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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.

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



Stolles have Yard of the Week

The Bill and Penny Stolle yard at 404 E 6th Ave. was chosen as last week's Yard of the Week. The Yard of the Week is chosen by members of the Groton Garden Club. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Essential Health Benefits Benchmark Design Changes Approved for Plan Year 2021

PIERRE, S.D. – State Division of Insurance Director Larry Deiter announced the proposed Essential Health Benefits (EHB) benchmark design for plan year 2021 has been approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid/Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CMS/CCIIO).

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) requires a designated EHB benchmark plan for each state. This plan design acts as a baseline for all ACA-compliant individual or small group health coverage offered in the state.

“Beginning in 2021, health insurance plans in the individual and small group ACA market in South Dakota must include a minimum coverage requirement in their plan design for applied behavior analysis therapy for the treatment of autism spectrum disorder,” said Deiter.

South Dakota proposed the change after updated federal regulations allowed states greater flexibility in determining the benchmark plan design. The state’s current benchmark has been in place since 2014.

The application process included the completion of actuarial analysis of the current benchmark and the impact of a change in plan design, a public comment period and submission of all documents to CMS/CCIIO for review and final federal approval.

[View information](#) on the 2021 EHB benchmark plan.



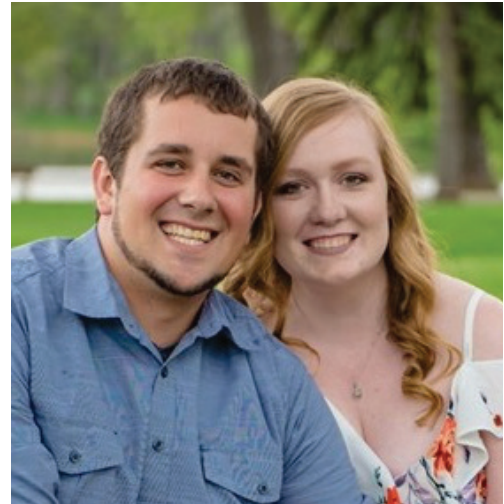
Come and Go Bridal Shower
Honoring Brooke Lesher
(Bride-to-be of Kevin Hagen)

Bridal Shower

July 27, 2019
9:30AM – 11:30AM
United Methodist Church
201 6th Street
Claremont, SD 57432

Brooke and Kevin are registered at Target and would love gift cards from Menards for home improvement projects

The couple will celebrate their marriage in October at Claremont United Methodist Church



Geist Bridal Shower

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

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

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

MS/HS Administrative Assistant/Study Hall
Supervisor

Yearbook Advisor

Assistant Boys Basketball Coach

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

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

The Groton Area School District is an Equal
Opportunity Employer.

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Today



Sunny

High: 84 °F

Tonight



Mostly Cloudy
then Slight
Chance
T-storms

Low: 67 °F

Thursday



Slight Chance
T-storms

High: 89 °F

Thursday
Night



Slight Chance
T-storms


Low: 65 °F

Friday




Hot

High: 91 °F




Dry again today






Highs: 80s to near 90°
Breezy southerly winds increasing 10 to 20 mph
Increasing clouds

Tonight



Lows: upper 60s
Isolated showers and storms W of the Missouri River,
expanding across E SD and W MN overnight.

 NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
Aberdeen, SD 7/24/2019 6:18 AM  

Published on: 07/24/2019 at 2:18AM

A breezy southerly wind will develop this afternoon as temperatures rise into the 80s to near 90 degrees. Isolated showers and a few thunderstorms will return tonight.

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Today in Weather History

July 24, 1993: A severe thunderstorm struck southern Hyde County, including the city of Highmore, with winds more than 60 mph and heavy rains of two to four inches. Near Stephan, in far southern Hyde County, an estimated of over four inches of rain in 20 minutes caused flooding damage to a bridge. Three to nine inches of rain caused widespread flash flooding and flood damage to Day, Roberts, and southeastern Marshall Counties. Especially hard hit was an area from Webster, northeastward through the Pickerell and Buffalo Lakes area, to Sisseton. A state of emergency was declared in Sisseton. The heavy rains overwhelmed a small creek that flows through Sisseton, swelling it to three blocks wide and up to five feet deep. The rushing water carried lumber, railroad ties, propane tanks, and several vehicles. Flood damage occurred to 70 percent of all buildings in Sisseton, including 100 homes. In Webster, the excessive rain flooded all the sewer lifts that pump water out of low-lying areas in town. The sewer system then backed up into homes and businesses. The rainstorm flooded nine of the 12 main floor rooms at the Super 8 motel in Webster. Roads and bridge damage was also extensive in Roberts, Day, and Marshall Counties with about 50 roads and bridges in Day County damaged by the flooding. Areas lakes, including Pickerell, Blue Dog, Enemy Swim, and Buffalo lakes rose over two feet, inundating areas around lake homes and submerging docks. Some estimated storm total rainfall amounts include; 4.60 inches in Webster; 3.91 in Waubay; 3.90 in Britton; and 3.60 inches near Ashton.

July 24, 1997: Over 6 inches of rain fell in the Conde area in far northeast Spink County. Water was over Highway 37, and many town basements were flooded. One basement filled with 5 feet of water. Nearly 7 inches of rain was received at Lake Poinsett, and over 6 inches of rain was received in Estelline. Hidewood Creek in Hamlin County overflowed its banks. Water went into many residences homes, and some people were evacuated. A small bridge was taken out by the high water, and Highway 28 was closed for an hour.

1930: An estimated, F5 tornado tore through Montello, Veneto, and Friuli in Italy. The tornado killed 23 people along its 50 miles path.

1952: The temperature at Louisville, Georgia soared to 112 degrees to establish a state record. The temperature also hit 112 degrees in Greenville, Georgia on August 20, 1983.

2008: A tornado fluctuated between the category EF1 and the more destructive EF2 strikes Northwood and Pittsfield, as well as nine other towns in New Hampshire. It first touches down in Deerfield, then travels through Northwood, Epsom, Pittsfield, Barnstead, and Alton. From there, it rages through New Durham, Wolfboro, Freedom, Ossipee, and Effingham. The storm destroys several homes, damaged dozens of others and kills at least one person.

1926 - A hurricane came inland near Daytona Beach, FL. The hurricane caused 2.5 million dollars damage in eastern Florida, including the Jacksonville area. (David Ludlum)

1939 - The temperature at Lewiston, ID, hit 117 degrees to establish an all-time record high for that location. (The Weather Channel)

1943 - On a whim, and flying a single engine AT-6, Lieutenant Ralph O'Hair and Colonel Duckworth were the first to fly into a hurricane. It started regular Air Force flights into hurricanes. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms in Minnesota spawned a tornado which moved in a southwesterly direction for a distance of thirty miles across Rice County and Goodhue County. Trees were uprooted and tossed about like toys, and a horse lifted by the tornado was observed sailing horizontally through the air. Thunderstorms drenched La Crosse, WI, with 5.26 inches of rain, their second highest 24 hour total of record. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Hot weather prevailed in the north central U.S. Williston, ND, reported a record high of 108 degrees. Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the eastern U.S., and in southeastern Texas. Richland County, SC, was soaked with up to 5.5 inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced locally heavy rains in the southwestern U.S. Yuma, AZ, experienced their most severe thunderstorm of record. Strong thunderstorm winds, with unofficial gusts as high as 95 mph, reduced visibilities to near zero in blowing dust and sand. Yuma got nearly as much rain in one hour as is normally received in an entire year. The storm total of 2.55 inches of rain was a record 24 hour total for July. Property damage due to flash flooding and high winds was in the millions. (Storm Data)

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 81 °F at 3:04 PM

Low Temp: 57 °F at 5:37 AM

Wind: 10 mph at 2:23 PM

Day Rain: 0.00

Record High: 108° in 1931

Record Low: 46° in 1905

Average High: 84°F

Average Low: 60°F

Average Precip in July.: 2.34

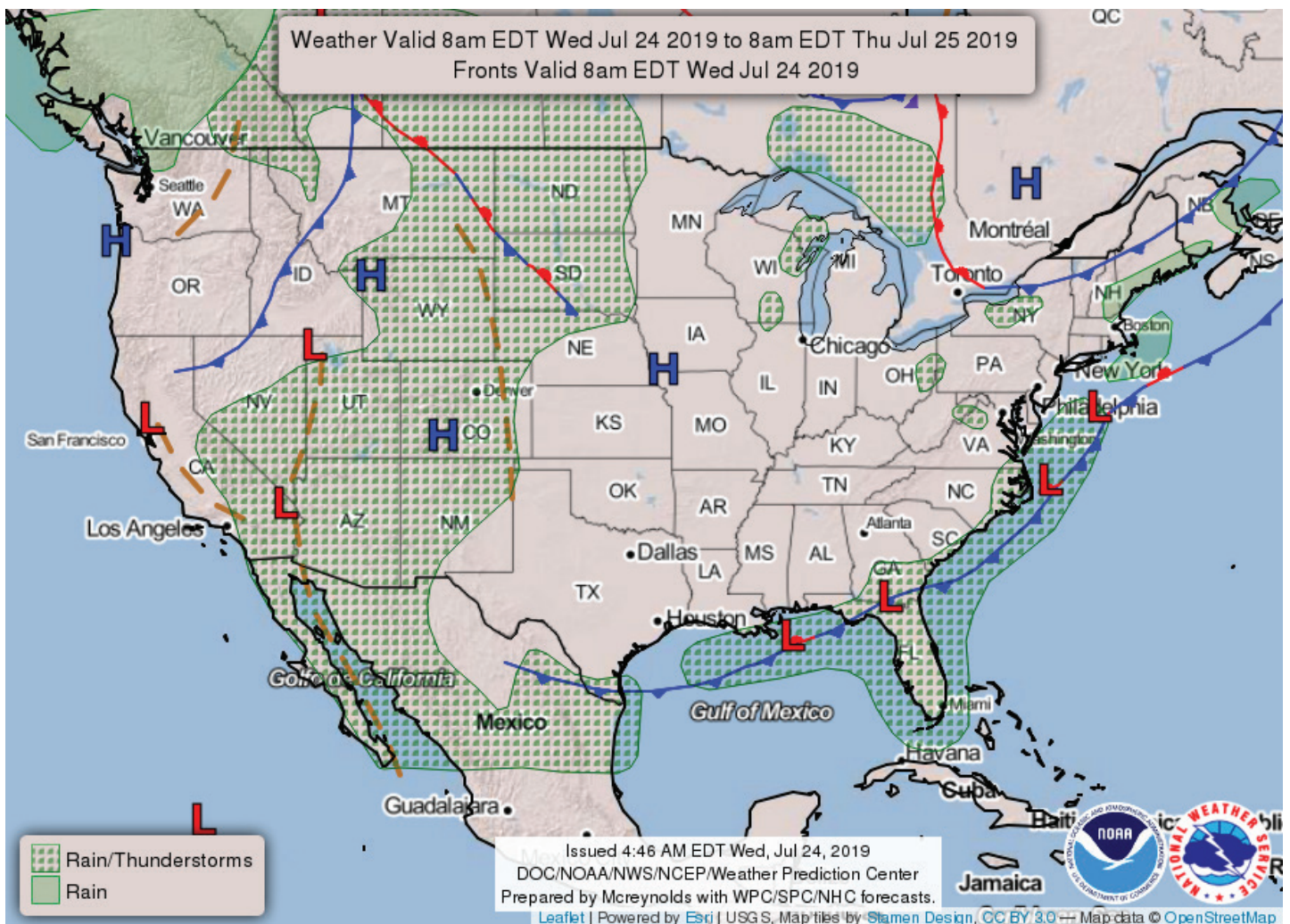
Precip to date in July.: 2.87

Average Precip to date: 13.18

Precip Year to Date: 15.59

Sunset Tonight: 9:11 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:10 a.m.



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GOD IS SOVEREIGN

NO! NO! NO! How many times have parents scolded their children with those three negative warnings? Index finger pointing, a furrowed scowl on their brow, and a stern warning in their voice to stop this very instant. Whether or not the threat works the first, second or third time may well depend on the determination of the parent or the will of the child.

There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the Lord is a powerful statement. Throughout Proverbs, wisdom and insight and plans have had their source in and from God. Here it is quite different. Solomon is warning anyone who wants to challenge Gods sovereignty to realize that it is a futile battle. He does not say there is no insight, wisdom or plan in a combined statement He emphasizes each one - specifically - by preceding it with NO!

Whatever we devise apart from God will ultimately and completely fail. We may have carefully and completely researched the steps to achieve our goal. But it will never replace Gods wisdom, and when applied or put into action, it will not succeed.

Apart from God, everything - including wisdom, insight, and plans - will be incomplete. Only in Him and through Him and with Him will whatever we do be complete and succeed. What we say and think, research and reason, talk about and work on will have its flaws. And it is not because God wants us to fail. It is because He demands that we depend completely on Him.

Attempting to do anything without humility, feelings of inadequacy, and complete dependence on God, cannot or will not be as successful as it could be with His wisdom and insight. We can expect His blessings if we acknowledge our need for Him to be at the heart of all we do. Apart from Him, we have no hope to achieve what He has planned for our lives.

Prayer: Lord, if we are honest with ourselves, then with You, we will admit that whatever we do will be incomplete or inadequate. Help us always to depend on You. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 21:30 There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the Lord.

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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

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

01-04-23-40-45, Mega Ball: 11, Megaplier: 2

(one, four, twenty-three, forty, forty-five; Mega Ball: eleven; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$168 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$63 million

South Dakota Little Leaguer OK after being hit by line drive

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Brandon Valley starting pitcher Brayden Miller appears OK after being struck by a line drive in the title game of the South Dakota State Little League tournament in Rapid City.

Coach Mitch Zerr says Miller was able to get his hand up and partially deflect the sharp liner hit back to the mound in the fourth inning Monday. The ball struck Miller on his lip and right cheek.

Canyon Lake coach Kyle Yamada says it was "a very scary moment."

The Rapid City Journal says after being looked over by on-site medical personnel, Miller returned to the dugout as his team batted in the bottom of the fifth inning. He also and took part in postgame activities with his teammates.

Canyon Lake won the championship 18-6 in five innings.

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

State Patrol: Missing woman found with injuries in Nebraska

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A missing South Dakota woman has been found in Nebraska and her ex-boyfriend has been arrested for assaulting her.

The 21-year-old Rapid City woman was being treated for "significant injuries" at Chadron Community Hospital Sunday. The Nebraska State Patrol says hospital staff called police after the woman said she was sexually assaulted and beaten multiple times at a Chadron motel. Family members in South Dakota reported the woman missing on July 14.

Police arrested her 33-year-old ex-boyfriend from Rapid City Sunday night in Chadron. He is being held in the Scouts Bluff County Jail.

Forensic genealogy may help ID shooting victim found in 2000

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Advances in DNA technology and forensic genealogy may finally give law enforcement officers answers about the identity of a man shot to death decades ago in western South Dakota.

Trappers found the man's skeletal remains hidden beneath a couple of wooden packing crates near the Orman Dam about 4 miles north of St. Onge in February 2000. An autopsy determined the man died of multiple gunshots between 1997 and 1999.

Officials earlier released 3D images of the victim's facial reconstruction, but that has not led to his identity, the Rapid City Journal reported. Now officials are turning to advanced DNA technology and genealogy websites in hopes of identifying him through family members, according to Lawrence County State's Attorney John Fitzgerald.

"His voice was silenced by his murder but now we have technology bearing witness for him," Fitzgerald

said Monday. "The technology that's being utilized today didn't exist many years ago. This is something new."

Local law enforcement officers are working with the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation, forensic genealogist Dr. Colleen Fitzpatrick and Bode Technology, a Virginia-based forensic genealogy company.

A new DNA sample was extracted from the victim's bones about three months ago and was found to have about 51% European heritage and 43% North and Central American heritage, authorities said. His DNA also has been connected with second, third and fourth cousins using genealogical websites.

Officials are waiting to identify closer relatives before reaching out and asking if they have any missing relatives who fit his description. Authorities said once they learn the victim's identity they can focus on possible suspects in the man's death.

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

Did Facebook data help Trump? 'Great Hack' explores scandal

By ANICK JESDANUN AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The new documentary "The Great Hack" captures how Facebook's cavalier handling of user data in the Cambridge Analytica scandal posed a threat to democracy.

But it doesn't prove claims in the movie that the ill-gotten data helped elect Donald Trump.

The movie, out on Netflix and some theaters Wednesday, follows former Cambridge Analytica executive Brittany Kaiser around the world, from the Burning Man festival in Nevada to a pool at a hideout in Thailand to a flight from New York to testify in Robert Mueller's investigation on 2016 election interference. She reveals internal emails, calendar entries and video sales pitches, although the movie doesn't quite connect the dots on what the documents really say.

Instead, the movie is mostly a recap of what's already been reported in various news outlets. If you've never heard of Cambridge Analytica, or you aren't steeped in all the details of the scandal that landed Mark Zuckerberg in front of Congress and his company under major federal investigations, "The Great Hack" provides a good overview on the way companies like Facebook collect and use data to influence your thinking. It's also worth watching for a reminder of the tremendous power and threat of Big Data.

Cambridge Analytica drew data through a Facebook app that purported to be a psychological research tool. Roughly 270,000 people downloaded and shared personal details with the app. Under Facebook's policies at the time, the app was able to draw information from those users' friends as well, even though those friends never consented. Facebook said as many as 87 million people might have had their data accessed.

The app was designed by then-Cambridge University psychology professor Aleksandr Kogan. Cambridge Analytica, whose clients included Trump's 2016 general election campaign, paid Kogan for a copy of the data, even though the firm was not authorized to have that information. Cambridge Analytica shifted the blame to Kogan, who in turn accused Facebook of trying to deflect attention from what he called its own negligent and systematic exposure of user data. The scandal broke in March 2018 after newspapers reported that Cambridge Analytica still had data it had promised to delete after learning of its questionable origins.

Listening to Kaiser, a self-described whistleblower, you might think Cambridge Analytica won the election for Trump. Kaiser, who was the firm's business development director, explained that the data helped Cambridge Analytica identify "persuadable voters." She said the firm targeted blogs, websites, articles, videos and ads specifically at them "until they saw the world the way we wanted them to."

David Carroll, a Parsons School of Design professor who is also heavily featured in the movie, said that given how close the election was in certain states, just turning a "tiny slice of the population" was enough.

Federal election records show that the Trump campaign paid Cambridge Analytica roughly \$6 million. Cambridge Analytica said it never used Kogan's data in its work for Trump. The Trump campaign also denied using the firm's data.

Experts say Cambridge Analytica's influence was plausible but inconclusive.

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"They had the data, (but) it's not quite clear how it was fully rolled out," Jennifer Grygiel, a Syracuse University communications professor, told The Associated Press. "It looks like they did take some kind of action. We just don't have enough detail to see what kind of impact it had."

But she said Cambridge Analytica's work cannot be taken in isolation.

Not until 12 minutes before the credits roll does the movie mention other factors at play, including a Russian-led misinformation campaign centered on fake posts and ads to sow discontent in the U.S. electorate. It was then that Kaiser expresses doubt: "Maybe I wanted to believe that Cambridge Analytica was just the best. It's a convenient story to believe."

Kaiser told the U.K. Parliament last year that Cambridge had also worked with Brexit supporters. Among other things, "The Great Hack" shows footage of Kaiser on stage during the Leave.EU campaign launch. It also shows Leave.EU's online statement on hiring the firm. But Cambridge Analytica has denied involvement in the campaign for the U.K. to leave the European Union.

It's not surprising that Cambridge Analytica's marketing pitches, as disclosed by Kaiser and through undercover footage captured by Britain's Channel 4, would boast of the company's capabilities. And it's not surprising that the company would seek to minimize its role once caught. The truth is likely somewhere in between — but just where, the movie doesn't explore.

The original Cambridge Analytica whistleblower, Chris Wylie, told the U.K. Parliament that it doesn't really matter whether the firm succeeded.

"When you're caught in the Olympics doping, there's not a debate about how much illegal drug you took, right? Or, 'Well, he probably would have come in first anyway,'" Wylie said in a snippet included in the movie. "If you're caught cheating, you lose your medal."

He was discussing the potential role Cambridge Analytica played in Brexit, but his sentiment could have easily applied to Trump. In other words, it's bad enough that this was going on, irrespective of whether it worked.

The movie could have left it there. Instead, it tries to suggest a larger influence, without fully exploring those dynamics.

British investigative journalist Carole Cadwalladr, who broke the initial stories on the scandal for The Guardian newspaper, noted in the movie that Cambridge Analytica "actually points to this much bigger, more worrying story, which is that our personal data is out there and being used against us in ways we don't understand."

The movie tries to illustrate that through Carroll's quest to get information on what Cambridge Analytica had on him. His efforts were ultimately rebuffed, and the filmmakers didn't learn more on their own. Nor did the movie explore Facebook's own attitudes toward data or what Syracuse professor Grygiel described as a fake news environment for Cambridge Analytica to exploit.

"If I were to make a movie today, it would not be about Cambridge Analytica," Grygiel said. "It would be about Facebook Inc. and the depth of their influence."

Robert Mueller to take center stage at Russia probe hearings

By ERIC TUCKER, MARY CLARE JALONICK and MICHAEL BALSAMO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Trump-Russia special counsel Robert Mueller finally faces congressional interrogators on Wednesday, testifying in televised hearings that Democrats hope will weaken President Donald Trump's reelection prospects in ways that Mueller's book-length report did not. Republicans are ready to defend Trump and turn their fire on Mueller and his team instead.

The back-to-back Capitol Hill appearances, Mueller's first since wrapping his two-year Russia probe last spring, carry the extraordinary spectacle of a prosecutor discussing in public a criminal investigation he conducted into a sitting U.S. president. The hearings come at a moment of deep divisions in Congress and the country, and they raise serious questions about whether Mueller will change anyone's hardened opinions about impeachment and the future of Trump's presidency.

Mueller, known for his taciturn nature, has warned that he will not stray beyond what's already been

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revealed in his report . And the Justice Department has instructed Mueller to stay strictly within those parameters, giving him a formal directive to point to if he faces questions he does not want to answer.

On Tuesday, Democrats on the House judiciary and intelligence committees granted his request to have his top aide in the investigation, Aaron Zebley, sit at the table with him. Zebley is not expected to be sworn in for questioning by the judiciary panel. But he will be able to answer questions before the intelligence committee, where, a committee aide said, he will be sworn in. The aide was not authorized to discuss the hearing preparations publicly and requested anonymity.

Trump lashed out early Wednesday ahead of the hearing, saying on Twitter that "Democrats and others" are trying to fabricate a crime and pin it on "a very innocent President."

"Why didn't Robert Mueller investigate the investigators?" Trump said in his tweet.

Trump has made Mueller a regular target of attack over the past two years in an attempt to undermine his credibility and portray him as biased and compromised.

Over the last week, Trump began to frequently ask confidants how he thought the hearing would go, and while he expressed no worry that Mueller would reveal anything damaging, he was irritated that the former special counsel was being given the national stage, according to two Republicans close to the White House. They were not authorized to speak publicly about private conversations.

Long aware of the power of televised images, Trump seethed to one adviser that he was annoyed Democrats would be given a tool to ramp up their investigations — and that the cable news networks would now have new footage of Mueller to play endlessly on loop in an effort to embarrass the White House.

Mueller's approach to testifying may well deny Democrats the made-by-TV moments they want to rally their base. But Republicans, too, are likely to be left without their sought-after confirmation that the Russia investigation was a politically tainted waste of time.

Trump this week feigned indifference to Mueller's testimony , telling reporters in the Oval Office on Monday, "I'm not going to be watching — probably — maybe I'll see a little bit of it."

The president has a light schedule when Mueller begins speaking Wednesday morning, then heads to West Virginia for evening fundraisers. The TVs aboard Air Force One are likely to be tuned to coverage of the hearings, and the president is expected to watch or be briefed on most of the proceedings, according to four administration officials and Republicans close to the White House. They spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss internal plans.

Yet the former special counsel need not say much to have his own quiet impact: His mere appearance will give voice to the 448-page legal thicket known as the Mueller report. His testimony, however sparse, will convert from dense paragraphs into plain English a document many in America have yet to wade through.

Mueller may create a powerful impression simply by confirming without hesitation some damning details from his report. A former FBI director who spent 12 years parrying questions from lawmakers at oversight hearings, and decades before that as a prosecutor who asked questions of his own, Mueller is unlikely to be goaded into saying anything he doesn't want to say.

In fact, he had to be subpoenaed to show up in the first place.

Wednesday's first hearing before the Judiciary Committee will focus on whether the president illegally obstructed justice by attempting to seize control of Mueller's investigation.

The special counsel examined nearly a dozen episodes , including Trump's firing of FBI Director James Comey and his efforts to have Mueller himself removed. Mueller in his report ultimately declined to state whether the president broke the law, saying such a judgment would be unfair in light of Justice Department legal opinions that bar the indictment of a sitting president.

The afternoon hearing before the House intelligence committee will dive into ties between the Trump campaign and the Kremlin.

On that question, Mueller's report documented a trail of contacts between Russians and Trump associates — including a Trump Tower meeting at which the president's eldest son expected to receive dirt on Democrat Hillary Clinton — but the special counsel found insufficient evidence of a criminal conspiracy aiming to tip the 2016 election.

Like most Russia-related hearings before Congress, this one is likely to divide sharply along partisan lines. Democrats are angling to draw Mueller out on some of the most incendiary findings of the report, including Trump's repeated attempts to choke off the investigation.

Even if the testimony won't inspire impeachment demands — House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has made clear she will not pursue impeachment, for now — Democrats hope Mueller can unambiguously spell out questionable, norm-shattering actions by the president.

Republicans, by contrast, are likely to confront Mueller on the origins of the FBI's Russia probe and whether opposition to the Trump campaign drove the early days of the investigation.

They'll ask about a dossier of opposition research compiled by a former British spy that was funded by Democrats and cited by the Justice Department in its application for a secret surveillance warrant on a former Trump campaign associate.

They'll also press Mueller on Peter Strzok, the former FBI counterintelligence agent who badmouthed Trump over text message even as he was helping lead an investigation into the campaign. Mueller fired him once the texts were discovered two years ago, but Strzok has remained a talking point for Trump in trying to discredit Mueller's work.

Mueller also is likely to be asked about his own tensions with Attorney General William Barr over how the report was handled and how its findings were communicated to the public.

Mueller complained privately to Barr in March that the attorney general's four-page letter summarizing the main findings of his report "did not fully capture the context, nature and substance of this office's work and conclusions." Barr, in turn, has called Mueller's note "a bit snitty."

Mueller has made clear he didn't think it was appropriate to make a determination one way or the other about whether the president had committed a crime. He has rejected Barr's assessment that the evidence couldn't satisfy an obstruction of justice allegation, noting both in his report — and, again, in a public statement from the Justice Department podium — that if he had confidence the president had not committed a crime, he would have said so.

Barr had no such hesitation and said Mueller shouldn't have started investigating the president if he wasn't prepared to reach a conclusion.

Associated Press writer Jonathan Lemire in New York contributed to this report.

For more of AP's coverage of the Trump investigation: <https://apnews.com/TrumpInvestigations>

ICE releases US citizen, 18, wrongfully detained near border

By NOMAAN MERCHANT Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — A U.S.-born 18-year-old has been released from immigration custody after wrongfully being detained for more than three weeks.

Francisco Erwin Galicia left a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention center in Pearsall, Texas, on Tuesday. His lawyer, Claudia Galan, confirmed he had been released, less than a day after The Dallas Morning News reported about his detention.

ICE did not immediately comment. Nor did U.S. Customs and Border Protection, which oversees the Border Patrol, the agency that first detained Galicia.

Galicia lives in the border city of Edinburg, Texas, and was traveling north with a group of friends when they were stopped at a Border Patrol inland checkpoint. According to Galan and the Morning News, agents apprehended Galicia on suspicion that he was in the U.S. illegally even though he had a Texas state ID.

Galicia was detained for three weeks by the Border Patrol, then transferred to the ICE detention center.

Galan said she believes Galicia was "absolutely" a victim of racial profiling. The others in the vehicle with him were all Latinos, including his 17-year-old brother Marlon, who was born in Mexico and was in the U.S. illegally. Marlon told the Morning News that he agreed to be returned to Mexico.

"I'm so thankful Francisco is free and he can sleep at home tonight and see his mom," she said.

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The Border Patrol apprehends people entering the U.S. illegally, both directly at the U.S.-Mexico border and with its series of highway checkpoints miles from the border. In most cases, agents glance at drivers passing through the checkpoints and let them pass quickly. A passport or proof of citizenship is not normally demanded to pass through an inland checkpoint.

Galicia was detained by the Border Patrol for well above the 72 hours that CBP says it is supposed to hold detainees. But in South Texas' Rio Grande Valley, where Galicia was arrested, the Border Patrol is holding hundreds of adult men and women accused of entering the country illegally for longer than 72 hours. In McAllen, Texas, adult men are being held in fenced-in pens. Vice President Mike Pence visited those pens this month, and reports and video of conditions there sparked outrage.

The Morning News reported that Galicia wasn't transferred out of Border Patrol custody to ICE until Saturday. That's when he was able to make collect calls to his mother. Galan drove Tuesday to the detention center in Pearsall to secure his release.

Immigration authorities are not supposed to detain U.S. citizens. But both ICE and CBP have apprehended citizens in the past.

A 2018 investigation by the Los Angeles Times found that ICE had released more than 1,480 people after investigating their citizenship status. In one case, a U.S. citizen was held in immigration detention for more than three years.

Last week, a California congresswoman visiting the Border Patrol's processing center in McAllen encountered a 13-year-old girl holding a U.S. passport. The girl was waiting with her mother, who had allegedly crossed the border illegally. After inquiries were made, the Border Patrol released both.

Galicia's case comes as ICE practices have drawn protests from Democrats and advocacy groups across the U.S.

In Kansas City, officers smashed a car window and dragged a Mexican man out of the vehicle in front of his girlfriend and two young children. The woman broadcast the arrest on Facebook.

In Nashville, neighbors surrounded an ICE van after it blocked the driveway of a Tennessee man who was targeted for arrest. The agent gave up trying to arrest the man after four hours.

Judge temporarily blocks new Arkansas anti-abortion laws

By ANDREW DeMILLO Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — A federal judge blocked three new abortion restrictions from taking effect Wednesday in Arkansas, including a measure that opponents say would likely force the state's only surgical abortion clinic to close.

U.S. District Judge Kristine Baker granted a 14-day temporary restraining order shortly before midnight Tuesday. The 159-page ruling blocks the state from enforcing the new laws, including a measure prohibiting the procedure 18 weeks into pregnancy. The blocked laws also included a requirement that doctors performing abortions be board-certified or board-eligible in obstetrics and gynecology. An official with a Little Rock clinic that performs surgical abortions says it has one physician who meets that requirement, but he only works there a few days every other month.

Baker also blocked a law prohibiting doctors from performing an abortion if it's being sought because the fetus has Down syndrome.

The laws are being challenged by Planned Parenthood and Little Rock Family Planning Services, the state's only surgical abortion clinic. Planned Parenthood only offers medication-induced abortions in Arkansas and earlier this month stopped providing abortions at its Fayetteville facility while it looks for a new location. It continues to provide the procedure at its Little Rock center.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Arkansas challenged the laws. The group's spokeswoman, Holly Dickson, said early Wednesday that ACLU attorneys are reviewing the order.

"We are so relieved that these bans and restrictions have been temporarily blocked from taking effect. And we are determined to see them blocked for good," Dickson said.

A message left with a spokeswoman for the Arkansas Attorney General's Office was not immediately

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returned early Wednesday.

Under current law, a physician licensed to practice medicine in Arkansas can perform abortions. The additional qualification for doctors performing abortions to be board-certified or eligible is similar to a Mississippi law that a federal judge upheld last year. Opponents say the requirement would prevent a large number of physicians from performing the procedure. The state says it would protect patients.

Little Rock Family Planning has said it has only one physician who meets that requirement, but he lives in California and only works at the clinic three to four days every other month.

Arkansas is one of two states with an 18-week ban. Utah enacted a similar restriction this year, but has agreed to not enforce it while it's being challenged in federal court.

Several states have laws banning abortion for genetic anomalies including Down syndrome, but North Dakota's is the only one in effect. The others are tied up in legal challenges.

Arkansas faces the prospect of losing its only surgical provider while neighboring Missouri's only abortion clinic is fighting to continue providing the service. If that facility closes, Missouri would be the first state without an abortion clinic since the year after the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision that legalized the procedure nationwide.

The laws are among several new restrictions approved by the majority-Republican Legislature in Arkansas this year. Another law not challenged that took effect Wednesday increases the waiting period before a woman can get an abortion from 48 hours to 72 hours.

Follow Andrew DeMillo on Twitter at www.twitter.com/ademillo

Segregation among issues Chicago faces 100 years after riots

By NOREEN NASIR Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — On a hot July day in 1919, a black 17-year-old swimming in Lake Michigan drifted in a dangerous direction — toward the white section of a Chicago beach.

White beachgoers, angry at Eugene Williams' intrusion, hurled rocks at him. One struck him in the head, and he drowned. And so began a week of riots that would kill 38 people — 23 of them black, 15 of them white — and leave more than 500 people injured, according to the Chicago Historical Society.

It happened 100 years ago, in the "Red Summer" of race riots that spread across the United States. But the terror of those days still reverberates in a city that continues to grapple with segregation, housing discrimination, and deep tension between residents and police.

The nation's third-largest city is still contending with the 2014 killing of 17-year-old Laquan McDonald by a white police officer, and with the protests that erupted a year later when officials released dashcam video of that shooting.

"There's a clear trajectory for me in that Eugene Williams, in a way, is (1955 Mississippi lynching victim and Chicagoan) Emmett Till, who is, in a way, Laquan McDonald," said Eve L. Ewing, a sociology professor at the University of Chicago and author of a new collection of poems called "1919."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Hundreds of African Americans died at the hands of white mob violence during "Red Summer" but little is widely known about this spate of violence a century later. As part of its coverage of the 100th anniversary of Red Summer, AP will take a multiplatform look at the attacks and the communities where they occurred. <https://www.apnews.com/RedSummer>

After Williams' body was pulled from the water on July 27, a group of black witnesses pointed to a white man they accused of throwing rocks, but police refused to arrest him. A crowd gathered and a black man was arrested instead. Fighting broke out along the beach and spread from there.

White mobs raided black neighborhoods on the South Side, burning homes and attacking people. Black residents, determined to hold their ground, fought back with guns and fists.

While Juanita Mitchell has trouble remembering some things from her childhood, the memories of July

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1919 remain clear.

"We thought we were coming to a party," the 107-year-old woman said recently as she reflected on the day she made the trek to Chicago from Louisiana with her mother and sister. "I could hear my uncle saying, 'Here they come.' And that meant the white folks were coming down the street."

At her uncle's urging, she and the other children hid behind a piano in his South Side home as a white mob drew closer. "He stood in the window, pulled out his gun . he was ready for the riot," Mitchell said.

Some historians say the violence may have been inevitable. Tensions had been building along with the Great Migration, the shift of Southern blacks to Northern cities as they fled life under Jim Crow — a system of oppressive laws that perpetuated racism, inequality and brutality. Many white workers saw the influx of black people as a threat to their livelihoods.

"Even if Eugene Williams had not been hit on the head by a rock, almost certainly, racial violence would've taken place in Chicago on a massive scale," said Brad Hunt, vice president for research and academic programs at Chicago's Newberry Library.

There is reason to believe that the riots helped remake Chicago's racial landscape: "That kind of mob violence drove policies," Ewing said. "In order to understand the segregation that we live with and the racial inequalities that we live with in the 21st century, it is necessary to begin 100 years earlier."

Over time, racially restrictive covenants gave way to messaging from homeowners' associations discouraging members from selling to black families — all to keep certain Chicago neighborhoods white and to concentrate the African American population in the city's "black belt," a string of neighborhoods on the South Side.

"1919 does influence the racial geography of the city today," Hunt said.

"The boundaries of the black belt will eventually expand — particularly after World War II during a second wave of migration from the South, at which point the racially restrictive policies become less acceptable," he said. "The Supreme Court will strike down, for instance, restrictive covenants in 1948. But what happens is the black belt merely expands. And we never see racial integration in a sustained way on the South Side of Chicago. All we have is a larger segregated space until the migration really stops, at which point we have fairly well-defined boundaries. Residents certainly know them."

South Sider Riccardo Holyfield, 31, knows them well.

"Back in the old days, you might've gotten punished in the way of brutality" if you were on "the wrong side of town," said Holyfield, who is black. "Now, they're going to punish you with tickets. ... That mind frame from a long time ago, where that person's not supposed to be over here, it's still here. It's systematic now."

Chicago has seen some progress. Just this year, the city for the first time elected a black woman, Lori Lightfoot, as mayor. And the state's attorney, schools chief and transit authority president are black.

But a year ago, the website 24/7 Wall St. found that the Chicago area was the second most segregated in America, behind the Detroit area.

To change that, some say, the city must both come to terms with its racial history and press forward: "If we want to dream of a different future, it's incumbent upon us to have the moral courage, the intellectual ambition and the political imagination to think about what it would look like to make a different world," Ewing said.

No national events are scheduled to mark the centenary of the Red Summer, but some local groups plan to recognize it. The Newberry Library is marking the anniversary with programming throughout the year in Chicago, partnering with local organizations to educate people about the unrest.

At one such event this past spring, white and black Chicago residents gathered for a panel discussion on redlining — the practice of refusing a loan or other service to those living in poor, often African American neighborhoods.

Peter Czosnyka, a 67-year-old Polish American and lifelong Chicago resident, said his family left the city's northwest side after the neighborhood's demographics began to shift. As soon as he graduated from high school, his family moved to the suburbs. He knows he was fortunate, and black people were not so lucky.

"Even though the place I grew up in was a redlined neighborhood, we were able to get out, because there were Polish banks. We weren't prevented from leaving," he said.

Follow Noreen Nasir on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/noreensnasir>

Black voters say they won't forget Trump's racist tweets

By **ERRIN HAINES WHACK** and **SCOTT BAUER** Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Robin D. Stephens lived through Jim Crow and thought the worst days of racism were behind her. Then President Donald Trump told four American congresswomen of color to "go back" to where they came from.

"It was very hurtful to see the person who is the leader of the country that I live in and that I respect and love, speak that way to U.S. citizens," said Stephens, a 61-year-old retired public defender who lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

But Stephens is tired of talking about Trump's racist tweets. She is ready to take her pain to the polls.

"What I want to talk about now to people and to get people excited about and to get people wanting to go out to vote about now is the fact that this came from the White House," Stephens said. "We can change that. And the way we change that is by voting."

Democratic presidential candidates gathering in Detroit on Wednesday to address the annual NAACP convention will need voters like Stephens to keep that passion heading into next year's election. Trump is gambling that his attacks on the congresswomen, which he revived on Tuesday, will help him secure another term in the White House by galvanizing his most fervent, overwhelmingly white supporters.

But dozens of black leaders, activists and voters in pivotal swing states said they're just as motivated to vote and won't forget Trump's actions.

"I see more people engaged and responding to the comments, people who aren't political, friends of mine who vote more casually, they are responding," said Wisconsin Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes, who is black and from Milwaukee, where Democrats will meet to declare their nominee at the party's convention next summer.

In 2016, black turnout was down about 7 percentage points nationally compared with 2012, according to census estimates. Barnes said the president's comments are resonating with people "in a more real way" than past statements he's made, which could translate into increased turnout next November.

"The most important thing that we can have happen is the president needs to keep talking because he's showing his true colors, he's showing how he really feels," said David Bowen, a Wisconsin state representative from Milwaukee who is black.

"These overt racist incidents are going to wake people up and remind them that four more years of the president is not going to benefit this country, not benefit African Americans."

Angela Lang, who started Black Leaders Organizing for Communities after Trump's 2016 victory, agreed.

"This is all hands on deck," she said in response to Trump's comments. "We can't tolerate this. I think people are fed up. It's agitating people in a way to engage them to do whatever they can for 2020."

Woke Vote founder DeJuana Thompson said it's a sentiment she has been hearing as she has worked to expand voter turnout in states like Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. Thompson said that regardless of the race of the candidates, there is an expectation from voters of color that 2020 Democrats must confront racism on the campaign trail.

"There's not a different standard being applied," Thompson said. "The standard is justice. The standard is equity. And if you're not saying those things, it is landing — particularly on people of color's ears — very differently than it ever has before."

Some African Americans are still weighing Trump's actions and how it might influence their vote. Michael Brown, a 34-year-old who lives in Philadelphia, said he believes the country is increasingly divided along racial lines, but he isn't sure whether he'll vote next year. If he does go to the polls, racism won't be a

factor in his decision.

He said he isn't sure whether the president is racist, though Brown said "it appears like he could be" based on some of his past statements.

"For me, I would have to hear 'I hate black people, I hate Asians, I hate Hispanics,' to be like, OK, he's a racist," he said, adding that he understands why some would take Trump's comments about the congresswomen as racism.

Reggie Hall Jr. saw the president's tweets and talk differently and said Trump's rhetoric has only escalated since he took office.

"I think he went too far from the beginning, but him condemning the four congresswomen . if you're looking for a final straw, that could probably be it," said Hall, 32, of Philadelphia.

Hall, who backed Democrat Hillary Clinton in 2016, participates in most elections and said that he's "extremely motivated" to vote in 2020. While race and racism aren't the sole factors in his decision of whom to support among the Democratic primary candidates, Hall said he does want to hear from them on matters of race.

"If you're going to try to weave this coalition together, you need to address the fact that race is a factor in a lot of things," Hall said. "Whoever comes out of the Democratic primary, their response to race and race relations, for me personally, is going to be better than anything Trump has said."

Bauer reported from Madison. Associated Press writers Corey R. Williams and Mike Householder contributed to this report.

Follow Whack on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/emarvelous>.

What to look for when Mueller testifies on the Russia probe

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — When a reluctant Robert Mueller takes his seat at the congressional witness table, Democrats will be looking for incriminating, hidden-till-now details about Donald Trump and Russia. Republicans want the former special counsel to concede his investigation was all a waste of time and money, if not an outright hoax.

Neither side is likely to get just what it wants, but Mueller's first open testimony on his investigation has Washington and the rest of the political world in a high state of anticipation just the same.

Some things to look for when Mueller appears Wednesday before the House judiciary and intelligence committees to answer questions about his investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election and possible cooperation with the Trump campaign:

OBSTRUCTION, OBSTRUCTION

Much of Mueller's report focuses on the question of whether Trump obstructed justice, and Democrats on the Judiciary Committee say that's where their attention will be, too. And for good reason: Mueller's report examines in blow-by-blow detail nearly a dozen episodes in which the new president sought to control the Russia probe, narrow its scope or even have investigators fired.

Democrats say they expect to draw Mueller out in several of these areas. They include his demands that then-White House counsel Don McGahn press for Mueller's firing and his push to have then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions limit the investigation to future election interference rather than past conduct.

The afternoon session before the intelligence committee is likely to dwell more on Mueller's investigation into whether the Trump campaign coordinated with Russia to sway the outcome. Mueller found insufficient evidence of a criminal conspiracy there, but did leave open the question of whether Trump illegally stymied the investigation.

MUELLER THE MARINE

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Expecting Mueller to stray outside his report and drop scintillating details you've never heard before? Well, don't.

Mueller, an ex-Marine with a famously taciturn style, never relished his congressional appearances in his 12 years as FBI director — and this will be no exception.

He cautioned lawmakers in May that he would not go beyond the pages of his report if called upon to testify. The Justice Department expects him to fulfill that commitment and to also steer clear of discussing the redacted portions of the report or the behavior of people who were investigated but not charged.

That means he's unlikely to answer certain critical questions, including whether he would have recommended indicting Trump himself if Trump had not been president of the United States. That question matters since Mueller cited Justice Department legal opinions that say a sitting president cannot be charged in explaining his decision to not reach a conclusion on whether Trump had broken the law.

Mueller's not one for hypotheticals, though, so it's fair to assume he won't engage Democrats on that one.

THE "SNITTY" LETTER

Mueller will almost certainly be pressed about tensions with Attorney General William Barr over the way his report was handled and how the Justice Department communicated its findings to the public, including the attorney general's decision to exonerate the president even when the special counsel pointedly did not do so.

Mueller complained privately to Barr in March that the attorney general's four-page letter summarizing the main findings of his report "did not fully capture the context, nature and substance of this office's work and conclusions." Barr, in turn, has called Mueller's note "a bit snitty."

Mueller has made clear he didn't think it was appropriate to make a determination one way or the other about whether the president had committed a crime. He has rejected Barr's assessment that the evidence couldn't satisfy an obstruction of justice allegation, noting both in his report — and, again, in a public statement from the Justice Department podium — that if he had confidence the president had not committed a crime, he would have said so.

Barr had no such hesitation and has said Mueller shouldn't have started investigating the president if he wasn't prepared to reach a conclusion.

Mueller probably doesn't want to extend a public war of words with Barr, a longtime friend and his former boss. But he'll very likely be asked about the dispute, and he may have a hard time getting around it.

THE DOSSIER

Republicans aren't likely to directly attack Mueller himself. The former special counsel is a decorated Vietnam War veteran who steered the FBI through the Sept. 11 attacks and was appointed by a Republican president to run the storied law enforcement agency.

But that doesn't mean they won't have areas to mine.

They're likely to seize on the origins of the investigation and press Mueller on the extent to which the FBI, in the early weeks and months of its Russia probe, relied on information from a dossier of anti-Trump research paid for by Democrats. The Justice Department has acknowledged that the dossier helped form the basis of a secret surveillance warrant it obtained to monitor the communications of a Trump campaign aide, though the investigation had actually begun months earlier and was based on entirely separate allegations.

Republican Rep. Matt Gaetz of Florida, who serves on the Judiciary Committee, foreshadowed that line of attack Monday with a tweet that said: "We have to do more than just question Mueller. We have to expose his biased investigation."

IMPEACHMENT SUPPORTERS WILL BE WATCHING

More than 85 House Democrats — around a third of the caucus — have declared their support for opening an impeachment inquiry, and those who are pushing impeachment are hoping there will be a flood of

additional Democrats who side with them after Mueller's hearing.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has said she doesn't favor starting an impeachment process, for now, and would need a public groundswell to change her mind.

The House is scheduled to head out on a five-week recess next week, and reaction from constituents back home after the Mueller hearing will be crucial as Democrats decide how to proceed with their investigations of the president.

Associated Press writer Mary Clare Jalonick contributed to this report.

For more of AP's coverage of the Trump investigation: <https://apnews.com/TrumpInvestigations>

China says US 'power politics' undermines global stability

By YANAN WANG Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China on Wednesday accused the United States of undermining global stability with unilateral policies and "power politics" as the Defense Ministry issued the first comprehensive outline of its policies since President Xi Jinping came to power more than six years ago.

The U.S. was the first country mentioned in the document's opening section about "prominent destabilizing factors" and "profound changes" in the international security environment.

"The U.S. has adjusted its national security and defense strategies, and adopted unilateral policies," China said in the document. "It has provoked and intensified competition among countries, significantly increased its defense expenditure ... and undermined global strategic stability."

It's the 10th white paper of its kind since 1998. The last one was published in 2011, two years before Xi became president.

The document said China will not renounce the use of force in efforts to reunify Taiwan with the mainland and vowed to take all necessary military measures to defeat "separatists."

China listed among its top priorities its resolve to contain "Taiwan independence" and combat what it considers separatist forces in Tibet and the far west region of Xinjiang. While highlighting China's "defensive" approach, the report also pledged to "surely counterattack if attacked."

China's paramilitary police have helped Xinjiang authorities "take out 1,588 violent terrorist gangs and capture 12,995 terrorists," the report said. The U.S., independent analysts and human rights groups have estimated that around 1 million Muslims have been detained in internment camps as part of what the government calls a counterterrorism campaign.

Former Uighur and Kazakh detainees and their families have accused China of punishing religious expression and separating children from their parents. They say members of their predominantly Muslim ethnic groups have been arbitrarily detained and subject to political indoctrination.

China has long called the Dalai Lama a dangerous separatist. But the exiled Tibetan Buddhist spiritual leader maintains that he only wants a greater degree of autonomy for the region.

Defense Ministry spokesman Wu Qian said the threat of Taiwan separatism is growing and warned that those who are seeking the democratic island's independence will meet a dead end.

"If anyone dares to separate Taiwan from China, the Chinese army will certainly fight, resolutely defending the country's sovereign unity and territorial integrity," Wu said.

Taiwan split from the Communist Party-ruled mainland China amid civil war in 1949. China maintains that Taiwan is part of its territory and seeks "complete reunification."

The U.S. has repeatedly raised Beijing's ire by selling arms to Taiwan. While the U.S. does not have formal diplomatic ties with the island, U.S. law requires that it provide Taiwan with sufficient defense equipment and services for self-defense.

Earlier this month, the U.S. tentatively approved the sale of \$2.2 billion in arms to Taiwan — a proposal that had prompted China to threaten sanctions against the U.S. Taiwan's defense ministry said it made the request in light of a growing military threat from China.

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"The Western world, led by the United States, continues to strengthen its ability to contain China," said Hong Kong-based military analyst Song Zhongping. U.S. actions on Taiwan, the South China Sea, North Korea and Iran have all contributed to making the U.S. the "initiator" of China's security concerns, he said.

The release of the white paper at this time is to "warn the Taiwan independence forces and relevant parties in the U.S. that they should not underestimate China's determination," Song said.

The white paper also pointed to U.S., Japanese and Australian moves to beef up their military presence and alliances in the Asia-Pacific as bringing uncertainties to the region.

The U.S. deployment of a missile defense system in South Korea has severely undermined the regional strategic balance, the report said. It further noted Japan's reinterpretation of its post-World War II constitution to allow its military to operate farther from its shores.

China's military expansion in recent years has prompted concerns among other Pacific countries in a region long dominated by the U.S. Navy. China's development of anti-ship ballistic and cruise missiles in particular has been seen as an effort to deter U.S. military and naval access to parts of the Asia-Pacific region.

"China exercises its national sovereignty to build infrastructure and deploy necessary defensive capabilities on the islands and reefs in the South China Sea, and to conduct patrols in the waters of the Diaoyu Islands in the East China Sea," the white paper said, referring to disputed waters as well as islands that Japan calls the Senkaku Islands.

Associated Press researcher Shanshan Wang and writer Ken Moritsugu 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. MUELLER TO TAKE CENTER STAGE AT RUSSIA PROBE HEARINGS

The back-to-back Capitol Hill appearances promise the extraordinary spectacle of the former special counsel discussing a criminal investigation he conducted into a sitting U.S. president.

2. BORIS JOHNSON FACES A DEEPLY DIVIDED COUNTRY

Britain's next prime minister will have just over three months to make good on his promise to lead the U.K. out of the EU and to win over the many Britons opposed to Brexit and resistant to his blustering charms.

3. FEDS PUT BIG TECH UNDER ANTITRUST MICROSCOPE

The Justice Department opens a probe of companies like Facebook, Google and Amazon to determine whether they've hurt competition, suppressed innovation or otherwise harmed consumers.

4. AFRICAN AMERICAN VOTERS SAY THEY WON'T FORGET TRUMP'S RACIST TWEETS

Speaking ahead of the annual NAACP convention in Detroit, they say they are as motivated as some of the president's supporters — but in opposition to his reelection.

5. JUDGE TEMPORARILY BLOCKS NEW ARKANSAS ANTI-ABORTION LAWS

Some of the measures would have prohibited abortion after 18 weeks and required doctors to be board-certified or board-eligible in obstetrics and gynecology.

6. 'RED SUMMER' ESPECIALLY DEADLY IN CHICAGO

It's been 100 years since the race riots that followed the death of 17-year-old Eugene Williams, and the terror of those days still reverberates in the city where segregation and other issues still persist.

7. BRITISH VESSEL TRANSITS STRAIT WHERE IRAN SEIZED TANKER

A large British-flagged vessel navigates the Strait of Hormuz and arrives at a Qatari port, the first such passage made by a British ship of its size since Iran seized a U.K.-flagged tanker last week.

8. MİRED IN POVERTY, AFGHANS BRING THEIR CHILDREN TO WORK

Despite billions of dollars in international aid, signs of hardship are everywhere, from children begging in the streets to entire families working at brick kilns in the sweltering heat.

9. WHY CONGO IS STRUGGLING IN EBOLA FIGHT

Deep distrust and misinformation is undermining efforts in the African nation to curb the outbreak that has killed more than 1,700 people in less than a year.

10. 'GREAT HACK' EXPLORES FACEBOOK SCANDAL

The new documentary, however, doesn't prove the filmmakers' claims that the ill-gotten Cambridge Analytica data helped elect Donald Trump.

Boris Johnson to take office, aiming to win over doubters

By JILL LAWLESS and DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Boris Johnson was due to enter 10 Downing St. as Britain's new prime minister on Wednesday, vowing to lead the U.K. out of the European Union and unite a country deeply divided over Brexit.

It's a tall order. Johnson has just over three months to make good on his promise to deliver Brexit by Oct. 31.

He also must win over the many Britons opposed to Brexit and resistant to his blustering charms.

In a sign he hopes to move beyond the largely white, male and affluent Conservative members who chose him as their leader, Johnson's office said his government would be a "Cabinet for modern Britain" with more women and a record number of ministers from ethnic minorities.

Many members of his administration will be strong Brexit supporters like Johnson, but he is also set to include some pro-EU politicians.

Johnson, a former mayor of London and foreign secretary, is getting Britain's top job in politics after winning a contest to lead the governing Conservative Party.

Famed for his bravado, quips in Latin and blond mop of hair, Johnson easily defeated Conservative rival Jeremy Hunt, winning two-thirds of the votes of about 160,000 party members across the U.K.

He will replace Theresa May, who announced her resignation last month after Parliament repeatedly rejected the withdrawal agreement she struck with the 28-nation bloc.

Johnson will take office in a day of carefully choreographed political drama. Departing leader May will attend the weekly prime minister's questions period in the House of Commons for the last time — a usually boisterous session that is likely to have a valedictory air.

After saying goodbye to Downing St. staff, May will travel the mile (1.6 km) to Buckingham Palace to resign and ask Queen Elizabeth II to invite Johnson to form a new government.

The 93-year-old monarch will then meet Johnson — the 14th prime minister of her 67-year reign — before the new leader stands outside 10 Downing St. to address the nation.

Then the real battle starts.

Johnson has vowed that Britain will leave the EU on the currently scheduled date of Oct. 31, with or without a deal on departure terms. The EU is adamant that the deal it made with May will not be renegotiated, and economists warn that a no-deal Brexit would disrupt trade and plunge the U.K. into recession.

Johnson, whose personal brand is built on optimism — and, critics say, an ambiguous relationship with facts — promised in a victory speech Tuesday to deliver Brexit "in a new spirit of can do."

"I say to all the doubters: 'Dude, we are going to energize the country, we are going to get Brexit done,'" he said.

Follow AP's full coverage of Brexit and the Conservative Party leadership race at: <https://www.apnews.com/Brexit>

EU braces for Boris Johnson as UK leader _ and Brexit

By RAF CASERT Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Brussels is bracing for Boris and Brexit.

Three decades ago, journalist Boris Johnson wrote stories for London's Daily Telegraph playing up stereotypes about bumbling bureaucrats in the European Union wasting money and tying up U.K. businesses in red tape — articles the European officials deemed to be so false that they coined the word "Euromyth" to describe them.

Now he is becoming Britain's prime minister, set to lead the country out of the EU, and Johnson showed last week that little has changed.

Brandishing a kipper at a campaign rally, Johnson alleged the EU had forced fishermen to plastic-wrap the British smoked fish delicacy in a special pillow of ice, pushing up costs and damaging the environment in another example of Brussels' "regulatory overkill."

The EU quickly said the allegation was false: The wrapping was a U.K. national regulation outside of the bloc's scope.

EU Food Safety Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis fired back at "Boris" in a tweet noting that "a fish rots from the head down. As potential future PM you need to keep a cool head."

Johnson's allegation was similar to what he and other like-minded British journalists in Brussels wrote in the early 1990s. Back then, European officials sought to debunk their stories that said things like all EU manure had to smell the same, or that it would outlaw excessively curved bananas. Johnson even returned to the banana ban theme during the Brexit referendum campaign three years ago.

The EU parliament's chief Brexit official, Guy Verhofstadt, last month called Johnson "a man who continues to dissemble, exaggerate, and dis-inform the public about Brexit."

"Reality does not square with Johnson's ensorcelling combination of false promises, pseudo-patriotism, and foreigner bashing," he added.

On Tuesday, EU Commission Vice President Frans Timmermans noted that Johnson had been ambivalent about Britain leaving the EU before he threw his weight behind the Brexit campaign.

"I would just suggest that you look at what he has been writing over the years. He took a long time deciding whether he was for or against the EU," Timmermans said, adding: "The world's politics is rife with 'colorful' people these days, so if you can't deal with them, there's not much you could do."

Despite the disparaging comments on both sides, both Johnson and the EU will now have to work together on Brexit. He has committed to taking Britain out of the EU on Oct. 31 "do or die." In political terms, that most likely means with or without a deal to soften the economic impact of the divorce.

Johnson and his predecessor, Theresa May, are both Conservatives, but he vehemently opposes the EU divorce deal that she struck with the EU. Under the plan, Britain must pay a departure fee of 39 billion pounds (\$48 billion), and adhere to its guarantees to avoid a hard customs border on the frontier between EU member Ireland and Northern Ireland, which is part of the U.K.

The EU is holding out the possibility of giving Britain another extension to the Brexit deadline if Johnson wants. But Johnson already has been preparing for withdrawing without a deal, something that financial experts say would be chaotic, costly and damaging to the British economy. Most economists think it would lead to a severe recession as firms face tariffs and other barriers on their exports. Brexit worries have weighed heavily on the British pound, which has fallen this month to near two-year lows.

Johnson has not made it easy for the EU to warmly embrace him.

Along with Nigel Farage of the Brexit Party, Johnson became a political foe of the EU during the Brexit referendum in spring 2016. The populist "Leave" campaign claimed, erroneously, that leaving the bloc would somehow get Britain's National Health Service an additional 350 million pounds (\$429 million) a week. There also were posters warning of a flood of immigrants to Britain from Turkey.

When the Leave side won by a margin of 52% to 48%, Johnson did not gain any friends in Brussels.

The same year, Johnson compared the EU's aims to those of Adolf Hitler, arguing the bloc was trying to create a superstate that mirrored the Nazi leader's attempts to dominate the European continent. At the

time, EU Council President Donald Tusk called the comment "absurd."

When negotiations on the withdrawal from the EU began in 2017, Johnson said the bloc could "go whistle" if it wanted a big exit payout from Britain for outstanding debts.

He also claimed his Brexit policy would be "having our cake and eating it."

Tusk quickly retorted: "I propose a simple experiment. Buy a cake, eat it, and see if it is still there on the plate."

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Justice Dept. puts Big Tech under the antitrust microscope

By **MARCY GORDON** and **BARBARA ORTUTAY** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Like Europe before it, the U.S. government looks ready to try reining in its technology giants. But doing so may be more difficult than it seems.

On Tuesday, the U.S. Department of Justice opened a sweeping antitrust investigation of major technology companies and whether their online platforms have hurt competition, suppressed innovation or otherwise harmed consumers.

It said the probe will take into account "widespread concerns" about social media, search engines and online retail services.

"Without the discipline of meaningful market-based competition, digital platforms may act in ways that are not responsive to consumer demands," Makan Delrahim, the department's chief antitrust officer, said in a statement. "The Department's antitrust review will explore these important issues."

The terse but momentous announcement follows months of concern in Congress and elsewhere over the sway of firms like Google, Facebook and Amazon. Lawmakers and Democratic presidential candidates have called for stricter regulation or even breakups of the big tech companies, which have drawn intense scrutiny following scandals involving compromised user privacy, security lapses and misinformation and extremism that flourished on their platforms.

Facebook is awaiting a significant judgment from the Federal Trade Commission over its privacy practices, one that will reportedly include a \$5 billion fine and impose other limits on its operations. The FTC also reportedly plans to hand Google a multimillion dollar fine over its handling of children's information on YouTube. Europe has investigated and fined a number of major U.S. tech companies over the past several years.

"It seems like the nation's law enforcement agencies are finally waking up to the threat posed by big tech," said Stacy Mitchell of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, which has criticized Amazon for stifling independent businesses. Mitchell testified at a House hearing last week.

President Donald Trump also has repeatedly criticized the big tech companies by name in recent months. He frequently asserts, without evidence, that they are biased against him and conservatives in general.

But Big Tech could also present a difficult target, as current interpretations of U.S. antitrust law don't obviously apply to companies offering inexpensive goods or free online services. The Justice Department did not name specific companies in its announcement.

The Justice investigation mirrors a bipartisan probe of Big Tech undertaken by the House Judiciary subcommittee on antitrust. Its chairman, Rep. David Cicilline, a Rhode Island Democrat, has sharply criticized the conduct of Silicon Valley giants and said legislative or regulatory changes may be needed. He has called breaking up the companies a last resort.

Major tech companies already facing that congressional scrutiny declined to comment on the Justice Department probe. Amazon and Facebook had no comment. Apple and Google referred inquiries to public statements by their executives.

Shares of Facebook, Amazon and Apple were down slightly in after-hours trading Tuesday.

Traditional antitrust law focuses on dominant businesses that harm consumers, typically defined as price-gouging and similar behaviors. But many tech companies offer free products that are paid for by a largely

invisible trade in the personal data gleaned from those services. Others like Amazon offer consistently low prices on a wide array of merchandise.

"That is going to be a tough one for (regulators) to prove," said University of Pennsylvania law professor Herbert Hovenkamp.

Beyond that, the companies could face scrutiny for buying up smaller rivals that might be a threat to their business. Last week, Cicilline accused industry giants of creating a "startup kill zone" to insulate them from competition.

For instance, Google bought YouTube in 2006 when it was still a fledging video site struggling to survive an onslaught of copyright infringement lawsuits, and acquired the technology for its now-dominant Android software for smartphones in an even smaller deal. Facebook snapped up Instagram — now the fastest-growing part of its business — in its infancy, and Apple bought the technology powering its ubiquitous Siri assistant.

The Trump-era Justice Department has already tried to push the bounds of antitrust law, albeit unsuccessfully. The government employed a novel antitrust theory when it sued to block AT&T's acquisition of Time Warner, arguing that the combined company could hike prices for programming to consumers' detriment. It lost the case both in lower court and on appeal.

In his January confirmation hearings, Attorney General William Barr acknowledged curiosity about how Silicon Valley giants grew so huge "under the nose" of antitrust enforcers. "I don't think big is necessarily bad," he said. "But I want to find out more about that dynamic."

Trump has been a fierce critic of AT&T, which owns CNN, in addition to many large tech companies. At various times, he has publicly criticized Google, Facebook, Apple and Amazon for allegedly shady, biased or unpatriotic behavior.

Ortutay reported from San Francisco. AP technology reporters Michael Liedtke and Rachel Lerman contributed from San Francisco. AP Technology reporter Matt O'Brien reported from Providence, Rhode Island.

In prized Venezuelan building, a long wait for light

By CHRISTINE ARMARIO Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — When the lights began flickering back on in Venezuela's capital, residents in the six-story Doleli Building hailed as part of the city's cultural patrimony remained in the dark.

Inside the mostly older inhabitants who have watched children flee abroad as the South American nation's economic and humanitarian crisis worsens locked their doors and pressed ears against radios in a futile quest for news.

"I'm worried we're going to become disconnected from everything," said Alfredo Cova, 55, a veterinarian, as the blackout stretched into Tuesday afternoon.

The power outage that began Monday afternoon at the start of rush hour was one more in a series of prolonged blackouts that have unnerved Venezuelans this year. Caracas has largely been spared from the worst, but the widespread outage came as another harsh reminder that no city is immune to Venezuela's mounting hardship.

In neighborhoods like Santa Monica where the Doleli Building stands, the darkness lingered even as other parts of Caracas began springing back to life Tuesday.

Residents awoke to find fridges still silent. Heat emanated through the walls as air conditioning units stood quiet. The owners of a few small businesses on the building's first floor waited anxiously outside shuttered entrances, hoping the power would return quickly so they wouldn't lose an entire day's earnings.

"Now Caracas is collapsing, too," said a frustrated Carolina Chinchilla, 53, who owns a languishing travel agency.

The Doleli Building was constructed in 1956 by Italian migrants and at the time stood as a symbol of Venezuela's urban progress, recalled Maria Caterina, 66, whose family was among the building's earliest tenants. Modeled after the modern Italian apartment buildings of the day, it boasted granite floors, or-

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nate moldings, wide balconies and a plaza out front with a fountain. The doors of an elevator inside are decorated with bronze.

"It was built for living the good life," Caterina said.

At the time, Santa Monica was a solidly middle to upper-middle class neighborhood where droves of Italian, Portuguese and Spanish migrants were arriving.

Chinchilla's father, who fled the Spanish Civil War decades earlier, opened a photography business that she later converted into a travel agency with her sister. Families like Caterina's raised children in a neighborhood considered safe and prosperous.

Throughout Venezuela's turbulent history, the Doleli Building stood soundly, surviving two major earthquakes without so much as a crack, residents said.

"It was beautiful," said José Vásquez, 42, who has lived in the building since he was born and is now the Doleli's youngest resident.

Now as Venezuela plunges into an economic crisis considered worse than the U.S. Great Depression and blackouts become more common, residents are finding their dwindling paychecks and pensions aren't enough to keep up the maintenance.

Inside, white paint from the staircase ceiling is beginning to peel. Outside, vandals have painted anti-government graffiti on the walls.

"This government is going to fall!" one scribbling proclaims.

Young couples with children whose cries once filled the building have fled to Chile, the United States and Canada. Some send back remittances to aging parents who still live in the building, while other units are frequently empty.

"They left," Cova said. "They all left."

Earlier this year, when a major power outage left all of Venezuela in the dark, the Doleli Building spent four days in the dark. That blackout caught many residents off guard. This time around, many were still unprepared. There was no generator to bring the lights back on and several residents didn't even have candles or flashlights.

Cova and his wife used their gas stove to heat up leftover pabellon, a traditional Venezuelan dish with rice, black beans, shredded beef and plantains. When the sky grew dark, they retreated to their bedroom. There was nothing else to do but go to sleep, they reasoned. The world had turned entirely black.

"It was absolute silence," he said.

The only sign of life came from their radio. Cova searched the stations but could only find pro-government channels. They were repeating the same refrain as socialist authorities: The outage had been caused by an "electromagnetic attack."

"Who is really responsible, I don't know," he mused.

From their building, residents could see power returning to other parts of the city overnight. When it didn't return to Santa Monica, instead of feeling angry, most felt simply resigned. Opposition leader Juan Guaidó held a rally Tuesday, but none opted to go, even as they blamed President Nicolás Maduro for Venezuela's woes.

"The worst thing is, we're getting used to this," Chinchilla said.

Inside her darkened travel agency, she fished for her computer, which she planned to take to a building where the power had returned. On a desk stood several miniature aircraft tails for airlines that no longer fly to Venezuela.

These days, most of her dwindling sales come from those migrating, she said, tearing up as she thought about what future awaits her three children.

"They have to live things I never lived in my adolescence," she said. "This was a magical country that they destroyed, completely."

Chinchilla and Vásquez, whose businesses are next to one another at the Doleli Building, have bonded through the daily trials and power outages. Vásquez likens it to a sort of "brotherhood" among neighbors, while Chinchilla calls it "survival."

As Tuesday morning stretched into afternoon, residents tried to find ways to continue their daily life

even without electricity.

A bookstore on the first floor remained open. Cova, a veterinarian, and his wife worried that some \$250 worth of pet vaccines in the fridge would become useless if the blackout dragged on longer.

"We don't have light, we don't have information," he grumbled. "We don't know anything."

But as the 24th hour of the Doleli Building blackout approached, the seemingly miraculous finally occurred: The lights turned on.

Hope restored, at least, temporarily.

Esper is sworn in as defense secretary to succeed Mattis

By **ROBERT BURNS AP National Security Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — It took seven months, but President Donald Trump on Tuesday finally got a Senate-confirmed secretary of defense to succeed Jim Mattis.

Mark Esper, an Army veteran and former defense industry lobbyist, won Senate confirmation by a vote of 90-8 and was sworn in at the White House by Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito in a ceremony attended by Trump and several members of Esper's family.

"He's going to be a great one," Trump said.

Esper's swearing-in ended the longest period the Pentagon has gone without a confirmed leader in its history.

The turmoil atop the Pentagon began when Mattis stepped down last New Year's Eve after a series of policy disputes with Trump. He offered to stay two more months to get a successor in place and ensure continuity, but Trump said no.

The president was high on Mattis at the start of his administration. He liked to call the retired Marine general "Mad Dog," but the affection waned and shortly before Mattis quit Trump referred to him as "sort of a Democrat."

Even with Esper now in charge, the problem of leadership instability at the Pentagon is not fully resolved. There still is no Senate-confirmed deputy secretary of defense, though David Norquist on Tuesday was nominated for the post and is scheduled to have a confirmation hearing Wednesday. Norquist has been filling in as deputy since January; his regular job is Pentagon budget chief.

The senior leadership vacancies increased again last week with the departure of David Trachtenberg, the Pentagon's second-ranking civilian policy official.

Beyond that, the No. 2-ranking military officer, Gen. Paul Selva, is retiring Friday as vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. No Senate confirmation hearing has been set for the man picked by Trump to replace Selva: Gen. John Hyten, who has been commander of U.S. nuclear forces as head of U.S. Strategic Command.

A military officer has accused Hyten of sexual misconduct. An investigation found insufficient evidence to charge Hyten, but some members of Congress have raised questions about that process. It's unclear when or whether Hyten's nomination will proceed.

At his confirmation hearing on July 16, Esper promised that one of his first priorities would be to fix the problem of leadership vacancies.

"I need to staff up the top tier of the Pentagon soonest," he said.

Carl Tobias, a professor of law at the University of Richmond, said he believes that in the months since Mattis left, the Pentagon's sway within the administration has weakened.

"This seems to be the primary challenge that Esper confronts: regaining the power to set the Defense Department agenda and defend it by doing what is best for the nation and the world, not what advances the president's political agenda," Tobias said by email.

Esper had been the Army secretary when Mattis resigned in December. On Jan. 1, the deputy defense secretary, Patrick Shanahan, became the acting secretary. But after nearly six months as the fill-in, the former Boeing executive abruptly quit.

Esper then became the acting defense secretary, but once he was nominated last week, he had to step

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aside until after a Senate vote. So, for the past week, the Pentagon had been run by yet another fill-in: Navy Secretary Richard V. Spencer.

Esper, who has a wide range of experience in defense matters, including time on Capitol Hill as a congressional staff member, has said he intends to continue the Trump administration's focus on improving the combat preparedness of the military, nurturing security alliances around the world and reforming Pentagon business practices.

All eight senators who voted against Esper's nomination are Democrats. They include Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, who has sharply criticized Esper for declining to recuse himself from all matters involving his former employer, Raytheon Co., for the duration of his time as defense secretary.

Democratic Rep. Adam Smith, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said he was encouraged by Esper's confirmation but worried by the continuing problem of vacancies in the Pentagon.

"The complex challenges that we face around the globe are too serious for key positions at the Department of Defense to remain transient," Smith said. "Instead, our country needs predictable leadership at the Pentagon, capable of withstanding internal political pressure in what has been a historically turbulent administration."

Esper was a lobbyist for Raytheon, a major defense contractor, for several years before becoming Army secretary. He told Warren that Defense Department ethics officials recommended he not make the recusal commitment she asked about, but pledged to abide by all ethics rules and regulations.

Immigration roundup that targeted 2,100 nets 35 arrests

By COLLEEN LONG and SOPHIA TAREEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An immigration enforcement operation that President Donald Trump said was part of an effort to deport "millions" of people from the United States resulted in 35 arrests, officials said Tuesday.

Trump billed the operation targeting families as a major show of force as the number of Central American families crossing the southern border has skyrocketed. There are about 1 million people in the U.S. with final deportation orders; the operation targeted 2,100.

Of those arrested, 18 were members of families and 17 were collateral apprehensions of people in the country illegally who were encountered by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers. None of those arrested resulted in the separation of family, officials said.

The effort was demonized by Democrats as a full-force drive to deport families and trumpeted by Republicans as a necessary show of force to prove there are consequences for people coming here illegally. But career ICE officers described it as a routine operation, one expected to net an average of about 10% to 20% of targets.

A separate nationwide enforcement operation targeting immigrants here illegally who had criminal convictions or charges netted 899 arrests. And officers handed out 3,282 notices of inspection to businesses that may be employing people here illegally.

Acting ICE director Matthew Albence said the operations would be ongoing, stressing the importance of enforcement. "Part of the way you stop people from coming is having a consequence to the illegal activity when you do come," he said.

The operation targeted families centered on those who had been ordered deported by an immigration judge in 10 cities around the country who were subjected to fast-track proceedings. It was canceled once after media reports telegraphing when and where it would begin, though Trump announced it would be postponed following a phone call with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who urged him to do so.

The second effort began July 14 and again was met with media attention noting where and when it was to start, including from Trump, who announced the date.

Albence conceded the number was lower than that of other operations. A similar operation in August

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2017 netted 650 arrests over four days, including 73 family members and 120 who entered illegally as children. There were 457 others encountered during this operation also arrested.

Albence said Trump's comments didn't hurt the effort because it had already been the subject of media reports for weeks.

But the overall publicity caused problems for an operation that relies largely on secrecy and surprise. Albence said the publicity made some officers targets, and they had to be pulled off.

Part of the reason other, similar operations, were more successful is because they were "done without a lot of fanfare and media attention," Albence said. "That certainly, from an operational perspective, is beneficial."

Another factor was weather; operations were suspended in New Orleans because of the hurricane there.

And immigrant rights activists nationwide had the rare advantage of knowing when to expect increased immigration enforcement, and they pushed "know-your-rights" campaigns hard.

Any hint of ICE activity, including false alarms, brought out dozens of activists to investigate in several cities, including Houston, New York and Chicago. To inform the public, they used hotlines, text networks, workshops and social media and promoted a smartphone app that notifies family members in case of an arrest.

In Chicago, even city officials got involved.

Two city aldermen started "bike brigades," patrolling immigrant-heavy neighborhoods to look for ICE agents and warn others. Another, Alderman Andre Vasquez, sought volunteers on Facebook to serve as "ICEbreakers." Over the weekend, it was standing-room only at his ward office as volunteers walked the neighborhood handing out know-your-rights cards and recruited businesses to be on the lookout.

"We were seeing concern and people starting to panic," Vasquez said. "We want to live in the kind of environment where we never have to worry about ICE and raids."

Activists reported one clear success story in Nashville, Tennessee, on Monday. Neighbors noticed ICE surveillance in the area and helped a 12-year-old boy and man avoid arrest by calling others and then linking arms around their van. ICE officers eventually called off the operation to avoid escalation.

Nashville showed what's possible in an organized community: Immigrant families can exercise their rights and their neighbors can help them to defend their rights, Lisa Sherman-Nikolaus, policy director at the Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition, said in an emailed statement. "The incredible scene that unfolded shows how deeply rooted immigrants are in our community."

Advocates also said many immigrants simply stayed home.

During the first weekend the raids were supposed to start, some immigrant-heavy churches had noticeably lower attendance and attributed the fear of stepped-up enforcement. Businesses in immigrant-heavy neighborhoods, including in Chicago, Atlanta and Miami, also reported very light traffic.

Those arrested were awaiting deportation. During the budget year 2018, about 256,086 people were deported, an increase of 13%. The Obama administration deported 409,849 people in 2012's budget year.

On Monday, the administration announced it would vastly extend the authority of immigration officers to deport migrants without allowing them to appear before judges. Fast-track deportations can apply to anyone in the country illegally for less than two years. Previously, those deportations were largely limited to people arrested almost immediately after crossing the Mexican border. Advocates said they would sue.

It was the second major immigration shift in eight days. Last Monday, the administration effectively banned asylum at the southern border by making anyone coming to the U.S. from a third country ineligible, with a few exceptions. Lawsuits are pending.

Tareen reported from Chicago.

Trump threatens Guatemala after its court blocks asylum deal

By JILL COLVIN, SONIA PEREZ D. and PAUL WISEMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Tuesday threatened retribution against Guatemala over immigration after the country's high court blocked its government from signing an asylum deal with the United States.

Trump tweeted that Guatemala has decided against signing a "safe-third agreement" requiring Central American migrants seeking asylum in the U.S. to instead apply for those protections in Guatemala, even though the country's government never said it had agreed to the arrangement.

Guatemala "has decided to break the deal they had with us on signing a necessary Safe Third Agreement. We were ready to go," Trump complained. "Now we are looking at the 'BAN,'" he wrote, along with tariffs, fees on remittance money Guatemalans working in the U.S. send back to their country, "or all of the above."

Trump later painted the court ruling as a convenient excuse for the country, saying, "In other words, they didn't want to sign it."

Trump has been trying to get countries including Guatemala to do more to stop the flood of Central American migrants who have been overwhelming the U.S. southern border, jeopardizing his campaign promise to end illegal immigration. Negotiations over a potential deal ended when Guatemala's Constitutional Court granted three injunctions preventing President Jimmy Morales from entering into a deal.

A July 15 meeting between Trump and Guatemala's president was also called off because the high court had yet to issue its ruling.

Morales responded to the tweets with a statement posted on Facebook blaming Guatemala's Constitutional Court justices for upsetting Trump.

"The repercussions of the Government of the United States of America toward Guatemala derive from a series of counterproductive actions by the Constitutional Court, which on repeated occasions has ruled against the content and spirit of our Constitution," Morales said, adding that "most of its judges, identified as having personal political interests, have used their investment to meddle in the foreign policy of the Guatemalan state."

Later Tuesday, Morales asked the Constitutional Court to revoke its decision. The government said in a statement that the Foreign Ministry had been directed "to exhaust all diplomatic resources available to avoid possible sanctions that could have negative repercussions for the nation's economy."

Trump nonetheless accused the country's leaders of having gone "back on their word to us" in remarks at a summit of conservative teenagers in Washington.

"They were all set to sign a safe third agreement and then today or yesterday, they announced they can't do it because they got a Supreme Court ruling. Their Supreme Court, right?" Trump said in a dismissive tone, repeating his tariff and "ban" threat.

The White House did not respond to questions Tuesday about what he meant in his reference to a "ban," but the United States is Guatemala's most important trade partner, with the countries swapping \$10.9 billion worth of goods last year. The top U.S. exports to Guatemala include fuel minerals such as coal, petroleum and natural gas; machinery and corn. Top imports from Guatemala include bananas and plantains, clothing and coffee.

Still, Guatemala's economy is small and its people poor, making for a lopsided relationship. Guatemala ranks just 46th among U.S. partners in the trade of goods, and any sanctions would likely first impact Guatemala's financial and industrial elite, said political analyst Roberto Santiago.

Trump could also hurt the country by trying to tax remittances, which are equal to 12.1% of the Guatemalan economy, according to the World Bank.

Trump also accused the country by tweet of "forming Caravans and sending large numbers of people, some with criminal records, to the United States," even though there is no evidence that the Guatemalan government had anything to do with organizing the migrant caravans or "sending" anyone to the U.S. The caravans, a phenomenon that died out months ago after Mexico cracked down, originated in neighboring

Honduras and were joined by people from Guatemala, El Salvador and elsewhere as they moved through Guatemala and then Mexico.

Trump's comments came a day after the two countries issued a friendly joint statement that made no mention of the "safe-third" idea. Instead, it said the two governments "continue to make important progress on a comprehensive regional approach to addressing irregular migration patterns," citing joint efforts "to reduce the flow of irregular migration and ensure the safety and protection of vulnerable populations, especially children."

U.S. Department of Homeland Security officials were set to meet with officials from the Northern Triangle countries Wednesday.

A "safe-third agreement" would mean that Salvadorans, Hondurans and people from elsewhere who cross into Guatemala would have to apply for asylum there instead of doing so at the U.S. border — potentially easing the crush of migrants overwhelming the U.S. immigration system and handing Trump a concession he could herald as a win.

Like its Central American neighbors, Guatemala suffers from poverty and violence, making it an unlikely refuge for those fleeing El Salvador and Honduras. And critics have said the Guatemalan government lacks the resources to help migrants and asylum-seekers trying to make it to the U.S. when tens of thousands of its own citizens have fled just this year.

"This is not a country that could be seen as a safe haven," said Paul Angelo, fellow for Latin American studies at the Council on Foreign Relations.

Negotiations between Washington and Guatemala had been carried out behind closed doors with little information released to the public. U.S. officials had said that a "safe third country" was on the table, though not finalized, even as the Guatemalan government said it was not intending to make such a deal.

The same pattern has played out with Mexico, with Trump insisting that they have agreed to a secret "third safe" deal, even as that country has denied that.

"May it be very clear, the Executive Branch was always very aware of the measures that the U.S. Government could take if we refused to help," Morales said in his statement.

Trump and his administration have made numerous attempts to try to prevent migrants from legally claiming asylum in the U.S., including issuing a new rule last week that would deny asylum to anyone who passes through other countries en route to the U.S. without seeking refuge in at least one of those countries.

Two lawsuits were filed challenging the move and a judge in Washington, D.C., heard arguments Monday. A judge in San Francisco has set a hearing for Wednesday in a similar lawsuit.

Perez D. contributed from Guatemala City. Associated Press writers Darlene Superville and Colleen Long also contributed to this report.

GOP, Dems offer compromise to reduce drug costs for seniors

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two veteran senators — a Republican and a Democrat — unveiled compromise legislation Tuesday to reduce prescription drug costs for millions of Medicare recipients, while saving money for federal and state health care programs serving seniors and low-income people.

Iowa Republican Chuck Grassley and Oregon Democrat Ron Wyden said the bill would for the first time limit drug copays for people with Medicare's "Part D" prescription plan, by capping patients' out-of-pocket costs at \$3,100 a year starting in 2022. They're hoping to have it ready soon for votes on the Senate floor.

The legislation would also require drugmakers to pay a price-hike penalty to Medicare if the cost of their medications goes up faster than inflation. Drugs purchased through a pharmacy as well as those administered in doctors' offices would be covered by the new inflation rebates.

Political compromises over health care are rare these days. The bill reflects efforts by lawmakers of both parties to move beyond the rancorous debates over the Obama-era Affordable Care Act and focus on ways

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to lower costs for people with health insurance. Separate legislation to address "surprise medical bills" has already cleared the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions committee.

The senators said preliminary estimates from the Congressional Budget Office show that the Medicare program would save \$85 billion over 10 years, while seniors would save \$27 billion in out-of-pocket costs over the same period, and \$5 billion from slightly lower premiums. The government would save \$15 billion from projected Medicaid costs.

CBO also projected that Medicare's inflation rebate would have ripple effects, leading to prescription drug savings for private insurance plans sponsored by employers or purchased directly by consumers.

The senators announced a Thursday vote on the package by the Finance Committee, which oversees Medicare and Medicaid. Grassley is the panel's chairman, while Wyden serves as the senior Democrat.

"Pharmaceutical companies play a vital role in creating new and innovative medicines that save and improve the quality of millions of American lives, but that doesn't help Americans who can't afford them," Grassley and Wyden said in a joint statement. "This legislation shows that no industry is above accountability."

The White House encouraged the Senate negotiations, and spokesman Judd Deere said the Trump administration stands ready to "work with senators to ensure this proposal moves forward and advances the president's priority of lowering drug prices."

Democrats controlling the House want to go farther by granting Medicare legal authority to directly negotiate prices with pharmaceutical companies. Direct negotiations are seen as a nonstarter in the Republican-controlled Senate, but the bill's drug price inflation penalty may yet find support among Democrats in the House.

Grassley's office said the bill will force drugmakers and insurers to take greater responsibility for keeping Medicare prescription prices in line, instead of foisting increases on taxpayers and beneficiaries.

The lack of a cap on out-of-pocket costs for Medicare's popular prescription benefit has left some beneficiaries with bills rivaling a mortgage payment. That's because with Medicare's current protection for catastrophic costs, patients taking very expensive drugs are still responsible for 5% of the cost, with no dollar limit on what they pay. For example, 5% of a drug that costs \$200,000 a year works out to \$10,000.

The Grassley-Wyden bill does not directly address the problem of high launch prices for new medications, but its inflation rebates could put the brakes on price hikes for mainstay drugs such as insulin.

The bill drew a rebuke from the pharmaceutical industry, while AARP praised Grassley and Wyden.

Other provisions of the legislation would:

- Change an arcane Medicaid payment formula through which drugmakers can avoid paying rebates on certain drugs, depending on fluctuations in prices.

- Allow state Medicaid programs to pay for expensive gene therapy treatments on the installment plan, spreading out the costs over several years.

- Require drugmakers to provide public justification for new high cost drugs or steep hikes in the prices of existing medications.

- Require middlemen known as pharmacy benefit managers to disclose details of the discounts they are negotiating and how much they are passing on to consumers. The benefit managers negotiate with pharmaceutical companies on behalf of insurers and consumers.

- Provide doctors with new computer tools they can use to estimate out-of-pocket medication costs for patients with Medicare.

Asian stocks rise on report of revived US-China trade talks

By JOE McDONALD AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Asian stock markets rose Wednesday following a report U.S. and Chinese trade envoys will meet for talks next week.

Benchmarks in Shanghai, Tokyo, Hong Kong and Sydney all advanced.

Investors were encouraged by a Bloomberg News report that U.S. officials including Trade Representative

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Robert Lighthizer will visit Beijing for talks. That would be the first face-to-face meeting since Presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping agreed in June to resume negotiations aimed at ending a bruising tariff war over U.S. complaints about Chinese technology ambitions.

Markets have welcomed any sign of possible progress on trade despite warnings the U.S.-Chinese truce is fragile because the two sides still are separated by the same disputes that caused talks to founder in May. Those include U.S. restrictions on technology sales to Chinese tech giant Huawei.

"Optimism will grow that this meeting could signal a key turning point in securing a final deal," said Edward Moya of OANDA in a report.

Investors will be watching "whether we see China deliver some structural reform promises and if the U.S. removes any of the current tariffs on Chinese goods and softens its hard line on Huawei," said Moya.

The Shanghai Composite Index gained 1.2% to 2,933.67 and Tokyo's Nikkei 225 climbed 0.5 % to 21,728.04. Hong Kong's Hang Seng advanced 1% to 28,745.75 and Seoul's Kospi was 0.5% lower at 2,098.74.

Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 gained 0.9% to 6,782.20. New Zealand, Taiwan and Southeast Asian markets declined.

On Wall Street, stocks were broadly higher after major companies reported solid second quarter gains.

The benchmark Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 0.7% to 3,005.47. The Dow Jones Industrial Average also rose 0.7%, to 27,349.19. The Nasdaq composite rose 0.6% to 8,251.40.

The gains followed several stumbles last week, extending a period of volatility in July as investors weigh a looming possible rate cut by the Federal Reserve as well as uncertainties over trade and the economy.

Nearly 150 companies in the S&P 500 are due to report results through Friday. Analysts are expecting earnings to decline overall for the second quarter in a row.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude gained 21 cents to \$56.98 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 55 cents on Wednesday to close at \$56.77. Brent crude, used to price international oils, advanced 17 cents to \$63.83 in London. It gained 57 cents in the previous session to \$63.83.

CURRENCY: The dollar declined to 108.14 Japanese yen from Tuesday's 108.23 yen. The euro slipped to \$1.1245 from \$1.1150.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, July 24, the 205th day of 2019. There are 160 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 24, 1969, the Apollo 11 astronauts — two of whom had been the first men to set foot on the moon — splashed down safely in the Pacific.

On this date:

In 1858, Republican senatorial candidate Abraham Lincoln formally challenged Democrat Stephen A. Douglas to a series of political debates; the result was seven face-to-face encounters.

In 1862, Martin Van Buren, the eighth president of the United States, and the first to have been born a U.S. citizen, died at age 79 in Kinderhook, New York, the town where he was born in 1782.

In 1866, Tennessee became the first state to be readmitted to the Union after the Civil War.

In 1915, the SS Eastland, a passenger ship carrying more than 2,500 people, rolled onto its side while docked at the Clark Street Bridge on the Chicago River; an estimated 844 people died in the disaster.

In 1937, the state of Alabama dropped charges against four of the nine young black men accused of raping two white women in the "Scottsboro Case."

In 1959, during a visit to Moscow, Vice President Richard Nixon engaged in his famous "Kitchen Debate" with Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev.

In 1974, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that President Richard Nixon had to turn over subpoenaed White House tape recordings to the Watergate special prosecutor.

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In 1975, an Apollo spacecraft splashed down in the Pacific, completing a mission which included the first-ever docking with a Soyuz capsule from the Soviet Union.

In 1998, a gunman burst into the U.S. Capitol, killing two police officers before being shot and captured. (The shooter, Russell Eugene Weston Jr., is being held in a federal mental facility.)

In 2002, nine coal miners became trapped in a flooded tunnel of the Quecreek (KYOO'-kreek) Mine in western Pennsylvania; the story ended happily 77 hours later with the rescue of all nine.

In 2005, Lance Armstrong won his seventh consecutive Tour de France. (Those wins were stripped away after Armstrong's 2013 confession to using steroids and other banned performance-enhancing drugs and methods.)

In 2017, in a speech to a national Boy Scout gathering in West Virginia, President Donald Trump railed against his enemies and promoted his political agenda, bringing an angry reaction from some parents and former Scouts from both parties.

Ten years ago: Trying to tamp down a national uproar over race, President Barack Obama acknowledged using unfortunate words in declaring that Cambridge, Massachusetts, police had "acted stupidly" in arresting black scholar Henry Louis Gates Jr., adding he'd invited the Harvard professor and Sgt. James Crowley, the arresting officer, for "a beer here in the White House."

Five years ago: Air Algérie Flight 5017, an MD-83 carrying 116 people, crashed in northern Mali, killing all on board; it was the third major international aviation disaster in a week. A psychiatrist's patient opened fire at a medical complex in Media, Pennsylvania, killing his caseworker and grazing his psychiatrist before the doctor pulled out his own weapon and fired back, wounding the patient. Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice received a two-game suspension from the NFL following his offseason arrest for domestic violence after an altercation with then-fiancée (later wife) Janay Palmer in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

One year ago: The Trump administration said it would provide \$12 billion in emergency relief to farmers hurt by trade disputes with China and other countries. Brian Kemp, a self-described "politically incorrect conservative" carrying the endorsement of President Donald Trump, won Georgia's GOP gubernatorial runoff; he would go on to defeat Democrat Stacey Abrams in the general election. A federal judge in New York ordered the release of an Ecuadorean immigrant, Pablo Villavicencio, who'd been held for deportation after delivering pizza to a U.S. Army installation in Brooklyn; the immigrant had applied to stay in the country after marrying a U.S. citizen with whom he had two young girls. Ivanka Trump announced the shutdown of her fashion line, which had been targeted by boycotts and prompted concerns about conflicts of interest.

Today's Birthdays: Actor John Aniston is 86. Political cartoonist Pat Oliphant is 84. Comedian Ruth Buzzi is 83. Actor Mark Goddard is 83. Actor Dan Hedaya is 79. Actor Chris Sarandon is 77. Comedian Gallagher is 73. Actor Robert Hays is 72. Former Republican national chairman Marc Racicot (RAWS'-koh) is 71. Actor Michael Richards is 70. Actress Lynda Carter is 68. Movie director Gus Van Sant is 67. Former Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., is 66. Country singer Pam Tillis is 62. Actor Paul Ben-Victor is 57. Basketball Hall of Famer Karl Malone is 56. Retired MLB All-Star Barry Bonds is 55. Actor Kadeem Hardison is 54. Actress-singer Kristin Chenoweth (CHEN'-oh-wuhth) is 51. Actress Laura Leighton is 51. Actor John P. Navin Jr. is 51. Actress-singer Jennifer Lopez is 50. Basketball player-turned-actor Rick Fox is 50. Director Patty Jenkins ("Wonder Woman") is 48. Actress Jamie Denbo (TV: "Orange is the New Black") is 46. Actor Eric Szmanda is 44. Actress Rose Byrne is 40. Country singer Jerrod Niemann is 40. Actress Summer Glau is 38. Actor Shaun McKinney is 38. Actress Elisabeth Moss is 37. Actress Anna Paquin is 37. Actress Sarah Greene is 35. NHL center Patrice Bergeron is 34. Actress Megan Park is 33. Actress Mara Wilson is 32. Rock singer Jay McGuinness (The Wanted) is 29. Actress Emily Bett Rickards is 28. Actor Lucas Adams is 26. TV personality Bindi Irwin is 21.

Thought for Today: "People who jump to conclusions rarely alight on them." — Philip Guedalla, British writer (1889-1944).