

# Groton Daily Independent

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## **CLOSED:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

## Upcoming **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

### Swimming Pool Hours

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

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

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

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

### 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

## Legion Post #39 wins first round of region game

Groton Legion Post #39 posted an 8-4 win over Warner-Ipswich-Northville in the first round of the regional tournament.

Mindy Jones sent us inning updates so we thought we should share them with our readers.

Score 0-0 after 1

Groton Legion playing WIN for 1st game of regions

Jones gets first hit of game with 2 outs 2nd inning

Johnson gets doubles, Jones scores!

Thurston hits, scores Johnson!

Schroeder hits and Thurston scores!

Shabazz gets out, ends top of inning 3-0 groton!  
Did all that with 2 outs! To start that inning Locke and Larson popped out for the 1st two outs.

We are home so that was bottom of 2nd inning

Morris strikes out all 3 batters so score 3-0 after top of 3rd

Blackmun flies out

Morris strikes out

Locke doubles with 2 outs

Larson strikes out for 3rd out

End of 3, 3-0 Groton

Line drive to 2nd for 1st out

Double to right field

Strike out for out 2

Strike out for 3rd out!

End of 3 1/2 still 3-0

Jones flies out

Johnson hits a single

Thurston hits and they get double play to end the inning

Still 3-0 end of 4

Strike out

Hit to short and got out

Strike out for 3rd out

End of 4 1/2

Schroeder reaches on an error

Shabazz pops out for 1st out

Blackmun pops out for 2nd out

Schroeder steals 2nd

Morris flies out for 3rd out

End of 5 still 3-0

Flies out to center for 1st out

Hit to 3rd, got the out for 2nd out

Single to right field

Double to right field

Runners on 2nd and 3rd

Single to left center scores 2

Double to right scores 1

Hit to 3rd, got the out

End of 5 1/2 tied 3-3

Locke walked

Larson walked

Jones sacrifice bunts

Johnson walks

Thurston hits to right scores Locke

Schroeder strikes out

Shabazz hits on error scores 2

Blackmun singles, scores 2!

Morris hits and gets out

End of 6 score 8-3!

Strike out for out 1

Hit to right

Pitcher change with 2 outs

Shabazz comes into pitch

Double, scores 1

Hit to first, 3rd out to end the inning

Groton wins 8-4!



**Pictured are Nancy Oar, Audrey Jacobson, Tom Oar and Clint Jacobson.** (Courtesy Photo)

## Jacobsons meet Mountain Men Star

Clint and Audrey Jacobson took a vacation to the Yaak area of Montana where they own some lots. They had to go back to take care of business with the lots. But they got more than a business trip. They had the opportunity to see and visit with Tom and Nancy Oar.

Tom was one of the stars of Mountain Men, a show on the History Channel. Tom has recently retired from the show and was not in the Season eight series that started in June.

Tom and Nancy have moved to Florida, but still have property in the Yaak area.

While the Jacobsons were on vacation, there was a school benefit for the Yaak School. It is a five-student school with one teacher. The benefit was for purchasing books and computers for the school.

"We were hoping to meet Tom when we got there," Clint said. "And lo and behold we did."



**Tom and Nancy Oar own this store along the Yaak River in Montana. Audrey Jacobson is pictured with Wil who works at the store.** (Courtesy Photo)



## Grass clogs storm sewer inlets

A city ordinance prohibits people from blowing grass out in the street, but they still do it any way and it can cause serious flooding issues. A storm sewer inlet pictured above is clogged with grass that was blown out in the street and the rain washed it to the gutter and down to the storm sewer inlet. When storm sewer inlets are plugged, it can result in water backing up in the streets and even over the curb and into people's yards and basements.

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## District 2B Amateur Baseball Tourney at Groton, SD

Winner's Bracket

**This year fans will be able to bring in their own beer & wine and we are doing a gun raffle, with two winners to be chosen during the championship game August 2nd.**



**\$1 foul balls**

\*\*Loser of Game #5 = Representative #2

\*\*Loser of Game #6 = Representative #1



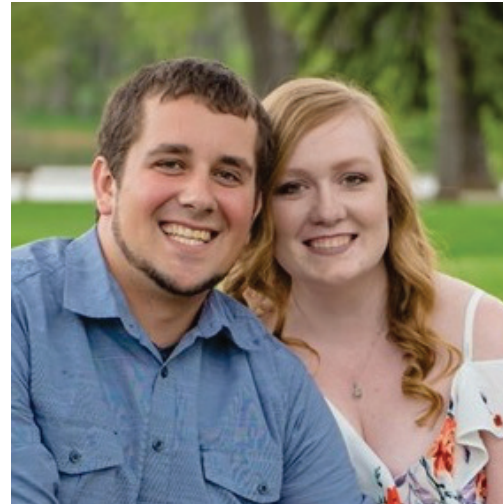
Come and Go Bridal Shower  
Honoring Brooke Lesher  
(Bride-to-be of Kevin Hagen)

## Bridal Shower

July 27, 2019  
9:30AM – 11:30AM  
United Methodist Church  
201 6<sup>th</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup>, at 1 pm  
Aberdeen Senior Citizens Center  
1303 7<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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



Slight Chance  
T-storms

High: 87 °F

Tonight



Slight Chance  
T-storms then  
Mostly Clear

Low: 63 °F

Friday



Hot

High: 90 °F

Friday  
Night



Clear

Low: 62 °F

Saturday



Mostly Sunny

High: 89 °F

## Slight Risk

of severe thunderstorms

1 2 3 4 5

### Hazards

Thunderstorms, a few strong to severe, have the potential to produce lightning, hail to quarter size and wind gusts to 60 mph.

### Timing

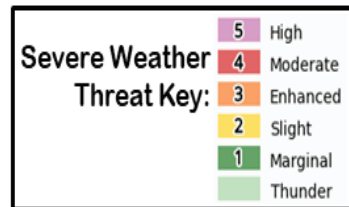
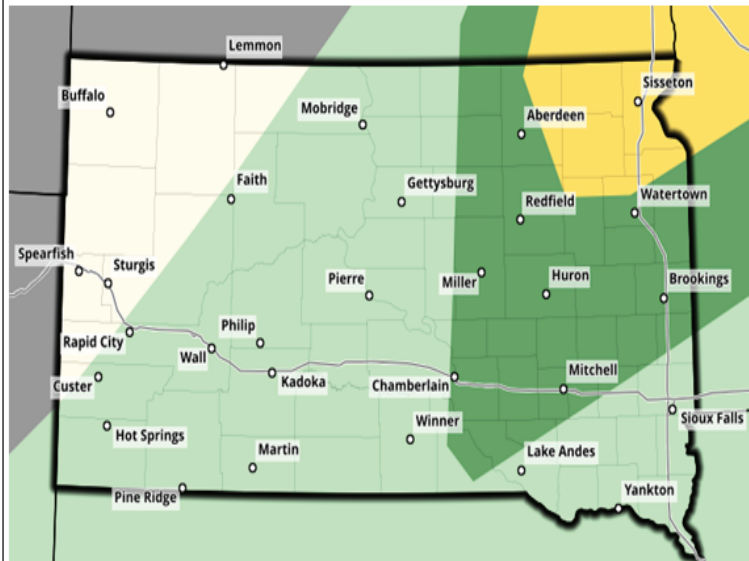
Through this evening, with the highest threat from around 3 pm until 9 pm.

### Some Locations at Risk

Webster, Sisseton, and Wheaton

### Action

Pay close attention to the weather, and be prepared to seek shelter if necessary.



ISSUED: 5:32 AM - Thursday, July 25, 2019

Published on: 07/25/2019 at 1:38AM

We are looking at the potential for strong to severe storms to develop across far northeastern South Dakota by mid afternoon through this evening. There is a Slight Risk of severe thunderstorms. While thunderstorms will be possible through much of the day, the highest threat for stronger storms will be this afternoon into the evening hours. Stay weather aware, and prepared to take shelter if needed.

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## Today in Weather History

July 25, 1961: A thunderstorm started late in the evening on the 25th and went into the early morning hours of the 26th. A sizeable area suffered 50 to 100 percent loss of crops resulting from hail over the following counties, Bison, Perkins, Faulk, Sully, and western Hand. Corn was stripped of leaves and broken off. Oats and wheat were flattened. High winds with recorded gusts of 75 to 80 miles per hour cause numerous power failures and damaged trees in Pierre.

July 25, 1972: Unofficial rainfall amounts of 8 inches caused flash flooding in Ferney and surrounding area in Brown County. Water, over two feet depth was reported in a parking area. Basements were flooded, and foundations were damaged. The torrential rains caused extensive damage to crops in the area.

July 25, 1984: Severe thunderstorms caused considerable damage to the Pierre area. Winds were gusting to 83 mph at the Pierre airport, where thirteen planes, as well as several hangars, were destroyed. In town, a home and three businesses lost their roofs, and a trailer home was destroyed. Rains of four inches in thirty minutes produced flash flooding with some streets closed for some time. Some basements were reported to have 6 to 8 inches of water in them. At Dupree, high winds caused extensive damage to the grandstand roof at the fairgrounds. Along the entire path of the thunderstorms, hail and high winds broke windows, damaged cars, downed trees, damaged crops, and caused power outages.

July 25, 1993: Lake Kampeska, near Watertown, reached near record level at 37 inches over full mark due to runoff from heavy rains in previous days. Dozens of homes and two businesses were flooded out. About 100,000 sandbags were distributed to help prevent more flood damage to lakeside property owners.

July 25, 2000: A powerful F4 tornado hit the city of Granite Falls in Minnesota. The tornado first touched down in rural parts of the county west-northwest of Granite Falls. The tornado struck the city at 6:10 pm. After tearing through the residential sections of town, the tornado lifted at approximately 6:25 PM after being on the ground for over nine miles. The tornado caused one fatality and injured more than a dozen.

1936: Lincoln, Nebraska saw an all-time high temperature of 115 degrees. The low only dropped to 91 degrees and the average temperature was 103. Many people spent the night sleeping outside to escape the heat.

1956: The Andrea Doria sank in dense fog near Nantucket Lightship, Massachusetts. The Swedish-American liner, Stockholm, hit the ship forty-five miles off the coast of Massachusetts. Fifty-two persons drowned or were killed by the impact.

2005: The citizens of Sand Point, Alaska saw a rare tornado touchdown on two uninhabited islands. Sand Point is part of the Aleutian Chain and is located about 570 miles southwest of Anchorage.

1891 - The mercury hit 109 degrees at Los Angeles, CA, marking the peak of a torrid heat wave. (David Ludlum)

1986 - Tremendous hailstones pounded parts of South Dakota damaging crops, buildings and vehicles. Hail piled two feet deep at Black Hawk and northern Rapid City. Hail an inch and a quarter in diameter fell for 85 minutes near Miller and Huron, piling up to depths of two feet. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Sixteen cities in the eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Beckley, WV, equalled their all-time record high of 91 degrees, established just the previous day. It marked their fourth day in a row of 90 degree heat, after hitting 90 degrees just twice in the previous 25 years of records. The water temperature of Lake Erie at Buffalo, NY, reached 79 degrees, the warmest reading in 52 years of records. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from central Kansas to western Kentucky and southern Illinois during the day. Thunderstorms produced tennis ball size hail at Union, MO, and winds gusts to 65 mph at Sedalia, MO. Five cities in Washington and Oregon reported record high temperatures for the date. Medford, OR, hit 107 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Early afternoon thunderstorms over west central Missouri drenched the town of Ferguson with four inches of rain. Early evening thunderstorms in Pennsylvania produced more than two inches of rain north of Avella in one hour. (The National Weather Summary)



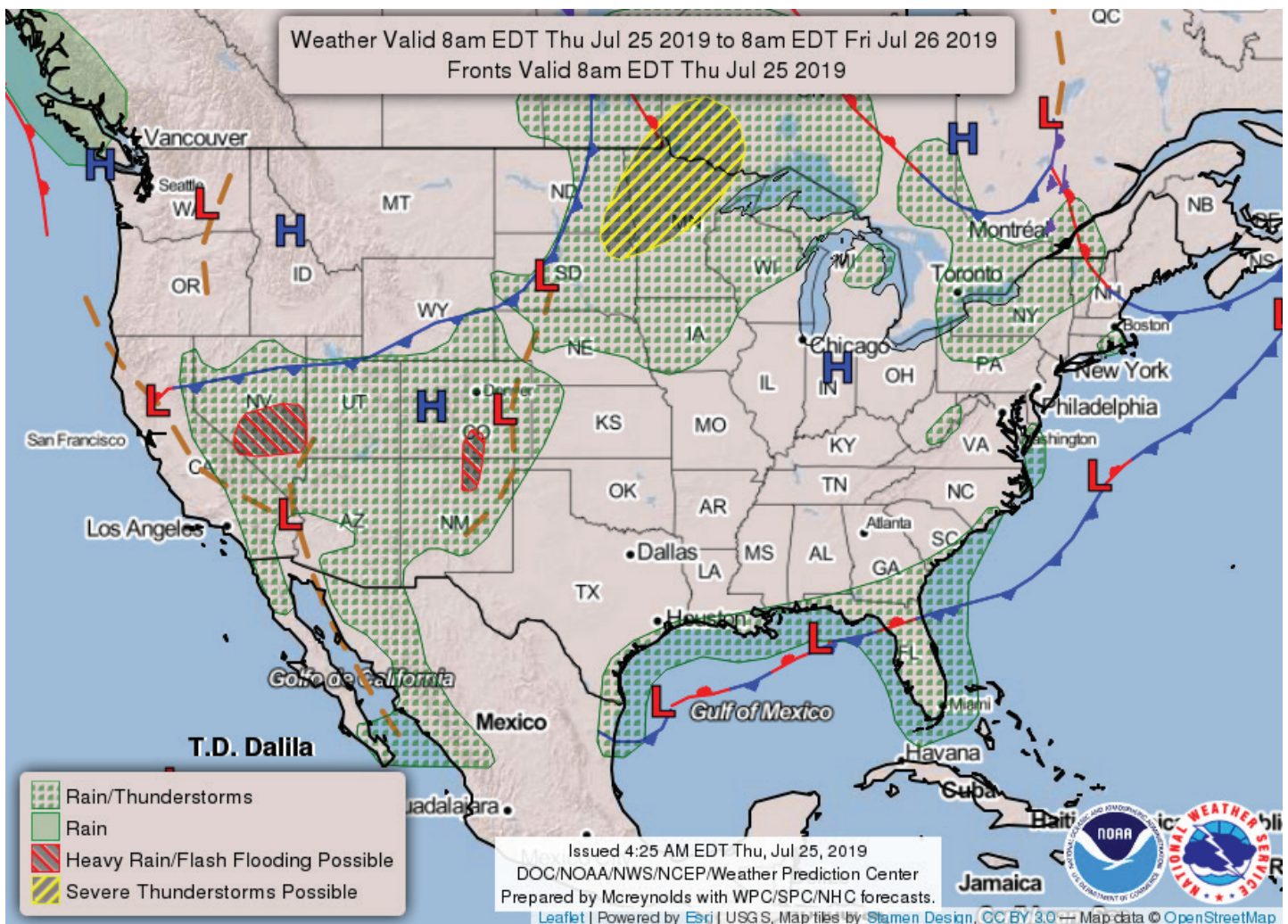
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 82 °F at 4:01 PM**  
**Low Temp: 59 °F at 5:28 AM**  
**Wind: 22 mph at 11:58 AM**  
**Day Rain: 0.00**

**Record High: 111° in 1931**  
**Record Low: 44° in 1911**  
**Average High: 84°F**  
**Average Low: 59°F**  
**Average Precip in July.: 2.43**  
**Precip to date in July.: 2.87**  
**Average Precip to date: 13.27**  
**Precip Year to Date: 15.59**  
**Sunset Tonight: 9:10 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:11 a.m.**



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## VICTORY IS THE LORDS

Our individual and national security has become a very significant topic of discussion in recent years. When we look beyond our own borders, we are reminded of the reality of instant upheaval through acts of terror that bring destruction without warning. We wonder where the next attack will be and who will be responsible. Will it ever end?

On one occasion David wrote, Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God. And a little later on he wrote, A horse is a vain hope for deliverance; despite all of its great strength it cannot save. No doubt his son Solomon had listened to his father as he discussed his thoughts on war and battle strategies, winning and losing or victory and defeat. Out of those conversations, Solomon formed his own ideas of war among and between nations. The horse is made ready for the day of battle, he said, but victory rests with the Lord! When David and Solomon penned these observations, the horse was the greatest weapon in the military arsenal. When coupled to a chariot, it added an even more lethal dimension. It brought speed to the battlefield that warriors could not overcome with its ability to hit and run. Foot soldiers did not have the capability to defeat an army that used horses in combat.

David and Solomon, however, remind us today about what makes the difference in combat: Victory belongs to the Lord. Nations may develop strategies, prepare and equip warriors, have superior weaponry and technology, and plans without flaws (in their minds) but it makes little difference. God determines the victor.

Throughout Scripture God reminds us that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lords. Whose side are you on?

Prayer: Thank you, Father, for the promises in Your Word that assure us of Your strength and sovereignty and our safety. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 21:31 The horse is made ready for the day of battle, he said, but victory rests with the Lord.

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## 2019 Groton SD Community Events

- 08/07/2019 Storybook Land Theatre Performace at Granary Rural Cultural Center
- 09/07/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 09/08/2019 Sunflower Classic at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 09/19/2019 St. John's Lutheran Luncheon
- 09/20/2019 Presbygerian Luncheon
- 09/28/2019 Granary Living History Fall Festival
- 10/11/2019 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/12/2019 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 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

- 01/26/2020 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
- 04/04/2020 Groton Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 04/25/2020 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 05/02/2020 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 06/8-10/2020 St. John's VBS
- 07/04/2020 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)  
Groton Hosting State B American Legion Baseball Tournament
- 07/12/2020 Summer Fest/Car Show
- 09/12/2020 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 10/10/2020 Pumpkin Fest

## News from the Associated Press

### Former priest facing new tax crime charges

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A former priest accused of stealing cash donations from the Diocese of Rapid City has been indicted on new tax crime charges.

The new indictment filed this week accuses Marcin Garbacz of stealing a total of \$250,000 in church donations. Garbacz faces five new charges of making and subscribing a false tax return. The Rapid City Journal says the indictment alleges the former priest failed to report as income the donations he stole from various parishes and failed to pay taxes on the stolen cash.

Garbacz earlier pleaded not guilty to 50 counts of wire fraud, money laundering and transporting stolen money between July 2012 and July 2018.

Garbacz is scheduled for an initial appearance in federal court in Rapid City on the new indictment July 29.

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

### Great Western Bancorp, Inc. Declares Quarterly Cash Dividend

SIOUX FALLS, S.D.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Jul 25, 2019--

The Board of Directors of Great Western Bancorp, Inc. (NYSE: GWB) today announced that it has declared a quarterly cash dividend to its stockholders.

A quarterly cash dividend of \$0.30 per common share will be paid on August 23, 2019, to all stockholders of record as of the close of business on August 9, 2019. Future dividends will be subject to Board approval.

About Great Western Bancorp, Inc.

Great Western Bancorp, Inc. is the holding company for Great Western Bank, a full-service regional bank focused on relationship-based business and agribusiness banking. Great Western Bank offers small and mid-sized businesses a focused suite of financial products and a range of deposit and loan products to retail customers through several channels, including the branch network, online banking system, mobile banking applications and customer care centers. The bank services its customers through more than 170 branches in nine states: Arizona, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota. To learn more about Great Western Bank visit [www.greatwesternbank.com](http://www.greatwesternbank.com).

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash

07-12-21-24-33

(seven, twelve, twenty-one, twenty-four, thirty-three)

Estimated jackpot: \$37,000

Lotto America

26-28-33-34-42, Star Ball: 10, ASB: 3

(twenty-six, twenty-eight, thirty-three, thirty-four, forty-two; Star Ball: ten; ASB: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$2.15 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$40 million

Powerball

22-29-35-53-56, Powerball: 13, Power Play: 2

(twenty-two, twenty-nine, thirty-five, fifty-three, fifty-six; Powerball: thirteen; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$63 million

## Prosecutors seek 15-year prison term for ex-athletic trainer

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — Federal prosecutors compared a 79-year-old ex-high school athletic trainer in Montana to another high-profile pedophile defendant, Larry Nassar, in seeking the maximum penalty after he admitted coercing high school boys into sexual abuse over decades.

The U.S. attorney's office is asking a judge to sentence James Jensen to 15 years in prison, followed by three years of supervised release, more than the federal sentencing guidelines' range of up to eight years.

U.S. District Judge Dana Christensen has scheduled a sentencing hearing for next Tuesday in Billings.

Jensen's public defender, Steven Babcock, did not immediately return a call for comment Wednesday. Babcock asked Christensen to give him until Friday to file a response to prosecutors' sentencing memo submitted last week, and wrote that he planned to visit Jensen in prison on Wednesday.

Prosecutors said Jensen sexually abused high school boys throughout his nearly 30-year career and told the student athletes it was part of a massage program to boost their performance.

Jensen pleaded guilty in March to a charge of coercion and enticement. The time limit for charging him with sexual abuse had expired.

Jensen was a trainer at Custer County District High School in Miles City from the 1970s until about 1998. The federal indictment was filed in December and focused on Jensen's actions from 1995 until 1999.

Thirty-two people have accused Jensen of abuse, and both prosecutors and Jensen's public defender say there were many more victims.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Zeno Baucus said in the sentencing memo that Jensen's crimes merit a more substantial punishment than the sentencing guidelines, even though Jensen has no criminal record. He said Jensen's case is "strikingly similar" to that of Nassar, the former Michigan State University and USA Gymnastics sports doctor suspected of abusing hundreds of girls.

Nassar was sentenced to 60 years in prison for receipt and possession of child pornography and obstruction of justice.

Baucus also cited the 18-year prison sentence given to Stanley Patrick Weber earlier this year. The former Indian Health Services pediatrician was convicted of sexually abusing boys on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation and also faces accusations on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

"Jensen used these victims for his own sexual gratification and hid his true intentions behind an alleged massage program," Baucus wrote. "It is his deranged character that concocted a scheme to take advantage of kids."

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This story has been updated to correct that prosecutors are asking for a 15-year prison sentence.

## Midwest wildlife officials discuss chronic wasting disease

By **TODD RICHMOND** Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Midwest wildlife officials gathered Wednesday to discuss how they might better combat chronic wasting disease, which has been spreading through the region's deer herds with no end in sight.

Among those at the two-day conference in Madison were wildlife officials from Kansas, Kentucky, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Wisconsin and two Native American tribes — the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and the Forest County Potawatomi.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Secretary Preston Cole kicked off the meeting by imploring the attendees to collaborate with one another.

"We've all been working trying to stop it on our own. That has to change," Cole said. "It is our region that is at stake. We have a great opportunity to show the public at large that we are on it."

He told reporters that the conference is "unprecedented" and that states need to make sure they're not spending money on the same research.

Chronic wasting disease is similar to mad cow disease. It attacks the brains of deer and causes the animals to grow thin, act abnormally and eventually die. The disease threatens the deer hunting industry

throughout the Midwest.

The disease had been found in at least 24 states as well as two Canadian provinces as of early June, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It has also been reported in reindeer and moose in Norway, Finland and Sweden.

The Madison conference's agenda called for group discussions on the state of research on the disease, the creation of a common platform for interstate communication on it and the best management practices.

Mike Samuel, a former University of Wisconsin-Madison wildlife ecology professor, kicked off the discussion by warning attendees that chronic wasting disease epidemics can last as long as 40 or 50 years. He noted that the prions, which are proteins that cause an infected deer's brain to fold abnormally, have been found in water and deer mineral licks.

He also said laboratory plants have absorbed the prions through soil, a discovery that could have potential consequences for agriculture. Norway last year banned hay and straw imports from areas infected with chronic wasting disease, Samuels said.

Once the disease becomes prevalent in an area, it's nearly impossible to eradicate, Samuels said. At some point, the disease will thin deer populations to the point where the herds can't sustain it any longer and it will die out, but many trophy bucks will die before before that occurs, he said.

He complained that not enough work is being done to create a vaccine.

"There are no easy answers to this disease in my book," Samuels said. "We really need a silver bullet, for sure."

The group is expected to conclude the conference on Thursday by making recommendations on how to improve regional management of the disease.

The disease was first detected in Wisconsin in 2002. Infections have since been detected in 35 of the state's 72 counties.

The Wisconsin DNR initially tried to persuade hunters to kill as many deer as possible in hopes of eradicating the disease. But hunters and landowners refused to accept that approach. The backlash was so fierce that former Republican Gov. Scott Walker adopted a largely hands-off approach to the disease, focusing on tracking its spread rather than actively trying to stop it.

Wisconsin DNR sociologist Jordan Petchenik told conference attendees not to rely on hunters in their states to control the disease.

He said his agency has learned that asking people to kill more deer than they can eat conflicts with hunting ethics, that many hunters don't see the disease as a crisis and that hunters don't believe killing one or two more deer each season will make a difference.

Wisconsin's current Democratic governor, Tony Evers, has offered no new strategies to address chronic wasting disease. Cole, an Evers appointee, told reporters that the administration wants to assess where research stands across the country so he can make an informed case for changes, whatever they might be, to Republican legislators. The conference is a step toward that goal, he said.

Follow Todd Richmond on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/trichmond1>

## 'In God We Trust' going up at South Dakota public schools

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — When students return to public schools across South Dakota this fall, they should expect to see a new message on display: "In God We Trust."

A new state law that took effect this month requires all public schools in the state's 149 districts to paint, stencil or otherwise prominently display the national motto.

The South Dakota lawmakers who proposed the law said the requirement was meant to inspire patriotism in the state's public schools. Displays must be at least 12-by-12 inches and must be approved by the school's principal, according to the law.

Associated School Boards of South Dakota executive director Wade Pogany said schools are complying with the law in different ways.

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"Some have plaques. Other have it painted on the wall, maybe in a mural setting," Pogany said. In one school "it was within their freedom wall. They added that to a patriotic theme."

The Freedom From Religion Foundation, based in Madison, Wisconsin, which has legally challenged the motto's inclusion on U.S. currency, alerted its South Dakota members to contact their legislators to express opposition to the law.

"Our position is that it's a terrible violation of freedom of conscience to inflict a godly message on a captive audience of school children," foundation co-president Annie Laurie Gaylor said Wednesday.

Pogany said the school boards' association was OK with the legislation as long as it provided legal protection.

"One of our concerns was that this would be contested. So we had asked the legislature to put a 'hold harmless' clause into the bill. The state would then defend the schools and pay the cost of the defense," Pogany said.

Administrators at Rapid City Area Schools have finished stenciling the motto on the walls of its 23 public schools. The law doesn't provide funding for installing the message. Stenciling the motto cost a total of \$2,800 at Rapid City schools, spokeswoman Katy Urban told the Rapid City Journal.

In May, a group of students from the district's Stevens High School suggested to the school board an alternate version of the motto they designed that includes the names of Buddha, Yahweh and Allah — as well as terms like science and the spirits. The student group Working to Initiate Societal Equality, or WISE, told board members that the standard motto appears to favor Christianity over other religions.

"To my knowledge there's been no discussion among the board about any alternative," Urban said.

"In God We Trust" was adopted when President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed legislation in 1956. According to the U.S. Department of Treasury website it first appeared on paper money the following year.

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

## 1 killed, 2 injured in 4-vehicle crash near Brandon

BRANDON, S.D. (AP) — The Highway Patrol says charges are pending in a fatal, four-vehicle crash in eastern South Dakota.

The collision occurred Tuesday on Interstate 90 northwest of Brandon. The patrol says a Chevy Impala, Jeep Grand Cherokee and GMC Terrain were westbound and nearly stopped as traffic merged due to road construction. A box truck struck the Terrain and rear-ended the Jeep, then pushed the Impala into the grass median.

The 22-year-old female driver of the Jeep Cherokee was pronounced dead at the scene. The 57-year-old female driver of Terrain suffered serious injuries and the 34-year-old female passenger of the truck sustained minor injuries. Both were transported by ambulance to a Sioux Falls hospital. The other two drivers were not injured.

The patrol says charges are pending against the truck driver.

## Judge blocks Trump asylum restrictions at US-Mexico border

By AMY TAXIN and ASHRAF KHALIL Associated Press

A federal judge has ordered the Trump administration to stop denying asylum to anyone who transits through another country to reach the U.S. border, marking the latest legal defeat for a president waging an all-out battle to stem the flow of migrants entering from Mexico.

The ruling by U.S. District Judge Jon Tigar in San Francisco on Wednesday came hours after another federal judge in Washington, D.C., let the 9-day-old policy stand. The California judge's preliminary injunction halts the policy while the lawsuit plays out in court.

The new policy denies asylum to anyone who passes through another country on the way to the U.S. without seeking protection there. Most crossing the Mexican border are from Central America, but it would

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apply to all nationalities except countries that border the U.S.

The dramatic change went into effect last week, though there were conflicting reports on whether U.S. immigration agencies were enforcing it.

Top U.S. officials said the policy would discourage migrants from leaving their countries, which they say is necessary to reduce the numbers of people that U.S. authorities are detaining.

The White House condemned the judge's order, calling it "tyranny of a dysfunctional system."

White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham said Thursday the plaintiffs in the case had found "a single district judge who will purport to dictate immigration policy to the entire Nation." She said President Donald Trump will "pursue all available options to address this meritless ruling and to defend this Nation's borders."

Tigar, who was appointed by former President Barack Obama, halted another Trump policy last year to deny asylum to people who crossed the border illegally.

The judge said the policy could expose migrants to violence and abuse, deny their rights under international law and return them to countries they were fleeing. He cited the administration's own court filings to argue that Mexico was unsafe.

Tigar acknowledged that the U.S. immigration system is overwhelmed by the surge in migrants from Central America over the last year.

"But shortcutting the law, or weakening the boundary between Congress and the Executive, are not the solutions to these problems," he wrote.

Trump told reporters before his departure for a fundraiser in West Virginia on Wednesday that the decision earlier Wednesday by U.S. District Judge Timothy Kelly, a Trump appointee, was a "tremendous ruling." He added: "We appreciate it. We respect the courts very much. That helps us very much at the border."

The California judge ruled in favor of advocacy groups represented by the American Civil Liberties Union, the Southern Poverty Law Center and the Center for Constitutional Rights.

Melissa Crow, an attorney for the Southern Poverty Law Center, said the decision was "an important victory for incredibly vulnerable individuals and families from besieged Central American countries seeking refuge in our country."

"We will continue to fight this draconian policy as well as the myriad of others through which the Trump administration continues to wage war on asylum-seekers and our nation's asylum system," Crow said.

The policy would have limited exceptions that would allow for asylum: if someone has been trafficked, if an asylum seeker sought protection in a country but was denied or if the country the migrant passed through did not sign one of the major international treaties that govern how refugees are managed, though most Western countries have signed them.

The decision came as tens of thousands of people are waiting in Mexico on official and unofficial lists formed after U.S. agents started turning away many asylum seekers, citing lack of space and delays in immigration courts. They also include people are forced to wait in Mexico while their cases wind through U.S. immigration policy, another Trump policy that has so far survived a legal challenge.

Tigar's ruling is the latest example of courts dealing Trump a setback on immigration policy. A court stopped the administration from detaining asylum seekers without giving them a chance to be released on bond.

A judge in Oakland, California, prevented the Trump administration from tapping \$2.5 billion in Pentagon money to build border walls. The administration has appealed that decision to the U.S. Supreme Court and asked for a ruling by Friday.

Taxin reported from Santa Ana, California, and Khalil reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Elliot Spagat in San Diego, Colleen Long in Washington and Nomaan Merchant in Houston contributed to this report.



## NKorea fires new ballistic missile in likely pressure tactic

By HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea fired a new type of short-range ballistic missile in two launches into the sea Thursday, South Korean officials said. They were North Korea's first weapons launches in more than two months and appeared to be a pressuring tactic as Pyongyang and Washington struggle to restart nuclear negotiations.

The South's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the missiles were fired from near the eastern coastal town of Wonsan and flew about 430 kilometers (270 miles) and 690 kilometers (430 miles) respectively before landing off the country's east coast.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff described both missiles as short-range but didn't elaborate. But after a national security council meeting later Thursday, South Korea's presidential Blue House said the weapons North Korea launched were assessed as "a new kind of short-range ballistic missiles."

North Korea is banned by U.N. Security Council resolutions from engaging in any launch using ballistic technology. So North Korea could face international condemnation over the latest launches. But it's still unlikely for the North, already under 11 rounds of U.N. sanctions, to be hit with fresh punitive measures because the U.N. council has typically imposed new sanctions only when the North conducted long-range ballistic launches, not short-range ballistic launches.

A South Korean defense official, requesting anonymity because of department rules, said that an initial analysis showed both missiles were fired from mobile launchers and flew at a maximum altitude of 50 kilometers (30 miles).

The North is unhappy over planned U.S.-South Korean military drills that it says are preparation for an invasion. The missile tests may be meant as a warning to Washington.

They came as many in the United States were focused on testimony before Congress by Robert Mueller, the former special counsel, about his two-year probe into Russian election interference. A day earlier, U.S. national security adviser John Bolton left Seoul after agreeing with South Korean officials to work closely to achieve North Korea's denuclearization.

"North Korea appears to be thinking its diplomacy with the U.S. isn't proceeding in a way that they want. So they've fired missiles to get the table to turn in their favor," said analyst Kim Dae-young at the Korea Research Institute for National Strategy.

But North Korea doesn't appear to be pulling away from U.S.-led diplomacy aimed at curbing its nuclear program, analysts say. The relatively short distance travelled by the missiles suggests the launches were not intended as a major provocation, unlike a test of a long-range missile capable of reaching the U.S. mainland.

North Korea has been urging the U.S. and South Korea to scrap their summertime military drills. Last week, the North said it may lift its 20-month suspension of nuclear and long-range missile tests in response to the drills. Seoul said Wednesday North Korea was refusing to accept its offer to send 50,000 tons of rice through an international agency to protest the drills.

Some experts say North Korea is trying to get an upper hand ahead of a possible resumption of talks. Pyongyang wants widespread sanctions relief so it can revive its dilapidated economy. U.S. officials demand North Korea first take significant steps toward disarmament before they will relinquish the leverage provided by the sanctions.

A senior U.S. official said the Trump administration was aware of the reported launches. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to provide a response, said the administration had no further comment.

South Korean Defense Ministry spokeswoman Choi Hyunsoo urged Pyongyang to stop acts that are "not helpful to efforts to ease military tensions on the Korean Peninsula."

"If they were ballistic missiles, they violate the U.N. resolutions, and I find it extremely regrettable," Japan's Defense Minister Takeshi Iwaya told reporters in Tokyo.

China, the North's last major ally and biggest aid provider, said both Washington and Pyongyang should restart their nuclear diplomacy as soon as possible.

"All parties concerned should cherish the hard-won opportunity for dialogue and the easing of tensions,

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express goodwill, meet each other halfway and jointly make positive efforts to promote denuclearization," said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying.

It was the first missile launch since Seoul said North Korea fired three short-range missiles off its east coast in early May. At the time, many experts said those missiles strongly resembled the Russian-designed Iskander, a short-range, nuclear-capable ballistic missile that has been in the Russian arsenal for more than a decade.

Analyst Kim Dong-yub at Seoul's Institute for Far Eastern Studies said the latest missiles could be Scud-C ballistic missiles or KN-23 surface-to-surface missiles, a North Korean version of the Iskander.

During a third summit at the Korean border late last month, President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un agreed to resume nuclear negotiations that had been deadlocked since their second summit in Vietnam in February. It ended in disagreement over U.S.-led sanctions.

On Tuesday, North Korean state media said Kim inspected a newly built submarine and ordered officials to further bolster the country's military capabilities. The Korean Central News Agency said the submarine's operational deployment "is near at hand."

After analyzing North Korea-dispatched photos of the submarine, experts said it likely has three or more launch tubes for missiles. South Korean government documents say North Korea has about 70 submarines. Most have only torpedo, not missile launch tubes, except for a test platform with a single launch tube the North has used when it fired ballistic missiles in recent years, according to Kim Dae-young, the analyst.

The new submarine suggests North Korea has been increasing its military capability despite nuclear diplomacy that it began with the United States early last year.

The latest launches came amid a flaring of tensions in North Asia after South Korean fighter jets on Tuesday fired warning shots to drive away a Russian reconnaissance plane that Seoul says violated its airspace. Before that alleged intrusion, South Korean military jets scrambled after Russian and Chinese warplanes including the reconnaissance aircraft made an extremely unusual joint entrance into South Korea's air defense identification zone.

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Associated Press writers Deb Riechmann in Washington, Mari Yamaguchi in Tokyo and researcher Liu Zheng in Beijing contributed to this report.

## Paris hits new heat record, London boils in Europe heat wave

By ANGELA CHARLTON and KIRSTEN GRIESHABER Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Hot, hotter, hottest! Paris, London and places across Europe are sweltering under all-time high temperatures or near-record heat Thursday as the second heat wave this summer bakes the continent.

Climate scientists warn this could become the new normal in many parts of the world. But temperate Europe — where air conditioning is rare — isn't equipped for the temperatures frying the region this week.

So tourists frolicked in fountains to seek relief, and authorities and volunteers fanned out to help the elderly, sick and homeless hit hardest by the heat. Trains were canceled in Britain and France, and French authorities urged travelers to stay home.

One by one, heat records are being broken across Europe. On Thursday afternoon the Paris area hit 40.6 C (105.1 F), beating the previous record of 40.4 C (104.8 F) in 1947. Authorities said the temperature was still rising, as a result of hot, dry air coming from northern Africa that's trapped between cold stormy systems.

London expects to see 39 C (102 F). And swaths of Germany, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Switzerland could face temperatures exceeding 40 C (104 F).

In Belgium, the meteorological institute said the nation saw temperatures rise past the 40 C mark for the first time since records were kept in 1833. The new all-time high now stood at 40.2 C (104.4 F), recorded close to Liege in eastern Belgium's Angleur on Wednesday.

Germany recorded 40.5 degrees (104.9 F) Wednesday, and the German Weather Service is expecting even higher temperatures Thursday.

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In Austria, a 2-year-old died of dehydration in the country's Styria region after he climbed into an overheated parked car without his family noticing and fell asleep in it.

The Austrian news agency APA reported Thursday that the boy, who climbed into a car parked at the family's farm on Monday, died at a children's hospital on Wednesday.

In the Netherlands, a government health institute warned of high levels of smog due to ozone in the air in parts of the country.

The National Institute for Public Health and the Environment issued a "smog alarm" Thursday for regions including the densely populated cities of Amsterdam, Rotterdam and The Hague.

The institute said air quality in the some regions will be "extremely bad" because light winds mean that pollution is not being blown away and sunlight transforms it into ozone. The smog can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, and leave people coughing and short of breath.

Across Germany, Switzerland and Austria, some communities painted rail tracks in white hoping the light color would bring down the temperature by a few degrees. In Heiligendamm on the Baltic Sea in eastern Germany, train services were canceled temporarily during last month's heat wave after the tracks were deformed by the heat.

Across London and Paris, authorities and charity workers handed out water and sunscreen to homeless people and opened day centers for them to rest and shower.

"They are in the street all day, under the sun. No air conditioning, no way to protect oneself from the heat, so for some it's really quite complicated," said Ruggero Gatti, an IT worker joining other Red Cross volunteers handing out water bottles, soup and yogurt to the homeless in the Paris suburb of Boulogne.

Tourists clustered around fountains and canals. "It's too hot. In Brazil, where I live, we have the beach but here, since there is no beach, we can enjoy this fountain," said Ederson Lista-Vajes, a Brazilian tourist playing with spurts of water at Trocadero plaza across from the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

France is particularly wary after a 2003 heat wave killed nearly 15,000 people, especially the elderly.

Since then the government has introduced a color-coded heat alert system to warn people when temperatures are expected to rise to dangerous levels in their area and trigger government assistance efforts.

The alert system went to its maximum level of red for the first time during last month's heat wave, when France saw its highest-ever recorded temperature of 46 degrees. On Thursday, about one-fifth of French territory was under a red alert, stretching from the English Channel through the Paris region and down to Burgundy.

The national rail authority and Paris public transit system urged passengers to avoid travel Thursday. Messages to "Hydrate yourselves!" came from the radio, television and public message boards.

French Health Minister Agnez Buzyn said that temperatures on Thursday are expected to be 2 degrees higher than in 2003. Some 20 million French are expected to be hit by the heatwave, she said.

Summers are usually mild in much of Europe and few homes have air conditioning. It's not that common in hospitals, stores or restaurants either.

Electric fans are selling fast around Paris — and traditional folding fans seem to be making a comeback, waved by many on the stuffy subway.

In Bavaria's prisons, inmates were getting cold cucumber soup, fruit and yoghurt for lunch and more water than normal, the German news agency dpa reported.

The heat wave is intense but expected to be short, with temperatures dropping Friday and Saturday.

As emissions continue to warm the planet, scientists say there will be more and hotter heat waves, like those increasingly hitting the U.S. though it's too early to know whether this hot spell is linked to man-made climate change.

"There is likely the DNA of climate change in the record-breaking heat that Europe and other parts of the world are experiencing. And it is unfortunately going to continue to worsen," said Marshall Shepherd, professor of meteorology at University of Georgia.

Grieshaber reported from Berlin. Deborah Gouffran in Boulogne, France, Mike Corder in The Hague, Netherlands and Seth Borenstein in Washington contributed.

## What's next after Mueller? Lawsuits, investigations and more

By MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — After months of anticipation, Congress finally heard testimony from former special counsel Robert Mueller. So what now?

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Mueller's appearance was "a crossing of a threshold," raising public awareness of what Mueller found. And Democrats after the hearing said they had clearly laid out the facts about the Mueller report, which did not find a conspiracy between the Trump campaign and Russia but detailed extensive Russian intervention in the 2016 election. Mueller also said in the report that he couldn't clear President Donald Trump on obstruction of justice.

But it remains to be seen how the testimony will affect public views of Trump's presidency and the push for impeachment. Mueller said some of the things that Democrats wanted him to say — including a clear dismissal of Trump's claims of total exoneration — but he declined to answer many of their questions, and he spoke haltingly at times. Trump claimed victory, saying Mueller did "a horrible job."

Democrats say they will continue to hold Trump to account. A look at the ways they will try to do that in the coming months:

### INVESTIGATIONS CONTINUE

Democrats have struggled to obtain testimony from some of the most crucial figures in Mueller's report, including former White House counsel Donald McGahn. And the few people they have interviewed, such as former White House aide Hope Hicks, have failed to give them new information beyond what's in Mueller's report.

But Democrats have multiple investigations of the president ongoing that don't require cooperation from the White House or Justice Department. The House intelligence and Financial Services committees are probing Trump's finances, an area that Mueller appears to have avoided. And the intelligence panel is investigating Trump's negotiations to build a Trump Tower in Moscow before the campaign.

### THEIR DAY IN COURT

To obtain the testimony from McGahn and others, House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler said Wednesday that his panel will file lawsuits this week.

Democrats will seek to obtain secret grand jury material from Mueller's report that has so far been withheld from Congress by the Justice Department. They will also try to force McGahn to provide documents and testimony.

As part of the suits, the House is expected to challenge the White House's claim of "absolute immunity," which has been used to block McGahn and others who worked in the White House from testifying.

While going to court can be a lengthy process, Democrats believe it will be their best chance of obtaining information after Trump declared he would fight "all of the subpoenas."

### CALLS FOR AN IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY

Almost 90 House Democrats have called for an impeachment inquiry, and more are certain after Mueller's testimony. Those who support opening proceedings say it would bolster Democrats' court cases and show the American people that they are moving decisively to challenge what they see as Trump's egregious behavior.

But House Speaker Nancy Pelosi isn't there, not yet. And a majority of the caucus is siding with her, for now.

Pelosi said Wednesday that she wants "the strongest possible hand" by waiting to see what happens in court.

### AUGUST RECESS

The House is expected to leave town for a five-week August recess on Friday, so some of the Democrats' efforts will be on hold until September.

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During that time, they'll be at home listening to their constituents and judging how urgently voters want them to act. Those conversations and town halls could inform next steps in the fall.

Still, not everyone will be taking a break. Rhode Island Rep. David Cicilline said Wednesday that members might fly back in August if witnesses are available for testimony. He said the Judiciary panel understands "the urgency of the moment and are prepared to do whatever is necessary to secure the attendance of witnesses and documents."

## ELECTION SECURITY

Democrats in both the House and the Senate want to move forward with legislation to make elections more secure after Mueller extensively detailed Russian interference.

House Democrats have passed legislation to secure state election systems and try to prevent foreign meddling, but bipartisan legislation in the Senate has stalled. Democrats tried to bring up an election security bill in the Senate on Wednesday, but Republicans objected.

## JUSTICE DEPARTMENT REVIEWS

The Justice Department isn't done with its own investigations into what happened before the 2016 election.

There are two ongoing reviews into the origins of the Russia probe that Mueller eventually took over — one being conducted by the Justice Department's inspector general and another by U.S. Attorney John Durham, who was appointed by Attorney General William Barr to examine surveillance methods used by the Justice Department.

Republicans have said the department, then led by Obama administration officials, was biased against Trump. They are eagerly anticipating the results of those probes.

## REPUBLICANS SAY IT'S OVER

Republicans say that nothing should be next, at least when it comes to investigations of the president. They have strongly defended Trump, who has called Mueller's probe a hoax, and have said the country wants to move on.

"Today was day we closed the book on this investigation," said House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy after Mueller's hearing.

Georgia Rep. Doug Collins, the top Republican on the Judiciary panel, said at the hearing that "we've had the truth for months — no American conspired to throw our elections."

Said Collins: "What we need today is to let that truth bring us confidence and closure."

Associated Press writer Matthew Daly contributed to this report.

## Mueller rejects Trump's claims of exoneration, 'witch hunt'

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

WASHINGTON (AP) — Robert Mueller, the taciturn lawman at the center of a polarizing American drama, bluntly dismissed President Donald Trump's claims of "total exoneration" in the federal probe of Russia's 2016 election interference. In a long day of congressional testimony, Mueller warned that Moscow's actions represented — and still represent — a great threat to American democracy.

Mueller's back-to-back Capitol Hill appearances on Wednesday, his first since his two-year Russia probe ended, carried the prospect of a historic climax to a rare criminal investigation into a sitting American president. But his testimony was more likely to reinforce rather than reshape hardened public opinions on the future of Trump's presidency and impeachment.

With his terse, one-word answers, and a sometimes stilted and halting manner, Mueller made clear his desire to avoid the partisan fray and the deep political divisions roiling Congress and the country.

He delivered neither crisp TV sound bites to fuel a Democratic impeachment push nor comfort to Republicans striving to undermine his investigation's credibility. But his comments grew more animated by

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the afternoon, when he sounded the alarm on future Russian election interference. He said he feared a new normal of American campaigns accepting foreign help.

He condemned Trump's praise of WikiLeaks, which released Democratic emails stolen by Russia. And he said of the interference by Russians and others: "They are doing it as we sit here. And they expect to do it during the next campaign."

His report, he said, should live on after him and his team.

"We spent substantial time assuring the integrity of the report, understanding that it would be our living message to those who come after us," Mueller said. "But it also is a signal, a flag to those of us who have some responsibility in this area to exercise those responsibilities swiftly and don't let this problem continue to linger as it has over so many years."

Trump, claiming vindication despite the renewal of serious allegations, focused on his own political fortunes rather than such broader issues.

"This was a devastating day for the Democrats," he said. "The Democrats had nothing and now they have less than nothing."

Mueller was reluctant to stray beyond his lengthy written report, but that didn't stop Republicans and Democrats from laboring to extract new details.

Trump's GOP allies tried to cast the former special counsel and his prosecutors as politically motivated. They referred repeatedly to what they consider the improper opening of the investigation.

Democrats, meanwhile, sought to emphasize the most incendiary findings of Mueller's 448-page report and weaken Trump's reelection prospects in ways Mueller's book-length report did not. They hoped that even if his testimony did not inspire impeachment demands — House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has made clear she will not pursue impeachment, for now — Mueller could nonetheless unambiguously spell out questionable, norm-shattering actions by the president.

The prosecutor who endured nearly seven hours of hearings was a less forceful public presence than the man who steered the FBI through the Sept. 11 attacks and the 12 years after that. But Mueller, 74, was nonetheless skilled enough in the ways of Washington to avoid being goaded into leading questions he didn't want to answer.

Mueller frequently gave one-word answers to questions, even when given opportunities to crystallize allegations of obstruction of justice against the Republican president. He referred time and again to the wording in his report.

Was the president lying when he said he had no business ties to Russia? "I'm not going to go into the details of the report along those lines," Mueller said. Did you develop any sort of conspiracy between the Trump campaign and Russia? "Again," Mueller said, "I pass on answering."

But he was unflinching on the most-critical matters, showing flashes of personality and emotion.

In the opening minutes of the Judiciary Committee hearing, Chairman Jerrold Nadler, a New York Democrat, asked about Trump's multiple claims of vindication by the investigation.

"And what about total exoneration? Did you actually totally exonerate the president?" Nadler asked.

"No," Mueller replied.

When Rep. Adam Schiff, the Democratic chairman of the House intelligence committee, asked, "Your investigation is not a witch hunt, is it?"

"It is not a witch hunt," Mueller flatly replied.

He gave Democrats a flicker of hope when he told Rep. Ted Lieu of California that he did not charge Trump because of a Justice Department legal opinion that says sitting presidents cannot be indicted. That statement cheered Democrats who understood him to be suggesting he might have otherwise have recommended prosecution on the strength of the evidence.

But Mueller later walked back that exchange, saying: "We did not reach a determination as to whether the president committed a crime." His team, he said, never started the process of evaluating whether to charge Trump.

Though Mueller described Russian election interference as among the most serious challenges to de-

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mocracy he had encountered in his decades-long career, Republicans focused on his conclusion that there was insufficient evidence to establish a criminal conspiracy between the Trump campaign and Russia.

"Those are the facts of the Mueller report. Russia meddled in the 2016 election. The president did not conspire with Russians. Nothing we hear today will change those facts," said Rep. Doug Collins, the Judiciary Committee's top Republican.

Mueller, pressed as to why he hadn't investigated a "dossier" of claims that the Republicans insist helped lead to the start of the probe, said that was not his charge. That was "outside my purview," he said repeatedly.

Mueller mostly brushed aside Republican allegations of bias, but in a moment of apparent agitation, he said he didn't think lawmakers had ever "reviewed a report that is as thorough, as fair, as consistent as the report that we have in front of us."

And when he was pressed on the fact that multiple members of his team had made contributions to Democratic candidates, Mueller bristled at the implication his prosecutors were compromised.

"I've been in this business for almost 25 years, and in those 25 years I have not had occasion, once, to ask somebody about their political affiliation," Mueller said, raising his hand for emphasis. "It is not done. What I care about is the capability of the individual to do the job and do the job quickly and seriously and with integrity."

Wednesday's first hearing before the Judiciary Committee focused on whether Trump 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, for potential obstruction.

The afternoon hearing before the House intelligence committee dove 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.

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

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

## Puerto Rico's governor to quit Aug. 2 in face of protests

By DÁNICA COTO Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rosselló announced late Wednesday that he will resign Aug. 2, conceding power after nearly two weeks of furious protests and political upheaval touched off by a leak of crude and insulting chat messages between him and his top advisers.

A crowd of thousands outside the governor's mansion in Old San Juan erupted into cheers and singing after Rosselló's announcement on Facebook just before midnight.

"My only priority has been the transformation of our island and the well-being of our people," a shaken-looking Rosselló said in an address that listed his accomplishments before making clear he was resigning. Addressing the protests, Rosselló said, "The demands have been overwhelming and I've received them with highest degree of humility."

The 40-year-old son of a former governor, Rosselló became the first chief executive to resign in the modern history of Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory of more than 3 million American citizens without full representation in Congress or the right to vote for president.

Justice Secretary Wanda Vázquez will assume the post less than halfway through Rosselló's four-year term, becoming Puerto Rico's second female governor.

"It's historic, but we have to be cautious. What will happen beyond this? There are concerns, but there is also hope," designer Jalil Serrano said. Gesturing to the young crowd outside the mansion, he said,

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"This belongs to them."

Daniel López, a businessman also in the protest, wiped tears from his eyes as people leaped into the air, beat drums, waved flags, hugged and cried, "We did it!"

"This is for the future of my family," López said. "It's big, what's happened."

Rosselló's announcement came after a bizarre, hours-long standoff unfolded in colonial Old San Juan, as the governor pledged to deliver a message to the people of Puerto Rico, then passed hour after hour in unexplained silence while thousands of protesters chanted demands for his resignation.

An announcement was first expected at 5 p.m., then finally came less than a half-hour before midnight.

"Despite expecting to service the term that the people democratically elected me to, today I feel that continuing in this position represents a threat to the success we have achieved," Rosselló said.

Puerto Rico Rep. Gabriel Rodríguez, a member of Rosselló's pro-statehood party, told The Associated Press that legislators had initially agreed to set aside the impeachment process and give the governor until 5 p.m. to announce that he was going to resign. The president of Puerto Rico's House of Representatives issued the embattled governor an ultimatum: Either take the best decision for a U.S. territory demanding his resignation or face an impeachment process.

At one point, dozens of officers in full riot gear marched out of the governor's mansion toward protesters.

"We want peace, and they want war!" the crowd yelled as many became increasingly frustrated.

Hundreds of thousands of Puerto Ricans have been outraged by the online chats between Rosselló and his advisers, and have protested for nearly two weeks demanding his resignation.

The chat participants discussed the awarding of government contracts in ways that some observers called potentially illegal. They also insulted women and mocked constituents, including victims of Hurricane Maria. Rosselló called a female politician a "whore," referred to another as a "daughter of a bitch," and made fun of an obese man with whom he posed in a photo.

On Tuesday, officials announced that a Puerto Rico judge had issued search warrants for the cellphones of government officials involved in the chat as part of an investigation. One of the search warrants said officials used the chat to transmit official and confidential information to private citizens in potential violation of ethics laws.

More than a dozen government officials have resigned since the chat was leaked earlier this month, including Rosselló confidant and chief of staff Ricardo Llerandi, former Secretary of State Luis Rivera Marín and former chief financial officer Christian Sobrino, who also held five other positions.

The obscenity-laced online messages involving the governor and 11 other men infuriated Puerto Ricans already frustrated with corruption, mismanagement, economic crisis and the sluggish recovery from Hurricane Maria nearly two years ago.

In reaction, tens of thousands took to the streets to demand Rosselló's resignation in Puerto Rico's biggest demonstrations since the protests that put an end to U.S. Navy training on the island of Vieques more than 15 years ago.

Under Puerto Rico's constitution, the secretary of state would normally assume the governorship, but since Secretary of State Luis Rivera Marín became one of more than a dozen officials to resign in the uproar over the leak, leadership of the island falls to Vázquez.

Over the weekend, Rosselló posted a video on Facebook in which he announced he would not seek reelection in 2020 or continue as head of his pro-statehood political party, but his refusal to resign further angered Puerto Ricans and led to a colossal demonstration Monday on one of the capital's main highways.

Pressure on Rosselló to step down included calls from Puerto Rico music stars Ricky Martin, Bad Bunny and Residente and a string of U.S. politicians, including members of Congress from both parties and several Democratic presidential candidates.

The upheaval comes as the island tries to restructure part of \$70 billion in debt and cope with a 13-year recession that has led to an exodus of nearly half a million people to the U.S. mainland in the past decade. Many Puerto Ricans are resentful over the resulting pension cuts, school closings and other austerity measures.



The economic crisis is in part a result of previous administrations — including that of Rosselló's father, Pedro — that overspent, overestimated revenue and borrowed millions as the island sank deeper into debt. In 2017, Puerto Rico filed for the equivalent of bankruptcy. Congress approved a financial package, and a federal board is overseeing the island's finances.

An MIT graduate with a doctorate in genetics, Rosselló spent much of his time as governor fighting austerity measures and seeking federal funds after Maria devastated the island in September 2017, causing thousands of deaths and more than \$100 billion in damage.

Nearly two years later, some 30,000 homes still have tarp roofs, power outages remain common, and Puerto Rico has received less than a third of the roughly \$40 billion pledged by the U.S. government. Rosselló complained earlier this year of unfair treatment and a hostile attitude from some U.S. officials.

The public's confidence has also been rocked by a recent string of corruption arrests involving such figures as the island's former education secretary and the one-time chief of health services.

Associated Press writers Mariela Santos in San Juan and Michael Weissenstein in Havana contributed to this report.

## **Analysis: Mueller has spoken, but 2020 may be the final word**

**By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Robert Mueller's testimony sent the clearest signal yet that impeachment may be slipping out of reach for Democrats and that the ultimate verdict on President Donald Trump will be rendered by voters in the 2020 election.

Democrats had hoped the former special counsel's appearance Wednesday would be a turning point. A Marine who served in Vietnam, Mueller is the kind of square-jawed federal prosecutor to whom Americans may have once listened as a trusted source of authority. But in this era of stark political polarization, galvanizing the public is a difficult task even if Mueller wanted to produce a viral moment, which he never seemed inclined to do. Rather than swoop in to give voice to the 448-page report, Mueller said very few words.

What Mueller did say was striking: Trump was not exonerated of potential crimes. His report found Russia interfered in the 2016 election in "sweeping and systematic" fashion. Accepting foreign campaign assistance is wrong, he agreed. But Mueller's reluctance to engage, and his one-word answers, deprived the country of a where-were-you-when moment that could bring decisive conclusion to the probe and Trump's role in trying to obstruct the investigation.

"It was not a hoax," Mueller testified of Russian election interference.

The result, after more than six hours at the House Judiciary and Intelligence committees, was that the sides in Washington were retrenching to their familiar outposts, leaving voters to decide what to do next.

Trump derided Mueller's appearance — "disaster," he tweeted — and started fundraising off it. The president's reelection campaign set a \$2 million goal over 24 hours, it said, to counter those trying to "TRICK the American People into believing their LIES."

Allies of the White House quickly joined in. GOP Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina called Mueller's appearance "sad." Rep. Devin Nunes of California, the top Republican on the Intelligence panel, said the hearing was the "last gasp" of the investigation.

"It's time for the curtain to close on the Russia hoax," Nunes said. "The conspiracy theory is dead."

Much was riding on Mueller's appearance, coming months after the release of his report in April. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is weighing liberal calls for impeachment against her own instincts for a more measured approach investigating the Trump administration and laying out the findings.

Activists on the party's left flank have been impatient with what they see as Pelosi's slow-walking of impeachment — but they've also been deferential to her strategy. More than 85 House Democrats have called for the House to begin impeachment proceedings, and more lawmakers are expected to add their names after Mueller's testimony.

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Yet even though Democrats hold the House majority, they're far from the 218 votes that would be needed to approve articles of impeachment. With Republicans controlling the Senate, many Democrats warn moving forward is a political dead end.

"If we have a case for impeachment, that's the place we will have to go," Pelosi said afterward.

Mueller, in his testimony, didn't push the issue any further. While Mueller's team declined to prosecute the president, in part because of a Justice Department opinion against indicting a sitting president, the report also suggested other remedies, including in Congress. Asked about impeachment as an option Wednesday, Mueller refused to comment on it.

The former special counsel was always going to be a reluctant witness who wanted his report to speak for itself. Democrats knew what they would encounter even if they were hoping for a Mueller of a different vintage, from his time leading the FBI after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks.

Instead, they saw a less forceful public presence, hard of hearing at times, hesitant to answer many of the questions, but one still skilled enough in the ways of Washington to not read his report in a way that Democrats could exploit.

When Rep. Ted Lieu, D-Calif., asked if Mueller would read a certain section from the report, Mueller turned the tables: "I'm happy to have you read it."

Republicans had their own expectations and tried to portray Mueller as an actor in an elaborate attempt to undermine Trump's election. They revived their long-running theory about the origins of the report during Hillary Clinton's campaign and posed questions that seemed well designed to be replayed on conservative media, even if they, too, found Mueller's answers were not entirely fulfilling.

It had all the trappings of a classic Washington political drama, yet brought little closure.

Even if Mueller had been a more eager player, he may not have been able to make a more convincing case. Gone are the Watergate-era hearings, when lawmakers crossed party lines to engage critically over then-President Richard Nixon. The impeachment proceedings against Bill Clinton changed that dynamic, and the partisan divide since has only deepened to a point of rupturing whatever's left of political comity.

Still, Mueller's appearance was far from a political loss for either party. Ahead of the 2020 election, both are trying to reach the slice of Americans who have not hardened to partisan positions.

A June poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found 31% of Americans said they didn't know enough to say whether Mueller's report had completely cleared Trump of coordination with Russia and 30% didn't know whether it had not completely cleared Trump of obstruction. A CNN poll found that just 3% said they had read the whole report.

Perhaps Mueller's testimony, with his button-down lawyer's approach, reached some of them.

As voters consider what they'll do, Mueller did leave them with one definitive point — a warning about what happened in 2016 and a plea that they pay attention to what may be coming.

"Over the course of my career, I've seen a number of challenges to our democracy," Mueller said. "The Russian government's effort to interfere in our election is among the most serious. ... This deserves the attention of every American."

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EDITOR'S NOTE — AP Congressional Correspondent Lisa Mascaro has covered Congress since 2010.

## 10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

### 1. WHAT'S NEXT AFTER MUELLER HEARINGS

Democrats have multiple investigations of Trump underway that don't require cooperation from the White House or the Justice Department.

### 2. PUERTO RICO GOVERNOR TO STEP DOWN

Ricardo Rosselló will resign Aug. 2, conceding power after furious protests touched off by a leak of crude and insulting chat messages.

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## 3. NORTH KOREA FIRES SHORT-RANGE MISSILES INTO SEA

The first weapons launches in more than two months come as Pyongyang and Washington struggle to restart nuclear negotiations.

## 4. 'A PIVOTAL MOMENT IN OUR COUNTRY'S HISTORY'

Boris Johnson holds his first Cabinet meeting as Britain's prime minister, pledging to break the Brexit impasse that brought down predecessor Theresa May.

## 5. WHERE HURRICANE FUNDS ARE AT A TRICKLE

North Carolina storm survivors are frustrated with the slow spending of federal long-term housing recovery funds.

## 6. HUNDREDS OF US RETURNEES DUMPED IN MEXICO'S MONTERREY

The mass busings are a practice not seen before as Mexico tries to handle the 20,000 or so returnees it's received since January.

## 7. IN A SMALL ARKANSAS TOWN, ECHOES OF A CENTURY-OLD MASSACRE

Elaine was the site of one of the largest racial mass killings in U.S. history and residents are split on whether a memorial or reparations would deliver justice.

## 8. HOW UAE TROOP DRAWDOWN IMPACTS YEMEN'S WAR

The United Arab Emirates is pulling out thousands of troops in Yemen to boost peace talks with rebels who control part of the country.

## 9. HOME-DELIVERED MEALS COULD SAVE MONEY FOR MEDICARE

A study says the U.S. government could save \$1.57 for every dollar spent if it delivers free healthy meals to frail seniors after a hospitalization.

## 10. RAPPER A\$AP ROCKY CHARGED WITH ASSAULT

The Grammy-nominated artist has been in custody as Swedish authorities investigate a fight he was allegedly involved in before appearing at a music festival.

## **Puerto Rico governor says he is resigning Aug. 2**

**By DÁNICA COTO Associated Press**

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rosselló said late Wednesday that he will resign Aug. 2 after nearly two weeks of furious protests and political upheaval touched off by a leak of crude and insulting chat messages between him and his top advisers.

A crowd of demonstrators outside the governor's mansion in Old San Juan erupted into cheers and singing after his announcement on Facebook just before midnight.

Addressing the protests, Rosselló said, "The demands have been overwhelming and I've received them with highest degree of humility."

The obscenity-laced online messages involving the governor and 11 other men infuriated Puerto Ricans already frustrated with corruption, mismanagement, economic crisis and the sluggish recovery from Hurricane Maria nearly two years ago.

In reaction, tens of thousands took to the streets to demand Rosselló's resignation in Puerto Rico's biggest demonstrations since the protests that put an end to U.S. Navy training on the island of Vieques more than 15 years ago.

Rosselló, a Democrat elected in 2016, is the first governor to xxxxxx in the modern history of Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory of more than 3 million American citizens.

Under Puerto Rico's constitution, the secretary of state would normally assume the governorship, but since Secretary of State Luis Rivera Marín became one of more than a dozen officials to resign in the uproar over the leak, leadership of the island would fall to Justice Secretary Wanda Vázquez. She would become Puerto Rico's second female governor.

In the 889 pages of conversation leaked on July 13, the chat participants mocked their constituents, including survivors of Maria, and made offensive remarks about women, with Rosselló calling one a "whore."

The men also talked about politics and government contracts, and authorities this week issued search

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warrants for their cellphones in an investigation into whether they illegally divulged confidential government information. Lawmakers also began exploring the possibility of impeachment.

Over the weekend, Rosselló posted a video on Facebook in which he announced he would not seek reelection in 2020 or continue as head of his pro-statehood political party, but his refusal to resign further angered Puerto Ricans and led to a colossal demonstration Monday on one of the capital's main highways.

Pressure on Rosselló to step down included calls from Puerto Rico music stars Ricky Martin, Bad Bunny and Residente and a string of U.S. politicians, including members of Congress from both parties and several Democratic presidential candidates.

The upheaval comes as the island tries to restructure part of \$70 billion in debt and cope with a 13-year recession that has led to an exodus of nearly half a million people to the U.S. mainland in the past decade. Many Puerto Ricans are resentful over the resulting pension cuts, school closings and other austerity measures.

The economic crisis is in part a result of previous administrations — including that of Rosselló's father, Pedro — that overspent, overestimated revenue and borrowed millions as the island sank deeper into debt. In 2017, Puerto Rico filed for the equivalent of bankruptcy. Congress approved a financial package, and a federal board is overseeing the island's finances.

An MIT graduate with a doctorate in genetics, Rosselló spent much of his time as governor fighting austerity measures and seeking federal funds after Maria devastated the island in September 2017, causing thousands of deaths and more than \$100 billion in damage.

Nearly two years later, some 30,000 homes still have tarp roofs, power outages remain common, and Puerto Rico has received less than a third of the roughly \$40 billion pledged by the U.S. government. Rosselló complained earlier this year of unfair treatment and a hostile attitude from some U.S. officials.

The public's confidence has also been rocked by a recent string of corruption arrests involving such figures as the island's former education secretary and the one-time chief of health services.

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Associated Press writers Mariela Santos in San Juan and Michael Weissenstein in Havana contributed to this report.

## Hundreds of US returnees dumped in Mexico's Monterrey

By **MARÍA VERZA** Associated Pres

MONTERREY, Mexico (AP) — The bus carrying dozens of Central Americans from the Texas border arrived in this northern Mexican city late at night and pulled up next to the station. Men and women disembarked with children in their arms or staggering sleepily by their sides, looked around fearfully and wondered what to do.

They had thought they were being taken to a shelter where they could live, look for work and go to school. Instead they found themselves in a bustling metropolis of over 4 million, dropped off on a street across from sleazy nightclubs and cabarets with signs advertising for "dancers."

The Associated Press witnessed multiple such busloads in recent days carrying at least 450 Hondurans, Guatemalans and Salvadorans from Nuevo Laredo, across from Laredo, Texas, to Monterrey, where they are left to fend for themselves with no support on housing, work or schooling for children, who appear to make up about half the group.

Mexico has received some 20,000 asylum seekers returned to await U.S. immigration court dates under the program colloquially known as "remain in Mexico." But there had been no sign of such large-scale moving of people away from the border before now, after the program expanded to Nuevo Laredo in violence- and cartel-plagued Tamaulipas, a state where the U.S. State Department warns against all travel due to kidnappings and other crime.

In response to a request for comment, the National Immigration Institute, or INM for its initials in Spanish, said in a two-paragraph statement that the agency cooperates with consular authorities and all levels of government to attend to returnees. It said Mexico abides by international law and is working to upgrade

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shelters and immigration facilities "to improve the conditions in which migrants await their processes in national territory." The INM did not address specific questions about the AP's findings.

Maximiliano Reyes, deputy foreign relations secretary, acknowledged last week that migrants were being removed from Nuevo Laredo and said it was for their own safety. He did not explain why they were dropped off in Monterrey or give further details.

"It's clearly important to move people out of very dangerous Mexican border towns," said Maureen Meyer, an immigration expert at the Washington Office on Latin America, which advocates for human rights in the region. "But simply busing them somewhere else without any guidance on what's awaiting them and without having the services available to house asylum seekers and support them, the Mexican government's really exposing them to further risk."

This account is based on in-person interviews with more than 20 migrants who made the two-hour, 130-mile (220-kilometer) journey south to the industrial city in the week since the new practice began.

Unlike asylum seekers who wait in line for months to file claims in the U.S. and are then sent back, all those taken to Monterrey who spoke with the AP said they had crossed illegally and spent several days in U.S. detention centers before being returned with a court date. Some said they had not asked for asylum but rather to be returned to their home countries, but were told that going to Mexico or continued detention were the only options.

"I don't know why they gave me this (court date) paper when I didn't ask for it," said Antonio Herrera, a Honduran policeman, explaining that he had asked U.S. immigration to deport him because his 7-year-old daughter was ill.

Javier Ochoa, who was with his 16-year-old son, did try to request asylum because the boy would be in danger back home for his participation in anti-government protests. He said he was not allowed to make his case.

"They didn't interview us," Ochoa said. "Just sign, like it or not."

U.S. authorities, those interviewed agreed, told them Mexico would offer them work, schooling and health care while they waited. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security did not respond to requests for comment.

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador has promised to provide those things, but the reality back in Nuevo Laredo turned out to be different.

The returnees were met at the crossing by waiting Mexican immigration officials who handed them documents presumably allowing them to work and move about the country. Without further explanation they were then loaded at an immigration station parking lot onto buses with the logos of private companies with charter contracts with the INM.

The migrants were not forced to make the journey but said they didn't see any other option. They know the dangers that lurk in Tamaulipas, where organized crime groups have been known to extort, kidnap and kill people like them. In 2010, 72 were massacred in the town of San Fernando.

In Monterrey they found a big, unfamiliar city where, unbeknownst to them, shelters were already overflowing, and it quickly became clear they'd have to make do as best as they could.

Some asked the bus driver for advice on where to go. Others asked locals to borrow cellphones to beseech relatives for money or call their "coyotes," or smugglers, to try to cross illegally again into the U.S.

"They have abandoned us here to get rid of us," said Jazmin Desir, sitting on the floor of the bus terminal surrounded by her four sleeping children. The stylist and her husband, a mechanic, were waiting for relatives to send money for them to get back to Honduras, and they figured it would take two years to pay off the debt they took on to pay their coyote.

Within a half-hour only a handful remained at the terminal. The rest had melted away into the city.

Two days later, with money wired from relatives, a group hired a bus to take them to the southern city of Tapachula, near Guatemala. From there they would make their way home — essentially self-deporting at their own expense, \$100 each for the 1,000-mile (1,700-kilometer) journey.

"After suffering so much, this is what we long for," said Neftalí Anael Cantillana, a Honduran teacher who was traveling with her 16-year-old son.

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At least one other group arranged a similar trip according to Jorge Pérez, the driver who took them. López Obrador's government did not mention the busings Monday when it presented a report halfway into a 90-day period during which it has agreed to reduce irregular transmigration as part of a deal to head off threatened U.S. tariffs.

The flow has fallen by 36% since, according to U.S. Border Patrol detention figures, and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo praised Mexico during a visit Sunday. Foreign Relations Secretary Marcelo Ebrard said Mexico is fulfilling its commitment to human rights.

But critics assert that the country has become a de facto dumping ground for people the Trump administration is eager to remove from U.S. soil.

"What the United States wants is to get rid of the Central Americans in a legal way, and it does so by handing them those documents," said Aarón Méndez, director of the Amar shelter in Nuevo Laredo.

Officials in the communities involved say they're overwhelmed and in the dark

José Martín Carmona, head of Tamaulipas' governmental Institute for Migrants, acknowledged that the state had refused to receive more migrants, saying it lacks resources.

But he said he was unaware of the buses to Monterrey, even though they depart less than a mile (kilometer) from his offices: "Right now we have zero communication with the INM," Carmona said.

Those arriving in Monterrey feel like they've been lied to and abandoned by everyone — except, some said, by their coyotes who held up their end of the bargain.

The Mexican government says it is studying setting up makeshift shelters at warehouses and other properties to handle returnees to Nuevo Laredo. Meanwhile "remain in Mexico" has gone into effect for another Tamaulipas border city: Matamoros, across from Brownsville, Texas.

Meyer said the busing policy also raises concerns about how asylum seekers will be able to access U.S. lawyers to assist with their claims, and who is going to make sure they can get back to Nuevo Laredo for their U.S. appointments, which are for September and October.

Julio Hernández, who was beaten and threatened in Guatemala for refusing extortion demands by gang members, is one who's getting by. Left in Monterrey last week, he found work at a food stand and is not giving up on U.S. asylum.

But on Wednesday he said he was thinking of sending his wife and two kids home: "It's very dangerous here too, and I don't want to put them at risk."

"I'll stay here," Hernández said, "and keep fighting."

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Associated Press video journalists Juan Antonio Calderón in Nuevo Laredo and Peter Orsi in Mexico City contributed to this report.

## Study: Home-delivered meals could save money for Medicare

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Medicare could save \$1.57 for every dollar spent delivering free healthy meals to frail seniors after a hospitalization, according to a new study that comes as lawmakers look to restrain costs by promoting patients' well-being.

The report Thursday from the Bipartisan Policy Center addresses ways that Medicare can do a better job coordinating care for chronically ill patients, who account for most of the program's \$650 billion annual cost. There's a growing recognition that practical services like meal delivery can make a difference helping older people avoid health flare-ups that can send them to the hospital.

"If you were going to offer meals to every Medicare beneficiary, it would be cost-prohibitive," said Katherine Hayes, health policy director for the center. "By targeting it to a very, very sick group of people is how we were able to show there could be savings."

Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon, the ranking Democrat on the committee that oversees Medicare, said lawmakers recognize the value of providing additional support services for patients and he'd be interested in expanding such benefits for seniors in traditional Medicare.

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The Bipartisan Policy Center asked health policy consultant Ananya Health Innovations to analyze the potential impact of a narrowly tailored meal benefit for Medicare.

Using 2016 billing data that reflected actual cases, the consultant focused on patients with chronic conditions such as diabetes, heart failure, Alzheimer's and osteoporosis. Patients had to have two or more such conditions, along with limitations doing daily tasks such as bathing, cooking or getting dressed. Most were 75 or older. Some were living alone.

The study found more than 575,000 patients with about 1 million hospital stays. Using other established research as a guide, the consultant estimated that providing seven days of healthy meals could avoid nearly 10,000 return trips to the hospital resulting in admission.

Medicare would have had to spend about \$101 million a year to provide meals, but it would have avoided more than \$158 million in bills from return trips to the hospital. The net savings would be about \$57 million.

In a real-world situation, the savings could be greater because the study did not take into account emergency room visits and nursing home admissions that could potentially be avoided.

Many families have had the welcome experience of neighbors and friends dropping off home-cooked food during a health crisis. For Medicare patients, who can be isolated from family and friends, meals can provide health benefits as well. For example, healthy food can help a person with diabetes avoid too-high or too-low blood sugars. Or a patient with heart failure can avoid snacking on salty junk food that may lead to fluid building up in the body.

"There is a growing body of evidence that suggests that home-delivered meals can play a role in preventing unwanted emergency room visits and hospitalizations," said Tricia Neuman, a Medicare expert with the Kaiser Family Foundation. "People who deliver meals can check to be sure patients are relatively stable, taking their medications, and ... have appropriate nutrition to support their recovery."

Medicare Advantage plans sold by private insurers under Medicare's umbrella have already started offering such "supplemental" support services to patients who qualify. In addition to meals, they can include minor home improvements like grab bars in the shower, or respite care. The private plans have leeway to tailor some of their benefits. But it's not happening yet for the 2 out of 3 beneficiaries covered by the traditional program.

The Bipartisan Policy Center is recommending that lawmakers grant Medicare specific authority to offer benefits such as home-delivered meals, but only under certain conditions, including a determination by agency experts that it would not increase overall spending.

Online:

Bipartisan Policy Center report - <https://bipartisanpolicy.org/report/next-steps-in-chronic-care/>

## **Mueller: No Russia exoneration for Trump, despite his claims**

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

WASHINGTON (AP) — Robert Mueller, the taciturn lawman at the center of a polarizing American drama, bluntly dismissed President Donald Trump's claims of "total exoneration" Wednesday in the federal probe of Russia's 2016 election interference. In a long day of congressional testimony, Mueller warned that Moscow's actions represented — and still represent — a great threat to American democracy.

Mueller's back-to-back Capitol Hill appearances, his first since wrapping his two-year Russia probe, carried the prospect of a historic climax to a rare criminal investigation into a sitting American president. But his testimony was more likely to reinforce rather than reshape hardened public opinions on impeachment and the future of Trump's presidency .

With his terse, one-word answers, and a sometimes stilted and halting manner, Mueller made clear his desire to avoid the partisan fray and the deep political divisions roiling Congress and the country.

He delivered neither crisp TV sound bites to fuel a Democratic impeachment push nor comfort to Republicans striving to undermine his investigation's credibility. But his comments grew more animated by

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the afternoon, when he sounded the alarm on future Russian election interference. He said he feared a new normal of American campaigns accepting foreign help.

He condemned Trump's praise of WikiLeaks, which released Democratic emails stolen by Russia. And he said of the interference by Russians and others: "They are doing it as we sit here. And they expect to do it during the next campaign."

His report, he said, should live on after him and his team.

"We spent substantial time assuring the integrity of the report, understanding that it would be our living message to those who come after us," Mueller said. "But it also is a signal, a flag to those of us who have some responsibility in this area to exercise those responsibilities swiftly and don't let this problem continue to linger as it has over so many years."

Trump, claiming vindication despite the renewal of serious allegations, focused on his own political fortunes rather than such broader issues.

"This was a devastating day for the Democrats," he said. "The Democrats had nothing and now they have less than nothing."

Mueller was reluctant to stray beyond his lengthy written report, but that didn't stop Republicans and Democrats from laboring to extract new details.

Trump's GOP allies tried to cast the former special counsel and his prosecutors as politically motivated. They referred repeatedly to what they consider the improper opening of the investigation.

Democrats, meanwhile, sought to emphasize the most incendiary findings of Mueller's 448-page report and weaken Trump's reelection prospects in ways Mueller's book-length report did not. They hoped that even if his testimony did not inspire impeachment demands — House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has made clear she will not pursue impeachment, for now — Mueller could nonetheless unambiguously spell out questionable, norm-shattering actions by the president.

The prosecutor who endured nearly seven hours of hearings was a less forceful public presence than the man who steered the FBI through the Sept. 11 attacks and the 12 years after that. But Mueller, 74, was nonetheless skilled enough in the ways of Washington to avoid being goaded into leading questions he didn't want to answer.

Mueller frequently gave single-word answers to questions, even when given opportunities to crystallize allegations of obstruction of justice against the president. He referred time and again to the wording in his report.

Was the president lying when he said he had no business ties to Russia? "I'm not going to go into the details of the report along those lines," Mueller said. Did you develop any sort of conspiracy between the Trump campaign and Russia? "Again," Mueller said, "I pass on answering."

But he was unflinching on the most-critical matters, showing flashes of personality and emotion.

In the opening minutes of the Judiciary Committee hearing, Chairman Jerrold Nadler, a New York Democrat, asked about Trump's multiple claims of vindication by the investigation.

"And what about total exoneration? Did you actually totally exonerate the president?" Nadler asked.

"No," Mueller replied.

When Rep. Adam Schiff, the Democratic chairman of the House intelligence committee, asked, "Your investigation is not a witch hunt, is it?"

"It is not a witch hunt," Mueller flatly replied.

He gave Democrats a flicker of hope when he told Rep. Ted Lieu of California that he did not charge Trump because of a Justice Department legal opinion that says sitting presidents cannot be indicted. That statement cheered Democrats who understood him to be suggesting he might have otherwise have recommended prosecution on the strength of the evidence.

But Mueller later walked back that exchange, saying: "We did not reach a determination as to whether the president committed a crime." His team, he said, never started the process of evaluating whether to charge Trump.

Though Mueller described Russian election interference as among the most serious challenges to democracy he had encountered in his decades-long career, Republicans focused on his conclusion that there



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was insufficient evidence to establish a criminal conspiracy between the Trump campaign and Russia.

"Those are the facts of the Mueller report. Russia meddled in the 2016 election. The president did not conspire with Russians. Nothing we hear today will change those facts," said Rep. Doug Collins, the Judiciary Committee's top Republican.

Mueller, pressed as to why he hadn't investigated a "dossier" of claims that the Republicans insist helped lead to the start of the probe, said that was not his charge. That was "outside my purview," he said repeatedly.

Mueller mostly brushed aside Republican allegations of bias, but in a moment of apparent agitation, he said he didn't think lawmakers had ever "reviewed a report that is as thorough, as fair, as consistent as the report that we have in front of us."

And when he was pressed on the fact that multiple members of his team had made contributions to Democratic candidates, Mueller bristled at the implication his prosecutors were compromised.

"I've been in this business for almost 25 years, and in those 25 years I have not had occasion, once, to ask somebody about their political affiliation," Mueller said, raising his hand for emphasis. "It is not done. What I care about is the capability of the individual to do the job and do the job quickly and seriously and with integrity."

Wednesday's first hearing before the Judiciary Committee focused on whether Trump 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, for potential obstruction.

The afternoon hearing before the House intelligence committee dove 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.

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

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

## Trump soaks up Mueller hearings, claims them for a win

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said he probably wouldn't watch, but former special counsel Robert Mueller's testimony before Congress on Wednesday proved irresistible.

The president fired off an onslaught of tweets before the back-to-back hearings even began at 8:30 a.m. All told, he tweeted and retweeted more than two dozen times on Mueller's testimony about his investigation into the president and the Trump campaign's ties to Russia.

As it ended, Trump tweeted, "TRUTH IS A FORCE OF NATURE!"

Then he strode out of the White House and took a victory lap in front the reporters and cameras assembled on the South Lawn.

"It's over," Trump declared. He blasted "the phony cloud" created by the investigation and said, "there was no defense to this ridiculous hoax, this witch hunt."

The investigation had cast a two-year shadow over the White House, unnerving aides, stalling staffing and triggering hundreds of angry tweets from the president, many of which involved phrases like "No collusion," "No obstruction" and "Witch hunt."

For all of that, the president had insisted earlier in the week, "I'm not going to be watching — probably — maybe I'll see a little bit of it."

As it turned out, that statement wouldn't have survived the fact checks to which so many of Trump's claims are subjected. The television-conscious president referenced Fox News' coverage of the hearings

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in several of his tweets and revealed that he was watching closely enough to deliver a detailed review of Mueller's presentation.

"The performance was obviously not very good. He had a lot of problems," Trump said, pointing to Mueller's lack of familiarity with some aspects of the investigation and accusing him of playing favorites. "This was a devastating day for Democrats."

Even as the testimony was still under way, Republicans were claiming it as a win.

Rudy Giuliani, the president's lawyer, blasted Mueller's frequent stumbles and calls for questions to be repeated, tweeting that the former FBI director was "being destroyed on credibility, knowledge, competence and numerous 'ahs,' pauses and excuses like 'beyond my purview.'"

Mueller's nationally televised appearance on Capitol Hill was long anticipated as a potential pivot point for the presidency, one that could galvanize more House Democrats toward impeachment or help dispel the investigatory cloud that has shadowed the White House. Ever mindful of the need to spin powerful televised images, Trump and his fellow Republicans unleashed a barrage of tweets and statements that continued a pattern of attacks in which Trump has made baseless claims about Mueller's probe and its findings.

"So Democrats and others can illegally fabricate a crime, try pinning it on a very innocent President, and when he fights back against this illegal and treasonous attack on our Country, they call It Obstruction?" Trump wrote in one early tweet. "Wrong! Why didn't Robert Mueller investigate the investigators?"

In fact, the Mueller report did not declare there was no collusion between Russia and the Trump campaign. Nor did the special counsel's report exonerate Trump on the question of whether he obstructed justice.

Trump also revived a baseless charge that Mueller was "highly conflicted." Mueller, a longtime Republican, was cleared by the Justice Department's ethics experts to lead the Russia investigation.

Trump over the last week had been speculating with confidants about how the hearings would go. And while he expressed no worry that Mueller would reveal anything damaging, Trump was irritated that the former special counsel was being given the national stage, according to two Republicans close to the White House. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about private conversations.

Wary of Americans being captivated by finally hearing Mueller speak at length, Trump seethed to one adviser that he was annoyed Democrats would be given a tool to ramp up their investigations — and that cable networks would have new footage of Mueller to play on loop.

Though the probe did not result in charges of criminal conspiracy or obstruction, there has been growing concern among those close to the president that Mueller's appearance could push undecided or reluctant Democrats toward impeachment. By the day's end, Trump weighed in on that prospect too.

"Impeachment's over!" Trump tweeted just before Air Force One landed in West Virginia, where the president was attending a closed fundraiser.

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Lemire reported from New York.

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

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

## Record Facebook fine won't end scrutiny of the company

By BARBARA ORTUTAY The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Facebook survived its latest brush with U.S. privacy regulators, at the cost of a record \$5 billion fine and other restrictions imposed by the Federal Trade Commission. But it's far from home free.

While the company looks set to prosper in the wake of the FTC case, it faces a series of other investiga-

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tions into its privacy practices in Europe and across the U.S. Concerns over the limits of the just-settled probe could fuel efforts to craft tougher privacy laws at the state and federal level.

The social network is also gearing up to fight investigations into its allegedly anticompetitive behavior, such as Facebook's habit of buying would-be rivals like Instagram and blatantly duplicating features introduced by competing services.

The Department of Justice opened a broad antitrust probe focused on technology companies on Tuesday. On Wednesday Facebook disclosed that it also faces a fresh FTC investigation into alleged anticompetitive behavior. It didn't provide details of the scope or focus of the probe. Representatives of the FTC confirmed the antitrust investigation but offered no additional information.

The outcome of these investigations may well determine whether the world's governments can actually rein in a transnational corporation that directly touches almost a third of the world's population.

"There is a lot more to come on the regulatory front for Facebook," said Debra Aho Williamson, analyst with the research firm eMarketer. To pre-empt this and do things on its own terms, Williamson said the company is "going to do whatever it can" to change its business model and change the way it gathers data.

The FTC penalties, viewed by some as a stunning rebuke to the social network, might well crush a smaller firm. But they seem unlikely to faze Facebook — the fine, for instance, amounts to less than 10% of Facebook's annual revenue and not even a quarter of its annual profits. Some critics charge that that the FTC didn't deliver much more than a slap on the wrist.

"Facebook makes that much money in a couple of weeks," said Siva Vaidhyanathan, a University of Virginia professor and author of "Antisocial Media: How Facebook Disconnects Us and Undermines Democracy." The company is free to "get back to business as usual," he said.

Wall Street seems to agree. Facebook's stock price climbed higher Wednesday after the deal was announced. The company is worth much more than it was when its Cambridge Analytica privacy scandal erupted back in March 2018. On Wednesday, Facebook's market value hovered around \$575 billion — roughly \$40 billion above where it stood before the news of the Cambridge abuses broke.

Ashkan Soltani, a former FTC chief technologist, said the settlement was effectively "a get-out-of-jail free card for Facebook." The deal absolves Facebook of any consumer-protection claims prior to June 12 of this year, a highly unusual step that effectively wipes the slate clean where known historical privacy violations are concerned.

Soltani and other critics also note that the FTC settlement barely touches Facebook's underlying business practices, which rely on the collection and analysis of its users' activities and personal details to fuel the company's lucrative advertising machine. In its formal legal complaint, the FTC used the word "deceptive" 14 times to describe Facebook's practices and policies.

"There is a lot more to come on the regulatory front for Facebook," said Debra Aho Williamson, analyst with the research firm eMarketer. To pre-empt this and do things on its own terms, Williamson said the company is "going to do whatever it can" to change its business model and the way it gathers data.

Facebook has already signaled that this is coming. Earlier this year, CEO Mark Zuckerberg unveiled a new "privacy focused" vision for the company that centers on private messaging and encrypted communications. The details are scant. But it shows that the company is thinking years into the future even as regulators are investigating and punishing it for years-past violations.

As part of the FTC's settlement with Facebook, Zuckerberg will have to personally certify his company's compliance with its privacy programs. The FTC said that false certifications could expose him to civil or criminal penalties. But the settlement did not hold Zuckerberg personally liable for the past violations, as some had expected.

In a Facebook post Wednesday, Zuckerberg vowed to "make some major structural changes to how we build products and run this company" as a result of the settlement. "We have a responsibility to protect people's privacy. We already work hard to live up to this responsibility, but now we're going to set a completely new standard for our industry."

In a similar tone, FTC Chairman Joe Simons, speaking at a news conference, said the settlement is "unprecedented in the history of the FTC" and is designed "to change Facebook's entire privacy culture

to decrease the likelihood of continued violations.”

Simons, however, acknowledged that the FTC’s powers were limited. It could not, for instance, fine Facebook \$10 billion or target Zuckerberg personally for investigation. “We cannot impose such things by our own fiat,” he said at a news conference following release of the settlement.

Three Republican commissioners voted for the fine while two Democrats opposed it. Their wish list included specific punishment for Zuckerberg, strict limits on what data Facebook can collect and possibly even breaking off subsidiaries such as WhatsApp and Instagram.

Nonetheless, the regulators touted the agreement as imposing a “sea change” on how Facebook handles the privacy of people’s data. Simons called it “a belt-and-suspenders approach to compliance” — with five overlapping “channels” both inside and outside Facebook.

For instance, a new, independent committee of Facebook’s board that focus on privacy alone. As agreed, Zuckerberg and the new designated compliance officers must each, independently, certify to the FTC that Facebook is in compliance. Falsely certifying would subject Zuckerberg and the officers to personal liability, including civil and criminal penalties.

Commissioner Noah Phillips compared that to the regime imposed on corporate CEOs following the wave of accounting scandals in 2001-2002 that began with Enron. CEOs now are required by law to personally vouch for the accuracy of their financial reports.

Associated Press Writer Marcy Gordon contributed to this story from Washington.

## **Schools that warned about lunch debt now accepting donation**

**By MARK SCOLFORO Associated Press**

A Pennsylvania school district that warned parents behind on their lunch bills that their children could end up in foster care, and then rejected a businessman’s offer to pay the overdue charges, is apologizing and says it wants to accept the donation after all.

The Wyoming Valley West school board “sincerely apologizes for the tone of the letter that was sent regarding lunch debt,” the post on the district’s website Wednesday said. “It wasn’t the intention of the district to harm or inconvenience any of the families in our school district.”

The board also said that it would take a donation from Todd Carmichael, chief executive of Philadelphia-based La Colombe Coffee, to pay off the \$22,000 in overdue bills, and that it would funnel the money through the district’s nonprofit foundation.

“No student was ever denied a meal for lack of payment,” the board wrote, adding it followed federal and state rules. “All meals served to students were chosen by the students from our regular menu. No shaming occurred and no alternate meals were provided.”

Michael Plaksin, president of the Wyoming Valley West Educational Foundation, said the decision to take the donation was made during discussions he had with members of the school board.

“What is going on is that the school will be able to accept money, donations, so that we will be able to pay off the program as soon as possible,” Plaksin said. The foundation is independent of the board, he said, although they work closely together.

District officials had recently written to parents, warning they “can be sent to dependency court for neglecting your child’s right to food,” and that children could be removed and placed in foster care.

Luzerne County child welfare authorities protested, saying they never remove children from homes over unpaid bills.

“Did people make mistakes? Of course mistakes were made,” said Plaksin, a Wyoming Valley West graduate. “Look, if three more people had proofread the letter before it was sent out, it never would have been sent out. It was that simple.”

Carmichael, the donor, said his offer to pay the bills was rejected by school board President Joseph Mazur during a phone conversation on Monday. Mazur, who signed the apology letter, has not responded to several messages.

State Rep. Aaron Kaufer, who attended district schools and represents the Wyoming Valley West area in the Legislature, said that when he could not get a district official on the phone Wednesday, he went there in person, and that after a long meeting officials told him the district would accept the money, funneled through the foundation.

"This issue needed to be laid to rest," said Kaufer, a Luzerne County Republican. "We needed to get back to focusing on education."

A spokesman for Carmichael, Aren Platt, said that the district's plan was cause for optimism, but that Carmichael wants all the parents who received the letters to be contacted and told the debt has been paid off.

"This process has not given us a ton of confidence in the elected school board of Wyoming Valley West," Platt said. "This is great, if they have figured it out, if they have legally figured out how the money moves and all of that, we welcome that."

School officials have said they considered serving peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to students with overdue accounts but got legal advice warning against it. For the coming five school years, Wyoming Valley West has funding to provide free breakfasts and lunches for all students, regardless of income.

## Breast implant recalled after link to more rare cancer cases

By **MATTHEW PERRONE AP Health Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Breast implant maker Allergan Inc. issued a worldwide recall Wednesday for certain textured models after regulators alerted the company to a heightened cancer risk with the devices.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration said it called for the removal after new information showed Allergan's Biocell breast implants with a textured surface were tied to the vast majority of cases of a rare form of lymphoma. The move follows similar action in France, Australia, Canada and other nations.

The FDA is not recommending women with the implants have them removed because the cancer is so rare, but say they should check with their doctor if they have symptoms, which include pain and swelling.

Biocell implants feature a textured surface designed to prevent slippage and to minimize scar tissue. Those models account for just 5 percent of the U.S. market. The vast majority of breast implants used in the U.S. have a smooth surface.

Wednesday's recall does not affect Allergan's smooth implants or a different Allergan textured implant sold under the Microcell brand.

Health authorities first linked breast implants to cancer in 2011. The disease is not breast cancer but lymphoma that grows in the scar tissue surrounding the breasts. It grows slowly and can usually be successfully treated by surgically removing the implants.

As recently as May, the FDA said that the danger did not warrant a national ban on textured devices. But the FDA said Wednesday that new data show a direct link to cancer with Allergan's implants not seen with other textured implants.

"Once the evidence indicated that a specific manufacturer's product appeared to be directly linked to significant patient harm, including death, the FDA took action," said FDA deputy commissioner Amy Abernethy, on a call with reporters.

The FDA said the latest figures show more than 80 percent of the 570 confirmed cases of the lymphoma worldwide have been linked to Allergan implants. Regulators estimate that the risk of the disease is six times higher with Allergan's implants than other textured implants sold in the U.S.

FDA officials said they decided to act after receiving 116 new reports of the cancer. Those reports increased the number of deaths tied to the disease from 9 to 33, including at least 12 cases in women with Allergan breast implants.

FDA's device director Jeffrey Shuren said the death increase played a significant role in their decision to seek a recall.

"Our team concluded action was necessary to protect the public health," he said.

The new numbers still reflect a rare disease considering an estimated 10 million women globally have

breast implants. The FDA estimates that hundreds of thousands of U.S. women have the Biocell implants.

There is no firm agreement on the exact frequency of the disease, known as breast implant-associated anaplastic large cell lymphoma. Published estimates range from 1 in 3,000 patients to 1 in 30,000 patients.

Dr. Mark Clemens of Houston's MD Anderson Cancer Center said Biocell's surface differs from other textured implants, producing a large amount of particles that shed into the body.

"But what key factor is most important, we don't know at this time," said Clemens, a plastic surgeon who has published extensively on the disease.

Allergan said in a statement it would no longer sell or distribute Biocell implants and tissue expanders, which are used to prepare patients for breast reconstruction. The company said it would direct surgeons to return unused implants.

Roughly 400,000 U.S. women get breast implants each year. The devices have a silicone outer shell and are filled with either saline or silicone. Silicone-filled implants are more popular in the U.S. because they are considered more natural.

In the U.S., textured breast implants are also made by Johnson & Johnson and Sientra. A smaller manufacturer, Ideal Implant, only sells smooth implants.

Diana Zuckerman, a researcher who has studied breast implant safety, called the Allergan removal inevitable.

"Either the company would voluntarily decide to withdraw them from the market to protect from lawsuits, or the FDA would persuade Allergan to do so," Zuckerman said in an email.

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Follow Matthew Perrone on Twitter: @AP\_FDWriter

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The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

## Actor Rutger Hauer, of 'Blade Runner' fame, has died at 75

By MARK KENNEDY AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Dutch film actor Rutger Hauer, who specialized in menacing roles, including a memorable turn as a murderous android in "Blade Runner" opposite Harrison Ford, has died. He was 75.

Hauer's agent, Steve Kenis, said Wednesday the actor died July 19 at his home in the Netherlands.

Hauer's roles included a terrorist in "Nighthawks" with Sylvester Stallone, Cardinal Roark in "Sin City" and playing an evil corporate executive in "Batman Begins." He was in the big-budget 1985 fantasy "Ladyhawke," portrayed a menacing hitchhiker who's picked up by a murderer in the Mojave Desert in "The Hitcher" and won a supporting-actor Golden Globe award in 1988 for "Escape from Sobibor."

Filmmaker Guillermo del Toro in a tweet called Hauer "an intense, deep, genuine and magnetic actor that brought truth, power and beauty to his films." Gene Simmons, the KISS bassist who starred opposite Hauer in "Wanted: Dead or Alive," described his former co-star as "always a gentleman, kind and compassionate."

In "Blade Runner," Hauer played the murderous replicant Roy Batty on a desperate quest to prolong his artificially shortened life in post-apocalyptic, 21st-century Los Angeles.

In his dying, rain-soaked soliloquy, he looked back at his extraordinary existence. "All those moments will be lost in time. Like tears in rain. Time to die," he said.

"It's so much fun to playfully roam into the dark side of the soul and tease people," the actor told The Associated Press in 1987. "If you try to work on human beings' light side, that's harder. What is good is hard. Most people try to be good all their lives. So you have to work harder to make those characters interesting."

Hauer's ruggedly handsome face, blue eyes and strong physique drew the attention of American producers in such international successes as "Turkish Delight," "Spetters" and "Soldier of Orange." The offers from the United States came as a surprise to Hauer, who faced the same uncertain future experienced by other Dutch film actors.

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"We make about 10 films a year, all in Dutch," he recalled. "You act for your own community, basically, which is fine. But you can't live on it. There is also the danger of overexposure; you can't be too greedy." After the world recognition for "Soldier of Orange," a friend suggested Hauer might be able to find work in American films.

Hauer was born in the Netherlands village of Breukelen. His parents were actors but he had little concentration for school and at 15 ran away as a seaman on a freighter. That didn't take, nor did a stint in the army, and his parents decided he was destined to follow the family profession. Rutger enrolled in acting school.

Hauer spent five years with a small troupe bringing theater to rural Holland. He made his film debut in the saucy "Turkish Delight," nominated for an Oscar as best foreign language film of 1973.

Earlier in his career, a Hollywood agent suggested changing his name to something easier for the American public to learn. The actor declined. "If you're good enough, people will remember your name," he explained.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Ineke ten Cate, and a daughter, actress Aysha Hauer, from a previous marriage.

Mark Kennedy is at <http://twitter.com/KennedyTwits>

## Meek Mill's conviction thrown out, granted new trial

By MARYCLAIRE DALE Associated Press

A Pennsylvania appeals court on Wednesday overturned rapper Meek Mill's conviction in a drug and gun case that has kept the rapper on probation for a decade and made him a celebrity crusader for criminal justice reform.

The unanimous three-judge panel said that new evidence that undermines the credibility of the officer who testified against the rapper at his trial made it likely he would be acquitted if the case were retried.

City prosecutors have backed the defense bid for a new trial and confirmed they do not trust the officer, who has since left the force and was the only prosecution witness at the 2008 nonjury trial. Still, District Attorney Larry Krasner said Wednesday his office needs time to decide whether to drop the case.

The 32-year-old performer, born Robert Rihmeek Williams, is now free of the court supervision he's been under most of his adult life. Williams has said he had trouble notifying probation officers about his travels as required because of the erratic nature of the music industry. A little more than a year ago, he spent five months in prison over technical violations of his parole.

"The past 11 years have been mentally and emotionally challenging, but I'm ecstatic that justice prevailed," Williams said in a statement. "Unfortunately, millions of people are dealing with similar issues in our country and don't have the resources to fight back like I did. We need to continue supporting them."

Reginald Graham, the officer who wrote the search warrant in Williams' case and testified at his trial, left the Philadelphia Police department a few years ago after an internal probe found he had stolen money and then lied about it.

Graham testified at trial that Williams pointed a gun at him during his 2007 arrest outside his southwest Philadelphia home. Williams, who was 19 at the time, has denied pointing a gun at police.

A police colleague who took part in the arrest later said Graham lied about Williams brandishing a gun. "Rather, (he) observed Williams attempt to discard his weapon," President Judge Jack A. Panella wrote in Wednesday's opinion, concluding that the new evidence was so strong "that a different verdict will likely result at a retrial."

In arguments in the case last week, Assistant District Attorney Paul George said the office wouldn't call Graham at a retrial in light of the questions about his credibility and due to its "legal, ethical and constitutional obligations."

Graham was also investigated, but not charged, by the FBI in a separate corruption probe. The six city drug squad members indicted were all acquitted at a 2015 trial.

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"I never lied, I never stole, and I never said I did," Graham, now living in Florida, told Philadelphia Magazine for an article last year.

The Pennsylvania Superior Court also overturned the trial judge's parole violation findings and, in a rare move, pulled her off the case because "she heard highly prejudicial testimony ... and made credibility determinations in favor of a now discredited witness."

Common Pleas Judge Genece Brinkley had kept Williams on probation for 10 years and sent him back to prison for several short stints for violating parole. He has been called back to court repeatedly over concerns about his travels and, in one instance, use of painkillers. Then-girlfriend Nicki Minaj testified for him at one such hearing in 2016.

The Philadelphia rapper-turned-entrepreneur is launching a new record label in a joint venture with Jay-Z's Roc Nation.

The two performers celebrated the launch of Dream Chasers Records on Tuesday in New York City. Hours later, the court ruling came down.

Williams, in his statement, said he appreciated the support he has received from his family, his legal team, Krasner's office and celebrity friends, including Philadelphia 76ers co-owner Michael Rubin.

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This story has been corrected to show that Michael Rubin is a co-owner of 76ers, not the owner.

## Key takeaways from Robert Mueller's congressional testimony

By MICHAEL BALSAMO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Robert Mueller refused to play the part. Not for Republicans and not for Democrats. In back-to-back hearings before the House Judiciary Committee and the House Intelligence Committee, the former special counsel in the investigation of Russian interference into the 2016 presidential elections largely honored his pledge to stick to his 448-page report. He often answered questions in a single word.

Republicans tried to get Mueller to spell out the findings that there wasn't enough evidence to prove any criminal conspiracy between the Trump campaign and Russia. Democrats pressed him to expand on the conclusion in his report that he could not exonerate President Donald Trump on possible charges of obstruction of justice.

But Mueller left both sides wanting.

Some key takeaways from his testimony:

**MUELLER WOULDN'T BE A MOUTHPIECE**

Mueller wouldn't even read from his own report. That made it challenging for Democrats who called him in hopes that the sheer force of hearing him say the words on television would be more powerful to many Americans than the written form.

But Mueller demurred, and Democrats had to read his words for him.

Similarly, Mueller wouldn't answer specifically when Republicans repeatedly tried to question him about the origins of the Russia investigation, the use of secret surveillance warrants.

Mueller would only speak generally about Peter Stroz, a former FBI agent on his team who helped lead the investigation and exchanged anti-Trump text messages during the 2016 election with ex-FBI lawyer Lisa Page.

Mueller left it to the partisans to do the parsing.

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**RUSSIAN INTERFERENCE IS STILL HAPPENING**

Mueller was, for him anyway, far more expansive when he was asked about Russia's interference in U.S. elections. He also condemned Trump's praise of WikiLeaks, the anti-secrecy group that released material stolen from Democratic groups, including Hillary Clinton's campaign.

"Problematic is an understatement," he said.

U.S. intelligence agencies and Mueller's investigation determined Russian government entities were responsible for the hack and furnished the embarrassing correspondence to WikiLeaks in order to support



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Trump's bid for the presidency. Authorities also found Russia engaged in an organized social media effort to sow discord among American voters.

Mueller warned that what Russia did in 2016 was not a "single attempt."

"They're doing it as we sit here," he told lawmakers.

## INDICTING THE PRESIDENT WAS NEVER AN OPTION

During his testimony, Mueller made clear that his team never considered charging the president with a crime because of Justice Department guidelines.

Mueller, in his testimony Wednesday morning to the House Judiciary Committee, seemed to agree that he would have charged Trump with obstruction of justice had it not been for department guidance that a president cannot be indicted. Democrats seized on that answer, but Mueller then said, "That is not the correct way to say it."

Mueller later said his team "did not reach a determination as to whether the president committed a crime."

## "IT IS NOT A WITCH HUNT"

Mueller swung back at the characterization made hundreds of times by Trump that the Russia investigation that shadowed his presidency was a "rigged witch hunt."

"It is not a witch hunt," Mueller testified.

Asked what he wanted the American public to take from his report, Mueller said: "We spent substantial time ensuring the integrity of the report."

One of the only other times Mueller pushed back on lawmakers during hours of questioning was to offer a spirited defense of the investigation.

"I don't think you all reviewed a report that is as thorough, as fair, as consistent as the report that we have in front of us," Mueller said.

Mueller said his nearly two-year investigation was conducted in a "fair and independent manner." He also repeatedly praised the prosecutors, FBI agents and analysts who worked on his team, saying they were "of the highest integrity" and were "absolutely exemplary."

## IMPEACHMENT REMAINS UNLIKELY

Mueller's testimony likely did little to change many minds in Congress on impeachment. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., has made clear she will not pursue impeachment, for now.

Mueller wouldn't take the bait as Democrats asked whether he meant for his report to serve as a referral to Congress to consider impeaching the president. He even seemed to make strides to not even say the word.

Rep. Veronica Escobar, D-Texas, asked Mueller about a mention in Mueller's report about "constitutional processes for addressing presidential misconduct."

Mueller refused to answer when asked specifically whether one of those was impeachment.

Associated Press writers Zeke Miller, Colleen Long and Mary Clare Jalonick contributed to this report.

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

## Now British PM, brash Boris Johnson faces Brexit conundrum

By JILL LAWLESS and DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Boris Johnson took over as Britain's prime minister Wednesday, vowing to break the impasse that defeated his predecessor by leading the country out of the European Union and silencing "the doubters, the doomsters, the gloomsters" who believe it can't be done.

But the brash Brexit champion faces the same problems that flummoxed Theresa May during her three years in office: heading a government without a parliamentary majority and with most lawmakers opposed

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to leaving the EU without a divorce deal.

Johnson has just 99 days to make good on his promise to deliver Brexit by Oct. 31 after what he called "three years of unfounded self-doubt."

He optimistically pledged to get "a new deal, a better deal" with the EU than the one secured by May, which was repeatedly rejected by Britain's Parliament.

"The people who bet against Britain are going to lose their shirts," he said, standing outside the shiny black door of 10 Downing St.

Trying to avoid the political divisions that plagued May, Johnson swept out many of her ministers to make way for his own team, dominated by loyal Brexiteers. He appointed Sajid Javid to the key role of Treasury chief, named staunch Brexit supporter Dominic Raab as foreign secretary and made Priti Patel the new home secretary, or interior minister. Michael Gove, who ran the 2016 campaign to leave the EU alongside Johnson, also got a Cabinet job.

Over half of May's Cabinet is gone, including ex-Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt, Johnson's defeated rival for the Tory leadership, who said he had turned down the chance to stay in government in a different job.

In his first speech as prime minister, Johnson unleashed a scattershot spray of promises — from more police on the streets to ending a ban on genetically modified crops to faster internet access.

To the many critics of the polarizing politician who find the phrase "Prime Minister Boris Johnson" jarring, it was typical of a verbal vim that is not always wedded to hard facts .

For the 55-year-old Johnson, walking into the Downing Street residence was the culmination of a life's ambition. The flamboyant, Latin-spouting former London mayor and foreign secretary helped lead the 2016 campaign to get Britain out of the EU and is now the darling of Brexit backers who feel frustrated that, three years later, the country is still in the bloc.

Judging by his words on Wednesday, Johnson's approach to the EU will be a mix of charm and threats.

He vowed to keep relations with the EU "as warm and as close and as affectionate as possible" and promised the 3 million EU nationals in Britain "absolute certainty" that they can stay. May made the same promise, but it still is not enshrined in law.

In the next breath, Johnson said Britain might be forced to leave with no deal if "Brussels refuses any further to negotiate" — trying to pin the blame for any future failure on the bloc. That's not an approach likely to win the trust and confidence of EU leaders.

The EU is adamant it will not renegotiate the agreement struck with May on the terms of Britain's departure and the framework of future relations. Without it, Britain faces a chaotic Brexit that economists warn would disrupt trade by imposing tariffs and customs checks between Britain and the bloc, send the value of the pound plummeting and plunge the U.K. into recession.

Chief EU Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier said "we are ready to listen and to work with" Johnson, but he did not budge on the bloc's refusal to alter the deal.

"A no-deal Brexit will never be, never, the choice of the EU. But we are prepared," he said in Brussels before Johnson spoke.

Johnson's political opponents accused him of offering little more than hot air.

"Rhetoric and reality are two different things," said Labour Party Brexit spokesman Keir Starmer.

Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon tweeted that Johnson's speech was "rambling, blame-shifting and, to put it mildly, somewhat divorced from reality."

Wednesday's carefully choreographed political drama unfolded with May attending the weekly Prime Minister's Questions period in the House of Commons for the last time . The usually boisterous session was subdued, with Conservative colleagues praising May's sense of duty and opposition leaders offering best wishes.

As she left the chamber, May received a standing ovation from Conservative lawmakers, many of whom helped bring her down by rejecting her Brexit deal.

Later, she stood in Downing Street alongside her husband Philip and said it had been "the greatest honor" to serve as prime minister. She then went to Buckingham Palace to tender her resignation to

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Queen Elizabeth II.

Moments after her Jaguar left the palace, Johnson swept in to see the queen and be appointed the 14th prime minister of her 67-year reign. Her first was Winston Churchill, who is idolized by Johnson.

There was a brief hiccup in the smooth handover when Greenpeace climate-change protesters blocked Johnson's car by forming a human chain on the road outside the palace. They were quickly moved aside by his police escort. Later, hundreds of people demonstrated in central London against Johnson's support for Brexit and past offensive remarks about Muslims, women and others.

If he is to succeed, Johnson must win over the many Britons opposed to Brexit and resistant to his blustering charisma.

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.

His administration is also set to include some pro-EU politicians, but most will be strong Brexit supporters. One of his senior advisers is set to be Dominic Cummings, lead strategist for the 2016 referendum.

A contentious figure, Cummings was found to be in contempt of Parliament earlier this year for refusing to give evidence to a committee of lawmakers investigating "fake news."

British lawmakers are due to start a six-week summer break on Friday. When they return in September, Johnson looks set for a fight with lawmakers, a majority of whom oppose leaving the EU without a deal.

That has led to speculation he could call a snap election in hopes of gaining a majority in Parliament for his plans.

Political commentator Matthew Parris, a former Conservative lawmaker, said Johnson was about to find out whether the skills that have brought him to power would work in government.

"However far excitement, energy, positivity can take you ... they will take Boris Johnson that far," he said. "But there is a limit."

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

## As the nation's opioid crisis grew, the pills got stronger

By GEOFF MULVIHILL and RIIN ALJAS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In 2012, as the death toll from the nation's opioid crisis mounted, drug companies shipped out enough of the powerful and addictive painkillers for every man, woman and child in the U.S. to have nearly a 20-day supply.

In some counties, mostly in Appalachia, it was well over 100 days.

An Associated Press analysis of drug distribution data released as a result of lawsuits against the industry also found that the amount of opioids as measured by total potency continued to rise early this decade even as the number of pills distributed began to dip.

The reason: Doctors were prescribing — and the industry was supplying — stronger pills.

"It shows it wasn't just the number of pills being shipped that increased. The actual amount of opioids being prescribed and consumed went up," said Anna Lembke, a Stanford University professor who researches opioids and is serving as a paid expert witness for plaintiffs in the litigation.

"We know that the higher the dose of prescribed opioids, and the longer patients are on them, even for a legitimate pain condition, the more likely they are to get addicted."

The AP found that the overall amount of opioid medication shipped to pharmacies, medical providers and hospitals increased 55% from 2006 through 2012. The number of pills rose significantly over that period, too — but that increase was lower, about 44%. (The amount of medication was calculated using a standard measure of potency known as a morphine milligram equivalent, or MME.)

In 2006 and 2007, the counties at the very top of the list of those receiving the most opioids were scattered about the eastern half of the U.S. By 2012, they were all in the Appalachian region. And the numbers

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were up dramatically.

For instance, in 2006, Tennessee's Hamblen County received the most opioid medication per person in the country — about 70 days' worth of a typical prescription for every man, woman and child. By 2012, the top county was Norton, Virginia, and the number of days' worth of opioids was a staggering 134.

In calculating days of medication, the AP used 50 MMEs as a daily dosage. That is the upper limit beyond which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention urges doctors to use caution.

The data comes from the federal Drug Enforcement Administration's collection of information from pharmaceutical companies about how controlled substances were distributed down to pharmacies, doctors and hospitals. It's a key part of the case for some 2,000 state, local and tribal governments suing the industry over the opioid crisis.

The first of the federal trials, involving claims from Ohio's Cuyahoga and Summit counties, is scheduled to start in October.

Last week, a judge agreed to make public the data covering 2006 through 2012. During that period, opioid overdose-related deaths in the U.S. increased from about 18,000 a year to more than 23,000. Since then, the number has doubled, and opioids have overtaken automobile accidents as the top cause of accidental death in the country.

Heroin and even stronger illicit drugs such as fentanyl drove the increase for most of this decade. Studies have found that most new heroin users started with prescription drugs that had been prescribed to them or to someone else.

Plaintiffs in the lawsuits claim drugmakers overstated the benefits of opioids and downplayed their addictiveness, persuading doctors to offer the drugs to more patients and in higher amounts.

The origins of the opioid crisis are largely traced to the mid-1990s, when Purdue Pharma introduced OxyContin. Up until then, opioids were generally reserved for surgery or cancer patients in extreme pain.

The government lawsuits also say the companies violated DEA policy by shipping orders even when they believed them to be "suspicious" because they were far larger than normal.

For example, an e-mail chain from Purdue Pharma, the maker of OxyContin, showed an employee flagging an order at 4:15 p.m. on Oct. 27, 2009, from drug distributor Cardinal Health because it was nearly twice as big as the customer's usual 12-week order of a certain dosage. The order was worth close to \$293,000.

It was approved at 4:16 p.m., the emails show.

The e-mail was part of a new trove of industry documents made public this week. They also include a transcript of a testy deposition earlier this year in which an executive at Cardinal Health — one of the nation's largest drug distributors — said the company has no obligation to the public when it comes to the opioids it ships.

Cardinal Health counsel Jennifer Norris was asked by a lawyer whether the company wants to "ensure that it does what it can to prevent the public from harm?"

She answered: "I don't know that Cardinal owes a duty to the public regarding that."

She went on to say, "Cardinal Health has an obligation to perform its duties in accordance with the law, the statute, regulations and guidance."

A Cardinal spokeswoman said the comment was made only in a legal context.

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Mulvihill reported from Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Associated Press data journalists Larry Fenn, Meghan Hoyer and Justin Myers contributed to this article.

## 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

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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, an assistant 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 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,” Mitchell said. “He was ready for the riot.”

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,” said Hunt.

“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.

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"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>

## Asian shares higher, Korean Kospi dives after missile launch

By ELAINE KURTENBACH AP Business Writer

BANGKOK (AP) — Asian shares rallied Thursday after the S&P 500 and Nasdaq closed at record highs, though South Korea's Kospi declined after North Korea launched two short range missiles into the sea.

Japan's Nikkei 225 index added 0.3% to 21,770.09 while the Kospi lost 0.8% to 2,065.41. In Hong Kong, the Hang Seng gained 0.3% to 28,604.89. The Shanghai Composite index also gained 0.3%, to 2,931.90. Australian's S&P ASX 200 advanced 0.5% to 6,810.30. Shares fell in Taiwan but rose in Southeast Asia.

The missiles fired by North Korea early Thursday were the first weapons launches in more than two months and an apparent tactic to pressure Washington as North Korean and U.S. officials struggle to restart nuclear negotiations.

The South's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the missiles were fired from near the eastern coastal town of Wonsan and flew about 430 kilometers (270 miles) before landing in the waters off the country's east coast.

Otherwise, there was little in the way of new developments to drive trading, with many investors awaiting policy announcements by the European Central Bank later in the day and from the Federal Reserve and Bank of Japan later in the month.

On Wall Street, stocks steadily gained ground Wednesday and closed broadly higher on Wall Street as investors rewarded solid earnings results from several large companies.

Industrial stocks moved broadly higher after UPS beat Wall Street's financial forecasts. The solid results from the delivery service counteracted steep drops from Boeing and Caterpillar, which both reported weak results.

The Russell 2000, which focuses on smaller stocks, outshone every other index, gaining 1.6% to 1,580.42. The S&P 500 index rose 0.5% to 3,019.56, putting it on track for a weekly gain.

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Boeing and Caterpillar weighed down The Dow Jones Industrial Average, which fell 0.3% to 27,269.97. The Nasdaq rose 0.8% to 8,321.50.

ENERGY: Benchmark crude oil added 18 cents to \$56.06 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It fell 89 cents to settle at \$55.88 a barrel on Wednesday. Brent crude oil, the international standard, picked up 12 cents to \$63.30 per barrel. Overnight, it fell 65 cents to close at \$63.18 a barrel.

CURRENCIES: The dollar was flat at 108.16 Japanese yen. The euro weakened to \$1.1136 from \$1.1142.

AP Business Writer Damien J. Troise contributed.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, July 25, the 206th day of 2019. There are 159 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 25, 1960, a Woolworth's store in Greensboro, North Carolina, that had been the scene of a sit-in protest against its whites-only lunch counter dropped its segregation policy.

On this date:

In 1866, Ulysses S. Grant was named General of the Army of the United States, the first officer to hold the rank.

In 1946, the United States detonated an atomic bomb near Bikini Atoll in the Pacific in the first under-water test of the device.

In 1952, Puerto Rico became a self-governing commonwealth of the United States.

In 1956, the Italian liner SS Andrea Doria collided with the Swedish passenger ship Stockholm off the New England coast late at night and began sinking; 51 people — 46 from the Andrea Doria, five from the Stockholm — were killed. (The Andrea Doria capsized and sank the following morning.)

In 1972, the notorious Tuskegee syphilis experiment came to light as The Associated Press reported that for the previous four decades, the U.S. Public Health Service, in conjunction with the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, had been allowing poor, rural black male patients with syphilis to go without treatment, even allowing them to die, as a way of studying the disease.

In 1978, Louise Joy Brown, the first "test tube baby," was born in Oldham, England; she'd been conceived through the technique of in-vitro fertilization.

In 1984, Soviet cosmonaut Svetlana Savitskaya (sah-VEETS'-kah-yah) became the first woman to walk in space as she carried out more than three hours of experiments outside the orbiting space station Salyut 7.

In 1985, a spokeswoman for Rock Hudson confirmed that the actor, hospitalized in Paris, was suffering from AIDS. (Hudson died in October 1985.)

In 1986, movie director Vincente Minnelli, known for such musicals as "Gigi," "An American in Paris" and "Meet Me in St. Louis," died in Los Angeles at age 83.

In 1994, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin (YIT'-sahk rah-BEEN') and Jordan's King Hussein (hoo-SAYN') signed a declaration at the White House ending their countries' 46-year-old formal state of war.

In 2000, a New York-bound Air France Concorde crashed outside Paris shortly after takeoff, killing all 109 people on board and four people on the ground; it was the first-ever crash of the supersonic jet.

In 2002, Zacarias Moussaoui (zak-uh-REE'-uhs moo-SOW'-ee) declared he was guilty of conspiracy in the September 11 attacks, then dramatically withdrew his plea at his arraignment in Alexandria, Va.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama continued his full-court press to pass health care reform legislation, citing a new White House study indicating that small businesses were paying far more per employee for health insurance than big companies, a disparity the president said was "unsustainable" as well as "unacceptable." Protesters across the world called on Iran to end its clampdown on opposition activists.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama met at the White House with the presidents of Guatemala,

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Honduras and El Salvador; afterward, he urged the leaders and congressional Republicans to help ease the influx of minors and migrant families crossing the southwest border of the United States.

One year ago: After a White House meeting, President Donald Trump and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker (zhahn-KLOHD' YUN'-kur) announced they had agreed to work toward "zero tariffs" and "zero subsidies" on non-automobile goods, dialing down tensions that had been rising. Sergio Marchionne (SEHR'-jee-oh mar-kee-OH'-nay), the founding CEO of Fiat Chrysler who saved two carmakers from near-certain failure, died at the age of 66 after complications from surgery in Switzerland. A study published in the journal Science revealed that a huge lake of salty water appears to be buried deep in Mars, raising the possibility of finding life on the planet. Undeclared Triple Crown winner Justify was retired to stud because of swelling in an ankle; the colt had won all six career starts.

Today's Birthdays: Folk-pop singer-musician Bruce Woodley (The Seekers) is 77. Rock musician Jim McCarty (The Yardbirds) is 76. Rock musician Verdine White (Earth, Wind & Fire) is 68. Singer-musician Jem Finer (The Pogues) is 64. Model-actress Iman is 64. Cartoonist Ray Billingsley ("Curtis") is 62. Rock musician Thurston Moore (Sonic Youth) is 61. Celebrity chef/TV personality Geoffrey Zakarian is 60. Actress-singer Bobbie Eakes is 58. Actress Katherine Kelly Lang is 58. Actress Illeana Douglas is 54. Country singer Marty Brown is 54. Actor Matt LeBlanc is 52. Actress Wendy Raquel Robinson is 52. Rock musician Paavo Lotjonen (PAH'-woh LAHT'-joh-neh) (Apocalyptica) is 51. Actor D.B. Woodside is 50. Actress Miriam Shor is 48. Actor David Denman is 46. Actor Jay R. Ferguson is 45. Actor James Lafferty is 34. Actress Shantel VanSanten is 34. Actor Michael Welch is 32. Actress Linsey (cq) Godfrey is 31. Classical singer Faryl Smith is 24. Actor Mason Cook is 19. Actress Meg Donnelly (TV: "American Housewife") is 18. Actor Pierce Gagnon is 14.

Thought for Today: "Life is not a matter of milestones, but of moments." — Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy (1890-1995).