

Groton Daily Independent

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Chicken Soup
for the Soul

"FAMILY ISN'T ALWAYS
BLOOD. IT'S THE PEOPLE
IN YOUR LIFE WHO
WANT YOU IN THEIRS."

-AUTHOR UNKNOWN



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

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Legion Post #39 loses to Redfield in region

Groton Post #39 gave up five runs in the first two innings and was unable to score as Redfield handed Groton its first region loss, 7-0. It is a double elimination tournament and was Groton's only first loss.

Mindy Jones provided the play-by-play as follows:

Groton home team

1st batter double to left

2nd batter short and out 1

RBI single to center

Locke pitching

Steals 2nd

Single scores runner

Locke gets strike out for 2nd out

Strike out for 3rd out

After 1/2 score 2-0

Shabazz strikes out

Blackmun grounds out to pitcher

Morris flies out to first

End of 1, 2-0

Locke walks 1st batter

Locke strikes out batter for 1st out

Single to left

Strike out for out 2

Runners on 2nd and 3rd

Walk to load bases

Pass ball scores 1

Single to left and throwing error scores 2

Ground out to short 3rd out

End of 1 1/2 5-0 Redfield

Locke grounds out to short

Larson walked

Jones strikes out for out 2

Larson gets to 2nd on pass ball

Johnson strikes out for out 3

Bunty gets out for out 1

Bunt

Strike out for out 2

Single to left

Pick off at 1st for 3rd out

Thurston grounds out to 2nd for out 1

Schroeder ground out to pitcher for out 2

Shabazz strikes out for 3rd out

Walk first batter

Fly out to right for 1st out

Walk batter

Runners on 1st and 2nd

Fly out to left field

Runners advance on pass ball

Single to left scores 2

Walk batter

Fly out to left for 3rd out

Blackmun strikes out for 1st out

Morris doubled to left

Locke pops up to catcher for 2nd out

Larson strikes out for 3rd out

7-0 end of 4

Locke strikes out batter for 1st out

Batter hits to short, reaches on error

Walk puts runners on 1st and 2nd

Pop out to 1st for 2nd out

Pitching change due to pitch count

Larson pitching

Fly out to left for 3rd out

Runners advance on balk

Jones strikes out for 1st out

Johnson strikes out for 2nd out

Thurston grounds out to 3rd for 3rd out

End of 5 7-0 Redfield

Fly out to center for out 1

Hit to center

Fly out to center

For out 2

Steals 2nd

Hit to 3rd, gets the out for out 3

Schroeder strikes out for 1st out

Shabazz bunts and is thrown out for 2nd out.

Blackmun pops out to 2nd for 3rd out

End of 6 still 7-0

Hit to pitcher for first out

Batter reaches on error at short

Larson walks batter

Pitching change, Thurston comes in to pitch

Hit to short gets forced out at 2nd for 2nd out

Fly out to center for 3rd out

Morris singles to left

Locke walks

Larson infield fly to short for 1st out

Jones gets on with fielders choice

Locke out for 2nd out

Johnson flies out to 3rd to end the game

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Legion Post #39 beats WIN to advance to title

Groton defeated Warner-Ipswich-Northville, 12-1, to advance to the title region game against Redfield. The game will be played at 5 p.m. in Redfield.

Meri Erickson provided the play-by-play of the game.

Pitching- Austin Jones

WIN

Struck out first batter

2nd batter walked

3rd batter reached base on error by pitcher. Runners on 2nd and 3rd

1 out

Batter walked to load bases

Batter hit RBI single- one run scores.

Batter strikes out. 2 outs

Batter strikes out for 3rd out.

Groton

Shabazz popped up to catcher for first out

Blackmun reached first on an error

Blackmun stole second and scored on errors

Morris hit a single

Locke walked

Larson reaches on a fielders choice. Locke out at second for 2 outs

Jones reaches on an error, scoring Morris.

Johnson grounds into a fielders choice for third out

Groton 2, WIN 1

WIN

First batter hits single

Batter advances to second on wild pitch

Second batter strikes out for first out

Third batter strikes out for 2nd out

Batter pops out to left for 3rd out. Score remains Groton 2-1

Bottom of second

Thurston out on strikes

Schroeder is hit by pitch

Schroeder steals 2nd

Shabazz walks

Runners advance to second and third on a passed ball.

Blackmun walks to load bases

Morris hits a double to score 3

Morris moves to third on a passed ball

Locke walks

Locke steals second- runners on 2nd and 3rd

Larson popped up to second base for second out

Jones reaches on an error

Morris scores, Locke on third

Johnson hits RBI single scoring Locke. Jones at second

Thurston walks - bases loaded with 2 outs

Schroeder gets hit by pitch scoring Jones.

Shabazz strikes out ending the inning. Groton scores 6 runs taking an 8-1 lead.

WIN

Batter hits to second for first out

Batter walks.

Batter flies out to left field for 2nd out

Runner steals 2nd

Batter walks- runners on 1st and 2nd

Batter pops out to shortstop for 3rd out. Groton up 8-1

Groton

Blackmun grounds out to shortstop for 1st out

Morris pops out to 2nd base for second out

Locke reaches on a single

Larson reaches on an error. Locke on second. 2 outs

Runners advance on a passed ball

Jones gets hit by the pitch- loading the bases

Johnson hits a single scoring Locke and Larson. Runners on first and third. 2 outs

Johnson steals second

Thurston reaches on an error scoring Jones and Johnson

Schroeder grounds out for 3rd out

Top of 4th

Groton 12-1

WIN

First batter singles to right

Next batter pops up to pitcher for first out

Batter advances to second on passed ball

Batter advances to third on wild pitch

Batter strikes out for second out

Batter flies out to center for 3rd out. Groton 12-1

Bottom of 4th -Groton up

Shabazz bunts out to pitcher for first out.

Blackmun hits a double to right center.

Morris strikes out for 2nd out

Locke flies out to right for 3rd out

Top of fifth

WIN up to bat

First batter reaches on an error

Second batter reaches on fielders choice- runner out at second for first out

Batter flies out to left for 2nd out

Last batter grounds out to second

Groton wins 12-1 to advance to championship game against Redfield today at 5:00 pm

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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



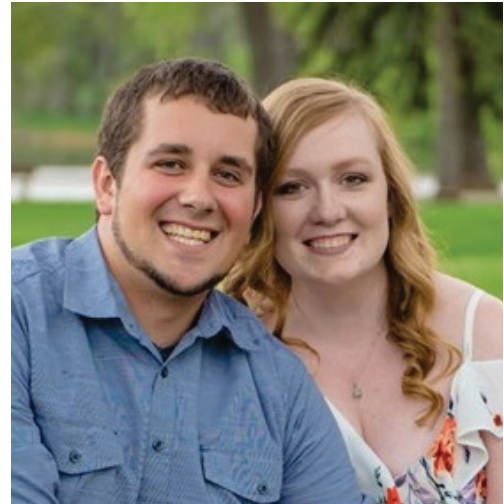
Come and Go Bridal Shower
Honoring Brooke Lesher
(Bride-to-be of Kevin Hagen)

Bridal Shower

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

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

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



Geist Bridal Shower

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

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

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

MS/HS Administrative Assistant/Study Hall
Supervisor

Yearbook Advisor

Assistant Boys Basketball Coach

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

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

The Groton Area School District is an Equal
Opportunity Employer.

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Today



Areas Fog
then Sunny

High: 90 °F

Tonight



Clear

Low: 61 °F

Saturday



Sunny

High: 88 °F

Saturday
Night



20% → 60%

Slight Chance
T-storms then
T-storms
Likely

Low: 67 °F

Sunday



60%

T-storms
Likely

High: 83 °F

Today



88 to 94°

early morning fog over
portions of eastern SD

Saturday



86 to 92°

showers and thunderstorms
Saturday night

Sunday



80s

showers and thunderstorms
ending west to east through
the day

Hot & Mostly Dry
today through the day Saturday



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

weather.gov/abr

Graphic Created
7/26/2019 4:15 AM

Published on: 07/26/2019 at 12:16AM

The weather will be hot and mostly dry today through the day Saturday. Showers and a few thunderstorms Saturday night will slowly end west to east during the day Sunday. Highs will remain in the 80s and low 90s through the weekend.

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Today in Weather History

July 26, 1963: An estimated F2 tornado moved northeast from 4 miles northeast of Raymond. Barns and outbuildings were destroyed on one farm, and the home was unroofed. Asphalt was ripped off a state highway.

1874: Torrential rainfall brought flash flooding to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

1890: During the morning hours, an estimated F3 tornado went through the southern part of Lawrence, Massachusetts. The tornado left 500 people homeless as the tornado destroyed 35 homes and damaged 60 others.

1897: Jewel, Maryland received 14.75 inches of rain in a 24 hour period. This record is currently the oldest, state rainfall record in the United States. All other state rainfall records are in the 1900s and 2000s.

1921: On the summit of Mt. Wellenkuppe, in Switzerland, the temperature reached 100 degrees by 10 am. The summit had an elevation of 12,830 feet and was covered in snow.

1931: A swarm of grasshoppers descends on crops throughout the American heartland, devastating millions of acres. Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota, already in the midst of a bad drought, suffered tremendously from this disaster. [Click HERE for more information from the History Channel.](#)

1979: Tropical Storm Claudette stalled over Alvin, Texas, inundating the town with 45 inches of rain in 42 hours. The total included 43 inches in 24 hours, which is the maximum 24-hour rainfall in American history.

1819 - Twin cloudbursts of fifteen inches struck almost simultaneously at Catskill, NY, and Westfield, MA. Flash flooding resulted in enormous erosion. (David Ludlum)

1943 - Tishomingo, OK, baked in the heat as the mercury soared to 121 degrees, a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1960 - The temperature at Salt Lake City, UT, hit 107 degrees, an all-time record high for that location. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms developing along a cold front produced hail two inches in diameter in McHenry County, IL, and wind gusts to 70 mph at Auburn, ME. A wind gust of 90 mph was recorded at Blairstown, NJ, before the anemometer broke. The high winds were associated with a small tornado. The record high of 88 degrees at Beckley, WV, was their sixth in a row. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced large hail and damaging winds in the Middle Atlantic Coast Region, and in the south central U.S. Eight cities in the northwestern and north central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Salem, OR, hit 103 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Morning thunderstorms produced heavy rain in southeastern Texas, with more than three inches reported at the Wildlife Refuge in southwestern Chambers County. Evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in Montana, with wind gusts to 62 mph reported at Helena. Eight cities from Maine to Minnesota reported record high temperatures for the date, including Newark, NJ, with a reading of 99 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 87 °F at 5:37 PM

Low Temp: 68 °F at 8:15 AM

Wind: 26 mph at 1:22 AM

Day Rain: 0.00

Record High: 112° in 1931

Record Low: 42° in 1962

Average High: 84°F

Average Low: 59°F

Average Precip in July.: 2.51

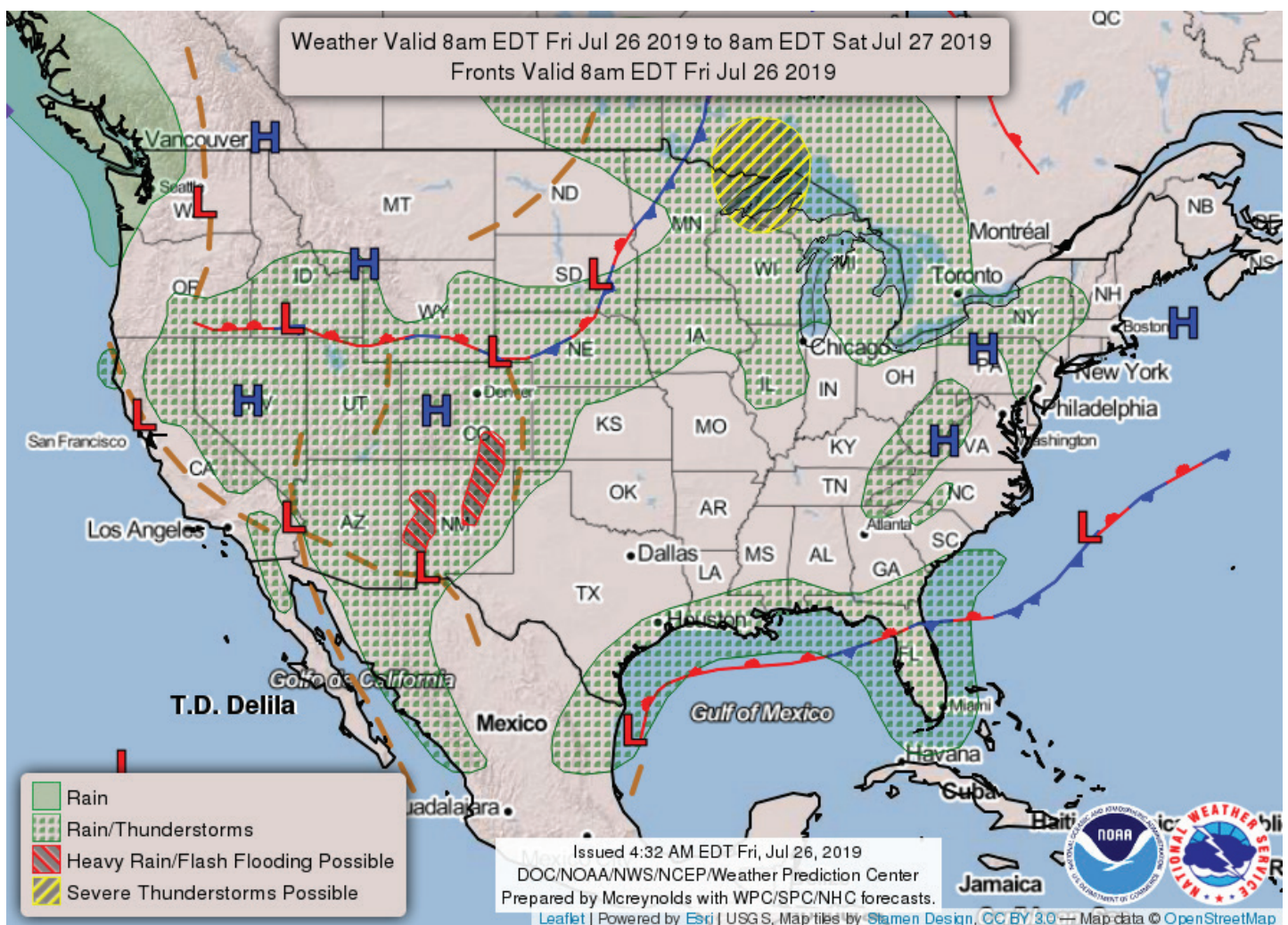
Precip to date in July.: 2.87

Average Precip to date: 13.35

Precip Year to Date: 15.59

Sunset Tonight: 9:09 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:12 a.m.



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ITS OUR RESPONSIBILITY

Whats in a name?

More than we often imagine.

No matter where Ive lived, whether Ohio or South Carolina, California or North Carolina, Ohio or Texas, Georgia or Oklahoma, I have always been greeted by the same question: Are you Michael Guidos brother? And I always seem to have the same feelings surface: I wonder what expectations they will have of me? Or, Will they expect me to be just like him? Or, Will he always get there before I have my opportunity to even try to establish my identity?

In the final analysis, those questions did not matter. It was an honor to have Michael for a brother and an example. Everywhere he went he sowed Gods seeds. Seeds of love and compassion; seeds of concern and conviction, seeds of hope and healing; seeds of grace and mercy; seeds of insight and understanding that would bring the Word of God to life; seeds that would change lives and mend families; seeds of happiness and joy; seeds of light and life; seeds that inspired and encouraged everyone that heard or read them.

A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold, wrote Solomon. I did not understand the significance of that verse for many years. Yes, I enjoyed many benefits of being identified with Michael. It did have its value. But, with the joy that came from having Michael as my brother came sadness for those who suffer the disgrace of a family member who led a life that defied Gods teachings and made life difficult for those who were harmed by their reputation.

But the challenge contained in this is not beyond any of us: we have the potential, with Gods power, to do whatever is necessary to live lives that establish a good name.

Prayer: Father, give us Your courage and strength, insight and wisdom to leave a legacy worthy of Your name. Enable us to live as Jesus lived by serving others as He did. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 22:1 A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.

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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

Man rescued during storm after falling into Badlands ravine

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Crews working in a storm have rescued a 23-year-old man who fell into a ravine and became wedged between rocks in southwestern South Dakota.

Pennington County authorities say the man started walking after his vehicle became disabled and fell into the ravine at Sheep Mountain Overlook in Badlands National Park Wednesday night. He was rescued about three hours later as crews executed a rope rescue in rough terrain during a thunderstorm.

The man was able to call 911. He had fallen up to 200 feet down a rock crevice and was wedged between two rocks.

Dispatchers were able to locate his coordinates. Law enforcement lost contact with the man as rains and wind picked up, but a rescuer was able to hear the man's cries for help during the storm.

2nd man charged in abduction, killing of South Dakota woman

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have charged a second man in the kidnapping and killing of a South Dakota woman last year.

A federal indictment filed July 17 charges Ramon Simpson, of Norfolk, Nebraska, with kidnapping resulting in death and conspiracy to commit kidnapping in the killing of Phyllis Hunhoff.

Joseph Lloyd James was also indicted in the case on charges of murder, felony murder, kidnapping resulting in death, carjacking resulting in death and conspiracy to commit kidnapping.

Authorities said James and Simpson abducted the 59-year-old Yankton woman on Nov. 4 near Utica. She was found three days later in her burned white Honda Accord car on the Santee Sioux Reservation in Nebraska.

James killed Hunhoff, burned her car and attempted to burn her body, according to prosecutors. He was arrested later in November on arson charges while officers investigated Hunhoff's death.

According to the indictment, Simpson confessed to driving Hunhoff's car to Nebraska. Prosecutors also accused him of deleting and modifying James' cellphone data related to the night of the killing.

The charges against Simpson carry a minimum mandatory sentence of life in prison and a possible death penalty sentence with combined fines of up to \$500,000.

Simpson's public defender, Matthew Munderloh, said his client didn't know about Hunhoff's murder until days later.

At a detention hearing last week in Omaha, Judge Susan Bazis deemed Simpson a danger to the community and a flight risk. She granted the prosecutor's motion to detain Simpson until trial. No court date has been set for Simpson.

James is scheduled to appear in federal court in Omaha on Friday.

Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press undefined

Rapid City Journal, July 25

RESPECT Act long overdue

For the majority culture, old federal laws oppressing Native Americans have faded to near invisibility.

Vestiges of a time before women could vote, before people of color counted as legal equals, these laws harken to an era most would prefer to think didn't happen. One permits Native children to be forcibly taken from parents and placed in boarding schools. Another permits the forced labor of Native Americans as a condition of benefits.

They're no longer enforced, many would say. They could never be enforced today. Let them fade like yesterday's road signs. Let's pretend they don't exist.

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It's less simple for those living the legacy of that oppression, who know full well these laws remain on the books, and who know that some people still regard their intent as legitimate.

For South Dakota Sen. Mike Rounds, the repeal of antiquated racist laws has become a personal quest. Rounds says the personal relationships he made working with tribal leaders helped him better understand the challenges facing tribal communities and the emotional toll from centuries of hostility toward Native Americans.

The past bleeds into today and informs our tomorrows. We can't change what happened. We can, however, try to make amends. We can reconcile with each other. We can erase the living symbols of oppression.

Remorse is one thing, but only the removal of lingering stains demonstrates sincerity.

Since 2016, Rounds has introduced the Repealing Existing Substandard Provisions Encouraging Conciliation with Tribes (RESPECT) Act.

The RESPECT Act seeks to strike language from about a dozen places in federal laws that date to at least 1875.

Last year the bill made it through the full Senate but failed to negotiate the House of Representatives before the session ended. This year, with bipartisan and bicameral support, Rounds believes it could wind up awaiting the signature of President Donald Trump.

This year, Rounds has been joined by Sen. Kyrsten Sinema (D-Arizona), Sen. James Lankford (R-Oklahoma), Rep. Dusty Johnson (R-South Dakota), Rep. Tom Cole (R-Oklahoma) and Rep. Tom O'Halleran (D-Arizona).

The RESPECT act won't undo the wrongs of the past, but it will demonstrate a necessary measure of respect for a culture and people treated badly.

In the historic clash, one side saw millions fall to disease and modern weapons, suffered treaty betrayals, lost the majority of a continent and saw their ancient cultures attacked. The victors then condemned them for not adopting quickly to modern lifestyles.

Gen. Phil Sheridan denied he ever uttered that the "Only good Indian is a dead one," but it expressed a common sentiment. Later, Capt. Richard H. Pratt declared it was necessary to "Kill the Indian, and save the man" as he advocated for boarding schools to tame the "savages" and systematically strip away tribal culture.

Native Americans were not viewed as people but impediments. Pioneers dehumanized them to get them out of the way of gold discoveries or western expansion. Antiquated racist laws were expedient if inhumane means of dealing with the messy aftermath.

Removing the laws won't remove the historical stain, but what does it say when lawmakers repeatedly cannot be bothered to repeal these laws? In life, we demonstrate our true values by how we invest our time and effort. A lack of time or effort speaks volumes about the lack of import.

Since 2016, Rounds has put in both the time and effort to advance the RESPECT Act. While the past can't be rewritten, he said recently, "This is one way to show understanding and progress."

Madison Daily Leader, July 15

Has the tide turned for opioid abuse?

Opioid-related deaths dropped in South Dakota the past two years, a good result, although it's clear more needs to be done.

Deaths peaked at 38 in the state in 2016, then fell to 35 in 2017 and 27 in 2018.

Most public health officials around the nation consider opioid abuse a serious public health crisis. Drug abuse is the leading cause of death for Americans under the age of 50, and for opioids in particular, more than 46,000 people died of opioid overdoses in the year ending last October 31.

But a multi-pronged approach to the crisis seems to be making a dent. Reducing the supply of opioid prescriptions is paying off, and education and awareness programs are helping as well.

Last week, we read that Minnesota's opioid-related deaths has dropped as well, to 331 deaths in 2018 from 399 deaths in 2017. Adjusting for population, Minnesota's death rate remains substantially above South Dakota's.

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For those concerned about the problem, we recommend going to www.AvoidOpioidSD.com, where there is a great deal of information, personal stories and a resource hotline.

While we are glad to see the two-year improvement, we all can agree that 27 deaths per year is still far too many. For those engaged in this battle, we encourage them to stay the course, perhaps increasing prevention methods that appear to be working.

More than professionals are involved in this battle. Each of us should keep any opioid medications away from family members or others who could take them. We should be aware of warning signs of abuse.

Perhaps South Dakota will continue to make substantial progress in years to come. We'd love to report five years from now that the opioid crisis has been beaten back.

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, July 16

Loving America means making it better

The words that flowed from Donald Trump this past weekend — words on social media that told four congressional representatives who are women of color that they should “go back to their own countries” for their criticism of conditions at U.S. border detention centers — were nothing new.

That ugly sentiment is almost as old as this nation itself. (NPR reported that, according to one history professor, it hails back to 1798 when the U.S. passed the Alien and Sedition Acts, which were designed to clamp down on immigrants and potentially boot them from the country for criticizing the government.)

The words were as familiar and as painful as any other racial taunt that has been uttered throughout our history.

We've heard this before, to be sure — but not from the president of the United States. Not from a person who is supposed to represent what this nation stands for and what America — a sprawling mosaic of immigrants — is all about.

And yet, this ugliness from this source doesn't seem surprising. Even to supporters of the president, that fact is a shame and a disgrace, or at least it should be.

The president has drawn a lot of heat for his comments, but so what? That happens on a weekly basis. We seem to be suffering from outrage fatigue.

Some are defending him, but their justifications may say more about them than they do about the president.

Others say nothing at all. The members of South Dakota's own congressional delegation, all of whom are Republicans like the president, haven't said too much about Trump's divisive, destructive, racially charged comment. (To be fair, Rep. Dusty Johnson reportedly told a Sioux Falls television station Monday that he thought the president's tweet was “inappropriate” and the “wrong way to communicate,” which feels like delicate phrasing.) Until they fill that void, let's insert these words by the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as a place holder: “In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.”

On Monday, President Trump doubled down on his weekend assault, telling the four female representatives he attacked, “If you hate our country, if you're not happy here, you can leave.”

This, too, is a familiar rant from America's history, an echo of the cry “America: Love it or leave it” that was often expressed during the turbulent days of the late 1960s and early 1970s. It meant you either stood by America's policies (in that case, regarding the Vietnam War, for instance) or get the hell out. No middle ground was allowed.

The phrase itself is grounded in our history, inspired by the declaration, “My country, right or wrong.” This phrase, which many perceive as a profession of devout patriotism and unquestioning loyalty, also has an intriguing past.

It's believed to have originally been uttered as an after-dinner toast by Stephen Decatur, a U.S. naval officer, just after the War of 1812. He said: “Our Country! In her intercourse with foreign nations, may she always be in the right; but right or wrong, our country!”

In 1872, Carl Shurz, a German who migrated to America in the 1840s and then became a prominent member of the newly formed Republican Party, amended the toast to better fit his adopted, post-Civil War

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homeland: "My country, right or wrong; if right, to be kept right; and if wrong, to be set right." There's nothing in those words about leaving America if you "feel otherwise;" there's nothing implying that people should go back where they came from. Instead, it's a plea to support and embrace America by making it better, even when it may require a change of direction, because that's what makes this nation stronger.

That's what love of country is really all about: If you care, make it right.

Trump's words ventured into some ugly territory, but they really didn't seem out of character, and that may be the biggest disappointment of all. But such sentiments must face a reckoning, for though they may be sown into the darkest corners of America's soul, they cannot ultimately stand for this country's ideas and ideals.

Americans are better than that. We have to be.

Harrold woman pleads not guilty in traffic death

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A Harrold woman has pleaded not guilty in federal court to causing the death of a man last year by negligently operating a vehicle.

Twenty-three-year-old Kiya Rojas was indicted for manslaughter last week in the July 2018 death of 26-year-old Rolland Grass Rope in Lyman County.

Rojas was released on bond pending trial. A trial date has not been set. The charge against her carries a maximum 8 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine upon conviction.

The investigation was conducted by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Lower Brule Agency.

1 of 2 men wanted for fatal California shooting arrested

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The U.S. Marshals Service says one of two men wanted for killing a man at a motel in California has been arrested in South Dakota.

Authorities say 32-year-old Adam Renfroe was picked up at a residence in Pierre on Wednesday. He's wanted in the fatal shooting of 36-year-old Daniel Schrader at a Motel 6 in Concord, California July 12. Officials did not immediately release a motive for the shooting.

Renfroe was taken to the Hughes County. He's awaiting his initial court appearance and extradition proceedings to California.

Officials are still looking for 40-year-old Robert Brown, of Bay Point, California.

Resumed federal executions raise death penalty's 2020 stakes

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The question to Michael Dukakis, the Democratic presidential candidate in 1988, was brutally personal.

"If Kitty Dukakis were raped and murdered, would you favor an irrevocable death penalty for the killer?" Bernard Shaw, a CNN anchor, asked, referring to the Massachusetts governor's wife. Dukakis said he wouldn't favor it because "I don't see any evidence that it is a deterrent."

The technocratic, largely emotionless response in a debate mere weeks before the election marked the nadir of Democrats' politically agonized relationship to the death penalty — reinforcing in some voters' minds that the party was soft on crime. President George H.W. Bush went on to crush Dukakis, winning the Electoral College vote, 426-111.

Four years later, then-Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton projected the opposite message, defending the death penalty on a New Hampshire debate stage, then leaving the campaign trail to return to his home state and preside over the execution of Ricky Ray Rector, a mentally impaired black inmate who killed a police officer and another man.

In the decade that followed, though, many Democrats were moved by the startling revelations of inmates being wrongly executed and began to rethink their position on capital punishment. In 2014, an Oklahoma execution was problematic enough that President Barack Obama mulled a moratorium on the federal death

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penalty. Though that never materialized, his party's national platform endorsed one two years later, and only one of the 24 Democrats seeking the White House in 2020, Montana Gov. Steve Bullock, has publicly supported preserving capital punishment in some form.

The issue took on unexpected urgency on Thursday when the Justice Department announced that it will begin executing federal death row inmates for the first time since 2003, again raising the political stakes on a topic that's rarely been a Democratic strength. And while the party is now much more unified in opposing it than a generation ago, the public is not, potentially casting a long policy shadow over the upcoming primary.

Democratic strategist Mike Lavigne said that, despite the planned federal executions, he doesn't see the issue as a winner for Democrats because "there's not a lot of single-issue voters on the death penalty."

Still, several Democratic presidential candidates strongly criticized the move, setting up a stark contrast with President Donald Trump.

"Capital punishment is immoral and deeply flawed," Sen. Kamala Harris of California said on Twitter. "Too many innocent people have been put to death."

About 6 in 10 Americans favor the death penalty, according to the General Social Survey, conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago. That's declined steadily since the 1990s, when nearly three-quarters were in favor.

Even California, the nation's largest blue state, rejected a capital punishment ban in 2016. Now-Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom used an executive order to declare a moratorium, but prosecutors in the state still sometimes seek the death penalty.

The first federal inmate is scheduled to be executed on Dec. 9, less than two months before the Democratic primary begins with the Iowa caucus, and four other prisoners are set to be put to death over the next six weeks.

Trump has repeatedly endorsed capital punishment for serious crimes, and that's likely to play well with his conservative base heading into 2020. Republican support for capital punishment has held steady at about 8 in 10 over the past two decades, while about half of Democrats now say they favor it compared to nearly two-thirds in the 1990s.

Pope Francis has declared the death penalty "inadmissible," but some Christians support it. Since 2015, the National Association of Evangelicals, which represents 45,000-plus churches, has acknowledged that Christians differ in their capital punishment beliefs and affirming "the conscientious commitment of both streams of Christian ethical thought."

"Our weighing in on the topic is not for the purpose of helping or hurting any politician, but it's to provide a moral context for our leaders in both parties," Galen Carey, the association's vice president of government relations, said by phone.

When Dukakis and Clinton were running for president, there were roughly 300 new death sentences annually nationwide, as opposed to around 40 today. Yearly executions peaked at nearly 100 in 1999 and have declined steadily ever since.

"It's shocking that, at this point, the federal government would be taking what feels like a giant step backward," said Bee Moorhead, executive director of Texas Impact, a theological civil group that has organized interfaith religious calls to abolish the death penalty in the state that executes more inmates than any other. "It is in the mold of a bunch of other policies that are devoid of the concept of mercy in a way that this country is just not used to."

Bullock, the lone Democratic White House hopeful who supports it, says he backs the death penalty in some cases such as terrorism.

But former Vice President Joe Biden only this week shifted to calling for eliminating the federal death penalty after years of supporting it. His criminal justice plan also would encourage states to follow the federal government in ending capital punishment, 25 years after he helped pass tough crime legislation that expanded its use.

Many of the other Democratic White House hopefuls have opposed the death penalty as part of larger

calls for reforming a criminal justice system they see as unfairly targeting minorities and the poor. People of color have accounted for 43% of total executions since 1976 and 55% of those currently on death row, according to the American Civil Liberties Union.

In a statement, New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker noted the death penalty is "fraught with biases against people of color, low-income individuals, and those with mental illness." Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar said, "A life sentence compared to a death penalty sentence depends on where you live, who your lawyer is and the color of your skin," and South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg tweeted, "Justice is not equally distributed in our country."

Associated Press writers Elana Schor and Hannah Fingerhut in Washington, Kathleen Ronayne in Sacramento, California, and Sara Burnett in Chicago contributed to this report.

Girls report more harassment amid rise in US cyberbullying

By SALLY HO Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Rachel Whalen remembers feeling gutted in high school when a former friend would mock her online postings, threaten to unfollow or unfriend her on social media and post inside jokes about her to others online.

The cyberbullying was so distressing that Whalen said she contemplated suicide. Once she got help, she decided to limit her time on social media. It helps to take a break from it for perspective, said Whalen, now a 19-year-old college student in Utah.

There's a rise in cyberbullying nationwide, with three times as many girls reporting being harassed online or by text message than boys, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

The U.S. Department of Education's research and data arm this month released its latest survey, which shows an uptick in online abuse, though the overall number of students who report being bullied stayed the same.

"There's just some pressure in that competitive atmosphere that is all about attention," Whalen said. "This social media acceptance — it just makes sense to me that it's more predominant amongst girls."

Many school systems that once had a hands-off approach to dealing with off-campus student behavior are now making rules around cyberbullying, outlining punishments such as suspension or expulsion, according to Bryan Joffe, director of education and youth development at AASA, a national school superintendents association.

That change partly came along with broader cyberbullying laws, which have been adopted in states like Texas and California in recent years.

The survey showed about 20%, or one in five students, reported being bullied, ranging from rumors or being excluded to threats and physical attacks in the 2016-17 school year. That's unchanged from the previous survey done in 2014-15.

But in that two-year span, cyberbullying reports increased significantly, from 11.5% to 15.3%.

Broken down by gender, 21% of girls in middle and high school reported being bullied online or by text message in the 2016-17 school year, compared with less than 7% of boys.

That's up from the previous survey in 2014-15, the first time cyberbullying data was collected this specifically. Back then, about 16% of girls between 12 and 18 said they were bullied online, compared with 6% of boys.

The survey doesn't address who the aggressors are, though girls were more likely to note that their bullies were perceived to have the ability to influence others.

Lauren Paul, founder of the Kind Campaign, said 90% of the stories she hears while working in schools are girls being bullied by other girls. The California-based nonprofit launched a decade ago to focus on "girl against girl" bullying through free educational programming that reaches about 300 schools a year.

Paul recalls meeting one girl who was obsessive about her social media accounts because a group of girls excluded her if she did not get enough likes or follows in any given week. She went so far as to painstakingly create fake profiles just to meet her quota.

"Most of the time — if not almost all the time — it's about what's going on with other girls," Paul said. "It's this longing to be accepted by their female peers specifically and feeling broken if they don't."

Though Paul primarily hosts assemblies and workshop exercises at middle and high schools, she said there's been more demand to help younger and older students in recent years. The Kind Campaign has gotten more requests for elementary school presentations and now also regularly gets called to universities to work with sororities.

The latest national data may spark new conversations about "Mean Girls" behavior, Joffe said, referring to 2004 movie starring Lindsay Lohan.

"It's a school issue, but it's just a reflection of broader societal issues," Joffe said. "I'm not sure schools have any better answer than say, the Twitter company or Facebook. They're also trying to find answers to what to do about abuses online."

Some tech companies also are taking a stab at what seems like an intractable problem.

Instagram unveiled its latest feature this month that uses artificial intelligence to try to stop abuse. Users typing a potentially offensive comment on a photo or video will get a notification that reads: "Are you sure you want to post this?"

Many school districts, meanwhile, are beefing up social-emotional learning curriculum beyond just teaching children how to share and express their feelings in the early grades.

That's something Manuela Slye, a Seattle mother with three teenagers, says is a must to prevent cyberbullying. The president of the Seattle Council Parent Teacher Student Association called on her school district to expand its "soft skills" lessons through high school, as is done in a neighboring school district.

Seattle Public Schools is working to expand such offerings, though a district spokesman said there hasn't been a noted rise in cyberbullying among its students.

"There needs to be social-emotional development teaching before it goes to cyberbullying, before it goes to doing something online and anonymously, and before you have a problem with someone," Slye said.

Sally Ho covers philanthropy and education. Follow her on Twitter: https://twitter.com/_SallyHo

16 Marines arrested in migrant smuggling investigation

By JULIE WATSON Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — An investigation into Marines accused of helping smuggle migrants into the United States led to the arrest Thursday of 16 of their fellow Marines at California's Camp Pendleton, just north of the U.S.-Mexico border.

In a dramatic move aimed at sending a message, authorities made the arrests as the Marines gathered in formation with their battalion.

None of the 16 Marines were involved in helping enforce border security, the Marine Corps said in a news release. They are accused of crimes ranging from migrant smuggling to drug-related offenses.

Officials could not immediately be reached for additional details.

The arrests came weeks after two Marines were arrested by a Border Patrol agent on suspicion of transporting three Mexicans on the promise of money after they crossed illegally into the United States.

The military said the investigation helped authorities identify the 16 Marines arrested at the largest Marine Corps' base on the West Coast, about 55 miles (90 kilometers) from San Diego's border with Mexico.

Retired Marine Lt. Col. Gary Barthel called it a "kind of black eye for the Marine Corps" and said it was important the military show criminal behavior will not be tolerated.

"Obviously I think it looks bad whenever you have the military that is helping protect the border and then you've got military people smuggling," said Barthel, an attorney at the Military Law Center in Carlsbad, north of San Diego.

Marines and other U.S. troops were brought in last year to help reinforce the border by installing razor wire on top of existing barriers, among other things. Troops are barred from arresting migrants.

All 16 were junior enlisted Marines. Barthel said smugglers may have targeted young troops who could

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be vulnerable to being enticed by fast money.

Border Patrol agents over the years have routinely caught migrants in the country illegally walking onto Camp Pendleton or floating in skiffs off the coast nearby. Authorities said the base, cut by Interstate 5 leading to Los Angeles, sits along a well-traversed route used by migrant smugglers.

Officials from 1st Marine Division worked alongside the Naval Criminal Investigative Service in the investigation that started after the July 3 arrests of two Marines, who were charged in federal court with migrant smuggling. Both pleaded not guilty to the charges.

A U.S. Border Patrol agent stopped Lance Cpl. Byron Darnell Law II and Lance Cpl. David Javier Salazar-Quintero about 7 miles (11 kilometers) north of the border after being alerted by other agents that a vehicle similar to theirs was suspected of picking up migrants who came into the country illegally, according to the federal complaint.

Three migrants were found in the backseat of a black BMW driven by Law, investigators say. Both Marines are riflemen assigned to 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton.

Law told the agent that Salazar asked if he was interested in earning \$1,000 picking up an "illegal alien."

Salazar told authorities that Law introduced him to a man who "recruited" him to help smuggle in migrants, according to court documents. Salazar said he had gone out to pick up migrants on four separate occasions but was never paid.

Law and Salazar, who speaks Spanish, went to the border the night of July 2 and received instructions from a Mexican cellphone, court documents say. Law told the agent they picked up a man and dropped him off at a McDonald's in Del Mar, a beach community north of San Diego, and then returned to the base. They were not paid.

Law said Salazar told him they would be paid if they picked up three migrants on July 3 near the border, according to court documents.

The three migrants told authorities they were from Mexico and agreed to pay \$8,000 to be smuggled into the United States.

Marine Corps officials gave no details about how or why the investigation expanded to result in the arrest of 16 others. The Naval Criminal Investigative Service also declined to comment.

An additional eight Marines were being questioned about their involvement in drug offenses as part of a separate investigation.

This story has been corrected to show that eight additional Marines were being questioned not eight of 16 Marines arrested.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

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

1. WHAT WILL TEST DEMOCRATS IN 2020

The upcoming presidential campaign will determine whether they can ever again rely on the multiracial coalition that helped propel Barack Obama to the White House twice.

2. CAPITAL PUNISHMENT ISSUE A WEAKNESS FOR DEMOCRATS

Now that the U.S. government has reinstated the death penalty, the party is more unified in its opposition to it — but a majority of Americans continue to support it.

3. WHY NORTH KOREA CONDUCTED MISSILE LAUNCHES

Pyongyang says the test of a new tactical guided weapon was meant as a warning about rival South Korea's weapons development and plans to hold military exercises with the U.S.

4. TWITTER OR YOUTUBE NOT A CLICK AWAY IN IRAN

Iranians manage to surf the web despite a tide of censorship, with popular social media sites blocked by the government and other platforms off limits because of U.S. sanctions.

5. WHO IS REPORTING MORE HARASSMENT ONLINE

There's a rise in cyberbullying nationwide, with three times as many girls reporting being harassed online or by text message than boys.

6. MANY IN EBOLA OUTBREAK OPT FOR NO CARE

The Ebola outbreak in eastern Congo is again ravaging the city of Beni as many of the sick are staying away from treatment centers and dying at home.

7. WHERE THEY'RE PROUD OF A NATIVE SON

A village in central Turkey where Boris Johnson can trace his Turkish ancestry to is abuzz with excitement and pride over his political rise in the U.K.

8. FORGOTTEN VICTIMS BEFORE 'RED SUMMER'

Historians say from 1910 to 1920, some 5,000 people of Mexican descent were killed or vanished without a trace in the U.S.

9. 'A VERY BRADY RENOVATION'

Six cast members of "The Brady Bunch" reunite for a home renovation project of the Los Angeles house that was used for exterior shots of the TV sitcom.

10. PAN AMERICAN GAMES SPOTLIGHT INEQUALITY IN PERU

Residents of shanty town in Lima have seen a multi-million dollar arena go up while their needs for drainage, roads and drinking water go largely unmet.

Too many in Congo's Ebola outbreak are dying at home

By KRISTA LARSON Associated Press

BENI, Congo (AP) — Two-month-old Lahya Kathembo became an orphan in a day. Her mother succumbed to Ebola on a Saturday morning. By sunset her father was dead, too.

They had been sick for more than a week before health workers finally persuaded them to seek treatment, neighbors said. They believed their illness was the work of people jealous about their newborn daughter, a community organizer said, and sought the guidance of a traditional spiritual healer.

The Ebola outbreak in eastern Congo is ravaging Beni, a sprawling city of some 600,000, in large part because so many of the sick are choosing to stay at home. In doing so, they unknowingly infect caregivers and those who mourn them.

"People are waiting until the last minute to bring their family members and when they do it's complicated for us," says Mathieu Kanyama, head of health promotion at the Ebola treatment center in Beni run by the Alliance for International Medical Action, or ALIMA. "Here there are doctors, not magicians."

Nearly one year into the outbreak which has killed more than 1,700 and was declared a global health emergency this month, a rise in community deaths is fueling a resurgence of Ebola in Beni. During a two-week period in July alone, 30 people died at home.

Health teams are now going door-to-door with megaphones trying to get the message out.

"Behind every person who has died there is someone developing a fever," Dr. Gaston Tshapenda, who heads the Ebola response in Beni for Congo's health ministry, told his teams.

Many people still don't believe Ebola is real, health experts say, which stymies efforts to control the disease's spread.

Ebola symptoms are also similar to common killers like malaria and typhoid, so those afraid of going to a treatment center often try to self-medicate at home with paracetamol to reduce fever.

But Ebola, unlike those other illnesses, requires the patient to be kept in isolation and away from the comfort of family.

Dr. Maurice Kakule, who became one of this outbreak's first Ebola patients after he treated a sick woman at his clinic, is now trying to make it easier for those who are ill to get help in and around Beni, near the border with Uganda.

He and other survivors, who are now immune to the disease, run a motorcycle taxi ambulance. After receiving a phone call for help they go to homes, reassure the sick and take them for medical care without

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infecting others.

People's most common fear is that they will only leave an Ebola treatment center in a body bag, Kakule says.

"Some have heard of the problem of Ebola but there have been no survivors in their family," he said. "Since they had relatives die at a treatment center, they think people are killed there and that's why they categorically refuse to go."

They fear, too, that they will die alone, surrounded only by health care personnel covered in protective gear from head to toe.

To try to humanize the care of patients in isolation, ALIMA's Ebola treatment center in Beni places some patients in their own transparent room called a "CUBE," where they can see visitors from their beds. Others share a room with one other patient and a glass window where loved ones can gather.

While there is no licensed treatment for Ebola, patients in eastern Congo are able to take part in clinical trials. That's a welcome change from the 2014-2016 outbreak in West Africa when many patients entered Ebola centers never to come out alive again. More than 11,000 people died.

Still, the measures needed to keep Ebola from spreading remain difficult for many people to accept.

"We cannot be oblivious to the fact that when you're sick with Ebola you're put somewhere away from your family, with a 50% chance of dying alone from your loved ones," said Dr. Joanne Liu, president of Doctors Without Borders, which is helping to fight the outbreak. "I don't blame people for not finding this attractive, despite the fact that we have a clinical trial going on."

The day after the deaths of baby Lahya's parents, a morgue team in protective clothing carried their carefully encased bodies to a truck for a funeral procession to a Muslim cemetery on the edge of town.

In the background was the sound of workers hammering away as they built more space at the nearby treatment center to accommodate the growing caseload.

Lahya developed a fever but has tested negative for Ebola. The infant with round cheeks and gold earrings is in an orphanage for now, while her 3-year-old sister is being cared for by neighbors who hope to raise them both.

But the sisters will have to wait a bit longer to be reunited — their adoptive father and former nanny both have tested positive for Ebola and are being treated.

The fateful decision to avoid treatment centers haunts survivors like Asifiwe Kavira, 24, who fell ill with Ebola along with eight of her relatives.

Health teams came to the house in Butembo, trying to persuade them to seek treatment. Most of the family, though, said they wanted to treat their fevers at home. After three days of negotiations, Kavira finally agreed to seek help, believing she was on the brink of death.

She would be the only one to survive.

Her mother, grandmother, brother and four other relatives all died at home. An older sister joined her at the treatment center, but medical care came too late.

"I tell people now that Ebola exists," Kavira says, "because that is how I lost my entire family."

Associated Press writers Al-Hadji Kudra Maliro in Beni, Congo and Maria Cheng in London contributed to this report.

N. Korea says missile test was warning to South 'warmongers'

By FOSTER KLUG and HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea's test of a new missile is meant as a "solemn warning" over rival South Korea's weapons development and plans to hold military drills with the United States, Pyongyang said Friday as it continued its pressure campaign ahead of potential nuclear talks.

South Korea's military later said that the flight data of the weapon launched Thursday showed similarities to the Russian-made Iskander, a short-range, nuclear-capable missile. A North Korean version could likely reach all of South Korea — and the 28,500 U.S. forces stationed there — and would be extremely

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hard to intercept.

The North Korean statement was carried in state media and directed at "South Korean military warmongers." It appears to be part of broader efforts during recent weeks to make sure Pyongyang gets what it wants as U.S. and North Korean officials struggle to set up working-level talks after a recent meeting on the Korean border between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, who supervised Thursday's test launch, and President Donald Trump seemed to provide a step forward in stalled nuclear negotiations.

Although the North had harsh words for South Korea, the statement stayed away from the kind of belligerent attacks on the United States that have marked past announcements, a possible signal that it's interested in keeping diplomacy alive.

It made clear, however, that North Korea is infuriated over Seoul's purchase of U.S.-made high-tech fighter jets and U.S.-South Korean plans to hold military drills this summer that the North says are rehearsals for an invasion and proof of the allies' hostility to Pyongyang.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo played down Thursday's launches and said in an interview with Bloomberg TV that working-level talks with North Korea could start "in a couple weeks."

"Everybody tries to get ready for negotiations and create leverage and create risk for the other side," Pompeo said of the launches.

The North Korean statement was gloating at times, saying the weapons test "must have given uneasiness and agony to some targeted forces enough as it intended." It also accused South Korea of introducing "ultramodern offensive weapons."

That's likely a reference to South Korea's purchase and ongoing deployment of U.S.-made F-35 fighter jets. Earlier this month, North Korea said it would develop and test "special weapons" to destroy the aircraft. In its biggest weapons purchase, South Korea is to buy 40 F-35 fighter jets from Lockheed Martin by 2021. The first two arrived in March and two others are to be delivered in coming weeks.

After watching the launches, Kim said the new weapons are hard to intercept because of their "low-altitude gliding and leaping flight orbit," the North's Korean Central News Agency reported Friday. He was quoted as saying the possession of "such a state-of-the-art weaponry system" is of "huge eventful significance" in bolstering his country's armed forces and guaranteeing national security.

A joint South Korean-U.S. analysis of the launches showed the North Korean weapons are of a new type of short-range ballistic missile that have a "similar flight feature" as the Iskander, which has been in the Russian arsenal for more than a decade, a South Korean defense official said, requesting anonymity because of department rules.

That missile is designed to fly at a flattened-out altitude of around 40 kilometers (25 miles) and make in-flight guidance adjustments. Both capabilities exploit weaknesses in the U.S. and South Korean missile defenses that are now in place, primarily Patriot missile batteries and the THAAD anti-missile defense system. The Iskander is also quicker to launch and harder to destroy on the ground, because of its solid fuel engine. Its advanced guidance system also makes it more accurate.

The South Korean defense official said both missiles flew 600 kilometers (370 miles) before landing off the North's east coast, revising an earlier estimate that one flew about 430 kilometers (270 miles) and the other 690 kilometers (430 miles).

Earlier Friday, the South Korean-U.S. combined forces command issued a statement saying the launches "were not a threat directed at (South Korea) or the U.S., and have no impact on our defense posture."

The launches were the first known weapons tests by North Korea since it fired three missiles into the sea in early May that many outside experts said strongly resembled the Iskander.

South Korea's Unification Ministry on Friday described the launches as provocative acts "not helpful to efforts to alleviate military tensions on the Korean Peninsula."

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus urged the North to stop provocations, saying the United States is committed to diplomatic engagement with North Korea. "We continue to press and hope for these working-level negotiations to move forward," she said.

North Korea is banned by U.N. Security Council resolutions from engaging in any launch using ballistic

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technology. While the North could face international condemnation over the latest launches, it's unlikely that the nation, already under 11 rounds of U.N. sanctions, will be hit with fresh punitive measures. The U.N. council has typically imposed new sanctions only when the North conducted long-range ballistic launches.

Annual military drills by Washington and Seoul have long been a source of frustration for North Korea. Last week, it said it may lift its 20-month suspension of nuclear and long-range missile tests in response. Seoul said Wednesday that North Korea was protesting the drills by refusing to accept its offer to send 50,000 tons of rice through an international agency.

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

"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.

Klug reported from Tokyo.

US government will execute inmates for first time since 2003

By MICHAEL BALSAMO and COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department said Thursday the federal government will resume executing death-row inmates for the first time since 2003, ending an informal moratorium even as the nation sees a broad shift away from capital punishment.

Attorney General William Barr instructed the Bureau of Prisons to schedule executions starting in December for five men, all accused of murdering children. Although the death penalty remains legal in 30 states, executions on the federal level are rare.

"The Justice Department upholds the rule of law — and we owe it to the victims and their families to carry forward the sentence imposed by our justice system," Barr said.

The move is likely to stir up fresh interest in an issue that has largely lain dormant in recent years, adding a new front to the culture battles that President Donald Trump already is waging on matters such as abortion and immigration in the lead-up to the 2020 elections.

Most Democrats oppose capital punishment. Vice President Joe Biden this week shifted to call for the elimination of the federal death penalty after years of supporting it.

By contrast, Trump has spoken often — and sometimes wistfully — about capital punishment and his belief that executions serve as both an effective deterrent and appropriate punishment for some crimes, including mass shootings and the killings of police officers.

"I think they should very much bring the death penalty into vogue," Trump said last year after 11 people were gunned down in a Pittsburgh synagogue.

He's suggested repeatedly that the U.S. might be better off if it adopted harsh drug laws like those embraced by Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, under whom thousands of drug suspects have been killed by police.

Trump was a vocal proponent of the death penalty for decades before taking office, most notably in 1989 when he took out full-page advertisements in New York City newspapers urging elected officials to "BRING BACK THE DEATH PENALTY" following the rape of a jogger in Central Park. "If the punishment is strong," he wrote then, "the attacks on innocent people will stop."

Five Harlem teenagers were convicted in the Central Park case but had their convictions vacated years later after another man confessed to the rape. More than a decade after their exoneration, the city agreed to pay the so-called Central Park Five \$41 million, a settlement Trump blasted as "outrageous."

The death penalty remains legal in 30 states, but only a handful regularly conduct executions. Texas has executed 108 prisoners since 2010, far more than any other state.

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Executions on the federal level have long been rare. The government has put to death only three defendants since restoring the federal death penalty in 1988, the most recent of which occurred in 2003, when Louis Jones was executed for the 1995 kidnapping, rape and murder of a young female soldier.

In 2014, following a botched state execution in Oklahoma, President Barack Obama directed the Justice Department to conduct a broad review of capital punishment and issues surrounding lethal injection drugs.

That review has been completed, Barr said Thursday, and it has cleared the way for executions to resume.

Barr approved a new procedure for lethal injections that replaces the three-drug cocktail previously used in federal execution with a single drug, pentobarbital. This is similar to the procedure used in several states, including Georgia, Missouri and Texas.

Though there hasn't been a federal execution since 2003, the Justice Department has continued to approve death penalty prosecutions and federal courts have sentenced defendants to death.

Robert Dunham, the executive director of the nonprofit Death Penalty Information Center, said he was concerned the process for resuming executions was rushed.

"The federal government hasn't carried out any executions in 15 years and so that raises serious questions about the ability to carry out the executions properly," he said.

There are 61 people on the federal death row, according to Death Row USA, a quarterly report of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. Some of the highest-profile inmates on federal death row include Dylann Roof, who killed nine black church members during a Bible study session in 2015 at a South Carolina church, and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, who set off bombs near the Boston Marathon's finish line in 2013, killing three people and wounding more than 260.

About 6 in 10 Americans favor the death penalty, according to the General Social Survey, a major trends survey conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago. While a majority continue to express support for the death penalty, the share has declined steadily since the 1990s, when nearly three-quarters were in favor.

The inmates who will be executed are: Danny Lee, who was convicted of killing a family of three, including an 8-year-old; Lezmond Mitchell, who beheaded a 63-year-old woman and her 9-year-old granddaughter; Wesley Ira Purkey, who raped and murdered a 16-year-old girl and killed an 80-year-old woman; Alfred Bourgeois, who tortured, molested and then beat his two-and-a-half-year-old daughter to death; and Dustin Lee Honken, who killed five people, including two children.

The federal government would join eight states that have executed inmates or are planning to do so this year, according to the Death Penalty Information Center. Texas is far and away the leading state when it comes to using the death penalty, with 563 executions since capital punishment resumed in the U.S. in 1977 after a 10-year pause.

In the past 20 years, the Supreme Court has banned the execution of people who are intellectually disabled or were under 18 when they killed someone. But even as the number of people who are sentenced to death and are executed has declined steadily for two decades, the justices have resisted any wholesale reconsideration of the constitutionality of capital punishment.

The five-justice conservative majority, which includes Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh, Trump's two high court picks, has complained about delaying tactics employed by lawyers for death row inmates.

Associated Press writers Jill Colvin, Mark Sherman, Elana Schor and Hannah Fingerhut contributed to this report.

For more of AP's coverage of U.S. politics: <https://www.apnews.com/apf-politics>

Police: Man killed father, brother, wounded mother in LA

By STEFANIE DAZIO and JOHN ANTCHAK Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A day after authorities captured a man they say fatally shot his father, brother and two other people during a 12-hour rampage across Los Angeles' sprawling San Fernando Valley, they were still struggling to answer a key question: What set him off?

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Police who spent hours pursuing Gerry Dean Zaragoza from one end of the valley to the other took him into custody Thursday afternoon not far from where the rampage had begun before dawn.

He was captured by plainclothes officers surveilling the area, said police Capt. William Hayes, who added, "There was a small use of force."

Television footage showed Zaragoza sitting in a wheelchair and appearing alert as he was loaded into an ambulance.

"We don't know exactly what the motive was or why," police Lt. Kirk Kelley told KABC-TV.

Authorities said Zaragoza, 26, killed his father and brother and wounded his mother at an apartment complex in Canoga Park, a modest, aging neighborhood tucked into the San Fernando Valley's southwest corner.

From there, he traveled several miles to North Hollywood in the valley's northwest corner. There, police said, he gunned down two people. A woman believed to be an acquaintance was killed and a man was critically wounded.

Hours later, police said, Zaragoza shot and killed a stranger on a bus in Van Nuys, in the center of the San Fernando Valley, the vast suburban section of Los Angeles that is home to nearly 2 million people.

Zaragoza is also suspected of an attempted robbery outside a Canoga Park bank, although nothing was taken and no one was hurt.

A dozen hours after the rampage began in Canoga Park it ended there, in a commercial section of the neighborhood where plainclothes officers had spotted Zaragoza. They said they recovered a firearm during the arrest.

Michael Ramia, who employed Zaragoza's father, Carlos, as a carpet cleaning technician, described the older man as "a guy with no enemies, very outgoing."

"The nicest guy you'd want to be around," said Ramia, who added that the elder Zaragoza worked for him for 12 years.

He noted that Zaragoza had confided in him that his son was battling drug problems, adding the father tried to help the son by pushing him to come to work with him. Ramia said the younger Zaragoza seemed to have "no motivation."

"He was a father just trying to protect his son," Ramia said of Zaragoza's father. "He did it to his last day. He wouldn't give up on his son."

Associated Press writer John Rogers contributed to this story.

Election warnings blare, but action stalls in Congress

By LISA MASCARO and MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Robert Mueller warned that Russian interference is still happening "as we sit here."

State election officials are anxious and underfunded, some running systems with outdated software and scrounging for replacement parts off e-Bay.

And on Thursday a report from the Senate Intelligence committee concluded all 50 states were targeted in 2016 and ahead of the 2018 election "top election vulnerabilities remained."

But there's no help coming from Congress.

It's a risky calculation heading into 2020, when the stakes will be high for an election that could see record turnout as President Donald Trump runs for a second term. Primary voting is six months away.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell on Thursday blocked a House-passed bill that would authorize \$775 million to beef up state election systems. GOP leaders made the case that the Trump administration has already made great strides in protecting the vote and they say no more funding is needed.

The Senate Democratic leader, Chuck Schumer of New York, called inaction by Congress a "disgrace" and pledged to keep pushing for votes. Mueller's testimony "should be a wake-up call," he said.

"Leader McConnell, let me read you that sentence," Schumer said from the Senate floor, citing Mueller's testimony Wednesday before the House committees about Russian interference. "They're doing it as we

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sit here, and they expect to do it in the next campaign.”

The challenge was underscored Thursday as the Senate Intelligence Committee released the full results of an investigation that found the Russian government directed “extensive activity” against U.S. election systems ahead of the 2016 election. Two years later, ahead of the midterm election, little had changed, as an intelligence assessment reported, “We are aware of a growing volume of malicious activity targeting election infrastructure in 2018.”

The report encourages states to “take urgent steps to replace outdated and vulnerable voting systems.” It said, “More money may be needed.”

The House is pushing other bills targeting fake ads and cyber intrusions and the Senate already unanimously approved one bipartisan measure, which makes interference in elections a violation of immigration law, and another that makes it a federal crime to hack elections systems.

But Democrats — and some Republicans — say Congress must do more.

The most pressing issue is replacing electronic voting machines that do not produce a paper record of each ballot cast that is verified by the voter and can later be audited.

In 2018, 10 states had more than half of their jurisdictions using machines without a paper trail, which cybersecurity experts have warned are vulnerable to hacking and must be replaced.

An AP analysis in July found that many of the 10,000 election jurisdictions nationwide use old and soon-to-be outdated operating systems to create their ballots, program voting machines, tally votes and report counts. Many systems are running Windows 7, which will reach its end of free Microsoft support for software vulnerabilities on January 14, and it’s unclear who would pay for extended support.

But time may be running out to address concerns in the states before the next election.

Even if Congress were immediately to send funds to states to replace voting equipment, it would be difficult to make substantial upgrades in time for the 2020 elections. It can take months to decide on replacement machines, develop security protocols, train workers and test the equipment.

Republicans said Thursday that \$380 million was allocated to the states in 2018 and not all of that money has been spent.

McConnell objected to the House bill, saying it was “not a serious effort” coming from the same side that he said spent the past two years “hyping” Mueller’s investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election.

“Obviously, it’s very important that we maintain the integrity and security of our elections,” McConnell said Thursday.

It wasn’t the first time McConnell had put the brakes on election security efforts.

The Kentucky Republican halted a bipartisan effort ahead of the 2018 election to beef up state election systems. It stalled again this year.

That measure would have required all states to use paper ballots as a backup to electronic systems if they want to receive federal election money for voting equipment. It would also require that all 50 states conduct audits after elections.

Top Republicans, including Sen. Roy Blunt of Missouri, who tried to push the bill forward, said Thursday much of what it intended to accomplish is now happening under the Department of Homeland Security.

“When you talk to anybody that’s responsible for elections, for monitoring outside interventions, and ask them, Do you need any legislation? The answer is always no,” he said.

Republican Sen. James Lankford of Oklahoma, the lead GOP sponsors of the bill, said while much is being accomplished, the legislation is “still needed, because long-term you want to make sure it’s not dropped.”

One of those who had concerns about the bill last year was then-White House counsel Don McGahn, who Lankford has said called him in a private capacity as former elections law expert to offer input. Lankford used those suggestions, and others, to rework the bill.

As action in Congress has stalled, federal agencies have moved to address the problem.

The director of national intelligence, Dan Coats, established a new elections threats executive position last week. Meanwhile, the National Security Agency director and Cyber Command chief, Gen. Paul Naka-

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sone, created a new cybersecurity directorate focused on election security.

But part of the problem is longstanding tensions between the states and the federal government over election systems that are only beginning to smooth.

State officials historically run elections and many, particularly those in the South, are wary about federal intervention. Tensions flared ahead of the 2016 election when federal officials warning of potential interference wanted to declare election systems critical infrastructure. Some states resisted.

Giving nod to those differences, McConnell said any efforts must be done with "extreme care and on a thoroughly bipartisan basis."

The Senate's report said that several weeks prior to the 2018 mid-term election, DHS assessed that "numerous actors are regularly targeting election infrastructure."

Its findings echo those from Mueller's 448-page report, released in April, which found that the Russian government interfered in the 2016 election in "sweeping and systematic fashion."

The Russian influence campaign produced fake Facebook and other social media postings that were viewed by millions of Americans. Hackers gained access to some voter databases in Florida.

The nation's intelligence chiefs say Russia remains intent on disrupting U.S. elections after attempting to breach the election systems of 21 states in 2016. There is no evidence that any votes were changed.

Associated Press writers Tami Abdollah in Washington and Christina Almeida Cassidy in Atlanta contributed to this report.

Migrants sent back by US dumped in Mexico's Monterrey

By MARÍA VERZA Associated Press

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 several 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 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

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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 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 be-seech 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.

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 admin-

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istration 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 busings have continued this week. On Thursday, about 200 more people, mostly Venezuelans, Cubans and Central Americans, were being transported from Nuevo Laredo to Monterrey, said Carlos Cruz, a Guatemalan who reported he was on one of three buses apparently making the trip.

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."

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

Rapper A\$AP Rocky charged with assault over fight in Sweden

By DAVID KEYTON Associated Press

STOCKHOLM (AP) — A Swedish prosecutor on Thursday charged rapper A\$AP Rocky with assault over a fight in Stockholm last month, in a case that has drawn the attention of fellow recording artists as well as U.S. President Donald Trump.

Trump responded with two sharply-worded tweets, calling on Sweden to "Treat Americans fairly!" and criticizing Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven, whom he had personally lobbied, "for being unable to act."

"Give A\$AP Rocky his FREEDOM," Trump added. "We do so much for Sweden but it doesn't seem to work the other way around. Sweden should focus on its real crime problem! #FreeRocky."

Mikael Lindstrom, a spokesman for Lofven, responded to Trump by emphasizing the independence of the Swedish judicial system. "In Sweden everyone is equal before the law," Lindstrom said. "The Government is not allowed, and will not attempt, to influence the legal proceedings, which are now ongoing."

Rocky, a platinum-selling, Grammy-nominated artist whose real name is Rakim Mayers, has been in custody since July 3 as authorities investigate a fight he was allegedly involved in on June 30 before appearing at a music festival. The case has drawn the attention of a long list of U.S. celebrities, including Sean "Diddy" Combs, Justin Bieber and Kim Kardashian West.

Trump on Saturday tweeted that he had spoken with Lofven about the case and "offered to personally vouch for his bail," even though that's not something available under Swedish law. Urged on by the first lady and celebrities including Kardashian West, the president had said in a Friday tweet that he would intervene to try to free Rocky.

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Lofven's press secretary, Toni Eriksson, later said the two leaders had a "friendly and respectful" conversation in which Lofven "made certain to emphasize the complete independence of the Swedish judicial system, prosecutors and courts" and stressed that the government cannot and will not attempt to influence the legal proceedings.

Prosecutor Daniel Suneson said in a statement that he filed charges against the artist and two others "suspected of assault causing actual bodily harm, having come to the conclusion that the events in question constitute a crime and despite claims of self-defense and provocation."

The rapper and the other two suspects, who were described as members of his entourage but not identified, will remain in custody until trial.

The prosecutor has recommended that the Stockholm District Court set aside three days for the trial, which defense lawyer Slobodan Jovicic said is expected to start Tuesday. The charges can carry a maximum sentence of two years in prison.

Videos published on social media appear to show a person being violently thrown onto the ground by Rocky, 30. Trump said in his tweets that he had "watched the tapes of A\$AP Rocky" and concluded "he was being followed and harassed by troublemakers."

The rapper asserts that it was self-defense.

But Suneson said he concluded otherwise after studying videos available to investigators.

"It is worth noting that I have had access to a greater amount of material than that which has previously been available on the internet," he said. "In addition to video material, the injured party's statements have been supported by witness statements."

Suneson added that there were initially two injured parties in the case, but the allegations concerning one of them were dropped due to "insufficient supporting evidence" and the charges relate to only one alleged victim. That person has not been identified.

A counter-allegation was made by the artist's bodyguard against one of the alleged victims, but that case was closed earlier this week, the prosecutor said.

Defense lawyer Jovicic said, "Rakim Mayers feels that he acted in self-defense, he is claiming that he is innocent, and in that perspective he of course is very sad."

"There's been a lot of support from a lot of different people, and Rakim Mayers is of course very thankful for everybody that has reached out," Jovicic said. He added that "it's been a very hard time for him."

Rocky has collaborated with Kendrick Lamar, Cardi B, Drake and Selena Gomez.

Sweden's ambassador to Washington, Karin Olofsdotter, told Swedish public broadcaster SVT that she has been forced to call off her summer holiday to deal with the rapper's case. She has had meetings with members of the U.S. Congress, who she said struggled to understand that one can be detained in Sweden without having the opportunity to be released on bail.

Olofsdotter and Jovicic both rejected speculation that racist motives might have played a role in A\$AP Rocky's arrest.

"No, no, no. I think that we have not a racist society here," Jovicic said. "I don't see that angle at all."

Geir Moulson in Berlin, Jari Tanner in Helsinki, Finland, and Jill Colvin in Washington contributed to this report.

Remains ID'd as those of Colorado girl missing 34 years

By P. SOLOMON BANDA Associated Press

GREELEY, Colo. (AP) — The disappearance of 12-year-old Jonelle Matthews shortly after singing "Jingle Bells" with classmates at a 1984 Christmas concert stunned this rural town in northern Colorado. Her case attracted the attention of the White House, and came at a time when the faces of missing children across the nation were being placed on milk cartons.

On Thursday, police announced that human remains found by construction workers earlier this week were that of the little girl who would have been 47 now, answering one question that has haunted police

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and others for decades but reigniting a gnawing mystery of what exactly led to her demise.

Jonelle, a member of the Franklin Middle School Honor Choir, stood on a garland-adorned staircase during the concert, sporting short, thick dark hair and smiling slightly, perhaps shyly. She was a 7th grader, active at the Sunny View Church of the Nazarene.

After the concert, Jonelle was taken home by a friend and the friend's father.

She was last seen at 8 p.m. on Dec. 20, entering her family's simple ranch-style home with a detached garage, the front yard blanketed by snow. No one was ever arrested. Jonelle lived with her father, Jim, her mother, Gloria, and a sister, Jennifer.

Months later, the lack of answers surrounding the case of Jonelle and other missing children was taken up by then-President Ronald Reagan, whose administration helped open a national center for missing children that ran a toll-free hotline. More than 1 million children disappeared each year, Reagan said, urging members of the National Newspaper Association to publish pictures of the nation's missing children as a "mission of mercy."

Jonelle, Reagan said, "would have celebrated a happy 13th birthday with her family just last month. But five days before Christmas, Jonelle disappeared from her home."

Three years earlier, a Florida boy, Adam Walsh, vanished and was later found murdered, sparking his father John Walsh to become a crusader for the plight of missing children.

Tuesday's discovery near Jonelle's hometown of Greeley was the first significant development since police announced last December — on the 34th anniversary of her disappearance — that they were ramping up their investigation and hoped to use modern technology to solve it, The Greeley Tribune reported .

At the time, police released a video of Jonelle and classmates at the Franklin Middle School holiday concert in a plea for more information.

Greeley police Sgt. Joe Tymkowych said Thursday he could not comment on how authorities were able to identify the remains as those of the young girl so quickly. He also declined to comment on the ongoing investigation.

Jonelle's sister, Jennifer Mogensen, remembered Jonelle as "a strong, independent, opinionated 12-year-old."

"She knew what she wanted and how things should be done," Mogensen told The Associated Press Thursday.

Mogensen, who was a junior in high school at the time, said she was playing varsity basketball the night her younger sister disappeared. The family's house was empty when Jonelle was brought home because their father was at the game and their mother was out of state, Mogensen said.

Jonelle was missing when their father arrived home about 8:30 p.m., Mogensen said.

"I'm grateful for this closure after 34 years," she said. "It does bring up some old wounds and some more questions, maybe, of what happened. But we've received so much love and support already."

Mogensen, who lives in Washington state, said their parents, Jim and Gloria Matthews, are retired and living in Costa Rica.

"They're sad," she said. "They're grateful for all the hard work the Greeley Police Department has done."

Mogensen said she and her parents would travel to Greeley at some point but their plans were not certain.

The Tribune reported Wednesday that workers were constructing a new pipeline when they discovered bones Tuesday night. Weld County Sheriff Steve Reams said his deputies were treating the case as a homicide investigation.

Greeley is about 50 miles (80 kilometers) north of Denver. The remains were found along a rural route southeast of Greeley.

"Parents cry out for help, many through letters to me," Reagan told editors in 1985. "But a president can only do so much."

Associated Press writers James Anderson and Dan Elliott in Denver contributed to this story.

Information from: The Tribune of Greeley, Co, <http://greeleytribune.com>

House passes bipartisan budget bill with Trump support

By ANDREW TAYLOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Observing a rare cease-fire in their battles with President Donald Trump, the Democratic-controlled House on Thursday easily passed bipartisan debt and budget legislation to permit the Treasury to issue bonds to pay the government's bills and lock in place recent budget gains for both the Pentagon and domestic agencies.

The measure, passed by a 284-149 vote, would head off another politically dangerous government shut-down and add a measure of stability to action this fall on a \$1.37 trillion slate of annual appropriations bills. The Senate is scheduled to approve the bill next week.

The hard-won agreement between the administration and Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi lifts the limit on the government's \$22 trillion debt for two years and averts the risk of the Pentagon and domestic agencies from being hit with \$125 billion in automatic spending cuts that are all that's left of a failed 2011 budget pact. It is a welcome detente for lawmakers seeking to avoid political and economic turmoil over the possibility of a government shutdown or first federal default.

Trump took to Twitter to give the legislation his strongest endorsement yet: "House Republicans should support the TWO YEAR BUDGET AGREEMENT which greatly helps our Military and our Vets." He added in a note of encouragement, "I am totally with you!"

Democrats rallied behind the legislation, which protects domestic programs some of them have fought to protect for decades through extended stretches of GOP control of Congress. Pelosi held the vote open to make sure the tally of Democratic votes topped the 218 required to pass the measure with Democratic support alone, a demonstration of strength.

House GOP conservatives, many of whom won election promising to tackle entrenched federal deficits, generally recoiled from it.

Many supporters, including the GOP leadership team, praised the bill as an imperfect but necessary result of Washington's current divided balance of power and an already overheated presidential campaign.

"The alternatives are very, very bad," said Rep. Kay Granger of Texas, the top Republican on the Appropriations Committee.

But it contains no new steps to curb spending elsewhere in the budget, rankling conservatives and lawmakers alarmed by the return of \$1 trillion-plus budget deficits.

"Republicans who go along with this budget deal will lose all credibility on spending. This is budget deal is ludicrous," said Jason Pye of the FreedomWorks conservative advocacy group. "The GOP has been misleading the American public on spending for years now. Yeah, they talk a great game on the campaign trail. But when it's crunch time, they fold."

Trump's active support for the measure did little to stem the tide of GOP defections. Democrats backed the bill by a 13-1 margin while less than one in three Republicans supported the Trump-backed measure.

GOP conservatives, who comprise Trump's strongest base of support in Washington, weren't critical of Trump for agreeing to the deal, even after Pelosi forced GOP negotiators to drop ambitious cuts to try to defray the bill's impact on the debt. Few opposition Republicans issued statements on the bill that might put them on record opposing Trump.

"You just have to understand that you lost in the negotiations and express your opinion, vote your conscience and go on," said Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C. "It's different when you're in the minority."

For instance, Pelosi foiled a late GOP push in this month's intense round of negotiations for new offsetting spending cuts, though Pelosi gave assurances about not seeking to use the follow-up spending bills to add "poison pill" policy riders. It also yields to Trump's demand to retain budgetary transfer authority to try to shift funding to border projects.

Conservative Rep. Thomas Massie, R-Ky., forced a vote to rename the measure as "A Bill to Kick the Can Down the Road." It was easily defeated.

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Pelosi was the main architect of the measure, along with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin. Both sides see it as being in their interest to avert the alternative: A chaotic fall congressional session that could have pinballed from crisis to crisis.

Fights over Trump's U.S.-Mexico border wall, other immigration-related issues and spending priorities will be rejoined on follow-on spending bills this fall. The House has passed most of its bills, using far higher levels for domestic spending. Senate measures will follow this fall, with levels reflecting the accord.

Washington's arcane budget rules give each side a way to paint the deal favorably. Generally speaking, it would lock in place big increases won by both sides in a 2018 pact.

By one measure, the price tag for the legislation posts at \$324 billion. But more than two-thirds of that is to simply maintain current spending levels rather than fall prey to the automatic spending cuts, known as sequestration. Another measure is \$103 billion, spread over two years to Pentagon and domestic accounts, to permit modest budget hikes of 3 or 4 percentage points above current levels.

Pelosi won a little more money for domestic programs than defense, but it would be eaten up by large new costs for the census and new private sector health programs for veterans.

"We are pleased that our increase in non-defense budget actually exceeds the parity number on defense by \$10 billion over the next two years," Pelosi said. "And we're pleased to be able to say that we have secured an increase of more than \$100 billion in the budget cap for domestic priorities since the President took office."

But some progressives were unhappy that the legislation continued an upward climb for the Pentagon budget and cuts back increases for domestic programs from even more generous levels contained in the spending bills that have already passed the House by partisan tallies. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., a sometimes irritant to Pelosi, voted for the measure despite raising concerns on Twitter earlier in the week.

Move on? No thanks. Both sides aim to keep talking Mueller

By ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — "It's over," President Donald Trump declared after former special counsel Robert Mueller ended hours of testimony about his two-year investigation into Russian election interference. But don't expect Trump or the Democrats looking to replace him in 2020 to just move on.

Mueller's marathon Capitol Hill appearance on Wednesday offered few new insights but no shortage of political fodder for both Democrats and Republicans in Washington, where many would rather keep the argument going than mark its end. Both parties will keep waving the special counsel's findings — and talking about the possibility of impeachment — to motivate core supporters in the coming presidential campaign.

That may be especially true for Trump, whose political strategy relies on conflict, with the Russia investigation remaining a potent adversary.

While the Mueller probe loomed as a pressing political problem for Trump, he also saw that it could be turned into an asset. From the start, he's peppered his campaign rallies with complaints about the swirling investigation getting in the way of his agenda. And Trump has no plans to let go of the now-concluded Mueller inquiry as his focus turns toward reelection, standing ready to include it in the litany of perceived slights and political buzzwords that punctuate his raucous rallies and acerbic tweets.

"It's always going to be high on the set list," former White House press secretary Sean Spicer said of the Mueller probe.

Trump himself brought up Mueller unprompted to a roomful of donors in West Virginia on Wednesday night, hours after Mueller concluded his testimony. Trump asserted that Mueller's congressional testimony was a miserable effort by Democrats to discredit him, West Virginia Senate President Mitch Carmichael told the AP. The president also called the hearings a dud for anyone who thought new, more damaging information would emerge, Carmichael said.

On Twitter on Thursday morning, Trump quoted triumphantly from the words of "Fox & Friends" hosts who bashed Mueller and expressed support for his administration.

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It will be that way for Democratic presidential candidates, too, as they seek to win over highly motivated primary voters who believe Mueller's report was a roadmap for impeachment. Never mind that the party's leadership in Washington would rather pivot toward the pocket-book issues that affect voters directly.

Operatives in both parties see Mueller as a potent — and lasting — rallying cry for their respective political cores, in a political environment where turning out reliable supporters is viewed as more efficient than winning over skeptics in the political center.

"Both sides are going to use it," said Republican consultant David Kochel. Trump, in particular, has excelled at revving up base supporters with harsh rhetoric about straw men, from federal judges to foreign leaders, he noted. "It's all about that base."

That dynamic was on display for Democrats this week in Detroit, where the NAACP held its annual conference and approved a resolution calling on the House to begin impeachment proceedings. While Mueller was testifying in Washington, several 2020 contenders spoke to the organization and reiterated their calls for impeachment.

Elizabeth Warren, one of the most vocal candidates pressing for impeachment proceedings, acknowledged House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's reservations.

"I understand that there are people who for political reasons say it's not where we want to be," the Massachusetts senator said. "But in my view, some things are above politics. And one of them is our constitutional responsibilities to do what is right, and the responsibility of the Congress of the United States of America when a president breaks the law is to bring impeachment charges against that president."

Pete Buttigieg, the mayor of South Bend, Indiana, struck a more centrist tone, saying the best resolution to the nation's politics is to defeat Trump in next year's election. While he touted the importance of impeachment proceedings, he stopped short of pushing Democrats to start them.

"There's more than enough in that report to interpret it as an impeachment referral," he told reporters. "I believe that an impeachment inquiry would bring more facts to light. I also believe that the Republican Senate will not act. And so I'm focusing on the best thing I can do about the Trump presidency, which is to defeat him in November 2020."

Former Vice President Joe Biden is the most prominent Democratic White House hopeful who hasn't taken a firm stand on the issue of impeachment, a position that could be increasingly untenable as the primary unfolds.

Even as White House officials proclaim they want to move on, they are keeping up their criticism of Mueller's team and pushing to "investigate the investigators," seeing long-term gain in prolonging the saga. "It really is time to move on," White House counsellor Kellyanne Conway told reporters Thursday, moments before demanding an investigation of Mueller's team. "We need to know who was in charge of the Mueller investigation," she said.

Associated Press writers Jill Colvin and Steven Sloan in Washington, Errin Whack in Detroit and Anthony Izaguirre in Charleston, W.Va., contributed to this report.

Follow Miller on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@ZekeJMiller>

In a small Arkansas town, echoes of a century-old massacre

By NOREEN NASIR Associated Press

ELAINE, Ark. (AP) — J. Chester Johnson never heard about the mass killing of black people in Elaine, a couple hours away from where he grew up in Arkansas. Nobody talked about it, teachers didn't mention it in history classes, and only the elderly remembered the bloodshed of 1919.

He was an adult when he found out about it. By then, his grandfather, Alonzo "Lonnie" Birch, was dead — perhaps taking a secret to his grave.

Johnson believes Birch took part in the Elaine massacre. And now he's bent on telling the story of one of the largest racial mass killings in U.S. history, an infamous chapter in the "Red Summer" riots that spread

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in cities and towns across the nation.

"I feel an obligation," said Johnson, who is white. "It's hard to grow up in a severely segregated environment and for it not to affect you. If you don't face it and deal with it in various ways, it becomes undiscovered."

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>

Johnson, who now lives in New York City, is co-chair of a committee overseeing construction of a memorial honoring those killed in 1919. He and others are hoping the structure, being built in a park across from the Phillips County Courthouse about a half-hour drive from Elaine, will bring attention to the massacre. Others say plans for a monument are a folly — starting with its location — and want commemoration efforts to focus instead on reparations to account for what they say was theft of black-owned land in the wake of the killings.

"It was literally a war on this area. People wanted the property that was almost all black-owned," said Mary Olson, who is white. She is president of the Elaine Legacy Center, a red-brick community center that works to preserve the area's civil rights history. It bears the sign, "Motherland of Civil Rights."

The violence unfolded on the evening of Sept. 30, 1919, as black sharecroppers had gathered at a small church in Hoop Spur, an unincorporated area about 2½ miles north of Elaine. The sharecroppers, wanting to be paid better and treated more fairly, were meeting with union organizers when a deputy sheriff and a railroad security officer — both white — arrived.

Fighting and gunfire erupted, though it's still not clear who shot first. The security officer was killed and the deputy wounded.

White men frustrated that the sharecroppers were organizing went on a rampage. Over several days, mobs from the surrounding area and neighboring states killed men, women and children.

More than 200 black men, women and children were killed, according to the Equal Justice Initiative, a Montgomery, Alabama-based nonprofit that has documented more than 4,400 lynchings of black people in the U.S. between 1877 and 1950. Five white people were killed. Hundreds of black people were arrested and jailed, many of them tortured into giving incriminating testimony. Some were forced to flee Arkansas and, according to the Legacy Center, had their land stolen.

Johnson said his grandfather, Alonzo "Lonnie" Birch, was a member of the Ku Klux Klan and worked for the Missouri Pacific Railroad, the same company that employed the railroad security officer who was killed at the Arkansas church where the black sharecroppers had gathered to organize. Once the violence started, Johnson said, railroad officials urged workers to join the fighting. He said his grandfather likely responded to the call.

Narratives about the killings differ and records are not easy to find, said Brian Mitchell, an assistant professor of history at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock. "You have to understand that everybody that had some degree of power in the state was a part of the process of the massacre, so the people who would control all the records (were) actively suppressing the records," Mitchell said.

Some residents think the death toll is highly exaggerated.

Poindexter Fiser, the mayor of Elaine from 1985 to 2007, said the accounts of a massacre are "somebody trying to make something out of nothing much to talk about." Fiser, who is white, said his late father-in-law put the number of those slain at only "about 25 people."

Kyle Miller, director of the Delta Cultural Center in Helena-West Helena, Arkansas, said for many years, the violence "was not really acknowledged ... it was something that was only talked about behind closed doors." Miller is a descendant of the Johnston brothers, four wealthy, black siblings who he said were pulled off a train on their way back to Helena after a hunting trip and killed during the massacre.

"I'm really hoping (the memorial) is going to spark some conversations. That people will look at it and

begin to ask questions and be able to learn some history of our community," Miller said.

The memorial is set to be unveiled in September.

Not everyone supports it. Members of the Legacy Center say the monument belongs in Elaine.

"If you said '1919,' what do you think of? Elaine," said James White, director of the Legacy Center. "You don't think of Helena."

White and others with the center said any commemoration efforts should have some focus on the theft of black-owned land. Some residents are calling for descendants of the victims to receive compensation for what their families lost.

Miller and other memorial organizers say Elaine doesn't have enough resources to sustain what they envision will become a civil rights tourist destination. And to them, the massacre story is bigger than Elaine: The Phillips County Courthouse in Helena was where hundreds of black men were jailed and tortured following the violence.

The effects of the violence and aftermath endure today. Elaine is still highly segregated: White residents live predominantly on the south side and black residents on the north side. About 60 percent of its 527 people are black.

"It's a quiet town, but there's still racial tension here because we're still divided," said White, a black Elaine native whose grandmother told him about black residents hiding in swamps to escape.

White said he welcomes efforts to learn about the massacre but questions who gets to tell the story and who benefits from sharing it.

"One hundred years later, it's the same old game, just a different day," he said, reflecting on the disparity between those that hold power in Phillips County and the poor black residents of Elaine. "It's hate in this town ... and black people are still afraid" of talking about the massacre.

Associated Press writer Ken Miller in Oklahoma City contributed.

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

Puerto Ricans savor governor's resignation, chart new course

By DÁNICA COTO Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — After weeks of flag-waving, cowbell-clanging protests in the streets, Puerto Ricans on Thursday celebrated the resignation of Gov. Ricardo Rosselló, even as they debated where the movement should go from here and how to root out the corruption and other chronic problems that fueled the unrest.

Some protesters immediately set their sights next on driving out Rosselló's designated successor as governor, Justice Secretary Wanda Vázquez.

The governor's unprecedented resignation, which came at nearly midnight on Wednesday after a series of huge demonstrations, was a big victory for the tens of thousands who took to the streets. To some, it seemed to open an endless array of possibilities on this U.S. island territory of 3.2 million people.

"It's a new world," said political expert Mario Negrón Portillo. "This can bring about change and consequences that we've never seen before."

Rosselló was driven from office after a leak of vulgar and offensive chat messages between him and his close aides infuriated Puerto Ricans already tired of deep-seated corruption and mismanagement that have sent the island into a 13-year recession, a \$70 billion debt crisis and the equivalent of bankruptcy.

Many, too, are resentful over the slow and fitful recovery from Hurricane Maria, which devastated Puerto Rico in September 2017, killing thousands.

Some pledged to continue protesting against Vázquez, while others said they will no longer vote along party lines in the 2020 general elections.

The vast majority, however, were still savoring a historic event that many believe will permanently alter the course of an island long controlled by two main parties divided over what political status best favors Puerto Rico — statehood or territory.

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"More than partisan politics, this is a social movement," said Ana Olga González, a 62-year-old university professor of environmental science. "We have to keep pushing. Take over the streets if necessary. This is supposed to be the beginning."

She joined hundreds of protesters who gathered on Thursday under the rain and sun for a final celebration of the upheaval that cut short Rosselló's term by more than a year.

The crowd traced the same path as those who gathered for a massive demonstration on Monday that shut down one of the island's main highways. Some held signs rejecting Vázquez as their next governor: "Wanda, don't get dressed because you're not going."

Vázquez immediately found herself under fire, issuing a statement on Thursday condemning media reports that accused her of refusing to investigate certain cases, including the alleged mismanagement of supplies after the hurricane.

"During our career in public service, we have shown that we have worked in an integral and honest way for the benefit of the people," she said.

Vázquez is expected to take over as governor after Rosselló steps down Aug. 2 unless a new secretary of state is named, in which case that person would be first in line, according to the island's constitution.

Rosselló's secretary of state, Luis Rivera Marín, took part in the leaked chat and was among more than a dozen officials who resigned in the resulting uproar. In the 889 leaked pages, the governor and 11 other men made insulting remarks about women and mocked their constituents, including victims of Maria.

Authorities issued search warrants this week for the men's cellphones in an investigation into whether they illegally divulged confidential government information.

"The chat offended everyone equally. For the first time, all sectors felt targeted," Negrón said, adding that the movement could be kept alive by federal corruption investigations as well as young people who spearheaded the protests, largely organized via social media. "We have to sit down, cross our fingers and see if that happens."

He added: "This will give us the opportunity to rethink who we are and who we want to be."

As more protesters arrived to celebrate what many called a historic achievement, 59-year-old economics professor Pedro Silva held a cowbell quietly and watched the crowd of mostly young people march past.

"My generation lost," he said. "But the sons of the hurricane can't take it anymore. They have changed the island. They will not turn the other cheek, and we can join them."

Are Facebook users better off after its \$5 billion fine?

By MATT O'BRIEN AP Technology Writer

If you're one of Facebook's more than 2 billion users, are you any better off now than you were before the Federal Trade Commission imposed new privacy restrictions and a \$5 billion fine on the company this week?

Facebook's settlement with the FTC after the agency's yearlong investigation provides a detailed account of the company's sneaky behavior and secures a handful of new safeguards, many of them backward-looking. They limit how Facebook shares some data with third-party app developers, circumscribe the collection of phone numbers for advertising purposes and require "clear and conspicuous" notice before people's photos and videos are subjected to facial recognition technology.

But privacy experts say there's little that will slow Facebook's harvesting of vast amounts of sensitive personal information. That data is key to how the tech company makes a profit through targeted advertising — and Facebook has a spotty record of protecting it.

"It will take us quite a while to figure out whether this will have any effect on how Facebook does its business," said Michelle Richardson, director of privacy and data for the Center for Democracy and Technology. "These are small, incremental changes. There's no easy advice to give individuals about any switch they can flip to make the privacy risks go away."

Richardson said it's possible that accountability measures imposed on Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg, who must personally certify compliance, may give the company pause before launching new services that

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could threaten users' privacy or data security.

But she said the FTC's order lacks firm rules that could have guided how Facebook uses and shares the information it collects. That's in part because, unless Congress follows through with proposals to enact a comprehensive federal privacy law, the FTC has little authority to police online privacy concerns, she said.

The deal also absolves Facebook of any known consumer-protection claims prior to June 12, effectively wiping the slate clean of past privacy violations.

Yale Privacy Lab researcher Sean O'Brien said FTC's limited penalties will enable Facebook to publicly say it is changing course while maintaining an illusion of privacy. It may bolster the ranks of privacy-focused managers and executives, he said, and could add new menu items to the platform's already confusing settings, "which most users never change anyway."

The company has also made a public push for improving the privacy of conversations on its WhatsApp, Messenger and Instagram chatting services, but O'Brien said it won't give up spying on far more valuable information about users' online behavior and social lives.

"Facebook has surveillance at the core of its business model, which is the monetization of data profiles about humans and about human social interaction," he said. "Far too many companies are making money off of Facebook and the data economy in general for there to be fundamental change."

FTC's ruling fell along partisan lines, with its three Republican commissioners voting in favor of the punitive actions, including the \$5 billion fine, which goes to the U.S. Treasury's general fund. The two Democrats dissented because they wanted tougher restrictions and penalties. Republicans argued they couldn't have done much more without a difficult legal battle.

While the commissioners disagreed on how to penalize Facebook, the FTC's formal legal complaint makes clear what is at stake for users and outlines years of deception following a 2012 FTC consent order that was supposed to curb Facebook's privacy abuses.

Wednesday's complaint noted that over 100 million Americans "use Facebook every day to share personal information, such as their real name, date of birth, hometown, current city, employer, relationship status, and spouse's name, as well as sensitive personal information, such as political views, sexual orientation, photos of minor children, and membership in health-related and other support groups." The complaint also points to research showing a user's "likes" of public Facebook pages "can be used to accurately predict that user's personality traits, sometimes better than the user's own friends and family."

The complaint said third-party apps given access to much of that data by Facebook were by September 2013 sucking out vast quantities of personal information, with a Facebook audit finding that a single app made more than 450 million data requests in a 30-day period. The volume was so great, according to the complaint, that it led one Facebook employee to comment, "I must admit, I was surprised to find out that we are giving out a lot here for no obvious reason."

Only after March 2018, when the Cambridge Analytica privacy scandal broke, did Facebook begin a "massive cultural shift" to enforce its own publicly stated policies designed to protect user privacy, the complaint said. Prior to that, even after claiming it cut off all developers in April 2015, the company let several dozen "white-listed" partners suck up data that "Facebook knew consumers might be sensitive to sharing" without their knowledge or consent, it added. Microsoft and Sony continued to have access to certain data until Facebook publicly cut them off after the settlement announcement Wednesday.

Even with the piecemeal restrictions the FTC did impose, O'Brien said it's possible the company can find enough wiggle room to work around them. He is particularly skeptical about the FTC's requirement that Facebook provide "clear and conspicuous" notice on how it is using facial recognition technology and obtain "affirmative express consent" from users if it expands the use of facial recognition beyond what it has previously disclosed. The FTC imposed that restriction after finding that Facebook broke a similar promise last year when it updated its data policy in a way that misrepresented the extent to which consumers could opt out of facial recognition.

Besides, after years of people tagging friends' faces as they uploaded photos onto the social network, the company already has a valuable repository of images stored in its data centers.

"It's closing the barn door after the horse is gone," O'Brien said.

AP Technology Writer Frank Bajak contributed to this report.

Calif. skirts Trump, signs mileage deal with 4 automakers

By TOM KRISHER and ELLEN KNICKMEYER Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Four major automakers have reached a deal with California to toughen standards for gas mileage and greenhouse gas emissions, bypassing the Trump administration's push to relax mileage standards nationwide instead.

Ford, BMW, Honda and Volkswagen signed the deal with the California Air Resources Board, the state's air pollution regulator, which had been at odds with the Trump administration for months, in a contest that automakers fear could set up years of confusion and litigation in the industry. California has said it would exercise its powers to set more stringent pollution and mileage standards than the federal government has proposed.

The Trump administration reacted strongly to the end run, with Environmental Protection Agency spokesman Michael Abboud calling it a "PR stunt."

"The federal government, not a single state, should set this standard," White House spokesman Judd Deere said. The Trump administration would keep going on its competing effort to relax mileage standards nationwide, Deere said.

The administration has sought to freeze Obama administration standards, keeping fleetwide new-vehicle mileage at 2021 levels of about 30 mpg. The administration says the extra expense to comply with the requirements will raise the price of new cars, making them unaffordable and depriving buyers of new safety technology. Many experts, including former EPA engineers, challenge the administration's argument.

The administration also has threatened to challenge California's ability to set its own standards.

In a statement Thursday, California regulators said their deal delays by one year the new-vehicle fuel efficiency requirements approved under the Obama administration for model years 2022 through 2025. That means the fleet of new vehicles would have to average around 36 miles per gallon in real-world driving by 2026. The deal also slightly slows the rate of growth in the early years "to provide additional lead time" for the auto industry, the statement said.

The four automakers see the California agreement as "insurance" to provide some certainty to the industry and the state no matter who wins the 2020 presidential elections, according to a person familiar with the talks who asked not to be identified because details of the negotiations haven't been made public.

The four automakers represent only about 30% of U.S. new-vehicle sales.

The Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, which represents a dozen automakers in and out of the California deal, said in a statement that the industry still wants nationwide standards with year-over-year mileage increases that fit with what people are now buying, SUVs and trucks.

"Today's announcement of the framework of an agreement by California and certain automakers acknowledges that the MY2022-2025 standards developed by the Obama administration are not attainable and need to be adjusted," said the statement from the alliance.

Alan Baum, a Detroit-area consultant who does work for the auto industry and environmental groups, said the deal is clearly designed to get the rest of the auto industry on board and to force the Trump administration to the bargaining table with California.

"This really puts California in a much stronger position because this really puts some pressure on the federal government," Baum said. "These four automakers don't want to be out on an island here. They would like their competitors to do this as well."

He said the deal could delay a final rule that's supposed to come from the federal government in August or September, keeping the current standards in place longer. For the automakers, it's not much different from how they were preparing to meet the Obama administration standards, he said.

Under the agreement, fuel economy and corresponding greenhouse gas emissions standards would rise

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by 3.7% per year starting with the 2022 model year, through 2026, according to the statement from the four automakers. They would have gone up by 4.7% per year through 2025 under the Obama standards, according to California.

Automakers could get 1 percentage point of the increase by using advanced technology credits such as those for hydrogen fuel cell, plug-in gas-electric hybrids, and battery electric vehicles. And they would get credits for devices that aren't counted in EPA test cycles such as stopping the engine at red lights and restarting it quickly when the driver wants to go. The process would be streamlined to get credits approved for new technologies.

The automakers also agreed to recognize California's authority to set its own standards, which are followed by at least a dozen other states, and they will not challenge the state's authority, according to the statement.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which draws up federal standards with the EPA, said the government continues to work on a final fuel economy rule that will apply to all automakers. The administration's proposals do not prevent any automaker from designing and building highly fuel-efficient vehicles, the agency said in a statement.

The four automakers came to California with the proposal, and the Air Resources Board hopes other companies will join them, Chairwoman Mary Nichols said Thursday. The state is reaching out to other automakers, California Gov. Gavin Newsom said.

"We can have a single vehicle fleet regardless of what Trump does," Newsom said.

Some environmental groups like the Sierra Club praised the agreement, saying it shows that California won't stand by while the Trump administration tries to lower standards for carbon pollution.

But Dan Becker of the Safe Climate Campaign said the deal has so many loopholes for automakers that it will cut in half the fuel efficiency and pollution improvements under the Obama-era standards.

Kathleen Ronayne contributed from Sacramento, California. Knickmeyer and Jill Colvin reported from Washington.

Europe melts under Sahara heat wave, smashes heat records

By ANGELA CHARLTON and KIRSTEN GRIESHABER Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Even ice cream, Italian gelato or Popsicles couldn't help this time.

Temperature records that had stood for decades or even just hours fell minute by minute Thursday afternoon and Europeans and tourists alike jumped into fountains, lakes, rivers or the sea to escape a suffocating heat wave rising up from the Sahara.

On a day that no one on the continent will ever forget, two potential drug dealers in Belgium even called the police, begging to be rescued from the locked container they managed to get themselves trapped in.

It was nearly impossible to keep up with the falling records as temperatures climbed higher and higher under a brutal sun — in Paris and London, in Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands — all places where air conditioning is not typically installed in homes, cafes or stores. Even office air conditioning systems strained under the hot, dry air that was trapped between two stormy weather systems.

Climate scientists warned these types of heat waves could become the new normal but they loom as a giant challenge for temperate Europe. As emissions keep warming the planet, scientists say there will be more and hotter heat waves, although it's too early to know whether this specific 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.

Electric fans sold out across Paris — and traditional folding fans made a comeback on the city's stuffy Metro. Trains were canceled in Britain and France, with authorities in both nations urging travelers to stay home. Messages to "Hydrate yourselves!" blared from the radio and TV, and water bottles were handed

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out with abandon.

Still, the atmosphere was buoyant, as people sought to stay cool yet embrace the moment.

Katy James, visiting Paris from Chicago, was one of the lucky ones with an air-conditioned room but she was still out in the streets, enjoying the atmosphere.

"We've had such a good time. The Parisians have been so accommodating. We've been getting water where ever we go. We got to play in the fountain. This was amazing," James said.

France's heat 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 Celsius (114.8 degrees Fahrenheit). 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, affecting at least 20 million people.

French authorities have been particularly wary since a 2003 heat wave killed nearly 15,000 people, many of them elderly, stuck alone in stiflingly hot apartments.

"The science behind heat wave attribution is very robust — the first extreme weather event to be definitively linked to global warming was the 2003 European heat wave," said NASA climate scientist Kate Marvel. "We know that as the climate warms, heat waves become more likely and more severe."

So as tourists frolicked in fountains, authorities and volunteers in Paris and London fanned out to help the elderly, the sick and the homeless, opening cooling centers to let people rest, recover or shower.

"They are in the street all day, under the sun. No air conditioning, no way to protect oneself from the heat," said Ruggero Gatti, an IT worker who joined other Red Cross volunteers handing out water bottles, soup and yogurt to the homeless in the Paris suburb of Boulogne.

Across the Channel, the heat damaged overhead electric wires between London's St. Pancras train station and Luton Airport, blocking all train lines. East Midlands Trains posted a message to passengers on Twitter, saying simply "DO NOT TRAVEL."

The sheer levels of heat on Thursday afternoon were nothing short of astonishing:

- The Paris area hit 42.6 C (108.7 F), beating the previous record of 40.4 C (104.7 F) set in 1947.
- The Netherlands' meteorological institute announced a record that beat the previous record set just a day ago: 40.7 C (105.3 F) in the Gilze Rijen municipality near the Belgian border.
- Belgium hit all-time records twice in the day, rising to 40.7 C (105.3 F) in the western town of Beitem. "This is the highest recorded temperature for Belgium in history since the beginning of the measurements in 1833," said Alex Dewalque of the country's Royal Meteorological Institute.
- The northern German town of Lingen set a new national temperature record at least three times Thursday, finally hitting 42.6 C (108.7 F). Those repeated records came after the country had set a national record Wednesday of 40.5 C (104.9 F) in Geilenkirchen near the Belgian border.
- London recorded its hottest day on record for July, with the mercury climbing to 36.9 C (98.4 F) at Heathrow Airport. The previous July record was 36.7 C (98 F) in 2015.
- In Britain overall, temperatures hit 38.1 C (100.6 F) in southern England, which gave the country a record for the highest July temperature ever but did not beat the national record of 38.5 C (101.3 F) set in August 2003. Britain's Met Office said its temperature records go back to 1865.
- The Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment issued a "smog alarm" Thursday for areas including the densely populated cities of Amsterdam, Rotterdam and The Hague due to high ozone levels.

In Germany, Switzerland and Austria, some communities painted vital rail tracks white in hopes that the light color would bring down the temperature a few degrees and the tracks would not get warped by the heat. German railways Deutsche Bahn said passengers who had booked tickets for Thursday or Friday and wanted to delay their trips could do so without charge.

In Cologne in western Germany, volunteers handed out free water while others sunbathed on the dried-up banks of the Rhine River. In Bavaria's prisons, inmates were getting cold cucumber soup, fruit and yoghurt for lunch and more water than normal.

In Austria, a 2-year-old died of dehydration Wednesday in the country's Styria region after he climbed

into an overheated parked car without his family noticing.

Social media had fun with a photo showing that even Queen Elizabeth II, one of the world's wealthiest women, needed relief from the heat. An image of the monarch meeting new British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Wednesday appeared to have a Dyson fan in the background, a tower-like design that stood out against the delicate gilt-edged decor at Buckingham Palace.

As intense as it was, the heat in Europe is expected to be short, with temperatures forecast to drop on Friday and Saturday.

Grieshaber reported from Berlin. Deborah Gouffran in Boulogne, France, Mike Corder in The Hague, Netherlands, Bishr Eltouni and Raf Casert in Brussels, Daniel Niemann in Cologne, Germany, Danica Kirka in London and Seth Borenstein in Washington contributed.

Financier Jeffrey Epstein found injured in jail cell

By TOM HAYS Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Wealthy financier Jeffrey Epstein was found on the floor of his jail cell with bruises on his neck early this week while awaiting trial on sex-trafficking charges, a person familiar with the matter said Thursday.

It was not clear whether the injuries were self-inflicted or from an assault, said the person, who was not authorized to discuss the case and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Epstein, 66, was treated and, according to the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, remains in custody at the federal Metropolitan Correctional Center in New York City. Jail records obtained by the AP show no indication he was taken to a hospital.

In a statement, the bureau gave no other details and would not comment on Epstein's condition. An Epstein lawyer had no immediate response.

It was not clear whether Epstein had any cellmates or was being held by himself. The jail is famous for its tight security and notorious inmates, who have included terrorists, Wall Street schemers and, until recently, Mexican drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman.

A lawyer for inmate Nicholas Tartaglione denied local news reports on Thursday that his client was a suspect in a possible assault on the financier. Tartaglione is a former suburban New York police officer awaiting trial on charges he was involved in the kidnapping and killing of four men in 2016.

The attorney, Bruce Barket, suggested that the allegations were leaked by someone "trying to embarrass Epstein and cast some shade on Nick."

Epstein has been accused of sexually abusing dozens of underage girls in the early 2000s. A judge denied him bail last week, ruling that he might flee the country if released. The judge also said Epstein is a danger to the public because of his "uncontrollable" urges to engage in sexual conduct with underage girls.

Notorious inmates — and those accused of sex crimes against children — are often given extra protection against attacks from other prisoners. But it was not immediately clear what precautions, if any, were taken in Epstein's case.

"It would have been an extremely poor decision to cell him with any other inmate. He's too high-profile, a confirmed sex offender of underage females and suspected of human trafficking," said Cameron Lindsay, a retired warden who ran three federal lockups. "In the subculture of jails and prisons, it's a badge of honor to take a guy out like that."

Jail officials would have had no reason to put him under closer supervision against suicide unless he seemed suicidal when he arrived, Lindsay said.

Epstein was indicted on federal charges in New York this month more than a decade after he secretly struck a deal with federal prosecutors in Florida to dispose of similar charges of sex trafficking. He pleaded guilty in 2008 to soliciting a minor for prostitution and served 13 months behind bars.

Federal prosecutors in New York reopened the probe after investigative reporting by The Miami Herald stirred outrage over the plea bargain.

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Epstein's lawyers said he hasn't had any illicit contact with underage girls since serving his sentence in Florida. They said the current charges are improper because the government is renegeing on the deal not to prosecute him.

U.S. Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta resigned this month after coming under fire for overseeing that deal when he was U.S. attorney in Miami.

Associated Press writers Jim Mustian and Michael R. Sisak contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to show that the jail is the Metropolitan Correctional Center, not the Metropolitan Detention Center.

European Central Bank joins Fed in paving way for stimulus

By DAVID McHUGH Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — The European Central Bank joined the U.S Federal Reserve in making clear that more stimulus could be coming soon to support an economy weakening in the face of global trade tensions.

The ECB's rate-setting board left its key interest benchmarks unchanged at a policy meeting Thursday but said it could cut them as its next move. It also said it was telling staff to study ways to restart its bond-buying stimulus program in coming weeks.

Several analysts said the statements meant the ECB, which sets interest rate benchmarks for the 19 countries that use the euro, could deliver a stimulus package at its next meeting Sept. 12.

President Mario Draghi stressed repeatedly at his news conference that the bank was "determined to act." "We say, we don't like the current inflation," he said. "No question of accepting the inflation we are seeing today."

Inflation in the eurozone is at an annual 1.3%, short of the ECB's goal of just under 2% that is considered healthiest for the economy, even after years of low interest rates and massive amounts of monetary stimulus.

And global economic growth is being dragged down by events like the U.S.-China trade war that have spurred other central banks, including the Fed, to also move toward providing more stimulus.

Officials at the Fed have signaled that they could cut their interest rate benchmark from a range of 2.25-2.5% at their July 30-31 meeting. Central banks in South Korea, Indonesia and South Africa have already cut rates in recent days.

The U.S. and China have imposed import taxes on hundreds of billions of dollars-worth of traded goods. U.S. President Donald Trump has warned that more tariffs could be coming if he cannot reach a trade deal with China to reduce the U.S. trade deficit. Trump has also threatened to put tariffs on Europe's big automotive industry.

Meanwhile, Britain's exit from the European Union on Oct. 31 could result in tariffs on trade if the country does not reach a withdrawal deal with the rest of the bloc.

These combined uncertainties have mainly hurt the manufacturing sector in Europe, particularly in export-focused countries like Germany, where the labor market is otherwise strong.

The European Central Bank's key move on Thursday was to change the wording of its policy statement by saying that rates will remain at current record lows "or lower" through the middle of 2020. Adding "or lower" emphasized that the next move could be down.

The monetary authority for the 19 countries that use the euro meanwhile began looking into a possible new round of bond purchases, which inject newly created money into the economy in the hope of stimulating economic activity and raising inflation.

The central bank halted a 2.6 trillion-euro bond-buying program only at the end of last year, saying inflation was headed sustainably toward its goal. The inflation figure is important because the ECB is tasked above all with keep price increases steady. Price and growth indicators have weakened in recent months,

however. Persistently low inflation can be a sign of economic weakness and can make it harder for indebted governments and consumers to reduce their debt burden.

It remains an open question how much more stimulus the ECB would get from a rate cut or bond purchases since rates are already low and the 2.6 billion euros in added stimulus has not been withdrawn from the financial system. Almost four years of bond purchases left the ECB still struggling to consistently reach the inflation target.

Draghi said that the past bond purchases have created millions of jobs but that wages gains were taking longer than expected to translate to higher consumer prices.

Central bank policies have a wide-ranging impact on companies, governments and individuals. A return to more stimulus means cheaper borrowing for companies and governments, which can support business activity and take pressure off government budgets. It can mean paltry returns, however, for savers while boosting stock prices, at least in the short turn, by pushing people out of lower-yielding, safer investments into riskier ones.

Showdown looms as new British PM wants to redo Brexit deal

By JILL LAWLESS and DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — On his first full day in office, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson urged the European Union on Thursday to rethink its refusal to renegotiate the Brexit deal, setting himself on a twin-track collision course — with the bloc and his own lawmakers — over his vow to leave the EU by Oct. 31.

Johnson pledged to deliver Brexit and a “broader and bolder future,” as he addressed a rowdy session of Parliament.

He was heckled loudly by an opposition determined to thwart him, with Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn dismissing Johnson’s “arm-waving bluster.” The EU’s Brexit chief called Johnson’s speech “combative” and his demands unacceptable.

Johnson, who took office on Wednesday after winning a Conservative Party leadership contest, has less than 100 days to make good on his promise to deliver Brexit by Oct. 31. And Thursday’s session of Parliament was the last before a six-week summer break.

Rejecting the Brexit withdrawal agreement negotiated by his predecessor Theresa May, Johnson insisted that while he wanted a deal, it could only happen if the EU budged, especially on an insurance policy for the Irish border that has been rejected by U.K. lawmakers.

“I hope that the EU will be equally ready and that they will rethink their current refusal to make any changes to the Withdrawal Agreement,” he told Parliament during the 2½-hour session. “If they do not, we will, of course, have to leave — the U.K. — without an agreement.”

Johnson later spoke by phone to European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, who once again repeated the bloc’s insistence that it will not renegotiate the agreement on departure terms that it struck with May.

Juncker told Johnson that “the withdrawal agreement is the best and only agreement possible” but the EU was ready “to analyze any ideas put forward by the United Kingdom, providing they are compatible with the withdrawal agreement.”

The exchange was disclosed by an EU official who asked not to be identified because of the confidentiality of the phone call.

Chief EU Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier said Johnson’s “rather combative” speech was part of the British leader’s attempt “to heap pressure on the unity” of the bloc.

In a message to the 27 remaining member states, he said the EU must “be ready for all scenarios.”

Without a divorce deal, Britain faces a chaotic Brexit that economists warn would disrupt trade by imposing tariffs and customs checks between Britain and the bloc. They say that could send the value of the pound plummeting and plunge the U.K. into recession.

Nonetheless Johnson has vowed to complete Brexit and silence “the doubters, the doomsters, the gloomsters” who believe it can’t be done.

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But details remain scarce about how Johnson's government would alleviate the economic shock if Britain crashed out of the EU's huge free-trading bloc, ripping up decades of agreements regulating everything from aviation to drugs to telecommunications.

He said he was ready to talk to EU leaders "whenever they are ready to do so," and also promised to "turbo-charge" planning for a no-deal exit, with millions more allocated to a public information campaign for citizens and businesses.

He also repeated his threat to withhold the exit payment of 39 billion pounds (\$49 billion) that May agreed to if there is no deal.

Since taking office Wednesday, Johnson has replaced many of May's ministers with his own hand-picked Cabinet of loyal Brexiteers, and it met for the first time on Thursday. Many of them worked with Johnson in the 2016 referendum campaign to leave the EU, as did much of Johnson's new backroom staff.

Despite the new lineup, Johnson faces the same problems that bedeviled May: heading a government without a parliamentary majority and with most lawmakers opposed to leaving the EU without a divorce deal.

Lawmakers who oppose a no-deal Brexit — including some of the Conservative ministers in May's government who were swept away by Johnson — are vowing to put up a fight when Parliament returns from its break in September.

"This House will stop the prime minister," said Scottish National Party lawmaker Ian Blackford, who branded a no-deal Brexit "economic madness."

It's almost certain that opposition lawmakers will try to topple Johnson's government in a vote of no-confidence in September. There also is rising speculation that Johnson could call an early fall election in hopes of gaining a majority in Parliament for his plans.

The country's next scheduled election is not until 2022, and Johnson says his priority is Brexit, not an early poll — but he hasn't ruled one out.

In the meantime, Johnson must prove he can deliver on his optimistic pronouncements.

In a packed and testy session of Parliament on the hottest day of the year, dozens of lawmakers grilled him on details: How would he uphold the government's promise to keep the border between Northern Ireland and EU member Ireland free of customs checks? How would he enforce his promise that all 3 million EU citizens living in Britain can stay?

He batted them all away, offering instead the blustering optimism that have made him one of Britain's most divisive politicians.

As he boomed above the cheers and jeers, Johnson's delivery had an echo of his idol, Winston Churchill. But instead of the wartime leader's vow to give "blood, toil, tears and sweat," Johnson promised "positive thinking and a can-do attitude."

"There is every chance that in 2050 ... we will be able to look back on this extraordinary period as the start of a new golden age for our United Kingdom," he said.

Corbyn, leader of the main opposition Labour Party, said the country was worried that "the new prime minister overestimates himself."

"He says he has pluck, nerve and ambition," Corbyn said. "Our country does not need arm-waving bluster but competence, seriousness and, after a decade of division policies for the few, to focus on the interests of the many."

Associated Press writer Raf Casert in Brussels contributed.

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

Asian shares fall ahead of US-China trade talks

By YURI KAGEYAMA AP Business Writer

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TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares are lower Friday as investors continued to watch the brewing trade conflict between China and the U.S., and any signs of what's in store from central banks.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 slid 0.6% to 21,637.21 in morning trading. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 lost 0.4% to 6,792.20. South Korea's Kospi slipped 0.8% to 2,058.36. Hong Kong's Hang Seng was down nearly 0.6% to 28,424.89, while the Shanghai Composite edged down 0.2% to 2,932.52.

"Investors continue to digest green shoots of upcoming U.S.-China trade talks amid persisting anxiety about the likely turn economic policies in the developed world take. The ECB failed to deliver any easing yesterday and the focus now shifts to the Fed policy," Nicholas Mapa and Prakash Sakpal, analysts at ING, wrote in their report.

U.S. and Chinese envoys are set to meet in Shanghai next week for talks aimed at ending a tariff war. China's Ministry of Commerce said Thursday that Chinese companies are willing to import more U.S. farm goods.

That announcement followed President Donald Trump's criticism that Beijing was backsliding on a promise to narrow its trade surplus with the United States by purchasing more American farm products.

U.S. stocks retreated from record highs on Wall Street Thursday as large companies delivered weak earnings and disappointing forecasts.

The S&P 500 index fell 15.89 points, or 0.5%, to 3,003.67. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 128.99 points, or 0.5%, to 27,140.98. The Nasdaq composite fell 82.96 points, or 1%, to 8,238.54.

More than 36% of S&P 500 companies have reported their latest financial results and investors are still expecting a contraction in overall profit. That would mark the second quarter in a row of lower earnings.

ENERGY:

Benchmark crude oil gained 9 cents to \$56.11 a barrel. It rose 14 cents to settle at \$56.02 a barrel Thursday. Brent crude oil, the international standard, fell 3 cents to \$63.23 a barrel.

CURRENCIES:

The dollar rose to 108.66 Japanese yen from 108.10 yen on Thursday. The euro strengthened to \$1.1148 from \$1.1108.

Today in History By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Friday, July 26, the 207th day of 2019. There are 158 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 26, 2016, Hillary Clinton became the first woman to be nominated for president by a major political party at the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia.

On this date:

In 1775, the Continental Congress established a Post Office and appointed Benjamin Franklin its Postmaster-General.

In 1863, Sam Houston, former president of the Republic of Texas, died in Huntsville at age 70.

In 1908, U.S. Attorney General Charles J. Bonaparte ordered creation of a force of special agents that was a forerunner of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

In 1925, five days after the end of the Scopes Trial in Dayton, Tennessee, prosecutor William Jennings Bryan died at age 65. (Although Bryan had won a conviction against John T. Scopes for teaching Darwin's Theory of Evolution, the verdict was later overturned.)

In 1953, Fidel Castro began his revolt against Fulgencio Batista (fool-HEN'-see-oh bah-TEES'-tah) with an unsuccessful attack on an army barracks in eastern Cuba. (Castro ousted Batista in 1959.)

In 1956, the Italian liner Andrea Doria sank off New England, some 11 hours after colliding with the Swedish liner Stockholm; at least 51 people died.

In 1986, Islamic radicals in Lebanon released the Rev. Lawrence Martin Jenco, an American hostage held for nearly 19 months. American statesman W. Averell Harriman died in Yorktown Heights, New York,

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at age 94.

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act.

In 2002, the Republican-led House voted, 295-132, to create an enormous Homeland Security Department in the biggest government reorganization in decades.

In 2006, in a dramatic turnaround from her first murder trial, Andrea Yates was found not guilty by reason of insanity by a Houston jury in the bathtub drownings of her five children; she was committed to a state mental hospital. (Yates had initially been found guilty of murder, but had her conviction overturned.)

In 2013, Ariel Castro, the man who'd imprisoned three women in his Cleveland home, subjecting them to a decade of rapes and beatings, pleaded guilty to 937 counts in a deal to avoid the death penalty. (Castro later committed suicide in prison.)

In 2017, President Donald Trump announced on Twitter that he would not "accept or allow" transgender people to serve in the U.S. military. (After a legal battle, the Defense Department approved a new policy requiring most individuals to serve in their birth gender.) A thrill ride broke apart at the Ohio State Fair, killing an 18-year-old high school student and injuring seven others.

Ten years ago: Sarah Palin stepped down as governor of Alaska to write a book and build a right-of-center coalition, but left her long-term political plans unclear. Alberto Contador won the Tour de France for the second time in three years; Lance Armstrong placed third. Rickey Henderson and Jim Rice were inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame along with the late Joe Gordon. Choreographer and dancer Merce Cunningham died in New York at age 90.

Five years ago: Hamas resumed rocket fire on Israel after rejecting its offer to extend a humanitarian cease-fire, the latest setback in international efforts to negotiate an end to the Gaza war. The United States shuttered its embassy in Libya and evacuated its diplomats to neighboring Tunisia under U.S. military escort as fighting intensified between rival militias. Dr. Samuel Brisbane, one of Liberia's most high-profile doctors, died of Ebola; an American physician in Liberia, Dr. Kent Brantly, was reported to have caught the disease, but recovered.

One year ago: As a deadline set by a federal judge arrived, the Trump administration said more than 1,800 children who were separated from their families at the U.S-Mexico border had been reunited with parents and sponsors; hundreds more remained apart. Shares in Facebook plunged 19 percent, wiping out \$119 billion of the company's Wall Street value; the plunge followed Facebook's warning that its revenue growth would slow significantly. The last six members of a Japanese doomsday cult who remained on death row were executed for a series of crimes in the 1990s, including a gas attack on Tokyo subways that killed 13 people.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Robert Colbert is 88. Actress-singer Darlene Love is 78. Singer Brenton Wood is 78. Rock star Mick Jagger is 76. Movie director Peter Hyams is 76. Actress Helen Mirren is 74. Rock musician Roger Taylor (Queen) is 70. Actress Susan George is 69. Olympic gold medal figure skater Dorothy Hamill is 63. Actress Nana Visitor is 62. Actor Kevin Spacey is 60. Rock singer Gary Cherone is 58. Actress Sandra Bullock is 55. Actor-comedian Danny Woodburn is 55. Rock singer Jim Lindberg (Pennywise) is 54. Actor Jeremy Piven is 54. Rapper-reggae singer Wayne Wonder is 53. Actor Jason Statham (STAY'-thum) is 52. Actor Cress Williams is 49. TV host Chris Harrison is 48. Actress Kate Beckinsale is 46. Actor Gary Owen is 46. Rock musician Dan Konopka (OK Go) is 45. Gospel/Contemporary Christian singer Rebecca St. James is 42. Actress Eve Myles is 41. Actress Juliet Rylance is 40. Actress Monica Raymund is 33. Actress Caitlin Gerard is 31. Actress Francia Raisa is 31. Christian rock musician Jamie Sharpe (Rush of Fools) is 30. Actress Bianca Santos is 29. Actress-singer Taylor Momsen is 26. Actress Elizabeth Gillies is 26.

Thought for Today: "Most human beings have an almost infinite capacity for taking things for granted."
— Aldous Huxley, English author (born this date in 1894, died in 1963).