

# Groton Daily Independent

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

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

## Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Swimming Pool Hours

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

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

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

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

## Recycling Trailer is returning!

After a long absence, the recycling trailer at the City Shop will be returning this week. In a misunderstanding of the contract, the recycling trailer was removed this past spring. In talking with Kent from Heartland Sanitation of Mobridge, the misunderstanding was cleared up and he said the trailer will be coming back.

### 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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## Groton Senior Citizens News

July 8 Groton Seniors met for a meeting. Twenty members were present. President opened with pledge allegiance to the flag. A short meeting was held, sec and treasures minutes were read and approved. A get well card was signed by all for Marilyn Thorson. Meeting adjourned. Cards were played, the winners of games. Pinochle- Sarge Likness, Canasta- Balinda Nelson, Whist- Darlene Fischer. Door prizes, Pat Larson, Dick Donovan, and Eunice McColister. Lunch was served by Sarge Likness and David Kliensassor.

July 15 Fourteen members were present. Cards were played. The winners of Pinochle\_ Ruby Donavon, Canasta -Pat Larson and Balinda Nelson. Whist- Sarge Likness, Elda Stange. Door prizes- Grace Albrecht, Pat Larson, Sarge Likness. Lunch was served by Beulah Hoops and Elda Stange .

July 22 Seniors had their pot luck dinner eighteen members and one visitor Balinda Nelson. We had pledgience to the flag. after dinner bingo was played. Pat Larson won black out. Cards were played after bingo. Door prizes went to Beulah Hoops Bev Sombke and Sarge Likness.

## Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

The Minnesota Vikings have officially started training camp. The rookies and select veterans reported to Eagen, MN on Monday last week, while the rest of the team reported on Thursday. The Vikings' roster is currently at 90 players, which the team will need to trim down to 53 before the season starts.

Let's get into some of the story lines that have been coming out of Eagen, MN as training camp gets going.

The biggest fear heading into training camp is injuries. Football players get hurt all the time, sometimes it's a simple injury that will only hold the player out for a few days, sometimes it's a major injury that can change the entire identity of the team (see Bridgewater, Teddy). Three players have been placed on the active/physically unable to perform (PUP) list, meaning those players can return to practice as soon as they are cleared by the team's medical staff, but if they are still on the PUP list to begin the regular season they are required to be out for at least the first six weeks of the season. Those players are: cornerback Mike Hughes, tight end David Morgan, and wide receiver Brandon Zylstra. Two additional players were placed on the active/non-football injury (NFI) list, meaning they are injured, but it didn't occur during team activities. Those players are: defensive tackle Shamar Stephen and defensive end Tashawn Bower.

Hughes is still recovering from his injury suffered last season. Head coach Mike Zimmer told the media that Hughes is progressing on schedule, but he isn't ready to practice yet.

Zimmer didn't expand upon the injuries to David Morgan or Brandon Zylstra, so hopefully those players won't be out for too long.

Shamar Stephen, who re-signed with Minnesota after spending a season in Seattle, should be back soon. Zimmer told the media "Shamar ... it's basically nothing. Shamar is not going to be out long."

The most concerning injury was to Tashawn Bower, who reportedly tore his Achilles while working out at home before training camp. Bower, who is entering his third season in the NFL, was projected to be a backup defensive end this season but will now miss the whole year.

Other news and notes

The Minnesota Vikings waived running back Roc Thomas, who was arrested this offseason for felony drug possession and was facing a three-game ban by the NFL.

To fill the vacated spot, the Vikings signed offensive guard Tiano Pupungatoa to the roster. Pupungatoa is 6'4", 310 pounds and was a three-year starter at South Dakota State University.

With the Vikings being down a running back for training camp, they decided to sign De'Angelo Henderson, who was previously with the New York Jets and Denver Broncos. To make room for Henderson, the Vikings waived undrafted rookie cornerback Micah Abernathy.

Cornerback Holton Hill, who was undrafted last year but played in all 16 games last season – starting three – has been suspended an additional four games on top of the four-game suspension he was already facing in the NFL. Hill went undrafted because of his off the field issues, and even though he played well last year, he is now on the hot seat.

What are you excited to see as the Vikings go through training camp? Reach out to me on Twitter (@JordanWrightNFL) and let me know. Skol!

## Purple Heart Recognition Day

PIERRE, S.D. – At the request of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, Gov. Kristi Noem has proclaimed Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2019, as “Purple Heart Recognition Day,” calling on all South Dakotans to honor those men and women who are recipients of the Purple Heart Medal.

The Purple Heart, our nation’s oldest military medal, is awarded to those service men and women who have borne the battle, sacrificing life and limb.

“August 7th is a day to honor those brave men and women who have earned the Purple Heart,” said Greg Whitlock, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. “It unites our country in recognizing the sacrifices of those who have risked everything in serving our great nation.”

The Governor encourages all South Dakotans to set aside time on Aug. 7 to honor our heroes who have been honored with the Purple Heart. “It is important for all Americans to learn the history of this important military award and the sacrifices made by the recipients,” said Gov. Noem, “

“Our military remains as strong as it has ever been. America’s veterans have been defined by the virtues of selfless service, sacrifice and devotion to duty,” said Whitlock. “These men and women, who serve and have served, are the flesh and blood of American exceptionalism.”

## Graham praises South Dakota

The Rev. Franklin Graham recently tweeted and posted on the Billy Graham Facebook Page about South Dakota requiring the nation’s motto to be displayed in all public schools. He posted the following:

Way to go South Dakota! “In God We Trust” will now be displayed in every public school in South Dakota, following a new state law that took effect this month. Of course, the atheists at Freedom From Religion Foundation are already urging people to object. When you think about it, this simple four-word historic motto is so profound. The only hope for the future of our nation is in Almighty God. They knew it back in the 1800’s when this motto was first used during the Civil War, and it is still true today. This should not only be the motto on our country’s currency, but the motto of our families, lived out every day. Maybe we should take a lesson from South Dakota schools and stencil it in our homes—and in our hearts.



## Larson crowned Miss Olive Grove

A Miss Olive Grove event was held Saturday evening at the Olive Grove Golf Course. The event celebrated the 30th anniversary of the golf course.

Pictured are Brad Larson. Drake Patterson. Nick Simon. Brock Sandness. Craig Jondahl. Ian Rose. Brad Waage. Chris Kassube. Dale Ringgenberg. Brad Larson was crowned Queen! (Photo by Carla Sperry)



## Groton Community Table of Plenty

The Tuesday morning Bible Study that meets at the Groton UMC each week decided to do a vegetable exchange table. Each Monday afternoon we set up a table outside the North door of the church so that gardeners may drop off their extra garden produce Monday evening or Tues morning. Then, anyone in the community is welcome to pickup what they can use for free on Tuesday starting at 9 am through 7 pm or whenever stuff is gone. This was our first week and we are hoping word will spread and it will catch on more as gardens start producing more. We had some beans, zucchini, and cucumbers this first week. Be sure to stop by each week and see what is available. The Bible Study Ladies from both ELCA and UMC will be doing this project weekly until August 27th or longer if gardens are producing and a success. For more information you may contact Kay Daly at 397-8389.

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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

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Today



Patchy Fog  
then Sunny

High: 77 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear  
then Slight  
Chance  
T-storms

Low: 62 °F

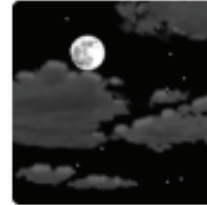
Wednesday



Decreasing  
Clouds

High: 80 °F

Wednesday  
Night



Partly Cloudy

Low: 65 °F

Thursday



Partly Sunny

High: 85 °F

*Today: Scattered morning showers. Partly cloudy. Highs in the 70s east, 80 to 85° west.*

*Tonight: Isolated/Scattered storms, late in the east. Lows 55-65°*

*Wednesday: Partly sunny with few morning showers. Highs in the 80s.*

ISSUED: 3:59 AM - Tuesday, July 30, 2019, National Weather Service, Aberdeen SD  
Published on: 07/30/2019 at 12:02AM

Morning showers should lead to a mostly dry day, and mild afternoon highs. Showers and thunderstorms tonight should make their way east over the forecast area from west to east, lingering in the northeast into the mid-morning hours. The rest of Wednesday should be dry.

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## Today in Weather History

July 30, 1981: Operation Skywarn organized by the National Weather Service in Bismarck four years ago had a perfect opportunity to put the training into operation on this day. A spotter 20 miles west of Bismarck identified a rotating wall cloud 10 minutes before a tornado touchdown. The strong tornado was rated as having F3 strength, leaving behind an 18-mile long path of destruction. The force of the storm drove a stick between a tire and rim. A 6-inch steel beam was twisted and found near the high tension tower which had been toppled.

July 30, 2001: Strong winds of 81 mph blew much of the roof off of the bowling alley in Mobridge. Some flying debris also damaged a trailer home. Many trees were snapped in two or uprooted, and many power lines were downed. High winds brought down tree branches and also knocked the power out for several hours in Pollock.

July 30, 2010: Very heavy rains of 5 to 10 inches caused the Rosehill Dam to break in the early morning hours in southeast Hand County. Flash flooding began around 1 am CDT with two campers being swept up around 130 am CDT. The two campers clung to a tree until they could be rescued about 6 am CDT. They were both injured with one camper being treated for hypothermia and other airlifted to Sioux Falls for broken ribs and head trauma. The dam broke at 330 am CDT with the spillway breaking at 420 am CDT. There was between a 100 to the 150-foot hole left by the dam break. The flash flooding continued downstream on Sand Creek causing damage to area farms, filling basements, and flooding many roads.

1949 - The state record for Connecticut was established when the town of Greenville registered an afternoon high of 102 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1965 - The temperature at Portland, OR, reached 107 degrees to equal their all-time record high. (The Weather Channel)

1970: Hurricane Celia was born in the northwest of the Caribbean Sea on this day. The hurricane would be one of the worst ever to hit Texas and would reach Texas late on August 3. The storm reached its peak as it made landfall near Corpus Christi, Texas, as a strong Category 3 hurricane. Hurricane Celia is currently the last major hurricane to make landfall on the middle Texas Coast until Hurricane Harvey in 2017.

1979 - A forty-minute hailstorm bombed Fort Collins, CO, with baseball to softball size hail. Two thousand homes and 2500 automobiles were damaged, and about 25 persons were injured, mainly when hit on the head by the huge stones. A three month old baby died later of injuries. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Afternoon highs of 105 degrees at Aberdeen SD, 102 degrees at Bismarck, ND, and 102 degrees at Pueblo, CO, were records for the date. Pueblo, CO, reported just .09 inch of rain for the first thirty days of the month. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - A dozen cities in the north central and northeastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Downtown Baltimore, MD, hit 103 degrees, marking a record eight days of 100 degree heat for the month, and ten for the year. The high of 101 degrees at Billings, MT, marked a record seventeen days of 100 degree heat for the year. Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the northeast, with nearly fifty reports of large hail or damaging winds in Pennsylvania and New York State. A tree fell on a car at Erie, PA, injuring four persons. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Morning thunderstorms over central Missouri deluged Columbia with 5.98 inches of rain causing flash flooding. Daytime thunderstorms in Kentucky drenched Paducah with 1.73 inches of rain in less than half an hour. Evening thunderstorms in the north central U.S. produced wind gusts to 78 mph east of Moccasin, MT. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 73 °F at 5:40 PM**

**Low Temp: 58 °F at 6:24 AM**

**Wind: 18 mph at 8:55 AM**

**Day Rain: 0.00**

**Record High: 106° in 2006**

**Record Low: 39° in 1971**

**Average High: 84°F**

**Average Low: 59°F**

**Average Precip in July.: 2.86**

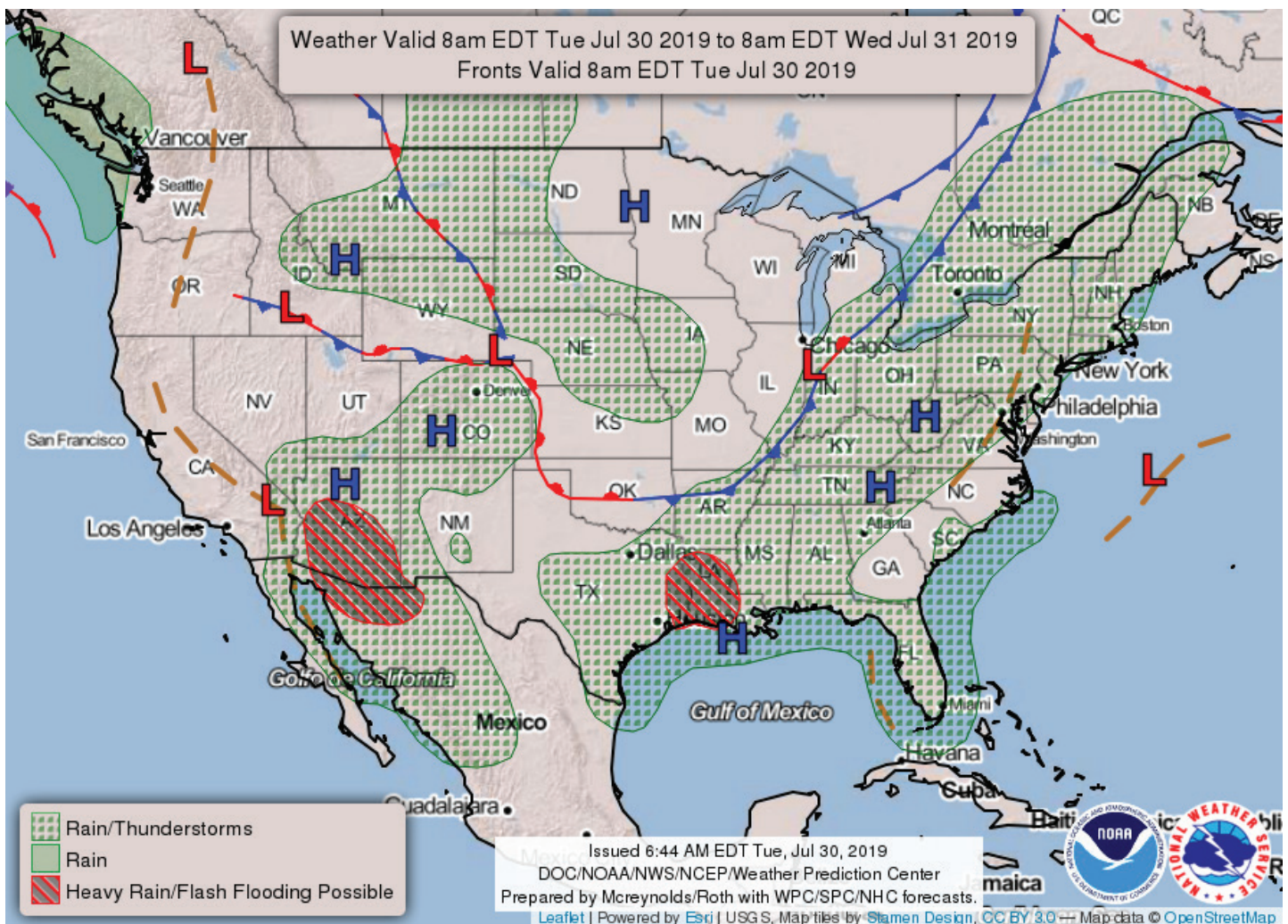
**Precip to date in July.: 4.05**

**Average Precip to date: 13.70**

**Precip Year to Date: 16.77**

**Sunset Tonight: 9:04 p.m.**

**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:16 a.m.**







## JUST BEFORE GIVING UP?

Remember these words: Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be zealous for the fear of the Lord.

The temptation to be jealous and envious of those who have more or better things than we do can become a distraction to those who struggle to live a righteous life. The teaching that is found in this verse has been introduced earlier in the Bible. It is not new and different. Rather, there is a preview of it in the Psalms: Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of those who do wrong? (to gain the treasures and pleasures of this world). And again, Trust in the Lord and do good, delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart (if they are consistent with His character.) First, Scripture teaches us to fear God and see what happens.

Although not specifically stated in this proverb, we must never forget the fact that whatever the ungodly have, and the things they possess, are temporary. We have been conditioned to believe that the things of this world will bring happiness and hope, joy and satisfaction, pleasure and success, strength and security. But do they?

Envy is an interesting Hebrew word. It contains the idea that being envious will force us into action, to do more and work harder. However, that can be good. One can be envious of the sinful or the righteous. The choice is ours! And, both have different outcomes.

One translator provides an interesting interpretation: Do not sinfully envy the temporal and momentary benefits that the sinful seem to enjoy, instead, set your heart upon zealously possessing the fear of the Lord.

If we are always zealous in our fear of the Lord and set our hearts on things above, not on the things of this world and give the battle to the Lord, there can be little doubt about the outcome. The key is to set and give to the Lord.

Prayer: We admit, Father, that it is easy to be consumed with envy that will destroy us. We ask Your Spirit to guide us into paths of righteousness for Your Names sake. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be zealous for the fear of the Lord. Proverbs 23:17

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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

### **Activist wants new law on South Dakota ballot issues blocked**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota political activist wants a federal judge to block a new law that would place requirements on groups promoting ballot measures.

Cory Heidelberger requested a court order Monday to prevent a bill passed by state lawmakers from taking effect. The bill passed in the last session and is set to become part of South Dakota's election laws on July 1, 2020.

Heidelberger, a Democrat, argues the bill was intended to make it harder for groups to launch successful ballot measures, the Argus Leader reported. Those measures have been one of the few successes for Democrats in South Dakota for a decade.

According to the lawsuit, the bill "imposes substantial unwarranted new restrictions on the ballot measure process, for the purpose of further consolidating power in South Dakota's dominant political party, by making it far harder for disfavored speakers to place ballot measures before the voters, and by attempting to control the content of ideas from which voters may choose."

Among the new requirements, petition circulators would have to register with the secretary of state by providing personal information, including their address, occupation and contact information. Paid circulators must pay a \$20 registration fee.

The law also requires the secretary of state to issue a badge to registered circulators which they are then required to wear while collecting signatures. The badge identifies the ballot measure as well as if the circulator is paid or a volunteer. Signatures collected by circulators who submit bad information or who miss filing deadlines would be invalid. Heidelberger contends the requirement invalidating signatures is unfair and an attempt to squelch political speech.

The lawsuit names Gov. Kristi Noem, Attorney General Jason Ravnsborg and Secretary of State Steve Barnett, all Republicans.

In May, Heidelberger succeeded in getting an initiated measure that South Dakota voters passed in 2018 declared invalid. That measure placed restrictions on out-of-state money on ballot measures.

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

### **South Dakota 1950s uranium workers eligible for compensation**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — People who became sick after being exposed to toxic materials while working at a South Dakota uranium ore-buying station more than 60 years ago may qualify for compensation under a federal program.

The federal Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation program is ready to compensate those who worked at the American Smelting and Refining Co., and Lucius Pitkin Inc. station in Edgemont from 1952 to 1956, or their surviving family members, the Rapid City Journal reported.

Congress created the program in 2000 for employees of the U.S. Department of Energy who suffered illnesses arising from their work in nuclear weapons production and testing programs. The Edgemont station sold uranium to the U.S. government for nuclear weapons production during the Cold War.

Uranium occurs naturally in rocks. It's a basic ingredient for nuclear bombs and nuclear power. It's used to produce the enormous amounts of energy in a nuclear detonation or a nuclear reactor. Inhaling large concentrations of uranium in the form of mining dust can cause cancer.

The program provides compensation and medical benefits for contractor and subcontractor employees of the station who, "as a result of this employment, sustained illnesses arising from their exposure to toxic substances, including exposure to radiation," according to a federal government notice sent to the Journal.

It has already paid a total of \$10.37 million to 120 South Dakota workers.

Compensation can be lump-sum payments of \$150,000, plus medical expenses, or people can qualify

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for a cap of \$250,000 for wage losses, impairment benefits and medical expenses.

Not everyone who worked at the facility is eligible. Applicants must meet a number of qualifications.

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

## Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press undefined

### Argus Leader, Sioux Falls, July 26

#### Where do South Dakota's elected leaders draw the line?

Words can be poisonous, and the dangers spread slowly, methodically, if the contagion is permitted to thrive. The truth of that has been made excruciatingly plain over the past two weeks.

We have witnessed an appalling display of what now passes for political discourse, with racist statements coming from the mouth and Twitter pronouncements of the President of the United States, the person occupying the most influential office in the world.

It's disheartening to see many of our neighbors, and even the three members of our state's congressional delegation, shrug off racism as "rhetoric" in naked displays of political expediency. Given recent history, though, maybe it's not surprising.

Donald Trump's tweeted suggestion July 14 that four freshman Congresswomen of color "go back and help fix the totally broken and crime infested places from which they came" quickly infected supporters who attended a North Carolina rally three days later.

The president spent five minutes painting Somali-born Minnesota Representative Ilhan Omar, who immigrated as a refugee with her parents and was naturalized in her teens, as an anti-Semitic terrorist sympathizer who hates America. The ensuing crowd reaction devolved into loathsome chants of "Send her back! Send her back!" Trump did nothing and said nothing to stop it.

Is this what the current version of the Republican Party stands for? If not, where is the outrage?

Those who argue that Trump's "go back where you came from" sentiment, issued toward the politically left-leaning quartet of women known as "The Squad," is somehow not racist are engaging in mental gymnastics. His comment was aimed at four non-white American citizens — three of whom were born in the United States and all of whom are duly elected members of the U.S. House of Representatives.

South Dakota's own elected officials made the minimum responses needed to look like actual human beings in the storm that ensued. Representative Dusty Johnson called Trump's comments "inappropriate" and not "helpful," but first he made sure to indicate his alignment with the president regarding the policy stances of "the far-left members of the House."

Senator Mike Rounds called Trump's choice of words a "distraction" and said that he wished "both sides acted with more civility." Senator John Thune stood beside Mitch McConnell as the Senate Majority Leader told reporters that "the president is not a racist." In a statement after that press conference, Thune said "I think the president needs to tone down the rhetoric, stop the personal attacks, rise above this kind of commentary and focus on the issues that matter to the American people." All three called for a pivot toward enacting the policies they believe will strengthen the nation.

Thune, the second-most powerful Republican in the Senate, notably called for Trump to be dropped from the presidential ticket in 2016 after the release of an "Access Hollywood" recording in which Trump used an obscene slang term to describe his predatory approach toward women he desired sexually. We know Thune is willing to draw lines, but how often are they tied to political benefit? At the time of that rebuke, all signs pointed to the GOP, with Trump at the vanguard, losing the election.

After Trump's widely unexpected win, Thune tempered his public stance to a large degree. The state he represents went for Trump in that election by a margin of 2-to-1, and South Dakota voters continue to poll heavily in support regardless of the president's increasingly incendiary language.

Failure to roundly condemn these words is not merely just as bad as full-throated support. It may be worse. It enables continued incremental degradation of our social discourse and deepens the political and

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racial divides. Watered-down rebukes and redirections to policy differences are not nearly enough — especially for Thune, whose duties aren't limited only to undiluted representation of his constituency. He is also responsible for bearing the Republican standard at the highest level.

In Senator Rounds' initial response to the "go back" controversy, he implied that the blame for Trump's words lay with "The Squad," saying "I believe the president is attempting to point out their unproductive, anti-American criticisms of our country." Later, on the same day of the "Send her back!" chants, Rounds (who is up for election in 2020) ramped up his wrongheadedness, tweeting: "South Dakotans are patriots. We love America and South Dakota's quality of life. We're tired of radical nonsense from professional resisters. We must aim higher and focus on what unites us. We stand for our country, our flag and with (Trump)."

This editorial board believes that our members of Congress hold themselves to be good men with a reliable moral compass. But too often they demur to the whims, language and actions of the current president rather than standing up for basic American values, such as the right of all citizens, no matter their skin color or background, to offer dissenting views and challenge the status quo.

This country was built on the backs of those who came from somewhere else, those who look "different," those who disagree. To stand back and allow inflammatory language to the contrary smacks of political cowardice, or the opposite of principled leadership.

It's past time for South Dakota's trio in Washington to decide where they will draw their line. Ours has already been crossed.

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## Rapid City Journal, July 27

### Housing shortage fixes both a risk, and opportunity

A shortage of affordable housing stands, arguably, as Rapid City government's greatest challenge, and the current shortage could worsen.

Several efforts are afoot to ease the pain, but risks also loom. The issues are technical, but if you care about the city's future, you'll pay attention to affordable housing proposals scheduled to come before the council this fall. Rapid City desperately needs housing solutions, but it doesn't need short-term fixes that cause more pain later. The details will matter.

The housing shortage is big, real and here. A 2018 study found Rapid City short by 3,500 owner-occupied homes costing less than \$900 per month. The city is short 1,500 rental units costing less than \$500 per month. It's hard to deny the evidence: Recent housing price increases have been reminiscent of the West Coast.

Unfortunately, residents here don't earn California wages. In fact, South Dakota has the third-lowest average wage for employed people in the country. In Rapid City between 2010 and 2016, median household income — adjusted for inflation — fell by 3.2 percent, while the local adjusted median home price increased 11.5 percent. To ease the homeless problem, to solve the workforce shortage, something's got to give.

Loosely defined, "affordable housing" refers to housing — including utilities — that costs less than 30 percent of gross family income. Is 30 percent affordable? In 2016, roughly 4,400 area households paid more than half of their gross incomes to housing. That's definitely not affordable.

Strong population growth, meanwhile, stands as a probability. It's even factored into the proposed tax rate for the next round of school district construction. Housing, income, schools and employment — it's all connected.

Rapid City government has no magic housing fix. The city doesn't build homes. It creates incentives and changes rules that affect housing. Among the ideas that could come before the city council in September:

- Lowering the cost of city building permits.
- Reducing lot size requirements to allow for the development of tiny homes — smaller than 400 square feet, equivalent to a room 20 feet square.
- Allowing property owners to build granny flats, provided they meet some minimal requirement and aren't vacation rentals.

A survey seeking input on these ideas can be found at [surveymonkey.com/r/RCAHSurvey](https://surveymonkey.com/r/RCAHSurvey). The deadline

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for comments is Aug. 19.

Each proposal comes with a trade-off. Low-cost building permits could reduce housing prices but they would also reduce city revenues.

Smaller lot sizes for tiny homes that cost less than \$100,000 would benefit the poor, but done badly they could become a ghetto within decades. We don't need additional dilapidated mobile home parks.

Affordable housing isn't solely a factor of income. These are homes and communities for children and families. They provide measures of stability necessary to build better lives.

Small homes and less costly construction can be done well, but not if maximum profit is the driving force. Affordable housing done on the cheap could prove harmful to Rapid City's future. Some places get it wrong and suffer the consequences. Some get it right and reap benefits. Communities take the wrong path out of desperation or when nobody pays attention.

Meanwhile, we're encouraged by other efforts to create affordable housing.

In June, the council approved the development of 265 single-family homes and 250 apartments — the largest Rapid City subdivision in decades. Construction of the Shepherd Hills subdivision near Menards in northeast Rapid City should begin this summer. The developer, Rapid City firm Dream Design International, says homes will range between \$160,000 and \$350,000. Some apartments will cost between \$500 and \$600 a month. A separate Dream Design project, the 23-acre Shepherd Hills West subdivision, will contain a mix of affordable units and mobile homes.

June also saw the creation of a partnership between Rapid City Collective Impact and the Minnesota nonprofit CommonBond Communities. CommonBond, with advice from Rapid City leaders and using grants from the Black Hills Area Community Foundation and the John T. Vucurevich Foundation, expects to begin real estate development later this year.

Coming at the problem from a variety of directions increases the odds of success. With a little effort, Rapid City can benefit from expected growth while retaining its present charms.

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## Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, July 25

### We say ... With Honors

THUMBS UP to the University of Sioux Falls, which will induct the late Richard "Dutch" Erickson to its athletic Hall of Fame later this year. Erickson, who was born on his family's farm near Vermillion and lived in Yankton when he passed away in 2015, left a mark on USF (then Sioux Falls College) as a head basketball coach and athletic director, spending 16 years at the institution. His 1969-70 team will also be inducted this year. He also left a mark on Yankton in his 12 years here, serving as a volunteer and helping with the Yankton Quarterback Club, among other things. It is a fitting honor for a man who left a big impact.

Crazy Times

THUMBS UP to a crazy two weeks of events that begin today (Friday) in Yankton with the NFAA Field Outdoor Championships. A two-day qualifier (July 29-30) will lead into the Hillcrest Invitational Pro-Am Aug. 1-4. Yankton will also host the South Dakota Class AA 13-14 Year-Old Baseball Tournament Aug. 2-4. Other events in the region include the District 6B Amateur Baseball Tournament in Wynot, Nebraska (July 25-Aug. 3), the South Dakota Class A 16-Under VFW Baseball Tournament in North Sioux City (Aug. 2-4) and the South Dakota State B American Legion Baseball Tournament in Lennox (Aug. 2-6).

THUMBS DOWN to Washington's ongoing inability to face up to the threat to America's election security. During his testimony on Capitol Hill Wednesday, Robert Mueller was asked about Russian attempts to interfere with U.S. elections similar to what Moscow did here in 2016 and has done in other countries. Mueller warned that it's happened before and, "They're doing it as we sit here. And they expect to do it during the next campaign." On Thursday, leaders of the Senate Intelligence Committee echoed Mueller's warning in issuing a report on the issue. But in between those two, Mississippi Republican Sen. Cindy Hyde Smith blocked consideration of three House bills focused on election security, and it wasn't the first time that the Senate has stopped such measures. Draw your own conclusions, but the urgency on this issue is pressing and needs to be addressed by our lawmakers sooner than later.

## Experts: Event organizers should improve emergency plans

By STEFANIE DAZIO Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Event organizers should review their emergency plans after the deadly shooting at a California food festival to see if they can make additional safety improvements as the peak of summer and fair season brings open-air environments that are notoriously difficult to secure, law enforcement experts said.

The weekend shooting at the Gilroy Garlic Festival left three dead — including two children — and a dozen wounded at the famous three-day event that attracts more than 100,000 people annually to the agricultural community in Northern California .

The festival included a perimeter fence, metal detectors, a bag search and police patrols. Despite those measures, 19-year-old Santino William Legan cut through the fence and, wielding a rifle, opened fire before three officers — in less than a minute — fatally shot him, preventing additional casualties.

"Anytime you put on a large event with a lot of people you're always concerned, which is why we try to run a very tight, closed event where there's, you know, controlled access," Gilroy Police Chief Scot Smithee said at a news conference Monday. "Do we think about how we're going to respond if something were to happen? I would say the answer is yes."

Experts ticked off a list of ideal precautions: a perimeter fence — or even two — with roving police patrols, as well as drones, security cameras, social media monitoring, bag checks, metal detectors, limited points of entry and an "overwatch" police unit that monitors the event from a high perch.

Recommendations for an overwatch position and securing beyond the site of the event are similar to suggested improvements after another deadly festival shooting: In 2017, a gunman on the 32nd floor of a hotel fired into a crowd and killed 58 people in Las Vegas. It became the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history. A review recommended securing high-rise buildings overlooking open-air venues, not just the festivals themselves.

"It's not just OK to secure your perimeter and think you're safe," Michael Downing, a former Los Angeles Police Department deputy chief, said.

Still, officials said first responders and event coordinators need to balance safety concerns, costs and a welcoming atmosphere for visitors, noting that eventgoers likely do not want to be subjected to extensive screening with X-ray machines and metal detectors.

"You obviously can't do an event that is set up like an international airport," said Sheriff Tony Spurlock of Douglas County, Colorado, where the annual county fair is being held this week. "It's not the kind of environment that we would set up magnetometers at every entrance."

Brian Higgins, a former Bergen County, New Jersey, police chief, said controlling an event's perimeter through technology and police is key to safety. Although a long line of people at a single point of entry can pose its own target, limited access means law enforcement can more easily see who is coming in and out — and with what.

"Just because it's a family-friendly event doesn't mean that something bad can't happen," Higgins said.

Although festivalgoers may notice increased security in the coming weeks, experts don't foresee a major shift in safety protocols going forward.

"Events like this are occurring across the country every weekend and it's up to those event coordinators to determine the extent to which they want to employ security features," Craig Fair, deputy special agent in charge at the FBI's San Francisco office, said at Monday's news conference.

Experts praised the Gilroy Police Department's precautionary efforts and quick response, noting that law enforcement there had taken many critical steps.

"If somebody's that determined to do something that terrible, it's going to be hard to stop them," said Soraya Sutherlin, managing partner of Los Angeles-based Emergency Management Safety Partners.

Sutherlin said event planners should clearly label exits, with signs pointing people toward an evacuation route, and design a way for visitors to report suspicious activity either in person, over the phone or through an app.

Officials said there must be greater efforts to identify future shooters beforehand, through social media monitoring or other means.

"How do we figure out that he was an absolute ticking time bomb waiting to go off?" said Stephan Dembinsky, public safety director in Daytona Beach Shores, Florida. "Until we figure out how to identify them, we're going to keep having these shootings."

## 2nd Dem debate will be some candidates' last chance to shine

By SARA BURNETT Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Democrats gathering in Detroit for a pivotal presidential debate will have to decide, once again, how to respond to President Donald Trump while presenting their own vision for the country.

Candidates are sure to use the high-profile setting on Tuesday and Wednesday to blast Trump's recent string of racist and incendiary tweets and comments, first about four congresswomen and more recently about Baltimore, a racially diverse U.S. city that, like Detroit, has faced challenges. But they'll also be under pressure to provide specifics about how they would improve the lives of Americans by lowering the cost of health care or protecting jobs at a time when the economy is showing signs of sputtering.

The second debate of the Democratic primary has higher stakes for a historically large field of more than 20 candidates, 10 of whom will face off each night. For several candidates, the debates will likely offer a last chance to be considered a serious contender for the party's nomination. Tougher rules set by the Democratic National Committee are expected to winnow the race. To qualify for the next debates in September, candidates must raise money from more donors and hit higher polling thresholds — a bar more than half of the candidates are at risk of missing.

"Everything's at stake," said Jill Alper, a Democratic strategist who has worked on seven presidential campaigns. She had simple and direct advice for the White House hopefuls confronting questions about Trump: "protest and pivot" — and "pivot quickly" — to what they can offer American families.

The two leading progressives in the field, Sens. Bernie Sanders of Vermont and Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, will be at center stage on Tuesday. Warren's campaign has gained ground in recent weeks, partially at the expense of Sanders. The debate could offer a high-profile chance for Warren to prove to Sanders' supporters that she's worthy of their consideration.

The night will also provide a contrast with more moderate candidates, such as South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg, former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke and Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, poised to offer themselves as alternatives to the liberals.

Also on stage will be former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper, who has repeatedly said Sanders' brand of democratic socialism is bad for the party and the country, as well as Ohio Rep. Tim Ryan, former Maryland Rep. John Delaney, author Marianne Williamson and Montana Gov. Steve Bullock, who joined the race after the other candidates and did not qualify for last month's debate in Miami.

Wednesday will provide a rematch between former Vice President Joe Biden and California Sen. Kamala Harris, who went after Biden during the June debate for not supporting federal busing orders as a means of desegregation when he was in the U.S. Senate in the 1970s, prefacing her comments by saying, "I do not believe you are a racist."

Biden defended his record but appeared caught off guard by the exchange, a shaky response that could give voters pause about his ability to go toe-to-toe with Trump on a debate stage or otherwise in a general election, said Michigan-based pollster Bernie Porn.

"Biden needs to do better," he said.

Several candidates have been putting out policy proposals ahead of the debate, likely as a way to get out in front of rivals' criticism.

Harris, who says she supports Sanders' plan for "Medicare for All," released a proposal Monday that stopped short of the proposal he and other more liberal candidates are backing. She said she envisions a role for private insurers — Sanders' plan does not — and she would slow the transition to 10 years rather than four.



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While Sanders won't be on stage with Harris, other advocates of the plan will be, and could take her to task for not going far enough. Biden's campaign, meanwhile, attacked from another direction, saying that she has been inconsistent and that her plan would undo the Affordable Care Act approved under President Barack Obama and force a large tax increase on middle-class families.

Warren on Monday rolled out a trade policy that would propose nine preconditions for U.S. trading partners to meet to participate in agreements, including an end to fossil-fuel subsidies. She did not rule out tariffs, echoing some of the rhetoric Trump used in 2016 as he wooed working-class voters in places like Michigan.

Democratic strategist Jamal Simmons said the intramural fight among Democrats is necessary to get a battle-tested nominee who is ready to face Trump on all topics, including race. But he said it's important for Democrats not to let the president off the hook for his racial rhetoric and policies, noting, "The Trump factor is always present." He said Trump's latest comments blasting Democratic Rep. Elijah Cummings and his Baltimore-area district underscore voters' unease with Trump in the White House.

"People argue over whether we are beating up the ultimate nominee, but if we don't, Trump will," Simmons said. "People are testing each other. How you stand up under pressure is part of what the judgment is of who's the best candidate."

The Trump campaign and Michigan Republicans also were readying for the 2020 election, meeting in Lansing for what they said was part of a nationwide effort to train thousands of volunteers. Michigan GOP Chairwoman Laura Cox said they were starting earlier than in past election cycles.

Associated Press writers Errin Haines Whack in Philadelphia and David Eggert in Lansing, Michigan, contributed to this report.

## 10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

### 1. DEMOCRATIC DEBATE COULD WINNOW THE FIELD

The second set of presidential debates over two nights in Detroit will be a last chance for some 2020 candidates to be considered serious contenders.

### 2. WHAT DEMOGRAPHIC COULD IMPACT TRUMP

The president's recent return to racial politics risks alienating professional, suburban women — a critical voting bloc in the 2020 election.

### 3. EXPERTS: CHECK EMERGENCY PLANS AFTER FESTIVAL SHOOTING

Among their recommendations: A perimeter fence with roving police patrols, drones, security cameras, social media monitoring, bag checks, metal detectors and limiting points of entry.

### 4. 'WE ARE LOSING HOPE'

Since the U.S. has increased sanctions on Iran, the prices for imported medicines have soared in Tehran as the national currency tumbles against the dollar.

### 5. TRUMP NOT THE 1ST TO MAKE RACIAL GESTURES

Throughout American history, presidents have uttered comments, issued decisions and made public and private moves that critics said were racist, either at the time or in later generations.

### 6. CAPITAL ONE TARGET OF MASSIVE DATA BREACH

A hacker who goes by the handle "erratic" gained access to personal information from more than 100 million of the bank's credit applications.

### 7. WHO'S IN LIMBO

Thousands of Cubans living in the U.S. have had their hopes of reuniting with family members put on hold since the Trump administration severely restricted legal migration.

### 8. TRUMP TO BE PART OF HISTORICAL CELEBRATION AT JAMESTOWN

Virginia is commemorating the 400th anniversary of the rise of American democracy, but Trump's deci-

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sion to go has led black state lawmakers to boycott the ceremony.

## 9. KATY PERRY LOSES RARE COPYRIGHT CASE

Jurors who found that the pop star and her team copied her 2013 hit "Dark Horse" will now decide how much they owe a Christian rapper and his co-writers.

## 10. NFL COMMISSIONER ORDERED TO TESTIFY

A Louisiana judge orders Roger Goodell and three officials from January's NFC title game be questioned under oath about the infamous "no-call" that helped the Rams beat the Saints.

## Suburban women recoil as Trump dives into racial politics

By **MARC LEVY** and **SCOTT BAUER** Associated Press

BROOKFIELD, Wis. (AP) — Carol Evans approves of Donald Trump's immigration policy. She gives him credit for the strong economy. But the Republican from the affluent Milwaukee suburbs of Waukesha County, a GOP bedrock in the state, just can't commit to voting for the president next year like she did in 2016.

"I just don't like the way he talks about other people," Evans, a 79-year-old retired data entry supervisor, said recently as she walked through a shopping mall in Brookfield, Wisconsin, days after Trump fired off a racist tweet at Democratic congresswomen.

The president's recent return to racial politics may be aimed at rallying his base of white working-class voters across rural America. But the risks of the strategy are glaring in conversations with women like Evans.

Many professional, suburban women — a critical voting bloc in the 2020 election — recoil at the abrasive, divisive rhetoric, exposing the president to a potential wave of opposition in key battlegrounds across the country.

In more than three dozen interviews by The Associated Press with women in critical suburbs, nearly all expressed dismay — or worse — at Trump's racially polarizing insults and what was often described as unpresidential treatment of people. Even some who gave Trump credit for the economy or backed his crack-down on immigration acknowledged they were troubled or uncomfortable lining up behind the president.

The interviews in suburbs outside Philadelphia, Milwaukee, Detroit and Denver are a warning light for the Republican president's reelection campaign. Trump did not win a majority of female voters in 2016, but he won enough — notably winning white women by a roughly 10 percentage-point margin, according to the American National Election Studies survey — to help him eke out victories across the Rust Belt and take the White House.

Since then, there are few signs Trump has expanded his support among women. The 2018 midterms amounted to a strong showing of opposition among women in the suburbs, registering in unprecedented turnout overall, a Democratic House and a record number of women elected in statehouses across the country.

A continuing trend of women voting against Republicans could prove exceedingly difficult for Trump to overcome in his 2020 reelection bid.

"It's one of the more serious problems that the Republicans face," said G. Terry Madonna, a pollster and director of the Center for Politics and Public Affairs at Franklin and Marshall College in Pennsylvania.

In the Detroit suburb of Novi, where Democrat Hillary Clinton narrowly beat Trump in 2016, pet store worker Emily West says she probably would have cast her ballot for Trump if she had voted in 2016. Now, she's primed to vote against him.

"It was mainly when he got into office when my opinion started changing," said West, 26. "Just the way he treats people."

West spoke days after Trump fired off a tweet calling on four Democratic congresswomen of color to "go back" to their home countries, even though three of the four were born in the United States. Trump's supporters later turned "send her back" into a rally cry aimed at the one foreign-born member of the group, Rep. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, who arrived in the U.S. as a child refugee from Somalia.

Over the weekend, Trump picked up another racial trope, using his Twitter feed to attack Democratic Rep. Elijah Cummings and his majority-black Baltimore district by calling it a "disgusting, rat and rodent

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infested mess" where "no human being would want to live."

Pollsters say it is difficult to measure whether female voters will count Trump's behavior against him more than their male counterparts will in 2020. But interviews with women reveal a clear discomfort with Trump's character: It emerged again and again in the AP's interviews and was a consistent objection cited by women across the political spectrum.

"I did not think it was going to be as bad as it is — definitely narcissism and sexism, but I did not think it was going to be as bad as it is," said Kathy Barnes while shopping in the Denver suburb of conservative-leaning Lone Tree. "I am just ashamed to be an American right now."

Barnes, a 55-year-old former insurance broker, left the Democratic Party years ago because she was open to voting Republican, but now she is one of the reasons that Colorado, once a competitive swing state, has been slipping away from the GOP.

In Novi, Michigan, Yael Telgheder, 36, says she tends to vote Democratic and reluctantly voted for Clinton in 2016, "even though I didn't like either, by the way." Asked about Trump, the database manager lowers her voice.

"I don't think I should say those words in front of my daughter," she said, her 3-year-old next to her. "To be honest, there are certain things that — he's a businessman — so I understand the reasons behind them. But all of the disrespect and lies and stuff like that, it's just too much for me."

Such women are an electoral threat to the president in large part because women outnumber and outvote men, noted Kelly Dittmar, a political science professor and a scholar at the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University.

"They are especially vital because they are base voters for Democrats. They vote for Democrats in larger numbers than men, but for Republicans, they are also important because they have tended to be a larger proportion of swing voters," Dittmar said.

The Trump campaign has tried to shore up their support. It launched its "Women for Trump" coalition in suburban Philadelphia this summer, drawing hundreds of women to see Trump's daughter-in-law, Lara Trump, and others to promote the message that Trump supports women's issues and a strong economy.

Erin Perrine, the campaign's deputy communications director, said the campaign sees the Philadelphia suburbs as a place it may pick up support.

Trump's tweet at the so-called squad of Democratic congresswomen along with interviews in politically divided Bucks County, Pennsylvania, where Clinton beat Trump by 2,700 votes, or less than 1 percentage point, demonstrated the Trump campaign's challenge. Nearly all of the dozen women interviewed disapproved of Trump's rhetoric.

"The way he treats people, it's horrible," said Victoria Galiczynski, a 63-year-old registered Democrat, before she pushed her shopping cart into an upscale grocery store in Newtown.

Chris Myers, a 52-year-old accountant and Trump supporter, ticked off such attributes as his negotiating grit, but also quickly acknowledged his behavior.

"He's not the most pleasant person. He can be very blunt and boorish," Myers said as she prepared to go grocery shopping. "But I think this country needs someone who is more business-oriented."

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Levy reported from Doylestown and Newtown, Pennsylvania. Associated Press writers David Eggert in Novi, Michigan; Hannah Fingerhut in Washington; and Nicholas Riccardi in Lone Tree and Castle Rock, Colorado, contributed to this report.

## Baltimore-area district pushes back against Trump comments

By **JUANA SUMMERS** and **REGINA GARCIA CANO** Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — As Latoya Peoples painted a mural with high school-age students Monday in Baltimore, she was determined not to let President Donald Trump's recent tweets about the city "sink in too much." Peoples was in Sandtown-Winchester, the West Baltimore neighborhood where Freddie Gray grew up

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years before his death in police custody in 2015 prompted a racial uprising. Now Baltimore is in the spotlight again, this time because of the president's recent attacks on Rep. Elijah Cummings, a powerful Trump critic who has represented Maryland in Congress for decades. Trump called the congressman's district a "disgusting, rat and rodent infested mess" where "no human being would want to live."

While parts of Maryland's 7th Congressional District have struggled with poverty and crime, it also includes more affluent areas and Baltimore landmarks such as Johns Hopkins University and its hospital, the Social Security Administration and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Elsewhere are cultural touchstones like the Baltimore Museum of Art and the world-class Walters Art Museum.

Residents of Maryland's largest city say their home bears no resemblance to the place Trump described. "People think you can't walk through here. It's intimidating," Peoples said. "It's nothing like that."

Trump's tweets paint an incomplete picture of a sprawling district that spans Baltimore City and parts of surrounding counties. It has stretches of empty storefronts and boarded-up homes, as well as trendy neighborhoods dotted with manicured parks and restaurants. It also has Pimlico Race Course, which is home to the Preakness Stakes, the second jewel of horse-racing's annual Triple Crown.

Sari Garbis, who lives in Clarksville, more than 20 miles from Baltimore City, said her community is diverse and well-educated and that she is "very proud" that Cummings represents her.

"You're talking about a congressman that needs to represent very diverse interests," Garbis said. "I believe that he represents my interests as well, and with the same sense of purpose, as he does the people of Baltimore City."

Clarksville is in Howard County, which is routinely counted among the nation's most affluent. So is Ellicott City, a historic mill town. As he stood outside a recreation center, longtime resident Mac Chrysskos said that nearby Baltimore has a crime problem that needs to be brought under control, but that attacks on the district were "totally uncalled for and totally unfair."

Cummings' district, which is nearly 53% black, has a median household income of \$60,929, though there is a sizeable wealth gap between white and black residents.

Few residents will deny that Baltimore has problems with violent crime and drugs. The city's murder rate has soared in recent years, with Baltimore recording more than 300 homicides in 2018, most from gunfire. Residents say those struggles have compounded over the years, owing to institutional segregation and neglect by the federal government.

The city's previous mayor was forced to resign earlier this year. In the past five years, there have been five police commissioners.

Residents are clear-eyed about the community's challenges but frustrated by Trump's comments, which seemed to shrink the city to a crime-infested caricature.

Nancy O. Greene, who has lived in Baltimore for 15 years, pointed to the thriving arts community in her neighborhood of Charles Village and throughout the district. Green said she supports Cummings but complains about times when "money was needed and money wasn't received" by district residents.

"You're not going to keep Baltimore down," she added. "Despite anything, people will come together to defend the city. It has a rich history from Edgar Allen Poe, F. Scott Fitzgerald — you name it. ... You can't say this city doesn't have a lot going for it."

Other parts of the city are represented by two other Democratic lawmakers: Reps. John Sarbanes and Dutch Ruppersburger. Statewide, Democrats outnumber Republicans 2 to 1.

Earlier Monday, the Rev. Al Sharpton held a news conference at a West Baltimore church alongside former Maryland Lt. Gov. Michael Steele, a Republican.

Trump has described Sharpton as "a con man" who "Hates Whites & Cops!" Sharpton said Trump "has a particular venom for blacks and people of color."

For his part, Steele challenged Trump to visit blighted areas of West Baltimore and talk with residents to learn about their challenges and understand their "hard work and commitment."

"Mr. President, come on down," Steele said. "The streets are ready for you. The neighborhoods are ready for you ... Put the tweet down, brother, and show up."

But some local residents say they are not interested in a visit from Trump.

Benn Ray, who lives in the Remington neighborhood of Baltimore City and is the co-owner of Atomic Books in neighboring Hampden, said Trump "hasn't ingratiated himself to the city, he hasn't made himself welcome."

"I don't know what city he is describing," he said of Trump's attacks. "Like every other city, we have rats and crime. We have good neighborhoods and bad. But as a city, and a community, we endeavor to make things better."

Associated Press writers Matthew Daly in Washington and Michael Kunzelman in College Park, Maryland, contributed to this report.

## California town pledges to remain strong in wake of shooting

By KATHLEEN RONAYNE and JULIE WATSON Associated Press

GILROY, Calif. (AP) — Only a few days ago, Gilroy was known for one thing: garlic. The rural community near San Francisco lived and breathed the prized, pungent crop.

Now it's the site of the latest American mass shooting.

On Sunday evening, a 19-year-old gunman with apparent white supremacist views slipped into the annual Gilroy Garlic Festival and unloaded an assault-style weapon before police shot him to death.

On Monday night, hundreds of residents held a candlelight vigil to mourn a 6-year-old boy, a 13-year-old girl and a New York college graduate who were slain. Twelve others were injured.

As they raised votive candles, long tapers or tea lights, they also raised their spirits in the defiant cry of "Gilroy Strong."

A sign reading the same underneath an American flag covered in two garlic cloves hung from the front of the stage.

"We cannot let the bastard that did this tear us down," Mayor Roland Velasco declared to cheers.

It was the cry heard so often after shootings at schools, parks, movies, nightclubs and festivals around the country.

From Washington, President Donald Trump condemned the "wicked murderer."

The shooting brought out renewed demands for national gun control by politicians in California, which already has some of the strictest firearms laws in the nation. Gov. Gavin Newsom called for controls on high-powered, high-capacity guns he labeled "weapons of mass destruction."

"Today, I met with a 12-year-old who was shot while in a bounce house. A grandmother mourning the loss of her 6-year-old grandson," Newsom tweeted. "This is America today — the shootings continue. Loved ones are buried. Children are gunned down. And Congress does nothing."

"It keeps happening, over and over and over again, on their damn watch," Newsom told reporters. "I can't put borders up in a neighboring state where you can buy this damn stuff legally."

The shooter, Santino William Legan, legally purchased the semi-automatic assault rifle this month in Nevada, where his last address is listed. He would have been barred from buying it in California, which restricts firearms purchases to people over 21. In Nevada, the age limit is 18.

While authorities sought a motive for the killings, they noted that he had posted white supremacist views. He urged his Instagram followers to read a 19th century book popular with white supremacists on extremist websites. It appeared with a photo of Smokey the Bear in front of a "fire danger" sign. Legan also complained about overcrowding towns and paving open space to make room for "hordes" of Latinos and Silicon Valley whites.

In his last Instagram post Sunday, Legan sent a photo from the Gilroy Garlic Festival minutes before opening fire.

Under it, he wrote: "Ayyy garlic festival time" and "Come get wasted on overpriced" items. Legan's since-deleted Instagram account says he is Italian and Iranian.

The postings are among the first details that have emerged about Legan since authorities say he appeared to fire at random, sending people running and diving under tables. Police patrolling the event responded

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within a minute and killed Legan as he turned the weapon on them.

Legan grew up less than a mile from the park where the city known as the "Garlic Capital of the World" has held its three-day festival for four decades, attracting more than 100,000 people with music, food booths and cooking classes.

Police searched Legan's vehicle and the two-story Legan family home, leaving with paper bags. Authorities also searched an apartment they believed Legan used this month in remote northern Nevada. Officials didn't say what they found.

Big Mikes Gun and Ammo, which appears to be a home-based internet gun shop in Fallon, Nevada, said on its Facebook page that Legan ordered the rifle off its website and "was acting happy and showed no reasons for concern" when the store owner met him. The post said it was "heartbroken this could ever happen."

The shooting followed a series of mass killings in California, including an attack at a Thousand Oaks bar in November where 12 people died and a 2015 terrorist attack in San Bernardino where 14 were killed. The nation's worst modern mass shooting remains a 2017 attack at a country music concert in Las Vegas where a gunman killed 58 and injured hundreds.

In California, police had training in how to respond to an active shooter. While they prepared for the worst, they never expected to use those skills in Gilroy, a city of about 50,000 roughly 80 miles (176 kilometers) southeast of San Francisco.

The city had security in place for one of the largest food fairs in the U.S. It required people to pass through metal detectors and have their bags searched. Police, paramedics and firefighters were stationed throughout the festival.

But Legan didn't go through the front entrance. He cut through a fence bordering a parking lot next to a creek, Gilroy Police Chief Scot Smithee said. Some witnesses reported a second suspect, and authorities were trying to determine if he had any help.

The gunfire sent people in sunhats and flip-flops running away screaming. Some dove for cover under the decorated food booth tables. Others crawled under a concert stage, where a band had started playing its last song.

Candice Marquez, 51, a honey vendor at the festival, said she was just 10 feet (3 meters) from the shooter and saw him replace a clip of ammunition.

"He was super quiet, he was reloading, and we ran," she told the San Francisco Chronicle.

The youngest victim, Stephen Romero, described by his grandmother as a kind, happy and playful kid, had just celebrated his 6th birthday in June at Legoland in Southern California.

"My son had his whole life to live and he was only 6," his father, Alberto Romero, told San Francisco Bay Area news station KNTV after the shooting.

Also killed was 13-year-old Keyla Salazar from San Jose. The teen was eating ice cream with family members when they heard gunshots and began to flee, said her aunt, Katuska Vargas.

The teen stayed back to keep pace with a relative who uses a cane and was shot with a bullet that otherwise might have hit that woman, Vargas said.

Vargas says Keyla's stepfather was wounded as he went back for her.

Keyla loved animals and was planning on getting a puppy for one of her two younger sisters, Vargas said.

"She was such a caring person," Vargas said. "She would give everything to other people ... We lost a really beautiful life."

The oldest victim killed was Trevor Irby, 25, a biology major who graduated in 2017 from Keuka College in upstate New York.

Troy Towner said his sister, Wendy Towner, was at the festival for her business, the Honey Ladies, when she saw a man with a gun climb over the fence. She yelled at him: "No, you can't do that!"

The gunman shot her in the leg and her husband three times, while a young girl dragged their 3-year-old son under a table, Towner wrote on a fundraising page he set up for his sister.

Legan then approached the couple as they lay motionless on the ground and asked if they were all right.

They didn't move, fearing he would finish them off, Towner wrote.

Towner said his sister underwent surgery and was expected to have long-term nerve damage, while her husband faces many surgeries.

Candice Marquez, who works for Wendy Towner and her husband, Francisco, told The Associated Press that she had stepped away to go to the bathroom and saw the gunman heading to their tent. She said her 10-year-old niece helped the toddler to safety.

"She was brave," Marquez said.

Jan Dickson, a neighbor who lives across the street from the Legan family, described them as "a nice, normal family." She said Santino Legan had not lived there for at least a year.

"How do you cope with this? They have to deal with the fact that their son did this terrible thing and that he died," Dickson said.

Watson reported from San Diego. Associated Press reporter Mike Balsamo in Washington, Natalie Rice in Los Angeles, Scott Sonner in Hawthorne, Nevada, Ken Ritter in Las Vegas, and Martha Mendoza in Gilroy contributed to this report.

## Presidents have made racist gestures throughout US history

By **RUSSELL CONTRERAS** Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — When President Donald Trump drew widespread condemnation for describing a majority-black congressional district as a "rat and rodent infested mess" and for tweets targeting four Democratic congresswomen of color, it was not the first time a U.S. president attracted such attention.

Throughout American history, presidents have uttered comments, issued decisions and made public and private moves that critics said were racist, either at the time or in later generations. The presidents did so both before taking office and during their time in the White House.

Many of the early presidents, George Washington to Zachary Taylor, owned black slaves and held power when African Americans, Native Americans and Latinos did not have the right to vote or serve on juries and could be refused service in public accommodations. They often repeated commonly held racist views, even when challenged by scholars or civil rights leaders.

Before he became the nation's third president, Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence that "all men are created equal." But in his only book, "Notes on the State of Virginia," published in 1785, the future president expressed a series of beliefs about African Americans that would be seen today as racist.

He wrote that blacks were cursed with "a very strong and disagreeable odor" and were incapable of producing art and poetry. And though he said he believed slavery was immoral, he owned slaves and, historians say, carried on a sexual relationship with at least one of them, Sally Hemings. If every black slave were every freed, he wrote, they should be deported since he believed blacks and whites could not live together peacefully.

Andrew Jackson, the nation's seventh president, was also a slaveholder from the South. Before he became president, he offered in an 1804 advertisement \$50 for the return of a runaway slave and \$10 extra "for every hundred lashes any person will give him, to the amount of 300." In Jon Meacham's 2008 book "American Lion: Andrew Jackson and the White House," Meacham wrote that Jackson owned around 150 slaves and freed none in his will.

As president, Jackson allowed his postmaster general to let Southerners seize anti-slavery publications in direct violation of the First Amendment. He called the abolitionist pamphlets urging black equality "un-constitutional and wicked."

Jackson is widely vilified today among Native Americans for his role in forcibly removing indigenous people from their land, especially for the Trail of Tears. The removal of the Cherokee people from Georgia led to thousands of deaths.

"The philanthropist will rejoice that the remnant of that ill-fated race has been at length placed beyond

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the reach of injury or oppression," Jackson said in his farewell address.

The Virginia-born Woodrow Wilson worked to keep blacks out of Princeton University while serving as that school's president. When he became president of the U.S., the Democrat refused to reverse the segregation of civil service, though he had won the White House with the support for some African American men.

In 1915, Wilson sparked outrage by screening the racist film "The Birth of a Nation" at the White House. The silent movie was the retelling of Reconstruction through the eyes of the Ku Klux Klan. The movie portrayed the KKK as heroes and African Americans as uncivilized.

"No explanation or apology followed" after the screening, Patty O'Toole wrote in "The Moralists: Woodrow Wilson and the World He Made."

Wilson appeared oblivious during the "Red Summer" of 1919 — a time when communities across the country saw white mobs attack African Americans, resulting in hundreds of deaths. He spoke out against lynching but did not use the federal government's resources to stop the violence.

Democrat Lyndon Johnson assumed the presidency in 1963 after the assassination of John F. Kennedy and sought to push a civil rights bill amid demonstrations by African Americans. Johnson famously convinced skeptical lawmakers to support the measure and gave a passionate speech about his days as a teacher in Mexican American schools to urge Congress to pass the Voting Rights Act.

But according to tapes of his private conversations, Johnson routinely used racist epithets to describe African Americans and some blacks he appointed to key positions.

His successor, Republican Richard Nixon, also regularly used racist epithets while in office in private conversations.

"We're going to (place) more of these little Negro bastards on the welfare rolls at \$2,400 a family," Nixon once said about what he saw as lax work requirements. Nixon also made derogatory remarks about Jews, Mexican Americans, Italian Americans and Irish Americans.

Like Johnson, many of Nixon's remarks were unknown to the general public until tapes of White House conversations were released decades later.

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Russell Contreras is a member of The Associated Press' race and ethnicity team. Follow him on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/russcontreras> .

## Capital One target of massive data breach

By GENE JOHNSON Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — A hacker gained access to personal information from more than 100 million Capital One credit applications, the bank said Monday as federal authorities arrested a suspect in the case .

Paige A. Thompson — who also goes by the handle "erratic" — was charged with a single count of computer fraud and abuse in U.S. District Court in Seattle. Thompson made an initial appearance in court and was ordered to remain in custody pending a detention hearing Thursday.

The hacker got information including credit scores and balances plus the Social Security numbers of about 140,000 customers, the bank said. It will offer free credit monitoring services to those affected.

The FBI raided Thompson's residence Monday and seized digital devices. An initial search turned up files that referenced Capital One and "other entities that may have been targets of attempted or actual network intrusions."

A public defender appointed to represent Thompson did not immediately return an email seeking comment.

Capital One, based in McLean, Virginia, said Monday it found out about the vulnerability in its system July 19 and immediately sought help from law enforcement to catch the perpetrator.

According to the FBI complaint, someone emailed the bank two days before that notifying it that leaked data had appeared on the code-hosting site GitHub, which is owned by Microsoft.

And a month before that, the FBI said, a Twitter user who went by "erratic" sent another user direct messages warning about distributing the bank's data, including names, birthdates and Social Security



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numbers. That user later reported the message to Capital One.

"I've basically strapped myself with a bomb vest, (expletive) dropping capitol ones dox and admitting it," one said. "I wanna distribute those buckets i think first."

Capital One said it believes it is unlikely that the information was used for fraud, but it will continue to investigate. The data breach affected about 100 million people in the U.S. and 6 million in Canada.

The bank said the bulk of the hacked data consisted of information supplied by consumers and small businesses who applied for credit cards between 2005 and early 2019. In addition to data such as phone numbers, email addresses, dates of birth and self-reported income, the hacker was also able to access credit scores, credit limits and balances, as well as fragments of transaction information from a total of 23 days in 2016, 2017 and 2018.

"While I am grateful that the perpetrator has been caught, I am deeply sorry for what has happened," said Capital One CEO Richard D. Fairbank. "I sincerely apologize for the understandable worry this incident must be causing those affected and I am committed to making it right."

Capital One Financial Corp., the nation's seventh-largest commercial bank with \$373.6 billion in assets as of June 30, is the latest U.S. company to suffer a major data breach in recent years.

In 2017, a data breach at Equifax, one of the major credit reporting companies, exposed the Social Security numbers and other sensitive information of roughly half of the U.S. population.

Last week, Equifax agreed to pay at least \$700 million to settle lawsuits over the breach in a settlement with federal authorities and states. The agreement includes up to \$425 million in monetary relief to consumers.

Many major banks have sought to stem the risk of data breaches in recent years. JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America and Citibank began replacing customers' debit cards several years ago with more secure chip-based cards. While the cards with chips are common these days, many merchants still rely on the older, less secure card-swiping equipment. Credit card companies have also beefed up fraud monitoring in the wake of high-profile data breaches that hit retailers such as Target and Home Depot.

The average cost of a data breach in the U.S. last year was just under \$8 million, according to a study by IBM Security and Ponemon Institute.

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This story has been corrected to show Twitter messages were sent to a third party, not directly to Capital One.

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Associated Press reporter Alex Veiga in Los Angeles contributed to this article.

## Overhaul would give Congress power to fire USOPC board

By EDDIE PELLIS AP National Writer

A bill spurred by Larry Nassar's sex crimes and other mishandled abuse cases would allow Congress to fire the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee's entire board and would quadruple the money the federation provides to the U.S. Center for SafeSport.

The bill, to be introduced Tuesday, is the most far-reaching response to 18 months of outrage, investigations and recriminations in the wake of the USOPC's handling of the cases involving Nassar and others who combined to victimize dozens of Olympic athletes.

"The best way for the USOC and the national governing (bodies) to show they're serious about stopping abuse is to support this legislation," said Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Connecticut, who co-sponsored the bill with Sen. Jerry Moran, R-Kansas. "It'll be a test to their commitment to turning a new page and bringing in a new era."

The bill would increase athlete representation on the USOPC board and boards of other Olympic sports organizations (NGBs) from 20 to 33 percent. It would make the USOPC and NGBs legally responsible for not reporting sexual abuse or failing to take measures to prevent it.

The law calls for the USOPC to provide \$20 million a year to the U.S. Center for SafeSport, but offers

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no specifics as to how the additional \$15 million will be funded. The USOPC, which receives no federal funding, gave \$3.1 million in 2018 and NGBs doubled their pledge to a total of \$2 million.

Last year, Congress provided a \$2.2 million grant to the center that was spread over three years and could not be used for investigations. Blumenthal said having a concrete number that's separate from the Congressional appropriations process is a better way of ensuring the success of the center and the USOC's responsibility for funding it. The USOC brings in around \$500 million over a typical two-year period.

But as much as the money, this bill is a virtual top-to-bottom reset of the Ted Stevens Amateur Sports Act, passed in 1978 during a time when the biggest concern was corralling the amateurism and cronyism that festered throughout Olympic governance in the United States.

The law was hazy, at best, regarding the USOC's power to dictate to the NGBs it oversees. It said even less about athlete welfare and what, if any, legal repercussions existed for failing to protect them. Those flaws created an environment that allowed Nassar to abuse dozens of gymnasts while volunteering for USA Gymnastics, and for his crimes to go unchecked for more than a year after the concerns were first presented to the USOPC.

This bill, called the "Empowering Olympic and Amateur Athletes Act of 2019," would attempt to change that, in part by leaving little gray area about the USOPC's oversight responsibilities of NGBs, especially in regard to sex abuse. It calls for the USOPC to renew an NGB's standing every four years, subject to a review that would include how the organization is complying with safe-sports rules. It gives Congress the right to decertify an NGB.

It would also eliminate the tactic currently being used by USA Gymnastics, as it faces decertification: filing bankruptcy to forestall the proceedings.

And though the USOPC has always had to answer to Congress, the stakes would be much higher — and written in plain black and white.

The 14-person board, which has gone largely — and, in many minds, inappropriately — unscathed in a series of damning reports that detailed the failings of the federation, could be dismissed by a simple majority vote in Congress. The bill includes language that would expedite the vote, while also giving lawmakers the tricky task of figuring out how the board would be replaced.

USOPC CEO Sarah Hirshland said that while the bill complements the federation's push for reforms, it "could result in unintended consequences and disruption for athletes in operational reality."

For instance, the \$20 million to SafeSport, along with the increased oversight and added audits and compliance measures, could impact funding available for training. Luring board members for a volunteer position (but one with perks) could be more difficult with the threat of Congressional pink slips hanging over their heads. Adding athletes to those boards, and eliminating a requirement that they be no more than 10 years removed from elite competition, will create various challenges for the USOPC and the NGBs — most related in some way to finding enough functional business and current-day sports experience to run these confusing operations.

The bill, and the process that led to it, involved lawmakers digging into far more detail than they usually care to know regarding the day-to-day operation of the byzantine Olympic sports world — a world that has provided them an easy platform for flag waving without having to sweat the small stuff.

But given the bipartisan nature of this bill — and similar bipartisan outrage displayed during hearings on the House side — there appears to be more will to dig deep and push for change in the wake of the abuse scandal, the victims of which have captured as many headlines as any gold-medal winner since Nassar's crimes became widely known.

"The simple stark fact is that the USOC has taken some baby steps, but they're nowhere near the kind of major reforms that need to be done," Blumenthal said.

## Top diplomats gather in Bangkok for key Asia-Pacific talks

By GRANT PECK Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Top diplomats from the Asia-Pacific region started gathering Tuesday in the Thai capital to discuss issues of concern to the area, including security on the Korean peninsula and China's territorial claims in the South China Sea.

The meetings in Bangkok are hosted by the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations, chaired this year by Thailand. Thai officials say there will be 27 meetings in all through Saturday, and 31 countries and alliances will participate.

The core ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting brings together the group's top diplomats, but they are likely to be overshadowed by the big power players attending the adjunct meetings, such as the ASEAN Regional Forum and the East Asia Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

The heavy-hitters in Bangkok this week include U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

Other ASEAN dialogue partners include Australia, India, the European Union, Japan and South Korea.

Most attention will be on these side meetings, in which ASEAN will play a supporting role, if any.

A representative of North Korea will be present in Bangkok, a Thai foreign ministry spokesman said last week, though it is not clear if Pyongyang is sending its foreign minister. Washington has downplayed Pyongyang's recent launch of medium-range missiles and expressed interest in reviving talks on North Korean denuclearization, so sideline talks are a possibility.

Reports say that the United States is also willing to hold a sidelines meeting with Japan and South Korea to discuss the bitter trade dispute between the two East Asian nations that threatens to disrupt Seoul's electronics industry by hindering its purchase of semiconductor components.

The dispute also draws on long-standing bitterness over Japan's actions toward Korea during World War II and threatens to poison relations at a time when Washington would prefer to see a united front in dealing with North Korea.

ASEAN's own most pressing concern arguably involves Beijing's expansive territorial claims in the South China Sea, which pits it against the claims of Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei.

The dispute is long-running, but flared up again earlier this month when Vietnam accused China of violating its sovereignty by interfering with offshore oil and gas activities in disputed waters.

Vietnam can count on having some allies at this week's meetings but may have to operate outside the conventional ASEAN framework by forming a de facto maritime bloc with Indonesia, which has aggressively dealt with Chinese poachers in its waters, and the Philippines, still smarting over a June incident in which a Chinese fishing vessel hit a Philippine fishing boat and fled the scene as 22 Filipinos escaped their sinking vessel.

It's unlikely ASEAN will agree on any major statement against China since it operates by consensus, which in practice means a single member can exercise veto over the group's decisions and declarations. Beijing can count on the support of allies such as Cambodia and Laos, and reluctance by others to defy Asia's superpower.

Beijing also is disinclined to flout legal norms that might restrain its actions, say critics, citing as an example the Permanent Court of Arbitration's ruling on the South China Sea case brought by the Philippines.

The struggle for influence between the U.S. and China looms larger than ever over this year's meetings, with their trade disputes fueling the rivalry.

Beijing's attempts to project its influence even further afield through its Belt and Road Initiative, an ambitious global development program of major infrastructure projects, has sharpened the sense of unease among some parties.

The U.S. has countered with its own vision strategy for a Free and Open Indo-Pacific, which Beijing regards as directed against it.

ASEAN leaders at their summit meeting in June adopted a five-page "ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific" statement that sought to find a middle ground. But some analysts suggest it is less an assertion that the

regional grouping is a player in its own right than a weak effort to keep on the good side of both Washington and Beijing.

"Its significance is in the monumental opportunity squandered," said Benjamin Zawacki, author of "Thailand: Shifting Ground between the U.S. and a Rising China."

"The increasing tension between Washington and Beijing does afford ASEAN more, rather than less, influence and room to maneuver, but it is influence and room that ASEAN would rather not have and will choose not to use," he said. "ASEAN is most comfortable when it has the least influence and room to maneuver, for such provides a ready justification for its indecisiveness, inertia, and utter obsession with neutrality."

## Jury: Katy Perry's 'Dark Horse' copied Christian rap song

By **ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A jury on Monday found that Katy Perry's 2013 hit "Dark Horse" improperly copied a 2009 Christian rap song in a unanimous decision that represented a rare takedown of a pop superstar and her elite producer by a relatively unknown artist.

The verdict by a nine-member federal jury in a Los Angeles courtroom came five years after Marcus Gray and two co-authors, first sued in 2014 alleging "Dark Horse" stole from "Joyful Noise," a song Gray released under the stage name Flame.

The case now goes to a penalty phase, where the jury will decide how much Perry and other defendants owe for copyright infringement.

Questions from the jury during their two full days of deliberations had suggested that they might find only some of the defendants liable for copyright infringement. The case focused on the notes and beats of the song, not its lyrics or recording, and the questions suggested that Perry might be off the hook.

But in a decision that left many in the courtroom surprised, jurors found all six songwriters and all four corporations that released and distributed the songs were liable, including Perry and Sarah Hudson, who wrote only the song's words, and Juicy J, who only wrote the rap he provided for the song. Perry was not present when the verdict was read.

Other defendants found liable were Capitol Records as well as Perry's producers: Dr. Luke, Max Martin and Cirkut, who came up with the song's beat.

Gray's attorneys argued that the beat and instrumental line featured through nearly half of "Dark Horse" are substantially similar to those of "Joyful Noise." Gray wrote the song with his co-plaintiffs Emanuel Lambert and Chike Ojukwu.

"Dark Horse," a hybrid of pop, trap and hip-hop sounds that was the third single of Perry's 2013 album "Prism," spent four weeks atop the Billboard Hot 100 in early 2014, and earned a Grammy nomination for Perry, who performed the song during her 2015 Super Bowl halftime show.

Her attorneys argued that the song sections in question represent the kind of simple musical elements that if found to be subject to copyright would hurt music and all songwriters.

"They're trying to own basic building blocks of music, the alphabet of music that should be available to everyone," Perry's lawyer Christine Lepera said during closing arguments Thursday.

The defendants' musical expert testified that the musical patterns in dispute were as simple as "Mary Had a Little Lamb."

But the jury of six women and three men disagreed, finding that the bumping beat and riff at the center of "Joyful Noise" were original enough to be copyrighted.

Perry and the song's co-authors testified during the seven-day trial that none of them had heard the song or heard of Gray before the lawsuit, nor did they listen to Christian music.

Gray's attorneys had only to demonstrate, however, that "Joyful Noise" had wide dissemination and could have been heard by Perry and her co-authors. They provided as evidence that it had millions of plays on YouTube and Spotify, and that the album it's included on was nominated for a Grammy.

"They're trying to shove Mr. Gray into some gospel music alleyway that no one ever visits," said plaintiffs'

attorney Michael A. Kahn during closing arguments, when he also pointed out that Perry had begun her career as a Christian artist.

Jurors agreed, finding that the song was distributed widely enough that the "Dark Horse" writers may well have heard it.

Kahn and Gray declined comment but smiled as they left the courtroom after the verdict.

Lepera and other defense attorneys also declined comment outside court. Perry's publicist did not immediately return an email message seeking comment Monday evening.

Perry, a 34-year-old pop superstar and "American Idol" judge, brought laughs to the proceedings when she testified during its second day when her lawyers were having technical troubles getting "Dark Horse" to play in the courtroom.

"I could perform it live," Perry said.

No performance was necessary after the audio issues were fixed. Jurors heard both songs played back-to-back in their entirety at the end of closing arguments last week.

Follow AP Entertainment Writer Andrew Dalton on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/andyjamesdalton>

## Trump administration, Democrats make progress on new NAFTA

By PAUL WISEMAN and KEVIN FREKING Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional Democrats appear to be moving from "no way" to "maybe" on President Donald Trump's rewrite of a trade pact with Canada and Mexico.

House Democrats have met four times with U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, most recently on Friday, and both sides say they are making progress toward a deal that would clear the way for Congress to approve Trump's U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement, or USMCA.

Democratic Rep. Earl Blumenauer of Oregon, who heads a House subcommittee on trade, declared a couple of months ago that there was "no way" Democrats and the administration could bridge their differences. Lately, he's reconsidered. "In the course of the last two months, we have seen significant progress," Blumenauer said.

Negotiators so far have not offered details on where they're making progress. Democrats want the agreement to include stronger protections for workers and the environment. They also are seeking to jettison a provision they see as a giveaway to big pharmaceutical companies.

Talks could still fall apart. Meetings between congressional staffers and officials from Lighthizer's office during Congress' August recess could prove critical. House Democrats working on USMCA will submit text next week to the administration "memorializing the concrete and detailed proposals that we have made."

They called on the administration to do the same.

"It is time for the administration to present its proposals and to show its commitment to passing the new NAFTA and delivering on its own promises," the Democratic lawmakers said.

Supporters of USMCA are pushing for a deal before the 2020 election campaign heats up, which could make it harder for Democrats and Republicans to compromise.

A senior administration official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations, said there was growing optimism within the administration about USMCA's prospects amid signs that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was willing to work toward a compromise.

"The smart money in Washington is that USMCA will pass this fall following a bargain," said Daniel Ujcz, a lawyer with Dickinson Wright in Columbus, Ohio, who specializes in North American trade. "However, it is just as likely that we will be in a 'bump and blame' scenario where the president can blame Speaker Pelosi and Speaker Pelosi can blame the president."

By ratifying the agreement, Congress could lift uncertainty over the future of U.S. commerce with its No. 2 (Canada) and No. 3 (Mexico) trading partners last year and give the U.S. economy a modest boost. U.S. farmers are especially eager to make sure their exports to Canada and Mexico continue uninterrupted.

Rep. Cheri Bustos of Illinois, who oversees efforts to get Democrats elected to the House, said Pelosi

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"understands the sense of urgency" about USMCA among some lawmakers who represent rural districts. "The hope is that we can get to a yes," Bustos said. "But first and foremost, it has to look out for working men and women in our country."

The USMCA is meant to replace the 25-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement, which eliminated most tariffs and other trade barriers between the U.S., Mexico and Canada. Critics — including Trump, labor unions and many Democratic lawmakers — called NAFTA a job killer for America because it encouraged factories to move south of the border, take advantage of low-wage Mexican workers and ship products back to the U.S. duty free.

Lighthizer last year negotiated a do-over with Canada and Mexico. But it requires congressional approval. He sought to reach a deal that would win over Democrats. It includes provisions designed to nudge manufacturing back to the United States. For example, it requires that 40% to 45% of cars eventually be made in countries that pay autoworkers at least \$16 an hour — that is, in the United States and Canada and not in Mexico.

But Democrats say it still doesn't go far enough.

Democrats are also lined up against a provision of USMCA that gives pharmaceutical companies 10 years' protection from cheaper competition in a category of ultra-expensive drugs called biologics, which are made from living cells. Shielded from competition, critics warn, the drug companies could charge exorbitant prices for biologics.

But supporters note that the U.S. already gives biologics 12 years of protection (versus eight years in Canada and five in Mexico). They also argue that pharmaceutical companies need an incentive to develop the drugs before copycat competitors sweep into the market and siphon away profits.

Congress is supposed to give trade agreements an up-or-down vote, no amendments allowed.

The reality is different. Despite those so-called fast-track provisions, Congress has managed to pressure past administrations into making changes to the last four U.S. free-trade agreements before approving them.

The trade pact picked up some momentum after Mexico in April passed a labor-law overhaul required by USMCA. The reforms are meant to make it easier for Mexican workers to form independent unions and bargain for better pay and working conditions, narrowing the gap with the United States.

Mexico ratified USMCA in June. But Democrats are also watching whether Mexico budgets enough money later this year to provide the resources needed for labor reform.

In Washington, lawmakers are getting pressure from all sides. Business and farm groups want the new deal approved as soon as possible.

"Getting this done is our top policy priority," Thomas Donohue, chief executive of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, told reporters last week.

Meanwhile, labor, environmental and other activist groups last month declared a "No Vote Until NAFTA 2.0 is Fixed" day and collected 300,000 signatures on petitions demanding changes to the trade pact.

"The only way forward is making the fixes," said Lori Wallach, director of Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch.

Trump has repeatedly threatened to withdraw from the existing NAFTA — it remains in effect — if Congress won't OK his version. But analysts say that pulling out of NAFTA would squeeze automakers and farmers. Farmers are already hurting from Trump's trade war with China, which has imposed tariffs on soybeans and other U.S. agricultural products in retaliation for U.S. import taxes.

"The president knows that his voters here in the heartland and manufacturing Midwest cannot take another hit — we hope," Ujcz said.

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Follow Paul Wiseman on Twitter at @PaulWisemanAP and Kevin Freking at @APkfreking

## General's Senate hearing will air sex misconduct charges

By LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Air Force general nominated to become the next vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is going before the Senate Armed Services Committee amid allegations of sexual misconduct.

The hearing Tuesday morning will be the first time that senators will publicly question Gen. John Hyten about the charges brought by his former aide, Army Col. Kathryn Spletstoser. Hyten and Spletstoser met separately with senators in classified sessions last week.

The Air Force Office of Special Investigations reviewed the matter and found insufficient evidence to charge Hyten or recommend any administrative punishment.

Spletstoser told The Associated Press that Hyten subjected her to a series of unwanted sexual advances by kissing, hugging and rubbing up against her in 2017 while she was one of his top aides. She said she repeatedly pushed him away and told him to stop, and that he tried to derail her military career after she rebuffed him.

She said she didn't report the incidents at the time to avoid embarrassment, and out of fear of retaliation. She was also thinking about retiring, and believed Hyten was as well, so she concluded that he would not pose a risk to any other service members.

Spletstoser said she came forward earlier this year after Hyten's nomination, because she couldn't live with the idea that he might assault someone else if he was confirmed for the job.

Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., chairman of the committee, said last week that he was hopeful of moving forward with a vote in the committee possibly before the Senate's August recess.

Other senators, however, have raised questions, stalling Hyten's nomination for months and making it unclear if he has enough support to be confirmed. Hyten is head of U.S. Strategic Command, and oversees the nation's nuclear capabilities.

The AP first reported about Spletstoser's allegations earlier this month. The AP generally does not identify victims of alleged sexual assault, but Spletstoser has allowed her name to be used. She is still in the military and has moved on to a different job.

Air Force officials have said that investigators went through 10,000 pages of documents, conducted interviews with as many as 50 people and pursued every lead but did not uncover evidence to support Spletstoser's allegations. But they also said they found no evidence that she was lying.

Senators are in a difficult spot. They have consistently criticized the Defense Department over its long and, at times, unsuccessful campaign to decrease the instances of sexual assault, misconduct and harassment across the military. And lawmakers have criticized the department's handling of assault cases and tried repeatedly to overhaul what some say is a broken system.

Still, some senators were making up their minds. The committee was planning to meet again in closed session early Tuesday ahead of the public hearing, members said.

"All the evidence supports that he should be confirmed," said Sen. Kevin Cramer, R-N.D. He called Hyten "a solid candidate. Every indication is that he's earned the right to move on and be confirmed."

GOP Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri was "leaning toward" supporting Hyten, but continuing to evaluate the situation.

But Democratic Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut said he would "have trouble" confirming the nominee. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., said she was waiting to hear from the general in the public setting.

Late last week, more than two dozen former defense officials wrote to committee leaders urging them to fully consider Hyten's nomination and allow a vote on the Senate floor.

"We do not present any judgment on the investigation; we do, however, write on behalf of the exemplary officer that we have known and with whom we have worked," they said. "We believe that our nation would greatly benefit if Gen. John Hyten were to be confirmed as Vice Chairman."

The group sending the letter includes a number of former executives at the national laboratories that work on nuclear issues and projects.

## Outwit, outlast, outplay: What to watch at Democratic debate

By BRIAN SLODYSKO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Last month's presidential debate offered voters an introduction to the Democratic field. Round two in Detroit promises to be more like an episode of the TV reality show "Survivor."

Spread over back-to-back nights, 20 White House hopefuls will take the stage at a crucial point in the Democratic primary.

For well-known candidates like Beto O'Rourke and Joe Biden, it offers a do-over following widely panned performances in Miami. But for struggling White House hopefuls, it could be a last chance to breathe life into a campaign before tougher debate qualification rules kick in that are all but certain to thin the field.

What to watch Tuesday at 8 p.m. EDT on CNN:

### SURVIVING THE DEBATE

This could be the last debate for roughly half of the candidates, who are at risk of not clearing the higher bar set by the Democratic National Committee for the next round in September.

But a breakout moment could go a long way toward reversing those fortunes.

Expect plenty of attacks. The strategy worked last month for California Sen. Kamala Harris and ex-Obama Housing Secretary Julián Castro.

Harris raked in donations and rose in the polls thanks to her searing critique of Biden's past stances on busing, while Castro's low-polling campaign got a boost at the expense of O'Rourke, a fellow Texan.

But it can flop, too. California Rep. Eric Swalwell aggressively went after Biden yet failed to leave a mark. Days later, he dropped out.

Interjections received annoyed looks and reprimands during the last debate on NBC News. This time, CNN says frequent interrupters will have their time reduced.

### THE LEFT AT CENTER STAGE

Not only will Sens. Bernie Sanders of Vermont and Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts be standing at center stage, but it's also likely their progressive politics will be at the center of the debate, too.

The two are vying for many of the same voters, but they are closely aligned on policy, leaving limited ground to attack each other.

Instead, look for attacks from centrists on the stage who are thirsting for a breakout moment, like Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar and Montana Gov. Steve Bullock, or former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper, who has repeatedly railed against socialism.

In fact, Hickenlooper, who has struggled with fundraising and in the polls, has already indicated that he intends to draw a contrast with Warren.

Warren "has some big ideas that have an even bigger cost," he tweeted Monday. "We proved in Colorado that you don't need big, expensive government programs to achieve progressive goals."

### DIM VIEW OF THE DEBATE

Speaking of Sanders, just because he is onstage doesn't mean he's happy about it — at least according to a senior aide.

"I'm going to make a radical comment. This isn't a criticism of CNN. It's really a criticism of the media environment," campaign manager Faiz Shakir told CNN during a segment that aired Sunday. "I believe these debates tend to make the American people stupider. They are performative theater. And we don't end up having the conversations that affect people's lives."

Shakir added that Sanders would "try to go through it and answer the questions, respond to Donald Trump's tweets and all those kinds of things. But at the end of the day, this isn't, I think, how you win a campaign."

### ADULT IN THE ROOM

Pete Buttigieg will be the youngest candidate onstage. But he'll probably try to come across as the adult



in the room.

The 37-year-old mayor of South Bend, Indiana, strives to be a postpartisan voice in a field dominated by partisan fights. He speaks eloquently about religion, being the first gay candidate to run a major presidential campaign, his military service and the need for generational change.

Often left out, though, are the specifics. That's given his critics plenty of ammunition in a primary where nitty-gritty policy differences have drawn an unlikely spotlight.

"He needs to put some meat on the bone," said David Axelrod, once a senior adviser to President Barack Obama. "We'll see if he has a second act. This debate will go a long way toward showing if he does."

## CAN BETO REBOUND?

O'Rourke had a rough outing last month, when Castro repeatedly attacked him over his signature issue — immigration. Looking for a comeback, O'Rourke has hinted that he will go after Buttigieg, who raked in \$24.8 million and led the field in fundraising last quarter.

O'Rourke already took an apparent poke at Buttigieg for spending nearly \$300,000 on charter flights last quarter.

"No private planes for this campaign," the former Texas congressman said in a video last week that was filmed while O'Rourke was aboard a commercial plane waiting for takeoff. "We're putting your \$5, \$10, \$15 to use and making sure we make the most out of every penny that's committed to this campaign."

His campaign has also chided Buttigieg for holding paid "grassroots" fundraising events, noting people pay nothing to hear O'Rourke speak.

Associated Press writer Thomas Beaumont in Detroit contributed to this report.

## Gunman posted online minutes before killing 3 at festival

By KATHLEEN RONAYNE and JULIE WATSON Associated Press

GILROY, Calif. (AP) — Before a 19-year-old gunman opened fire on a famed garlic festival in his California hometown, he urged his Instagram followers to read a 19th century book popular with white supremacists on extremist websites, but his motives for killing two children and another young man were still a mystery Monday.

Santino William Legan posted the caption about the book "Might is Right," which claims race determines behavior. It appeared with a photo of Smokey the Bear in front of a "fire danger" sign and also complained about overcrowding towns and paving open space to make room for "hordes" of Latinos and Silicon Valley whites.

In his last Instagram post Sunday, Legan sent a photo from the Gilroy Garlic Festival. Minutes later, he shot into the crowd with an AK-47 style weapon, killing a 6-year-old boy, a 13-year-old girl and a man in his mid-20s .

Under it, he wrote: "Ayyy garlic festival time" and "Come get wasted on overpriced" items. Legan's since-deleted Instagram account says he is Italian and Iranian.

The postings are among the first details that have emerged about Legan since authorities say he appeared to fire at random, sending people running and diving under tables. Police patrolling the event responded within a minute and killed Legan as he turned the weapon on them.

The gunman legally purchased the semi-automatic assault rifle this month in Nevada, where his last address is listed. He would have been barred from buying it in California, which restricts firearms purchases to people over 21. In Nevada, the age limit is 18.

Hundreds of people came out Monday night for a candlelight vigil in front of City Hall in honor of those killed and injured.

"We cannot let the bastard that did this tear us down," Mayor Roland Velasco declared to cheers.

Legan grew up less than a mile from the park where the city known as the "Garlic Capital of the World" has held its three-day festival for four decades, attracting more than 100,000 people with music, food

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booths and cooking classes.

Authorities were looking for clues, including on social media, as to what caused the son of a prominent local family to go on a rampage. His father was a competitive runner and coach, a brother was an accomplished young boxer and his grandfather had been a supervisor in Santa Clara County.

Police said they don't know if people were targeted, but at this point, it appears he shot indiscriminately. Twelve people were injured.

Police searched Legan's vehicle and the two-story Legan family home, leaving with paper bags. Authorities also searched an apartment they believed Legan used this month in remote northern Nevada. Officials didn't say what they found.

Big Mikes Gun and Ammo, which appears to be a home-based internet gun shop in Fallon, Nevada, said on its Facebook page that Legan ordered the rifle off its website and "was acting happy and showed no reasons for concern" when the store owner met him. The post said it was "heartbroken this could ever happen."

In California, police had training in how to respond to an active shooter. While they prepared for the worst, they never expected to use those skills in Gilroy, a city of about 50,000 about 80 miles (176 kilometers) southeast of San Francisco known for the pungent smell of its prize flowering crop grown in the surrounding fields — garlic.

The city had security in place for one of the largest food fairs in the U.S. It required people to pass through metal detectors and have their bags searched. Police, paramedics and firefighters were stationed throughout the festival.

But Legan didn't go through the front entrance. He cut through a fence bordering a parking lot next to a creek, Gilroy Police Chief Scot Smithee said. Some witnesses reported a second suspect, and authorities were trying to determine if he had any help.

Police arrested a 20-year-old man who claimed involvement online, but investigators determined he was just trying to get attention.

The police chief praised officers for stopping Legan with handguns without injuring anyone else.

"It could've gotten so much worse, so fast," Smithee said.

The gunfire sent people in sunhats and flip-flops running away screaming. Some dove for cover under the decorated food booth tables. Others crawled under a concert stage, where a band had started playing its last song.

The youngest victim, Stephen Romero, described by his grandmother as a kind, happy and playful kid, had just celebrated his sixth birthday in June at Legoland in Southern California.

"My son had his whole life to live and he was only 6," his father, Alberto Romero, told San Francisco Bay Area news station KNTV after the shooting.

Also killed was 13-year-old Keyla Salazar from San Jose, seen dressed in pink, wearing a tiara of flowers and smiling as she poses with relatives in photos posted on her aunt's Facebook page.

"I have no words to describe this pain I'm feeling," Katuska Pimentel Vargas wrote.

The oldest victim killed was Trevor Irby, 27, a biology major who graduated in 2017 from Keuka College in upstate New York.

The wounded were taken to multiple hospitals, and their conditions ranged from fair to critical, with some undergoing surgery.

Troy Towner said his sister, Wendy Towner, was at the festival for her business, the Honey Ladies, when she saw a man with a gun climb over the fence. She yelled at him: "No, you can't do that!"

The gunman shot her in the leg and her husband three times, while a young girl dragged their 3-year-old son under a table, Towner wrote on a fundraising page he set up for his sister.

Legan then approached the couple as they lay motionless on the ground and asked if they were all right. They didn't move, fearing he would finish them off, Towner wrote.

Towner said his sister underwent surgery and was expected to have long-term nerve damage, while her husband faces many surgeries.

Candice Marquez, who works for Wendy Towner and her husband, Francisco, told The Associated Press

that she had stepped away to go to the bathroom and saw the gunman heading to their tent. She said her 10-year-old niece helped the toddler to safety.

"She was brave," Marquez said.

Jan Dickson, a neighbor who lives across the street from the Legan family, described them as "a nice, normal family." She said Santino Legan had not lived there for at least a year.

"How do you cope with this? They have to deal with the fact that their son did this terrible thing and that he died," Dickson said.

Watson reported from San Diego. Associated Press reporter Mike Balsamo in Washington, Natalie Rice in Los Angeles, Scott Sonner in Hawthorne, Nevada, Ken Ritter in Las Vegas, and Martha Mendoza in Gilroy contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to show that Troy Towner's name was incorrect.

## Would-be Cuban immigrants left in limbo by consular closure

By GISELA SALOMON Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Mary Sardinias had prepared a room in her Miami house for the arrival of her son from Cuba. He'd sold his home and left his job thinking he'd soon be living in the United States. That was two years ago and he's still in Cuba.

Sardinias is among thousands of Cubans living in the United States whose hopes of reuniting with family members have been put on hold since September 2017, when the Trump administration pulled most of its embassy staff out of Cuba in response to a mysterious illness that struck at least two dozen diplomats or their relatives.

"We've been waiting for two years," said Sardinias, a 60-year-old woman who came to Florida in 2015. "Why can't we live as a family? What does he have to do? Dive in (the sea) and risk his life?" she asked. Her 41-year-old son, Jorge Luis Carrera Sardinias, had passed his final interview for the permit and was just waiting to go to the embassy to receive it.

For most of the decades after the 1959 revolution led by Fidel Castro, Cubans fleeing the communist-governed island enjoyed unique immigration privileges, including an almost certain path to legal residence once they touched US territory.

But the outgoing administration of President Barack Obama cancelled that policy in January 2017 and the Trump administration's consular shutdown later that year means that legal migration has been severely restricted.

The U.S. government's Cuban Family Reunification Parole program remains in place, but there are no consular officials on the island to process the cases and authorities haven't announced any other place where the paperwork can be filed, though other sorts of visas can be handled in countries such as Colombia or Guyana.

It's also not clear when the diplomats might return. Officials still haven't determined what caused the diplomatic illnesses, though they have referred to them as "attacks." And the Trump administration's hard line both on Cuba's communist government and on immigration in general makes it unclear whether it wants to restart the programs at all.

The administration has suspended a political asylum program for Cubans, and tourism visas have fallen from a little over 16,000 in 2017 to about 7,000 last year. Those visas are more restrictive, too: As of March, they allow a single visit within a three month period instead of multiple entries over five years. And with Havana consulate closed, Cubans have to travel to a third country to get one.

"It all seems like a package of measures to put more pressure" on the Cuban government, said Jorge Duany, director of the Cuban Research Institute at Florida International University. "The collateral damage is that it makes hostages of Cubans who are trying to emigrate and cannot do so as they did in the past."

While the squeeze may please immigration hardliners, some analysts say the shift carries a political risk

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for Trump. Florida — where many Cuban-Americans are based — is potentially crucial to an electoral college victory in the 2020 presidential race.

"Many Cubans are not happy with the current policies," said Andy Gomez, former director of the Institute for Cuba and Cuban-American Studies at the University of Miami. Especially affected are those who arrived in recent decades and have closer family ties to the island than the Cubans who came immediately after Castro took power, a group that had been deeply conservative.

"The majority of these Cubans, if they are squeezed further, may not vote for Trump in 2020," he said in Spanish.

The family reunion program allows about 20,000 Cubans to come to the U.S. each year with a special permission known as a parole, which is granted more quickly than an actual immigration visa.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services says about 20,000 of those cases had been approved — but required final processing — when consular services were suspended. Thousands of other cases have gone unprocessed since then.

"These families that were applying — some of them in the final interview process — have remained in limbo," immigration attorney Wilfredo Allen said in a telephone interview. "That creates enormous uncertainty."

Maira Gómez, a 66-year-old who was granted political refugee status, arrived from Cuba in 2011 and also has been trying to get one of her three sons to the United States. She started the process in 2014 and said her son Eugenio Bello Gómez was awaiting his final interview. Two other sons also are trying to come, and their cases too are stalled.

"I need at least one of my sons," said Gómez, who lives in Washington state. She has high blood pressure, needs a knee operation and can barely walk.

The consular shutdown also affects another class of Cubans: the families of doctors who abandoned Cuban medical missions abroad and were allowed to come to the U.S. as refugees. While that program ended before Trump took office, there are still some 450 family members who have been approved to come to the U.S., but whose cases are stalled, according to U.S. officials.

Dr. Yamileisi Suárez, 43, said she hasn't seen her husband or her 7-year-old son in three years. She had skipped out of a Cuban medical mission in the Seychelles Islands, finally arrived in Pennsylvania in April 2017 and applied to have her husband and son join her.

With emigration seemingly imminent, the husband sold the family car and home. But his interview with consular officials was delayed — first by the arrival of a hurricane and then by the consular closure.

"I feel powerless," Suárez said. "The days pass and my son asks me, 'Momma, haven't they told you anything?' It hurts a lot." She said she fears she would be jailed if she returns to Cuba because the government punishes doctors who leave the island without permission or abandon the overseas missions.

For Sardinias, who has been waiting for her son, daughter-in-law and 5-year-old grandchild, it's the uncertainty that's the hardest.

"They don't live here nor there," she said. "They are families whose lives are halted and they don't know what will happen."

## High-water mark: Dressel sets own standard with 8 medals

By BETH HARRIS AP Sports Writer

GWANGJU, South Korea (AP) — Exhaustion and relief flooded Caeleb Dressel. Maybe now the comparisons with Michael Phelps can fade away.

Dressel won eight medals, including six golds, at the world swimming championships, the biggest meet outside the Olympics. Two years ago in Hungary, he tied Phelps' record of seven golds at a single worlds, including three in one night.

Dressel set his own standard in Gwangju, where he again won three golds in a single night.

"There's parts during the meet where it's not the greatest feeling — the stress that you feel, the pressure I put on myself," he said, adding, "I do enjoy it, the challenge that it brings."

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On Sunday, Dressel capped his eight-day run with silver in the 4x100-meter medley relay. He hauled the U.S. from fourth to first on his butterfly leg with a split of 49.28 seconds — the only sub-50 second fly leg in the field.

Had anchor Nathan Adrian not been overtaken by Britain's Duncan Scott in the closing meters, Dressel would have won a seventh gold. Adrian and relay teammates Ryan Murphy and Andrew Wilson were upset they didn't deliver.

"I was the first guy in the water and I would say I had a pretty embarrassing performance," Murphy said. "It kind of put us in a hole from the beginning."

Wilson added, "All of us are just finding places where it's on us. We just all need to be better and we will be next year. It's frustrating now but it's fuel for the next year."

Heading into its first Olympics in the post-Phelps era, the U.S. appears in good shape for Tokyo.

After a slow start in Gwangju, the Americans finished with 27 medals in the pool, including a leading 14 golds. They won the team title and Dressel earned male swimmer of the meet honors. The U.S. set five world records, including two by 17-year-old backstroke Regan Smith.

Australia was second with 19 and five golds.

The U.S. likely would have had two more medals if Katie Ledecky hadn't gotten sick. She withdrew from the 200 free heats and 1,500 free final while spending two days away from the pool. Her lone gold came in the 800 free after a gutsy last lap in which she pulled away from Italy's Simona Quadarella.

The Americans were limited to one medal on two different nights — both earned with Dressel's involvement.

"It's pretty evident that we didn't start on the best note," said sprinter Simone Manuel, who swept the 50-100 freestyles, "but also we did have a great meet, and I think that's getting a little lost because we had amazing swims, people got best times."

Dressel's golds came in the 50 and 100 free, 50 and 100 butterfly, mixed 4x100 free relay and 4x100 free relay. His other silver was in the mixed 4x100 medley relay.

Dressel took down Phelps' world record in the 100 fly, going 49.50 in the semifinals.

He came close in Hungary, but didn't get it done.

"Two years ago I was a little scared, I'll admit, coming that close," Dressel said. "It can be a scary thought to do something that's never been done before."

The difference in Gwangju was that Dressel woke up the day of the race and wanted to go after the mark.

"I hope he was happy watching me," he said.

Phelps was watching from his home in Arizona, and told The Associated Press that Dressel would have to be perfect to win seven or eight golds in Tokyo. Phelps, of course, won eight golds at the 2008 Beijing Games.

"If there's someone who doesn't care how hard it's going to be, how hard they're going to have to work, how much pain they're willing to put their body through, we might see it," he said by phone.

Phelps suggested Dressel could be a "great addition" to the 4x200 free relay.

"Clearly, he's got the speed," he said. "At this point, he's just got to have better endurance."

Dressel still feels his retired teammate's influence. He knows the 23-time Olympic gold medalist's times and watched how Phelps swam his races.

"It's really special for me just to have that one little moment where I claimed I was the best in the history of swimming," Dressel said. "Just a young kid from a small town, it's just crazy how far the sport can go."

Like Phelps, Dressel is his own worst critic. The 22-year-old Floridian picks apart each of his races, whether the result is gold, a world record or something less lofty.

"I always look for the bad," he said. "There's plenty to improve on. I know what to look for heading into next year, even for small meets. I take each event and I have to learn from it."

What he learned in Gwangju is that he's his own man.

\_\_\_ AP Sports Writer Paul Newberry in Atlanta contributed to this report.

\_\_\_ More AP swimming coverage: <https://apnews.com/tag/Swimming>

## Officials say 57 dead in Brazil prison riot; 16 decapitated

By DIANE JEANTET Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — At least 57 prisoners were killed by other inmates during clashes between organized crime groups in the Altamira prison in northern Brazil Monday with 16 of the victims being decapitated, according to prison officials.

Para state prison authorities said a fight erupted around 7 a.m. between the Rio de Janeiro-based Comando Vermelho and a local criminal group known as Comando Classe A.

"Leaders of the (Comando Classe A) set fire to a cell belonging to one of the prison's pavilions, where members of the (Comando Vermelho) were located," the statement read.

State prisons chief Jarbas Vasconcelos said the fire had spread rapidly with inmates held in old container units that had been adapted for the prison while another building is under construction.

The fire prevented police forces from entering the building for several hours, he told a news conference.

Two prison staff members were held hostage, but eventually released.

"It was a targeted attack. The aim was to show that it was a settling of accounts between the two groups, not a protest or rebellion against the prison system," Vasconcelos said.

Authorities have not found any firearms following the riot, only makeshift knives.

Prison authorities said 46 inmates will be transferred to other prisons, 10 of which will go to stricter federal facilities.

President Jair Bolsonaro was elected on the promise of curbing widespread violence in Brazil, including in the country's often overcrowded, out-of-control prisons.

The Associated Press obtained a July 2019 report from the National Justice Council that it says was filed by a local judge in charge of the facility, showing that the prison had 343 detainees for a maximum capacity of 163.

Yet Vasconcelos said the situation did not meet the official requirements to be considered overcrowded. "It is not a unit that has a prison overcrowding, we consider overcrowding when it exceeds 210%," Vasconcelos said during the press conference.

The judge who filed the report described the overall state of the prison in the city of Altamira as "terrible."

In many of Brazil's prisons, badly outnumbered guards struggle to retain power over an ever-growing population of inmates who are able to run criminal activities from behind bars.

The killings echoed those of 55 inmates who died in a series of riots in May in several prisons in the neighboring state of Amazonas.

In early 2017, more than 120 inmates died in prisons across several northern states when rival gangs clashed over control of drug-trafficking routes in the region. The violence lasted several weeks, spreading to various states.

Para state authorities spent the afternoon in Altamira, drafting a security plan to avoid possible retaliations in the region. Police forces from the nearby municipality of Santerem were sent as reinforcement in the coming weeks.

Prison authorities said they had not received any prior intelligence reports of an upcoming attack.

The prison is run directly by the state, not a third-party private operator as in the Manaus prisons where the riots took place in May.

Last year, inmates had already set fire to another wing inside the same prison unit, according to the state prosecutors' office.

## Doubts emerge about Trump pick for US intelligence chief

By ERIC TUCKER, MARY CLARE JALONICK and DEB RIECHMANN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's pick for national intelligence director has been mayor of a small Texas city, a federal prosecutor and a member of Congress. But questions were already emerging Monday about whether those qualifications are adequate for the position as the nation confronts threats that include foreign election interference, North Korea's nuclear ambitions and the risk of war with Iran.

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Republican Rep. John Ratcliffe is also known as a Trump loyalist, which makes his lack of relevant experience even more striking at a time when current and former government officials expect Russia to look to interfere in the 2020 presidential election just as it did in unprecedented fashion when Trump first ran.

"Ratcliffe comes to the job with the least national security experience and the most partisan political experience of any previous director of national intelligence," said Michael Morell, a former acting CIA director who now hosts the "Intelligence Matters" podcast.

The director of national intelligence has oversight of the nation's 17 intelligence agencies, a significant job touching all corners of national security policymaking. If confirmed, Ratcliffe would be the principal intelligence adviser to Trump, who has appeared determined to surround himself with vocal protectors and defenders even in national security positions that haven't historically been perceived as overtly partisan.

It is unclear what specific experience Ratcliffe will bring in helping thwart foreign government efforts to interfere in American politics. Also unknown is whether skepticism he has voiced in Congress about special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into ties between Russia and the Trump campaign will affect his preparation for, or response to, any foreign influence or cyberattacks on campaigns.

Ratcliffe, who was among the most aggressive Republican questioners of Mueller at public hearings last week, would replace outgoing director Dan Coats at a time of broader reshuffling within the national security leadership structure.

"It's a moment when Donald Trump can deepen his personal stranglehold over the intelligence function and knock out any voices of dissent to his particular worldview," said Democratic Rep. Jamie Raskin of Maryland. "That's a scary thing for the country."

The selection comes months after Trump empowered another ally, Attorney General William Barr, to disclose still-secret intelligence collected by other agencies as part of the Russia investigation. Ratcliffe has made clear his skepticism of that investigation and his belief that Trump was treated improperly by investigators, saying in a talk show appearance Sunday that it was time to move on from discussion of impeachment.

Coats, who will step down next month, repeatedly clashed with Trump. He was publicly steadfast about his conviction that Russia had interfered in the election even in the face of the president's ambivalence. He appeared to scoff when told in an interview that Trump had invited Russian President Vladimir Putin to Washington. And in his resignation letter, he cited as an accomplishment the appointment of an election security executive "to support the whole-of-government effort to address threats against our election."

Tensions with Trump notwithstanding, Coats did bring to the job decades of Washington experience, including lengthy stints as an Indiana congressman and U.S. ambassador to Germany. His predecessor in the Obama administration, James Clapper, spent decades in the military and in intelligence, including as director of the Defense Intelligence Agency.

Ratcliffe does not have equivalent credentials, though his supporters are likely to point to his experience as a prosecutor as well as his recent membership on the House Intelligence Committee, which he joined in January.

Ratcliffe was first elected to Congress in 2014, and his experience as top federal prosecutor in east Texas gave him instant clout when Republicans ran the Judiciary panel. He was one of the main questioners when Republicans hauled in Justice Department officials to question them about whether they were biased against Trump in the early days of the FBI's Russia probe.

It's unclear whether concerns about his credentials will trip up the confirmation process. Confirmation takes a simple 51-vote majority, under new rules in the Senate, but that leaves slim room for error with Republicans holding a 53-seat majority.

Sen. Richard Burr, the Republican chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said Monday that he would move swiftly to push the nomination through his panel. "I don't have any concerns," he told reporters.

Several Republicans on the intelligence panel said they didn't know Ratcliffe and would wait to meet with him. "I'm open on this," said Missouri Sen. Roy Blunt.

Maine Sen. Susan Collins, a critical swing vote for the GOP who sits on the panel, said the job is very

important to her because she co-wrote the legislation that created it 15 years ago. She said she had never heard of Ratcliffe before last week, so she couldn't comment on his qualifications, but she said she cares deeply "about having an independent, well-qualified individual in that post."

Republican Sen. John Cornyn, another member of the committee, said that his Texas colleague is a "tremendous human being" and that he is "confident he can rise to the challenge."

Democrats were immediately critical. The committee's top Democrat, Sen. Mark Warner of Virginia, said Ratcliffe's questioning at the Mueller hearings "raises huge questions in my mind" about his ability to be independent.

Even before Mueller testified, Trump had his eye on Ratcliffe, who had already established himself as an outspoken defender of the president and raised Trump-backed questions about the conduct of the intelligence community in the Russia probe. But two officials said his aggressive questioning of the former special counsel cemented the president's view that he was the right person for the job.

Last Wednesday, he told Mueller that while he accepted that Russia's interference was "sweeping and systematic," he was also concerned about how much intelligence came from an ex-British spy who received Democratic funding to investigate Trump and whose research helped form the basis of a secret surveillance warrant to monitor the communications of a former Trump campaign aide.

He pointedly accused Mueller of departing from the special counsel's own rules by writing "180 pages about decisions that weren't reached, about potential crimes that weren't charged or decided."

"I think it's fair to say that the political partisanship he brought to the hearing ... which came across as undertaken on behalf of the president to denigrate the work of the special counsel, raises considerable questions about whether he is fit to serve as the DNI," said David Laufman, a former Justice Department national security official.

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Associated Press writer Zeke Miller contributed to this report.

## **Puerto Ricans anxious for new leader amid political crisis**

**By DÁNICA COTO Associated Press**

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — The unprecedented resignation of Puerto Rico's governor after days of massive island-wide protests has thrown the U.S. territory into a full-blown political crisis.

Less than four days before Gov. Ricardo Rosselló steps down, no one knows who will take his place. Justice Secretary Wanda Vázquez, his constitutional successor, said Sunday that she didn't want the job. The next in line would be Education Secretary Eligio Hernández, a largely unknown bureaucrat with little political experience.

Rosselló's party says it wants him to nominate a successor before he steps down, but Rosselló has said nothing about his plans, time is running out and some on the island are even talking about the need for more federal control over a territory whose finances are already overseen from Washington.

Rosselló resigned following nearly two weeks of daily protests in which hundreds of thousands of Puerto Ricans took to the streets, mounted horses and jet skis, organized a twerkathon and came up with other creative ways to demand his ouster.

On Monday afternoon, hundreds of people gathered in front of the Department of Justice building to demand that Vázquez resign before becoming the island's next governor. Under normal circumstances, Rosselló's successor would be the territory's secretary of state, but veteran politician Luis Rivera Marín resigned from that post on July 13 as part of the scandal that toppled the governor.

The crowd marched in a large circle, banging pots and clutching Puerto Rican flags as they yelled, "You didn't do your job, Wanda Vázquez, go to hell!"

Among the protesters was psychologist and yoga teacher Lourdes Soler Muñiz, who also protested almost every day before Rosselló resigned.

"The people have the power. They are our employees," she said, referring to government officials. "We're not going to stop. I am 56 years old and I'm not growing tired. Imagine what the young people



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are capable of.”

Vázquez, a 59-year-old prosecutor who worked as a district attorney and was later director of the Office for Women’s Rights, does not have widespread support among Puerto Ricans. Many have criticized her for not being aggressive enough in investigating cases involving members of the party that she and Rosselló belong to, and of not prioritizing gender violence as justice secretary. She also has been accused of not pursuing the alleged mismanagement of supplies for victims of Hurricane Maria.

Facing a new wave of protests, Vázquez tweeted Sunday that she had no desire to succeed Rosselló.

“I have no interest in the governor’s office,” she wrote. “I hope the governor nominates a secretary of state before Aug. 2.”

If a secretary of state is not nominated before Rosselló resigns, Vázquez would automatically become the new governor. She would then have the power to nominate a secretary of state, or she could also reject being governor, in which case the constitution states the treasury secretary would be next in line. However, Treasury Secretary Francisco Parés is 31 years old, and the constitution dictates a governor has to be at least 35. In that case, the governorship would go to Hernández, who replaced the former education secretary, Julia Keleher, who resigned in April and was arrested on July 10 on federal corruption charges. She has pleaded not guilty.

But Hernández has not been clear on whether he would accept becoming governor.

“At this time, this public servant is focused solely and exclusively on the work of the Department of Education,” he told Radio Isla 1320 AM on Monday. A spokesman for Hernandez did not return a message seeking comment.

Meanwhile, Puerto Ricans are growing anxious about what the lack of leadership could mean for the island’s political and economic future.

“It’s very important that the government have a certain degree of stability, said Luis Rodríguez, a 36-year-old accountant, adding that all political parties should be paying attention to what’s happening. “We’re tired of the various political parties that always climb to power and have let us down a bit and have taken the island to the point where it finds itself right now.”

Héctor Luis Acevedo, a university professor and former secretary of state, said both the governor’s party and the main opposition party that he supports, the Popular Democratic Party, have weakened in recent years. He added that new leadership needs to be found soon.

“These uncertainties are dangerous in a democracy because they tend to strengthen the extremes,” he said. “This vacuum is greatly harming the island.”

Puerto Ricans until recently had celebrated that Rosselló and more than a dozen other officials had resigned in the wake of an obscenity-laced chat in which they mocked women and the victims of Hurricane Maria, among others, in 889 pages leaked on July 13. But now, many are concerned that the government is not moving quickly enough to restore order and leadership to an island mired in a 13-year recession as it struggles to recover from the Category 4 storm and tries to restructure a portion of its more than \$70 billion public debt load.

Gabriel Rodríguez Aguiló, a member of Rosselló’s New Progressive Party, which supports statehood, said in a telephone interview that legislators are waiting on Rosselló to nominate a secretary of state, who would then become governor since Vázquez has said she is not interested in the position.

“I hope that whoever is nominated is someone who respects people, who can give the people of Puerto Rico hope and has the capacity to rule,” he said. “We cannot rush into this. There must be sanity and restraint in this process.”

Another option was recently raised by Jenniffer González, Puerto Rico’s representative in Congress. Last week, she urged U.S. President Donald Trump to appoint a federal coordinator to oversee hurricane reconstruction and ensure the proper use of federal funds in the U.S. territory, a suggestion rejected by many on an island already under the direction of a federal control board overseeing its finances and debt restructuring process.

As legislators wait for Rosselló to nominate a secretary of state, they have started debating whether to

amend the constitution to allow for a vice president or lieutenant governor, among other things.

The constitution currently does not allow the government to hold early elections, noted Yanira Reyes Gil, a university professor and constitutional attorney.

"We have to rethink the constitution," she said, adding that there are holes in the current one, including that people are not allowed to participate in choosing a new governor if the previous one resigns.

Reyes also said people are worried that the House and Senate might rush to approve a new secretary of state without sufficient vetting.

"Given the short amount of time, people have doubts that the person will undergo a strict evaluation," she said. "We're in a situation where the people have lost faith in the government agencies, they have lost faith in their leaders."

## **Kamala Harris' new health plan draws critics from all sides**

**By JUANA SUMMERS Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Kamala Harris released a health care proposal on Monday that sought to bridge the Democratic Party's disparate factions. Instead, she drew criticism from rivals across the political spectrum.

Progressives took issue with the presidential candidate for stopping short of the full-scale health care overhaul embodied by the "Medicare for All" legislation. Her more moderate rivals, meanwhile, said she was trying to have it all without taking a firm position on one of the most animating issues in the primary.

The onslaught offered a preview of the Democrat-on-Democrat fighting that will likely unfold over two nights of presidential debates that begin on Tuesday. It left Harris back in the uncomfortable spot she's been for months: explaining herself on health care. Campaigning on Monday in Detroit, she praised Medicare for All's chief architect, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, for "making sure this is a front and center topic" even as she distanced herself from his strategy.

"I have a vision of what it should be, and the existing plans that are being offered did not express what I wanted," the California senator told reporters.

Medicare for All has become a central focus in the Democratic primary, with the most progressive candidates calling for a revolutionary approach to providing government insurance coverage for all Americans at a lower price than the private market.

But Harris split from that approach on several fronts. She envisions a role for private insurers as long as they follow the government's rules. She would slow the transition to a so-called single-payer system to 10 years from the four Sanders has proposed. And she has ruled out tax increases on middle-income Americans, an idea to which Sanders has expressed openness in exchange for lowering the price of health coverage.

Few rushed to align themselves with the Harris proposal.

A top adviser to Joe Biden, with whom Harris memorably clashed during the first debate, blasted the California senator's plan as a failed attempt to please all sides in the debate and warned that her decision to push a 10-year transition obscures the full cost of her approach.

"This new, have-it-every-which-way approach pushes the extremely challenging implementation of the Medicare for All part of this plan ten years into the future, meaning it would not occur on the watch of even a two-term administration," said Biden's deputy campaign manager, Kate Bedingfield. "The result? A Bernie Sanders-lite Medicare for All and a refusal to be straight with the American middle class, who would have a large tax increase forced on them with this plan."

Harris also got hit from the left over her health care tightrope walk. Sanders campaign manager Faiz Shakir accused her of "continuing her gradual backdown from Medicare for All" and suggested that she had been inconsistent on the issue of health care.

Adam Gaffney, the president of Physicians for a National Health Program, said Harris' plan has "several major shortcomings," including the continuation of private insurance and the longer transition period.

"This plan continues to give private insurance a very central role in the health care system," he said. "We have seen for decades that that does not work."

But Topher Spiro, vice president for health policy at the left-leaning think tank Center for American Progress, lauded Harris for trying to assuage “concerns that people have about disruption and about an abrupt transition” away from a largely employer-based health insurance system.

Spiro likened Harris’ plan to the current design of Medicare and Medicaid, which he said “shows it’s possible to have a government program that provides benefits through private options that is very cost-efficient.” He declined to say whether he consulted with the campaign on its plan beyond providing information on Medicare Extra, his group’s proposed alternative to Sanders’ Medicare for All.

Harris has repeatedly been forced to clear up her stance on Medicare for All. She previously appeared to suggest that she supported abolishing private insurance but later clarified that she does not.

Sanders and Harris will debate on different nights during this week’s second primary debates, so they won’t clash directly on health care. But liberals who will share the stage with Harris, including New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, could press the issue.

Sanders said this month that the sweeping overhaul of the U.S. health system he envisions could cost up to \$40 trillion over a decade, and he has said that one option for paying for part of that hefty price would be a 4% tax hike on families making more than \$29,000 each year.

Harris is calling for exempting households making less than \$100,000 each year from that 4% tax, with “a higher income threshold for middle-class families living in high-cost areas.” While Sanders estimated that his proposed tax increase would raise \$3.5 trillion over 10 years, Harris did not specify how much revenue would be raised in the scenario she’s proposing.

To pay for the difference, Harris wants to tax stock trades at 0.2% of the value of the transaction, 0.1% for bonds and 0.002% for derivatives.

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Associated Press writers Hunter Woodall in Detroit and Elana Schor in Washington contributed to this report.

## Lil Nas X sets new Billboard record for most weeks at No.1

By MESFIN FEKADU AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It’s one sweet day for Lil Nas X: The breakthrough rapper’s viral “Old Town Road” has broken the Billboard record set by Mariah Carey’s “One Sweet Day” for most weeks at No. 1.

Lil Nas X accomplishes the feat this week as his country-trap song spends its 17th week on top of the Hot 100 chart. Carey and Boyz II Men’s duet set the record in 1996, and the only song to come close to breaking it was the ubiquitous international hit “Despacito,” which tied the 16-week record in 2017.

“YEEE TF HAWWWW,” Lil Nas X tweeted Monday.

Hours later he posted a video thanking his fans for helping his song set a new record.

“I’m on the toilet right now, but I want to say thank you to every single person who has made this moment possible for me. We just broke the record for the longest-running No. 1 song of all-time,” said Lil Nas X, sporting a cowboy hat as he played “Old Town Road” in the background. “Let’s go!”

“Old Town Road,” which has achieved most of its success through audio streaming, was originally a solo song but 20-year-old Lil Nas X added Billy Ray Cyrus to the track. The song also has remix versions featuring Diplo, Young Thug, Mason Ramsey and BTS, and Billboard counts the original song and its remixes as one when calculating chart position, thus helping “Old Town Road” stay on top.

“17 is my new favorite number,” Cyrus said in a statement Monday, also referring to his debut album “Some Gave All,” which spent 17 weeks at No. 1 in 1992. “My goal was always to make music that would touch people’s lives around the world.”

“Old Town Road” initially was in a bit of controversy in March when Billboard removed it from its country charts, deeming it not country enough (it peaked at No. 19 on the country charts). But the drama didn’t hurt the song; it only propelled it.

Songs have come close to displacing “Old Town Road” from the top spot — including Billie Eilish’s “Bad Guy” and a pair of Taylor Swift singles — but ultimately were unsuccessful.

Swift was successful in 2017 when her song "Look What You Made Me Do" stopped Luis Fonsi, Daddy Yankee and Justin Bieber's "Despacito" from reaching a 17th week at No. 1. Celine Dion's "Because You Loved Me" ended Carey and Boyz II Men's epic run in 1996.

## Unmarked buildings, quiet legal help for accused priests

By **MARTHA MENDOZA, JULIET LINDERMAN and GARANCE BURKE** Associated Press

DRYDEN, Mich. (AP) — The visiting priests arrived discreetly, day and night.

Stripped of their collars and cassocks, they went unnoticed in this tiny Midwestern town as they were escorted into a dingy warehouse across from an elementary school playground. Neighbors had no idea some of the dressed-down clergymen dining at local restaurants might have been accused sexual predators.

They had been brought to town by a small, nonprofit group called Opus Bono Sacerdotii. For nearly two decades, the group has operated out of a series of unmarked buildings in rural Michigan, providing money, shelter, transport, legal help and other support to hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Catholic priests accused of sexual abuse across the country.

Again and again, Opus Bono has served as a rapid-response team for the accused.

When a serial pedophile was sent to jail for abusing dozens of minors, Opus Bono was there for him, with regular visits and commissary cash.

When a priest admitted sexually assaulting boys under 14, Opus Bono raised funds for his defense.

When another priest was criminally charged with abusing a teen, Opus Bono later made him a legal adviser.

And while powerful clerics have publicly pledged to hold the church accountable for the crimes of its clergy and help survivors heal, some of them arranged meetings, offered blessings or quietly sent checks to this organization that provided support to alleged abusers, The Associated Press has found.

Though Catholic leaders deny the church has any official relationship with the group, Opus Bono successfully forged networks reaching all the way to the Vatican.

The AP unraveled the continuing story of Opus Bono in dozens of interviews with experts, lawyers, clergy members and former employees, along with hundreds of pages of documents obtained through Freedom of Information requests.

In recent months, two of the group's founders were forced out after Michigan's attorney general found that Opus Bono had misused donated funds and misled contributors. A third co-founder, a priest, was abruptly removed from ministry earlier this month after the AP began asking about an allegation that he had sexually abused a child decades ago.

Still, since 2002, Opus Bono has played a little-known role among conservative Catholic groups that portray the abuse scandal as a media and legal feeding frenzy. These groups contend the scandal maligns the priesthood and harms the Catholic faith.

Opus Bono established itself as a counterpoint to the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests and other groups that have accused the church of trying to cover up the scandal and failing to support victims of clergy misconduct. Opus Bono focuses on what it considers the neglected victims: priests, and the church itself.

"All of these people that have made allegations are very well taken care of," Opus Bono co-founder Joe Maher said in a radio interview, contending that many abuse accusations lodged against priests are false. "The priests are not at all very well taken care of."

Opus Bono's roots reach back almost two decades to a sex abuse scandal that convulsed The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, a grand stone structure set amid Detroit's crumbling brick blight.

For 25 years, the Rev. Eduard Perrone presided there. Inside the church, commonly known as Assumption Grotto, glossy Opus Bono brochures tout the pastor's role as the group's co-founder and spiritual lifeblood. Stern and imposing, the 70-year-old Perrone is a staunch conservative; he refused to marry couples, for example, if he thought the bride's dress was too revealing.

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Earlier this month, his parishioners were shocked when Perrone was removed from ministry after a church review board decided there was a "semblance of truth" to allegations that he abused a child decades ago. Perrone told the AP that he "never would have done such a thing."

In the years before Perrone helped start Opus Bono, he and Assumption Grotto took in at least two priests who had been accused of sexual misconduct at dioceses in other states. One of them later admitted to molesting as many as 50 children in the 1980s and '90s, according to court documents in Texas.

In 1999, Perrone welcomed the other priest — a West African clergyman named Komlan Dem Houndjame — to come work at Assumption Grotto. Two years later, Detroit Archdiocese officials say, they asked Houndjame to return to his home country, Togo, after learning of accusations of sexual misconduct against him in Detroit and at an earlier posting in Florida.

Instead he went to a treatment facility in St. Louis.

In 2002, Detroit police charged him with sexually assaulting a member of Assumption Grotto's choir.

The 48-year-old parishioner who accused Houndjame of rape said Perrone's response was to protect the church, testifying in court that he told her, "Just walk by him and ignore him."

Perrone responded to the charges against Houndjame by asking the congregation to support the priest in his time of crisis.

Joe Maher was among those who were moved by Perrone's plea for help.

Maher grew up Catholic in the Midwest, then headed to California, where, he said in a podcast, he found work producing live entertainment for Hollywood award shows and other events. "I had access to all the studios," Maher said. He told a radio interviewer he found his faith again in California before moving his family back to Michigan.

Maher led the effort to support Houndjame, serving as media spokesman for the accused priest during the case. Maher even brought the priest home to live with his family, according to his daughter Mary Rose, who was about 10 at the time.

In court files, the AP found two other women at Assumption Grotto also had told police about sexual misconduct by Houndjame. But their testimony was never heard in court.

When the case went to trial, "it was essentially her word against the priest," said then-prosecutor Maria Miller. Houndjame was acquitted and moved to Las Vegas. He told the AP that Perrone had been "a real friend."

Joe Maher, meanwhile, was inundated with calls from other desperate priests, begging for help.

Out of those pleas, Opus Bono was launched.

Around the clock, the organization's main number rang through to Maher's cellphone. Maher and fellow co-founder Peter Ferrara, who had worked in accounting, would mobilize, picking priests up in person or buying them plane tickets, then moving them into a hotel, an apartment or one of several "halfway houses."

"We're on our way to help a priest in need, in the Midwest, so it's going to be a long trip and not much sleep and it could be potentially a dangerous situation," Maher said in a homemade video posted on Opus Bono's Facebook page. He didn't explain why the mission might be dangerous.

Opus Bono's client list is confidential, but its promotional brochures say it has helped over 8,000 priests. The Michigan attorney general estimates the real number is closer to 1,000.

One of those was Rev. Gregory Ingels, a well-known priest in San Francisco's archdiocese who was charged in 2003 with abusing a 15-year-old boy in the 1970s. The criminal charges were dismissed after California's extended statute of limitations was ruled unconstitutional, but the archdiocese later settled a lawsuit filed by another Ingels accuser.

Opus Bono made Ingels one of its advisers on canon, or church, law. When reached by the AP, Ingels said the allegations against him were false and said his involvement with Opus Bono was minimal.

"With Opus Bono, I only answered canon law questions that they had before I hit retirement age," he said.

The group also provided support to Jason Sigler, a former Detroit priest convicted of molesting dozens of children in New Mexico and Michigan.

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In a lawsuit, one former altar boy said Sigler forced him into “hundreds of sexual abuse events, each a violation of criminal sexual penetration laws.”

Maier visited Sigler in prison regularly, funded his commissary account and took his calls, said Mary Rose Maier. She also says her father introduced her to Sigler before and after he was sentenced to prison, and put her on the phone with him while he was behind bars.

“I really didn’t know who Jason was. I had only met him once and I didn’t understand why I had to speak to a priest in prison,” she said.

She told the AP that while she was still a teenager, she and her homeschooled friends began working for her father’s organization — and often spent time with men who were accused of abuse. Sometimes Mary Rose, her father and other employees would meet with accused priests, drive them around town and take them to lunch, she said.

Opus Bono also hired accused priest Dennis Druggan, who headed a Catholic seminary high school in Wisconsin for more than a decade. Druggan was put on administrative leave in July 2012 after allegations surfaced that he had engaged in sexual misconduct with a minor at a Catholic high school for Native American teens in Montana in the 1980s.

Druggan was later removed from public ministry, according to a 2013 audit of the Capuchin province where he served, and is no longer a member of the order, said the province spokesman Tim Hinkle.

Instead, Druggan went to work for Opus Bono, according to employment records the group turned over to Michigan’s attorney general.

Druggan occasionally visited Opus Bono’s office to say Mass or conduct other business, according to Mary Rose Maier. She recalls sitting at his side for lessons on fundraising.

When contacted by the AP, Druggan said he no longer works for Opus Bono and declined further comment.

Another former priest, Robert Kealy, was sent by church officials in Chicago to Opus Bono for “monitoring/therapy” in 2003 after admitting he abused teens. The group described him as an adviser on church law.

Earlier, Kealy himself had helped handle sex-abuse cases for the church. Now his out-of-town trips had to be approved by the Chicago Archdiocese, and documents show they outsourced his monitoring to Maier, who was listed as his “Therapist, Spiritual Leader, Doctor, Monitor,” even though there is no indication Maier is a licensed therapist.

Kealy also attended a conference Opus Bono put on in Detroit, monitored by Monsignor William Varvaro, a former president of the Canon Law Society of America and an early Opus Bono adviser, records show.

Kealy did not respond to requests for comment. Varvaro died in 2007.

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From the very beginning, the group won backing from influential members of the Roman Catholic hierarchy who were eager to advocate for the rights of accused priests.

In 2002, Maier sent a news article about Opus Bono to Father Richard John Neuhaus, the editor of a conservative Catholic journal who served as an unofficial adviser to President George W. Bush. “Some priests have suggested I write to you and let you know what we’re doing,” Maier told Neuhaus.

“More power to you!” Neuhaus replied in a letter the AP located in archives at the Catholic University of America. “The demand that a person ‘must be punished,’ no matter how long ago the offense or the repentance and transformation of the offender is nothing more than a demand for vengeance.”

Neuhaus introduced Maier to his friend Cardinal Avery Dulles, the son of John Foster Dulles, the former U.S. Secretary of State. Dulles was a pre-eminent conservative Catholic theologian in his two decades at Fordham University.

Both men became Opus Bono’s theological advisers. Correspondence shows they forged critical connections for Maier in Rome with at least three powerful Vatican officials. Photographs of American cardinals Raymond Burke and Edmund Szoka were displayed in the group’s promotional materials, along with pictures of other high-ranking church officials who paid calls to the group’s Michigan headquarters. Others sent donations.

Cardinal Edwin O’Brien, the former archbishop of Baltimore and now a Vatican official, said he occasionally sent money to Opus Bono over the years but has not done so in at least a year. He said he never met

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Maher, Ferrara or other founding members and never visited Michigan.

"I saw some charity being done and wanted to encourage them. They were very appreciative," O'Brien said, but added that the next time the group reaches out, he will ask that his photo be removed from its Facebook page.

Vatican spokesman Alessandro Gisotti said the only contact between the Vatican and the U.S. group that he was aware of was the receipt of some promotional materials from Opus Bono years ago. He was not aware of a response.

Don Hanchon, an auxiliary bishop in Detroit, said he was surprised his images were featured on the group's website and in brochures. Hanchon told the AP he might have sent in a donation, but the photograph "seems like I'm a big supporter, and that's just not the truth."

Szoka died in 2014 and Burke could not be reached for comment.

Perrone told an interviewer in 2013 that Opus Bono's relationship with the Roman Catholic Church was deliberately arms-length.

"The church benefits from what we're doing but it doesn't give it the support," he said. "The whole point of this is to be a counterpoint to a movement which is also outside the church, a movement of dissent and against the priesthood."

But the group also presented itself as deeply entwined with the church, right down to its name, which means "work for the good of the priesthood."

"Use of the Latin, which is the official language of the Church, helps to identify OBS with the Catholic Church in Rome and the Papacy," the group's founding documents note.

In addition to courting religious leaders, Opus Bono also has benefited from connections to wealthy U.S. Catholics.

A radio network founded by Tom Monaghan, a billionaire Domino's Pizza founder who later advised President Donald Trump's 2016 campaign, interviewed Maher and Perrone and promoted Opus Bono's work, according to archived Ave Maria Radio recordings.

Monaghan's Ave Maria Foundation also sponsored a community talk Maher gave at a Detroit hotel, according to the recordings. And a former chaplain at Florida-based Ave Maria School of Law, which Monaghan founded and on whose board he serves, was listed as an Opus Bono adviser on the group's website.

A spokesman for Monaghan declined to comment on Opus Bono. Joe Maher has said that Monaghan never made any direct donations to the group.

In their four locations over 17 years — three of them in towns in rural Michigan — the group didn't post signs.

In 2005, in Oxford, Michigan, Opus Bono retrofitted one side of an old metal-casting facility adjacent to a high school for its headquarters. At noon, metal workers would halt their noisy work to let Opus Bono staffers observe Mass and sometimes join in prayer, two former employees of the group said.

The group's next move, in 2014, was 20 miles away to the village of Dryden. Local officials were puzzled when they heard Maher and Ferrara wanted to set up a Hollywood-style production studio in a dilapidated warehouse off Main Street — again facing an elementary school playground.

Nothing was mentioned about priests.

"They were very tight-lipped and never talked about anything having to do with priests," said Gyrome Edwards, a building and zoning official in Dryden. "They were just trying to go unseen."

Each week inside the warehouse, office workers mailed out appeals to potential donors in envelopes featuring pictures of the pope. The letters inside, as well as postings on the group's website, included testimonials describing the purported experiences of priests who'd faced desperate crises, including false accusations of sexual abuse.

One testimonial from May 2018, for example, claimed that a "Father David" had been stalked by a mentally unbalanced parishioner who had accused him of sexual misconduct after he turned down her offers of gifts and money.

"Even when a priest has done absolutely nothing wrong," the testimonial asserted, "the Church will

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sometimes go to the nth degree, including subjecting some priests to unwarranted psychological trauma, and a very long wait to return to active ministry, all to appease a terribly aggressive accuser.”

The testimonials, however, were misleading, an investigation by Michigan’s attorney general found. Opus Bono’s lawyers conceded to state investigators that Maher had concocted them by stitching together stories from various priests.

The state’s investigation began after it was contacted by a once-loyal Opus Bono employee — Maher’s own daughter, Mary Rose, now 27.

In February 2017, she wrote a letter to the state attorney general accusing the group of financial misconduct.

“A simple investigation into the Michigan non-profit charity Opus Bono Sacerdotii would bring to light the millions of embezzled dollars, years of mail fraud, and the constant systemic abuse of donations,” she wrote.

The tip landed on the desk of Assistant Attorney General William Bloomfield, a devout Catholic with a law degree from Ave Maria.

The investigation lasted more than a year.

Investigators concluded the group’s fundraising solicitations had been deceptive. They also found that Maher and Ferrara had violated state charity laws by using donated funds to cover such personal expenses as sushi lunches, chiropractor visits and power tools to work on their homes, according to a cease and desist order filed by Michigan’s attorney general.

Over the years, as the group grew richer — financial records show donations increased from \$73,000 in 2002 to \$1.3 million in 2016 — Maher’s pay soared from \$40,500 to \$212,000. Ferrara’s rose from \$16,300 to \$316,000.

“Maher and Ferrara took what they wanted, when they wanted it,” the attorney general’s office wrote, demanding repayment of more than \$500,000.

A former board member — J. Michael Carrigan, a former Smithsonian Institution director — said that whatever the co-founders paid themselves was only to reimburse the tens of thousands of dollars they spent out of their own pockets supporting priests in Opus Bono’s early days.

Ultimately, Bloomfield oversaw a settlement last December that required Opus Bono to pay \$10,000 to cover the costs of the state’s investigation and forced Ferrara and Maher from their jobs at the nonprofit. The group’s entire board of directors was replaced.

Within weeks of the settlement, Bloomfield left his job at the attorney general’s office and took a job with the Catholic Diocese of Lansing, Michigan, as general counsel.

Bloomfield said his work on the investigation did not represent a conflict of interest because Opus Bono is a nonprofit, separate from the church.

But four years before Bloomfield began directing the state’s investigation of Opus Bono, he attended a service chanted by Perrone and the Assumption Grotto choir that moved him “to a deep and joyful praise of God,” he wrote on Facebook. Bloomfield told the AP his parents knew Perrone and that he had attended services at Assumption Grotto on occasion as a youth.

Bloomfield also sells religious texts through his own imprint, Sacred Art Series, which sometimes can be found for sale at Assumption Grotto’s gift shop, a clerk said. Bloomfield said he has never sold books there directly, but added it’s possible that his mother, who served on a nonprofit board with Perrone, may have dropped off copies.

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Despite the settlement, the story of Opus Bono continues to unfold.

The Archdiocese of Detroit has asked the Vatican to review the sexual misconduct allegations against Father Perrone.

Mary Rose Maher recently launched her own nonprofit group. She says the group will support survivors of sexual abuse, positioning it squarely in opposition to her father’s organization even as she adapts some of its tactics — offering shelter, legal representation and emotional and financial help. She is soliciting donations to build a “safe haven house” and raising money by selling tickets to a banquet that will be held



at an as-yet-determined date.

Her father, who was required by the state to never again run a nonprofit in Michigan, has launched a second nonprofit that seems to have the identical mission of helping priests in need.

The new group is called Men of Melchizedek, a reference to an Old Testament figure who was thought to be both a king and a priest. It is registered in Indiana, but its website says its "principal office" is located in Michigan. The group lists Maher as its president.

In a March letter to the Michigan attorney general, Maher's attorney described him something akin to a case worker whose labors are "a corporal and spiritual work of mercy; it is how he practices his Catholic faith." The letter said the new group will provide the same services as Opus Bono, but warned that "more vulnerable beneficiaries may be lost to suicide during the transition."

Both Opus Bono and Men of Melchizedek now list the same canon lawyer, the Rev. David Deibel, as their chairman.

Deibel, Joe Maher and Maher's attorneys did not return multiple messages from the AP.

On its website, the new group promises "non-judgmental support and life-time accompaniment for our priest-clients who are so very much in need."

"We turn no priest away," it says.

## Putin opponent sent back to jail after suspected poisoning

By NATALIYA VASILYEVA Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny was moved back to jail from a hospital Monday even though his physician raised suspicions of a possible poisoning after he suffered facial swelling and a rash while in custody.

Details about Navalny's condition were scarce after he was rushed to a hospital Sunday with what authorities said was a suspected allergy attack inside a detention facility where he was serving a 30-day sentence for calling an unsanctioned protest. The 43-year-old political foe of President Vladimir Putin was arrested several days before a major opposition rally Saturday that ended with nearly 1,400 people detained.

Tensions are running high in Moscow as dozens of protesters remain in custody and the opposition called for a new rally Aug. 3.

In a blog post written in detention, Navalny said he may have been exposed to an unknown chemical agent while in custody. Navalny recalled how his face started to become swollen on Saturday and it worsened the next day: "I got up in the morning, and when my cellmate saw me, he said: 'You need to see a doctor now.'"

Dr. Anastasiya Vasilyeva, who has been Navalny's physician for several years, visited him Monday shortly before he was discharged from the hospital and sent back to the detention facility even before the necessary tests were run on him.

Doctors at the hospital initially said Navalny had a severe allergy attack, but Vasilyeva said that the swelling and the rash on his face could be consistent with chemical poisoning. She said the incarceration would jeopardize his health.

"He has not fully recovered. He should have been left under medical supervision," she told reporters outside the hospital, adding that the doctors didn't even try to determine what caused the swelling and rash. "Who is going to watch over him at the detention facility? They are not qualified to provide him with professional help."

Vasilyeva expressed concern that the chemical agent that caused the outbreak could still be in his prison cell.

Navalny's attorney, Olga Mikhailova, told reporters earlier the outbreak was caused by "poisoning, by some kind of chemical substance" but that its source wasn't established. She said he has been given anti-inflammatory steroids and that the swelling subsided.

Navalny said Monday he felt and looked better now — "like someone who's been drinking for a week." His face is visibly swollen in the picture he attached to the blog post, with red circles around the eyes.

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He said he would like to see CCTV footage to check if anyone entered the cell while he was away on a walk, saying that he had his own linen and toiletries and could not think of a possible cause unless someone left something near his bunk.

Although there has been no confirmation that Navalny was poisoned, suggestions by his doctor that he was exposed to some kind of toxic chemical in jail raised suspicions among his supporters of possible foul play. Some Kremlin political opponents have been poisoned or killed in recent years, although Russian officials denied any involvement.

"Are they such idiots to poison me in the place where they could be the only suspects?" Navalny wrote in the post, referring to the Russian government. "There's only one thing I can say with certainty: Power in Russia is in the hands of the guys who really are stupid."

Navalny, a lawyer and anti-corruption activist, has been the Kremlin's most formidable foe since 2011, when he led a massive wave of protests of Putin and his party. He has since been convicted on two sets of criminal charges, largely regarded as politically motivated, and spent numerous stints in jail for disturbing public order and leading unsanctioned protests.

He has been attacked several times. In 2017, an assailant doused him with a green antiseptic, and Navalny sustained a chemical burn in one of his eyes, which left to a partial loss of vision. Navalny was able to travel abroad for treatment.

On Saturday, baton-wielding police wrestled with protesters in what might have been the largest unsanctioned protest in Russia in a decade.

Putin, who was out of town to lead a naval parade in St. Petersburg on Sunday, has not commented on the massive protests.

Opposition activists as well as ordinary Muscovites vented their anger over officials' decision to exclude a dozen independent candidates from the ballot for a Sept. 8 election of the Moscow city legislature, which is dominated by the ruling, pro-Kremlin party.

The candidates' supporters had earlier picketed the headquarters of the Moscow Election Commission and rallied on a central square for several days straight. After authorities claimed that some of the 5,500 signatures each candidate collected were forgeries, the candidates went to the local election commission to protest, some bringing the same people whose signatures were ruled invalid.

Among those taken into custody Saturday were several would-be candidates. One of them, Ilya Yashin, was sentenced Monday to 10 days in jail for calling the protest. Another, Dmitry Gudkov, is due to appear in court on Tuesday.

Andrei Pertsev of the Moscow Carnegie Center said in an opinion piece last week that the Kremlin was not going to allow opposition candidates on the ballot from the start, fearing their presence in the local council, however low-key, could give them a platform for campaigning for the next parliamentary election.

"It was a matter of principle for the Kremlin not to allow the opposition candidates on the ballot," he said, adding that a Moscow city lawmaker would be an "odds-on favorite" to win a seat at the 2021 parliamentary election.

Over the weekend, the European Union condemned what it called "the disproportionate use of force against peaceful protesters." The EU said the weekend actions already came in the wake of "the worrying series of arrests and police raids against opposition politicians" in recent days.

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Associated Press writer Raf Casert in Brussels contributed.

## Asian shares higher as China-US trade talks set to resume

By ELAINE KURTENBACH AP Business Writer

BANGKOK (AP) — Shares were mostly higher in Asia on Tuesday as envoys from the U.S. and China prepared to resume trade talks, this time in Shanghai.

Japan's Nikkei 225 index climbed 0.3% to 21,687.22 after the Bank of Japan opted to keep its policy intact and leave its benchmark interest rate at minus 0.1%.

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The Shanghai Composite index added 0.7% to 2,960.18 while Hong Kong's Hang Seng rebounded from losses that followed clashes between protesters and police over the weekend, gaining 0.3% to 28,202.04. In South Korea the Kospi gained 0.6% to 2,041.17.

Australia's S&P ASX 200 advanced 0.4% to 6,849.90. Shares fell in Taiwan and Bangkok but rose in Singapore and Jakarta.

The U.S. and China head into another round of trade negotiations on Tuesday. Investors are hoping Beijing and Washington can avoid another escalation in tariffs like the one that occurred two months ago after talks fell apart.

The gains in Tokyo came despite news that industrial production sank 3.6% from the month before in June. Given uncertainties over global demand and trade disputes, economists have been downgrading their growth forecasts, with the BOJ cutting its own annual growth estimate for the current year by 0.1% to 0.7%.

"The Bank of Japan struck a dovish tone today, promising further easing measures if needed. But we still think it will refrain from lowering interest rates any further," Marcel Thieliant of Capital Economics said in a commentary.

Major U.S. stock indexes closed mostly lower Monday as investors turned cautious ahead of a key Federal Reserve interest policy announcement and other potentially market-moving developments on tap for this week. That includes the government's monthly jobs report for July, which will be released on Friday.

The S&P 500 index slipped 0.2% to 3,020.97. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.1% to 27,221.35 and the Nasdaq composite fell 0.4% to 8,293.33. The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies slid 0.6% to 1,569.02.

Traders expect the Federal Reserve will cut its benchmark short-term rate on Wednesday to help ensure U.S. economic growth in the face of trade uncertainty. Investors are expecting the Fed will cut its rate by a quarter of a percentage point from its current range of 2.25% to 2.50%. That would be the Fed's first rate cut in a decade.

Investors also will be wading through a heavy slate of corporate earnings reports this week.

Bond prices rose. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.06% from 2.08% late Friday.

ENERGY: Benchmark crude oil rose 31 cents to \$57.18 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It gained 67 cents to settle Monday at \$56.87 a barrel. Brent crude oil, the international standard, gained 32 cents to \$63.94 a barrel.

CURRENCIES: The dollar slipped to 108.59 Japanese yen from 108.78 yen on Friday. The euro strengthened to \$1.1139 from \$1.1145.

AP Business Writers Alex Veiga and Damian J. Troise contributed to this report.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, July 30, the 211th day of 2019. There are 154 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 30, 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a measure making "In God We Trust" the national motto, replacing "E Pluribus Unum" (Out of many, one).

On this date:

In 1619, the first representative assembly in America convened in Jamestown in the Virginia Colony.

In 1729, Baltimore, Md. was founded.

In 1792, the French national anthem "La Marseillaise" (lah mar-seh-YEHZ'), by Claude Joseph Rouget de Lisle, was first sung in Paris by troops arriving from Marseille.

In 1916, German saboteurs blew up a munitions plant on Black Tom, an island near Jersey City, New Jersey, killing about a dozen people.

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In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a bill creating a women's auxiliary agency in the Navy known as "Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service" — WAVES for short.

In 1945, the Portland class heavy cruiser USS Indianapolis, having just delivered components of the atomic bomb to Tinian in the Mariana Islands, was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine; only 317 out of nearly 1,200 men survived.

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed a measure creating Medicare, which began operating the following year.

In 1975, former Teamsters union president Jimmy Hoffa disappeared in suburban Detroit; although presumed dead, his remains have never been found.

In 1980, Israel's Knesset passed a law reaffirming all of Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish state.

In 2001, Robert Mueller (MUHL'-ur), President George W. Bush's choice to head the FBI, promised the Senate Judiciary Committee that if confirmed, he would move forcefully to fix problems at the agency. (Mueller became FBI director on Sept. 4, 2001, a week before the 9/11 attacks.)

In 2002, WNBA player Lisa Leslie of the Los Angeles Sparks became the first woman to dunk in a professional game, jamming on a breakaway in the first half of the Sparks' 82-73 loss to the Miami Sol.

In 2003, President George W. Bush took personal responsibility for the first time for using discredited intelligence in his State of the Union address, but predicted he would be vindicated for going to war against Iraq.

Ten years ago: Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates Jr. and Sgt. James Crowley, the Cambridge, Massachusetts, police officer who'd arrested him for disorderly conduct at his home, had beers with President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden at the White House to discuss the dispute that unleashed a furor over racial profiling in America.

Five years ago: The House overwhelmingly approved, 420-5, a landmark bill to refurbish the Veterans Affairs Department and improve veterans' health care. Three Israeli artillery shells slammed into a United Nations school in Gaza crowded with some 3,300 people; the shells, which Israel said came in response to mortar fire nearby, killed 17 people.

One year ago: Zimbabwe voted for the first time without Robert Mugabe on the ballot; there were long lines at some polling stations. President Donald Trump said he'd be willing to meet with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani "anytime" with "no preconditions." More than 27,000 people remained evacuated because of a Northern California wildfire that ranked as the ninth most destructive blaze in the state's history; the fire in the area of Redding had destroyed more than 800 homes and left two firefighters and four civilians dead. Ron Dellums, an anti-war activist who championed social justice as Northern California's first black congressman, died of cancer at his home in Washington at the age of 82.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Edd (correct) "Kookie" Byrnes is 86. Former Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig is 85. Blues musician Buddy Guy is 83. Movie director Peter Bogdanovich is 80. Feminist activist Eleanor Smeal is 80. Former U.S. Rep. Patricia Schroeder is 79. Singer Paul Anka is 78. Jazz musician David Sanborn is 74. Former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is 72. Actor William Atherton is 72. Actor Jean Reno (zhahn rih-NOH') is 71. Blues singer-musician Otis Taylor is 71. Actor Frank Stallone is 69. Actor Ken Olin is 65. Actress Delta Burke is 63. Law professor Anita Hill is 63. Singer-songwriter Kate Bush is 61. Country singer Neal McCoy is 61. Actor Richard Burgi is 61. Movie director Richard Linklater is 59. Actor Laurence Fishburne is 58. Actress Lisa Kudrow is 56. Bluegrass musician Danny Roberts (The Grascals) is 56. Country musician Dwayne O'Brien is 56. Actress Vivica A. Fox is 55. Actor Terry Crews is 51. Actor Simon Baker is 50. Actor Donnie Keshawar is 50. Movie director Christopher Nolan is 49. Actor Tom Green is 48. Rock musician Brad Hargreaves (Third Eye Blind) is 48. Actress Christine Taylor is 48. Actor-comedian Dean Edwards is 46. Actress Hilary Swank is 45. Olympic gold medal beach volleyball player Misty May-Treanor is 42. Actress Jaime Pressly is 42. Alt-country singer-musician Seth Avett (AY'-veht) is 39. Actress April Bowlby is 39. Soccer player Hope Solo is 38. Actress Yvonne Strahovski is 37. Actor Martin Starr is 37. Actress Gina Rodriguez is 35. Actor Nico Tortorella is 31. Actress Joey King is 20.

Thought for Today: "An efficient bureaucracy is the greatest threat to liberty." — Sen. Eugene McCarthy (1916-2005).