening Israel's control over the West Bank, which it captured in the 1967 Mideast war. "I think his legacy will be his success in making sure that any ray of hope to achieve peace based on two states along the 1967 border is blocked," he said.

In confronting President Barack Obama's nuclear deal with Iran in a brazen 2015 speech to Congress, Netanyahu also debunked the conventional wisdom that an Israeli leader could not survive an open clash

with an American president. Since Trump's election in 2016, Netanyahu has enjoyed unprecedented backing, drawing frequent accusations of partisanship.

"The combination of a very difficult relationship with the Obama administration and the exaggerated embrace of Trump potentially create a rift in the quality of U.S.-Israel relations," noted Dan Shapiro, Obama's former ambassador to Israel. "When the pendulum swings in the other direction that will also be part of his legacy."

Aron Heller has covered Israeli politics for The Associated Press since 2005. Follow him at www.twitter.com/aronhellerap

Asian entertainment industries grappling with #MeToo issues

By HILARY FOX Associated Press

When Wu Ke-xi was looking for a frightening plotline for her latest film, she didn't need to look further than her own industry.

The Taiwanese actress and screenwriter's latest movie, "Nina Wu," is the story of an actress who, in pursuit of a role that will lead to stardom, is abused and psychologically scarred by a man in power.

Wu found herself closely following the #MeToo movement in Hollywood, and decided to write something for women affected by sexual assaults in the entertainment industry. Directed by Midi Z, it was selected to show at the Cannes Film Festival.

"After 2017, after the year the Harvey Weinstein stuff occurred, I read a lot of documents and interviews. I was so purely curious about what happened," said Wu. She said she has been threatened in her career, but never sexually assaulted. "It's still a humiliating experience," she said.

"So I felt really connected to those women."

Asia is having its own #MeToo moment, with its homegrown entertainment industries grappling with many of the issues that have upended entertainment careers in the United States and elsewhere.

Earlier this year, the K-pop scene was shaken when two male stars were accused of sexual misconduct in South Korea. Solo singer Jung Joon-young faced allegations he secretly filmed himself having sex with women and shared the footage on a mobile messenger app; he apologized to the victims. And Seungri, the youngest member of the quintet Big Bang, was accused of trying to steer sex services to business investors. He denied the charges and retired from the group.

Last year, in India, Bollywood actress Tanushree Dutta came forward with details of a 2008 complaint she filed against actor Nana Parekar for alleged sexual harassment, which he denied. A flood of stories of sexual harassment and assault followed on social media from Indian actresses and writers.

Indian actor, singer and filmmaker Farhan Akhtar, a United Nations "He For She" ambassador with his own "Men Against Rape and Discrimination" initiative, says there is unease in the industry.

"Fear runs down the spine of everyone, thinking that, 'Oh my God, maybe I've done something in the past that might come back to bite me,'" he said.

He encourages other women to come forward and speak out.

"Nobody can do it for her. Nobody can out her story and put her in a position that maybe she doesn't want to be in," he said. "But when she does, then it's important that people rally around her so that she feels she's done the right thing. And through her, through that conversation, and through her words she will hopefully inspire, motivate many more people to come out. And that's the way the system will be cleaned."

Screenwriter Zhou Xiaoxuan did speak out. She became a central figure in China's #MeToo movement after an essay she wrote privately, claiming she was sexually assaulted by a TV star, went public on the social media platform Sina Weibo last summer. A prominent television host, Zhu Jun, sued her for defamation and Zhou followed with her own suit, for infringing on her personal rights. Women's rights advocates in China are following the case.

Zhou says the movement has only reached so far in China, affecting mostly a group of high-profile, well-connected men.

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"They were frightened by the #MeToo trend and they stopped. But most people in this society, they've never heard of #MeToo," she said.

"I've actually been lucky because Zhu Jun is well-known," Zhou said. "It's extremely difficult for women who have been assaulted by their friends, colleagues or partners to seek legal recourse."

Japanese TV journalist Shiori Ito said she experienced months of trolling and shaming after she revealed in May 2017 that she had been raped. That was before the #MeToo movement got under way in the United States.

"I'm very grateful to all the other women that have spoken up because I felt very lonely," she said. She said she has felt a change in Japan and in her own family "who were really against me speaking up, and then they started saying, 'You know what, maybe she's right.'"

An emotional television interview with South Korean prosecutor Seo Ji-hyun in January 2018, in which she said she had been assaulted eight years earlier, is credited with starting the #MeToo movement there. Seo has since won a court case for abuse of power against her alleged assaulter. She said that watching women reveal their stories in Hollywood helped give her the courage to speak publicly. Supporters marched in the streets with candles and #WithYou banners.

"I told myself that, 'Yes, this was not my fault and that I should not be ashamed at all,'" she said.

In Pakistan, dancer, theatre director and activist Sheema Kermani is campaigning against sexual abuse, trying to make the movement there more than a moment.

"When actresses, big actresses, started calling out big names of actors for sexual harassment, I think it gave Pakistani women and women in media . the courage to speak out," she said.

In Thailand, model and TV personality Cindy Sirinya Bishop launched the "Don't Tell Me How To Dress" campaign after receiving a wave of support for a "social media rant" — her response to an article advising women not to wear sexy clothes for the Thai New Year in order to avoid sexual assault.

"It all started when that clip that I posted went viral overnight with the support of many, many women all over Thailand, chiming in, commenting, sharing and saying 'Yes, this is exactly what we feel.' Why are we always the ones that have to cover up, or why, when we are harassed or assaulted, is it somehow our fault?" she said.

Bishop also created an exhibition displaying clothing worn by sexual-assault victims. "We have university student outfits to toddler's clothing to sweatpants and T-shirts," she said.

She says her movement would have happened regardless of the stories arriving from America. But she adds: "In some way, the #MeToo movement has collectively empowered women without our knowing it, all over the world."

AP journalists Tassanee Vejpongsa in Bangkok, Muhammad Farooq in Islamabad, Pakistan, Yanan Wang in Beijing, and Louise Dixon in London contributed to this report.

APNewsBreak: Nuclear commission considers fewer inspections

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff is recommending that the agency cut back on inspections at the country's nuclear reactors, a cost-cutting move promoted by the nuclear power industry but denounced by opponents as a threat to public safety.

The recommendations, made public Tuesday, include reducing the time and scope of some annual inspections at the nation's 90-plus nuclear power plants. Some other inspections would be cut from every two years to every three years.

Some of the staff's recommendations would require a vote by the commission, which has a majority of members appointed or reappointed by President Donald Trump, who has urged agencies to reduce regulatory requirements for industries.

The nuclear power industry has prodded regulators to cut inspections, saying that the nuclear facilities are operating well and that the inspections are a financial burden for power providers. Nuclear power,

like coal-fired power, has been struggling in market completion against cheaper natural gas and rising renewable energy.

While Tuesday's report made clear that there was considerable disagreement among the nuclear agency's staff on the cuts, it contended the inspection reduction "improves efficiency while still helping to ensure reasonable assurance of adequate protection to the public."

Commission member Jeff Baran criticized the proposed changes Tuesday, saying reducing oversight of the nuclear power industry "would take us in the wrong direction."

"NRC shouldn't perform fewer inspections or weaken its safety oversight to save money," Baran said.

Baran urged the commission to put the inspection rollbacks up for a broader public discussion before deciding.

"It affects every power reactor in the country," he said. "We should absolutely hear from a broad range of stakeholders before making any far-reaching changes to NRC's safety oversight program."

The release comes a day after Democratic lawmakers faulted the NRC's deliberations, saying they had failed to adequately inform the public of the changes under consideration.

"Cutting corners on such critical safety measures may eventually lead to a disaster that could be detrimental to the future of the domestic nuclear industry," Rep. Frank Pallone, D-N.J., chair of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, and other House Democrats said in a letter Monday to NRC Chairwoman Kristine Svinicki.

Asked for comment Tuesday, NRC spokespeople pointed to the staff arguments for the changes in the report. Trimming overall inspections "will improve effectiveness because inspectors again will be focused on issues of greater safety significance," staffers told commission members in the recommendations.

Edwin Lyman, a nuclear power expert at the nonprofit Union of Concerned Scientists, faulted the reasoning of commission staff that the good performance of much of the nuclear power industry warranted cutting back on agency inspections for problems and potential problems.

"That completely ignores the cause-and-effect relationship between inspections and good performances," Lyman said.

John Paul Stevens evolved into Supreme Court's liberal lion

By MARK SHERMAN and CONNIE CASS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — John Paul Stevens moved left as the Supreme Court shifted to the right during his nearly 35 years as a justice.

That's how the bow-tie wearing Republican from the Midwest emerged as the leader of the high court's liberal wing and a strong proponent of abortion rights, consumer protection and limits on the death penalty.

Stevens, who died Tuesday at age 99 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, served longer than all but two justices and was the second-oldest after Oliver Wendell Holmes in the court's nearly 230 years.

He stepped down from the bench at age 90, but remained active in public life. He wrote books, spoke frequently in public and contributed lengthy pieces to The New York Review of Books.

Stevens liked to argue that his views remained more or less the same, while the court became more conservative during his tenure. "I don't think of myself as a liberal at all," Stevens told The New York Times in 2007. "I think as part of my general politics, I'm pretty darn conservative."

But the justice began his Supreme Court years as a critic of affirmative action and a supporter of the death penalty. His views on both shifted substantially to the point that Stevens declared in 2008 that he believes the death penalty is unconstitutional.

His legal reasoning was often described as unpredictable or idiosyncratic, especially in his early years on the court. He was a prolific writer of separate opinions laying out his own thinking, whether he agreed or disagreed with the majority's ruling. Yet Stevens didn't consider his methods novel.

He tended toward a case-by-case approach, avoided sweeping judicial philosophies, and stayed mindful of precedent.

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"I was trying to apply the law in a sensible way," he told USA Today after his retirement. "I pretty much always thought I had the right answer."

He never shied from issuing a lone dissent, as he did a 2007 case about a high-speed police chase.

That case was notable for the justices' ability to watch the chase on video from cameras mounted in police cruisers. What they saw scared them, and led to an 8-1 ruling that held officers blameless for the grievous injuries suffered by the driver of the car that was being pursued.

It didn't scare Stevens, who said he learned to drive when most high-speed driving took place on two-lane roads, "when split-second judgments about the risk of passing a slow-poke in the face of oncoming traffic were routine." Had his younger colleagues learned the same way, he said, "they might well have reacted to the videotape more dispassionately."

The white-haired Stevens, eyes often twinkling behind owlish glasses, was the picture of old-fashioned geniality on the court and off. He took an unusually courteous tone with lawyers arguing their cases, but he was no pushover. After his fellow justices fired off questions, Stevens would politely weigh in. "May I ask a question?" he'd ask gently, then quickly slice to the weakest point of a lawyer's argument.

Stevens was especially concerned with the plight of ordinary citizens up against the government or other powerful interests — a type of struggle he witnessed as a boy.

When he was 14, his father, owner of a grand but failing Chicago hotel, was wrongly convicted of embezzlement. Ernest Stevens was vindicated on appeal, but decades later his son would say the family's ordeal taught him that justice can misfire.

More often, however, Stevens credited his sensitivity to abuses of power by police and prosecutors to what he learned while representing criminal defendants in pro bono cases as a young Chicago lawyer.

He voiced only one regret about his Supreme Court career: that he had supported reinstating the death penalty in 1976. More than three decades later, Stevens publicly declared his opposition to capital punishment, saying that years of bad court decisions had overlooked racial bias, favored prosecutors, and otherwise undermined his expectation that death sentences could be handed down fairly.

He wasn't always a champion of the individual. A case allowing New London, Connecticut, to seize people's homes for a redevelopment project was one of the most famous — and unpopular — majority opinions written by Stevens.

"Friends and acquaintances frequently told me that they could not understand how I could have authored such an opinion," he said, while maintaining that the city's actions were constitutional, even if unwise.

One of his harshest dissents came when the court lifted restrictions on spending by corporations and unions to sway elections. He called the 2010 ruling "a rejection of the common sense of the American people" and a threat to democracy.

As he read parts of that opinion aloud, Stevens' voice wavered uncharacteristically and he repeatedly stumbled over words. For the 90-year-old who'd worried he wouldn't know when to bow out, it was a signal. "That was the day I decided to resign," Stevens said later. Justice Elena Kagan took his place.

The retirement of Stevens, known as a defender of strict separation of church and state, notably left the high court without a single Protestant member for the first time. "I guess I'm the last WASP," he joked, saying the issue was irrelevant to the justices' work.

A great-grandfather, he eased into an active retirement of writing and speaking, still fit for swimming and tennis in Fort Lauderdale, where he and his second wife, Maryan, kept another home away from Washington.

He is survived by two daughters, Elizabeth and Susan, who were with him when he died. Other survivors include nine grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Stevens' first wife, Elizabeth, second wife, Maryan, and two children died before him. Funeral arrangements are pending, the Supreme Court said in a statement announcing his death. But he is expected to be buried in Arlington National Cemetery, next to Maryan.

Born in Chicago on April 20, 1920, Stevens was a privileged child of a bygone era: He met Amelia Earhart and Charles Lindbergh at the family hotel and was at the ballpark when Babe Ruth hit his famous "called shot" home run in the 1932 World Series.

He joined the Navy the day before Pearl Harbor, and was awarded the Bronze Star for his service with a

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Japanese code-breaking team. The code breakers' work enabled the U.S. to shoot down a plane carrying the commander of the Japanese Navy, and that targeted wartime killing later contributed to his misgivings about the death penalty.

After World War II, Stevens graduated first in his class at Northwestern University's law school and clerked for Supreme Court Justice Wiley Rutledge. As a lawyer he became an antitrust expert, experience he brought to Supreme Court rulings such as one ending the NCAA's control over televised college football games.

President Richard Nixon appointed Stevens, a lifelong Republican, to the federal appeals court in Chicago. Judge Stevens was considered a moderate conservative when Ford — whose nominee would need the approval of a Democratic-controlled Senate — chose him for the Supreme Court.

Stevens won unanimous confirmation after uneventful hearings nothing like today's partisan shows. He once remarked that the contentious issue of abortion never came up during the hearings. At one point, as a witness began a statement critical of Stevens, the Judiciary Committee's chairman, Mississippi Democrat James Eastland, invited the nominee into his office where they "shared a little bourbon" while the witness droned on in the hearing room, Stevens recalled.

Stevens' liberal bent once on the high court was "different than I envisioned," Ford acknowledged decades later, but he still supported and praised him as "a very good legal scholar."

Stevens' influence reached its height after other liberals retired in the early 1990s, leaving him the senior associate justice and the court's leader on the left. For a dozen years after, he proved adept at drawing swing votes from Republican appointees Sandra Day O'Connor and Anthony Kennedy, often frustrating conservative Chief Justice William Rehnquist.

To sway O'Connor and Kennedy toward his views on issues such as abortion rights, he listened closely to their concerns and crafted narrow rulings to reflect their thinking. Other times, when he had built a tenuous majority, he used his status as the senior liberal to assign the writing of the opinion to the justice whose support seemed to be wavering, in hopes of solidifying his colleague's reasoning.

Stevens' clout diminished after Chief Justice John Roberts arrived in 2005 and O'Connor was replaced by the more conservative Samuel Alito.

But he didn't lose spirit.

Throughout his career, Stevens unleashed some of his most memorable language in defeat.

He wrote a scathing dissent in *Bush v. Gore*, the 2000 case that ended Florida's presidential recount and anointed George W. Bush: "Although we may never know with complete certainty the identity of the winner of this year's presidential election, the identity of the loser is perfectly clear. It is the nation's confidence in the judge as an impartial guardian of the rule of law."

Relishing the wisdom of his years, Stevens liked to sprinkle his 21st century opinions with references to Prohibition or Tokyo Rose. He evoked stirring images of the D-Day assault on Omaha Beach in opposing the court's ruling that flag-burning is a protected act of free speech.

Often sympathetic toward protesters, Stevens couldn't countenance their abuse of the Stars and Stripes — perhaps because, to him, it stood for the values he treasured most. The flag deserved protection, Stevens wrote, as "a symbol of freedom, of equal opportunity, of religious tolerance."

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. HOUSE VOTE CONDEMNS TRUMP'S TWEETS

The Democratic-led U.S. House votes to denounce Trump's "racist comments" against four congresswomen of color, despite protestations by the president's GOP congressional allies.

2. HOW ELECTORATE VIEWS TRUMP'S TWEETS

Democrats mainly found the president's willingness to lodge racial attacks appalling and unforgivable. For many others, particularly Trump supporters, the tweets were a mere sideshow.

3. FORMER SUPREME COURT JUSTICE JOHN PAUL STEVENS DIES

The bow-tied, independent-thinking, Republican-nominated justice who unexpectedly emerged as the high court's leading liberal was 99.

4. CONFUSION, FEAR ON MEXICO BORDER WITH NEW US POLICY

The Trump administration says that migrants seeking asylum can no longer pass through a third country, all but eliminating refuge claims by Central Americans.

5. FEDS LOOK AT REDUCING INSPECTIONS AT REACTORS

The cost-cutting move by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is backed by the nuclear power industry but denounced by opponents as a threat to public safety, AP learns.

6. WHO BECAME ISRAEL'S LONGEST-SERVING PRIME MINISTER

Benjamin Netanyahu solidifies his place as the country's greatest political survivor and the most dominant force in Israeli politics in his generation.

7. WHAT FEDERAL DATA SHOWED DURING OPIOID CRISIS

How drugmakers and distributors increased shipments of the painkillers across the U.S. as the nation's addiction crisis accelerated from 2006 to 2012.

8. IRAN BACKTRACKS ON MISSILE REMARKS

Tehran says comments by a top official about the Islamic Republic's missile program possibly being up for negotiations with the U.S. meant to challenge Washington's arms sales policy to the region.

9. WHERE #METOO MOVEMENT IS BEING FELT

In Asia with its entertainment industries grappling with many of the sexual misconduct issues that have upended careers in America and beyond.

10. EDGAR MARTINEZ TO BE ENSHRINED IN HALL OF FAME

The Seattle Mariners great overcame an eye condition to become arguably the best right-handed hitter of his generation.

Sudanese military, protesters sign power-sharing document

By SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Sudan's pro-democracy movement and the ruling military council signed a document early Wednesday that outlines a power-sharing deal, but the two sides are still at work on a more contentious constitutional agreement that would specify the division of powers.

The signing ceremony held in the capital, Khartoum, after marathon overnight talks, marks an important step in the transition to civilian rule following the military overthrow of long-ruling autocrat Omar al-Bashir amid mass protests in April.

But the military appears to have the upper hand, following weeks of negotiations and a deadly crackdown last month in which security forces violently dispersed the protesters' main sit-in.

The document signed Wednesday would establish a joint civilian-military sovereign council that would rule Sudan for a little over three years while elections are organized. A military leader will head the 11-member council for the first 21 months, followed by a civilian leader for the next 18.

It marks a significant concession by the protesters, who had demanded an immediate transition to civilian rule. The pro-democracy movement would appoint a Cabinet, and the two sides would agree on a legislative body within three months of the start of the transition.

But the two sides have yet to agree on a division of powers between the sovereign council, the Cabinet and the legislative body, which would be enshrined in the constitutional document. That document would also set the terms of military leaders' potential immunity from prosecution over last month's violence.

"This is the big hurdle. Sudan's future after al-Bashir will be defined by this constitutional declaration," said Rasha Awad, editor of the online Sudanese newspaper Altaghayeer.

Protest organizers say security forces killed at least 128 people during last month's crackdown. Authorities put the death toll at 61, including three members of the security forces. The two sides have agreed on a Sudanese investigation into the violence, but have yet to outline its scope.

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The agreement signed Wednesday at a ceremony broadcast by state TV stems from a meeting last month brokered by the U.S. and Britain, which support the protesters, and Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, which back the military. The diplomatic push ended weeks of stalemate that had raised fears of further violence or even civil war.

"We are ushering in a new era," said Ibrahim al-Amin, a negotiator for the Forces of the Declaration of Freedom and change, a broad-based coalition including independent professional unions, traditional political parties and other groups.

"The upcoming government will be a government of all Sudanese, for all citizens ... we have suffered enough from the totalitarian dictatorial regime."

The military was represented by Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, known as Hemedti, who has consolidated power since al-Bashir's overthrow and whose paramilitary Rapid Support Forces are accused of leading last month's crackdown. He hailed the agreement as a "historic moment in Sudan."

Envoys from Ethiopia and the African Union, who had spearheaded mediation efforts, also praised the agreement at Wednesday's ceremony.

Al-Bashir, who ruled Sudan for 30 years, has been jailed in Khartoum since his ouster. In May, al-Bashir was charged with involvement in killing protesters and incitement to kill protesters during the popular uprising that started in December, initially over price increases.

He is also wanted by the International Criminal Court on charges of war crimes and genocide linked to the Darfur conflict in the 2000s, but Sudan's military has said it will not extradite him to the Hague. He was the only sitting head of state subject to an international arrest warrant.

House vote condemns Trump's tweets, draws some GOP support

By ALAN FRAM and DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a remarkable political repudiation, the Democratic-led U.S. House voted to condemn President Donald Trump's "racist comments" against four congresswomen of color, despite protestations by Trump's Republican congressional allies and his own insistence he hasn't "a racist bone in my body."

Two days after Trump tweeted that four Democratic freshmen should "go back" to their home countries — though all are citizens and three were born in the U.S.A. — Democrats muscled the resolution through the chamber by 240-187 over near-solid GOP opposition. The rebuke Tuesday night was an embarrassing one for Trump even though it carries no legal repercussions, but if anything his latest harangues should help him with his die-hard conservative base.

Despite a lobbying effort by Trump and party leaders for a unified GOP front, four Republicans voted to condemn his remarks: moderate Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania, Fred Upton of Michigan, Will Hurd of Texas and Susan Brooks of Indiana, who is retiring. Also backing the measure was Michigan's independent Rep. Justin Amash, who left the GOP this month after becoming the party's sole member of Congress to back a Trump impeachment inquiry.

Democrats saved one of the day's most passionate moments until near the end.

"I know racism when I see it," said Rep. John Lewis of Georgia, whose skull was fractured at the 1965 "Bloody Sunday" civil rights march in Selma, Alabama. "At the highest level of government, there's no room for racism."

Before the showdown roll call, Trump characteristically plunged forward with time-tested insults. He accused his four outspoken critics of "spewing some of the most vile, hateful and disgusting things ever said by a politician" and added, "If you hate our Country, or if you are not happy here, you can leave!" — echoing taunts long unleashed against political dissidents rather than opposing parties' lawmakers.

The president was joined by House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy of California and other top Republicans in trying to redirect the focus from Trump's original tweets, which for three days have consumed Washington and drawn widespread condemnation. Instead, they tried playing offense by accusing the four congresswomen — among the Democrats' most left-leaning members and ardent Trump critics — of

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socialism, an accusation that's already a central theme of the GOP's 2020 presidential and congressional campaigns .

Even after two and a half years of Trump's turbulent governing style, the spectacle of a president futilely laboring to head off a House vote essentially proclaiming him to be a racist was extraordinary.

Underscoring the stakes, Republicans formally objected after Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California said during a floor speech that Trump's tweets were "racist." Led by Rep. Doug Collins of Georgia, Republicans moved to have her words stricken from the record, a rare procedural rebuke.

After a delay exceeding 90 minutes, No. 2 House Democrat Steny Hoyer of Maryland said Pelosi had indeed violated a House rule against characterizing an action as racist. Hoyer was presiding after Rep. Emanuel Cleaver of Missouri stormed away from the presiding officer's chair, lamenting, "We want to just fight," apparently aimed at Republicans. Even so, Democrats flexed their muscle and the House voted afterward by party line to leave Pelosi's words intact in the record.

In tweets Tuesday night, Trump took a positive view of the vote, saying it was "so great" that only four Republicans had crossed party lines and noting the procedural rebuke of Pelosi.

"Quite a day!" he wrote.

Some rank-and-file GOP lawmakers have agreed that Trump's words were racist, but on Tuesday party leaders insisted they were not and accused Democrats of using the resulting tumult to score political points. Among the few voices of restraint, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Trump wasn't racist but also called on leaders "from the president to the speaker to the freshman members of the House" to attack ideas, not the people who espouse them.

"There's been a consensus that political rhetoric has gotten way, way heated across the political spectrum," said the Republican leader from Kentucky, breaking his own two days of silence on Trump's attacks.

Hours earlier, Trump tweeted, "Those Tweets were NOT Racist. I don't have a Racist bone in my body!" He wrote that House Republicans should "not show 'weakness'" by agreeing to a resolution he labeled "a Democrat con game."

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, one of Trump's four targets, returned his fire.

"You're right, Mr. President - you don't have a racist bone in your body. You have a racist mind in your head and a racist heart in your chest," she tweeted.

And one of the leading 2020 Democratic presidential candidates, Sen. Kamala Harris of California, offered an impassioned response to Trump's racist tweets at a roundtable for women of color in Davenport, Iowa, saying to applause, "And he needs to go back to where he came from."

The four-page Democratic resolution said the House "strongly condemns President Donald Trump's racist comments that have legitimized and increased fear and hatred of new Americans and people of color." It said Trump's slights "do not belong in Congress or in the United States of America."

All but goading Republicans, the resolution included a full page of remarks by President Ronald Reagan, who is revered by the GOP. Reagan said in 1989 that if the U.S. shut its doors to newcomers, "our leadership in the world would soon be lost."

Tuesday's faceoff came after years of Democrats bristling over anti-immigrant and racially incendiary pronouncements by Trump. Those include his kicking off his presidential campaign by proclaiming many Mexican migrants to be criminals and asserting there were "fine people" on both sides at a 2017 neo-Nazi rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, that turned deadly.

And the strong words in Washington come as actions are underway elsewhere: The administration has begun coast-to-coast raids targeting migrants in the U.S. illegally and has newly restricted access to the U.S. by asylum seekers.

Trump's criticism was aimed at four freshman Democrats who have garnered attention since their arrival in January for their outspoken liberal views and thinly veiled distaste for Trump: Ocasio-Cortez and Reps. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan. All were born in the U.S. except for Omar, who came to the U.S. as a child after fleeing Somalia with her family.

The four have waged an increasingly personal clash with Pelosi over how assertively the House should try restraining Trump's ability to curb immigration. But, if anything, Trump's tweets may have eased some

of that tension, with Pelosi telling Democrats at a closed-door meeting Tuesday, "We are offended by what he said about our sisters," according to an aide who described the private meeting on the condition of anonymity.

That's not to say that all internal Democratic strains are resolved.

The four rebellious freshmen backed Rep. Steven Cohen of Tennessee in unsuccessfully seeking a House vote on a harsher censure of Trump's tweets. And Rep. Al Green of Texas was trying to force a House vote soon on whether to impeach Trump, a move he's tried in the past but lost, earning opposition from most Democrats.

At the Senate Republicans' weekly lunch Tuesday, Trump's tweets came up and some lawmakers were finding the situation irksome, participants said. Many want the 2020 campaigns to focus on progressive Democrats' demands for government-provided health care, abolishing the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency and other hard-left policies.

"Those ideas give us so much material to work with and it takes away from our time to talk about it," Sen. Mike Braun of Indiana said of Trump's tweets.

Associated Press writers Jill Colvin, Zeke Miller, Jonathan Lemire and Lisa Mascaro contributed to this report.

Confusion, fear reigns on Mexico border with new US policy

By **MARÍA VERZA** Associated Press

NUEVO LAREDO, Mexico (AP) — Asylum-seekers gathered in Nuevo Laredo, across the border from Texas, grappled to understand what a new U.S. policy that all but eliminates refugee claims by Central Americans and many others meant for their bids to find a better life in America amid a chaos of rumors, confusion and fear.

The policy went into effect Tuesday and represents the most forceful attempt to date by President Donald Trump to slash the number of people seeking asylum in the United States. It denies asylum to anyone who shows up on the Mexican border after traveling through another country, something Central American migrants have to do.

In some parts of Nuevo Laredo, migrants continued to trickle into shelters, including seven members of a family from the Mexican state of Michoacán, who fled the shootings and extortions in their violent region and were happy to find shelter even though some had to sleep in the hallway. They hoped they could get asylum because they did not pass through another country to reach the border.

But about 70 mostly Central American migrants, who had crossed Mexico to reach the border, were returned to Mexico with an appointment with a judge tucked in a transparent plastic bag. Some bitter, they assembled in the National Institute of Migration facility next to the international bridge, with a cluster of women cradling children, men asking questions and small children running around under the watchful eye of parents.

"They didn't deport us but they took us out (of the U.S.) in a bad way; in theory we wait for an audience," said Nolvin Godoy, a 29-year-old Guatemalan who has gone deep into debt paying a coyote almost \$10,000 to take him, his wife and her 2-year-old son to get them across the Rio Grande to turn themselves in to U.S. authorities.

After 10 days in a detention center in the U.S., they say they were given an appointment with a judge in September to begin the asylum process. Now they've been sent back to Mexico and hold out little hope of being able to appear before the judge on the date set.

"Today the law fell on us and they are going to take us to Monterrey - 200 kilometers from Nuevo Laredo - and we don't know what is going happen after that because we don't know anyone; I am sinking into debt," Godoy said.

Mexican migration officials gave them food and a document that is a certificate guaranteeing them access to official programs but which does not specify which ones, though Mexico has said the returned

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will be able to get jobs. They received an official telephone number and email where they can get advice.

Godoy, who says the stained shirt on his back is his only possession, believes it will all be worth little if he has no means of survival. "Maybe it's best to go back."

No migrants dare to go outside the migration installations. "Outside is organized crime," he said.

Dozens of people like Godoy were returned to Nuevo Laredo on Tuesday and by nightfall had been put on a bus with the only explanation that they were being taken to Monterrey, in the neighboring state of Nuevo Leon. Most of them had reached the U.S. irregularly, and did not fit the profile of migrants who would wait in Mexico for weeks or months, sign up on waiting lists and then be called by U.S. authorities to process their asylum claims.

Some said they had not originally planned to request asylum in the United States, and said the idea only occurred to them when they were offered the option.

However, as late as Tuesday morning a group of 15 migrants, including four children, showed up at the international bridge because their names had come up on the list that has long been used to allow migrants to request asylum. The idea that the old process might continue to work gave some hope to migrants like Linerio Gonzalez, 24, and Ana Paolini, 20, who fled Venezuela for political reasons. It was unclear if the new measures would change things for Venezuelans like them.

"It drives you to desperation," said Gonzalez.

"You hear a lot of things, but we don't know," Paolini said, adding that the prospect of being able to file for asylum, only to be returned to Nuevo Laredo, fills her with fear.

Rev. Julio López, director of the Roman Catholic shelter Albergue Nazaret, said the border was in the grips "of a lot of confusion because of all the changes."

Lopez said the situation had become worse for migrants, and immigrant traffickers were likely to be the only winners.

On top of it, more deportees might be expected from the planned raids in the United States, something that could overwhelm shelters.

"Added to all this is now the uncertainty about mass deportations, that could put our shelters in a difficult position," said Rev. Lopez.

Nesting penguins can't resist lure of New Zealand sushi shop

By NICK PERRY Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — Two little blue penguins just couldn't stay away from a New Zealand sushi store, returning to nest there even after police had captured them and escorted them back to the ocean.

Wellington police described them as "waddling vagrants," while the store's co-owner joked he had no idea that word of his tasty raw fish had reached as far as the subaquatic community.

But Jack Mace, an operations manager for the Department of Conservation, said the birds would have simply thought they had found a snug burrow underneath the store and wouldn't have taken note of what was being sold above them.

"They were within penguin commuting distance of the harbor, and they thought they'd found a nice spot," Mace said.

Police got the first call about a penguin loose in the city on Saturday night, after somebody reported spotting a grumpy bird under a parked car. Police said they managed to release it back into the ocean.

Then police started taking more calls on Monday and found two penguins huddled under the Sushi Bi store near the capital's busy train station.

"The waddling vagrants were removed from their sushi stand refuge earlier today by Constable John Zhu," police wrote on their Facebook page. "Unsurprisingly, this was not the first report police had received about the fishy birds."

And it turned out it wouldn't be the last.

Within hours, the two penguins were back underneath the shop.

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Co-owner Long Lin said he was tidying up the storage room when he heard a sound from near the water tank. He walked outside and peered underneath the store and thought he was looking at a pigeon.

"And then I was like, 'Oh my God, it's a penguin,'" he said. "I was panicked. I didn't know what to do."

He called authorities, but meanwhile the penguins waddled out. So he grabbed them one by one and put them inside the store. He said the second penguin pecked at him several times, leaving red welts on his chest.

"It was a bit wild," he said.

Inside the store, the birds strutted about seemingly without a care, to the amazement of worker Shawnee Kim.

"Really cute," she said.

Kim said she tried offering them some fresh salmon, but they didn't seem interested.

Mace said rangers managed to extract the birds from under the store's freezer and put them in a special nesting box on the harbor, which is about a 200-meter (660-foot) waddle from the store.

Mace said the penguins haven't been seen since and may be out at sea.

He said the population of little blue penguins has rebounded in Wellington thanks to the efforts of people who have removed predators from three islands in the harbor and have helped with other conservation efforts, like building artificial nest boxes.

Little blue penguins typically start looking for nesting spots in July and start laying eggs in August.

Federal data shows opioid shipments ballooned as crisis grew

MARK GILLISPIE Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — Newly released federal data shows how drugmakers and distributors increased shipments of opioid painkillers across the U.S. as the nation's addiction crisis accelerated from 2006 to 2012.

The data, released this week by a federal court in Ohio as part of a far-reaching opioids case, shows that companies distributed 8.4 billion hydrocodone and oxycodone pills to commercial pharmacies in 2006 and 12.6 billion in 2012. That's an increase of over 50%.

Over that seven-year period, 76 billion pills were distributed in all, according to an analysis by The Washington Post, which had sued along with another outlet, HD Media, to obtain the data. During the same timeframe, prescription opioids contributed to more than 100,000 deaths in the U.S., according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The shipments increased even after one of the companies, Purdue Pharma, was leveled with a \$635 million federal fine in 2007 for falsely claiming its drug, OxyContin, was not as addictive as earlier opioids.

While OxyContin is the best-known prescription opioid, the Post analysis shows that Purdue accounted for just 3% of pills sold during that time. Three makers of generic drugs accounted for nearly 90% of the sales.

The data tracks a dozen different opioids, including oxycodone and hydrocodone, according to the Post. They account for most of the pill shipments to pharmacies.

The distribution data, maintained by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, is a key element of lawsuits filed by more than 2,000 state, local and tribal governments seeking to hold drug companies accountable for the crisis.

Drug distribution companies told The Post that the federal data would not exist without their providing accurate reports to the DEA. One company, AmerisourceBergen, said the data "offers a very misleading picture."

Cleveland-based U.S. District Judge Dan Polster, who is overseeing most of the cases, ruled Monday that the information covering shipments from 2006 to 2012 could be made public. He said in a ruling that there is "clearly no basis" for shielding older data.

His order came a month after a federal appeals court in Cincinnati vacated Polster's July 2018 decision that local and state governments, which had been granted access to the data, should not make it public.

A three-judge panel for the 6th U.S. Court of Appeals said Polster went too far in blocking the release

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of data that government attorneys argued could compromise DEA investigations. Polster asked attorneys from all sides Monday to suggest how DEA data collected for 2013 and 2014 should be protected.

The Washington Post and HD Media, which owns newspapers in West Virginia, went to court for access and were the first media outlets to receive the data. By Tuesday, it had not been made available to the public or other news organizations that had requested it, including The Associated Press.

In a statement, a group of plaintiff attorneys applauded Polster's decision.

"The data provides statistical insights that help pinpoint the origins and spread of the opioid epidemic — an epidemic that thousands of communities across the country argue was both sparked and inflamed by opioid manufacturers, distributors and pharmacies," the statement said.

The first scheduled trial before Polster is set for October in lawsuits filed by Ohio's Summit and Cuyahoga counties, areas that have been hit particularly hard by the ongoing opioid crisis. It is considered a bellwether trial that could force the defendants to reach a global settlement for all of the lawsuits.

A trial in an opioid suit brought by Johnson & Johnson by Oklahoma in state court there wrapped up this week. A judge will rule on that case. Purdue and Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. were named in that suit but settled before the trial.

Associated Press writer Geoff Mulvihill in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, contributed to this report.

Trump voters cringe and shrug at tweets while Democrats rage

By SCOTT BAUER Associated Press

HELENVILLE, Wis. (AP) — Bill Brasch greeted President Donald Trump's latest tweet controversy with a shrug.

He doesn't believe Trump was being racist for telling four congresswomen, all women of color, to "go back" to the countries they came from. It doesn't matter much that all four of the women are American citizens, Brasch said the uproar over Trump's tweet is a distraction and his detractors are "just playing politics."

"I look at what he's accomplished and not what he says," the 58-year-old said during a lunch break at the Wingin' It bar in this pocket of rural Wisconsin.

Far to the southeast, Maria Masferrer saw Trump's attack as "totally out of place." The 20-year-old college student at Florida International University in Miami is a new citizen. Trump's rhetoric was personal — and disqualifying.

"Why would I vote for someone that wants to kick me out?" she said.

Across the country, in states critical to Trump's reelection, the reaction to Trump's racist tweets exposed two vastly different views on race politics in America. In interviews with nearly 50 voters across seven states, many people — most of them Democrats — found Trump's willingness to lodge racial attacks appalling and unforgivable. For many others, particularly Trump voters, the tweets were a mere sideshow.

Trump voters who spoke to The Associated Press were a mixture of indifferent, bemused and mildly irritated, saying it comes with the territory in the unconventional Trump presidency. They voiced appreciation for his candor and ability to speak plainly while rejecting that he is a racist. His views on race were not what mattered most to many of them.

"He's not perfect, for sure. And there are certain things that you don't like, that I don't like," said Yanire Kruiniger, who emigrated from Peru and became a U.S. citizen a dozen years ago. She now lives in Nevada, a state Trump lost in 2016 and is hoping to win next year. Trump had Kruiniger's vote then, and now.

"You know, we took a chance," Kruiniger, 53, said from a mall outside Las Vegas, adding that she thinks it paid off, especially because the economy is doing well.

The conversations with voters in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Ohio, Michigan, Florida, Arizona and Nevada reflected larger debates roiling both parties. Democrats vying to take on Trump have been clashing over race issues — digging into fights over busing and school desegregation, criminal justice reform and reparations — a reflection of the party's reliance on minority, progressive and young voters.

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Republicans, meanwhile, have been largely hoping the strong economy matters more to voters, particularly women and suburban voters, than the personality in the White House.

Braeden Howard might give Republicans hope.

The 38-year-old in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, voted for Trump in 2016 as a "total wild card" and describes himself as open-minded on how to vote in 2020.

He says he's long viewed Trump as divisive, going back to Trump's very first campaign speech when he disparaged Mexican immigrants. Still, Howard isn't sure whether the tweet was racist: The term itself "gets thrown around so loosely," he said, and there's so much outrage on both sides.

The tweet doesn't change whether he'll vote for Trump again.

"Time will tell. If the economy is good, I probably will," Howard said Tuesday while overseeing a historical preservation project on a Civil War monument in the Democratic college town in conservative central Pennsylvania. "If people are lined up in the streets and unemployed, I'll probably change my mind."

In suburban Columbus, Ohio, several voters interviewed were less interested in the content of the tweet than their shared wish that the sooner Trump can stop tweeting, the better.

"He shouldn't be doing it. He needs to be more presidential, stick to the things that matter," said Scott Wood, a Republican who voted for Trump in 2016 and would need to see a "standout" alternative before he'd vote for someone different next year.

Wood, a 45-year-old IT engineer, served four years as a Marine and said he values Trump's promise to strengthen the military, fix health care and deal with the "border situation."

"He's doing a good job in some of the core areas of our country, but he's doing a poor job in trying to unite us," Wood said.

Trump unleashed the controversy Sunday, stating that if the lawmakers "hate our country," they can go back to their "broken and crime-infested" countries. His remarks were directed at four congresswomen: Reps. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan. All are American citizens, and three of the four were born in the U.S. The statement was broadly condemned by Democrats and some Republicans lawmakers. Trump brushed off the criticism by saying, "Many people agree with me."

Some voters interviewed indeed sided with Trump.

Emily Ort, of Lemoyne, Pennsylvania, outside Harrisburg, said she believes Trump was simply telling someone to leave the country if they don't like it.

"I guess I understand what he's saying," said Ort, 38. "If you go into a restaurant and you don't like their food, are you going to go there again?"

Ort said she believes Trump was just "defending our country."

Democrats saw deliberate race-baiting to fire up his base and a reprise of Trump's efforts to focus on migrant caravans in 2018 and his talk of banning Muslims from entering the United States in 2016.

Nicole Sample, a lawyer from Grand Rapids, Michigan, called Trump's tweets "disgusting."

"He's clearly racist," the 33-year-old said. "We're supposed to be a melting pot, and he stands for everything this country doesn't."

Trump says what he thinks, and voters like that and respond to it, said Kathy Kiernan, a Republican activist in Richfield, Wisconsin, located in one of the suburban Milwaukee counties long critical for Republicans but where Democrats hope to make inroads with women.

"I think people are with him, and I don't think they get into all of this everyday nitpicky stuff, I just don't think they do," said Kiernan, who retired after a 30-year career at AT&T. "Do people like all of it? Maybe not necessarily, but what are they supposed to do?"

Associated Press writers Andrew Welsh-Huggins in Columbus, Ohio; Ellis Rua in Miami; Jonathan Cooper in Phoenix; Marc Levy in Carlisle, Pa.; Mark Scolforo in Hershey, Pa.; Sara Burnett in Grand Rapids, Mich.; and Michelle Price in Las Vegas contributed to this report.

US fears Iran seized UAE-based tanker in Strait of Hormuz

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — A small oil tanker from the United Arab Emirates traveling through the Strait of Hormuz entered Iranian waters and turned off its tracker three days ago, leading the U.S. to suspect Iran seized the vessel amid heightened tensions in the region.

Iranian state media quoted its Foreign Ministry spokesman early Wednesday as saying the Islamic Republic had aided a foreign oil tanker with a malfunction, but the report didn't explain further. Oil tankers previously have been targeted in the wider region amid tensions between the U.S. and Iran over its unraveling nuclear deal with world powers.

The Panamanian-flagged Riah turned off its transponder late Saturday night but an Emirati official said it sent no distress call. The concern over its status comes as Iran continues its own high-pressure campaign over its nuclear program after President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from the accord over a year ago.

Recently, Iran has inched its uranium production and enrichment over the limits of its 2015 nuclear deal, trying to put more pressure on Europe to offer it better terms and allow it to sell its crude oil abroad.

However, those tensions also have seen the U.S. send thousands of additional troops, nuclear-capable B-52 bombers and advanced fighter jets into the Mideast. Mysterious attacks on oil tankers and Iran shooting down a U.S. military surveillance drone has added to the fears of an armed conflict breaking out.

The 58-meter (190-foot) Riah typically made trips from Dubai and Sharjah on the UAE's west coast before going through the strait and heading to Fujairah on the UAE's east coast. However, something happened to the vessel after 11 p.m. on Saturday, according to tracking data.

Capt. Ranjith Raja of the data firm Refinitiv told The Associated Press on Tuesday that the tanker hadn't switched off its tracking in three months of trips around the UAE. "That is a red flag," Raja said.

A U.S. defense official later told the AP that the Riah was in Iranian territorial waters near Qeshm Island, which has a Revolutionary Guard base on it.

"We certainly have suspicions that it was taken," the official said. "Could it have broken down or been towed for assistance? That's a possibility. But the longer there is a period of no contact ... it's going to be a concern."

The official spoke on condition of anonymity as the matter did not directly involve U.S. interests.

An Emirati official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss an ongoing security matter, said the vessel "did not emit a distress call."

"We are monitoring the situation with our international partners," the official said.

Iran's IRNA news agency quoted Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi as saying Iran had helped an unnamed tanker by towing it to an Iranian port, without elaborating. The report did not identify the ship, nor explain the malfunction and the lack of a distress call or any crew contact with home.

The ship's registered owner, Dubai-based Prime Tankers LLC, told the AP it had sold the ship to another company called Mouj Al-Bahar. A man who answered a telephone number registered to the firm told the AP it didn't own any ships. The Emirati official said the ship was "neither UAE owned nor operated" and carried no Emirati personnel, without elaborating.

Separately Tuesday, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said his country will retaliate over the seizure of an Iranian supertanker carrying 2.1 million barrels of light crude oil. The vessel was seized with the help of British Royal Marines earlier this month off Gibraltar over suspicion it was heading to Syria in violation of European Union sanctions, an operation Khamenei called "piracy" in a televised speech.

"God willing, the Islamic Republic and its committed forces will not leave this evil without a response," he said. He did not elaborate.

British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said Saturday that Britain will facilitate the release of the ship if Iran can guarantee the vessel will not breach European sanctions on oil shipments to Syria.

Iran previously has threatened to stop oil tankers passing through the strait, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf through which 20% of all crude oil passes, if it cannot sell its own oil abroad.

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Meanwhile, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif seemed to suggest in a television interview that the Islamic Republic's ballistic missile program could be up for negotiations with the U.S., a possible opening for talks as tensions remain high between Tehran and Washington. Zarif suggested an initially high price for such negotiations — the halt of American arms sales to both Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, two key U.S. allies in the Persian Gulf.

Iran's ballistic missile program remains under the control of the Iranian paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, which answers only to Khamenei.

Zarif brought up the ballistic missile suggestion during an interview with NBC News that aired Monday night while he is in New York for meetings at the United Nations. He mentioned the UAE spending \$22 billion and Saudi Arabia spending \$67 billion on weapons last year, many of them American-made, while Iran spent only \$16 billion in comparison.

"These are American weaponry that is going into our region, making our region ready to explode," Zarif said. "So if they want to talk about our missiles, they need first to stop selling all these weapons, including missiles, to our region."

Iran's mission to the United Nations later called Zarif's suggestion "hypothetical."

"Iran's missiles ... are absolutely and under no condition negotiable with anyone or any country, period," the mission said.

However, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo seized on Zarif's comments in comments at a Cabinet meeting Tuesday at the White House as a sign the U.S. maximalist campaign against Iran was working.

"For the first time, the Iranians have said that they're prepared to negotiate about their missile program," he said. "So we will have this opportunity, I hope."

Trump during his time in the White House has pointed to arms sales to the Mideast as important to the American economy, so it remains unclear how he'd react to cutting into those purchases. In pulling out of the Iran nuclear deal, Trump in part blamed the accord not addressing Iran's ballistic missile program. The U.S. fears Iran could use its missile technology and space program to build nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missiles, something Tehran denies it wants to do.

Ayham Kamel, an analyst for the Eurasia Group, said Zarif's comments were aimed at show flexibility for possible.

"I think there's probably some space before we get to any serious negotiation but several regional powers are already paving the way for some form of talks between the two sides," he said.

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

Apollo 11 astronaut returns to launch pad 50 years later

By MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Apollo 11 astronaut Michael Collins returned Tuesday to the exact spot where he flew to the moon 50 years ago with Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin.

Collins had the spotlight to himself this time — Armstrong has been gone for seven years and Aldrin canceled. Collins said he wished his two moonwalking colleagues could have shared the moment at Kennedy Space Center's Launch Complex 39A, the departure point for humanity's first moon landing.

"Wonderful feeling to be back," the 88-year-old command module pilot said on NASA TV. "There's a difference this time. I want to turn and ask Neil a question and maybe tell Buzz Aldrin something, and of course, I'm here by myself."

At NASA's invitation, Collins marked the precise moment — 9:32 a.m. on July 16, 1969 — that the Saturn V rocket blasted off. He was seated at the base of the pad alongside Kennedy's director, Robert Cabana, a former space shuttle commander.

Collins recalled the tension surrounding the crew that day.

"Apollo 11 ... was serious business. We, crew, felt the weight of the world on our shoulders. We knew that everyone would be looking at us, friend or foe, and we wanted to do the best we possibly could," he said.

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Collins remained in lunar orbit, tending to Columbia, the mother ship, while Armstrong and Aldrin landed in the Eagle on July 20, 1969, and spent 2 ½ hours walking the gray, dusty lunar surface.

A reunion Tuesday at the Kennedy firing room by past and present launch controllers — and Collins' return to the pad, now leased to SpaceX — kicked off a week of celebrations marking each day of Apollo 11's eight-day voyage.

In Huntsville, Alabama, where the Saturn V was developed, some 4,900 model rockets lifted off simultaneously, commemorating the moment the Apollo 11 crew blasted off for the moon. More than 1,000 youngsters attending Space Camp counted down ... "5, 4, 3, 2, 1!" — and cheered as the red, white and blue rockets created a gray cloud, at least for a few moments, in the sky.

The U.S. Space and Rocket Center was shooting for an altitude of at least 100 feet (30 meters) in order to set a new Guinness Book of World Records. Apollo 15 astronaut Al Worden helped with the mass launching. Also present: all three children of German-born rocket genius Wernher von Braun, who masterminded the Saturn V.

"This was a blast. This was an absolute blast," said spectator Scott Hayek of Ellicott City, Maryland. "And, you know, what a tribute - and, a visceral tribute - to see the rockets going off."

Another spectator, Karin Wise, of Jonesboro, Georgia, was 19 during Apollo 11 and recalled being glued to TV coverage.

"So, to bring my grandchildren here for the 50 anniversary, was so special," she said. "I hope they're around for the 100th anniversary."

At the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum in Washington, the spacesuit that Armstrong wore went back on display in mint condition, complete with lunar dust left on the suit's knees, thighs and elbows. On hand for the unveiling were Vice President Mike Pence, NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine and Armstrong's older son, Rick. Armstrong died in 2012.

A fundraising campaign took just five days to raise the \$500,000 needed for the restoration. It was taken off display 13 years ago because it was deteriorating, said museum curator Cathleen Lewis. It took four years to rehab it.

Calling Armstrong a hero, Pence said "the American people express their gratitude by preserving this symbol of courage."

Back at Kennedy, NASA televised original launch video of Apollo 11, timed down to the second. Then Cabana turned his conversation with Collins to NASA's next moonshot program, Artemis, named after the twin sister of Greek mythology's Apollo. It seeks to put the first woman and next man on the lunar surface — the moon's south pole — by 2024. President John F. Kennedy's challenge to put a man on the moon by the end of 1969 took eight years to achieve.

Collins said he likes the name Artemis and, even more, likes the concept behind Artemis.

"But I don't want to go back to the moon," Collins told Cabana. "I want to go direct to Mars. I call it the JFK Mars Express."

Collins noted that the moon-first crowd has merit to its argument and he pointed out Armstrong himself was among those who believed returning to the moon "would assist us mightily in our attempt to go to Mars."

Cabana assured Collins, "We believe the faster we get to the moon, the faster we get to Mars as we develop those systems that we need to make that happen."

About 100 of the original 500 launch controllers and managers on July 16, 1969, reunited in the firing room Tuesday morning. The crowd also included members of NASA's next moon management team, including Charlie Blackwell-Thompson, launch director for the still-in-development Space Launch System moon rocket. The SLS will surpass the Saturn V, the world's most powerful rocket to fly to date.

Blackwell-Thompson said she got goosebumps listening to the replay of the Apollo 11 countdown. Hearing Collins' "personal account of what that was like was absolutely amazing."

The lone female launch controller for Apollo 11, JoAnn Morgan, enjoyed seeing the much updated- firing room. One thing was notably missing, though: stacks of paper. "We could have walked to the moon on the paper," Morgan said.

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Collins was reunited later Tuesday with two other Apollo astronauts at an evening gala at Kennedy, including Apollo 16 moonwalker Charlie Duke, who was the capsule communicator in Mission Control for the Apollo 11 moon landing. Only four of the 12 moonwalkers from 1969 through 1972 are still alive: Aldrin, Duke, Apollo 15's David Scott and Apollo 17's Harrison Schmitt.

Among the gala attendees: Eight former shuttle astronauts, including Mark Kelly and his wife, former U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson and "space lover" and aspiring space tourist Vesa Heilala, 52, who traveled from Helsinki to Florida for the anniversary.

"I had to come here because in Finland we don't have rockets and we don't have astronauts for 50 years," said Heilala, who was collecting astronaut autographs on his colorful propeller cap.

Huntsville's rocket center also had a special anniversary dinner Tuesday night, with some retired Apollo and Skylab astronauts and rocket scientists. Aldrin was set to attend but was traveling Tuesday and likely wouldn't make it on time, a center official said.

Aldrin, 89, hosted a gala in Southern California last Saturday.

NASA spokesman Bob Jacobs said Aldrin bowed out of the Florida launch pad visit, citing his intense schedule of appearances. Aldrin and Collins may reunite in Washington on Friday or Saturday, the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11's moon landing.

Science writer Seth Borenstein in Washington and videojournalist Cody Jackson in Huntsville contributed to this report.

Follow AP's full coverage of the Apollo 11 anniversary at: <https://apnews.com/Apollo11moonlanding>

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Trump's new asylum rules go into effect, and opponents sue

By ELLIOT SPAGAT and CEDAR ATTANASIO Associated Press

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP) — Hundreds of immigrants showed up at border crossings Tuesday in hopes of getting into the U.S. but faced the likelihood of being turned away under a new Trump administration asylum rule that upends long-standing protections for people fleeing violence and oppression in their homelands.

The policy went into effect Tuesday but drew two swift lawsuits from immigrant advocacy groups in federal courts, one in San Francisco and one in Washington, D.C.

"This is the Trump administration's most extreme run at an asylum ban yet," said Lee Gelernt of the American Civil Liberties Union, an attorney on the San Francisco lawsuit. "It clearly violates domestic and international law and cannot stand."

The policy represents the most forceful attempt to date by President Donald Trump to slash the number of people seeking asylum in America. It comes at a time when Trump's recent tweets telling four members of Congress to "go back" to other countries have set off an uproar.

Trump did not mention the new practices Tuesday during a White House meeting.

Under the rules, migrants who pass through another country on their way to the U.S. will be ineligible for asylum. Most of the immigrants arriving at the border this year pass through Mexico — including Central Americans, Africans, Cubans and Haitians. That makes it all but impossible for them to get asylum. The rule also applies to children who have crossed the border alone.

At the crossing in Tijuana, 12 people whose numbers were first on a waiting list to enter through a San Diego border crossing were escorted behind a metal gate to a white van that left minutes later to turn them over to U.S. authorities.

Ndifor Gedeon, 27, arrived in Tijuana nearly three months ago with the hope of seeking asylum in the U.S. after being jailed in Cameroon by a government that has been going after the African nation's English-speaking minority.

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He was rethinking those plans after hearing that he may not have a chance at getting asylum because of the new policy and if his case is denied he will be deported straight back to Cameroon.

"I feel sick," he said of the anxiety consuming him. "If I am sent back to Cameroon, I'd lose my life. The situation is very horrible."

He speaks no Spanish and does not feel safe in Tijuana, which has one of the highest homicide rates in Mexico. Even so, he prefers Tijuana to returning to Cameroon.

Trump has long complained that immigrants are taking advantage of the nation's asylum system to get into the country, and his administration has taken several steps to limit their options.

Many of the measures have been rejected by the courts, but one notable exception is a policy that requires certain asylum seekers to wait in Mexico while their immigration court cases get resolved. About 20,000 have been sent back to Mexico, and thousands more are on wait lists just to get to the front of the line to get an asylum interview.

Asylum seekers must also pass an initial screening called a "credible fear" interview, a hurdle that a vast majority clear. Under the new policy, they would fail the test unless they sought asylum in at least one country they traveled through and were denied. They would be placed in fast-track deportation proceedings and flown to their home countries at U.S. expense.

Despite the policies, record numbers of immigrant families have been crossing the border this year, overwhelming border facilities and authorities. Five immigrant children have died since late last year after being detained by the government, and children have been found in squalid and overcrowded border facilities.

The crisis has only served to intensify immigration as a campaign issue as Trump looks to rally his base like he did in 2016 with his vow to build a wall on the border.

At a crossing in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, 10 Cuban asylum seekers were called by Mexican officials and led across the Paso Del Norte Bridge to El Paso, where they were handed over to Customs and Border Protection officers. They were taken to a room where their possessions were searched, laid out on a table and bagged.

The immigrants will still go through the normal first steps of requesting asylum, but will face a dramatically higher bar to be allowed in the country.

Lawyers who represent Cuban migrants say that they are not deportable because Cuba will not accept them.

"I'd rather be in prison the rest of my life than go back to Cuba," said Dileber Urrista Sanchez, who had hoped his number would be called Tuesday, but he was further down the list.

Sanchez, 35, has waited with his wife in Juarez for the past two months, renting a room with money his mother sends him from Las Vegas.

He said his mother left Cuba years ago because she was part of an opposition party. In retaliation, he said, the government took away his job as a chauffeur, and he and his wife had been imprisoned for days at a time for being "untrustworthy."

He criticized the Trump administration's new policy, pointing out that the first country he was able to reach after leaving Cuba was Nicaragua.

"How are we going to apply for asylum in Nicaragua when it's just as communist?" he said.

Derek Mbi of Cameroon was among nearly 50 migrants who gathered in Tijuana. He arrived there about a month ago, and more than 8,100 people were ahead of him on the waiting list.

Processing new arrivals has ground to a virtual halt in recent days, down from an average of about 40 names a day.

Mbi, 29, joined a wave of Cameroonians who fled fierce government oppression against their country's English-speaking minority by flying to Ecuador, which does not require a visa. From there, he traveled for months by bus and on foot through seven other countries to reach Tijuana.

Mbi learned about the new policy but mistakenly believed that it applied only to Central and South Americans. He hopes to settle with a friend in Texas.

For now, he is sharing a one-bedroom apartment with 13 Cameroonians in Tijuana and scraping by with odd jobs, like peeling tomatoes at open-air markets. He said many companies refused to hire him because

his short-term transit permit in Mexico does not allow him to work.

Cedar Attanasio reported from Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. Associated Press writers Colleen Long and Michael Balsamo in Washington and Julie Watson in Tijuana contributed to this report.

Judge orders R. Kelly held in jail without bond in sex case

By DON BABWIN Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — A federal judge on Tuesday ordered R. Kelly held in jail without bond after a prosecutor warned that the singer accused of having sex with minors and trying to cover up the crimes would pose an extreme danger to young girls if set free.

"If he was attracted to middle school girls in 1999 then he's still attracted to middle school girls," Assistant U.S. Attorney Angel Krull told U.S. District Judge Harry Leinenweber. "That's who the defendant is and that, your honor, makes him a danger today."

Leinenweber said that under federal law Kelly would have to prove that he was not a danger to the public and Kelly's attorney, Steve Greenberg, had failed to do so.

Kelly was arrested while walking his dog in Chicago last week and faces an array of sex-related charges in Chicago and New York. Appearing in court wearing an orange jumpsuit and shackled at the ankles, he said only two words, "Yes, sir," when the judge asked him if he understood the charges. Two women who recently lived with Kelly, Azriel Clary and Joycelyn Savage, attended the court hearing Tuesday.

The ruling Tuesday means that Kelly, who pleaded not guilty to the charges contained in the Chicago indictment, will remain in custody to face a separate indictment in New York. He is charged there with racketeering, kidnapping, forced labor and the sexual exploitation of a child.

It was unclear when that hearing would be held and if he would have to be transported to New York for the hearing, or could appear via a video linkup from Chicago.

The decision to deny bond also raised the possibility that the 52-year-old Kelly could spend the rest of his life behind bars. Renato Mariotti, a former federal prosecutor in Chicago, said that "each of the federal indictments could take one to two years to go to trial." Depending on delays in the case, Mariotti said Kelly's stay in jail awaiting trial could go on a lot longer than that.

Krull portrayed Kelly as a predator who went to great lengths to find young girls and kept them under his control. She said that the evidence in the federal indictments against him is overwhelming. If convicted, the maximum sentence for the charges contained in the Illinois indictment is 195 years in prison and 80 years for the charges contained in the New York indictment.

Kelly, whose real name is Robert Sylvester Kelly, was first arrested on sex-related charges in 2002 after a video of Kelly having sex with 14-year-old girl was sent to the Chicago Sun-Times. After extensive delays, a Chicago jury acquitted him in 2008 in part because the girl did not testify at the trial.

Krull said Kelly was acquitted only because he paid off the victim and her family. She said the alleged victim in that video has since testified before a federal grand jury and confirmed it was her.

"Electronic monitoring can't stop obstruction of justice, witness tampering..." Krull said. "He can entice victims to his own home."

Kelly's legal troubles mounted when he was arrested in February and charged with 10 counts in Illinois of sexually abusing three girls and a woman. He pleaded not guilty to those charges and was released on bail.

Then on May 30, Cook County prosecutors added 11 sex-related counts involving one of the women who accused him of sexually abusing her when she was underage. The federal charges filed last week are separate from the Illinois case.

Greenberg said preparing for trial will be a long process made even more difficult because Kelly does not know how to read and therefore someone must visit him in jail to read him the reams of documents the case will generate.

He said Kelly is no longer rich and has filed for bankruptcy.
"How could he flee?" Greenberg asked. "He has no money."

Police officer in 'I can't breathe' death won't be charged

By MICHAEL BALSAMO, MICHAEL R. SISAK, COLLEEN LONG and TOM HAYS Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — After years of silence, federal prosecutors said Tuesday that they won't bring criminal charges against a white New York City police officer in the 2014 chokehold death of Eric Garner, a black man whose dying words — "I can't breathe" — became a national rallying cry against police brutality.

The decision to end a yearslong civil rights investigation without charges was made by Attorney General William Barr and was announced the day before the five-year anniversary of the deadly Staten Island encounter, just as the statute of limitations was set to expire.

Civil rights prosecutors in Washington had favored filing criminal charges against Officer Daniel Pantaleo, but ultimately Barr sided with other federal prosecutors based in Brooklyn who said evidence, including a bystander's widely viewed cellphone video, wasn't sufficient to make a case, a Justice Department official told The Associated Press.

Richard Donoghue, the U.S. Attorney in Brooklyn, said at a news conference that while Garner's death was tragic, there was insufficient evidence to prove that Pantaleo or any other officers involved in the confrontation on a Staten Island sidewalk had willfully violated his civil rights.

"Even if we could prove that Officer Pantaleo's hold of Mr. Garner constituted unreasonable force, we would still have to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Officer Pantaleo acted willfully in violation of the law," Donoghue said.

Garner's family was incensed by the decision, the latest from a Justice Department under President Donald Trump that has scaled-back use of consent decrees aimed at improving local police departments found to have violated civil rights.

"This should have been taken care of years ago," said Garner's mother, Gwen Carr, a vocal police reform advocate since her son's death. "This should have been taken care of under the Obama administration. Then we would have had a fairer playing ground."

The Rev. Al Sharpton renewed his calls for the New York Police Department to fire the 34-year-old Pantaleo, who's been on desk duty since Garner's death and is awaiting the results of a disciplinary hearing that could lead to his firing. Mayor Bill de Blasio's office said it expects a decision by Aug. 31.

"Five years ago, Eric Garner was choked to death," Sharpton said. "Today, the federal government choked Lady Justice, and that is why we were outraged."

Pantaleo's lawyer, Stuart London, said the officer "is gratified that the Justice Department took the time to carefully review the actual evidence in this case rather than the lies and inaccuracies which followed this case from its inception."

Pantaleo's union president, Pat Lynch, said: "scapegoating a good and honorable officer, who was doing his job in the manner he was taught, will not heal the wounds this case has caused for our entire city."

Garner's death — after he refused to be handcuffed for allegedly selling loose, untaxed cigarettes — came at a time of a growing public outcry over police killings of unarmed black men that gave impetus to the national Black Lives Matter movement. Just weeks later, protests erupted in Ferguson, Missouri, over the fatal shooting of unarmed teenager Michael Brown.

When a Staten Island grand jury declined to indict Pantaleo on state charges in December 2014, demonstrations flared in New York and several other cities.

Amid those demonstrations, a man angry about the Garner and Brown cases ambushed and fatally shot two New York City police officers as they sat in their cruiser, further shocking the city and leading to the creation of the pro-police Blue Lives Matter movement.

Prosecutors in Brooklyn repeatedly watched video of the confrontation between Garner and police, Donoghue said, but weren't convinced Pantaleo willfully violated the law in using a chokehold, which is banned under police department policy.

Pantaleo initially tried to use two approved restraint tactics on Garner, much larger at 6-foot-2 and about

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400 pounds, but ended up wrapping his arm around Garner's neck "in what was, in effect, a chokehold" for about seven seconds as they struggled against a glass storefront window and fell to the sidewalk, Donoghue said.

"Significantly, Officer Pantaleo was not engaged in a chokehold on Mr. Garner when he said he could not breathe, and neither Officer Pantaleo nor any other officer applied a chokehold to Mr. Garner after he first said he could not breathe," Donoghue said.

Garner could be heard on bystander video crying out "I can't breathe" at least 11 times before he fell unconscious. The medical examiner's office said a chokehold contributed to Garner's death.

The federal probe resulted in two sets of recommendations.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Brooklyn recommended no charges, while civil rights prosecutors in Washington recommended charging the officer. Barr, who watched the video himself and got several briefings, made the ultimate decision, a senior Justice Department official said.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity in order to discuss internal deliberations and investigative matters.

Donoghue announced the decision not to charge Pantaleo after meeting with Garner's family, but the news was reported in the media beforehand, angering advocates.

At the news conference, Donoghue said he expressed his and Barr's condolences. He said Garner's death was a tragedy and that "for anyone to die under circumstances like these is a tremendous loss." He also apologized for the length of the investigation, calling the delay "entirely inappropriate and unacceptable."

In the years since Garner's death, the NYPD has made a series of sweeping changes on how it relates to the communities it serves, ditching a policy of putting rookie officers in higher-crime precincts in favor of a neighborhood policing model that revolves around community officers tasked with getting to know New Yorkers.

De Blasio, who is touting his leadership on police-community relations on the presidential campaign trail, said the city is not the same as it was five years ago.

"Reforms over the last five years have improved relations between our police and our communities," de Blasio said in a statement, adding that crime was at record lows and 150,000 fewer people were arrested last year than the year before he took office.

But some activists, including Garner's family and relatives of others killed by police, have argued the changes aren't enough.

De Blasio also said that it was a mistake for the city to wait for federal prosecutors to finish investigating Garner's death before the police department began disciplinary proceedings. But there is no rule requiring the NYPD to do so.

Police reform advocates said the decision not to charge Pantaleo was upsetting but to be expected.

Joo Hyun-Kang, the director of Communities United for Police Reform, said it was "outrageous but not shocking." Hawk Newsome, the head of the New York area Black Lives Matter chapter said, "It's America, man."

"As a black man in America I have no expectation that we will receive justice in court without radical change in this country," Newsome said.

Balsamo and Long reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Karen Matthews and Ali Swenson in New York contributed to this report.

For the AP's complete coverage of the Eric Garner case: <https://apnews.com/EricGarner>

In crowded 2020 Democratic field, a clear top tier emerges

By JULIE PACE and STEVE PEOPLES Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — No votes have been cast in the Democratic presidential nominating contest, but the winnowing has begun.

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A distinct top tier of candidates is breaking away from the pack in early polling and fundraising, building distance between themselves and the rest of the bloated field. Although the first nominating contest in Iowa is still more than six months away, tighter qualifying standards for the fall debates and cash flow problems have prompted questions about how many campaigns will still be operational next year.

Five candidates have pulled away from the pack: former Vice President Joe Biden, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, California Sen. Kamala Harris and Pete Buttigieg, the mayor of South Bend, Indiana. Biden has consistently led early polls, with the four others jostling for position behind him. Most other candidates have struggled to even hit 2% in recent surveys.

Money has also flowed disproportionately to the top five candidates. Buttigieg, who led the field in second quarter fundraising with \$24.8 million, raised more than a quartet of senators — Amy Klobuchar, Cory Booker, Kirsten Gillibrand and Michael Bennet — combined.

“There’s a field of likelies, unlikelies and possibles,” said Sue Dvorsky, the former chairwoman of the Iowa Democratic Party.

Even as the primary field cleaves into haves and have nots, big questions remain about what direction the party will take as voters weigh who best, and how best, to defeat President Donald Trump next year. The top tier includes moderates and liberals; the oldest contender in the race and the youngest; and a black candidate.

At this early phase, the enduring strength of the leading White House hopefuls is unclear. Biden is a fragile front-runner whose decadeslong political career will continue to be picked apart. Harris faces questions about whether she can sustain her spurts of dynamism. Buttigieg is struggling with black voters, the backbone of the Democratic Party. And some Democrats anxiously wonder whether Sanders and Warren, the most liberal candidates in the race, could win a general election.

“This fall is when voters get serious,” said Jim Demers, a Booker supporter who chaired Barack Obama’s 2008 campaign in New Hampshire. “That’s when we’re going to know who’s real and who’s not.”

Each of the top-tier candidates appears certain to still be in the mix when voters start taking a more serious look at the race. But that’s far from a sure thing for some White House hopefuls mired at the bottom of the pack.

Former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper’s fundraising has largely dried up, and he has less than \$1 million in the bank. Ohio Rep. Tim Ryan raised just \$899,000 in the second quarter, far from what is needed to fund a campaign apparatus in the early voting states.

Other lower-tier candidates are still building out operations aimed at sustaining them through a long campaign.

Booker recently added 19 paid organizers in Nevada and South Carolina and has one of the largest teams on the ground in the early states — a costly strategy designed to allow him to capitalize on a breakout moment, if he has one. Gillibrand’s campaign expects to end the month with 35 paid staffers on the ground in Iowa and close to 20 in New Hampshire.

But privately, some members of Gillibrand’s team are said to be frustrated that her candidacy isn’t catching on, and some junior staff are eyeing moves to other campaigns, according to a person with knowledge of the operation. There’s also anxiousness among some lower-level staffers working for former Texas Rep. Beto O’Rourke, according to a Democrat with knowledge of his operation. Both people spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the campaigns.

Both candidates’ challenges are clear.

Gillibrand spent \$4.2 million during the second quarter despite raising only \$2.2 million. She still has a healthy \$8.2 million to keep her afloat, but that’s due in large part to a nearly \$10 million transfer from her Senate campaign earlier this year. That money will dissipate quickly if her fundraising doesn’t increase in the second half of the year.

O’Rourke spent about \$1.6 million more than he took in, leaving him with \$5.1 million on hand. He raised just \$3.6 million during the second quarter, about half what he brought in during his first 24 hours in the presidential race.

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Gillibrand, O'Rourke and other struggling candidates will have a high-profile opportunity to change their fortunes in the next Democratic debate later this month. But such opportunities could be fleeting for many in the field. The Democratic National Committee has tightened the qualifying standards for the fall debates, requiring candidates to both raise money from 130,000 individual donors and amass 2% of support in four polls.

All of the top five candidates have already qualified for the September debate, as has O'Rourke. Booker has met the polling criteria but lags in the donor count.

Boyd Brown, a South Carolina Democrat who encouraged O'Rourke to run, said it's already time for some campaigns to "be hitting the panic button."

"People need to get out," Brown said. He conceded that O'Rourke has slipped into the lower-tier of candidates and said it could be time for him to reevaluate in the fall if his numbers haven't improved.

The big field has also been a drain on some voters in the early states who are inundated with calls from campaigns and invitations to candidate events.

John Felice, a 68-year-old music teacher from New Hampshire, said that while he likes several of the candidates, "it's fatiguing how big the field is."

Associated Press writers Brian Slodysko and Hunter Woodall and AP polling editor Emily Swanson contributed to this report.

Follow Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC> and Steve Peoples at <http://twitter.com/sppeoples>

'Game of Thrones' reigns with record 32 Emmy nominations

By LYNN ELBER AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — HBO's "Game of Thrones" slashed its way to a record-setting 32 Emmy nominations Tuesday for its eighth and final season, leading HBO back to dominance over Netflix, the streaming service that bumped it last year from atop the increasingly crowded television heap.

The bloodthirsty saga's total eclipsed the all-time series record of 27 nods earned by "NYPD Blue" in 1994.

If "Game of Thrones" successfully defends its best drama series title and claims a fourth trophy, it will join the quartet of most-honored dramas that includes "Hill Street Blues," "L.A. Law," "The West Wing" and "Mad Men."

The Emmy voters' acclaim stands in sharp contrast to fan reaction to the show's last hurrah, which included howls of laughter for a to-go coffee cup inadvertently included in one scene and a finale that detractors called unsatisfying. But the show's ratings never faltered for the series based on George R.R. Martin's novels, setting new highs for HBO.

A wealth of recognition for the cast and guest stars, including the show's only previous winner, Peter Dinklage with three awards, helped "Game of Thrones" add to its already record haul of nominations, now at 161 total.

Series star Emilia Clarke's decision to seek a best actress nomination after a series of supporting actress bids paid off. She's competing in a category that's notable for its diversity, including past winner Viola Davis for "How to Get Away with Murder" and repeat nominee Sandra Oh for "Killing Eve," who has another chance to become the first actress of Asian descent to win the trophy. She lost last year to Claire Foy for Netflix's "The Crown."

Two actors of color, Billy Porter for "Pose" and previous winner Sterling K. Brown for "This Is Us," earned drama series nods.

The rest of the drama series field includes "Better Call Saul," "Bodyguard," "Killing Eve," "Ozark," "Pose," "Succession" and, as the only network entry, "This is Us." Mandy Moore, who plays the NBC drama's matriarch, earned her first best actress nod, with fellow cast member Chris Sullivan earning his first nod, for supporting actor.

Last year's best comedy series, "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel," led the comedy pack with 20 bids, includ-

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ing for its star and defending champion Rachel Brosnahan.

"I'm at the dog park this morning with my four children and started getting a lot of texts and phone calls all at once. I'm so excited to learn that the 'Maisei' family has been invited back to the party. This category is ridiculous. I can't believe I get to be a part of anything with these amazing women," Brosnahan told The Associated Press .

She'll vie with Emmy record-holder Julia Louis-Dreyfus of "Veep," who didn't compete in last year's awards because her breast cancer treatment delayed production of the political satire. Louis-Dreyfus, who with Cloris Leachman shares the record for most Emmys won by a performer, eight, has a shot at solo glory if she wins again.

The final season of "Veep" received nine nominations, including a best supporting actress bid for Anna Chlumsky.

"I'm feeling really jazzed. It might be the coffee I just had. But this feels so much sweeter because it's the last time around for this show," she said.

There was no warm and fuzzy goodbye for "The Big Bang Theory," the long-running sitcom that failed to capture a best comedy nod or any for its actors. The show has company in other hit sitcoms of the past: Neither "Friends" nor "Frasier" were nominated for best series for their final year, both in 2004.

TV academy members' out-with-the-old approach created openings for a number of buzzy comedy newcomers and their stars and creators, including Phoebe Waller-Bridge's "Fleabag" and Natasha Lyonne's "Russian Doll." Other best comedy contenders include "Barry," which won acting trophies last year for Bill Hader and Henry Winkler, and sole network entry "The Good Place."

A surprising entry : the quirky "Schitt's Creek," which received its first best comedy series nomination for its penultimate season and bids for stars Eugene Levy and Catherine O'Hara.

Other top nominees include the nuclear disaster miniseries "Chernobyl" with 19 nominations and "Saturday Night Live," which drew on Robert De Niro's talents to play Robert Mueller last season, with 18. "When They See Us," the miniseries that dramatized the Central Park Five case and its aftermath, received 16 bids.

"Thank you to the real men for inviting me to tell their story," tweeted Ava DuVernay, executive producer of "When They See Us."

The leading miniseries nominee is "Fosse/Verdon," the biopic about dancer Gwen Verdon and choreographer Bob Fosse that earned 17 bids, including the first Emmy nominations for stars Michelle Williams and Sam Rockwell.

There was a significant drop in diversity among this year's group of nominees compared to 2018, when more than a third of the 101 nominees in acting categories were ethnic minorities. This year, the figure was less than a quarter, with diversity especially absent in comedy.

Just two of the 26 acting nominees were people of color — Anthony Anderson for "black-ish" and Don Cheadle for "Black Monday" — and three of the four categories had only white nominees.

Categories dominated by the overwhelmingly white "Game of Thrones" were also short on inclusion , including supporting actress in a drama — zero nominees — and supporting drama actor, with only Giancarlo Esposito of "Better Call Saul" receiving a nomination.

In the overall tally contest among outlets, HBO received a whopping 137 nominations Tuesday, riding the dragon wings of "Game of Thrones" and the big tallies for "Chernobyl" and "Barry." Netflix, which last year ended HBO's 17-year reign to win the most Emmy nominations, was bumped to second this year with 117. Amazon's Prime Video was second to Netflix among streamers with 47 nominations.

Broadcast networks, steadily eclipsed by the rise of cable and now streaming, were far behind, with NBC getting 58 nods to top CBS' 43, ABC's 26 and Fox's 18.

The 71st Emmy Awards will air Sept. 22 on Fox, with the host yet to be announced.

AP Entertainment writers Andrew Dalton and Jonathan Landrum Jr. contributed to this report.

New clues on why women's Alzheimer's risk differs from men's

By **MARILYNN MARCHIONE AP Chief Medical Writer**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — New research gives some biological clues to why women may be more likely than men to develop Alzheimer's disease and how this most common form of dementia varies by sex.

At the Alzheimer's Association International Conference in Los Angeles on Tuesday, scientists offered evidence that the disease may spread differently in the brains of women than in men. Other researchers showed that several newly identified genes seem related to the disease risk by sex.

Two-thirds of Alzheimer's cases in the U.S. are in women and "it's not just because we live longer," said Maria Carrillo, the association's chief science officer. There's also "a biological underpinning" for sex differences in the disease, she said.

Some previous studies suggest that women at any age are more likely than men to develop Alzheimer's. Scientists also know that a gene called APOE-4 seems to raise risk more for women than for men in certain age groups.

At the same time, women with the disease in its early stages may go undiagnosed because they tend to do better on verbal tests than men, which masks Alzheimer's damage.

The new studies add more evidence and potential explanations for suspected variations between how men and women develop the disease.

Vanderbilt University researchers found differences in how tau, a protein that forms tangles that destroy nerve cells, spreads in the brains of women compared to men. Using scans on 301 people with normal thinking skills and 161 others with mild impairment, they mapped where tau was deposited and correlated it with nerve networks — highways that brain signals follow.

They found that tau networks in women with mild impairment were more diffuse and spread out than in men, suggesting that more areas of the brain were affected.

It's long been known that women do better on tests of verbal memory — skills like recalling words and lists. University of California, San Diego, researchers found that women did better on these skills despite similar signs of early to moderate Alzheimer's than men.

Using scans on more than 1,000 older adults, they found sex differences in how the brain uses sugar, its main energy source. Women metabolized sugar better, which may give them more ability to compensate for the damage from dementia and make them less likely to be diagnosed with it by tests that involve verbal skills.

"The female advantage might mask early signs of Alzheimer's and delay diagnosis," said study leader Erin Sundermann. "Women are able to sustain normal verbal performance longer," partly because of better brain metabolism.

At the University of Miami, scientists analyzed genes in 30,000 people — half with Alzheimer's, half without it — and found four that seem related to disease risk by sex.

"One confers risk in females and not males and three confer risk in males but not females," said one study leader, Eden Martin.

Researchers don't know yet exactly how these genes affect risk — or by how much.

"Some of these look like they're tied to the immune system and we know there are differences between males and females" in how that works, said another study leader, Brian Kunkle.

Seven other genes seem to have different effect on risks in men versus women. The researchers have a National Institute on Aging grant to do an international study on nearly 100,000 people to try to validate and extend the results.

Marilynn Marchione can be followed at <http://twitter.com/MMarchioneAP> .

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Von der Leyen confirmed as new European Commission president

By RAF CASERT Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Ursula von der Leyen was confirmed as the European Commission president Tuesday, becoming the first woman to hold one of the most prestigious positions in the European Union and who will be one of the most prominent faces from the bloc on the world stage.

The European Parliament voted 383-327 with 22 abstentions to approve von der Leyen's nomination. The confirmation required an absolute majority of 374 votes and the outgoing German defense minister scraped through with barely nine votes to spare in a cliffhanger vote.

"A majority is a majority in politics," she said when questioned about her narrow escape.

Von der Leyen will replace Jean-Claude Juncker when his term expires at the end of October.

She was put forward as a last-minute candidate by EU leaders as part over an overall appointments package, sidestepping parliamentary wishes. Many legislators felt cold-shouldered and said they would oppose her out of principle, not over personal considerations.

"There was a great deal of resentment," she said.

Von der Leyen insisted the challenges facing the EU, from climate to migration and internal division, were such that there was no time to look back.

"My message to all of you is: let us work together constructively," she said.

Earlier in the day, Von der Leyen set out her political objectives on a greener, gender-equal Europe where the rule of law continues to hold sway.

Her approval was a key part in the package of top jobs that EU leaders agreed upon early this month. Under the deal, the free-market liberal Renew Europe group got Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel as European Council president and the Socialists won the top parliament job. France's Christine Lagarde was put forward as head of the European Central Bank.

Von der Leyen told lawmakers in Strasbourg that the gender element as embodied by herself and Lagarde will be an essential part of her job.

"I will ensure full gender equality" in her team of 28 commissioners. "I want to see as many men as women around the college table," she said.

Pointing out that since its inception in 1958, less than 20% of commissioners had been women, she said: "We represent half of our population. We want our fair share."

The gender breakthrough was welcome across much of the plenary.

"It is a great day for Europe to have a woman elected to lead the European Commission," said Dacian Cioloș, leader of the liberal Renew Europe group.

The rest of the commission team, which prepares a wide range of legislation from climate change to farm subsidies and digital rules, will be proposed by the EU member states, which have the right to one each.

Von der Leyen insisted that, despite euroskeptic governments like Italy, Poland and Hungary, she would only work with pro-European politicians.

"I want a commission that is working to strengthen Europe to position Europe in this world in its appropriate role," she said.

"None of us on its own will be as successful in tackling the problems as we are together — 28 member states," she said.

Officials in the von der Leyen camp had long acknowledged that the vote would be a cliffhanger. She was set to get the majority of votes from her EPP Christian Democrats, the S&D socialists and the RE liberals. They were part of a grand coalition sharing out the top jobs.

Still, with dissent even within those groups, it long was too close to call.

During her address to the parliament, von der Leyen set out her political lines for the next few years and immediately addressed what she sees as the biggest challenge: climate change.

"I want Europe to become the first climate-neutral continent in the world by 2050," she said, adding she would work out "a green deal for Europe in the first 100 days" of her office. It would include rules to improve on the current goal of reducing emissions by 40% by 2030.

"It will need investment on a major scale," and funds would be available for nations, mainly in eastern Europe, still depending on polluting fossil fuels, she said.

She said that she would set up a climate division within the European Investment Bank to "unlock 1 trillion euros of investment over the next decade."

Despite the need for votes to get the absolute majority, she did insist that her European Commission would continue to be at least as tough as now on countries like Poland and Hungary, which have been accused of disrespecting Western democratic values when it comes to the rule of law.

"There can be no compromise when it comes to respecting the rule of law. There never will be. I will ensure that we use our full and comprehensive toolbox at European level," she said.

Florida expert captures elusive alligator at Chicago lagoon

By DON BABWIN Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — The alligator had a good run as day after day the people hunting for him in a Chicago lagoon came up empty, but in the end he was no match for an expert the city shipped in from Florida.

The male gator, nicknamed 'Chance the Snapper,' was first spotted in the Humboldt Park lagoon about a week ago. After local enthusiasts tried and failed to trap the reptile, Frank Robb arrived from St. Augustine on Sunday. By early Tuesday, he had caught the 5 foot 3 inch animal using something that even cartoon alligators know to avoid: a fishing pole.

"I brought my fishing rod and it went down pretty fast," Robb said at a news conference at the park Tuesday morning. At about 1:30 a.m. — about 36 hours into the hunt — Robb said he "saw his eye shine and caught him on the fishing rod. One cast... and it was done."

Chance — whose name sounds a lot like Chicago's own Chance the Rapper — looked pretty calm as Robb pulled him out of a big plastic tub, and he didn't squirm as he settled into Robb's grip. Robb moved around a bit so all the photographers from pretty much every newspaper and television news show snapped pictures — Chance couldn't do any snapping of his own thanks to what looked like a thick rubber band or electrical tape holding his jaw shut tight.

Chance was a daily news story from the day he was first spotted and photos started popping up online. Investigators don't know why the animal was in the lagoon but they knew they had to capture it.

Robb assessed the situation and knew from his 24 years of gator catching under his belt that the best way to capture a gator was to make it nice and calm. So, on his recommendation, the city closed sections of the park to reduce the noise and kerfuffle that Robb suspected was keeping the animal in hiding.

Chance will to stay in the tub for now, but the city said it was already looking for roomier quarters, most likely a wildlife sanctuary or a zoo.

"No harm will come to this alligator," said Kelley Gandurski, the executive director of the Chicago Animal Care and Control.

6 minutes: Man haunted by family's final moments on 737 Max

By DAVID KOENIG AP Airlines Writer

When Paul Njoroge gets on an airplane, he becomes fixated on the first few minutes after takeoff.

"I have to look at my watch and see when I reach the 6-minute mark," Njoroge says. That is the length of time that a Boeing 737 Max carrying his wife, three young children and mother-in-law was airborne before plunging back to Earth in a field in Ethiopia, killing everyone on board.

"I think about my family every minute of my life," he says. "When I'm flying, I cannot even dare to sleep because I'm thinking about them. I dread going back into a plane."

Still, Njoroge (ja-ROW-ga) will fly to Washington to testify Wednesday before a congressional panel that is examining aviation safety after two deadly accidents involving Boeing's best-selling plane. He will be accompanied by Michael Stumo, whose daughter, Samya, also died in the March 10 Ethiopian Airlines crash.

The Boeing Max has been grounded worldwide since shortly after that crash and it's not clear when it

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will be certified to fly again.

In testimony prepared for the hearing, Njoroge and other families of the 346 people who died in the accidents will demand that regulators perform a new, top-to-bottom review of the plane. They'll also call for airline pilots to get training in flight simulators — Boeing says computer-based lessons will suffice — and that Congress reform the Federal Aviation Administration, which certified the plane and declined to ground it after the first accident last October off the coast of Indonesia.

In a telephone interview with The Associated Press, Njoroge went further, saying Boeing should scrap the plane and company executives should resign and face criminal charges.

If Boeing and the FAA had done their jobs properly, he said, "these planes would have been grounded in November and today I would be enjoying summer with my family, I would be playing football with my son."

Because the size and placement of the plane's engines raised the risk of an aerodynamic stall, Boeing devised flight-control software called MCAS. Preliminary reports indicate that the software pushed the nose of the plane down in both crashes, and Boeing is working on changes to make MCAS more reliable and easier to control.

Boeing did not tell pilots about MCAS until after the Oct. 29 crash of a Lion Air Max. Njoroge believes the company hid the existence of the software to cover up what he considers an irredeemable flaw that MCAS was designed to offset — the plane's tendency to pitch nose-up in some conditions.

"I'd like to see (Boeing CEO) Dennis Muilenburg and the executives resign, because they caused the deaths of 346 people," Njoroge said. "They should be held liable criminally for the deaths of my wife and my children and my mom-in-law and 152 others in the crash of Ethiopian Airlines flight 302 because that was preventable."

Chicago-based Boeing said it lamented the impact that the crashes are having on families of those on board.

"These incidents and the lives lost will continue to weigh heavily on our hearts and on our minds for years to come," the company said in a statement. "We are committed to working with the communities, customers and the aviation industry to help with the healing process."

Njoroge, 35, was born in Kenya and now lives in Toronto, where he works as an investment professional. A Chicago aviation lawyer, Robert Clifford, sued Boeing on his behalf over the deaths of his wife, Carol, his son and daughters, 6-year-old Ryan, 4-year-old Kelli and 9-month-old Rubi, and his wife's mother.

They were on their way to visit family in Kenya when the Nairobi-bound plane crashed.

Njoroge accused Boeing of trying to shift blame to foreign pilots in Indonesia and Ethiopia to avoid grounding the Max, which he called "utter prejudice."

After the Lion Air crash, Boeing issued a bulletin to pilots reminding them about Boeing instructions for responding when the airplane automatically forces the nose down. After the Ethiopian crash, Muilenburg said the pilots did not completely follow the procedures. The preliminary report indicated the Ethiopian pilots tried the procedures nearly until the end but could not save the plane, and they were flying extremely fast.

Muilenburg has repeatedly apologized in public to families of the passengers. Njoroge said he has not received personal condolences.

"It would be very important if Boeing executives can meet with the family members in person and apologize to them," he said. "That would help."

Njoroge has not returned to work since the accident and doesn't know when — or if — he ever will.

"I've been trying to restructure my life, but I don't know how to do it," he said. "Every aspect of life today is a reminder that I'm alone now. It's painful."

Wednesday's hearing will be the House aviation panel's third on the Max. Other witnesses will include representatives from the National Transportation Safety Board and unions representing pilots, flight attendants, airline mechanics and safety inspectors.

The jet's grounding is meanwhile having an impact on airlines around the world, with Europe's busiest carrier, Ryanair, saying Tuesday it will cut flights and close some bases beginning this winter because of the delay to deliveries of the Boeing planes. It expects the Max jets to be back in service before the end of the year, though the date is uncertain.

American Airlines and United Airlines this month both said they will keep the Boeing 737 Max plane off their schedule until Nov. 3, leading to flight cancellations.

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

Gregory Katz in London contributed to this report.

Retail rivals crash Amazon's Prime Day party

By MAE ANDERSON and ANNE D'INNOCENZIO AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — The gravitational pull of Amazon Prime Day is so strong on shoppers it's benefiting other retailers as well, according to an early analysis from a key data group.

On Monday, the first day of its 48-hour sales event, large retailers, those that generated annual revenue of at least a billion dollars, enjoyed a 64% increase in online sales compared with an average Monday, according to Adobe Analytics, which measures 80 of the top 100 retailers on the web in the U.S. That compares to last year's 54%. In addition, niche retailers, those with annual revenue of less than \$5 million, had a 30% increase in online sales.

Amazon's fifth annual Prime Day, which this year began Monday afternoon, was created to drum up sales during sluggish summer months and sign up more users for the company's membership program.

Other retailers have introduced sales to compete against Prime Day. Walmart has a "summer savings event" through Wednesday. Best Buy, eBay, Target and other retailers are also offering discounts.

The Seattle e-commerce behemoth said it was offering more than a million deals. Amazon's own products, like its Fire tablets and Echo smart speakers, are usually among the strongest sellers.

The events have also helped to encourage shoppers to make back-to-school shopping purchases ahead of that season.

This year, some used the high-profile event as a way to garner attention for their protests against Amazon.

At a warehouse in Shakopee, Minnesota, Amazon workers staged a protest Monday to raise awareness of what they say are unfair working conditions. A group of tech workers in Seattle, called Amazon Employees for Climate Justice, is supporting the strike. Amazon said late last night that roughly 15 workers participated in the event outside of the Shakopee fulfillment center.

On Twitter, Massachusetts Senator and presidential candidate Elizabeth Warren voiced her support for the workers as well.

Amazon says it already offers what the workers are asking for.

"We provide great employment opportunities with excellent pay — ranging from \$16.25-\$20.80 an hour, and comprehensive benefits including health care, up to 20 weeks parental leave, paid education, promotional opportunities, and more," spokeswoman Brenda Alfred said.

The company has faced labor unrest before in Shakopee and in Europe .

In New York, a coalition of labor groups planned to deliver 250,000 petitions to Amazon founder Jeff Bezos' Manhattan home calling on the company to cut business ties with ICE and end abusive working conditions in its warehouses. And some on Twitter called for a blanket boycott of Amazon during Prime Day.

San Diego State University Marketing Professor Steven Osinski said the protests were unlikely to have an effect on sales, however.

"Americans liking discounts will trump worrying about higher wages for two days," he said.

The company counts more than 100 million subscribers to its Prime loyalty program, which costs \$119 a year and provides free two-day shipping, free streaming movies, TV shows, music and other perks.

African man escaped a massacre, but death followed

By DAVID SHARP Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — When an armed conflict erupted in his village in Congo, Blaise Matshieba Nduluyele fled from the carnage. Hundreds of people, including some of his relatives, were slaughtered.

Death remained close as his family undertook a grueling journey starting in South America and extending through eight countries to safety in the United States. They slept along roads or in the jungle. They got sick and nearly starved. They encountered bodies.

"I really didn't think I would survive. It was really, truly terrifying," said Nduluyele, now at a shelter with his wife and three children in Maine.

Nduluyele and hundreds of other Africans trying to escape violence and poverty are forgoing a journey to Europe for a longer, still-dangerous land route to the United States through South America. He chose the route after seeing accounts of Europe-bound immigrants being turned away, of drownings in the Mediterranean Sea and of racism.

"When we talk of democracy, we see America. We see the United States. Me, I think that in the United States, I can express myself freely. I've been able to have security and protection — and that's the reason why I chose the United States," he said.

Before the massacre, Nduluyele worked as a vendor at a marketplace after a lack of money put his medical training on hold.

Speaking in French through an interpreter, he said he had little choice but to flee from Yumbi, on the banks of the Congo River, 300 kilometers (186 miles) from the capital, Kinshasa.

More than 500 people were killed during three days of clashes after the death and burial of a tribal chief sparked violence in December, the United Nations said.

"All of a sudden, a group showed up with machetes and guns, and they just killed everyone. At that point, I had to go," he told The Associated Press.

Thus began the long journey to the U.S. The 34-year-old Nduluyele was joined by his 24-year-old wife and their children, ages 6, 4 and 11 months. They traveled first by plane, bus and boat. When their money ran out, they covered much of the ground on foot.

The family flew from neighboring Angola to Ecuador. From there, it was a winding four-month trek through Colombia, Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico.

Hundreds of Africans have made the same choice, as have thousands of other Central American immigrants heading for the U.S. border. In the spring, 500 African migrants were found walking in separate groups after splashing across the Rio Grande into Texas.

The danger of the crossing was underscored by a photo of a father and his daughter who recently drowned in the river. The startling image was published around the world.

For Nduluyele's family, the situation became dire in Panama's Darien Gap, a notorious obstacle featuring jungles, deadly snakes and bandits. One of the kids had a high fever and began vomiting. The entire group suffered from diarrhea. His wife was having difficulty nursing their youngest. Their food ran out. They cooked leaves. They were lost. A Congolese man died from a venomous snake bite.

Nduluyele tried to keep a brave face for his family but feared the worst. "I asked myself if we would get out alive," he said.

The family split up, with a brother taking one of the kids. He and his wife negotiated a path forward with the other two kids. During those dark hours, Nduluyele questioned the wisdom of the journey. "I thought of death. I really didn't think I would survive," he said.

Another group gave them leftover food crumbs. Some pasta and corn meal were shared as well. They managed a perilous mountain crossing.

In Costa Rica, the kids received medical help, he said. Then the journey continued anew, with the family suffering from a combination of exhaustion followed by days of boredom at border crossings. Eventually, they found their way to the Texas border to request political asylum.

From Texas, a bus brought the asylum seekers across the country to Maine's largest city.

At the peak, nearly 300 asylum seekers were staying at a makeshift shelter on a basketball court at the Portland Expo. More than \$800,000 in donations poured into the city to assist. Residents organized a Fourth of July celebration at a park with a lighthouse.

The African newcomers know that other communities have not been as welcoming. And Nduluyele said he would never recommend the same dangerous journey to others.

But for now, he is thankful to be safe, and he's ready to make his case for staying in the U.S.

"It's a basic human right. If someone faces certain death, they should be able to leave and try to save their families," he said. "We should really love each other and take care of each other."

US industrial production unchanged in June

By JOSH BOAK AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. industrial production was flat in June, as a slump in utilities was offset by gains in output by factories and mining.

The Federal Reserve said Tuesday that manufacturing production increased 0.4% last month, aided by a nearly 3% surge at auto plants. Still, factory output has been weak over the past 12 months, posting a modest gain of just 0.4%. The manufacturing sector has faced challenges because of President Donald Trump's tariffs against China and the retaliatory taxes imposed by that country.

"With the global backdrop still weak and the survey evidence consistent with manufacturing output declining, we expect the manufacturing sector to remain weak in the second half too," said Michael Pearce, senior U.S. economist at Capital Economics.

Production at the nation's utilities fell 3.6%, as a milder than usual June led to less demand for air conditioning. Production at mines, a sector that also covers oil and gas drilling, advanced a modest 0.2%.

Capacity utilization fell in June to 77.9% from 78.1% in May.

The weakness in manufacturing has held back industrial output. During the April-June quarter, industrial production tumbled at an annual rate of 1.2%, the second straight quarterly decline. The April-June quarter saw sharp decreases in the making of machinery, motor vehicles, fabricated metals, textiles, paper and plastics and rubber products, among other goods.

The import taxes on roughly \$250 billion worth of Chinese goods have increased the costs for manufacturers that rely on foreign components, as well as created uncertainties about a global supply chain that keeps factory output steady. The Trump administration has relied on tariffs as leverage for causing China to trade on more favorable terms with the United States.

'Justice wasn't served': 50 years since Chappaquiddick

By WILLIAM J. KOLE Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — The crash ended a young woman's life, and with it, a man's White House dreams.

U.S. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy's Oldsmobile sedan veered off a narrow bridge on Chappaquiddick Island, an extension of the resort island of Martha's Vineyard off the Massachusetts coast, and plunged into a moonlit pond 50 years ago Thursday. His passenger, 28-year-old Mary Jo Kopechne, drowned.

Kennedy, 37, survived, but his presidential ambitions did not. The Massachusetts Democrat waited 10 hours to report the accident to police, and the "whys?" dogged him for the rest of his days.

Half a century later, what did and didn't happen on Chappaquiddick Island on July 18, 1969, continues to fascinate and frustrate.

"Every time there's an anniversary, it's like it happened yesterday," Leslie Leland, who served as foreman of the grand jury that investigated, told The Associated Press in a telephone interview from his home on the Vineyard.

Now 79, Leland was a young pharmacist on the island when he was swept up in the aftermath. He recalls getting death threats and 24-hour police protection, and says he is still frustrated by the judge's refusal to subpoena anyone who was at the party or share key investigative documents — stymieing the grand jury's efforts to determine whether Kennedy had been drinking.

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"If we'd been allowed to do our job, there would have been an indictment and a request to have a jury trial," he said. "Justice wasn't served. There were so many discrepancies, but we weren't allowed to do our jobs to get to the truth — whatever the truth may have been."

"I was young, and I believed in the system," he continued. "I believed everyone played by the same rules. I learned they don't."

Kennedy was driving after a party when his car flipped into the chilly waters, trapping Kopechne inside. She had been a campaign worker for Kennedy's brother, Robert, who was assassinated the previous year in Los Angeles during California's Democratic presidential primary.

Kennedy, who managed to free himself from the submerged vehicle, said he tried in vain to rescue Kopechne. He later described his failure to report the accident to police for 10 hours as "indefensible," attributing the delay to exhaustion, shock and a concussion.

The nation, too, was shocked. But it was also distracted by the historic Apollo 11 moon landing, which eclipsed news coverage. Kennedy, who insisted he hadn't been drinking, pleaded guilty to leaving the scene of an accident and received a suspended sentence of two months in jail. He was never indicted.

For Kopechne's family, bitterness has given way to a desire to honor her memory by telling her story and awarding scholarships in her name to bright young students, said William Nelson, a cousin born three years after she died. Kopechne's father died in 2003; her mother died in 2007.

"We've shifted into trying to have Mary Jo's life mean something," said Nelson, of Slatington, Pennsylvania. "She was kind of glossed over as the girl in the car. It was all about Ted Kennedy. She would have gone on to do great things."

Kopechne's commitment to civil rights drew her to Robert Kennedy's campaign. Relatives believe she would have pursued more activism and perhaps a political career of her own.

"Mary Jo was ahead of her time for women in 1969, so I'm pretty sure she would have pioneered a new path for women in Washington," Nelson said. "The true tragedy of that night in Chappaquiddick is she never got that chance."

And what of Kennedy's own legacy?

Were it not for Chappaquiddick, Kennedy may well have been the Democrat who denied Richard Nixon a second term in 1972. But he didn't dare run then, and a later presidential campaign in 1980 fizzled.

"The phenomenon of the personal becoming political began with Chappaquiddick," said Patrick Maney, a Kennedy expert and professor of history at Boston College. "There was something different in American politics after Chappaquiddick than there was before."

Even so, Kennedy went on to serve another four decades in the Senate, where he was one of the nation's longest serving and most influential legislators of the 20th century, securing his place in the pantheon of American politics.

In "True Compass," a memoir published shortly after his 2009 death, Kennedy called Chappaquiddick "a horrible tragedy that haunts me every day of my life."

Not surprisingly, nothing is planned to mark Thursday's anniversary at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate, erected in his memory in the shadow of the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library & Museum in Boston.

On its website, Chappaquiddick — which inspired a 2018 film of the same name — appears only in a few obscure interviews conducted as part of an oral history project.

The AP Corporate Archives contributed to this report. Follow Bill Kole on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/billkole>.

This story has been corrected to show that Patrick Maney is a professor of history, not political science.

North Korea suggests it might lift weapons test moratorium

By FOSTER KLUG Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — North Korea on Tuesday suggested it might call off its 20-month suspension of nuclear and missile tests because of summertime U.S.-South Korean military drills that the North calls preparation for an eventual invasion.

The statement by the North's Foreign Ministry comes during a general deadlock in nuclear talks, but after an extraordinary meeting of the U.S. and North Korean leaders at the Korean border that raised hopes that negotiations would soon resume.

The comments ramp up pressure on the United States ahead of any new talks.

North Korea has had longstanding antipathy toward U.S.-South Korean military cooperation, which the allies call defensive and routine but the North sees as hostile.

At the dramatic June 30 meeting between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and U.S. President Donald Trump, Trump crossed the border dividing the North and South, becoming the first sitting U.S. president to set foot in North Korean territory. The leaders agreed in closed-door talks to resume nuclear diplomacy that had been stalled since their failed second summit in Vietnam in February.

Despite the seeming mini-breakthrough, there has been little public progress since. North Korea wants widespread relief from harsh U.S.-led sanctions in return for pledging to give up parts of its weapons program, but the United States is demanding greater steps toward disarmament before it agrees to relinquish the leverage provided by the sanctions.

Amid the diplomatic jockeying, North Korea said Tuesday that expected regular summertime U.S.-South Korean military drills are forcing it to rethink whether to remain committed to the promises it has made to the United States. It cited its moratorium on nuclear and missile tests and other steps aimed at improving ties with Washington.

The statement said Trump vowed to suspend military drills with South Korea during his first and third meetings with Kim, but the expected summertime drills with Seoul and the deployment of weapons in the South show that Washington is not fulfilling that promise.

"With the U.S. unilaterally reneging on its commitments, we are gradually losing our justifications to follow through on the commitments we made with the U.S. as well," said the statement, carried by the North's official Korean Central News Agency.

It also said it is not bound by any legal documents to suspend its nuclear and missile tests.

Later Tuesday, North Korea's Foreign Ministry issued another statement warning that it will wait to see if the U.S.-South Korea military drills take place to decide on the fate of North Korea-U.S. nuclear diplomacy.

Since the first Trump-Kim meeting in Singapore last year, the U.S. and South Korea have suspended or downsized their annual military drills. South Korea's Foreign Ministry said Tuesday that the allies have decided to terminate their normal summertime Freedom Guardian drills and are discussing holding other kinds of drills instead.

The ministry said it hopes that talks between North Korea and the U.S. will resume soon.

Since it conducted the third of its three intercontinental ballistic missile tests in November 2017, North Korea hasn't tested any long-range missiles potentially capable of reaching the U.S. mainland. After entering talks with Washington, Kim suspended nuclear and long-range missile tests, allowing Trump to boast of an achievement in his North Korea policy.

South Korea's National Intelligence Service, the country's main spy agency, told lawmakers in a private briefing Tuesday that there were no suspicious activities at North Korea's main long-range rocket launch site in the northwest and at its missile research center on the outskirts of Pyongyang, according to Kim Min-ki, one of the lawmakers who attended the briefing.

Outside experts say North Korea has suggested that it could further put off or cancel the resumption of nuclear talks if the United States doesn't offer to accept its calls for a slow, step-by-step nuclear disarmament process or widespread sanctions relief. But some analysts say North Korea will eventually return to the talks because Kim wants cooperation with outside powers as part of a plan to revive his country's

troubled economy.

Polls show sour views of race relations in Trump's America

By HANNAH FINGERHUT Associated Press

Even before President Donald Trump's racist tweets toward four Democratic congresswomen of color, Americans considered race relations in the United States to be generally bad — and said that Trump has been making them worse.

On Sunday, Trump tweeted that the congresswomen should go back to the "broken and crime infested" countries they came from, despite the fact that all are American citizens and three were born in the U.S.

Since his election, polling has shown Americans wary of Trump when it comes to race. But views of the president, racism in the U.S. and what defines American culture vary significantly based on political alignment.

What polls show:

RACE RELATIONS IN THE TRUMP ERA

In January, a CBS News poll found nearly 6 in 10 Americans saying race relations in the country are generally bad.

It wasn't always that way. Positive views of the state of race relations in the country peaked with President Barack Obama's inauguration, after which 66% of Americans said race relations were generally good in an April 2009 CBS News/New York Times poll. But views started to sour in 2014 following a number of high-profile shootings of black men by police officers and have continued to be more negative than positive in the Trump era.

And Americans think Trump is contributing to the problem. A Pew Research Center poll earlier this year showed 56% of Americans saying Trump has made race relations worse.

Americans gave similarly poor assessments of the president's impact on specific racial, ethnic and religious minorities. Nearly 6 in 10 considered Trump's actions to be bad for Hispanics and Muslims, and about half said they were bad for African Americans, according to a February 2018 poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research .

That poll also found that 57% of Americans considered Trump to be racist.

RACE AS A POLITICAL FAULT LINE

Polls show stark differences in assessments of the state of race relations and Trump's impact by party identification, along with racial and ethnic identity and educational attainment.

In Pew's poll, fully 84% of Democrats said Trump has worsened race relations, while only about 2 in 10 Republicans agreed. About a third of Republicans said Trump has made progress toward improving race relations, while a quarter said he has tried but failed.

Majorities of Americans who are black, Hispanic and Asian said Trump has made race relations worse, compared with about half of white Americans. Among white Americans, views diverged by education — 64% of whites with a college degree think Trump has worsened race relations, compared with 41% of those without.

RACIST LANGUAGE

Democrats in Congress immediately called out the president's comments on Sunday as racist and divisive, while many Republicans have remained silent.

Polling shows Democratic and Republican Americans fundamentally disagree on the way people should approach offensive language in the country.

Eighty-two percent of Republicans feel that too many people are easily offended over language today, according to a poll conducted in May by Pew Research Center , compared with about half as many Democrats who said the same. A majority of Democrats said people need to be more careful with their language.

Since Trump's election, most Americans think it has become more common for people to express racist views, and 45% said it has become more acceptable as well, according to Pew's February poll.

Majorities of Democrats said it has become both more common and more acceptable. Among Republi-

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cans, 42% said it has become more common and 22% said it has become more acceptable.

DIVERGING VIEWS OF AMERICA'S IDENTITY

Throughout his presidency, Trump has stoked racial and ethnic division building on his campaign promise to secure the border and country. In 2017, Trump instituted a travel ban restricting entry into the U.S. for people from five predominantly Muslim countries. Earlier this year, the president declared a national emergency to appropriate billions of dollars in funds from government agencies to expand the U.S.-Mexico border wall. And most recently, Trump moved on Monday to halt protections for most Central American asylum seekers.

Trump's response to the firestorm signaled that he thinks it's a winning stance for him. "It doesn't concern me because many people agree with me," Trump said.

In an AP-NORC poll from February 2017, half of Americans said the mixing of culture and values from around the world is an important part of America's identity. Fewer — about a third — said the same of a culture established by early European immigrants.

But partisans were divided over these aspects of the nation's identity. Nearly half of Republicans, but just about a quarter of Democrats, saw the culture of early European immigrants as important. By comparison, about two-thirds of Democrats, and about a third of Republicans, considered the mixing of world cultures important to the country's identity.

The AP-NORC poll also found 57% of Americans saying that the U.S. should be a country with an essential culture that immigrants adopt when they come. Eight in 10 Republicans preferred immigrants to the U.S. adapt to an American culture, though a similar share said they thought recent immigrants have not done so.

Welsh street named steepest in world; New Zealand loses out

LONDON (AP) — A street in Wales has been designated the steepest in the world after a successful campaign by residents.

The title comes at the expense of a street in New Zealand, which has apparently been eclipsed in the steepness sweepstakes.

Guinness World Records said Tuesday that the street of Ffordd Pen Llech in the seafront town of Harlech, 245 miles (395 kilometers) northwest of London, has a gradient of 37.45%, two percentage points steeper than the former title holder in Dunedin on New Zealand's South Island.

The Welsh campaign was led by businessman and architectural historian Gwyn Headley. He says he feels "jubilation" now that the street has been recognized.

He says he feels sorry for New Zealand, but that "steeper is steeper."

Asian stocks mixed as Wall Street ends 5-day winning streak

By YURI KAGEYAMA AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian stocks were mixed Wednesday as Wall Street ended a five-day winning streak after the first big round of corporate earnings reports.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 dipped 0.4% to 21,445.03 in morning trading. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 added 0.4% to 6,667.60. South Korea's Kospi dipped 1.1% to 2,069.41. Hong Kong's Hang Seng slipped 0.3% to 28,546.68, while the Shanghai Composite inched up 0.1% to 2,941.04.

Investor sentiments are turning lower after President Donald Trump said Tuesday, "We have a long way to go on tariffs with China."

"President Trump's renewed threat of more tariffs on Chinese goods has investors bracing for weak trading in the Asian session today, tracking the negative sentiment in the U.S. overnight," ING economists Nicholas Mapa and Prakash Sakpal said in their report.

The S&P 500 fell 10.26 points, or 0.3%, to 3,004.04. That marks the first decline in the benchmark index after five days of gains. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 23.53 points, or 0.1% to 27,335.63. The

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Nasdaq composite fell 35.39 points, or 0.4%, to 8,222.80. The Russell 2000 index rose 0.17 point to 1,562.

The latest round of U.S. corporate financial reports ramps up this week and investors have low expectations. Wall Street is forecasting a 2.6% drop in profit for S&P 500 companies. It is set to be the first back-to-back quarterly decline in three years.

Also highly anticipated is the Federal Reserve meeting at the end of the month. Wall Street expects the central bank to raise interest rates to help secure U.S. economic growth threatened by a trade war with China.

ENERGY:

Benchmark U.S. crude added 2 cents to \$57.64 a barrel. It fell \$1.96 to settle at \$57.62 per barrel Tuesday. Brent crude, the international standard, rose 21 cents to \$64.56 a barrel.

CURRENCIES:

The dollar rose to 108.16 Japanese yen from 107.98 late Tuesday. The euro fell to \$1.1213 from \$1.1263.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, July 18, the 199th day of 2019. There are 166 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 18, 1969, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., left a party on Chappaquiddick (chap-uh-KWIH'-dihk) Island near Martha's Vineyard with Mary Jo Kopechne (koh-PEHK'-nee), 28; some time later, Kennedy's car went off a bridge into the water. Kennedy was able to escape, but Kopechne drowned.

On this date:

In A.D. 64, the Great Fire of Rome began, consuming most of the city for about a week. (Some blamed the fire on Emperor Nero, who in turn blamed Christians.)

In 1863, during the Civil War, Union troops spearheaded by the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, made up of black soldiers, charged Confederate-held Fort Wagner on Morris Island, S.C. The Confederates were able to repel the Northerners, who suffered heavy losses; the 54th's commander, Col. Robert Gould Shaw, was among those who were killed.

In 1918, South African anti-apartheid leader and president Nelson Mandela was born in the village of Mvezo.

In 1940, the Democratic National Convention at Chicago Stadium nominated President Franklin D. Roosevelt (who was monitoring the proceedings at the White House) for an unprecedented third term in office; earlier in the day, Eleanor Roosevelt spoke to the convention, becoming the first presidential spouse to address such a gathering.

In 1944, Hideki Tojo was removed as Japanese premier and war minister because of setbacks suffered by his country in World War II. American forces in France captured the Normandy town of St. Lo.

In 1947, President Harry S. Truman signed a Presidential Succession Act which placed the speaker of the House and the Senate president pro tempore next in the line of succession after the vice president.

In 1984, gunman James Huberty opened fire at a McDonald's in San Ysidro (ee-SEE'-droh), California, killing 21 people before being shot dead by police. Walter F. Mondale won the Democratic presidential nomination in San Francisco.

In 1986, the world got its first look at the wreckage of the RMS Titanic resting on the ocean floor as videotape of the British luxury liner, which sank in 1912, was released by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

In 1989, actress Rebecca Schaeffer, 21, was shot to death at her Los Angeles home by obsessed fan Robert Bardo, who was later sentenced to life in prison.

In 1990, Dr. Karl Menninger, the dominant figure in American psychiatry for six decades, died in Topeka, Kansas, four days short of his 97th birthday.

In 1994, a bomb hidden in a van destroyed a Jewish cultural center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, killing

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85. Tutsi rebels declared an end to Rwanda's 14-week-old civil war.

In 2013, once the very symbol of American industrial might, Detroit became the biggest U.S. city to file for bankruptcy, its finances ravaged and its neighborhoods hollowed out by a long, slow decline in population and auto manufacturing.

Ten years ago: The Taliban posted a video of an American soldier who'd gone missing June 30, 2009 from his base in eastern Afghanistan and was later confirmed to have been captured; in the recording, the soldier (later identified as Pfc. Bowe Bergdahl) said he was "scared I won't be able to go home." (Bergdahl was released in 2014; he was later given a dishonorable discharge and fined \$1,000 on charges of desertion and misbehavior.)

Five years ago: The United Nations Security Council held an emergency meeting a day after the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 with the loss of all 298 people on board, demanding that pro-Russia rebels who controlled the eastern Ukraine crash site give immediate, unfettered access to independent investigators. The Obama administration announced it was reopening the Eastern Seaboard to offshore oil and gas exploration.

One year ago: The 12 Thai youth soccer teammates and their coach who were trapped in a flooded cave for more than two weeks were released from the hospital. FBI Director Christopher Wray said Russia was continuing to use fake news, propaganda and covert operations to sow discord in the United States. European regulators fined Google a record \$5 billion for forcing cellphone makers that use the company's Android operating system to install Google's search and browser apps. California's Supreme Court decided that a measure to divide the state into three parts would not appear on the November ballot. California's Highway 1 near Big Sur reopened, 14 months after it was blocked by a massive landslide.

Today's Birthdays: Skating champion and commentator Dick Button is 90. Olympic gold medal figure skater Tenley Albright is 84. Movie director Paul Verhoeven is 81. Musician Brian Auger is 80. Singer Dion DiMucci is 80. Actor James Brolin is 79. Baseball Hall of Famer Joe Torre is 79. Singer Martha Reeves is 78. Pop-rock musician Wally Bryson (The Raspberries) is 70. Country-rock singer Craig Fuller (Pure Prairie League) is 70. Business mogul Richard Branson is 69. Actress Margo Martindale is 68. Singer Ricky Skaggs is 65. Actress Audrey Landers is 63. World Golf Hall of Famer Nick Faldo is 62. Rock musician Nigel Twist (The Alarm) is 61. Actress Anne-Marie Johnson is 59. Actress Elizabeth McGovern is 58. Rock musician John Hermann (Widespread Panic) is 57. Rock musician Jack Irons is 57. Talk show host-actress Wendy Williams is 55. Actor Vin Diesel is 52. Actor Grant Bowler is 51. Retired NBA All-Star Penny Hardaway is 48. Bluegrass musician Jesse Brock (The Gibson Brothers) is 47. Alt-country singer Elizabeth Cook is 47. Actor Eddie Matos is 47. Dance music singer-songwriter M.I.A. is 44. Rock musician Daron Malakian (System of a Down; Scars on Broadway) is 44. Actress Elsa Pataky ("The Fast and the Furious" films) is 43. Rock musician Tony Fagenson (formerly with Eve 6) is 41. Movie director Jared Hess is 40. Actor Jason Weaver is 40. Actress Kristen Bell is 39. Actor Michiel Huisman (MIHK'-heel HOWS'-man) is 38. Rock singer Ryan Cabrera is 37. Actress Priyanka Chopra is 37. Christian-rock musician Aaron Gillespie (Underoath) is 36. Actor Chace Crawford is 34. Actor James Norton is 34. Musician Paul Kowert (Punch Brothers) is 33. Actor Travis Milne is 33. Bluegrass musician Joe Dean Jr. (formerly with Dailey & Vincent) is 30.

Thought for Today: "Kindnesses are easily forgotten; but injuries! what worthy man does not keep those in mind?" — William Makepeace Thackeray, English author (born this date in 1811, died 1863).