

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.

Monday, July 22

5:00 p.m.: Junior Legion at Aberdeen, (DH)

Tuesday, July 23

6:00 p.m.: Locke Electric Amateurs host Aberdeen

July 30 - Aug. 2

Amateur Districts in Groton

Thursday, Aug. 1

6:00 p.m.: Junior Legion hosts Northville, (DH)

August 5-18

State "B" Amateur Tournament at Mitchell

August 9-11

State Junior Legion Tourney in Groton

Weekly Vikings Roundup By Jordan Wright

Training camp is almost upon us! This week, the Minnesota Vikings' rookies will be reporting on Monday, while the veterans will be reporting on Thursday. We should get plenty of news to tide us over until pre-season starts, but until then, we finish up our rankings of the best Vikings players in team history. We have already covered quarterbacks and wide receivers, so this week we turn to the defensive side of the ball.

The Vikings have had some great defensive linemen throughout team history. This list was the hardest to narrow down, and I am sure there will be plenty of controversy about the order. So let's get into it!

#3 – John Randle

John Randle was undrafted out of Texas A&M-Kingsville. Entering the league, he was considered by many to be undersized, but as John Randle himself once said, "they can't measure your heart". To make up for his size, Randle developed a personality that was larger than life, becoming one of the greatest trash talkers in NFL history. If you ever get to watch highlights of him trash talking opponents, do yourself a favor and check it out – it'll be well worth your time.

Randle played 11 seasons with the Minnesota Vikings and 14 seasons total in the NFL. He is still the "official" sack leader for the Vikings with 114 sacks (sacks weren't considered an official stat until the 1982 season). He was selected to the Pro Bowl and 1st-team All-Pro six times with the Vikings and was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2010.

#2 – Carl Eller

Carl Eller was drafted in the first round of the 1964 NFL draft by the Vikings. He played 15 seasons in Minnesota, earning six Pro Bowl invites and five 1st-team All-Pro nominations. Even though sacks weren't an official stat back then, the Vikings credit Eller with 130 sacks through his career with the team, which is the most in team history and sixteenth in NFL history.

Eller was perhaps the most feared purple people eater. He was tall (6'6"), but at only 247 pounds, he was considered undersized to play on the defensive line. However, Eller was not only dominant, he was resilient as well – he only missed one game in his entire Vikings' career. Despite his amazing career, Eller was overlooked for the Pro Football Hall of Fame a dozen times, although he finally made it in 2004.

#1 – Alan Page

When discussing the best players in NFL history, no list would be complete without Alan Page, who revolutionized how the defensive tackle position was played across the league. Page was a force to be reckoned with on the inside of the defensive line and was unblockable in one-on-one situations. And just like Eller, Page was nearly indestructible, never missing a game for the Vikings during the 12 seasons he was with the team.

Page was named to eight Pro Bowls and was 1st-team All-Pro six times. He was also named to the Hall of Fame in 1988. To top it all off, in 1971 Page was the first defensive player to ever be named as the Most Valuable Player in the NFL. His career is truly remarkable, but he didn't stop there. After he was done playing football, Page became an Associate Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court (the first African American to reach the position).

What do you think of the rankings? Reach out to me on Twitter (@JordanWrightNFL) and let me know. Skol!

Stand up to bullies

We have all had to deal with bullies throughout our lives, and I have had my share. One fall day, coming home from school, I saw two guys from my third-grade class beating up on a smaller kid and was moved to step in to help. I was chagrined but not surprised when the victim ran home, and I became the new target. The beating I took that day was minimal, however, the sense that I did the right thing by standing up against bullies has propped up my self-worth my whole lifetime.



By Richard P. Holm, MD ~ Prairie Doc® Perspectives

The beating I took that day was minimal, however, the sense that I did the right thing by standing up against bullies has propped up my self-worth my whole lifetime.

Bullies and abuse are everywhere. While in medical school, I was in an Atlanta emergency room when a woman came in with a broken nose and other broken bones and bruises that were explained away as the result of a fall, when we knew full well the injuries were inflicted by her spouse. Since coming to this prairie town 38 years ago, I have seen several cases of parents who physically and emotionally abused their children, and of adult children who physically and emotionally abused their parents. I remember numerous cases where women came into my office, explained their husbands were physically beating them, and despite my recommendations to escape and seek shelter, they stayed married to the scoundrels.

The American Psychiatric Association defines domestic violence and abuse as control by one person over another in any relationship. Control is the operative word. The means of this control can result from physical, sexual, emotional and economic abuse, including threats of isolation.

The number of American troops killed in Afghanistan and Iraq from 2001 through 2012 was greater than 6,000, and the number of American women murdered by male partners during that time was about 12,000. The Center for Disease Control estimates that in the U.S., one out of every four women and one out of every seven men will have experienced severe physical violence from a bully in their lifetimes.

The National Coalition for the Homeless estimates ten million children are exposed to domestic violence every year, and that people exposed to such hostility as children are three to four times more likely to become abusive or be abused than people raised in families without it.

Sometimes it's right to stand up to a bully, and when there is danger, it's right to escape and get help. And it's always right to save your children from a lifetime of abuse by not allowing it in your family.

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From the Editors of E - The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk: I was never keen on tent camping but I hear that the new "glamping" trend takes some of the discomfort out of spending the night in nature. Where are some "glamping" hotspots across

the United States?

-- Jon Rubinstein, Albany, NY

While traditional campgrounds are great, they don't always feel like an escape to nature, especially given the dog-eat-dog aspect of scoring a site and the fact that you'll be living right next to your neighbors. And while the price may be right — you can score a tent site in most state parks for less than \$30/night — maybe you'd be willing to pay more for privacy and some creature comforts? If you're one of the millions of Americans yearning for more outdoors time but don't want to deal with campgrounds, "glamping" (short for "glamorous camping") might be just your speed.

Indeed, glamping is one of the hottest trends in the hospitality sector these days and several travel start-ups have risen to this challenge. To wit, Roam Beyond tows eco-friendly, solar-powered, off-grid camping trailers (made in the USA by its sister company Homegrown Trailers) onto various sites in or near different iconic natural areas around the West. Their first two sites are in Washington State (on the Pacific coast

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

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

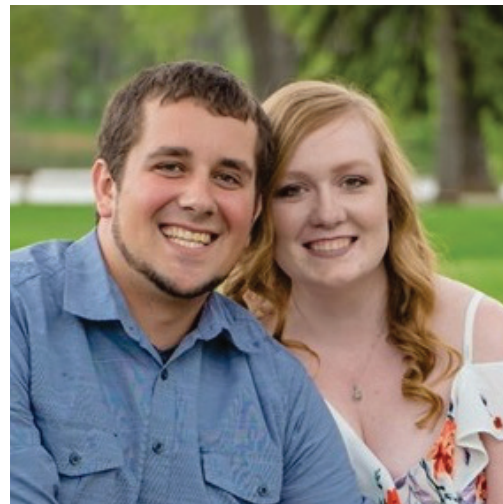
Yearbook Advisor

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.



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

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and in the Cascade foothills) but the company has new sites in the works at Yellowstone, Joshua Tree, Sedona, Moab, Zion and the Grand Canyon.

Meanwhile, California-based AutoCamp offers guests the opportunity to spend the night in a tricked-out customized Airstream camping trailer in Yosemite, Sonoma or Santa Barbara. While AutoCamp originally sourced and rehabbed older trailers, now it works in partnership with Airstream in the production of hundreds of new customized ones. The company recently raised \$115 million in venture capital to expand to several new locations in California and on the East Coast.

New York City isn't the first place that comes to mind when you think glamping, but Collective Retreats is trying to change all of that with its new platform-tent resort there on Governors Island. Yes, you'll be sleeping in a tent, but inside you'll have all the amenities you'd expect at a five-star hotel, including plush beds with high thread count linens, bathrooms with luxury amenities, and chef-prepared "farm-to-table" meals. You can also indulge in the Collective Retreats experience at their other properties in Upstate New York's Hudson Valley on a working organic farm as well as in the Texas Hill Country and at Yellowstone and Vail.

Yet another option is Under Canvas, which operates safari-style canvas tent resorts in eight locations across the country including the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, Moab, Glacier, Zion, Mt. Rushmore, Tucson and the Great Smokies. You'll hardly be roughing it in one of Under Canvas's tents given the en suite bathrooms, king size beds, daily housekeeping and wood-burning stoves.

Of course, these start-ups didn't invent glamping, and there are still many ways to glamp at one-off resorts and sites across the country. In fact, a quick search for glamping spots in the United States on GlampingHub.com turns up 20,000 listings. And many state parks and private campgrounds are devoting more space to yurts, tipis and even overnight lodging made out of refurbished shipping containers.

CONTACTS: Roam Beyond, roambeyond.travel; AutoCamp, autocamp.com; Collective Retreats, collectiveretreats.com; Under Canvas, undercanvas.com; Glamping Hub, glampinghub.com.

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Glampers staying at Roam Beyond's Kalaloch site on Washington's Olympic Peninsula can spend the night listening to the sounds of the pounding surf and chirping birdsong in an eco-friendly, solar-powered camping trailer. Credit: Homegrown Trailers.



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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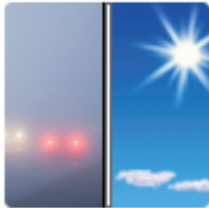
Today

Tonight

Tuesday

Tuesday
Night

Wednesday



Patchy Fog
then Sunny



Mostly Clear



Sunny



Mostly Clear



Mostly Sunny

High: 79 °F

Low: 58 °F

High: 83 °F

Low: 60 °F

High: 87 °F

Dry Today and Tuesday
Highs Today: Mid 70s to around 80
Highs Tuesday: Low to mid 80s

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD
www.weather.gov/abr

Created: 7/22/2019 4:40 AM
@NWSAberdeen

Published on: 07/22/2019 at 12:53AM

Surface high pressure will bring clear to partly cloudy skies, dry conditions, along with winds generally under 10 mph through Tuesday afternoon. Highs will be in the mid 70s to around 80 degrees today with lower to mid 80s for Tuesday.

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Today in Weather History

July 22, 1926: In estimated F2 tornado moved east across the northern part of Hyde County, destroying two barns.

July 22, 1999: An F0 tornado touched down briefly on a farm southeast of Onida. Over half of the roof of a 40 by 45-foot building was torn off and deposited in a tree belt 200 yards to the north. A grain auger was also damaged when it was pushed up against a granary. A semi-trailer was blown over. About 400 acres of ripe wheat was also flattened, and some sunflowers suffered damage as a result of the tornado.

July 22, 2011: Numerous severe thunderstorms brought hail up to the size of golf balls, damaging winds over 70 mph, along with flash flooding to parts of north central and northeast South Dakota. Most of the hail occurred in Grant and Codington counties. Several roads were flooded by nearly 4 inches of rain in Grant County. Five miles west of South Shore in Codington County, over 3 inches of rain brought flash flooding to several roads. The strong winds were observed in Corson, Walworth, and McPherson counties. About 9 miles west of Long Lake, eighty mph winds ripped a grain bin from the fasteners, pushed the north wall of a garage in, snapped several corral poles, moved a semitrailer four feet, and caused some minor damage to the house. Also, many branches were broken off along with several trees uprooted.

1988: Dust devils are not a unique phenomenon, but usually they stay minimal. This was not the case in Dickinson County, Iowa where a powerful dust devil developed on the edge of Lake Okoboji. It picked up whole sections of several docks and swept away all of the loose dirt in the area. Estimated winds exceeded 60 mph.

1993: The levee, holding back the flooding Mississippi River at Kaskaskia, Illinois, ruptures, forcing the town's people to flee on barges. The incident at Kaskaskia was the most dramatic event of the flood. At 9:48 a.m., the levee broke, leaving the people of Kaskaskia with no escape route other than two Army Corp of Engineers barges. By 2 p.m., the entire town was underwater.

1918 - A single bolt of lightning struck 504 sheep dead in their tracks at the Wasatch National Forest in Utah. Sheep often herd together in storms, and as a result the shock from the lightning bolt was passed from one animal to another. (David Ludlum)

1986 - Hurricane Estelle passed 120 miles south of the Hawaiian Islands creating a ten to twenty foot surf. The large swells resulted from a combination of high tides, a full moon, and 50 mph winds. The hurricane also deluged Oahu Island with as much as 6.86 inches of rain on the 24th and 25th of the month. (Storm Data)

1987 - Barrow, AK, receives 1.38 inches in 24 hours on the 21st and 22nd, an all-time record for that location. The average annual precipitation for Barrow is just 4.75 inches. Thunderstorms in Montana produced 4 to 6 inches of rain in Glacier County causing extensive flooding along Divide Creek. Missoula, MT, received 1.71 inches of rain in 24 hours, a record for the month of July. (The National Weather Summary) (The Weather Channel)

1988 - Six cities in the south central U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Pueblo, CO, with a reading of 48 degrees. Thunderstorms over the Atlantic Coast Region drenched Wilmington, NC, with 6.49 inches of rain in about eight hours. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Showers and thunderstorms prevailed across the southeastern third of the country. Afternoon thunderstorms in Florida produced wind gusts to 86 mph at Zephyrhills, and gusts to 92 mph at Carrollwood and Lutz. Thunderstorm winds gusting to 69 mph at Crystal Lake damaged nineteen mobile homes. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

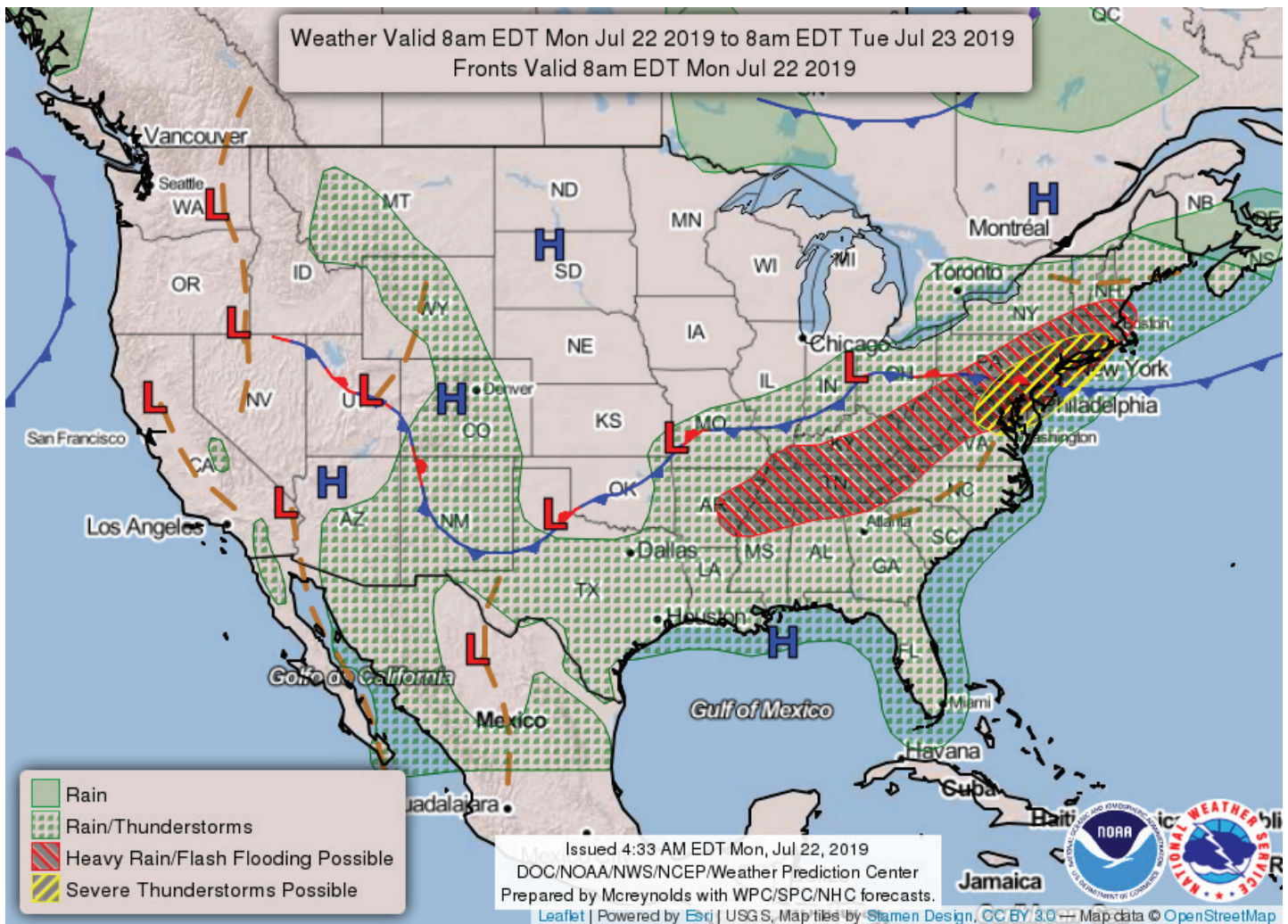
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 75 °F at 2:47 PM
Low Temp: 61 °F at 5:56 AM
Wind: 18 mph at 3:56 PM
Day Rain: 0.00

Record High: 111° in 1934
Record Low: 46° in 1980
Average High: 84°F
Average Low: 60°F
Average Precip in July.: 2.16
Precip to date in July.: 2.87
Average Precip to date: 13.00
Precip Year to Date: 15.59
Sunset Tonight: 9:13 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:08 a.m.



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A TEACHING OF JESUS

We sometimes forget that there are many teachings in the New Testament that come from the Old Testament. Whoever shuts their ears to the cry of the poor will also cry out and not be heard is one of those teachings.

Shortly after Jesus began His ministry of teaching and preaching, He said, Blessed are the merciful for they will be shown mercy. However, Jesus did more than preach and teach The Beatitudes, He brought them to life by the way He lived: what He did. If people were hungry, He fed them. If they were sick, He healed them. If they were blind, He gave them sight. If they were lost, He set them on the right path. If they were in darkness, He shed His light to guide them.

Solomon warns us that if we expect good things from God, we must not shut our ears to the poor. Those who are poor and in need are just as important to God as the wealthiest. But the wealthy and those who have more than the least of these are obligated to have open ears and do something when they hear the cry of the poor. Closed ears and hardened hearts cannot expect God to have open ears and soft hearts when they cry to Him in times of need.

Persons who are unrighteous and self-centered and care only for themselves do not understand God's love and mercy and grace. If we love, as God loves, mercy and grace will flow from our hearts - as it does from His. Then our ears will be open and our hearts touched and our hands outstretched to bring hope and help and healing to the poor.

One more thought: No matter how secure we may think we are with what we have, there is no guarantee that our riches will last forever. We, too, may be forced to cry for His help!

Prayer: Help us, Father, to have ears and eyes that are open, heads that think of others, hearts that are tender, and hands that help and bring healing to those in need. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 21:13 Whoever shuts their ears to the cry of the poor will also cry out and not be heard.

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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

News from the Associated Press

Real-time painting brings Bible story to life

By TANYA MANUS Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — South Canyon Lutheran Church is celebrating its 60th anniversary with a new and vibrant reminder that God is with them.

Paul Oman, an artist from Wisconsin, brought his live-action ministry “Drawn to the Word” to South Canyon Lutheran Church on June 30. While scripture verses were read and music played during the Sunday morning worship service, Oman painted a 7-foot tall, 5-foot wide depiction of Jesus and two disciples on the road to Emmaus. The entire painting was completed in 50 minutes.

“It was a very wonderful experience for people,” said Pastor Chris Baesler. “It was a deeply meaningful experience for them to watch a Bible story come to life, to watch that grow in front of their eyes.”

Oman lightly sketched the dominant images on the canvas ahead of time; he could see them but the audience could not. Oman placed his canvas on a spindle so he could rotate it and paint on the entire canvas without using a ladder. The canvas started out upside down, which the congregation gradually realized as the images Oman was painting began to take shape.

“There’s a moment when I paint . . . when I flipped the canvas, there’s an audible gasp you hear. For me, it tells me (the congregation) realized what it is,” Oman said. “Kids tend to have more open minds and see things that are upside down much sooner than adults.”

“I almost always find there’s skepticism about an artist (in church) until people see and experience the process. Now they have a shared experience. They can talk to people in their church and community and the walls just seem to come down,” Oman said.

Before the June 30 service, Oman visited South Canyon Lutheran and adapted his color scheme for the painting to complement the church’s palette of warm neutral colors and maroon. The painting will ultimately hang in the church’s fellowship area.

Oman’s artistic ministry evolved out of his love of painting and his previous careers as a teacher and pastor. Since 2011, Oman has taken his “Drawn to the Word” ministry throughout the United States and into China and Tanzania. Oman visits churches, public and private schools, non-profits, camps including Outlaw Ranch in Custer, seminaries, colleges, and more with his “Drawn to the Word” events. He also teaches painting workshops.

“My real joy comes in painting for people. When they tell me . . . there’s something (in my work) that gives them hope, there’s a promise bigger than words can say, that’s the biggest reward for what I’m doing,” Oman told the Rapid City Journal.

Oman customizes his paintings to specific locations and occasions. For example, Oman’s work has been incorporated into school anti-bullying events. He painted the biblical story of the prodigal son, by request, for a men’s correctional facility.

South Canyon Lutheran requested its painting’s theme, “The Road to Emmaus” specifically to tie into the church’s anniversary.

“The painting is a reminder that God has been with us this whole time . . . and He is present with us as we go forward in new ways,” Baesler said.

The “Drawn to the Word” worship service is one of several special activities taking place this year in conjunction with South Canyon Lutheran’s anniversary. A recent all-church project was a banner; people painted their feet and walked across the banner. It hung for a couple of months as a visible representation of some of the 2,400 adults and children who are part of South Canyon Lutheran, and who, as Christians, are to be representatives of Christ in the world.

A yearlong endeavor is 6 for 60, which encourages individuals and families to complete six service projects in honor of the church’s six decades of ministry.

South Canyon Lutheran is not throwing a big party for its 60th anniversary — which is officially Oct.

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4 — but instead is focusing on new directions where God might be leading, Baesler said. Baesler, who previously served from 2006 to 2011 as associate pastor, has been South Canyon's senior pastor since October 2018. Erik Thone became South Canyon's associate pastor on July 1.

Baesler said South Canyon Lutheran is a church that values creativity, and "The Road to Emmaus" will serve as an ongoing inspiration/call to action for every person to make his or her own life a work of art.

"I think of (our congregation) very much as artists creating their life and connecting their faith to where they are. Our lives are works of art and God is present and active in them," Baesler said.

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

Families spend freely to gain edge in travel sports

By AUSTIN LAMMERS Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — For Dale and Amy Uttecht, guiding two sons through the competitive world of youth travel sports meant sacrificing a few things along the way.

Football, basketball or baseball trips with various teams to Minneapolis, Omaha or Kansas City became a way of life, with the extra costs that came along with it.

"A lot of times that was our vacation," said Dale, who works as a financial advisor in Sioux Falls. "Instead of going here or there, we said, 'Well, we're doing this many weekends of (out-of-state) tournaments this year. It was something we had to budget for.'"

Logan Uttecht, 20, is soon to enter his sophomore year as a wide receiver for the Augustana University football team after redshirting last season. Joe, 15, will be a sophomore at Washington High School in the fall, playing football and basketball for the Warriors.

Dale and Amy Uttecht estimate that they spent between \$8,000 to \$10,000 annually for the 10 years Logan and Joe played summer travel sports — most recently, baseball for the Sioux Falls Cyclones and basketball for the Pentagon Schoolers.

Their story is not unique. In an era of increasingly competitive youth travel sports, families in South Dakota and across the country are committing larger chunks of time and money to try to help their kids get a leg up on their athletic future.

Twenty percent of parents whose children compete in "highly competitive or elite teams run by a non-school organization" spend \$1,000 per month per child on sports, according to a 2017 study by TD Ameritrade, while 63% spent an average of \$100-\$500.

These figures vary based on the price of equipment, organizational fees, additional camps and fundraising opportunities. But there is no guarantee that the investment will pay off in the form of future opportunities, the Argus Leader reported.

Forty percent of parents who responded to the 2017 study said they were banking on athletic scholarships to cover more than half of their child's college costs.

"I know there are a lot of people that are sacrificing maybe even their own retirement to make sure this stuff happens," said Darmey Hage of Sioux Falls, who has a son and daughter heavily involved in club athletics.

But recent data from the NCAA reveals that fewer than 2% of all high school student-athletes (1 in 54) will compete for an NCAA Division I school. The study adds that the average Division I athletic scholarship is worth only \$10,400.

Still, many families assume that registering their children in travel sports at an early age increases their chance at success at the high school, college and maybe even pro levels.

Virtually every sport in Sioux Falls has its own travel team, some of which involve a year-round commitment. But these sports come with a price — a vast inflation from the days where you could simply show up to the field, lace up and play.

Frank Gurnick, director of operations for the Dakota Alliance Soccer Club, calls it an "evolution."

Parents today are urging their children to prioritize sports at an earlier age and more vigorous rate, he

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said. They're willing to dedicate more of their pocketbook to their children's sports in hopes of eventual athletic scholarships.

This prompted growth in travel teams: private organizations that provide games, coaching, facilities and lessons to kids who want to train beyond the offerings of school or recreational teams.

Before the 1980s, youth sports operated differently, Gurnick said. In his hometown of Cleveland, schools and parks oversaw sports from T-ball and flag football to the high school level. Teams around town played each other, and if they traveled beyond the outskirts of town, it was for the state tournament.

The shift to privatized sports, travel teams and pay-to-plays began in the 1990s. He largely blames soccer, an "immigrant sport" to the U.S., for sparking the movement.

"I'm convinced soccer is the culprit. But I'm going to say that in a good sense," Gurnick said. "There became a need to have coaches get educated because too many times we were letting anyone who wanted to coach, coach."

A growing number of American kids took to the pitch, increasing the demand for experienced coaches from soccer-dominated countries, particularly in Europe. James Oppenheimer, a native of England who coaches for Dakota Alliance and Augustana, is one of them.

Other sports followed suit, Oppenheimer said. He watched youth sports culture drift from a motivator to get kids out of the house to a full-time, year-round commitment.

"The way the culture is now, everyone wants the best of everything," said Oppenheimer. "They want the professional coaches, they want to travel to Omaha, Des Moines, Minneapolis and play in state championships. People are paying because they want the best, so we have the pressure of providing the best."

The trend toward travel teams has helped spark a new industry: sports tourism. Cities that host tournaments and camps collect money from visiting families through their athletic venues, hotels, restaurants and shopping centers.

According to a 2017 study from WinterGreen Research, sports tourism is a \$15 billion industry and has grown 55% since 2010.

Trecia Gulseth of Brandon can attest to this. Her family spends more than \$13,000 annually for her daughter Torrie, 14, and son Tripp, 10, to split time between soccer, basketball and track. Nearly \$10,000 of that is devoted to travel.

Each team travels one of two times per month (the Gulseths plan for 14 weekends total), but not always to the same location or on the same weekend.

"Sometimes you're splitting one parent with one child and one parent with another child," said Gulseth, who works as a nurse in Sioux Falls. "That doubles hotel costs, gas and everything else."

For South Dakota-based organizations, finding teams on the same competition level often requires travel to regional cities such as Minneapolis, Omaha, Kansas City or Des Moines.

Oppenheimer said a family that recently moved from Sioux Falls to Kansas City now pays \$3,500 a year in fees for competitive soccer, compared with \$825. But they don't pay as much for out-of-state travel because Kansas City boasts multiple soccer clubs.

In England, Oppenheimer's annual game schedule consisted of 20 teams. The farthest game was 15 miles away from their home field.

"It's expensive to play at the club level in America." he said. "The real cost comes in traveling."

Hage and his family have traveled to Disney World three times to watch his 13-year-old daughter, Addisyn, compete for the Dakota Spirit cheer team. He said that trip alone costs a third of what he spends annually — \$12,000 to \$15,000 — on her cheer and 14-year-old son Peyton's football, basketball and baseball.

But most families, like the Uttechts — who used to spend \$5,000 on baseball every summer — turn ventures like these into vacations. What follows a game in Sioux Falls is a possible meal and a trip home. Those plans tend to expand away from home.

"I love going out of town," said Hage, who works in sales in Sioux Falls. "When you go out of town, everybody is in the same boat. It's team-building. It's fun."

But he realizes not all families can do this. He's never seen a family stay home from a trip for financial

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reasons, but some are forced to sacrifice certain parts to "make ends meet," such as opting for Subway rather than a sit-down restaurant or a day at the hotel pool instead of a Twins game.

In the TD Ameritrade study, 23% of families said they cut back on money set aside for retirement to fund their kids' sports. Additionally, 55% of families cut back on entertainment and 40% take fewer vacations.

Torrie Gulseth's soccer team, for the second year in a row, traveled to Tennessee this month for a national soccer tournament, a \$27,000 endeavor for the team after entry fees and travel expenses. Asking 20 families to furnish that total is unrealistic, so the team asks members to do fundraising through local businesses or individuals.

That's a common method of funding in all youth sports, whether it's selling coupon books, ads in programs or performing community service projects. It doesn't cover everything, but it helps reduce the financial burden for families.

More importantly, it makes young athletes aware of the commitment it takes to make their athletic pursuits possible.

"Once we get to these higher costs, it's very important to us to involve the girls, so they're aware of what this can do to a family," Gulseth said.

How does Hage know that an athletic scholarship might not offset years of club fees and travel? Because he did the math.

His family spends between \$8,000 and \$10,000 each year for Addisyn to travel and compete with Dakota Spirit. If she continues until high school graduation, the total could exceed \$80,000.

Four years of in-state tuition at South Dakota's two NCAA Division I schools falls between \$70,000 and \$75,000, according to South Dakota State University and the University of South Dakota.

"You paid for it one way or another," Hage said.

Logan Uttecht is one of a small percentage of high school football players to enter the NCAA ranks, signing with Division II Augustana after a successful prep career at Washington.

But it was never about that, says Dale Uttecht, his father. Logan likely could have played football, basketball or baseball at the collegiate level, or he could have played none of them. Either way, the Uttechts wouldn't change a thing.

Dale remembers a recent trip to Omaha. Years before, Logan's under-12 baseball team was in the midst of a "successful year as far as wins and losses" when they traveled to Omaha for a tournament. Dale doesn't recall the score of the games and whether Logan's team won or lost them, he said, and he doubts Logan does, either.

"When we drive to Omaha now, we'll drive by a hotel where we stayed, and (Logan) will be like, 'Oh, Alex and I sat outside of that gas station watching cars go by and having Slurpies,'" Uttecht said, recalling what he recalls most from his kids' time in youth sports.

"I'd do it all over again and I think Logan and Joe would too. Certainly, we would have a lot more money in our bank account, but I wouldn't trade those memories for that."

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

Inspector general says reservation hospital still struggles

By STEVE KARNOWSKI Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Indian Health Service made "significant improvements" at its hospital on the remote Rosebud Sioux Reservation in South Dakota after it abruptly closed its emergency department for several months a few years ago, but it continues to struggle to hire adequate staff and managers for the hospital, according to a report released Monday.

The service closed the 35-bed Rosebud Hospital's emergency department in December 2015 and the hospital was in danger of losing federal funding after the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services determined that patients there were in immediate jeopardy, the report from the Office of Inspector General at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services noted.

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The inspector general conducted the case study to identify lessons learned that the service could apply in similar future situations. It found that although the enhanced federal attention and oversight after the closure provided the impetus to address the hospital's problems in the short term, the service "did not sustain the improvements in staffing and leadership after this focus diminished."

Staffing shortages, instability and inexperience in key leadership positions, and inadequate infrastructure for ensuring basic quality care were just some of the factors that led to the closure. Because of the shutdown, the hospital had to divert patients to other small hospitals about an hour away but didn't give those hospitals or ambulance services time to prepare for the influx of patients, so they were overwhelmed. Tribal officials said the long ambulance rides contributed to several deaths.

The tribe sued the federal government over the closure, saying the government failed to meet its treaty obligations to provide adequate medical care for tribal members. That case is pending.

As an example of the turnover, the report said Rosebud Hospital went through 27 CEOs over a nine-year period, averaging three per year. Many of them served in an acting capacity and lasted only a few months before they left voluntarily, were fired by the Indian Health Service or were removed by the tribe, it said.

The hospital's emergency department reopened in July 2016 after the service temporarily brought in what the report called "an accomplished team of clinical and management leaders" that extensively overhauled the hospital's policies, procedures and training. But a follow-up review in July 2018 found deficiencies that had resurfaced under newer leadership, including turnover among long-term staff and an overreliance on contracted providers to temporarily fill the gaps. The report said the solutions implemented by the outside managers "failed to fully take root" due to continued leadership and staff churn.

"To correct underlying problems and better serve its beneficiaries, we recommend that IHS, as a management priority, develop and implement a staffing program for recruiting, retaining, and training clinical and leadership staff in remote hospitals," the report said. "This is a necessary first step to addressing quality issues long term; however, other actions are also needed, including taking steps to ensure that IHS intervenes early and effectively when problems emerge."

The IHS said it concurred with all the inspector general's recommendations and has set target dates for implementing them. The service said it expects to complete a comprehensive workforce plan by next May that will address recruitment, training and placement of staff in remote locations. It also plans to incorporate best practices for training new hospital leaders by next March. And the service said it's working to improve governance and accountability at its hospitals, and that it expects to complete contingency plans for future closures in December.

Gov. Noem visits flooded lakes in eastern South Dakota

LAKE THOMPSON, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem says state leaders are working to battle through the record flooding that has affected parts of her state.

Noem visited flooded areas on Lake Thompson and Lake Poinsett on Saturday to see what she and her team could do to help those who have been affected by the flooding.

Residents along Lake Thompson told the governor that the lake keeps going up when it rains, setting all-time highs over and over. They said main issue for Lake Thompson is that vegetation has been blocking the normal outflow into the Vermillion River.

Noem replied that her administration is going to conduct an engineering study and then decide how to proceed. She says opening the outlet too much could jeopardize the property of people downstream.

IAEA chief Yukiya Amano who oversaw Iran treaty dies at 72

By KIRSTEN GRIESHABER and KYOKO METZLER Associated Press

VIENNA (AP) — Yukiya Amano, the Japanese diplomat who led the International Atomic Energy Agency for a decade and was extensively involved in negotiations over Iran's nuclear program and the cleanup of the 2011 Fukushima nuclear power plant disaster, has died at 72, the agency announced Monday.

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Amano, who had wide experience in disarmament, non-proliferation diplomacy and nuclear energy issues, had been chief of the key U.N. agency that regulates nuclear use worldwide since 2009.

The news of his death comes at a time of increasing concerns and escalating tensions over Iran's nuclear program, after U.S. President Donald Trump left a 2015 deal with world powers that restricted Iran's nuclear program in return for sanctions relief. Amano was heavily involved in the yearslong negotiations that led to the landmark Iran nuclear deal.

As head of the IAEA, Amano also dealt with the aftermath of the devastating 2011 Fukushima nuclear accident in Japan, where three reactors sank into meltdowns after a tsunami.

The IAEA Secretariat did not give a cause of death for Amano, or say where or when he died.

The IAEA said Mary Alice Hayward, the agency's deputy director general and head of the department of management, would lead the agency as acting director general. The IAEA flag will be lowered to half-mast in tribute to its leader.

The agency said Amano was planning to write soon to its board of governors announcing his decision to step down. It released part of that letter, in which Amano praised the agency for delivering "concrete results to achieve the objective of 'Atoms for Peace and Development.'" Amano added that he was "very proud of our achievements and grateful" to IAEA member states and agency staff.

Amano's death will be a strong blow for the nuclear agency, said Adnan Tabatabai, an expert with the Center for Applied Research in Partnership with the Orient in Bonn, Germany.

"While I am convinced that the IAEA as an institution will be able to continue its work dedicated to nuclear non-proliferation, the loss of a personality like Yukiya Amano, who had embodied this dedication, will add to an already highly delicate and complex situation with regards to the nuclear agreement with Iran," he told The Associated Press.

Tabatabai suggested that opponents of the nuclear agreement would "try to seize this opportunity to further weaken the position of the IAEA."

"It is therefore of utmost importance that the agency immediately gets its act together and presents Amano's successor, who will have to come out in strong support" of the Iran nuclear deal, he said.

Tributes to Amano poured in Monday from around the world, including Japan, Iran, the European Union and the United States.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi expressed his condolences, writing on Twitter that they had worked closely together and commending his professionalism. He said they had ensured Iran's compliance with the JCPOA, the nuclear accord that Iran struck with world powers in 2015 that is now unraveling under pressure from the Trump administration.

The U.S. unilaterally withdrew from the accord a year ago and Iran has recently inched past limits of its uranium enrichment set out in the accord. European leaders are scrambling to keep the accord intact.

The European Union's foreign policy chief, Federica Mogherini, called Amano in a tweet "a man of extraordinary dedication & professionalism, always at the service of the global community in the most impartial way."

Jackie Wolcott, the U.S. ambassador to international organizations in Vienna, said Amano "was greatly respected as an effective leader, diplomat, and true gentleman by the entire staff of the U.S. Mission and other U.S. diplomats.

John Bolton, Trump's national security adviser, said in a statement released by the U.S. embassy in Tokyo, that Amano's "commitment to nuclear nonproliferation and his championing of peaceful nuclear energy have been unparalleled in leading the International Atomic Energy Agency for almost a decade ... He will be sorely missed."

The Tokyo Electric Power Co., which ran the nuclear plant in Fukushima, northeastern Japan, also praised the diplomat, saying it "received so much support and guidance on the decommissioning efforts" at the power plant from him.

Japan's Foreign Ministry noted that following the Fukushima nuclear power plant meltdown, Amano led international efforts to improve nuclear safety based on the lessons learned from the accident while providing support for Japan.

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Amano was Japan's representative to the IAEA from 2005 until his election as director general in July 2009, including a stint as chair of its board of governors from 2005-2006.

Before he became IAEA chief, Amano contributed to the 1995, 2000 and 2005 Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty Review conferences and chaired the 2007 preparatory committee for the 2010 Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty Review Conference.

A graduate of the Tokyo University Faculty of Law, Amano joined the Japanese Foreign Ministry in 1972 and was posted to jobs in Belgium, France, Laos, Switzerland, and the United States. At the ministry, Amano was chief of the Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Science Department from 2002 until 2005.

He also previously served as an expert on the U.N. panel on missiles and on the U.N. expert group on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education.

He is survived by his wife Yukika. There were no immediate announcements about funeral plans.

Grieshaber reported from Berlin. Aya Batrawy in Dubai, United Arab Emirates and Mari Yamaguchi in Tokyo contributed.

Puerto Rico prepares for massive protest to expel governor

By DÁNICA COTO Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Puerto Rico braced early Monday for what many people expected to be one of the biggest protests ever seen in the U.S. territory as irate islanders pledged to drive Gov. Ricardo Rosselló from office.

Hundreds of thousands of people were expected to take over one of the island's busiest highways Monday morning to press demands for the resignation of Rosselló over an obscenity-laced leaked online chat the governor had with allies as well as federal corruption charges leveled against his administration.

The anticipated march in the capital of San Juan came a day after Rosselló announced that he would not quit, but sought to calm the unrest by promising not to seek reelection or continue as head of his pro-statehood political party. That only further angered his critics, who have mounted street demonstrations for more than a week.

"The people are not going to go away," said Johanna Soto, of the northeastern city of Carolina. "That's what he's hoping for, but we outnumber him."

Organizers labeled the planned road shutdown "660,510 + 1," which represents the number of people who voted for Rosselló plus one more to reject his argument that he is not resigning because he was chosen by the people.

Monday would be the 10th consecutive day of protests, and more were being called for later in the week. The island's largest mall, Plaza de las Américas, closed ahead of the protest as did dozens of other businesses.

In a video posted Sunday night on Facebook, Rosselló said he welcomed people's freedom to express themselves. He also said he was looking forward to defending himself against the process of impeachment, whose initial stages are being explored by Puerto Rico's legislature.

"I hear you," he said the brief video. "I have made mistakes and I have apologized."

The 889 pages of chat on the encrypted app Telegram between the governor and 11 close allies and members of his administration, all men, showed the governor and his advisers insulting women and mocking constituents, including the victims of Hurricane Maria.

Hours after Rosselló spoke Sunday, another top government official submitted his resignation. "Unfortunately the events in recent weeks, including the attitudes reflected in the comments of officials and advisers of the current administration, do not match my values and principles," wrote Gerardo Portela, principal investment officer, president of Puerto Rico's Economic Development Bank and executive director of the Housing Finance Authority.

Since the chat leaked July 13, hundreds of thousands of Puerto Ricans have marched to Rosselló's official residence in the largest protest movement on the island since Puerto Ricans successfully demonstrated to

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bring an end to U.S. Navy military training on the island of Vieques more than 15 years ago.

Ramphis Castro of Guayama arrived in San Juan late Sunday after more than an hour-long drive to prepare for Monday's march. He said he was incensed after Rosselló's announcement Sunday.

"When is he going to say that he's resigning," Castro exclaimed. "This makes people even more angry."

The upheaval comes as the U.S. territory is struggling to recover from Hurricane Maria and trying to restructure part of \$70 billion in debt amid a 13-year recession in this territory of more than 3 million American citizens who do not have full representation in Congress or a vote for president.

Normally, a governor who resigns would be replaced by Puerto Rico's secretary of state, but Luis Rivera Marín quit that job amid the uproar over the chat, so the next in line would be the justice secretary, Wanda Vázquez.

Pressure on Rosselló to step down has intensified as the chorus calling for his resignation grew to include Puerto Rico music superstars Ricky Martin, Bad Bunny and Residente and a string of U.S. politicians including Congress members from both parties, several Democratic presidential candidates and Puerto Rico's non-voting representative in Congress.

Rosselló was elected governor in November 2016 with nearly 50% of the vote, and he had already announced his intention to seek a second term. A graduate of MIT with a doctorate in genetics, he is the son of former Puerto Rico Gov. Pedro Rosselló, who flew to the island to marshal support after the chat was made public.

The governor belongs to the New Progressive Party, which seeks statehood for the island, and he is also a Democrat. Most of his time has been spent seeking federal funds since Hurricane Maria devastated the island on Sept. 20, 2017, and battling austerity measures implemented by a federal control board that Congress set up to oversee the island government's finances.

The upheaval against Rosselló prompted at least four cruise ships to cancel visits to Puerto Rico, and many officials worry about the impact a resignation would have on the already fragile economy as the island rebuilds from Maria, a Category 4 storm that caused more than an estimated \$100 billion in damage.

Another concern is the recent string of arrests involving federal corruption charges targeting Puerto Rico officials, among them two former agency heads, including former education secretary Julia Keleher.

Syrian activists say airstrike killed 23 in rebel-held town

By ZEINA KARAM Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — An airstrike hit a busy market in a rebel-held town in northwestern Syria on Monday, killing at least 23 people, according to opposition activists and a war monitoring group.

The airstrike took place in the town of Maaret al-Numan and also wounded more than 30 people, according to the reports from the region which has witnessed intensive airstrikes and bombardment almost every day as Syrian troops, backed by Russian air cover, try to push their way into the enclave near the Turkish border.

Syrian state TV said insurgents shelled the government-held town of Suqailabiyah, wounding four people, including a child.

Idlib province, in the northwestern corner of Syria, is the last major rebel stronghold in the country outside the control of Syrian President Bashar Assad.

Syrian government forces launched their offensive in Idlib province in late April and fighting has killed more than 2,000 people and displaced hundreds of thousands.

But the troops have made little progress since the push started.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which monitors the fighting on the ground in Syria through a network of activists, said 23 people were killed, including two children, in the strike on Maaret al-Numan. It added that the number of casualties from Monday's airstrike was likely to rise due to the large number of wounded.

The Thiqa news agency, an activist collective in northern Syria, gave a higher death toll, saying the strike killed 27 people.

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A member of the Syrian Civil Defense, also known as White Helmets, said one of their colleagues was killed in a second airstrike that hit the market.

On Sunday, government bombing in Idlib killed at least 11 civilians according to the Observatory and first responders.

Despite the heavy bombardment, Assad's troops have been unable to make any significant advances against the rebels or the al-Qaida-linked militants and other jihadi groups who dominate Idlib province. Militant groups have hit back hard, killing an average of more than a dozen soldiers and allied militiamen a day in recent weeks.

The struggling campaign underscores the limits of Syria's and Russia's airpower and inability to achieve a definitive victory in the country's long-running civil war, now in its ninth year.

In neighboring Turkey, Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said Ankara would launch a new offensive into northern Syria if a so-called "safe zone" is not established and if threats against Turkey continue from the region.

Cavusoglu made the comments on Monday as a delegation led by U.S. Special Representative on Syria, James Jeffrey, was to hold talks in Ankara. The possible safe zone along the border with Turkey was expected to be on the agenda.

Turkey views Kurdish fighters who have fought alongside the United States against the Islamic State group as terrorists and wants the safe zone established to keep the fighters away from the border. It has recently been sending troop reinforcement to its border region.

Cavusoglu said Turkey would intervene "if there's no safe zone and if the terrorists are not cleared and continue to pose a threat."

Associated Press writer Suzan Fraser in Ankara, Turkey, contributed to this report.

Stevens, ex-colleagues took different paths in retirement

By JESSICA GRESKO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Retired Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens never really put down his pen. Without opinions and dissents to write following his retirement from the Supreme Court in 2010, Stevens chose instead to write books from his home in Florida, reflecting on his life but also the Constitution.

Stevens, who died last week at age 99 and will lie in repose at the court Monday, published his first book in retirement the year after he left the court. The memoir, "Five Chiefs," reflected on the five Supreme Court chief justices he had served under or known. A second book, "Six Amendments: How and Why We Should Change the Constitution," followed in 2014. And his most recent book, an autobiography, came out in May, just a month after his most recent birthday.

Stevens had been particularly outspoken recently on the topic of gun control. In "Six Amendments" he called for changing the Constitution's Second Amendment to permit gun control. Last year, after marches following the school shooting in Parkland, Florida, in which 17 people died, Stevens wrote an essay for The New York Times calling not only for significant gun control legislation but also the Second Amendment's repeal.

Also last year he came out against Justice Brett Kavanaugh's confirmation following Kavanaugh's angry denial of sexual assault allegations.

Other justices have chosen their own paths in retirement. A look at how the nation's three other retired Supreme Court justices have been spending their time:

ANTHONY KENNEDY

The Supreme Court's most recent retiree left the court a year ago this month. Kennedy, 82, said in stepping down that he wanted to spend more time with his family.

Former clerks say Kennedy, a father of three and "Papa" to nine grandchildren, is an enthusiastic grand-

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parent. He's attended his grandkids' T-ball games and ballet performances. He spoke at the high school graduations of two of his grandchildren and has talked about seeing "Hamilton" on Broadway with his grandchildren.

This summer, Kennedy taught at the University of the Pacific's McGeorge School of Law program in Austria, a practice of his for decades. He's taught in some capacity for the California school since 1965.

DAVID SOUTER

Souter never really liked Washington and quickly returned to his home state of New Hampshire after leaving the court in 2009.

Now 79, Souter was just shy of 70 when he retired and decided he wasn't quite done wearing his judicial robes. Before joining the Supreme Court, Souter had been a judge on the federal appeals court based in Boston, and he's served on the court regularly in retirement, hearing more than 400 cases.

SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR

The first woman to serve on the Supreme Court left the court in 2006 under unhappy circumstances. Her husband was suffering from Alzheimer's disease and O'Connor, then 75, retired in part to care for him. He died in 2009.

O'Connor, now 89, announced late last year that she too had been diagnosed with the beginning stages of dementia, probably Alzheimer's disease. O'Connor had stopped speaking publicly more than two years before the announcement, but for years she led an active retirement.

O'Connor returned to her home state of Arizona upon retiring and, like Souter, served as a visiting appeals court judge, hearing more than 175 cases and serving with all but two of the nation's 13 federal appeals courts.

Like Stevens, she also wrote in retirement, authoring a book of stories about Supreme Court history. She also founded iCivics, an organization that promotes civic education in schools.

Follow Jessica Gresko on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/jessicagresko> .

India launches moon mission a week after it was aborted

By ASHOK SHARMA Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — India successfully launched an unmanned spacecraft to the far side of the moon on Monday, a week after aborting the mission due to a technical problem.

Scientists at the mission control center burst into applause as the rocket lifted off in clear weather as scheduled at 2:43 p.m. from Sriharikota in southern India. K. Sivan, head of India's space agency, said the rocket successfully injected the spacecraft into orbit.

The spacecraft — named Chandrayaan, the Sanskrit word for "moon craft" — is scheduled to land on the lunar south pole in September and send a rover to explore water deposits that were confirmed by a previous mission that orbited the moon.

India's first moon mission orbited the moon in 2008 and helped confirm the presence of water. The country plans to send its first manned spaceflight by 2022.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India's lunar program will get a substantial boost, writing on Twitter that the country's existing knowledge of the moon "will be significantly enhanced."

Sivan said at a news conference that the successful launch of the spacecraft was the "beginning of India's historic journey" to the moon.

The launch of the \$141 million moon mission a week earlier was called off less than an hour before lift-off due to a "technical snag." Media reports said the launch was aborted after scientists from the Indian Space Research Organization identified a leak while filling helium in the rocket's cryogenic engine. The space agency neither confirmed nor denied the reports, saying instead that the problem had been identified and corrected.

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The spacecraft is carrying an orbiter, a lander and a rover that will move around on the lunar surface for 14 earth days. It will take around 47 days to travel before landing on the moon.

India put a satellite into orbit around Mars in the nation's first interplanetary mission in 2013 and 2014.

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

India successfully test-fired an anti-satellite weapon in March, which Modi said demonstrated the country's capacity as a space power alongside the United States, Russia and China.

China lashes out at Hong Kong protest targeting its office

By NADIA LAM Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — China on Monday harshly criticized a weekend demonstration in which eggs were thrown at its office in Hong Kong, accusing the demonstrators of violence without mentioning a violent attack against protesters and civilians the same night.

A group of protesters targeted China's liaison office on Sunday night after more than 100,000 people marched through the city to demand democracy and an investigation into the use of force by police to disperse crowds at earlier protests.

The official People's Daily newspaper, in a front-page commentary headlined "Central Authority Cannot Be Challenged," called the protesters' actions "intolerable."

Later Sunday, protesters trying to return home were attacked inside a subway station by assailants who appeared to be targeting pro-democracy demonstrators. At least 45 people were injured, of whom 22 remained hospitalized Monday morning, including one man in critical condition, the Hospital Authority said.

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam said allegations that police colluded with the assailants were "unfounded."

Another 14 people were injured as police used tear gas to clear protesters in central Hong Kong. Police said on their official social media accounts that protesters threw bricks and petrol bombs at them and attacked the police headquarters.

The attack on the liaison office touched a raw nerve in China. China's national emblem, which hangs on the front of the building, was splattered with black ink. It was replaced by a new one within hours.

"These acts openly challenged the authority of the central government and touched the bottom line of the 'one country, two systems' principle," the government's Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office said in a statement Sunday.

Lam repeated the same statement to reporters Monday, adding that the vandalism "hurt the nation's feelings."

The "one country, two systems" framework, under which the former British colony was returned to China in 1997, allows Hong Kong to maintain a fair degree of autonomy in local affairs. Demonstrators fear the pro-Beijing government in Hong Kong is chipping away at their rights and freedoms.

A group of pro-China lawmakers held a news conference Monday appealing for a halt to the violence, saying it was a blow to Hong Kong's reputation and is scaring away tourists and investors.

They also urged police to tighten enforcement against the protesters, whom Regina Ip, a former security secretary, labeled as "rebels."

"The violent attack on the Liaison Office ... is a direct affront to the sovereignty of our country," Ip said.

She said the police were "overstretched" when asked why it took at least a half-hour for police to arrive at the suburban train station where protesters were attacked.

"The police have been under extreme pressure," she said.

Pro-democracy lawmaker Claudia Mo said there was "more than apparent" involvement from the triad, a branch of organized crime in Hong Kong.

"What happened last night doesn't seem accidental in any way," Mo said. "It's all organized."

Video of the attacks in Hong Kong's Yuen Long neighborhood showed protesters in black shirts being beaten by men in white shirts wielding steel pipes and wooden poles. Those under attack retreated into the trains, intimidated by the gangs of men waiting for them outside the turnstiles. The attackers then

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entered the trains and beat the people inside as they tried to defend themselves with umbrellas. They eventually retreated.

One of the men in white held up a sign saying "Protect Yuen Long, protect our homes."

Subway passengers filmed by Stand News and iCABLE angrily accused police officers of not intervening in the attack. Stand News reporter Gwyneth Ho said on Facebook that she suffered minor injuries to her hands and shoulder, and was dizzy from a head injury. Hong Kong's South China Morning Post reported that several people were bleeding following the attacks, with seven sent to the hospital.

The growing tumult in Hong Kong has fueled fears that China's People's Liberation Army may intervene.

A Chinese army brigade said Monday that it held an anti-terrorism exercise in southern Guangdong province. The 74th Army Group did not refer to Hong Kong in its social media statement, but military commentator and retired officer Yue Gang said that troops would be dispatched to the semi-autonomous territory if needed.

"To deface the Chinese national emblem is like acting as an enemy to 1.3 billion Chinese people," Yue said. "They must be deterred."

Hu Xijin, editor-in-chief of the nationalistic Global Times, warned against military intervention.

"If the People's Liberation Army helps to stabilize the situation, Hong Kong will benefit from law and order, but the public opinion won't buy it," Hu wrote in a commentary published on Weibo, a popular Chinese microblogging service. The public will "accuse Beijing of undermining 'one country, two systems,'" he said.

Associated Press writers Ken Moritsugu and Yanan Wang, videojournalist Wong Wai-bor and researcher Shanshan Wang in Beijing contributed to this report.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

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

1. UNPOPULAR LEADER FACES PEOPLE'S WRATH

Puerto Rico is bracing for what many people expected to be one of the biggest protests ever seen in the U.S. territory as irate islanders pledged to drive Gov. Ricardo Rosselló from office.

2. WHAT TO EXPECT AT CONGRESSIONAL HEARING

Republicans are pledging tough questioning of special counsel Robert Mueller when he testifies before Congress this week as Democrats plan to air evidence of wrongdoing by President Donald Trump in a potentially last-ditch bid to impeach him.

3. DEMOLITIONS OF HOMES ON DISPUTED TERRITORY

Israeli work crews have begun demolishing dozens of Palestinian homes in an east Jerusalem neighborhood, which straddles the West Bank, in one of the largest operations of its kind in years.

4. BEIJING ANGER AFTER HONG KONG UNREST

China has harshly criticized a weekend demonstration in which eggs were thrown at its office in Hong Kong, accusing the demonstrators of violence without mentioning attacks against protesters and civilians.

5. WHERE PROBES INTO DEATHS OFTEN GO NOWHERE

Israeli military investigations into 24 potentially criminal shootings of Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip have yielded no convictions or even indictments, the AP learns. A human rights group calls the probes "a whitewash mechanism."

6. A MOTHER'S LOVE

A teenage mom is raising her newborn son in a Tijuana migrant shelter, the best place she has found since she and her sister left their violent homeland of El Salvador after gangs threatened their family.

7. NATIVE SON GETS NAME ETCHED ON CLARET JUG

Ireland's Shane Lowry wins the British Open played at his country's Royal Portrush golf club.

8. HE WAS THE MODEL FOR PROSECUTOR ON TV'S "LAW AND ORDER"

Former Manhattan District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau, who has died at 99, spent nearly half his life

jailing criminals from mob kingpins and drug-dealing killers to a tax-dodging Harvard dean.

9. WHERE THE OLYMPICS SEEK A FRESH START

Tokyo was supposed to be a "safe pair of hands" after Rio de Janeiro's corruption and near-meltdown three years ago. Mostly, it has been, despite some scandals and high costs.

10. A NEW ALL-TIME BOX OFFICE CHAMPION

"Avengers: Endgame" has passed "Avatar" to become the highest-grossing film of all time, with an estimated \$2.79 billion in worldwide grosses in just 13 weeks. "Avatar" had the record for a decade at \$2.789 billion.

Israeli crews demolish Palestinian homes in east Jerusalem

By ALON BERNSTEIN Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli work crews on Monday began demolishing dozens of Palestinian homes in an east Jerusalem neighborhood, in one of the largest operations of its kind in years.

The demolitions capped a years-long legal battle over the buildings, built along the invisible line straddling the city and the occupied West Bank. Israel says the buildings were erected too close to its West Bank separation barrier. Residents say the buildings are on West Bank land, and the Palestinian Authority gave them construction permits.

In the wake of a recent Supreme Court decision clearing the way for the demolitions, Israeli work crews moved into the neighborhood overnight. Massive construction vehicles smashed through the roofs of several buildings, and large excavators were digging through the rubble.

Gilad Erdan, Israel's minister of public security, said the Supreme Court ruled the illegal construction "constitutes a severe security threat and can provide cover to suicide bombers and other terrorists hiding among civilian population."

He said that those who built houses along the separation barrier "took the law into their own hands."

According to the United Nations, some 20 people already living in the buildings were being displaced, while 350 owners of properties that were under construction or not yet inhabited were also affected.

Hussein al-Sheikh, head of the civil affairs department of the Palestinians Authority, called Monday's demolition a "crime" and demanded international intervention.

In Gaza, the territory's Hamas rulers called for intensifying "resistance" to the "the Zionist settlement project."

"The increase in the occupation's crimes against the residents of the holy city is a result of total American support," said Hazem Qassem, a spokesman for the militant group.

Israel captured east Jerusalem and the West Bank in the 1967 Mideast war. The international community considers both areas to be occupied territory, and the Palestinians seek them as parts of a future independent state.

Israel annexed east Jerusalem and considers it part of its capital — a step that is not internationally recognized. But the competing claims to the territory have created myriad legal complexities.

Israel built its separation barrier in the early 2000s in a step that it says was needed to prevent Palestinian suicide bombers from reaching Israel from the West Bank. The Palestinians say the structure is an illegal land grab because it juts into the West Bank in many places.

Sur Baher is one of those places. In negotiations with residents, Israel built the route of the structure in Sur Baher inside the West Bank to prevent dividing the village and disrupting life, according to court documents.

However, residents, claiming it is impossible to get Israeli building permits in east Jerusalem, began building the apartment buildings in the West Bank part of the village with permission from the Palestinian Authority. Early this decade, the Israeli military ordered the construction to stop, saying it could not permit high-rise buildings so close to the separation barrier.

Israel's Supreme Court this month rejected residents' final appeal, clearing the way for the demolitions.

According to Ir Amim, an Israeli advocacy group that promotes equality and coexistence in the city,

Israel has stepped up demolitions of unauthorized Palestinian properties in east Jerusalem.

It said Israel demolished some 63 housing units in the first half of this year, compared to 37 during the same period last year. Palestinian residents of east Jerusalem say it is nearly impossible to get a building permit from Israeli authorities.

Ukrainian leader's party heading for parliamentary majority

By YURAS KARMANAU and NATALIYA VASILYEVA Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukrainian president's party on Monday was heading for an absolute majority in parliament after a snap election, which would hand Volodymyr Zelenskiy a much-anticipated mandate for change.

If confirmed, the Servant of the People will become the first party in Ukraine's modern history to form an absolute parliamentary majority.

Zelenskiy, a popular television comedian who was elected president in April, pushed for the snap parliamentary vote, arguing that the current parliament dominated by allies of former President Petro Poroshenko is hampering his efforts for a radical change in Ukraine.

The parliament earlier this year didn't let Zelenskiy appoint key Cabinet ministers or fire tainted officials such as the prosecutor general.

Sunday's landslide win at the polls gives the 41-year-old Zelenskiy a rare mandate to fight Ukraine's endemic corruption, try to bring peace to the separatist controlled east and fix the country's stagnant economy even without spending time or effort on forging a coalition with other political players.

Servant of the People leader Dmytro Razumkov told reporters Monday morning that the party's strong showing both on the party rolls and in single-mandate districts means that it probably would not have to form a coalition with another party.

The next few months are likely to be crucial for Zelenskiy and Servant of the People, the party which was named after the television comedy in which he played a school teacher who unexpectedly becomes the Ukrainian president. The president and the party will likely have a free hand in appointing top officials and adopting legislation. On the other hand, Zelenskiy will have no political rivals strong enough to blame possible failures on.

Four other parties were seen clearing the 5% threshold necessary to get party-list seats, according to early results.

A party led by one of Russian President Vladimir Putin's closest associates, Ukrainian tycoon Viktor Medvedchuk, was in second place with 13% of the vote. It was followed by the European Solidarity party of Poroshenko, whom Zelenskiy defeated in a landslide in the country's spring presidential election.

With more than a half of the ballots counted Monday, the Servant of the People is projected to win 42.4% of the vote. In addition, results from single-mandate constituencies, in which voters cast ballots for individuals, not parties, also show Zelenskiy's allies winning in at least 125 of the 199 districts, meaning that Servant of the People is projected to win an outright majority of seats at the Supreme Rada.

Of the 424 seats in the Ukrainian parliament, 225 lawmakers are elected on party rolls and 199 in single-mandate districts.

Nataliya Vasilyeva reported from Moscow.

House Republicans vow tough questions for Mueller at hearing

By HOPE YEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republicans are pledging tough questioning of special counsel Robert Mueller when he testifies before Congress this week as Democrats plan to air evidence of wrongdoing by President Donald Trump in a potentially last-ditch bid to impeach him.

Rep. Doug Collins, the top Republican on House Judiciary Committee, said the American public is growing weary of the Russia investigation three months after the release of the special counsel's 448-page report

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and that "any thought of impeachment is waning." He said Republicans will be focused on making clear that the report represents a "final episode" in the Russia probe, which he described as flawed.

"Remember, the Mueller report is a one-sided report," Collins said. "It has not been questioned from the other side. This is our chance to do that."

Days before back-to-back hearings Wednesday, both sides seemed to agree that Mueller's testimony could be pivotal in shifting public opinion on the question of "holding the president accountable."

"This is a president who has violated the law 6 ways from Sunday," said New York Rep. Jerrold Nadler, chairman of the Judiciary Committee. He argued that Mueller's report lays out "very substantial evidence" that Trump is guilty of "high crimes and misdemeanors," the constitutional standard for impeachment.

"We have to present — or let Mueller present — those facts to the American people ... because the administration must be held accountable and no president can be above the law," Nadler said.

The House Judiciary Committee and the House Intelligence Committee will question Mueller in separate hearings on the report. While the report did not find sufficient evidence to establish charges of criminal conspiracy between the Trump campaign and Russia to swing the election, it said Trump could not be cleared of trying to obstruct the investigation. But Mueller believed Trump couldn't be indicted in part because of a Justice Department opinion against prosecuting a sitting president.

Mueller has said he doesn't intend to speak beyond the findings of the report in congressional hearings.

Still, Democrats on the Judiciary Committee plan to focus on a narrow set of episodes laid out in the report to direct Americans' attention to what they see as the most egregious examples of Trump's conduct, which point to obstruction of justice.

The examples include Trump's directions to then-White House counsel Donald McGahn to have Mueller removed and, later, orders from Trump to McGahn to deny that happened. Democrats also will focus questioning on a series of meetings Trump had with former campaign manager Corey Lewandowski in which the Republican president directed Lewandowski to persuade then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions to limit Mueller's investigation.

Collins, meanwhile, said Republicans will focus in part on the origins of the Russia investigation, which Trump has long derided as a political "witch hunt" as well as evidence they see of potential bias in the FBI's handling of the probe.

"There's going to be a lot of questions for what he did say, what he didn't say, and how this thing started," he said, referring to Mueller. "This is the time that the Democrats have got to show on their end how much time they have been wasting of our committee and how we have not been getting things done because they simply don't like this president, who was elected by the people in 2016, and they're just trying to derail him for 2020."

Mueller's appearance comes more than two years since the start of the Russia investigation, an extraordinary moment in Trump's presidency when, after Trump had fired FBI Director James Comey, his Justice Department appointed Mueller to take over the inquiry into election interference and the potential role that Trump and his winning 2016 campaign may have played.

While Mueller's testimony was once envisioned as a crystalizing event, a Watergate-style moment to uncover truths, public attention has drifted in the months since the report was released.

"We want Bob Mueller to bring it to life, to talk about what's in that report," said Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., chairman of the House Intelligence Committee. "It's a pretty damning set of facts that involve a presidential campaign in a close race welcoming help from a hostile foreign power, not reporting it but eagerly embracing it, building it into their campaign strategy, lying about it to cover up, then obstructing an investigation into foreign interference again to try to cover up."

Intelligence committee aides have said they believe the public has received a slanted view of what Mueller found on the question of criminal conspiracy because of Trump's repeated claims of "no collusion," and because the details of Russia's interference in the election — and the outreach to the Trump campaign — haven't gotten enough attention.

"Who better to bring them to life than the man who did the investigation himself?" Schiff asked.

Nadler said he's not worried that Republicans might seek to attack the credibility of the Russia investigation and says he hopes to take cues from the public after the hearing about "where we go from here." "We hope it won't end up being a dud," he said.

Nadler spoke on "Fox News Sunday," Schiff appeared on CBS' "Face the Nation" and Collins was on Fox News Channel's "Sunday Morning Futures."

Associated Press writer Mary Clare Jalonick contributed to this report.

Israeli probes into deaths of Palestinians often go nowhere

By ISABEL DEBRE and MOHAMMED DARAGHMEH Associated Press

JALAZON REFUGEE CAMP, West Bank (AP) — Hamedo Fakhouri clearly remembers the moment when the young Palestinian who worked at his neighborhood coffee shop was shot dead.

Israeli troops were lingering after an overnight arrest raid in the northern West Bank city of Tulkarem when he noticed the mentally disabled Mohammed Habali limp up the street with his wooden walking stick. Seconds later, he heard gunshots and spun around to see Habali collapse.

"I cannot forget and will not forget how this poor man was killed," said Fakhouri.

Surveillance videos of the shooting drew outrage from Palestinians and human rights groups. Soon after, the Israeli military launched an investigation.

Witnesses say Habali was killed by Israeli troops. The military has acknowledged its forces opened fire and has not disputed the cause of his death. But seven months later, the investigation into whether soldiers were criminally at fault shows no signs of progress, illustrating what critics say is a disturbing pattern.

The Israeli military has opened investigations into 24 potentially criminal shootings of Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip over the past year, The Associated Press has found. Yet none of the cases have yielded convictions or even indictments. In most instances, the army hasn't interviewed key witnesses or retrieved evidence from the field.

B'Tselem, Israel's leading human rights group, grew so frustrated with the system that in 2016 it halted its decades-long practice of assisting military investigations.

"We came to the conclusion as a human rights organization, we're actually creating more harm than good by cooperating with the system because it is in fact a whitewash mechanism," said the group's spokesman, Amit Galutz. The system's success, he said, "is measured not by its ability to protect victims, but perpetrators."

In the last eight years, nearly 200 criminal investigations into the shootings of Palestinians have secured just two convictions, according to B'Tselem. One of them, a high-profile case in which a soldier was caught on video fatally shooting a wounded Palestinian attacker who was lying on the ground, resulted in a reduced sentence of nine months.

Israel says it must regularly carry out military operations in the West Bank to prevent Palestinian attacks and protect Jewish settlements. While acknowledging investigations could be faster and better staffed, Israeli officials say the system is effective, especially in light of the challenging environment in which it operates.

"We didn't build a robust legal system, one of the best in the world, just to help soldiers escape accountability," said Maurice Hirsch, a former chief military prosecutor in the West Bank who is now director of legal strategies for Palestinian Media Watch, a group that monitors anti-Israel rhetoric by Palestinians.

The debate could have serious implications. The Palestinians have appealed to the International Criminal Court in The Hague to press war crimes charges against Israel. Although Israel does not recognize the court's authority, the court can pursue cases if it finds Israel unwilling or unable to carry out justice.

A week after 22-year-old Habali was shot, Palestinian teenager Mahmoud Nakhleh sat chatting with friends outside the hardscrabble West Bank refugee camp of Jalazon. Suddenly, soldiers descended from a hilltop, provoked by a different group of youths slinging stones further down the highway.

Witnesses say Nakhleh and his friends panicked and bolted at the sight of advancing army jeeps. Troops

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chased them into the camp and opened fire, killing the 18-year-old Nakhleh.

Omar Hameedat, 21, watched the episode unfold from his balcony. "They started shooting spontaneously," he said, pointing to video he captured on his cellphone. "No clashes, nothing."

In the months since the killings of Habali and Nakhleh, Israeli authorities have neither interviewed witnesses nor requested footage from them. Various witnesses, including Hameedat, said they are prepared to cooperate.

In both cases, the army released similar statements, saying troops had responded to "disturbances" in which "dozens of Palestinians hurled stones"—a situation that automatically loosens the rules of engagement.

Deaths in such contexts are typically explained as regrettable accidents, and "usually not the consequence of any criminal decision," said Eli Baron, Israel's former deputy military advocate general.

Proving criminal intent is an especially high standard in Gaza, where some 200 Palestinians, most of them unarmed, have been killed in the past year during demonstrations along the border.

Israel, which withdrew its troops from the territory in 2005, says the ruling Hamas militant group uses the protests as a cover to stage attacks and notes that many protesters have tried to break through a separation fence to enter Israel. In response, the military applies the law of armed conflict, giving soldiers more leeway to open fire. This interpretation has been challenged by rights groups and the U.N.

In a dim living room in Gaza's Jabaliya refugee camp, Ibrahim Ayyoub recalled the afternoon his 14-year-old son Mohammed was shot through the head by an Israeli sniper.

"Someone who executes a child will never confess to it," Ayyoub said. "But we have to raise our voice."

The family filed a complaint to the military through the Palestinian Center for Human Rights, which said that in May, over a year after the event, two witnesses were asked to provide basic details to investigators over Skype. They have not heard back since.

Al Mezan Center for Human Rights said the army has not asked for testimony or evidence in more than 50 cases it represents.

The government is obligated under international law to investigate reports of human rights abuses "promptly, thoroughly and in good faith," said Annyssa Bellal, an expert in international humanitarian law at the Geneva Academy.

A failure to do so could give the International Criminal Court jurisdiction, she said. The court opened a "preliminary investigation" into Israeli practices in 2015, but has not said when it will complete the probe.

Responding to a request for updates on the ongoing investigations, the army said it has launched seven criminal probes in Gaza and 16 in the West Bank over the past year.

Three of the cases were closed following a military police investigation. Another two cases were treated as an internal disciplinary matter and closed at the outset, including the shooting of a 16-year-old who was wounded in the West Bank while handcuffed and blindfolded.

The military also launched an investigation — but not a criminal probe — into the shooting of an AP cameraman who was struck in the leg while wearing a vest marked "PRESS" several hundred meters (yards) from the Gaza fence.

In the case of the AP journalist, neither the cameraman, who spent weeks recovering in an Israeli hospital, nor his supervisors were asked to testify. The army also never asked to see video of the shooting.

In its conclusion, the army said "no fire was directed" at the cameraman. It encouraged journalists to "exercise caution" when covering protests.

All of the remaining Gaza investigations, and several in the West Bank, including the deaths of Habali and Nakhleh, remain in the initial stage of military police review. Just two West Bank cases, including a medic killed in clashes at a refugee camp, are in the final stage of review before a recommendation is made on whether to press charges.

In a statement, the army stressed that its investigations are conducted in an "independent and effective manner." It also said it often faces access and security challenges on the ground, making investigations "complicated and often lengthy."

"We debrief every bullet," Maj. Gen. Herzl Halevi, the head of Israel's southern command, which is re-

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sponsible for the Gaza border, told a conference last spring. "But we don't always have results because of the tough conditions we're working in."

Hamas-ruled Gaza is off limits to Israeli investigators. Collecting evidence in Palestinian-administered parts of the West Bank can involve risky late-night operations, or relying on intermediaries who sometimes refuse to cooperate. Investigators can also struggle to get autopsy results due to the Islamic custom of quick burials.

Critics, however, say these obstacles can be overcome with technology like video conferencing, better cooperation with Palestinian security forces and improved training for investigators based on past cases going back to Israel's 1967 seizure of the West Bank and Gaza.

They say the army has instead created a system that relies almost entirely on one-sided testimony from soldiers in which insufficient evidence becomes a common justification for closed cases.

"The army tends to give the benefit of the doubt to its own soldiers," said Yuval Shany, a Hebrew University expert on military law.

Associated Press writer Fares Akram in Gaza City, Gaza Strip, contributed to this report.

AP FACT CHECK: Trump team warps Omar words on 9/11, al Qaida

By HOPE YEN, AMANDA SEITZ and CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump attributed statements to a Democratic congresswoman that she didn't make as he set off an incendiary week of vilification with accusations that she and three other lawmakers of color hate America.

One of his top White House advisers, Stephen Miller, reinforced the charges Sunday, pointing to their remarks about terrorism and Trump's handling of border policy and saying the lawmakers "detest America as it exists."

The comments have roiled the capital and excited Trump's North Carolina rally, overshadowing distortions in rhetoric that came from many quarters and from both parties on a variety of matters over the last week-plus — the Democratic presidential campaign among them.

A look at the claims and reality:

LOVING AMERICA

MILLER, on Rep. Ilhan Omar, D-Minn.: "You saw the quotes from Representative Omar saying some people did something at 9/11. And yes, if you watch it in context, it's worse." — interview on "Fox News Sunday."

TRUMP: "When she talked about the World Trade Center being knocked down, 'some people.' You remember the famous 'some people.' These are people that, in my opinion, hate our country." — remarks on July 15 at a manufacturing event.

THE FACTS: It's true that plenty of critics thought Omar sounded dismissive about the 2001 terrorist attacks in a comment in a speech in March. Those remarks, though, did not express love "for enemies like al-Qaida," as Trump put it, or any proof of hatred or detesting America.

Speaking to the Council on American-Islamic Relations, Omar said the group "was founded after 9/11 because they recognized that some people did something and that all of us were starting to lose access to our civil liberties." Her phrasing — "some people did something" — struck many people as a tone-deaf way to refer to the catastrophic attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

The American-Islamic group actually was founded in 1994, according to its website. Its membership skyrocketed after the 2001 attacks.

In the speech, Omar said many Muslims saw their civil liberties eroded after the attacks, and she advocated for activism. "For far too long we have lived with the discomfort of being a second-class citizen and, frankly, I'm tired of it, and every single Muslim in this country should be tired of it," she said.

But she also noted that "what we know, and what Islam teaches us, and what I always say, is that love trumps hate."

After being criticized for her remarks, Omar noted that President George W. Bush had stood at Ground

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Zero days after the attacks and also referred somewhat generically to “the people who knocked these buildings down,” while vowing they “will hear all of us soon.”

Trump is continuing to assail Omar and three other liberal Democratic women of color, challenging their loyalty to the U.S. They are Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, Rashida Tlaib of Michigan and Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts. The House rebuked him Tuesday for his “racist comments” after he said they should “go back” to their countries. All four are Americans; Omar was born in Somalia; the others in the U.S.

Omar said Trump is a “fascist” and she and the other women he’s going after will “continue to be a nightmare to this president because his policies are a nightmare to us.”

TRUMP quotes Omar as saying: “You don’t say ‘America’ with this intensity. You say ‘al-Qaida,’ it makes you proud. Al-Qaida makes you proud. You don’t speak that way about America.” — North Carolina rally on Wednesday.

TRUMP: “I hear the way she talks about al-Qaida. Al-Qaida has killed many Americans. She said, ‘You can hold your chest out, you can — when I think of America — uhh — when I think of al-Qaida, I can hold my chest out.’” — remarks Monday at a manufacturing event at the White House.

THE FACTS: This is a wholly distorted account of what the Omar said. She did not voice pride in the terrorist group.

Trump is referring to an interview Omar gave in 2013. In it, she talked about studying terrorism history or theory under a professor who dramatically pronounced the names of terrorist groups, as if to emphasize their evil nature.

“The thing that was interesting in the class was every time the professor said ‘al-Qaida,’ he sort of like — his shoulders went up” and he used a menacing, intense tone, she said. Her point was that the professor was subtly rousing suspicions of Muslims with his theatrical presentation, while pronouncing “America” without the intensity he afforded the names of terrorist groups.

At no point did she say “al-Qaida” should be uttered with intensity or pride and that “America” shouldn’t.

TRUMP, on Ocasio-Cortez: “Cortez said that illegal immigrants are more American than any person who seeks to keep them out ever will be. Can you believe that? That’s what she is saying.” — North Carolina rally.

THE FACTS: True, except that people who come to the border and ask for refugee status can’t be described as “illegal immigrants.” They commit no crime by applying for that status. Ocasio-Cortez, speaking of women and children who show up seeking refuge or opportunity, said: “They’re acting more American than any person who seeks to keep them out ever will be.” This was from an MSNBC interview in January.

At the rally, Trump refused to call the New York congresswoman by her full hyphenated surname.

ECONOMY

TRUMP: “Economic numbers reach an all time high, the best in our Country’s history.” — tweet Saturday.

TRUMP: “We have the strongest economy in history.” — North Carolina rally.

THE FACTS: The economy is not the strongest in the country’s history. It expanded at an annual rate of 3.1% in the first quarter of this year. That growth was the highest in just four years for the first quarter.

In the late 1990s, growth topped 4% for four straight years, a level it has not yet reached on an annual basis under Trump. Growth even reached 7.2% in 1984.

The economy is now in its 121st month of growth, making it the longest expansion in history. Most of that took place under Obama.

The economy grew 2.9% in 2018 — the same pace it reached in 2015 under Obama — and simply hasn’t hit historically high growth rates.

TRUMP: “I think a number that makes me the happiest is that, proportionately, the biggest gainer in this entire stock market — when you hear about how much has gone up — blue-collar workers, the biggest

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proportionate gainer.” — Cabinet meeting Tuesday.

THE FACTS: Wealthier Americans have largely benefited from the stock market gains, not blue-collar workers.

The problem with the president claiming the stock market has helped working-class Americans is that the richest 10% of the country controls 84% of stock market value, according to a Federal Reserve survey. Because they hold more stocks, wealthier Americans have inherently benefited more from the 19% gain in the Standard & Poor’s index of 500 stocks so far this year. Only about half of U.S. families hold stocks, so plenty of people are getting little to no benefit from the stock market gains.

TRUMP: “The lowest unemployment numbers ever.” — North Carolina rally.

THE FACTS: Not so.

The 3.7% unemployment rate in the latest report is not the best in history. It’s near the lowest level in 50 years, when it was 3.5%. The U.S. also had lower rates than now in the early 1950s. And during three years of World War II, the annual rate was under 2%.

TRUMP: “The best unemployment in our history. And likewise, women, 74 years. ... I’m sorry, women, I let you down, it’s not in our history but we’re going to be there very soon.” — North Carolina rally.

THE FACTS: No, the jobless rate for women of 3.1% in April was the lowest in 66 years, not 74, and it has since increased to 3.3% in June. The data only go back 71 years, so 74 years isn’t a possibility.

MIGRANTS

TRUMP: “The Obama Administration built the Cages, not the Trump Administration!” — tweet on July 15.

THE FACTS: He is right.

The same facilities that Democrats characterize as cages for migrant children were used by the Obama administration. They are sectioned-off, chain-link indoor pens where children who come to the border without adults or who are separated from adults in detention are temporarily housed. The children are divided by age and sex. When Vice President Mike Pence recently visited detention facilities at the border, journalists accompanying him witnessed migrant men crowded into fetid chain-link quarters.

A year ago, Associated Press photographs showing young people in such enclosures were misrepresented online as depicting child detentions by Trump and denounced by some Democrats and activists as illustrating Trump’s cruelty. In fact, the photos were taken in 2014 during the Obama administration.

Many Democrats in the presidential campaign and Congress continue to exploit the “kids in cages” imagery without acknowledging Obama used the facilities, too. His administration built the McAllen, Texas, facility with chain-link holding areas in 2014.

HEALTH CARE

SEN. BERNIE SANDERS of Vermont, Democratic presidential candidate: “Medicare for All’ would reduce overall health care spending in our country.” — speech Wednesday.

THE FACTS: That remains to be seen. Savings from Medicare for All are not a slam dunk.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said in a report this year that total spending under a single-payer system, such as the one proposed by Sanders, “might be higher or lower than under the current system depending on the key features of the new system.”

Those features involve payment rates for hospitals and doctors, which are not fully spelled out by Sanders, as well as the estimated cost of generous benefits that include long-term care services and no copays and deductibles.

Sanders’ figure of \$5 trillion over 10 years in health cost savings comes from a study by the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. The lead author has been a political supporter of Sanders’.

Sanders also cites a savings estimate of \$2 trillion over 10 years taken from a study from the libertarian

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Mercatus Center at George Mason University in Virginia. But the author of that study says that Medicare for All advocates are mischaracterizing his conclusions.

A report this year by the nonprofit Rand think tank estimated that Medicare for All would do the opposite of what Sanders is promising, modestly raising national health spending.

Part of the reason is the generous benefits. Virtually free comprehensive medical care would lead to big increases in demand.

The Rand study modeled a hypothetical scenario in which a plan similar to Sanders' legislation had taken effect this year.

TRUMP: "We are offering plans up to 60 percent cheaper than Obamacare." — North Carolina rally.

THE FACTS: The bargain health insurance plans Trump talks about are cheaper because they skimp on benefits such as maternity or prescription drug coverage and do not guarantee coverage of preexisting conditions.

The short-term plans that his administration began offering last year on the federal insurance marketplace provide up to 12 months of coverage and can be renewed for up to 36 months.

Premiums for the plans are about one-third the cost of fuller insurance coverage. The health plan offerings are intended for people who want an individual health insurance policy but make too much money to qualify for subsidies under the Affordable Care Act.

The administration introduced the short-term plans, which undermine how the Obama health law is supposed to work, after failing to repeal much of that law.

TRUMP: "Patients with preexisting conditions are protected by Republicans much more so than protected by Democrats, who will never be able to pull it off." — North Carolina rally.

THE FACTS: But Democrats did pull it off. Obama's health care law, the Affordable Care Act, requires insurers to take all applicants, regardless of medical history, and charge the same standard premiums to healthy people and those who had medical problems before or when they signed up.

The Trump administration is pressing in court for full repeal of that law.

Trump and other Republicans say they'll have a plan to preserve protections for people with preexisting conditions. The White House has provided no details.

AUTO INDUSTRY

SEN. KAMALA HARRIS of California, Democratic presidential candidate: "Some estimate that as many as 700,000 autoworkers are going to lose their job before the end of the year." — remarks in July 12 radio interview.

THE FACTS: This isn't happening. Harris mischaracterized the findings of a study that is also outdated.

In July 2018 the Center for Automotive Research laid out a variety of scenarios for potential job losses across all U.S. industries touched by the auto business — not just autoworkers — if a number of new tariffs and policies that Trump threatened were enacted. The worst case was 750,000. But those hypothetical losses went well beyond autoworkers, to include workers at restaurants, retail stores and any business that benefits from the auto industry.

In any event, the center revised its study in February 2019, with a worst-case scenario down to 367,000 job losses across all industries. And since then, the administration lifted tariffs on steel and aluminum products coming from Canada and Mexico, further minimizing the impact on the auto industry.

The auto industry has grown under Obama and Trump both. Although it's facing a leveling off in demand, it still posts strong numbers. It is not at risk of the catastrophe Harris raises as a possibility — the loss of 3 in 4 autoworkers in the remainder of this year.

TRUMP: "They're coming in at a level that we haven't seen for decades. Car companies are coming in — Japanese car companies, in particular. ... Japan has 12 different companies building plants in Michigan, in Ohio, in North Carolina, in Pennsylvania. One is going to be announced in Florida. We are doing things

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that nobody thought were possible.” — Cabinet meeting Tuesday.

THE FACTS: There’s no evidence that car companies are coming to the U.S. at a rate faster than in previous decades. Industry observers know of only a few Japanese automotive companies building or expanding factories in Michigan, Ohio, North Carolina or Pennsylvania — nowhere near a dozen.

Federal statistics show that jobs in auto and parts manufacturing grew at a slower rate in the two-plus years since Trump took office than in Obama’s last two years.

Between January 2017, when Trump was inaugurated, and June of this year, the latest figures available, U.S. auto and parts makers added 41,900 jobs, or a 4.4% increase, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. But in the two years before Trump took office, the industry added 63,600 manufacturing jobs, a 7.1% increase.

In Ohio, Honda has filed paperwork for a small expansion of its engine plant in Anna, Ohio, near Dayton, but also has announced production cuts without layoffs. A parts supplier announced plans last year to expand in Springfield, Ohio. In North Carolina, transmission maker Aisin in April announced plans to bolster manufacturing operations with 900 jobs by 2021, but gave few details.

The only Japanese automakers building a new U.S. assembly plant are Toyota and Mazda, which are jointly constructing a factory in Alabama that will build SUVs. At least three parts companies have announced plans to build factories in Alabama to serve that facility.

Also, spokesmen for German automakers Volkswagen AG, Daimler AG and BMW AG say they haven’t been told of any coming new factory announcements.

Associated Press writers Tom Krisher in Detroit, Colleen Long, Josh Boak, Christopher Rugaber and Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar in Washington, and Elliot Spagat in San Diego contributed to this report.

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Teen mom, newborn eye new life from Tijuana migrant shelter

By **JULIE WATSON** Associated Press

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP) — The tiny, month-old boy slept soundly on the bottom bunk, seemingly undisturbed by the squealing Central American toddlers running by and a kitten leaping from the neighboring bed.

About 25 people sleep in the cinderblock room crammed with seven bunkbeds at a Tijuana shelter overflowing with migrants, primarily from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador but also from as far away as Africa. Each bunk bed is like a makeshift home where families pass their days waiting — waiting for their number to be called at the U.S.-Mexico border so they can apply for asylum in the United States, or waiting on a Mexican visa to be able to work.

More people arrive each day and now their future is even more uncertain. Under a new Trump administration policy announced last week, migrants who pass through another country — like Mexico — on their way to the U.S. will be ineligible for asylum.

For 16-year-old Milagro de Jesús Henríquez Ayala, her cramped corner bunk covered in eight backpacks with donated diapers, toys and clothing is not the ideal spot for raising her newborn son, but it is the best place she has found since she left her violent homeland of El Salvador with her younger sister, Xiomara, after gangs threatened their family.

The sisters, who were 15 and 13 at the time, were part of an untold number of Central American minors who traveled without their parents, accompanied only by other migrants, in a caravan that crossed Mexico and landed in this crime-ridden city in November. Henríquez Ayala became pregnant by her then-boyfriend during the trip, before arriving in Tijuana.

Even after that journey was over, life in the border city across from San Diego has been trying and held moments of fear.

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At four months pregnant, Henríquez Ayala was living off cookies and juice. She started suffering abdominal pains and felt anxious, fearing Mexican officials would deport them.

One day she discovered a bullet-riddled body outside the low-budget hotel where she and her sister cleaned rooms in exchange for lodging and the little bit of food.

She almost miscarried. After she was taken to the emergency room, the girls moved to the shelter.

When she was seven months pregnant, a Mexican smuggler infiltrated the shelter pretending to be another migrant and tried to pressure Henríquez Ayala and her sister to cross the border illegally. She refused because she was worried it would put her at risk again of miscarrying.

The smuggler took another teen girl from the shelter instead. Henríquez Ayala has not heard from that girl since, and fears she may have been kidnapped.

Henríquez Ayala said she is no longer seeking the American Dream — at least not for now.

She has finished the paperwork for a Mexican visa and is determined to build a life on the south side of the U.S.-Mexico border, though the lanky girl has no idea how she'll do that. She left middle school and has almost no job skills, and now she must find work that allows her to be with her baby, Alexander.

The girls' father, Manuel Henríquez, had left them after they crossed from Guatemala into Mexico to go on his own to the United States because he thought it was too dangerous with his teenage children in tow. But he was quickly detained and deported.

Now he is with his daughters in Tijuana after Mexico granted him a one-year humanitarian visa. He earns about 200 pesos, or roughly \$10 a day, selling woven bracelets. He lives at the shelter, too, and hopes to bring his remaining three adult children and three grandchildren in El Salvador to Mexico.

Back home in San Salvador, the Central American nation's capital, gang members had beaten him for refusing to make extortion payments on his bracelet-selling business. They also threatened the girls for walking into what they consider the gang's territory on their way to school.

"You can make money here but slowly," said Manuel Henríquez, 58.

On a recent day, he wove bracelets for a group of U.S. teens from Knoxville, Tennessee, who were doing volunteer work at the shelter as part of their church service.

Henríquez Ayala bathed Alexander in a small plastic tub on the cement floor next to her bunk bed. Like all her baby's belongings, it was donated by someone across the border. Alexander wiggled and cried as she gently washed his black hair.

"I'm baptizing him," she joked to the Rev. Albert Rivera, who runs the Agape Mision Mundial church.

Rivera organized a protest and got human rights officials involved when the Tijuana hospital initially denied her father access to her after she gave birth.

Tijuana, which has one of the highest homicide rates in Mexico, is not the dream she initially sought when she fled home. But she said it is better than the life she left behind.

"I almost don't like to come out of this room," she said, smiling, standing in a narrow passage between the bunks. "I feel safe here. But I know I will have to leave someday and find a home."

Nadler: Mueller hearing to air evidence of Trump wrongdoing

By HOPE YEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House Judiciary Committee chairman said Sunday that this week's hearing with Robert Mueller will air "very substantial evidence" of wrongdoing by President Donald Trump and make a public case for impeachment. Republicans pledged sharp questioning of the special counsel about what they see as a "one-sided" Russia investigation.

Days before back-to-back hearings Wednesday, both sides seemed to agree that Mueller's testimony could be pivotal in shifting public opinion on the question of "holding the president accountable."

"This is a president who has violated the law 6 ways from Sunday," said the committee's chairman, Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y. He argued that Mueller's report lays out "very substantial evidence" that Trump is guilty of "high crimes and misdemeanors," the constitutional standard for impeachment.

"We have to present — or let Mueller present — those facts to the American people ... because the

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administration must be held accountable and no president can be above the law," Nadler said.

The House Judiciary Committee and the House Intelligence Committee will question Mueller in separate hearings on his 448-page report released in April. While the report did not find sufficient evidence to establish charges of criminal conspiracy between the Trump campaign and Russia to swing the election, it said Trump could not be cleared of trying to obstruct the investigation. But Mueller believed Trump couldn't be indicted in part because of a Justice Department opinion against prosecuting a sitting president.

Mueller has said he doesn't intend to speak beyond the findings of the report in congressional hearings.

Still, Democrats on the Judiciary Committee plan to focus on a narrow set of episodes laid out in the report to direct Americans' attention to what they see as the most egregious examples of Trump's conduct, which point to obstruction of justice.

The examples include Trump's directions to then-White House counsel Donald McGahn to have Mueller removed and, later, orders from Trump to McGahn to deny that happened. Democrats also will focus questioning on a series of meetings Trump had with former campaign manager Corey Lewandowski in which the Republican president directed Lewandowski to persuade then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions to limit Mueller's investigation.

Georgia Rep. Doug Collins, the top Republican on the committee, argued that "any thought of impeachment is waning" and that the American public has moved on. He said Republicans will be focused in their questioning on making clear that the Mueller report represents a "final episode" in the Russia probe, which he described as flawed.

"Remember, the Mueller report is a one-sided report. It has not been questioned from the other side. This is our chance to do that," Collins said.

Mueller's appearance comes more than two years since the start of the Russia investigation, an extraordinary moment in Trump's presidency when, after Trump had fired FBI Director James Comey, his Justice Department appointed Mueller to take over the inquiry into election interference and the potential role that Trump and his winning 2016 campaign may have played.

While Mueller's testimony was once envisioned as a crystalizing event, a Watergate-style moment to uncover truths, public attention has drifted in the months since the report was released.

"We want Bob Mueller to bring it to life, to talk about what's in that report," said Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., chairman of the House Intelligence Committee. "It's a pretty damning set of facts that involve a presidential campaign in a close race welcoming help from a hostile foreign power, not reporting it but eagerly embracing it, building it into their campaign strategy, lying about it to cover up, then obstructing an investigation into foreign interference again to try to cover up."

Intelligence committee aides have said they believe the public has received a slanted view of what Mueller found on the question of criminal conspiracy because of Trump's repeated claims of "no collusion," and that the details of Russia's interference in the election — and the outreach to the Trump campaign — haven't gotten enough attention.

"Who better to bring them to life than the man who did the investigation himself?" Schiff asked.

Nadler said he's not worried that Republicans might seek to attack the credibility of the Russia investigation and says he hopes to take cues from the public after the hearing about "where we go from here."

"We hope it won't end up being a dud," he said.

Nadler spoke on "Fox News Sunday," Schiff appeared on CBS' "Face the Nation" and Collins was on Fox News Channel's "Sunday Morning Futures."

Associated Press writer Mary Clare Jalonick contributed to this report.

Administration pauses enforcement of abortion restriction

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is giving taxpayer-funded family planning clinics more time to comply with its new rule that says they no longer can refer women for abortions.

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But the clinics reacted warily to the administration's enforcement pause, and the widening rift could eventually affect basic health services for many low-income women.

A notice sent Saturday night to representatives of the clinics by the Department of Health and Human Services said the government "does not intend to bring enforcement actions" against clinics that are making "good-faith efforts to comply." A copy of the notice, which includes a new timetable for the clinics, was provided to The Associated Press.

The department had said last Monday that it would require immediate compliance. That caught clinics off guard and led Planned Parenthood and other providers to say they would defy the order.

In a statement Sunday, the National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association called the administration's action "wholly insufficient." The umbrella group, which represents the clinics, is suing in federal court to block the abortion restrictions.

Clare Coleman, president of the group, said the administration's latest notice amounts to "a few bullet points."

"Failure (by HHS) to provide detailed implementation guidance may be the start of a game of 'gotcha' as it assesses compliance with the rule," the statement added.

The latest timetable from the administration says clinics must submit a compliance plan next month, and by mid-September must show they are carrying out most of the new requirements. Clinics have until next March to separate their office space and examination rooms from the physical facilities of providers that offer abortions.

By law, federal family planning money cannot be used to pay for abortions. But until now women who want to end their pregnancies could be referred by clinics to an abortion provider. Planned Parenthood, whose affiliates operate 400 clinics, provides both family planning and abortion services.

Under the administration rule, clinics also will be restricted in how they can discuss abortion as an option with pregnant women. Only physicians and advance practice clinicians will be able to have such discussions with patients. Counseling about abortion will be optional, instead of standard practice.

Known as Title X, the federal family planning program serves about 4 million women a year, and many low-income women also get basic health care from the clinics. The department distributes about \$260 million a year in grants to keep the program running.

The rule barring abortion referrals is part of a series of administration efforts to remake government policy on reproductive health to please conservatives who are a key part of President Donald Trump's political base. Religious conservatives see the family planning program as providing an indirect subsidy to Planned Parenthood, and they have long sought to deny the organization any federal money.

Puerto Rico gov will not seek reelection, but won't resign

By DÁNICA COTO Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rosselló said Sunday evening that he will not resign in the face of public furor over an obscenity-laced leaked online chat, but he will not seek reelection or continue as head of his pro-statehood political party.

Protesters said they were not satisfied by Rosselló's concessions, and pledged to continue demonstrations that have filled the streets of Old San Juan for more than a week.

"He's stretching things out. We had hoped he'd taken the decision to resign. He's making the people's pain last longer," said Emmarie Morales, a protester from southeast coastal town of Patillas. She said the governor's decision would not end the protests. "He's given us more strength to protest. We aren't going to sit around watching Netflix."

In a brief video posted on Facebook, Rosselló also said he looked forward to defending himself against the process of impeachment, whose initial stages are being explored by Puerto Rico's legislature.

"In spite of everything, I recognize that apologizing isn't enough, that only my work will help restore confidence ...," the governor said. "Facing that scenario, I announce to you that I will not seek reelection next year."

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The 889 pages of chat on the encrypted app Telegram between the governor and 11 close allies and members of his administration, all men, showed the governor and his close advisers insulting women and mocking constituents, including the victims of Hurricane Maria.

Just hours after Rosselló spoke, another top official submitted his resignation from the government.

"Unfortunately the events in recent weeks, including the attitudes reflected in the comments of officials and advisers of the current administration, do not match my values and principles," wrote Gerardo Portela, who has been principal investment officer, president of Puerto Rico's Economic Development Bank and executive director of the Housing Finance Authority.

Since the chat leaked on July 13, hundreds of thousands of outraged Puerto Ricans have marched to Rosselló's official residence in the largest protest movement on the island since Puerto Ricans successfully demonstrated to demand an end to U.S. Navy military training on the island of Vieques more than 15 years ago.

Puerto Rico's justice secretary, Wanda Vázquez, would assume the governor's role under the territorial constitution's line of succession if Rosselló should quit.

The upheaval comes as the U.S. territory is struggling to recover from Hurricane Maria and trying to restructure part of \$70 billion in debt amid a 13-year recession in this territory more than 3 million American citizens who do not have full representation in Congress or a vote for president.

"Today, I have the great responsibility to direct my efforts, and those of my administration, to keep searching for ways and means for us, united before God, to be able to keep guiding our island," the governor said.

But anger grew across the island after his message. A group of legislators and mayors from Rosselló's party remained stuck inside a community center in the upscale city of Guaynabo late Sunday as protesters arrived to demand that the governor resign. The politicians had met earlier with the Rosselló, who managed to leave with his bodyguards before the others became trapped.

On Monday morning, tens of thousands of Puerto Ricans were expected to take over one of the island's main highways to demand Rosselló's resignation as legislators considered whether to take the first steps of the impeachment process.

Arriving late Sunday to prepare for Monday's march was Nicole Quintana, a 32-year-old dentist, along with her husband and their 3-month-old son.

"We had to do it for him," she said, gesturing to her son. She said they drove about two hours from the coastal town of Isabela to participate. "Finally people have said: 'Enough is enough. This ends here.'"

Pressure on Rosselló to step down has grown throughout the week as the chorus calling for his resignation grew to include Puerto Rico music superstars Ricky Martin, Bad Bunny and Residente and a string of U.S. politicians including Congress members from both parties, several Democratic presidential candidates and Puerto Rico's non-voting representative in Congress.

Rosselló was elected governor in November 2016 with nearly 50% of the vote, and he had already announced his intention to seek a second term. A graduate of MIT with a doctorate in genetics, he is the son of former Puerto Rico Gov. Pedro Rosselló, who flew to the island to marshal support after the chat was made public.

The governor belongs to the New Progressive Party, which seeks statehood for the island, and he is also a Democrat. Most of his time has been spent seeking federal funds since Hurricane Maria devastated the island on Sept. 20, 2017, and battling austerity measures implemented by a federal control board that Congress set up to oversee the island government's finances.

The upheaval against Rosselló prompted at least four cruise ships to cancel visits to Puerto Rico, and many officials worry about the impact a resignation would have on the already fragile economy as the island rebuilds from Maria, a Category 4 storm that caused more than an estimated \$100 billion in damage.

Another concern is the recent string of arrests involving federal corruption charges targeting Puerto Rico officials, among them two former agency heads, including former education secretary Julia Keleher.

Associated Press writer Michael Weissenstein in Havana contributed to this report.

Heat and humidity grip East Coast as Midwest gets reprieve

By PHILIP MARCELO Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — The East Coast on Sunday sweated through another day of extreme heat and humidity as organizers in Boston canceled a benefit run, Delaware Civil War re-enactors got the day off and the New York Police Department implored residents to take it easy.

"Sunday has been canceled," the NYPD jokingly tweeted. "Stay indoors, nothing to see here. Really, we got this."

The central part of the country, meanwhile, enjoyed some relief as a cold front moved steadily southward and eastward across the country, bringing down the temperatures. But the cooler weather settling in Monday and Tuesday is also bringing severe storms packed with powerful winds and heavy rains that have already caused damage in the Midwest. The National Weather Service warns flash flooding might be possible in some areas.

From the Carolinas to Maine, daytime highs reached the upper 90s Sunday. Coupled with high humidity, temperatures felt as hot as 110 degrees Fahrenheit (43 degrees Celsius) in places.

"There's no point being out," Washington, D.C., bus driver Ramioka Darby remarked while taking a quick break amid temperatures of nearly 100 degrees (37.8 Celsius).

Nearby, Jack Ogten was among a steady stream of tourists milling around outside the White House. Undeterred by the stifling heat, the resident of the Netherlands joked he'd lost about 22 pounds (10 kilograms) from sweating after just one day of sightseeing.

In New York City, where all eyes were on the power grid even before the hot weather following a Manhattan blackout last weekend, electricity company Con Ed reported roughly 50,000 customers were without power as of 10 p.m. Sunday because of scattered outages, the vast majority in the boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens.

Con Ed said it reduced voltage by 8% in those areas to maintain service as repairs are made and asked those customers to turn off non-essential appliances to conserve power.

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio tweeted that the "accumulated heat and strain from the past few days has built up in the electrical equipment." He said Con Ed will start bringing power back to customers 500 at a time starting at about midnight.

The city also directed office buildings to set thermostats no lower than 78 degrees (26 degrees Celsius) through Sunday to reduce strain on its electrical grid. A day earlier, a commemoration of the 1969 moon landing planned for Times Square and an outdoor festival featuring soccer star Megan Rapinoe and musician John Legend were nixed due to the heat.

In Boston, Sunday's heat prompted cancellation of the annual Jimmy Fund 5K cancer benefit race as well as a popular Sunday market in the city's South End. City officials also once again opened up city pools free to residents as the temperature topped 90 degrees (32 degrees Celsius) for the third consecutive day.

And police in one Boston suburb posted a tongue-in-cheek request on their Facebook page. "Due to the extreme heat, we are asking anyone thinking of doing criminal activity to hold off until Monday," Braintree police wrote Friday. "Conducting criminal activity, in this extreme heat is next level henchmen status, and also very dangerous."

In Pennsylvania, nine firefighters were treated for heat exhaustion and six transported to a hospital for treatment while fighting a house fire in sweltering conditions Saturday. Several hundred people were also evacuated from a retirement community Saturday because of a power outage that may have been heat-related.

In New Hampshire, rescue crews helped a 29-year-old hiker late Saturday after he was overcome by the heat in the White Mountain National Forest.

In New Jersey, the Oceanic Bridge over the Navesink River was closed Saturday evening after it got stuck open. Monmouth County officials say heat caused expansion of the metal encasing the drawbridge,

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which is a popular route for residents and beachgoers.

The heat even prompted Delaware officials to close Fort Delaware State Park, which served as a Union prison camp during the Civil War. Temperatures were simply too high for costumed interpreters who wear wool garb to work safely this weekend, officials said.

The National Weather Service reported high temperatures for July 20 were recorded Saturday at its weather stations in Atlantic City, New Jersey, New York City, Westfield, Massachusetts, Manchester, New Hampshire, and Wallops Island, Virginia.

The heat relented early Sunday in the northern reaches of New England.

A Canadian cold front brought thunderstorms Saturday evening that dropped temperatures across northern Vermont and upstate New York. A heat advisory remained in effect for southern sections of Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine for much of the day, however.

And in many parts of the country, it's not expected to get much better when the sun goes down: temperatures are expected to remain at or above the high 70s overnight (26 degrees Celsius).

Meanwhile, parts of the Midwest are dealing with the effects of damaging winds and rain that swooped in with the cold front that's breaking up the heat wave.

In Milwaukee, utility crews restored power to more than 48,000 customers in the eastern part of the state. But around 56,000 customers were still without power Sunday after more than 700 wires, 50 power poles and over 600 trees or branches were taken down in thunderstorms, officials said.

In Michigan, power might not be restored for everyone until Tuesday.

Utility companies DTE Energy and Consumers Energy said roughly 500,000 customers are still without power after thousands of power lines were downed in a storm that was worst to hit the region since 2017.

Associated Press writers Wilson Ring in Vermont, Mark Pratt in Boston, Deepti Hajela in New York, Ron Todt in New Jersey, Brian Witte in Maryland, and Kali Robinson in Washington, D.C., contributed to this report.

1960s prankster Paul Krassner, who named Yippies, dies at 87

By CHRISTOPHER WEBER and JOHN ROGERS Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Paul Krassner, the publisher, author and radical political activist on the front lines of 1960s counterculture who helped tie together his loose-knit prankster group by naming them the Yippies, died Sunday in Southern California, his daughter said.

Krassner died at his home in Desert Hot Springs, Holly Krassner Dawson told The Associated Press. He was 87 and had recently transitioned to hospice care after an illness, Dawson said. She didn't say what the illness was.

The Yippies, who included Jerry Rubin and Abbie Hoffman and were otherwise known as the Youth International Party, briefly became notorious for such stunts as running a pig for president and throwing dollar bills onto the trading floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Hoffman and Rubin, but not Krassner, were among the so-called "Chicago 7" charged with inciting riots at 1968's chaotic Democratic National Convention.

By the end of the decade, most of the group's members had faded into obscurity. But not Krassner, who constantly reinvented himself, becoming a public speaker, freelance writer, stand-up comedian, celebrity interviewer and author of nearly a dozen books.

"He doesn't waste time," longtime friend and fellow counterculture personality Wavy Gravy once said of him. "People who waste time get buried in it. He keeps doing one thing after another."

He interviewed such celebrity acquaintances as authors Norman Mailer and Joseph Heller and the late conservative pundit Andrew Breitbart. The latter, like other conservatives, said that although he disagreed with everything Krassner stood for, he admired his sense of humor.

An advocate of unmitigated free speech, recreational drug use and personal pornography, Krassner's books included such titles as "Pot Stories For The Soul" and "Psychedelic Trips for the Mind," and he claimed

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to have taken LSD with numerous celebrities, including comedian Groucho Marx, LSD guru Timothy Leary and author Ken Kesey.

He also published several books on obscenity, some with names that can't be listed here. Two that can are "In Praise of Indecency: Dispatches From the Valley of Porn" and "Who's to Say What's Obscene: Politics, Culture & Comedy in America Today."

For his autobiography, Krassner chose the title, "Confessions of a Raving, Unconfined Nut: Misadventures in the Counterculture," using a phrase taken from an angry letter to the editor of a magazine that had once published a favorable profile of him.

"To classify Krassner as a social rebel is far too cute," the letter writer said. "He's a nut, a raving, unconfined nut."

What he really was, Krassner told The Associated Press in 2013, was a guy who enjoyed making people laugh, although one who brought a political activist's conscience to the effort.

He noted proudly that in the early 1960s, when abortion was illegal in almost every state, he ran an underground abortion referral service for women.

"That really was a turning point in my life because I had morphed from a satirist into an activist," he said.

His original career choice, however, had been music.

A child prodigy on the violin, he performed at Carnegie Hall at age 6. Later he all but gave up the instrument, only occasionally playing it as a joke during lectures or comedy routines.

"I only had a technique for playing the violin, but I had a real passion for making people laugh," he would say.

After studying journalism at New York's Baruch College, Krassner went to work for Mad Magazine before founding the satirical counterculture magazine The Realist in 1958. He continued to publish it periodically into the 1980s.

For a time in the 1950s, he also appeared on the stand-up comedy circuit. There, he would meet his mentor, Lenny Bruce, the legendary outlaw comic who pushed free speech to its limits with routines filled with obscenities and sexual innuendo that sometimes landed him in jail.

Krassner interviewed Bruce for Playboy Magazine in 1959 and edited the comedian's autobiography, "How To Talk Dirty and Influence People."

When the counterculture arrived in earnest in the '60s, Krassner was working as a comedian, freelance writer, satirist, publisher, celebrity interviewer and occasional creator of soft-core pornography. To mark the death of Walt Disney in 1966, he published a colorful wall poster showing Disney cartoon characters engaging in sex acts.

When he and other anti-war activists, free-speech advocates and assorted radicals began to plot ways to promote their causes, Krassner said he soon realized they would need a clever name if they wanted to grab the public's attention.

"I knew that we had to have a 'who' for the 'who, what, where, when and why' that would symbolize the radicalization of hippies for the media," Krassner, who co-founded the group, told the AP in 2009. "So I started going through the alphabet: Bippie, Dippie, Ippie, Sippie. I was about to give up when I came to Yippie."

As one of the last surviving Yippies, he continued to write prolifically up until his death, his daughter said.

His newest book, "Zapped by the God of Absurdity," will be released later this year. And he recently wrote the introduction for an upcoming book about his old friend Abbie Hoffman, Dawson said.

Krassner also had hoped to publish his first novel, a mystery whose protagonist is a crime-solving comedian modeled after Lenny Bruce. He got so into the story, Krassner once said, that he began to believe he was channeling Bruce's spirit. That ended, however, when the spirit reminded his old friend one day that Krassner was an atheist.

"He said to me, 'Come on, you don't even believe that (expletive),'"" Krassner recalled with a laugh.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy Cain; brother, George; daughter, Holly Krassner Dawson; and one grandchild.

Follow Weber at <https://twitter.com/WeberCM>

US hotels caught in fight over housing detained migrants

By DEE-ANN DURBIN AP Business Writer

DETROIT (AP) — There's a new target in the clash over immigration: hotels.

Advocacy groups and unions are pressuring Marriott, MGM and others not to house migrants who have been arrested by Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers.

For decades, the U.S. government has occasionally detained migrants in hotels, and Acting ICE Director Matthew Albence says it might have to split up families if hotels don't help.

It's the latest example of a private industry caught in the political fray of an overtaxed immigration system.

American and United Airlines said last year they didn't want to fly migrant children separated from their parents. Greyhound told authorities to stop dropping off immigrants inside its bus stations. More recently, immigration groups have criticized Enterprise for renting vans to federal agents and PNC Bank for funding private detention centers.

Hotels don't like to wade into politics. They're used to accepting business without questions and tuning their lobby televisions to nonpolitical channels. They're also used to working with the government, whether to host displaced flood victims, defense contractors or conferences.

But when the Trump administration announced immigration arrests targeting families the weekend of July 13 and said it might use hotels, the big companies responded. Marriott, Hilton, Choice Hotels, Best Western, Wyndham, Hyatt, IHG and MGM Resorts all released statements saying they don't want their hotels used to detain migrants.

Hotels felt pressure from their unions — which represent thousands of immigrants — as well as from customers angered by recent scenes of overcrowding and other squalid conditions at detention facilities.

"Hotels are meant to welcome people from all over the world, not jail them," said D. Taylor, president of the hotel workers union Unite Here.

The companies also needed to reassure customers that their properties are safe and not overrun by armed guards watching migrants, said Daniel Mount, an associate professor of hospitality management at Pennsylvania State University.

So far, there's been little evidence of widespread arrests.

But the hotels' stance frustrates Albence. He said ICE uses hotels "strategically" to keep families together before transferring them to detention centers or deporting them. As of July 16, the agency had 53,459 individuals in custody, including 311 members of families.

"If hotels or other places do not want to allow us to utilize that, they're almost forcing us into a situation where we're going to have to take one of the parents and put them in custody and separate them from the rest of their families," Albence told The Associated Press in a recent interview.

The Trump administration's zero tolerance policy last year led to the separation of families at the southern border, igniting widespread outcry before it was abandoned.

One national chain, Motel 6, faced lawsuits after it was accused of sharing guests' names with immigration authorities.

ICE wouldn't say whether it's now using hotels to detain migrants.

Despite the corporate positions, individual hotels might still work with ICE. Franchisees run 88% of hotels in the U.S., according to data firm STR, and their franchise agreements don't expressly prohibit detained migrants.

Hotel companies could change those agreements to ban the practice, but waiting for the deals to expire and rolling out new ones would take years, Mount said. And not all hotel owners would back the change.

Walter Barela, who runs 10 hotels across the Southwest as principal of Albuquerque, New Mexico-based Peak Hospitality, said some of his hotels on the border work with church groups to house newly arrived immigrants at discount rates. But he has never been approached by ICE about rooms for detained migrants.

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If he was, he said he would consider it. Barela, who serves on the board of the national Latino Hotel Association, said hotels close to Mexico “live and breathe off the Border Patrol.” He once sold a hotel because occupancy dropped sharply after border officers were reassigned.

“It’s not our business to stand on one side of the debate or another,” Barela said. “We have to make people across a wide spectrum feel comfortable in our establishments.”

Contracts with the government can be lucrative. According to federal contract listings, Quality Suites San Diego Otay Mesa, near the Mexican border, could earn \$502,900 between 2016 and 2020 housing migrants for ICE.

Mount says the government generally pays a higher rate than a budget hotel could command.

“If the government is saying, ‘We can fill half the hotel at \$99 per night for six months or a year,’ that’s hard business to turn away from,” he said.

Available data suggests the government detains migrants at hotels on a limited basis. On a November 2017 list of government detention facilities, just 12 of the 1,685 sites were hotels. The list, obtained by the Immigrant Legal Resource Center, also includes county jails and hospitals.

Only one of those hotels — the Quality Suites — had recently housed more than three migrants. It had as many as 120 detained migrants at one time in fall 2017.

In a September 2017 customer review on the Quality Suite’s website, a guest wrote, “The hotel booked two floors for detainees and held them there with guards in the hallways all night and noisy too. And they put our group just doors away on the same floor.”

In 2016, another guest reported that rooms were being guarded by border security. Washcloths were stuffed in the doors to prevent them from being closed, the review said.

Choice Hotels, which owns the Quality Suites brand, said the hotel signed a contract with the Department of Homeland Security — which oversees ICE — in 2016 but doesn’t plan to renew it. Choice said no migrants are currently being detained at the hotel.

The hotel’s general manager didn’t respond to several requests for comment from the AP.

John Sandweg, a former acting ICE director, said immigrants detained in hotels are usually kept there less than a week while their deportation papers or other orders are processed. They are generally confined to the room and guarded. Meals are provided.

“People will be upset about this, but in the end, it’s probably cheaper than detention,” he said.

Associated Press writers Adriana Gomez Licon in Miami, Colleen Long in Washington and Elliot Spagat in San Diego contributed.

‘Avengers: Endgame’ has passed ‘Avatar’ as biggest film ever

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The global box office has a new king in “Avengers: Endgame.”

The superhero extravaganza this weekend usurped “Avatar” to become the highest-grossing film of all time, with an estimated \$2.79 billion in worldwide grosses in just 13 weeks.

“Avatar” held onto the record for a decade at \$2.789 billion.

The title comes with a few caveats, however, including the fact that “Avatar’s” grosses are not adjusted for inflation. Also, domestically, “Avengers: Endgame” is No. 2 to “Star Wars: The Force Awakens” by around \$80 million.

Marvel Studios president Kevin Feige gave a shout-out to “Avatar” director James Cameron Saturday night at San Diego Comic-Con for holding the record for so long. Feige also noted the inflation technicality and said Cameron will probably hold the title again someday.

Lowry wins British Open in celebrated return to Emerald Isle

By DOUG FERGUSON AP Golf Writer

PORTRUSH, Northern Ireland (AP) — The outcome was never in doubt to just about everyone but Shane Lowry.

A year ago, he sat in the parking lot at Carnoustie and cried after missing the cut in the British Open for the fourth straight year. Even with a four-shot lead Sunday at Royal Portrush, in a raging wind and pouring rain, Lowry kept telling his caddie he was nervous and scared, worried that he would ruin a storybook ending to the first Open in Northern Ireland in 68 years.

"I suppose I didn't even know going out this morning if I was good enough to win a major," Lowry said. "And look, I'm here now, a major champion. I can't believe I'm saying it, to be honest."

The 32-year-old Irishman marks his golf ball with a green shamrock. This had nothing to do with luck.

With stout nerves and a soft touch around the greens, Lowry gave a sellout crowd what they wanted to see. He endured the worst weather of the week, held up under Sunday pressure and expectations of fans who cheered his every step, and won the British Open by six shots.

All he could think about was that walk up the final hole, and it was everything he imagined.

Even as the rain stopped, the tears began flowing.

"I can't believe this is me standing here," Lowry said as he cradled the silver claret jug. "I can't believe this is mine."

Lowry closed with a 1-over 72, the first time since 1996 the Open champion was over par in the final round, and it was no less impressive. More difficult than the rain was wind strong enough to break an umbrella. Lowry made four bogeys in the toughest stretch of Royal Portrush without losing ground.

No one from the last 12 groups broke par. No one got closer than three shots of Lowry all day.

"It was Shane's time, Shane's tournament," said Tommy Fleetwood, who closed with a 74 to finish runner-up for the second time in a major.

Thousands of fans who filled these links off the North Atlantic began to celebrate when Lowry rolled in an 8-foot birdie putt on the 15th hole to stretch his lead to six with three holes to play.

His smile got wider with every hole coming in. The cheers got louder.

When his approach to the 18th was just on the fringe, he stretched out his arms and hugged caddie Bo Martin, whom Lowry had leaned on with brutal honesty.

"He was great at keeping me in the moment," Lowry said. "I kept telling him how nervous I was, how scared I was, how much I didn't want to mess it up. All I could think about was walking down 18 with a four- or five-shot lead, and lucky I got to do that."

The loudest roar of a raucous week was for a tap-in par that made Lowry a major champion.

"He's done brilliantly," Lee Westwood said after grinding out a 73 to tie for fourth. "All the chasers would have wanted tough conditions and he's clearly played brilliantly to be on the score he has, under the pressure he's under."

Fleetwood, the only player who kept Lowry in range, had chances early to put more pressure on Lowry. He missed a 10-foot birdie putt on the opening hole when Lowry still had work left for bogey. Fleetwood missed a 5-foot par putt on the third and his hopes ended from a bunker and the rough that led to double bogey on the 14th.

"I never really got close enough, and Shane played great," Fleetwood said.

Tony Finau shot 71 to finish alone in third, though he was never closer than seven shots. Brooks Koepka, going for his fourth major in the last seven, began the final round seven shots behind and opened with four straight bogeys. He shot 74 and tied for fourth.

Royal Portrush last hosted the British Open in 1951, the only time it had been outside Scotland and England. It pinned hopes at the start of the week on Rory McIlroy, who missed the cut by one shot. It celebrated Darren Clarke hitting the first tee shot Thursday. The other Ulsterman, Portrush native Graeme McDowell, basked in the loudest cheers he has heard this side of the Ryder Cup when he walked up the 18th green on Sunday.

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And then along came Lowry, who teamed with McIlroy to bring Irish golf a European Amateur title in 2007, and who won the Irish Open as an amateur 10 years ago. He joins Pádraig Harrington as Irishmen to win majors, while McIlroy, McDowell, Clarke and Fred Daly are major champions from Northern Ireland.

"Everyone knows we're all one country when it comes to golf," Lowry said.

It was one big group hug when it ended, starting with his wife and daughter, and his parents. Harrington and McDowell were among those waiting behind the 18th green to share in the celebration, along with Koepka and his caddie, Ricky Elliott, once a promising amateur who grew up at Royal Portrush.

"I didn't feel great out there. It was probably the most uncomfortable I've ever felt on a golf course," Lowry said. "You're out there trying to win an Open in your home country, and it's just incredibly difficult."

It showed early when Lowry pulled his tee shot into the rough, hit into a deep bunker well short of the green and had to make an 8-foot putt just to escape with bogey. The wind was picking up and it was relentless for so much of the day. Lowry made his move on the more forgiving holes early with three birdies in a four-hole stretch through the par-5 seventh that boosted his lead to six.

And then he held on.

J.B. Holmes, who shared the 36-hole lead with Lowry until falling back Saturday, really went the wrong direction. He hit his first tee shot out-of-bounds. And it only got worse. He made one birdie and shot 87.

Lowry finished at 15-under 269 and earned \$1.935 million.

He shared his greatest moment with his family who paved the way, the players who inspired and encouraged him through the lows. And after he was introduced as "champion golfer of the year," he shared it with thousands of people he didn't even know, all of them crammed along the hillocks and swales, along the edge of the ocean, and who sat in the horseshoe-shaped grandstands on the 18th under umbrellas waiting for the Irishman to arrive.

Holding up the claret jug, Lowry said to them, "This one's for you."

More AP golf: <https://apnews.com/apf-Golf> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

In some states, GOP sees the recall as its way back to power

By JAMES ANDERSON Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — Republicans frustrated by losing their grip on political power in some Western states have begun deploying a new weapon: the recall.

Once reserved for targeting corrupt or inept elected officials, the recall has become part of the toolkit for Republicans seeking a do-over of election results. One GOP strategist in Colorado has put a name to it — "recall season."

To be sure, Democrats also have used recalls, most notably in Wisconsin, where they tried unsuccessfully to oust then-Republican Gov. Scott Walker in 2012 over his actions to weaken public sector unions.

But Republicans have been mounting recall efforts against Democratic state lawmakers and governors at an unprecedented rate over the past two years in a handful of Western states, at the same time their political fortunes in those states have been declining.

In 2018, they recalled a freshman state senator in California as a way to temporarily undo a Democratic supermajority.

The same year in Nevada, two Democratic lawmakers and an allied independent fended off recall attempts.

In Oregon, Republicans are pursuing a recall of Democratic Gov. Kate Brown, who was re-elected last year, after GOP lawmakers walked out of the Senate to try to block votes on climate change and education bills.

Colorado, where Democrats control both houses of the legislature and the governor's office, is seeing its highest level of recall activity since 2013, when two Democratic lawmakers lost their seats for supporting gun control legislation and a third facing recall resigned.

Recall campaigns are targeting Democratic Gov. Jared Polis, two Democratic state House members and two Democrats in the state Senate. Recall committees have been formed for other lawmakers, and the GOP's top-ranking officials have encouraged the efforts.

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U.S. Rep. Ken Buck, newly elected as chairman of the Colorado Republican Party, told supporters earlier this year, "We need to teach them how to spell R-E-C-A-L-L."

Colorado recall proponents accused their targets of overreach on issues of gun control, climate change, taxes, sex education and the electoral college — issues that many of the Democrats ran on during their successful campaigns.

Karen Kateline, a talk show host working on the Polis effort, insists that she and other Republicans aren't abusing the original misconduct intent for recalls.

"Nobody is putting the brakes on these people," she said of Democrats.

"It's our constitutional right to recall," insisted Nancy Pallozzi, a Republican from the Denver suburb of Lakewood, who is leading an effort against state Sen. Brittany Pettersen. "We can't wait for new (GOP) candidates to be vetted for the next election. Three more years for the governor? And three more years for Brittany? No."

Democrats see the recalls as a blatant attempt to undo the results of the most recent elections, which produced a Democratic wave in several Western states.

Matt Harringer, spokesman for the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee, has a simple label for the Republicans pursuing the recall attempts — "sore losers." The committee, which gets involved in state legislative races, has dedicated \$135,000 to help fight the Colorado recall attempts.

"Republicans are definitely on the decline in the West, and Colorado is the leader of that," Harringer said. "We don't think there's a huge appetite to recall legislators who are doing what they said they would do."

Nevertheless, Republicans see it as a worthy strategy. The Colorado Republican Party started months ago offering training sessions for what GOP consultant Ben Engen calls "recall season."

Proponents can use the process to time an election and shape the electorate on their own terms, when most voters aren't paying attention, said Engen, a Denver-based consultant who conducted some of those sessions.

For example, a petition drive can be timed to produce a special recall election during the winter holidays — taking advantage of lower turnout by unaffiliated voters who have helped turn Colorado, once a swing state, into Democratic-leaning territory, Engen said in an interview.

"There's a drop-off in turnout from presidential to midterm elections, and the same thing between midterms and off-year elections," Engen said. "Initiators of a recall can use the timing to maximize that enthusiasm gap."

To Democrats, that's essentially an admission that Republicans are using the recall not as a vehicle to oust corrupt officials, but rather as an attempt to game the system and flip seats they otherwise could not win in a regular election.

"The strategists see that a recall may be the best chance of winnowing down the electorate in such a way as to sneak through a seat," agreed Jason Bane, a Denver-based Democratic operative. "They need something that goes under the radar for it to work."

In 2018, California Democratic Sen. Josh Newman lost his seat in a recall election, ending Democrats' supermajority. Recall proponents' stated reason for the recall was Newman's support for a gas tax increase, although he was one of dozens of lawmakers in both legislative houses to vote for it. Ironically, California voters reaffirmed the gas tax increase, which is now in effect, just months after voters recalled Newman in a lower-turnout primary.

"What made me a target of the recall wasn't my vote per se, but was the opportunity to instead redo an election just months earlier, and on more favorable terms," said Newman, who plans to run for his old seat in 2020, when turnout will be far higher.

Previous success, as in California and Colorado, has emboldened Republicans to keep trying.

In Nevada, a group of conservatives say they're preparing a recall effort against first-term Democratic Gov. Steve Sisolak, who signed a law, passed by the Democratic-controlled Legislature, adding restrictions to the recall process.

Oregon Republican Party Chairman Bill Currier filed paperwork to recall Brown based on what he called the governor's failure to honor the will of the voters and her "politically-motivated agendas." Currier did

not return multiple inquiries seeking elaboration.

KC Hanson, chairwoman of the Oregon Democratic Party, called the recall effort a political stunt meant to undermine the results of the November 2018 election, which also gave Democrats a legislative supermajority.

"The GOP is embracing inflammatory rhetoric and pursuing a fool's errand by trying to recall a governor that voters re-elected by a wide margin less than a year ago," she said. "Clearly, the GOP is scared of what's on the horizon for 2020."

Recalls were first staged in a handful of states in the early 20th century, an era of progressive political reforms, to remove public officials for corruption or ineptitude. Today, 19 states allow statewide recalls, 11 of them for any reason.

Until recent years, they have rarely been used as a political tactic to flip legislative seats or target governors over policy disagreements, said Jason Spivak, who tracks recalls nationwide and is a senior fellow at Wagner College in New York.

"Voters in general see this as not playing by the rules," he said.

New Mexico is among the majority of states that does not have the recall. This year, a Republican state lawmaker sought to change that.

Rep. Bill Rehm insists the intent of his proposal was to honor the standard that recalls should be reserved for performance in office, not politics.

"I don't want it used as a political tool. And I don't want the public to use it as a threat," he said. "The public should have a way to get rid of me if I'm not performing."

The Democrats who control the New Mexico legislature were not persuaded. Rehm's bill did not get a hearing.

Associated Press writers Susan Montoya Bryan in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Michelle Price in Las Vegas and Sarah Zimmerman in Salem, Oregon, contributed to this report.

Follow James Anderson at <https://twitter.com/jandersonAP>

Military studies 'hyperfit' women who pass grueling courses

By **LOLITA C. BALDOR** Associated Press

ARMY SOLDIER SYSTEMS CENTER, Mass. (AP) — In the nearly four years since the Pentagon announced it was opening all combat jobs to women, at least 30 have earned the Army Ranger tab, two have graduated Marine infantry school and three have passed the grueling initial assessment phase for Green Beret training.

Their numbers are small, but their completion of some of the military's most arduous physical and mental courses has raised an intriguing scientific question: Who are these "hyperfit" women and what makes them so competitive?

Army medical researchers hope to uncover answers in a just-launched voluntary study.

"We're really interested in those elite women that are the first to make it through physically demanding training," said Holly McClung, a nutritional physiologist at the Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine in Massachusetts. "The real point of the study is to characterize this unique cohort of women that has made it through these traditionally male trainings."

During early debate on the move to open all combat jobs to women, military leaders raised questions about whether women were up to the jobs or if putting them on the front lines would make units less capable. The Marine Corps sought an exemption to keep some combat jobs closed for precisely that reason, but they were overruled by then-Defense Secretary Ash Carter.

Women, however, have increasingly made it through the nine-week Ranger course, and the numbers of those trying out for other special operations jobs is slowly inching up. The courses all encompass a number of phases and run from about nine weeks to a year or two for the most elite commando jobs.

They involve a wide array of grueling physical fitness tests, combat water survival, day and night land

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navigation, long road marches carrying heavy packs, extended patrols through various climates, and extensive mental, psychological and leadership testing.

The goal, said McClung, is to identify the attributes — whether mental, physical or psychological — that help the women succeed. By unlocking those secrets, maybe they can help other women compete for the same jobs.

In a small basement office at this Army base in Natick, Massachusetts, McClung and Julie Hughes, a research physiologist, are setting up a treadmill that's linked to a nearby computer. They plan to have the women use a mask and breathing apparatus to calculate each participant's VO_2 Max score, a key fitness indicator. The score measures how many millimeters of oxygen used per kilogram of body weight per minute; in other words, how much oxygen is being used at a person's peak exercise rate.

An average sedentary person may have a score of about 30. Top athletes — runners and cyclists — can score in the 80s.

The plan, at this point, is to have the military women come to Natick, in groups of two or three, and go through a range of tests over three days to identify biological and physiological markers that help define them as hyperfit. Having several tested at the same time, McClung said, will make it more interesting and encourage competition.

"This is a unique historical time," said Hughes. "There's this group of women who made it through the training so we want to get them to at least do these observational investigations to explore what makes them unique."

That breathing test, along with others on their blood, calcium and iron levels, as well as bone density scans and exercise programs will be used to determine the women's physical fitness. Other written tests and interviews will evaluate their mental toughness and psychological resilience.

The women will take three psychological exams that are designed to determine their grit, hardiness and resilience.

For example, the military version of the resilience test lists statements and asks people to determine on a scale of one to five if the statement is definitely or mostly false, "don't know" or mostly or definitely true. Some examples of the statements are: I enjoy most things in life; I often feel helpless; I like to have a lot of structure in my life; I carefully plan just about everything I do; it bothers me when my daily routine gets interrupted; and my successes are because of my effort and ability.

Mark Esper, President Donald Trump's nominee for defense secretary, said the study will be important to help understand fitness and perhaps reduce injury rates. He was serving as Army secretary when this study was first broached.

"My belief is it's grit — grit gets them through this," he said. "You have to have a certain level of athletic ability, but they take it to an extraordinary level. These women are tough."

McClung said she received word on July 12 that the final study was approved. She said that if more women graduate from any of the military training courses, they could be added to the study.

McClung and Hughes also said they hope to be able to compare the women's results with similar testing on men.

It will be up to the women to decide if they want to participate. But based on feedback from some of the women, they think a number of them will want to take part in the study.

"I think we're encouraged that they'll be willing to participate," Hughes said. "They want to be counted."

Today in History By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, July 22, the 203rd day of 2019. There are 162 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 22, 1991, police in Milwaukee arrested Jeffrey Dahmer, who later confessed to murdering 17 men and boys (Dahmer ended up being beaten to death by a fellow prison inmate).

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On this date:

In 1587, an English colony fated to vanish under mysterious circumstances was established on Roanoke Island off North Carolina.

In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln presented to his Cabinet a preliminary draft of the Emancipation Proclamation.

In 1934, bank robber John Dillinger was shot to death by federal agents outside Chicago's Biograph Theater, where he had just seen the Clark Gable movie "Manhattan Melodrama."

In 1937, the U.S. Senate rejected President Franklin D. Roosevelt's proposal to add more justices to the Supreme Court.

In 1942, the Nazis began transporting Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto to the Treblinka concentration camp. Gasoline rationing involving the use of coupons began along the Atlantic seaboard.

In 1943, American forces led by Gen. George S. Patton captured Palermo, Sicily, during World War II.

In 1946, the militant Zionist group Irgun blew up a wing of the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, killing 91 people.

In 1975, the House of Representatives joined the Senate in voting to restore the American citizenship of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee.

In 1992, Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar escaped from his luxury prison near Medellin (meh-deh-YEEN'). (He was slain by security forces in December 1993.)

In 2005, a labor agreement ended an NHL lockout that canceled the previous hockey season.

In 2008, actress Estelle Getty died in Los Angeles at age 84.

In 2011, Anders Breivik (AHN'-durs BRAY'-vihk), a self-described "militant nationalist," massacred 69 people at a Norwegian island youth retreat after detonating a bomb in nearby Oslo that killed eight others in the nation's worst violence since World War II.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama told a prime-time press conference that Cambridge, Massachusetts, police had acted "stupidly" in the arrest of prominent black scholar Henry Louis Gates Jr., and that despite racial progress, blacks and Hispanics were still singled out unfairly for arrest. Earlier, the president met at the White House with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. Millions of Asians witnessed the longest solar eclipse of this century; in some areas, totality lasted as long as six minutes and 39 seconds.

Five years ago: A Hamas rocket exploded near Israel's main airport, prompting a ban on flights from the U.S. and many from Europe and Canada. Johann Breyer, an 89-year-old Nazi war crimes suspect, died at a Philadelphia hospital hours before a U.S. ruling that he should be extradited to Germany to face trial.

One year ago: A man walking along a Toronto street fired a handgun into restaurants and cafes, killing two people and wounding 13 others; authorities said Faisal Hussain, described as an emotionally disturbed loner, fatally shot himself after the rampage. The 17 people killed when a tourist boat sank in a Missouri lake three days earlier were remembered at a service attended by hundreds in the tourism community of Branson. For the first time in nine years, Tiger Woods took the lead in the final round of a major golf tournament before finishing in a tie for sixth at the British Open; the event was won by Francesco Molinari in the first-ever major golf championship for an Italian.

Today's Birthdays: Former Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., is 96. Actor-comedian Orson Bean is 91. Author Tom Robbins is 87. Actress Louise Fletcher is 85. Rhythm-and-blues singer Chuck Jackson is 82. Actor Terence Stamp is 81. Game show host Alex Trebek is 79. Singer George Clinton is 78. Actor-singer Bobby Sherman is 76. Former Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, is 76. Movie writer-director Paul Schrader is 73. Actor Danny Glover is 73. Singer Mireille Mathieu is 73. Actor-comedian-director Albert Brooks is 72. Rock singer Don Henley is 72. Movie composer Alan Menken is 70. Singer-actress Lonette McKee is 66. Jazz musician Al Di Meola (mee-OH'-lah) is 65. Actor Willem Dafoe is 64. Rhythm-and-blues singer Keith Sweat is 58. Actress Joanna Goings is 56. Actor Rob Estes is 56. Folk singer Emily Saliers (Indigo Girls) is 56. Actor John Leguizamo (leh-gwih-ZAH'-moh) is 55. Actor-comedian David Spade is 55. Actor Patrick Labyorteaux is 54. Rock musician Pat Badger is 52. Actress Irene Bedard is 52. Actor Rhys Ifans (rees EYE'-fan) is 52. Actress Diana Maria Riva is 50. Actor Colin Ferguson is 47. Actor/singer Jaime Camil is 46. Retired NFL player Keyshawn Johnson is 47. Rock musician Daniel Jones is 46. Singer Rufus

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Wainwright is 46. Actress Franka Potente (poh-TEN'-tay) is 45. Actress Parisa Fitz-Henley is 42. Actress A.J. Cook is 41. Actor Keegan Allen is 32. Actress Camila Banus is 29. Actress Selena Gomez is 27. Britain's Prince George of Cambridge is six.

Thought for Today: "Life is the art of drawing without an eraser." — John W. Gardner, American government official (1912-2002).