

# Groton Daily Independent

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

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

## Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

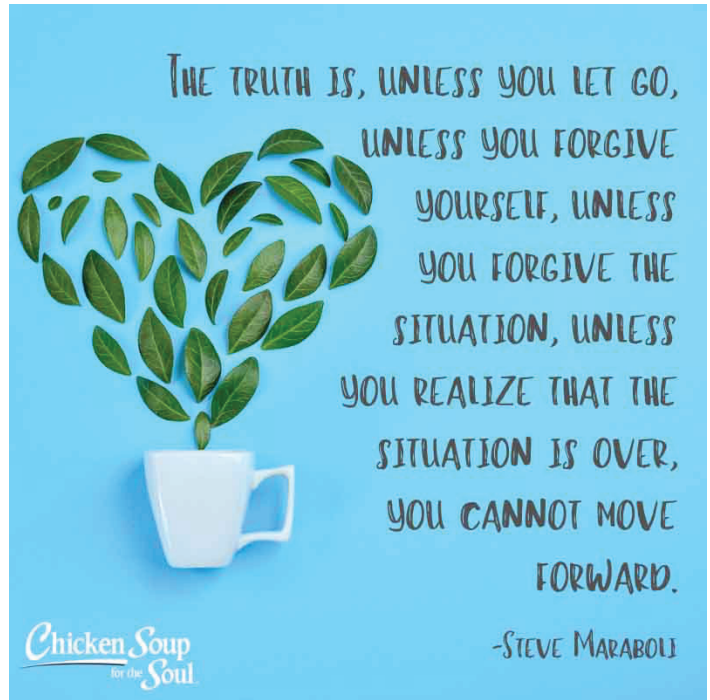
### Swimming Pool Hours

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

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

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

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



### July 30 - Aug. 2

Amateur Districts in Groton

### Thursday, Aug. 1

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

### August 5-18

State "B" Amateur Tournament at Mitchell

### August 9-11

State Junior Legion Tourney in Groton

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**Back Row left to right. Coach Dalton Locke, Anthony Schinkel, Jace Kroll, Peyton Johnson, Evin Nehls, Chandler Larson, Tristan Traphagen, Alex Morris, Lucas Simon, Adrian Knutson and Coach Kevin Nehls**

**Front Row left to right: Douglas Heminger, Jackson Cogley, Riley Thurston, Pierce Kettering, Kaden Kurtz, Darien Shabazz, Lee Iverson, Jayden Zak, Lane Krueger** (Photo by Marjae Schinkel)

## Groton Jr. Legion Team wins Regional Title

Because Groton is hosting state we are automatically in, but had to play region tournament for seating in state tournament.

Played first game July 29th against Lennox. Groton won 6 to 2 over Lennox. Pitcher was Alex Morris, he pitched full game and had 14 strikeouts!

Championship game July 30th against Claremont. Groton won 13 to 3 over Claremont. Chandler Larson pitched a full game and had 12 strikeouts!

The Regional tournament was played in Clark. The state tournament will be played in Groton August 9-11.



## We need our farmers.

We need them physically strong. We need them mentally strong.

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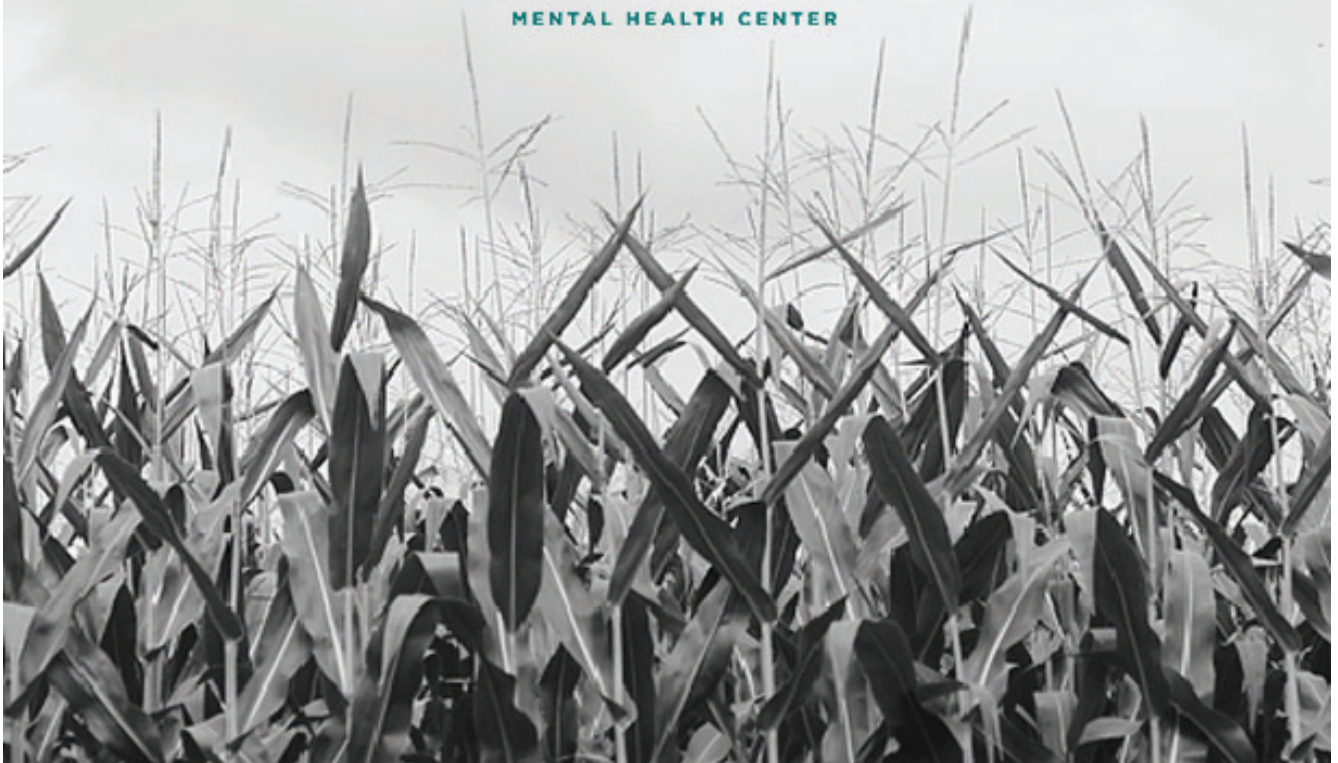
**Northeastern Mental Health Center** is now offering counseling services for farmers and their families-**at no cost.**

With the current state of the industry, we understand that farm families can feel overwhelmed in times of stress, instability, and uncertainty.

We're here to help.

**Call 605-225-1010 for more information.**

Northeastern Mental Health Center services the counties of Brown, Campbell, Day, Edmunds, Faulk, Marshall, McPherson, Potter, Spink and Walworth.





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Today



Decreasing  
Clouds

High: 80 °F

Tonight



Partly Cloudy

Low: 65 °F

Thursday



Partly Sunny

High: 83 °F

Thursday  
Night



Mostly Cloudy  
then Slight  
Chance  
T-storms

Low: 66 °F

Friday



Slight Chance  
T-storms

High: 84 °F

**Today**  
AM Showers.  
Mostly Dry Aftn.  
  
Highs: 75-89°

**Tonight**  
Partly Cloudy.  
  
Lows: 60s

**Thursday**  
Partly Sunny and  
more humid.  
  
Highs: 80s

**Increasingly Muggy**

weather.gov/abr  
National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD  
Graphic Created  
7/31/2019 2:56 AM

Published on: 07/30/2019 at 10:59PM

Morning showers and thunderstorms are possible, especially over parts of central and western South Dakota. The rest of today, as well as tonight and Thursday should be mainly dry. More showers and thunderstorms are possible toward Thursday night.

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## Today in Weather History

July 31, 1966: A deadly, estimated F3 tornado moved southeast, passing south of Ashley, North Dakota, destroying buildings on five farms with near F4 damage to one farm house. Another tornado with F2 strength occurred north of Long Lake where two adults were killed, and three children were injured as a car was thrown 500 feet from Highway 101. A second estimated F2 tornado moved ENE just south of Aberdeen. A trailer was demolished, killing a man and injuring his wife. Seven airplanes were also had damage. Property damage was estimated at a quarter million dollars. An estimated 90 mph wind gust was also reported northeast of Aberdeen.

July 31, 2008: In the early morning hours of the 31st, a line of storms originating in North Dakota began to expand and surge southeast into northeast South Dakota. As the storms moved southeast, they started to tap into warmer, more humid air and rapidly evolve into a line of severe thunderstorms. Widespread damage occurred in a broad swath extending from Long Lake in McPherson County all the way into eastern Grant County and southern Big Stone County in Minnesota. The most extensive damage was found along and near US Highway 12 from Aberdeen to Milbank. Several observing stations in the path of this system measured wind speeds ranging from 70 mph to over 115 mph. Estimated wind speeds from damage surveys indicated even stronger winds with peak speeds of 120 mph.

Over fifty communities in northeast South Dakota and the surrounding rural areas received minor to major tree, and structural damage as straight-line winds from 70 to 120 mph raced across the area. Webster and Waubay received the most extensive damage from the storms. Thousands of trees were snapped or uprooted, hundreds of grain bins were damaged or destroyed, hundreds of homes, businesses, and outbuildings were damaged or destroyed along with many power poles and miles of power lines downed. Many mobile homes, campers, and boats were damaged or destroyed along with many road and business signs.

Fallen trees also damaged countless homes, vehicles, and campers. Thousands of acres of crops were also damaged or destroyed by the winds and hail. The most significant crop damage occurred in the Roslyn, Grenville, Eden, and Pickerel Lake areas in Marshall and Day counties. Many acres of corn were blown down and not able to come back. The large hail combined with the strong winds also broke out many windows in homes and vehicles along with damaging the siding on houses. Thousands of people were left without power for up to several days. Large hay bales were moved up to 700 yards by the high winds. A semi was overturned on Highway 12 near Webster, injuring the driver. Near Milbank on Highway 12, two other semis were blown off the road resulting in injuries to both drivers. A State Forestry Specialist said it was one of the worst tree damage events he has ever seen in the Webster area. A fifty-eight-year-old man died two miles north of Waubay during the cleanup after the storms when he was pinned between a backhoe and a tree.

1715: Spanish treasure ships, returning from the New World to Spain, encountered a hurricane during the early morning hours on this day. Eleven of the twelve ships were lost near present-day Vero Beach, Florida.

1949: Lightning struck a baseball field at Baker, Florida during a game. The shortstop and third baseman were killed instantly.

1987: The second deadliest tornado in Canadian history occurred in Edmonton, Alberta. An F4 tornado killed 27 people, injured over 300, and caused a quarter of a billion dollars in damage.

1997: South Pole, Antarctica recorded their coldest July ever. The average temperature of -86.8 degrees broke the previous record of -83.6 degrees set in July 1965.



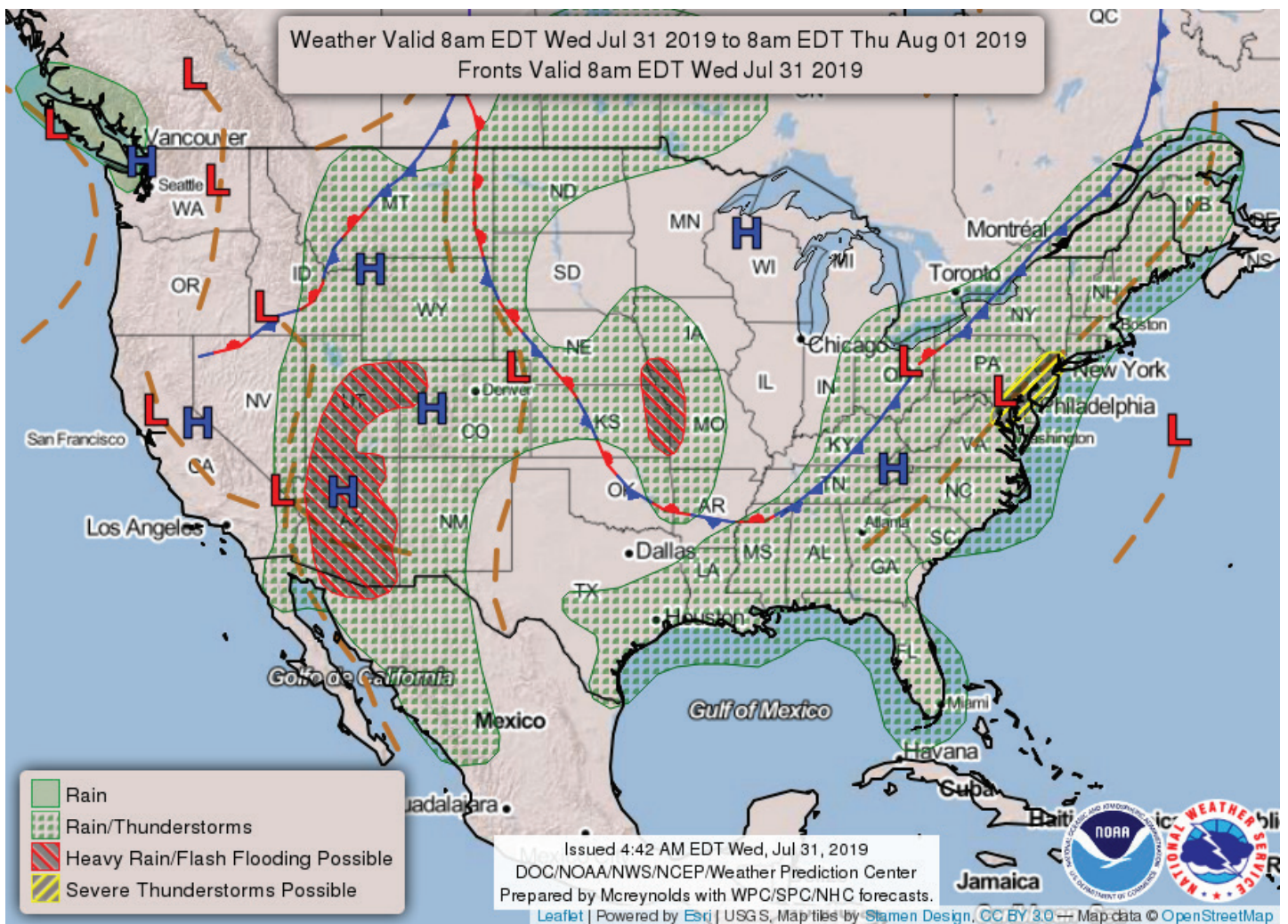
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp:** 77 °F at 6:20 PM  
**Low Temp:** 54 °F at 5:38 AM  
**Wind:** 15 mph at 12:54 PM  
**Day Rain:** 0.00

**Record High:** 106° in 1987  
**Record Low:** 42° in 2003  
**Average High:** 84°F  
**Average Low:** 59°F  
**Average Precip in July.:** 2.94  
**Precip to date in July.:** 4.05  
**Average Precip to date:** 13.78  
**Precip Year to Date:** 16.77  
**Sunset Tonight:** 9:03 p.m.  
**Sunrise Tomorrow:** 6:18 a.m.



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## WHATS IN A WORD?

There are 1,052,010.5 words in the English language. And, if you were to search for a dictionary on the Amazon site, you will find that 100 are available. Furthermore, in most dictionaries, there are several different meanings for the same word depending on how the word is used, and what, in most instances, it means. So, if we thought that we could discover the precise meaning of a specific word in a certain dictionary, we may come away with the wrong definition and never understand the meaning and message of a word we do not understand.

To further complicate matters, David Berlo, Ph.D., a professor of communication at the University of Michigan, once said, Meanings are not in words, they are in people. If we take 1,052,010.5 words, 100 dictionaries with the possibility of multiple definitions for almost every word, and then factor in that it doesn't matter, because we may have our own definition, what are we to believe? Or, does it matter what a specific word means to us?

Well, it depends on who uses what word or words to say or write what. For example, if I were to write you a prescription for a migraine headache and signed it, Dr. Lawrence Guido, a pharmacist would look at it and say, Well, hes a doctor, but not the right kind of doctor, and his words don't mean anything to me because hes not a

medical doctor, so this prescription is worthless. So the who - or the source of the word - the person who says or writes a word - is critical.

Christians speak of Gods Word as inspired and inerrant. That means two things: the words in Scripture are God-breathed and are free from error. Inspired God-breathed means that they were carried through Gods breath to and through those who were chosen by Him, in turn, to write His words on His behalf for us.

Secondly, inerrant means that there are no errors, or mistakes, in the words His writers wrote. Therefore, what we have in scripture are God-breathed words from God Himself that have no errors. And, if we accept that as fact, then what we find in Scripture is what we are to believe and then live.

In Matthew 28:18-20, we hear the risen Christ say, All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore, go and make disciples. If we accept Scripture

as inspired and inerrant, and if we believe that Jesus was given Gods authority to direct our lives, and if we accept Him as our Savior and Lord, then we are obligated to execute His command to go and make disciples. To go and make disciples then is not a choice, but an order that comes from the Christ Who was empowered with the power of the Creator of the universe. We, therefore, as His disciples, are honor-bound to make disciples.

There are several words in these verses that seem to be overlooked because of the magnetism of the



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Great Commission: Go make disciples! However, prior to the Go make disciples, the risen Christ said, All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. These few words have tremendous significance for every believer. All authority in heaven and on earth means that our Sovereign God, Creator of all things seen and unseen, delegated His Son or endowed His Son, with the same authority - or power over all things to do anything! So, the risen Christ, from that moment to this very moment and on into eternity, had the liberty and the authority and power from the Sovereign Creator of the universe -- to do anything! How very amazing! The risen Christ is now co-equal in power and authority to the Creator God!

And, with the power He received from His Father, and the authority that is included with it, He gave a command His first - to His disciples: Go make disciples! We know the command, but what about the authority behind and beyond the command?

Because of His authority and power, when Jesus commanded His disciples to makes disciples, there was no middle ground. They were to make disciples! Now, heres the issue. They could choose to either make disciples or choose not to make disciples. The choice was theirs to make. He, their Sovereign Lord, gave a command to them! And with that command came the freedom of choice, the decision was up to them.

But remember, the Risen Christ, with all the power and authority of the Creator of the universe, said, Make disciples! If they made disciples, they obeyed His command. If they didnt make disciples, they were disobedient to His command. Simple choice. Not easy to fulfill. But, there is no alternative only a decision to obey or not to obey.

That command declared at that moment in history has not been canceled or rescinded. It is in full force, with the same power and authority today as it was the moment it was declared. As it was then, so it is today: Go make disciples! If we are indeed His disciples, we will be involved in making disciples.

So, its simple to understand, but not easy to do. But within those verses, along with the command, are the reassuring words, And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Making disciples may not be easy, but if we make the effort, that authority and power of the risen Christ is in us, with us, and will work through us. The choice is simple. The work is not easy. But Christ will empower us to make disciples with Him if we are willing to work with Him and submit to His sovereignty.

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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

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

10-24-28-33-38, Mega Ball: 6, Megaplier: 3

(ten, twenty-four, twenty-eight, thirty-three, thirty-eight; Mega Ball: six; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$45 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$88 million

### Bison crashes at Wind Cave on the rise

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Motorists are being urged to keep an eye out for wandering bison in Wind Cave National Park in South Dakota after rangers noticed an uptick in the number of crashes between vehicles and the animals.

There have been six such crashes this year, with half resulting in fatal injuries to the bison. Park officials say there were no bison crashes last year and only two the year before, neither of which killed the bison. The park, in southwestern South Dakota, has 500 bison.

The latest crash happened Saturday night when a woman driving on U.S. 385 struck and killed a bison, park spokesman Tom Farrell said. The woman had no visible injuries, but her car was totaled and had to be towed, Farrell said.

Farrell told the Rapid City Journal that he's not sure what's behind the increase this year, but he said drivers need to watch their speeds and look out for the animals, especially at night when they're hard to see. Bison can often weigh as much as a ton.

"It's almost like looking at a black hole, they're very hard to see" at night, Farrell said.

Kobee Stalder, visitor services manager at Custer State Park, just north of Wind Cave, said bison are "very difficult" to see in the dark due to their dark-brown fur and the location of their eyes in the middle of their head. The eyes usually don't reflect until a car is close.

"By the time your lights connect with the eyes to make them shine, it's too late," Stalder said. Bison may stand in the middle of the road day or night and don't tend to jump out of the way like other wildlife do, he said.

None of Custer State Park's 1,350 bison have been hit this year, but two were hit in 2018 and one each was hit in 2017 and in 2016. One died soon after the crash, while the other three had to be euthanized, Stalder said.

Both Stalder and Farrell agreed that speeding is a major cause of bison crashes.

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

### ACLU creates new position focusing on indigenous issues

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The American Civil Liberties Union is creating a new position in South Dakota to focus on indigenous issues, spurred in part by the state toughening laws ahead of possible Keystone XL pipeline protests.

ACLU director of campaigns Sabrina King said the position will be modeled on the organization's indigenous justice program in Montana. King will supervise the new South Dakota position.

The Sioux Falls Argus Leader reported the ACLU has long wanted to build on its work on indigenous issues in the state. The idea took on new urgency after South Dakota this year passed laws aimed at



potential Keystone XL protests.

With memories fresh of disruptive protests against the Dakota Access pipeline that cost neighboring North Dakota nearly \$40 million and led to hundreds of arrests beginning in late 2016, South Dakota pushed the laws through late in this year's legislative session just days after they were proposed by Republican Gov. Kristi Noem.

The laws require pipeline companies to help pay extraordinary expenses such as the cost of policing during protests and aim to pursue money from demonstrators who engage in so-called "riot boosting," which is defined in part as encouraging violence during a riot.

The measures sparked opposition from Native Americans tribes who said they weren't consulted.

The ACLU is challenging the laws in federal court, arguing they are unconstitutional.

King said the person in the new position will build relationships with indigenous people throughout the state and ask the question, "What are the issues that are affecting your community that the ACLU needs to be working on?" King said.

It has become clear that the basis of organizing is building relationships rather than hiring more attorneys or policy directors, she said.

They already know there are topics that need focus, including missing and murdered indigenous women and the Keystone XL pipeline. But the ACLU knows there are other areas that it's missing, and the new position will allow the ACLU to work on those issues in partnership with indigenous people in South Dakota, she said.

"Across the ACLU, we're focusing a lot more on indigenous communities and really wanting to build relationships and be in conversation with folks," especially in places like Montana and South Dakota where the indigenous justice organizers can work in a more focused way, she said.

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

## Authorities say passenger who fell off ATV has died

DOON, Iowa (AP) — Authorities say a man who fell off the back of an all-terrain vehicle in northwest Iowa has died.

The Iowa State Patrol says 25-year-old Jacob Soodsma, of Rock Valley, died at a Sioux Falls, South Dakota, hospital.

The patrol says Soodsma was a passenger Saturday afternoon on the ATV being driven by 27-year-old Joseph Keegan. The patrol says Soodsma fell after the ATV left a private residence and entered an intersection in Doon.

He was taken to a Rock Valley hospital before being flown to the Sioux Falls hospital.

The accident is being investigated.

## Body of Sioux Falls man found in Big Sioux River

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities are investigating the discovery of a man's body in the Big Sioux River.

Minnehaha County sheriff's officials say the body of 50-year-old Leland Dwight Fallis was found by kayakers in the river northwest of Brandon late Saturday afternoon.

Chief Deputy Jeff Gromer says Fallis was last seen leaving his Sioux Falls home on foot last Wednesday. An autopsy could provide an answer as to what caused his death.

## 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>

## **Sanders, Warren clash with moderates over 'Medicare for All'**

**By STEVE PEOPLES and SARA BURNETT Associated Press**

DETROIT (AP) — The signature domestic proposal by the leading progressive candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination came under withering attack from moderates in a debate that laid bare the struggle between a call for revolutionary policies and a desperate desire to defeat President Donald Trump.

Standing side by side at center stage on Tuesday, Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren slapped back against their more cautious rivals who ridiculed "Medicare for All" and warned that "wish-list economics" would jeopardize Democrats' chances for taking the White House in 2020.

"I don't understand why anybody goes to all the trouble of running for president of the United States just to talk about what we really can't do and shouldn't fight for," said Warren, a Massachusetts senator, decrying Democratic "spinelessness."

Sanders, a Vermont senator, agreed: "I get a little bit tired of Democrats afraid of big ideas."

A full six months before the first votes are cast, the tug-of-war over the future of the party pits pragmatism against ideological purity as voters navigate a crowded Democratic field divided by age, race, sex and ideology. The fight with the political left was the dominant subplot on the first night of the second round of Democratic debates, which was notable as much for its tension as its substance.

Twenty candidates are spread evenly over two nights of debates Tuesday and Wednesday. The second night features early front-runner Joe Biden, the former vice president, as well as Kamala Harris, a California senator.

While much of the debate was dominated by attacks on the preferred liberal health care policy, the issue of race emerged in the second hour. The candidates, all of whom are white, were unified in turning their anger toward Trump for using race as a central theme in his reelection campaign. Sanders called Trump a racist, while others said the president's rhetoric revived memories of the worst in the country's history, including slavery.

"The legacy of slavery and segregation and Jim Crow and suppression is alive and well in every aspect

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of the economy and the country today," said former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke, adding that he supported the creation of a panel to examine reparations for the descendants of slaves.

The marathon presidential primary season won't formally end for another year, but there was an increasing sense of urgency for many candidates who are fighting for survival. More than a dozen could be blocked from the next round of debates — and effectively pushed out of the race — if they fail to reach new polling and fundraising thresholds implemented by the Democratic National Committee.

Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, who is working to keep her campaign alive, aligned herself with the pragmatic wing: "We are more worried about winning an argument than winning an election."

Montana Gov. Steve Bullock, in his first debate appearance, took a swipe at Sanders: Working people "can't wait for a revolution," he charged. "Their problems are here and now."

While he avoided any direct confrontations with his more liberal rivals, Pete Buttigieg tried several times to present himself as the more sober alternative in the race. He rejected extreme positions, quoted scripture and abstained from calling out his opponents.

The 37-year-old mayor of South Bend, Indiana, also subtly emphasized the generational difference between himself and Sanders, the candidate 40 years his senior standing to his side.

Perhaps no issue illustrates the evolving divide within the Democratic Party more than health care.

Sanders' plan to provide free universal health care, known as Medicare for All, has become a litmus test for liberal candidates, who have embraced the plan to transform the current system despite the political and practical risks. Medicare for All would abandon the private insurance market in favor of a taxpayer-funded system that would cover all Americans.

In targeting Medicare for All, the more moderate candidates consistently sought to undermine Sanders and Warren. The moderates variously derided Medicare for All as too costly, ineffective and a near-certain way to give Republicans the evidence they needed that Democrats supported socialism.

"They're running on telling half the country that their health care is illegal," said former Maryland Rep. John Delaney.

"We have a choice: We can go down the road that Sen. Sanders and Sen. Warren want to take us, which is with bad policies like Medicare for All, free everything and impossible promises," he continued. "It will turn off independent voters and get Trump reelected."

Yet Sanders and Warren did not back down. While they are competing for the same set of liberal voters, there seemed to be no daylight between them.

"Health care is a human right, not a privilege. I believe that. I will fight for that," Sanders said.

Buttigieg called on his party to stop the infighting.

"It is time to stop worrying about what the Republicans will say," Buttigieg declared. "It's true that if we embrace a far-left agenda, they're going to say we're a bunch of crazy socialists. If we embrace a conservative agenda, you know what they're going to do? They're going to say we're a bunch of crazy socialists. So let's just stand up for the right policy, go out there and defend it."

A new set of candidates, none with more to lose than Biden, will face off on Wednesday.

There, Biden will fight to prove that his underwhelming performance during last month's opening debate was little more than an aberration.

It won't be easy.

The 76-year-old Democrat is expected to face new questions regarding his past policies and statements about women and minorities — both key constituencies he needs to claim the Democratic Party's nomination and ultimately defeat Trump.

Meanwhile, Trump said earlier in the day that he would watch Tuesday's prime-time affair from the White House. But his Twitter feed was uncharacteristically silent throughout the debate.

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Peoples reported from Washington. Associated Press writer Colleen Long in Washington contributed to this report.



## Republicans face tough vote on budget bill backed by Trump

By **ANDREW TAYLOR** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A hard-won, warts-and-all budget pact between House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and President Donald Trump is facing a key vote in the GOP-held Senate, with many conservatives torn between supporting the president and risking their political brand with an unpopular vote to add \$2 trillion or more to the government's credit card.

The Trump-supported legislation backed by the Democratic speaker would stave off a government shutdown and protect budget gains for the Pentagon and popular domestic programs. It's attached to a must-do measure to lift the so-called debt limit to permit the government to borrow freely to pay its bills.

For many Republicans it's a tough vote, expected Wednesday afternoon. The tea party-driven House GOP conference broke against it by a 2-1 ratio, but most pragmatists see the measure as preferable to an alternative fall landscape of high-wire deadlines and potential chaos. The government otherwise would face a potential debt default, an Oct. 1 shutdown deadline, and the return in January of across-the-board spending cuts known as sequestration.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., is confident it will pass despite the misgivings of many Republicans.

But for new arrivals to the Senate, particularly those who ran against a broken Washington culture, the sweeping measure represents a lot of what they ran against: unrestrained borrowing and trillion-dollar deficits, fueled by a bipartisan thirst for new spending.

"This budget process, if we can even call it a process, put taxpayers at the mercy of a House Speaker who has no interest in prudent budgeting," said freshman Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo. "Our system is not supposed to work this way. When the entire federal budget depends on four or five people striking a deal among themselves, something is not right."

The budget and debt bill, however, is a top priority for McConnell, who set up the initial talks — taken over by Pelosi and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin earlier this month — and pushed to isolate conservative forces in the White House who were disruptive. Top Senate Democrat Chuck Schumer of New York and House GOP leader Kevin McCarthy of California are also supporting the deal.

For House Republicans, as the minority party, it was easy to take a pass on voting for the legislation. Pelosi also made a point of showing she had enough Democratic votes to push it through without their help. But it's a different dynamic in the Senate, where Republicans hold the majority and are expected to deliver a strong vote for a Trump-backed agreement.

"Given the realities of divided government, it is a strong deal that achieves my Republican colleagues' and my No. 1 priority," McConnell said, citing gains for the military. "The Trump administration has negotiated their way to a major win on defense. The House has passed the compromise legislation. The president is ready and waiting to sign it."

Minority Whip Dick Durbin, D-Ill., said he expected a strong showing by the Senate's Democrats in favor of the bill. And GOP leadership stalwarts like Sens. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., Roger Wicker, R-Miss., and John Cornyn, R-Texas, swiftly swung behind the measure, calling it about the best result possible in a legislating matrix that demands Pelosi's blessing for bills to become law.

"So what price did we have to pay to get this? We had to give Nancy Pelosi a 4% increase this year in domestic spending and zero increase next year for an average annual increase that's less than the growth in (gross domestic product)," Wicker said, adding that many House Republicans took the "vote no, hope yes" approach to the legislation.

"I want to know what better deal anybody could have crafted that got Nancy Pelosi's sign-off in the House and Mitch McConnell's sign-off in the Senate, along with McCarthy and Schumer," Wicker said.

The agreement between the administration and Pelosi lifts the limit on the government's \$22 trillion debt for two years and averts the risk of the Pentagon and domestic agencies from being hit with \$125 billion in automatic spending cuts that are the last gasp of the 2011 budget deal.

## 10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

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

### 1. MODERATES RIDICULE 'MEDICARE FOR ALL' AT DEBATE

Lesser-known pragmatists clash with Bernie Sander and Elizabeth Warren, warning that "wish-list economics" will jeopardize Democrats' shot at the presidency.

### 2. 'PART OF THE DARK UNDERBELLY OF AMERICAN SOCIETY'

That's what self-help author Marianne Williamson called racism at the Democratic debate, showing her flair for occasionally producing powerful political moments.

### 3. WHY CONSERVATIVES ARE TORN OVER BUDGET BILL

Many in the Republican-held Senate are torn between supporting Trump and risking their political brand with an unpopular vote to add \$2 trillion or more to the deficit.

### 4. NORTH KOREA CONDUCTS ANOTHER MISSILE TEST

Pyongyang fires two short-range ballistic missiles for the second time in six days, a move possibly aimed at boosting pressure on Washington to restart nuclear talks.

### 5. HOW SOME SCHOOLS HELP KIDS COPE WITH TRAUMA

Baltimore and other cities are creating trauma-sensitive schools that offer mental-health clinicians, mindfulness exercises and student "peace corners."

### 6. HEALTH CHIEF: TRUMP WORKING ON RX IMPORT PLAN

Human Services Secretary Alex Azar says the White House is working on a plan that would allow Americans to import lower-priced prescription drugs from Canada.

### 7. 'KIND OF A LONER'

The 19-year-old gunman who opened fire at a Northern California food festival lived a life shrouded in mystery, the FBI says as investigators search for a motive.

### 8. WHERE TRUMP'S 'RODENT' COMMENTS RING TRUE

The president's tweets that Baltimore is a "rat and rodent infested mess" ring true for tenants of apartments owned by his son in law, Jared Kushner.

### 9. WHAT FED IS POISED TO DO

The central bank is expected to cut its key interest rate to counter what it sees as threats to the U.S. economy, from trade to inflation to a darkened global outlook.

### 10. BANDWAGON BUILDS FOR LGBTQ DIVERSITY ON CHILDREN'S TV

From a girl knight-in-training with two dads to a 12-year-old, non-binary protagonist who doesn't want to grow up, LGBTQ representation in children's TV is becoming more common.

## California festival killer's motive still a mystery

By KATHLEEN RONAYNE Associated Press

GILROY, Calif. (AP) — The 19-year-old gunman who opened fire at a Northern California food festival was "kind of a loner" and much of his life was shrouded in mystery, the FBI said Tuesday as investigators searched for a motive.

Police believe Santino William Legan fired randomly Sunday, killing three people, after cutting through a fence to get into the Gilroy Garlic Festival. Officers patrolling the popular event responded within a minute and killed him.

Legan attended high school in Gilroy in his senior year and was recently living in Nevada, where he purchased two guns — the AK-47-style semi-automatic rifle he used in the attack and a shotgun that was found in his car near the festival, authorities said.

A bag of ammunition was found in a creek near the fence, police said.

"We understand him to be kind of a loner," said Craig Fair, deputy special agent in charge of the FBI's San Francisco Division. "People who act alone are exceptionally dangerous because they ... may not communicate their plans, intentions, mindset — they may not impart that on other people."

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Legan was living in an apartment in Walker Lake, a remote northern Nevada community, and had not had any run-ins with the law, officials said.

"He appears to have moved into Mineral County this spring and maintained a low profile," Sheriff Randy Adams said in a statement.

Officials searched the apartment, seizing empty shotgun and rifle boxes, a gas mask, empty ammunition boxes, electronic devices, pamphlets on guns and a sack full of ammunition casings, prosecutors said.

The FBI said they were looking through Legan's social media, emails and phone to find out who he was talking to and what he was expressing and thinking. Authorities don't believe he was targeting anyone based on any specific characteristics like race, but they're still trying to determine his ideology, Fair said.

On the day of the attack, Legan urged his Instagram followers to read a 19th century book popular with white supremacists on extremist websites. He also complained about overcrowding towns and paving open space to make room for "hordes" of Latinos and Silicon Valley whites.

Legan posted a photo from the festival minutes before opening fire, saying, "Come get wasted on overpriced" items. His since-deleted Instagram account says he is Italian and Iranian.

While some killers in recent mass shootings have taken to posting writing or even broadcasting their attacks, there are cases where shooters leave very little public footprint and no motive is uncovered.

That includes the gunman who carried out the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history. No clear motive was found for why Stephen Paddock killed 58 people at an outdoor music festival in Las Vegas in 2017, though the FBI said he sought notoriety.

Gilroy Police Chief Scot Smithee told reporters that authorities believe Legan acted alone but are still investigating. Investigators tracked Legan's movements around town before the shooting, and video shows him visiting stores alone, Smithee said.

People had to pass through metal detectors and have their bags searched at the long-running festival that draws more than 100,000 people with music, food booths and cooking classes to the city roughly 80 miles (176 kilometers) southeast of San Francisco.

Police, paramedics and firefighters were stationed throughout the event, along with FBI agents who, in a common practice, had been asked to keep an eye on the event, authorities said.

Legan bypassed those security measures by cutting through the fence.

He killed 6-year-old Stephen Romero and 13-year-old Keyla Salazar of San Jose, along with Trevor Irby, 25, of Romulus, New York, who was at the event with his girlfriend. She wasn't hurt.

A dozen other people were injured. At least seven victims remained hospitalized Tuesday, the San Francisco Chronicle reported.

Associated Press reporter Stefanie Dazio in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

## Key takeaways: Should Democrats go big or get real?

By SARA BURNETT and BRIAN SLODYSKO Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Should Democrats be going big or getting real? That's the question that dominated the Democratic presidential primary debate as progressive favorites Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders fended off attacks from lesser-known moderates. The display amounted to a sometimes testy public airing of the party's anxieties about how far left is too left and how to beat President Donald Trump. Here are the key takeaways from the debate:

### EVOLUTION VS. REVOLUTION

The battle lines were clear at Tuesday's debate from the opening remarks. This was the pragmatists against the front-runners seeking transformational change.

Over and over, moderate candidates like Montana Gov. Steve Bullock, former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper and former Rep. John Delaney argued Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders' plans — from "Medicare for All" to the Green New Deal — are unrealistic and would scare off voters.



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Bullock bemoaned the candidates' "wish-list economics." Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar dismissed free college even for wealthy families as unworkable and touted her ideas "grounded in reality."

Hickenlooper called for "an evolution, not a revolution," on health care.

The attacks weren't shocking in a debate that featured the progressive standouts Warren and Sanders onstage with a handful of lesser-known moderates looking to seize the spotlight. But the two senators' unified front in fighting them off was notable. Though they are jockeying for some of the same voters, Warren and Sanders didn't bother going after each other. They largely beat back the moderate critique of their call for sweeping, systemic change with similar arguments.

Sanders argued his health plan is "not radical" and achievable. Warren said the country's problems can't be solved with "small ideas and spinelessness."

## PLAYING INTO TRUMP'S HANDS?

Donald Trump loomed large over the Democratic debate stage. Repeatedly, the candidates mixed their policy plans with political strategy, arguing over whether their party's leftward push will only open them up to GOP criticism.

On topics from Medicare for All to immigration, Warren and Sanders found themselves under attack as their more moderate competitors told them their policies only played into Trump's hands.

The notion of taking away private insurance from millions and a Green New Deal that "makes sure that every American's guaranteed a government job that they want" is "a disaster at the ballot box," Hickenlooper said.

"You might as well FedEx the election to Donald Trump," Hickenlooper said. Delaney wondered, "Why do we have to be so extreme?" Even self-help author Marianne Williamson chimed in to say she does "have concern about what the Republicans would say."

South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg tried to end the unusually public display of anxiety, declaring that "it is time to stop worrying about what the Republicans will say."

"If it's true that if we embrace a far left agenda they're going to say we're a bunch of crazy socialists," Buttigieg said. "If we embrace a conservative agenda, you know what they're going to do? They're going to say we're a bunch of crazy socialists. So let's just stand up for the right policy, go out there, and defend it."

## MEDICARE FOR ALL TAKES HEAT

If the fight was between centrists and progressives, Medicare for All was the weapon.

The early moments of the debate was dominated by a fight over whether Sanders' plan to eliminate private insurance in favor of a universal government health plan is possible, practical or political suicide.

At times, with Medicare for All supporters Sanders and Warren outnumbered, the centrists piled on, raising doubts about the quality of care it could offer, the costs and the disruption to the health care system. Ohio Rep. Tim Ryan called it "bad policy and bad politics." Bullock said he couldn't support a plan that "rips away" insurance from Americans who have it.

"It used to be Republicans who wanted to do repeal and replace," Bullock said, referring to the Republican refrain on getting rid of President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act.

Sanders, who has spent much of his career on the issue, grew agitated as he defended the plan. The coverage would actually be better, he argued.

"You don't know that, Bernie," Ryan interjected.

"I do know," Sanders fired back. "I wrote the damn bill!"

## UNITED AGAINST TRUMP ON RACE

For all the divisions onstage Tuesday, the candidates were unified in rebuking Trump's racist comments and using race as a campaign theme for 2020.

Trump in recent weeks has told four congresswomen of color to "go back" to the countries they came from even though they're all U.S. citizens and has criticized Rep. Elijah Cummings' Baltimore-area district as a "rat and rodent infested mess."

"I have had it with the racist attacks," Klobuchar said in her opening statement.

Sanders said Trump exploited racism. Warren said, "The president is advancing environmental racism, economic racism, criminal justice racism, health care racism." Warren won strong applause from the Detroit audience when she declared her administration would treat white supremacy as a form of domestic terrorism.

Buttigieg also directed criticism at members of Congress he said are supportive of or silent on "naked racism" in the White House.

"If you are a Republican member of Congress, consider the fact that when the sun sets on your career, and they are writing your story of all the good and bad things you did in your life, the thing you will be remembered for is whether in this moment, with this president, you found the courage to stand up to him or you continued to put party over country," he said.

It was one of the loudest applause lines of the night.

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Associated Press writer Hunter Woodall contributed from Detroit.

## Seoul: North Korea launches 2 short-range ballistic missiles

By HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea's military said North Korea conducted its second weapons test in less than a week Wednesday, firing two short-range ballistic missiles off its east coast in a move observers say could be aimed at boosting pressure on the United States as the rivals struggle to set up fresh nuclear talks.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement that the missiles were launched from Wonsan, a city the North pushes as a vacation destination but that it also uses as a regular launch site.

It said both missiles were believed to have flown about 250 kilometers (155 miles) at a maximum altitude of 30 kilometers (19 miles) and that the South Korean and U.S. militaries were trying to gather more details.

The test would be yet another North Korean violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions and comes as the country's negotiations with the U.S. over its nuclear weapons program are at a stalemate and as Pyongyang has expressed anger over planned U.S.-South Korean military drills.

"The North's repeated missile launches are not helpful to efforts to ease tensions on the Korean Peninsula, and we urge (North Korea) to stop this kind of behavior," the South Korean statement said.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe briefly told reporters the launches were "no threat to Japanese national security."

Last Thursday, North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles that Seoul officials said flew 600 kilometers (370 miles) and as high as 50 kilometers (30 miles) before landing in the sea.

North Korea's state media said those tests were supervised by leader Kim Jong Un and were designed to deliver a "solemn warning" to South Korea over its purchase of high-tech U.S.-made fighter jets and the planned military drills, which Pyongyang calls an invasion rehearsal.

Even though North Korea is banned by the U.N. from using ballistic technology in any weapons launches, it's unlikely that the nation, already under 11 rounds of U.N. sanctions, will be hit with fresh punitive measures. Past sanctions were imposed only when the North conducted long-range ballistic launches.

Japan's Defense Minister Takeshi Iwaya told reporters Wednesday that the most recently launched weapons did not reach Japan's exclusive economic zone and that officials were still analyzing details, including the flight distance and trajectory.

"It is extremely regrettable that North Korea continues firing the missiles that violate the U.N. resolutions," Iwaya said.

Observers say a low altitude flight by the missiles indicate North Korea may have been testing their ability to avoid being intercepted.

Earlier last week, Kim also visited a newly built submarine and expressed his satisfaction with its weapons

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system. North Korea said its deployment was "near at hand."

In a private briefing to lawmakers Wednesday, South Korean military intelligence officers said they've determined that the submarine likely has three launch tubes for missiles, according to Lee Hye-hoon, head of parliament's intelligence committee. If confirmed, it would be North Korea's first operational submarine with missile launch tubes, some experts said.

North Korea acquiring the ability to launch missiles from submarines would be an alarming development because such missiles are harder to detect in advance. Experts say the submarine North Korea used to test-fire missiles in recent years should be regarded as a test platform with a single launch tube. They say other North Korean submarines only have torpedo launch tubes.

Wednesday's launches came hours after a senior U.S. official said President Donald Trump sent Kim mementos from his brief visit to an inter-Korean border town late last month.

The official said a top staffer from the National Security Council hand-delivered photographs from the leaders' June meeting at the Korean Demilitarized Zone to a North Korean official last week. The Trump administration official spoke on the condition of anonymity because the official wasn't authorized to speak publicly.

The DMZ meeting was the third summit between Trump and Kim. At their second meeting, in Vietnam, Trump rejected Kim's demand for widespread sanctions relief in return for dismantling the North's main nuclear complex, a partial disarmament step.

During the DMZ meeting, Trump and Kim agreed to resume nuclear diplomacy in coming weeks, but there hasn't been any known meeting between the countries. Some experts say North Korea wants a U.S. promise to ease sanctions, accept a slow, step-by-step disarmament process by the North or for the U.S. to make other concessions once the diplomacy restarts.

Speaking to reporters accompanying him to an Asian security forum in Thailand, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said he's very hopeful for a quick resumption in the nuclear talks. He said he's waiting to see if North Korea's foreign minister comes to the meeting in Bangkok and is confident the two will see each other if he does.

Despite a recent lack of progress in nuclear diplomacy, both Trump and Kim have said they have maintained good relations with each other. After last Thursday's missile launches, Trump tried to downplay the significance of the tests, saying that "short-range" was the most important detail. He said North Korea fired "standard" missiles that many countries possess.

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

Before last week's launches, North Korea last fired missiles into the sea in early May, and experts said those were also Iskander-like missiles. During Wednesday's briefing, the South Korean military intelligence officers said that an analysis of North Korea-dispatched photos showed that the North fired four missiles on two days, according to Lee, the lawmaker. South Korea earlier said the North fired a total of three missiles at the time.

After entering talks with Washington, North Korea has suspended nuclear and long-range missile tests, and Trump has said that is proof that his North Korea policy is working well and has eased the danger of a war with the North.

In 2017, Trump and Kim exchanged crude insults and threats of destruction as Kim oversaw a series of high-profile nuclear and missile tests meant to build nuclear missiles capable of reaching the continental United States.

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Associated Press journalists Zeke Miller in Washington, Matthew Lee in Bangkok and Mari Yamaguchi in Tokyo contributed to this report.

**Baltimore schools' mission: Help students cope with trauma**

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By **DAVID McFADDEN Associated Press**

BALTIMORE (AP) — When she transferred to a new K-8 school two years ago, Tinazsha Johnson was in deep distress. The Baltimore sixth grader was crushed by the death of her mother. Her father was in and out of lockups. She'd witnessed searing violence in her neighborhood and felt overwhelmed helping her grandparents raise her younger siblings.

Fast forward to today: Daily life is still tough, but after about two years as a student at one of Baltimore's new "trauma-sensitive" schools, she's learning to manage the cumulative effects of stress and grief that were so relentless they made her developing brain feel like a revving engine. As the 15-year-old prepares to graduate from eighth grade, she's gained a better understanding of working out conflicts, understanding emotions and regulating her behavior.

"I used to always be fighting, fussing and cussing people out. But this last year, I've been doing a lot better 'cause I've been learning how to control my anger in a lot of ways and think positive thoughts to get me through," Tinazsha said in an interview at the year-round school, which she says has become her sanctuary from streets where the names of young crossfire victims are spray-painted on walls as tributes.

In crime-plagued Baltimore and other cities, school officials are increasingly realizing that chronic childhood trauma affects brain development and creates the risk of physical and behavioral health problems down the line. Districts have responded by creating the trauma-sensitive schools, both in big systems such as Chicago and San Francisco and smaller ones in states such as Iowa and Wisconsin.

Baltimore's problems drew national attention when President Donald Trump tweeted Saturday that U.S. Rep. Elijah Cummings' majority-black Maryland district — which includes the West Baltimore area where Tinazsha's family resides — is a "disgusting, rat and rodent infested mess" where "no human being would want" to live.

Trump was roundly criticized by opponents who blamed him, as head of the federal government, for not helping Baltimore with its challenges. Indeed, the "trauma-sensitive" schools effort — made possible in part with federal funds — can help only a fraction of those who need it.

In Baltimore, the need to address childhood trauma and students' mental health was underscored in 2015, when the death of a young black man in police custody sparked massive protests and the city's worst rioting in decades. Freddie Gray's death brought renewed attention to the poverty, inequity and crime that have festered in large swaths of Baltimore for decades.

"It increased the urgency and helped us to see that our whole city is in crisis," said James Padden, an education official in Baltimore, a majority-black city where the poverty rate is roughly double the national figure.

With the help of a \$2.3 million federal grant in 2016, officials have transformed 13 public schools in troubled West Baltimore into the trauma-sensitive schools where students have access to full-time mental health clinicians, mindfulness and breathing exercises, and "peace corners" with pillows and exercise books where they can retreat and compose themselves. Staff members have reached out into the community to build relationships with students' guardians.

The New Song Community Learning Center that Tinazsha attends is in the heart of Sandtown-Winchester, Gray's former neighborhood, where open-air drug markets fill an economic vacuum and police helicopters routinely buzzes overhead. The school is one of West Baltimore's anchor institutions, a warm but structured environment where college-bound alumni help out during summer breaks.

The need is still greater than the supply. When officials applied for the federal grant, about 4,600 students attended the future trauma-sensitive schools — about 5.5 percent of Baltimore's 84,000 public school students.

There's widespread agreement more students would benefit from trauma-sensitive schools, amid research showing many of Baltimore's youngest citizens are repeatedly exposed to trauma. In a May Baltimore Sun opinion piece, a leader of a behavioral health nonprofit wrote that the children of Maryland's biggest city face a "mental health crisis." Last week, a city councilman announced in another opinion piece his plan to make trauma response a focus of all city agencies that deal with children.



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The federal grant for trauma-sensitive schools expires this year. With remaining funds, officials are focusing on training everyone from teachers and administrators to cafeteria workers on recognizing and responding to traumatized students. Experts from Baltimore-based Johns Hopkins University and the University of Maryland are contributing services.

Padden said the district will have a full-time social worker in all schools for the 2019-20 year, and the city has created "calming spaces" and "wholeness" sites for students in schools that aren't designated trauma-sensitive centers.

New Song's executive director, Mark Carter, is acutely aware of the need. He marvels at his students' resiliency. Many had to negotiate childhoods framed by chronic poverty, crime and other challenges. In recent weeks, the school system held a ceremony to memorialize the dozen Baltimore students ranging from ages 7 to 18 who were gunned down this academic year.

"We would like our children to have childhoods. And yet the neighborhood and sometimes their family circumstances don't permit that," Carter said in his office, decorated with photos of civil rights leaders including Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr. "So we straddle this world between creating high academic expectations but also realizing, for instance, at the age of 9 you shouldn't have to take care of all your brothers and sisters because of family disintegration."

Patrick Sharkey, a sociologist at Princeton University, said children "enter their classrooms carrying the burden of violence with them," which harms their ability to get a good night's sleep and concentrate.

Programs like those underway in Baltimore that calm the school environment and teach children to be mindful of emotions can help, he said. He added it's important to acknowledge "the most effective way to improve academic achievement is to confront the problem of community violence."

"While other cities have completely transformed, Baltimore hasn't been able to," Sharkey said.

## Israel approves Palestinian construction in West Bank

By ILAN BEN ZION Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's Cabinet on Tuesday unanimously approved a proposal to build over 700 housing units for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank in addition to 6,000 Israeli settlement housing units.

An Israeli official, speaking on condition of anonymity to describe the closed-door meeting, said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government advanced the proposal late Tuesday. It appeared timed to coincide with a visit by President Donald Trump's son-in-law and chief Mideast envoy Jared Kushner, who is expected in the region this week.

The permits would be for construction in Area C, the roughly 60% of the West Bank where Israel exercises full control and where most Jewish settlements are located. Netanyahu's government has approved the construction of tens of thousands of settler homes, but permits for Palestinian construction are extremely rare.

Israel captured the West Bank, along with east Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip, in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians seek these areas as parts of a future state. Most of the international community considers Israeli settlements in the West Bank illegal under international law and an impediment to a two-state solution to the conflict.

Touring new construction in the West Bank settlement of Efrat, south of Jerusalem, Netanyahu said Wednesday that "not a single settlement or a single settler will ever be uprooted."

Transportation Minister Bezalel Smotrich, a religious nationalist in Netanyahu's government, wrote on Facebook that he backed the construction of Palestinian housing in Area C because "it prevents the establishment of a terrorist Arab state in the heart of the land" and asserts Israeli sovereignty over Area C.

The Western-backed Palestinian Authority has control of civilian affairs in Areas A and B, which include the West Bank's main Palestinian cities and towns.

Kushner is returning to the Middle East this week to promote the administration's call for a \$50 billion economic support plan for the Palestinians, which would accompany a Mideast peace plan that the administration has yet to release.

The Palestinians have rejected the agreement out of hand and cut off all contact with the Trump administration, saying its policies are unfairly biased toward Israel.

The Trump's administration's Mideast team is spearheaded by people with close ties to Israel's settler movement. His ambassador to Israel, David Friedman, recently told the New York Times that Israel has the "right" to annex some of the West Bank. Both critics and supporters of the settlements say the White House's friendly attitude has encouraged a jump in settlement activity.

## **ACLU: 911 children split at border since 2018 court order**

**By ELLIOT SPAGAT and ASTRID GALVAN Associated Press**

SAN DIEGO (AP) — More than 900 children, including babies and toddlers, were separated from their parents at the border in the year after a judge ordered the practice be sharply curtailed, the American Civil Liberties Union said Tuesday in a legal attack that will invite more scrutiny of the Trump administration's widely criticized tactics.

The ACLU said the administration is separating families over dubious allegations and minor transgressions including traffic offenses. It asked a judge to rule on whether the 911 separations from June 28, 2018, to June 29 of this year were justified.

In June 2018 — days after President Donald Trump retreated amid an international uproar — U.S. District Judge Dana Sabraw ordered that the practice of splitting up families at the border be halted except in limited circumstances, like threats to child safety. The judge left individual decisions to the administration's discretion.

Since then, a parent was separated for having damaged property valued at \$5, the ACLU said. A 1-year-old was separated after an official criticized her father for letting her sleep with a wet diaper.

In another case, a 2-year-old Guatemalan girl was separated from her father after authorities examined her for a fever and diaper rash and found she was malnourished and underdeveloped, the ACLU said. The father, who came from an "extraordinarily impoverished community" rife with malnutrition, was accused of neglect.

About 20% of the 911 children separated from in the year after the judge's order were under 5 years old, the ACLU said.

Most parents went weeks without knowing where their children were, and some weren't even clear on why they had been separated. Roughly a third of the 900 children who have been separated from their families since the judge's order have been in the care of Catholic Charities Community Services, which says only three children have been reunited with the parent with whom they traveled.

The organization says 185 children were released to sponsors after weeks or months in government shelters and 33 were returned to their home countries.

The separations occurred during an unprecedented surge of children from Central America that has overwhelmed U.S. authorities, most coming in families but many unaccompanied. Acting Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Mark Morgan told a Senate committee Tuesday that the agency encountered more than 300,000 children since Oct. 1.

More than 2,700 children were separated at the time of Sabraw's 2018 ruling, which forced the government to reunify them with their parents.

The judge later ordered the government to find children who were separated since July 1, 2017, a group that an internal watchdog report estimated numbered in the thousands but has not yet been determined. The administration didn't have adequate tracking systems at the time.

The ACLU, which based its findings on reports that the administration provided, asked Sabraw to order the government to justify separations over the last year and to clarify its criteria for doing so.

"It is shocking that the Trump administration continues to take babies from their parents," ACLU attorney Lee Gelernt said. "The administration must not be allowed to circumvent the court order over infractions like minor traffic violations."

The Justice Department didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

The 218-page court filing details separations that are sure to raise scrutiny of Customs and Border Protection. They include 678 separations of children whose parents faced allegations of criminal conduct. Others faced allegations of gang affiliation, child safety concerns, unverified familial relationships or parent illness.

Six parents were separated for convictions of marijuana possession. Eight were split up for fraud and forgery offenses.

The ACLU said a 4-year-old boy was split from his family because his father's speech impediment prevented him from answering questions, despite evidence that he was the parent.

A 2-year-old girl was split from after Customs and Border Protection questioned a birth certificate's authenticity. The father, who speaks an indigenous language and didn't have an interpreter, was reunited after a DNA test confirmed he was a parent.

The government also took children from women whom they believed had gang ties but had been gang targets, the ACLU said.

One woman from El Salvador said a gang member forced her to be his girlfriend until he was arrested in late 2018. She came to the U.S. in February and was separated from her 3-year-old son for three months while an attorney tracked down Salvadoran documents showing she had been a victim, not a criminal.

Another Salvadoran woman was separated from her 2-year-old daughter on the toddler's birthday because of suspected gang ties. But the woman's attorney says her client had been raped repeatedly by a gangster who forced her to deliver marijuana inside a prison. The woman refused and turned the pot into authorities, but she was arrested anyway.

In other cases, families were separated for minor crimes that, if committed by people living in the U.S., would never result in a child being taken away.

A 7-year-old girl has been in custody since June after being separated from her father because he had a conviction of driving without a license and had previously entered the country without authorization.

The ACLU said 14 parents were separated based on immigration convictions combined with driving under the influence or unspecified traffic offenses.

Galvan reported from Phoenix.

## Trump 'rodent' tweets ring true at Kushner-owned apartments

By REGINA GARCIA CANO and BERNARD CONDON Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — Davon Jones doesn't have to look far to see the irony in President Donald Trump's tweets that Baltimore is a "rat and rodent infested mess." His apartment owned by the president's son-in-law has been invaded by mice since he moved in a year ago.

"I don't know how they come in," Jones says. "Every time I catch them, they come right back."

Jared Kushner's family real estate firm owns thousands of apartments and townhomes in the Baltimore area, and some have been criticized for the same kind of disrepair and neglect that the president has accused local leaders of failing to address. Residents have complained about mold, bedbugs, leaks and, yes, mice — plenty of mice. And they say management appears in no hurry to fix the problems.

"They don't care," says Dezmond James, who says he has spotted as many as three mice a week since he moved in to the Commons at White Marsh in suburban Middle River four years ago.

James says he sees a massive contradiction in Trump's much-publicized tweets laying the blame for Baltimore's poverty, crime and rodent problems on frequent antagonist Maryland Rep. Elijah Cummings. Trump, he said, should look more at what he — and specifically Kushner — could do about it.

"His son-in-law owns all of this — then he can fix it. I'm pretty sure he has a lot of money," says James, who is studying to be a medical assistant. "That's kind of weird that you want to talk trash. ... If you want to make improvements, you can make improvements."

Conditions got so bad two years ago that the Baltimore County government issued a release showing the Kushner Cos. had violated housing codes more than 200 times in just 10 months and only moved to fix the problems after being threatened with fines.

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"I had black mold in my cabinets. I called them, I called them, I called them. And they never did anything," says Simone Ryer who moved out Whispering Woods in Middle River two years ago. "That was more than enough for me to leave."

In a statement, the Kushner Cos. said it was proud of its Baltimore-area apartments and has worked to maintain a "high quality residential experience for our tenants" by investing "substantial amounts" in upkeep.

A website for the Commons at White Marsh boasts of "amenities that amaze," but many of the 181 comments posted by residents at the review site apartmentratings.com complain of rats, mold, bedbugs, roaches and leaks. The reviews say management is generally unresponsive.

A 2017 report by the New York Times and ProPublica about residents at Kushner-owned developments echoed many of those online complaints, with one woman saying she found a mouse on her 12-year-old child's bed. The Kushner Cos. told the Times at the time that it had spent \$10 million on its properties, but their age means issues can still arise.

A Baltimore Sun story the same year found the Kushner Cos. used the courts to arrest tenants late on rent more than any other landlord in the state.

And a lawsuit seeking class-action status for residents alleges Westminster Management, the Kushner subsidiary that oversees rental properties in Maryland and other states, often charges tenants illegal and excessive fees that keeps them in constant fear of eviction and guessing what they owe. Westminster has said it has broken no laws and denies the charges.

Jared Kushner took in \$3.1 million from Westminster in the past two years, according to financial disclosure reports he filed with the federal government. He stepped down as CEO of parent company Kushner Cos. when he and his wife, Ivanka Trump, joined the White House as senior advisers to the president, but he still retains a financial interest and draws money from many of its operations.

At the Kushners' Dutch Village community in Baltimore, Ronald Newson says his 86-year-old mother, Carrie, has been asking maintenance staff for nearly a year to patch a hole in her ceiling from a leak on the second floor, and that someone has to come to kill all the mice she's been living with.

As a stopgap measure, she jammed the leg of a chair against a hole in the corner of her living room, but they kept coming out anyway. They also come from behind her stove.

"It takes them a long time to get repairs done," the son said. He suggested that Trump, instead of blaming Cummings for the city's problems, should look to landlords like Kushner, too.

"He talks about everyone but his son-in-law."

Condon reported from New York City.

## Italy: Slain police officer didn't have gun when stabbed

By FRANCES D'EMILIO Associated Press

ROME (AP) — A plainclothes police officer had forgotten his gun the night he was fatally stabbed during a confrontation with two American teenagers in Rome, an Italian police commander said Tuesday.

Gen. Francesco Gargaro of Italy's paramilitary Carabinieri police force said that even if the officer had been armed, he would not have had time to draw his weapon before he was mortally wounded with a military-style knife.

During a news conference, the commander provided some of the first details about the encounter early Friday in which Deputy Brigadier Mario Cerciello Rega, 35, was knifed 11 times.

Cerciello Rega and a partner, Andrea Varriale, were assigned to respond to an extortion attempt involving a failed drug deal, Gargaro said. Thieves had demanded money and cocaine in exchange for returning a stolen backpack, he said.

The officers were in plainclothes and identified themselves as Carabinieri as they approached two suspects, but were immediately attacked, Gargaro said.

Asked why Cerciello Rega didn't pull his gun, Gargaro said the officer had "forgotten" his weapon after being asked to work on a scheduled day off.



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"In any case, there was no time to use it," Gargaro said.

Other officers were unaware Cerciello Rega didn't have his gun with him when he set out on what would be a fatal assignment, police said.

"He is the only one who knows why he didn't have it with him," Gargaro said.

The two suspects from California, Finnegan Lee Elder, 19, and Gabriel Christian Natale-Hjorth, 18, were detained in the officer's slaying hours later. Police have said Elder is suspected of being the one who stabbed Cerciello Rega while Natale-Hjorth is suspected of assaulting the other officer.

Varriale did have his gun, but after Natale-Hjorth stopped punching and scratching and ran off, the officer turned his attention to his wounded partner, Gargaro said.

The general also stressed that under Italian law it is illegal to fire at a fleeing suspect. If he had done so, Varriale "would have been under investigation for a grave crime."

A judge who approved the jailing of the two suspects Saturday said there were "grave" indications the Americans were responsible for the Carabinieri officer's death.

According to the judge's written ruling, Elder and Natale-Hjorth allegedly paid a dealer for cocaine but didn't get the drug before the approach of police officers interrupted the deal.

Investigators said the two then snatched and ran off with the knapsack of the Italian man who put them in contact with the dealer.

Police said when the intermediary, Sergio Brugiattelli, called the cellphone in the stolen backpack, the teens told him they would return the bag in exchange for 100 euros (\$112) and a gram of cocaine.

Brugiattelli reported the demand to police and set up a meeting with the teens. It was Cerciello Rega and Varriale who went to the rendezvous point.

Varriale recounted later that they identified themselves as Carabinieri and showed their badges but were attacked right away, Judge Chiara Gallo wrote in her ruling upholding the detention. The teen suspects told investigators they did not know the two men who showed up to meet them were police officers, the judge said.

During his interrogation, Elder told authorities he stabbed Cerciello Rega because he feared he was being strangled, the judge said while noting in her ruling the teen didn't have any marks on his neck.

The two graduated from the same high school north of San Francisco in 2018. Both had just finished a first year at different community colleges in Southern California.

Elder has no criminal record but his uncle, Sean Elder, acknowledged his nephew was arrested as a juvenile.

Sean Elder told The Associated Press on Tuesday that his nephew took part in organized "fight nights" at a popular San Francisco park where high school boys brawled. Elder said the events were well-known and "apparently resulted in many injuries."

According to San Francisco police, at about 2:30 a.m. on Oct. 30, 2016, they were called to a hospital where a 16-year-old boy was reported in surgery following an aggravated assault. Sean Elder acknowledged his nephew was arrested following a "fight between two boys in a public place."

"The young men squared off with one another in a mutual challenge," he said. "Unfortunately, the other boy tripped and fell backwards during the fight, injuring his head accidentally. The incident was tragic and unfortunate, but did not involve drugs, or weapons."

Since he was a juvenile, no public information is available about Elder's criminal case.

Elder's family has said he was on his first solo trip to Europe and went to meet his friend in Rome because Natale-Hjorth had relatives there. The Italian Foreign Ministry said Tuesday that Natale-Hjorth, whose father is Italian, has Italian citizenship as well as American.

After Cerciello Rega's died at a hospital, officers tracked the Americans to their hotel room and reported finding the alleged weapon, an 18-centimeter-long (7 inches) military-style attack knife, hidden in the room's drop ceiling.

Elder told police he brought the knife with him from the United States a few days earlier, investigators said on Tuesday. But he and Natale-Hjorth gave investigators conflicting statements about the weapon,

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according to Judge Gallo.

Elder reported that Natale-Hjorth hid the knife in the hotel room, while Natale-Hjorth said he didn't even know about a stabbing until his friend woke him hours later and told him he had "used a knife" and then washed it.

Prosecutor Nunzia D'Elia, who interrogated the pair Friday, said both exhibited apparent difficulty in grasping the gravity of the situation.

"One of them said, 'Is he really dead? Dead, dead?'" D'Elia told journalists, going on to identify the speaker as Natale-Hjorth.

But the two were "lucid and able to recount" their versions of events during hours of questioning, despite telling authorities they drank beer and shots of liquor that night, D'Elia said.

Prosecutors said the teens were informed of their rights, and defense lawyers and English-speaking interpreters were present during the recorded interrogations.

The young Americans' treatment by authorities in Rome became an issue Sunday after Italian newspapers published a photograph of Natale-Hjorth sitting in a police department room with his eyes blindfolded and his hands cuffed behind his back.

Prosecutor Michele Prestipino said the blindfolding - a violation of Italian law - was being investigated to determine which Carabinieri officer was responsible for it and how the photo was leaked to the newspapers.

Authorities allowed Natale-Hjorth to confer privately with a lawyer before prosecutors interrogated him, Prestipino added.

Elder was never blindfolded after he was taken into custody, Gargaro said.

In Italy, authorities are supposed to respect the dignity of criminal suspects. For example, when suspects are taken in handcuffs to a police station, it is standard practice to cover their bound wrists so they aren't visible to news photographers.

Amanda Knox, an American who was convicted but ultimately acquitted of the 2007 slaying of her British housemate in Italy, tweeted that she was getting a lot of questions about the current.

"All I can say is: I'm withholding judgment," said Knox, whose closely watched case received sensational and exhaustive news coverage. "It should be tried in the court of law, not the court of public opinion."

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AP reporters Janie Har and Samantha Maldonado in San Francisco and Nicole Winfield in Rome contributed to this report

## Fed is poised to cut rates for first time in a decade

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve is poised to cut its key interest rate Wednesday to counter what it sees as threats to the U.S. economy ranging from uncertainties caused by President Donald Trump's trade conflicts to persistently subpar inflation to a darkened global outlook.

It will be the Fed's first rate cut since December 2008 in the depths of the Great Recession.

Most analysts expect the Fed to announce a quarter-point cut in its benchmark short-term rate. That rate, which affects many consumer and business loans, is now in a range of 2.25% to 2.5% after nine quarter-point rate increases from December 2015 to December 2018.

Under Chairman Jerome Powell, the Fed has faced pressure to ease credit since it raised its key rate in December for the fourth time in 2018 and hinted that additional rate increases were likely this year.

Stock prices sank afterward and ignited criticism, notably from Trump, that the Fed was tightening credit too much and threatening the economy.

The Fed then made an abrupt policy shift at the start of the year, suggesting that it would remain "patient" about any changes in rates and implying that rate increases were off the table.

Now, even though the Fed has clearly signaled that rate cuts are coming — a message that has rallied the stock market — Trump has intensified his public attacks, charging that the central bank and Powell, his hand-picked chairman, are mismanaging the economy.

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On Tuesday, the president asserted that the Dow Jones Industrial Average would be 10,000 points higher and that the pace of economic growth would be twice what it is now if the Fed hadn't raised rates last year. "I would like to see a large cut" in rates, Trump said Tuesday.

U.S.-China trade talks remain stalled, with Trump's tariffs on \$250 billion in Chinese goods still in place. At the same time, although a deal seems far off, fears that Trump could significantly escalate the conflict by taxing an additional \$300 billion in Chinese goods have also receded.

After a sharp slowdown in U.S. hiring in May, job growth has rebounded. The pace of economic growth did weaken in the April-June quarter, but it remained solid enough to ease fears that a recession might be near.

All told, the reassuring economic news helped boost stock prices to record highs over the past two months. Nevertheless, Powell and other Fed officials have tended to stress a range of "uncertainties" facing the economy — a signal that they are prepared to cut rates Wednesday by at least a quarter-point.

The thinking is that a rate cut now — and possibly one or more additional cuts to follow — could help inoculate the economy against a potential downturn. Lowering the Fed's key short-term rate is intended to encourage borrowing and spending and energize the economy.

But skeptics wonder whether rate cuts at this point would really do much to bolster an economy whose borrowing rates are already low.

Some even worry that the central bank will be taking a needless risk: By cutting rates now, the Fed is disarming itself of some ammunition it would need in case the economy did slide toward a recession. Some also suggest that by driving rates ever lower, the Fed might be helping to fuel dangerous bubbles in stocks or other risky assets.

Some analysts foresee two or even three rate cuts this year as the Fed tries to counter global threats that risk spreading to the United States — not just prolonged trade rifts but also a potentially botched exit by Britain from the European Union, a weaker China and the risk of a recession in Europe.

Other economists suggest that if the economy stabilizes and avoids such threats, the Fed might be content to remain on the sidelines for the rest of the year.

## **FBI calls killer at California festival 'kind of a loner'**

**By KATHLEEN RONAYNE Associated Press**

GILROY, Calif. (AP) — The 19-year-old gunman who opened fire at a Northern California food festival was "kind of a loner" and much of his life was shrouded in mystery, the FBI said Tuesday as investigators searched for a motive.

Police believe Santino William Legan fired randomly Sunday, killing three people, after cutting through a fence to get into the Gilroy Garlic Festival. Officers patrolling the popular event responded within a minute and killed him.

Legan attended high school as a senior in Gilroy and was recently living in Nevada, where he purchased two guns — the AK-47-style semi-automatic rifle he used in the attack and a shotgun that was found in his car near the festival, authorities said.

A bag of ammunition was found in a creek near the fence, police said.

"We understand him to be kind of a loner," said Craig Fair, deputy special agent in charge of the FBI's San Francisco Division. "People who act alone are exceptionally dangerous because they ... may not communicate their plans, intentions, mindset — they may not impart that on other people."

Legan was living in an apartment in Walker Lake, a remote northern Nevada community, and had not had any run-ins with the law, officials said.

"He appears to have moved into Mineral County this spring and maintained a low profile," Sheriff Randy Adams said in a statement.

Officials searched the apartment, seizing empty shotgun and rifle boxes, a gas mask, empty ammunition boxes, electronic devices, pamphlets on guns and a sack full of ammunition casings, prosecutors said.

The FBI said they were looking through Legan's social media, emails and phone to find out who he was

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talking to and what he was expressing and thinking. Authorities don't believe he was targeting anyone based on any specific characteristics like race, but they're still trying to determine his ideology, Fair said.

On the day of the attack, Legan urged his Instagram followers to read a 19th century book popular with white supremacists on extremist websites. He also complained about overcrowding towns and paving open space to make room for "hordes" of Latinos and Silicon Valley whites.

Legan posted a photo from the festival minutes before opening fire, saying, "Come get wasted on overpriced" items. His since-deleted Instagram account says he is Italian and Iranian.

While some killers in recent mass shootings have taken to posting writing or even broadcasting their attacks, there are cases where shooters leave very little public footprint and no motive is uncovered.

That includes the gunman who carried out the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history. No clear motive was found for why Stephen Paddock killed 58 people at an outdoor music festival in Las Vegas in 2017, though the FBI said he sought notoriety.

Gilroy Police Chief Scot Smithee told reporters that authorities believe Legan acted alone but are still investigating. Investigators tracked Legan's movements around town before the shooting, and video shows him visiting stores alone, Smithee said.

People had to pass through metal detectors and have their bags searched at the long-running festival that draws more than 100,000 people with music, food booths and cooking classes to the city roughly 80 miles (176 kilometers) southeast of San Francisco.

Police, paramedics and firefighters were stationed throughout the event, along with FBI agents who, in a common practice, had been asked to keep an eye on the event, authorities said.

Legan bypassed those security measures by cutting through the fence.

He killed 6-year-old Stephen Romero and 13-year-old Keyla Salazar of San Jose, along with Trevor Irby, 25, of Romulus, New York, who was at the event with his girlfriend. She wasn't hurt.

A dozen other people were injured. At least seven victims remained hospitalized Tuesday, the San Francisco Chronicle reported.

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Associated Press reporter Stefanie Dazio in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

## **AP FACT CHECK: Off notes from Dems on climate, economy**

**By CALVIN WOODWARD and HOPE YEN Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic presidential contenders struck off notes on the science of global warming and the state of the economy in their Detroit debate Tuesday night.

As much as scientists see the need for action on climate change, they don't lay out a looming point of no return, as Pete Buttigieg and Beto O'Rourke asserted. Bernie Sanders almost certainly overstated how much new income is soaked up by the richest Americans.

A look at some of their statements in the opening night of the second round of debates, with 10 more Democrats taking the stage Wednesday:

### **CLIMATE**

**BETO O'ROURKE**, former U.S. representative from Texas, on global warming: "I listen to scientists on this and they're very clear: We don't have more than 10 years to get this right. And we won't meet that challenge with half-steps, half-measures or only half the country."

**PETE BUTTIGIEG**, mayor of South Bend, Indiana: "Science tells us we have 12 years before we reach the horizon of our catastrophe when it comes to our climate."

**THE FACTS:** Scientists don't agree on an approximate time frame, let alone an exact number of years, for how much time we have left to stave off the deadliest extremes of climate change.

A report by the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, drawn from the work of hundreds of scientists, uses 2030 as a prominent benchmark because signatories to the Paris climate change agreement have pledged emission cuts by then. But it's not a last-chance, hard deadline for action, as O'Rourke, Buttigieg and others have interpreted it.



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"The hotter it gets, the worse it gets, but there is no cliff edge," James Skea, co-chairman of the report, told The Associated Press.

Climate scientists certainly see the necessity for broad and immediate action to address global warming, but they do not agree that 2030 is a "point of no return," as Buttigieg put it.

"This has been a persistent source of confusion," agreed Kristie L. Ebi, director of the Center for Health and the Global Environment at the University of Washington in Seattle. "The report never said we only have 12 years left."

**JOHN HICKENLOOPER**, former Colorado governor: When it comes to fighting climate change, "What we do here is a best practice and a template that's got to be done all over the world. ... We need every country working together if we're going to deal with climate change in a real way."

**THE FACTS:** The nations most concerned with climate change certainly do not consider the U.S. a "template" for a solution. Americans per capita are among the world's biggest emitters of climate-changing carbon. The U.S. is also the top oil and natural gas producer, pumping out more fossil fuels on the front end.

On Hickenlooper's point about needing all countries working together, the U.S. under President Donald Trump is withdrawing from the Paris climate accord, a voluntary commitment by countries to combat climate-changing emissions.

**BERNIE SANDERS**, Vermont senator: "49 percent of all new income is going to the top 1 percent."

**THE FACTS:** That is surely exaggerated. The figure comes from a short paper by Emmanuel Saez, an economist at the University of California, Berkeley, and leading researcher on inequality, and doesn't include the value of fringe benefits, such as health insurance, or the effects of taxes and government benefit programs such as Social Security.

But Saez and another Berkeley economist, Gabriel Zucman, have recently compiled a broader data set that does include those items and finds the top 1% has captured roughly 25% of the income growth since the recession ended. That's certainly a lot lower but still a substantial share. Income inequality has sharply increased in the past four decades, but since the recession, data from the Congressional Budget Office shows that it has actually narrowed slightly.

**SANDERS:** Benefits under his health care plan "will be better because 'Medicare for All' is comprehensive and covers all health care needs."

**THE FACTS:** On paper, the Vermont senator is right. In real life, if he's elected president, the result might be quite different.

Sanders' "Medicare for All" bill calls for a government plan that would cover all medical care, prescriptions, dental and vision care, mental health and substance abuse treatment, and home and community-based long-term care services with virtually no copays or deductibles. The only exception would be a modest copay for certain high-cost medications.

But other countries with national health care plans are not as generous with benefits and also make use of copays to manage costs. Canada, often held up as a model by Sanders, does not have universal coverage for prescription drugs. Canadians rely on a mix of private insurance and public plans to pay for their prescriptions.

If Sanders is elected president, a Congress grappling with how to pass his plan may well pare back some of its promises. So there's no guarantee that benefits "will be better" for everybody, particularly people who now have the most generous health insurance.

**TIM RYAN**, U.S. representative from Ohio: "The economic system that used to create 30, 40, 50 dollar-an-hour jobs that you could have a good solid middle class living now forces us to have two or three jobs just to get by."

**THE FACTS:** Most Americans, by far, only work one job, and the numbers who juggle more than one

have declined over a quarter century.

In the mid-1990s, the percentage of workers holding multiple jobs peaked at 6.5%. The rate dropped significantly, even during the Great Recession, and has been hovering for a nearly a decade at about 5% or a little lower. In the latest monthly figures, from June, 5.2% of workers were holding more than one job.

Hispanic and Asian workers are consistently less likely than white and black workers to be holding multiple jobs. Women are more likely to be doing so than men.

Associated Press writers Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, Christopher Rugaber, Ellen Knickmeyer and Amanda Seitz contributed to this report.

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## Opponent of nation's public lands is picked to oversee them

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER and BRADY McCOMBS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An ardent critic of the federal government who has argued for selling off almost all public lands has been named the Trump administration's top steward over nearly a quarter-billion federally controlled acres, raising new questions about the administration's intentions for vast Western ranges and other lands roamed by hunters, hikers and wildlife.

Interior Secretary David Bernhardt on Monday signed an order making Wyoming native William Perry Pendley acting head of the Bureau of Land Management. The bureau's holdings are sweeping, with nearly one out of every 10 acres nationally, and 30% of minerals, under its dominion, mostly across the U.S. West.

Pendley, a former midlevel Interior appointee in the Reagan administration, for decades has championed ranchers and others in standoffs with the federal government over grazing and other uses of public lands. He has written books accusing federal authorities and environmental advocates of "tyranny" and "waging war on the West." He argued in a 2016 National Review article that the "Founding Fathers intended all lands owned by the federal government to be sold."

In tweets this summer, Pendley welcomed Trump administration moves to open more federal land to mining and oil and gas development and other private business use, and he has called the oil and gas extraction technique known as hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, "an energy, economic, AND environmental miracle!"

Conservation groups called the Pendley appointment an alarming choice, while Western ranchers called it a welcome move that shows the Trump administration is serious about opening public lands to all uses, including mining and ranching.

The Trump administration already has moved to weaken some protections for public lands. It downsized two national monuments in Utah to scale back protections on sacred tribal lands and signed a land exchange deal to build a road through a national wildlife refuge home to migrating waterfowl near the tip of the Alaska Peninsula.

And in what it called a money saving move, the administration moved BLM headquarters from Washington to Colorado and dispersed staff among Western states. Environmentalists feared that this was a first step in dismantling the agency.

After appointing Pendley as the bureau's policy chief in mid-July, the Interior Department confirmed late Monday it had newly elevated him to acting director.

Pendley's "ascending to the top of BLM just as it is being reorganized strongly suggests the administration is positioning itself to liquidate our shared public lands," said Phil Hanceford, conservation director for the Wilderness Society.

Western Values Project executive director Chris Saeger said in a statement that the appointment could lead public lands to being handed over to the Trump administration's "special interest allies."

Interior spokeswoman Molly Block disputed that, saying in an email, "This administration has been clear

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that we are not interested in transferring public lands.”

Block said agency management plans are developed to allow for a range of uses including energy development, cattle grazing, recreation and timber harvest while protecting scientific, historical, ecological, environmental, air and atmospheric, water resource, and archaeological values.

An analysis of six new BLM proposed management plans by the Pew Charitable Trust, which calls itself a nonpartisan research center, for parts of six Western states found they significantly reduce protections that have been in place for decades and open up new land for mining and oil and gas. They include Alaskan lands known as nesting habitat for peregrine falcons and Montana rivers homes to the westslope cutthroat trout.

The plans would peel back the label of “critical environmental concern” for nearly all of the 3,125 square miles (8,100 square kilometers) of lands that currently hold that distinction, said Ken Rait, the project director for U.S. public lands and rivers conservation at Pew Charitable Trusts.

He called it “a total reversal for how the agency has operated in the past.”

In a letter to the agency, Colorado’s Department of Natural Resources said the management plan for public lands in the southwest corner of the state don’t do enough to protect the Gunnison sage grouse , which is a threatened species, or migrating wildlife.

But Utah cattle rancher and county commissioner Leland Pollock said the Pendley appointment is the latest indication that the Trump administration is returning BLM to its original mission of ensuring that public lands are open to multiple uses. That includes mining, ranching, cattle grazing, ATV riding, hunting mountain biking and hiking, he said.

He said the administration has made clear to him and others who had pushed for state control of federal lands that it has no intention of going that route. The 55-year-old is a commissioner in Garfield County in southern Utah, which has 93% federally owned lands.

“He’s going to manage this thing just simply the way it was supposed to be managed,” Pollock said about Pendley.

Utah was among several Western states that explored suing to compel the federal government to hand over control of federal lands, arguing the state would manage them better. The state hired an outside consulting firm in 2014 to prepare a lawsuit, but it has never been filed.

Idaho rancher and county commissioner Kirk Chandler still thinks states should manage the lands but knows that’s unlikely to ever happen. In the meantime, he’s just happy the Trump administration is choosing leaders who will listen to his concerns. He wants to see more logging and forest thinning to prevent fires.

“I think it will be a good thing, a real good thing,” said Chandler about Pendley.

McCombs reported from Salt Lake City. Associated Press writer Dan Elliott contributed to this report from Denver.

## A history of racism is woven into the US presidency

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 racist views that were commonly held in their times, even when challenged by scholars or civil rights leaders.

Before he became the nation’s third president, Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Indepen-

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dence 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 ever 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 of them 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 "unconstitutional 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 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 of 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 Moralist: 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.

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

Recently the Nixon Presidential Library released an October 1971 phone conversation between Nixon and then California Gov. Ronald Reagan, another future president, The Atlantic reported Tuesday. Reagan in venting his frustration with United Nations delegates who voted against the U.S. dropped some racist language.



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"Last night, I tell you, to watch that thing on television as I did," Reagan said. "To see those, those monkeys from those African countries — damn them, they're still uncomfortable wearing shoes."

Nixon began laughing hard.

Reagan would launch his 1980 general election presidential campaign in Mississippi's Neshoba County — a place where three civil rights activists were murdered in 1964.

Reagan ignored the criticism of his visit and told a cheering crowd of white supporters, "I believe in states' rights."

This story replaces a previous version to correct the spelling of The Atlantic.

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

## Producer of 1969's Woodstock calls it a lesson in community

By LYNN ELBER AP Television Writer

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — A producer of the 1969 Woodstock festival says he's come to appreciate how a community can be born of difficulty.

Joel Rosenman said Tuesday he was so immersed in pulling off the massive event he didn't realize people "were having the time of their life" despite a myriad of uncomfortable problems at the rural New York location.

Among the newspaper headlines that added to the pressure: "Hippies mired in sea of mud."

While concertgoers reveled in the music of artists including Jimi Hendrix and The Who, concertgoers also banded together to cope with food shortages, rain and more, said Rosenman. He helped conceive the concert that drew some 500,000 people.

Screening filmmaker Barack Goodman's new PBS documentary about it gave him new insight into its message that reverberates today, Rosenman said.

"Adversity itself is not what gets in the way of community. In fact, from Barack's film I saw clearly that adversity can create a community," Rosenman told a TV critics meeting Tuesday. The program, "Woodstock: Three Days that Defined a Generation," will air Aug. 6 as part of PBS' "American Experience" series.

With the concert's mind-boggling lineup of performers well-documented in other projects, Goodman said it wasn't the music he wanted to focus on. It was instead how Woodstock crystalized the meaning of the counterculture, which had been seen as vague and open to caricature, he said.

"What happened at Woodstock underscored there was a reality to" the burgeoning movement and brought out its virtues as detailed by Rosenman, Goodman said.

Rosenman said he isn't involved in a planned 50th anniversary concert, other than licensing the use of the Woodstock name. He declined to comment on its setbacks, which includes trouble finding a venue and losing headliner artists Jay-Z and John Fogerty .

## Immigrants taking sanctuary in churches hit with huge fines

By REGINA GARCIA CANO Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP) — Devotional candles to St. Jude, the Holy Trinity and the Virgin of Guadalupe sit on a bookshelf by the door of a classroom in a United Methodist church. A sewing machine is a few feet away between a bed and a set of wicker furniture. In a corner, an electric skillet warming chicken thighs acts as a kitchen.

It is from these makeshift quarters that Maria Chavalan-Sut, an indigenous woman from Guatemala, has spent 10 months staving off a deportation order to a country that she says has scarred her life with violence, trauma and discrimination. Her fight for asylum could now cost her at least \$214,132.

Chavalan-Sut is among a number of immigrants taking sanctuary at houses of worship who have received letters from immigration authorities threatening them with huge fines under the latest move by the

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Trump administration. It's unclear how many immigrants have been targeted, but Church World Service, an organization that supports refugees and immigrants, is aware of at least six who've received letters.

"Where am I going to get (money) from? I don't know," said Chavalan-Sut, who worked for a while at a restaurant after arriving in Virginia more than two years ago but hasn't been able to hold a job since seeking sanctuary. "God still has me with my hands to work, and they're the only thing I have. If God thinks that with my hands I can pay that, give me a job."

Chavalan-Sut began living at Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church on Sept. 30, the day she was told to report to a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement office for deportation. She crossed the border into the U.S. and was detained in November 2016 near Laredo, Texas, after a weeklong journey that started in Guatemala's capital. She said her decision to emigrate and leave her four children behind came after her house was set ablaze.

Chavalan-Sut, 44, doesn't know who set the fire while she, her children and their father were asleep inside. But she believes it was linked to a dispute over land rights because she is an indigenous woman, her immigration attorney, Alina Kilpatrick, said.

Chavalan-Sut said an area fire official declined to investigate because there were no fatalities.

Immigrants have sought relief from deportation at houses of worship because immigration officials consider them "sensitive locations" in which enforcement action is generally avoided. Forty-five people currently live in sanctuary at churches across the U.S., up from three in 2015, according to Church World Service.

Among them are Honduras native Abbie Arevalo-Herrera and Edith Espinal-Moreno, of Mexico. Arevalo-Herrera took sanctuary at the First Unitarian Universalist Church in Richmond, Virginia, in June 2018, while Espinal-Moreno has been living at the Columbus Mennonite Church in Columbus, Ohio, since October 2017.

Like Chavalan-Sut, both women received notices of fines. The three letters were signed June 25. Arevalo-Herrera's fine is for \$295,630, and Espinal-Moreno's was set at \$497,777.

Attorneys, activists and faith leaders have decried the fines. Krish O'Mara Vignarajah, president and CEO of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, characterized them as a "scare tactic."

"So long as ICE continues to respect its own policy of avoiding sensitive locations like churches, which may not be a given, the agency will have to continue to resort to psychological games to coerce families out of their legal protections," she said.

Wesley Memorial joined the sanctuary movement after an immigrant rights activist contacted the Rev. Isaac Collins asking for help. The church's 31-year-old pastor said that while he has heard from other pastors who have expressed concern over mixing religion and politics, for him making Wesley Memorial a sanctuary was not a political move: It was a decision based on Christian ethics.

"When you start at, 'Maria is a human being who's in trouble and needs a place of safety,' OK, (that's) very firmly in the realm of ideas in Christianity about hospitality and human rights and loving our neighbors," he said. "The church is a space that can provide that safety and that neutral space while she figures out due process. ... It doesn't get political until your political party is the one saying 'Actually, Maria doesn't deserve all these things.'"

Since seeking sanctuary, Chavalan-Sut has been able to talk to her children, now ages 7, 11, 14 and 21, for an hour a day, making sure the youngest ones do their homework. The oldest is now pursuing a degree in civil engineering. She left them all under the care of a family in Guatemala City. She weeps thinking about them.

The devout Catholic participates in Sunday services at Wesley Memorial with the help of a Spanish translator. She prays daily, and tends to a garden of flowers, herbs and vegetables. She sews headbands and bags using fabric that a son mailed from Guatemala. She can't sell the items, but she accepts donations in exchange. She occasionally cooks tamales and other traditional foods at the church's large kitchen.

At least one volunteer guards the church property around the clock. People take turns buying her groceries. Some are helping her learn English. All volunteers have been instructed to ask for a signed warrant should immigration officers show up.

The church has also provided Chavalan-Sut with a mental health therapist. The fire at her home is only one of many traumatic events she says she has experienced for being Kaqchikel, an indigenous Mayan

group. As a 7-year-old living in Guatemala's highlands during the country's 1960-1996 civil war, she saw her cousins buried alive.

Indigenous communities disproportionately suffered during the 36-year conflict. Rachel Nolan, an assistant professor at Boston University whose research includes Central American civil wars, said the Kaqchikel experienced enormous discrimination and violence. While the peace accords signed in 1996 ended large-scale massacres for the most part, she said, indigenous people continue to face lower-levels of violence, including land dispossession.

Carissa Cutrell, a spokeswoman for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, said a judge ordered Chavalan-Sut to be deported after she failed to appear for an immigration hearing in July 2017. Kilpatrick, the immigration attorney, said that was because the notice to appear did not have a date and time, something immigrant rights activists say is common.

Chavalan-Sut's motion to reopen her case was denied in July 2018. An appeal filed in December is pending in the Board of Immigration Appeals.

Cutrell said the Immigration and Nationality Act allows the agency to impose civil fines on individuals "who have been ordered removed or granted voluntary departure and fail to depart the United States." The fines are calculated at \$799 a day, from the date the immigrant took sanctuary to avoid removal.

Immigrants like Chavalan-Sut who have received fine notices have 30 days to dispute them in writing or request an interview to respond, which would mean risking leaving their sanctuaries. It's unclear whether any of the immigrants, including Chavalan-Sut, have filed paperwork to fight the fines.

For now, Chavalan-Sut has turned to self-help books to try to cope. The Spanish versions of the New York Times best-seller "Rising Strong" by Brene Brown and bilingual evangelist's Jason Frenn's "Power to Persuade" are among the stack of books in her room.

In sanctuary, she said, she has begun to heal.

"So, I say, I'm just an example of the decisions that governments make," she said. "They do not measure the damage that they are making. They are the ones who plant the seeds, and then many people leave their countries. ... Why do they leave their country? Because they cannot stand it anymore."

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Associated Press writer David Crary in New York contributed to this report.

## Officials: Festival shooter took gun to California illegally

By The Associated Press

Officials say a 19-year-old gunman used a rifle he legally bought in Nevada and illegally brought into California to kill two children and a man at a food festival before he was killed by police.

But police initially named a weapon that would be legal under California law, only later clarifying that he used a military-style rifle that he purchased in Nevada but could not legally bring into California under the state's assault weapons ban, which is among the nation's toughest.

It's the details that make the difference in whether the rifle could have been lawfully imported to California.

Gilroy Police Chief Scot Smithee initially described the weapon as an "SKS," which is a semi-automatic rifle designed by the Soviet Union during World War II and later widely manufactured in Eastern Europe and China. It has a traditional wooden stock with a fixed magazine that holds 10 bullets.

While it looks superficially similar to the better-known and more modern AK-47, the standard SKS does not have a pistol grip or detachable high-capacity magazine that would make it illegal under California's assault weapons definition. A variation with an attached grenade launcher would be illegal.

"The SKS is generally legal in California if it has a 10-round magazine ... and it's got a full-length wooden stock. It looks like a hunting rifle," said Sam Paredes, executive director of Gun Owners of California. "It's pretty much an antique rifle. There are hundreds of thousands of them in private possession in California, all legal."

Officials later clarified that the gunman used a semi-automatic variant of the AK-47, which appears to have a detachable magazine and wooden stock with a pistol grip.

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"Under the configuration of that gun, it would be illegal for him to import it into the state," Paredes said. Ammunition magazines in California are generally restricted to holding no more than 10 bullets, though that is being challenged in court. That plus the pistol grip would qualify it as an assault weapon that would have to be registered if it was owned in California and would be illegal to bring into the state.

A law enforcement official told The Associated Press that investigators believe the gunman used a WASR-10, which is a Romanian variant of the AK-47, selling for about \$700 at Big Mike's Guns and Ammo in Fallon, Nevada, where he picked up the weapon.

"That weapon could not be sold in California. That weapon cannot be imported into the state of California," California Attorney General Xavier Becerra said. "The reach of the California law ends at our borders, and so we cannot control what other states do, and that's what makes it so tough."

Under a California law that went into effect Jan. 1, residents younger than 21 are barred from buying rifles or shotguns unless they are in the military or law enforcement. Those 18 and up can buy rifles in Nevada.

3 things to watch for from the Federal Reserve on Wednesday

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Not since America's financial system and economy appeared to be in grave danger — back in December 2008 — has the Federal Reserve cut its benchmark interest rate.

Yet that is just what the Fed is set to do when it ends its latest policy meeting Wednesday at a time when the U.S. economy looks infinitely sturdier than it did in the depths of the Great Recession.

The Fed under Chairman Jerome Powell has nevertheless signaled its belief that uncertainties and threats unleashed by President Donald Trump's trade war and by a global slowdown justify a Fed rate cut now as a kind of insurance policy against another economic downturn.

That message has raised a raft of questions about how much the Fed intends to reduce borrowing rates and whether it should really be cutting rates at all now. A news conference Powell will hold after the Fed issues a policy statement could help shed light on the likely path ahead for the central bank.

Here are three things to watch for after the Fed meeting ends Wednesday afternoon:

## ONE AND DONE — OR MORE?

Market traders foresee a 100% chance of a cut Wednesday in the Fed's key short-term rate, according to the CME Group, which tracks this trading. The largest proportion of traders — 78% — expect a modest quarter-point cut from the current range of 2.25% to 2.5% for the Fed's influential rate.

For the rest of 2019, expectations for additional rate cuts range more widely, with economists more restrained and investors with a more expansive outlook. The CME Group says 56% of traders expect a second rate cut in September. About half think rates will be cut a total of three or even four times before the year ends.

But many economists suggest that the Fed will likely view this week's rate cut as "insurance" against a potential downturn and that the policymakers will want to pause, perhaps for the rest of the year, and monitor how the economy fares in the face of trade conflicts and the global slowdown.

Look for Powell's news conference to be dominated by questions about whether, why and by how much the Fed may further ease credit through the rest of the year.

## ECONOMIC GROWTH AND INFLATION

This week, the Fed's policymakers won't be updating their forecasts for the economy and for the direction of interest rates — something they do four times a year. But their policy statement will be scrutinized for any subtle changes in its description of the economy that might provide hints of the Fed's thinking.

The Fed's previous policy statement had described the job market as strong and said economic activity was rising moderately. Yet it also noted that inflation had continued to run persistently below the Fed's target level.

The central bank's policy statement Wednesday and Powell's messages at his news conference will be



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assessed to gauge how concerned the central bank is about low inflation, which in recent months has fallen further below its 2% target. If Powell appears worried about too-low inflation, it might raise expectations that the Fed will further ease credit in the months ahead.

In delivering the Fed's semiannual monetary report to Congress earlier this month, Powell had suggested that a variety of factors might be making it harder for the Fed to meet its inflation goal. He noted that the central bank needs to be alert to such trends to prevent the economy from sinking into a low-inflation trap like the one that's bedeviled the Japanese economy for more than two decades.

Ultra-low inflation can slow growth by causing consumers to postpone purchases, which, in turn, slows consumer spending, the economy's main fuel. Persistently subpar inflation is considered a key reason why the Fed has shifted from last year's four rate increases to the expectation of rate cuts this year.

## TRADE AND OTHER UNCERTAINTIES

In its policy statement last month, the Fed noted that "uncertainties" about the economic outlook had increased, and it pledged to "act as appropriate to sustain the expansion."

The statement didn't specify what the increased uncertainties were. But in his previous news conference and in his testimony this month to Congress, Powell mentioned weakening global growth, trade frictions stemming from Trump's combative use of tariffs and the risk of a botched exit by Britain from the European Union in October.

The government reported last week that the U.S. economy, as measured by the gross domestic product, slowed to an annual growth rate of 2.1% in the April-June quarter, down from a 3.1% pace in the January-March period. Though some temporary factors contributed to the slowdown, many economists say they think growth will keep slowing for the rest of this year.

Trump has been escalating his attacks on the Fed over the past year, blaming the four rate hikes in 2018 as a key reason why the economy is slowing.

"The Fed moved, in my opinion, far too early and far too severely," Trump told reporters Tuesday in his latest attack.

He said he wanted to see a "large cut" in rates as well as an immediate halt in the reduction of the Fed's bond holdings, to avoid putting upward pressure on long-term rates.

"Fortunately," Trump said, "I've made the economy so strong that nothing's going to stop us, but the Fed could have made it a lot easier."

"We have the all-time high in the history of the stock market," he added, yet if not for what he called the Fed's tight credit policy, "I think I would have been 10,000 points higher."

Powell has previously asserted that Trump's pressure has had no effect on the rate policies of the Fed, which is considered an independent agency. But the president's incessant public attacks raise the question for Powell of whether the criticism could eventually undermine confidence that the Fed will remain politically independent and not try to boost the economy before next year's presidential election.

Sarah Bloom Raskin, a former Powell colleague on the Fed's board and now a professor at Duke University, suggested in a statement that without better explanations of its actions, the Fed runs the risk that the public "may think Chairman Powell is caving in to presidential bullying."

## Trump hails 'righteous cause of American self-government'

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE and SARAH RANKIN Associated Press

JAMESTOWN, Va. (AP) — President Donald Trump on Tuesday marked the 400th anniversary of American democracy and its gift "of the country we love," but his celebration of what began as an experiment in self-government was boycotted by black Virginia lawmakers incensed by Trump's continued disparagement of a veteran black congressman and the majority-black district he represents.

The uplifting rhetoric from Trump marking 400 years of representative government contrasted sharply with his stream of attacks against U.S. Rep. Elijah Cummings, including before and after the event.

Trump said in remarks to members of Virginia's General Assembly and other dignitaries that the United

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States has had many achievements in its history, but “none exceeds the triumph that we are here to celebrate today.”

“Self-government in Virginia did not just give us a state we love — in a very true sense it gave us the country we love, the United States of America,” he said.

The General Assembly, considered the oldest continuously operating legislative body in North America, grew out of a gathering that convened in July 1619.

But as Trump addressed the lawmakers and others in a tent on the lawn of a history museum near the site of the original Jamestown colony, members of Virginia’s legislative black caucus held an emotional ceremony about 60 miles away in Richmond, at the site of a once-notorious slave jail, where they took turns condemning the president.

Del. Delores McQuinn, who refused to say Trump’s name and instead called him “the tenant in the White House,” choked back tears as she said his critiques of minority members of Congress were aimed at “every person of color in the United States of America.” She urged the crowd to “reclaim the soul and fabric of this country.”

Trump said as he departed the White House that lawmakers participating in the previously announced boycott were going “against their own people.”

The Republican president claimed African Americans “love the job” he’s doing and are “happy as hell” with his criticisms of Cummings and his majority-black Baltimore-area district.

The attacks on Cummings closely followed the president’s criticism earlier this month of four progressive Democratic female members of Congress.

The president’s unsubstantiated claim that African Americans are happy with him contradicts polling showing that blacks continue to be overwhelmingly negative in their assessment of his performance. According to Gallup polling, approval of Trump among black Americans has hovered around 1 in 10 over the course of his presidency, with 8% approving in June.

As Trump spoke in Virginia, where in 1619 the first enslaved Africans arrived in English North America, a congressional delegation led by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited the Door of No Return in Ghana, the departure point for millions of Africans bound for the Americas and sold into slavery.

Congressional Black Caucus Chairwoman Karen Bass of California, a member of the Ghana delegation who was aware of Trump’s recent social media activity and his trip to Jamestown, said in a statement Tuesday: “Twenty years ago, when I went to the Door of No Return for the first time, I never thought I’d return as a member of Congress or as Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. But I also never thought that I’d return as the President of the United States continues a racist assault on an African American member of Congress and our country.”

The boycott by Virginia lawmakers followed days of acerbic commentary by Trump, beginning Saturday, that referred to Cummings’ district as a “disgusting, rat and rodent infested mess” that no human being would want to live in. Cummings is chairman of the House Oversight and Reform Committee, which has spent the year investigating the president and the administration.

In his speech, Trump offered a nod to the beginning of slavery in the U.S. by noting the arrival of the slaves in 1619 at Point Comfort, Virginia.

“We remember every sacred soul who suffered the horrors of slavery and the anguish of bondage,” he said.

Trump’s speech was briefly interrupted by a Muslim state lawmaker, Del. Ibraheem Samirah, a Democrat, who stood holding laminated signs that said “Deport Hate,” “Reunite My Family” and “Go Back to Your Corrupted Home.” Samirah later told The Associated Press that he wanted to protest Trump’s policies and rhetoric.

Republican House Speaker Kirk Cox, who had introduced Trump, said Samirah’s protest was “inconsistent with common decency and a violation of the rules of the House.”

Virginia Legislative Black Caucus Chairman Del. Lamont Bagby told AP that the group of about 20 lawmakers had reached a unanimous decision to boycott the event more than a week ago, before Trump began

to assail Cummings. Not every black Virginia elected official stayed away from Trump's appearance. Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax was on hand as Trump became the first president to address the Virginia Legislature.

Trump used the speech to make an optimistic case for America's future, saying, "America always gets the job done."

"That is why after 400 years of glorious American democracy, we have returned here to this place to declare to all the world that the United States of America and the great Commonwealth of Virginia are just getting started," he said.

At a ceremony earlier Tuesday, Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam — a Democrat whose political career was almost destroyed this year by a blackface scandal — reflected on the complexities of the 1619 milestones. He noted that while the ideals of freedom and representative government flourished in Jamestown four centuries ago, enslaved Africans would arrive just weeks later.

"So today, as we hold these commemorations of the first representative assembly in the free world, we have to remember who it included, and who it did not," Northam said. "That's the paradox of Virginia, of America, and of our representative democracy."

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Associated Press writers Kevin Freking in Washington, Denise Lavoie in Richmond, Virginia, and Errin Haines Whack in Philadelphia contributed to this report.

## 2 dead, 2 wounded in shooting at Walmart in Mississippi

By **ADRIAN SAINZ** Associated Press

SOUTHAVEN, Miss. (AP) — A gunman described as a disgruntled Walmart employee fatally shot two co-workers and wounded a police officer before he was shot and arrested Tuesday morning at a Walmart store in northern Mississippi, authorities said.

DeSoto County District Attorney John Champion said 39-year-old Martez Tarrell Abram shot a Southaven police officer, who was protected by a bulletproof vest and suffered minor injuries. Southaven Police Chief Macon Moore said a second Southaven officer shot Abram, who underwent surgery at a hospital in neighboring Memphis, Tennessee.

Both the people killed were Walmart employees, Moore said. Employees told The Associated Press that the first was shot in the parking lot, and the second was shot inside the store.

Southaven Mayor Darren Musselwhite described the suspect as a disgruntled worker with a grievance against his employer. Abram, a Southaven resident, had been suspended from the store in recent days after he showed a knife to a co-worker. A police report had been filed, but Champion said Abram didn't appear to have threatened the co-worker and criminal charges weren't being pursued.

"It wasn't an accident," said Travis Jones, an overnight stocker who was working when he heard shots. "He knew what he was doing when he came in there."

Jones said he saw the body of store manager Anthony Brown on the floor as they ran out of the store. "It was an ugly scene," he said. DeSoto County Coroner Joshua Pounders said the 40-year-old Brown, an Olive Branch resident, appears to have died from a gunshot wound.

Nicholas Gales said the other slain worker was his brother, 38-year-old Brandon Gales of Hernando. Jones called Brandon Gales his best friend and an "all-around good guy," saying he was the father of multiple children.

The shooting at about 6:30 a.m. brought a massive police response to the shopping complex, at a busy exit off Interstate 55 in Southaven, a suburb of 55,000 people.

"Our police really showed their guts today," Musselwhite said, noting Southaven officers recently undertook active shooter training, "If it hadn't been for their efforts there would have been more lives lost."

Carlos Odom, 35, had just made his usual visit to his cousin, who works at the Walmart on Tuesday, and said he was leaving when he heard more than a dozen shots.

"I just hear gunshots," Odom said. "Pow. Pow. Pow. Pow. Pow."

"When the cops run into the Walmart, you hear more gunshots," Odom said. "After that, it stopped."

Phil Cox, 70, said he had just bought some nasal spray and was in the parking lot when he thought he heard a gunshot, and then saw a man who may have been the shooter run into the store. He got into his truck to leave as police began arriving.

"Everything went crazy at that point," Cox said, expressing sympathy for employees. "It's just hard to believe what happened here, but it seems like it's happening everywhere."

Champion said police had recovered multiple weapons and a vehicle and searched Abram's apartment. He said Abram had purchased guns legally, although he didn't describe them, and said Abram had no prior criminal record. He said investigators were also reviewing video recordings.

Investigators also believe Abram set a fire in the store. Champion said charges could be upgraded or more charges added after the investigation concludes.

"I feel extremely confident we'll have a very prosecutable case," Champion said.

No one answered the door at an address listed for Abram on Tuesday afternoon. Some neighbors at the apartment complex about a mile (1.6 kilometers) from the shooting scene said they did not know him.

Moore said about 60 employees were working at the time. They were taken to the parking lot of an adjoining Chili's restaurant and interviewed by officers, remaining there for hours. Some embraced, while one was placed in an ambulance. Others gathered in a circle to pray. Finally, authorities brought employees back into the store after noon, spoke to them and released them to go home. The store remained closed, even as businesses operated as usual elsewhere on the high-traffic suburban strip.

"The entire Walmart family is heartbroken by the loss of two valued members of our team," Walmart U.S. President and CEO Greg Foran said in a statement Tuesday afternoon. "We feel tragedies like this personally, and our hearts go out to the families of our two associates and the officer who was injured."

The company is relieved the suspect was apprehended, and appreciates the quick response by authorities and its employees, Foran said.

"We'll continue to focus on assisting law enforcement in their investigation and on supporting our associates," he added.

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Associated Press writers Jeff Amy and Jeff Martin in Atlanta contributed.

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The spelling of the suspect's middle name has been corrected.

## **Puerto Ricans ask, 'What's next?' as they await new governor**

**By DÁNICA COTO Associated Press**

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — The fliers handed out at Puerto Rico's latest protest depict the U.S. territory's outgoing governor as a clown and puppeteer controlling those beneath him.

"WHAT COMES AFTER RICKY?" the first page reads, referring to Gov. Ricardo Rosselló.

It's the question hundreds of thousands of Puerto Ricans are now asking themselves after having achieved their main goal: ousting a governor for the first time in the U.S. territory's recent history.

Rosselló is scheduled to step down Friday at 5 p.m., but it's unclear who will fill his position.

Legislator José Meléndez told The Associated Press late Tuesday that the governor would nominate a former Puerto Rico congressional representative, Pedro Pierluisi, as secretary of state, a now-vacant post that is next in line to become governor.

However, Pierluisi would have to be approved by the island's House and Senate, and Meléndez and others have said they would not vote for him. Pierluisi served as Puerto Rico's non-voting representative in Congress in 2009-2017 and now works as a lawyer for a firm that represents a federal control board overseeing the Puerto Rican government's finances, something that critics say is a conflict of interest.

A special session to vote on Pierluisi has been scheduled for Friday, just four hours before Rosselló is supposed to resign.

The secretary of state by law automatically replaces a governor who leaves office, but Luis Rivera Marín vacated that post by joining more than a dozen other officials who resigned in the wake of an obscenity-



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laced chat that was recently leaked in which he, Rosselló and others made fun of women, gay people and victims of Hurricane Maria.

If a new secretary of state is not approved by Friday, the governorship goes to Justice Secretary Wanda Vázquez, who has said she is not interested in the job and also faces the ire of protesters who are calling for her to step down.

But beyond those demands, Puerto Ricans say they now want to root out government corruption and debate how to accomplish this while harnessing the energy that still remains from the days of street protests that led to Rosselló to agree to resign.

"We have to maintain the continuity of what has happened to clean out the government," said José Rivera Santana, a 64-year-old planner. "The future of Puerto Rico is in the hands of our people right now. We cannot be passive."

The historic achievement was born out of a leaderless movement that relied heavily on social media, the appearance of superstars including Residente and Bad Bunny and an angry populace fed up with corruption, delayed hurricane recovery efforts and a 13-year-old recession that has also brought the creation of a federal control board that has implemented austerity measures for Puerto Rico's government as it restructures a portion of Puerto Rico's more than \$70 billion public debt load.

The movement drew students, professionals, retirees, and rich and poor alike, and that is why Puerto Ricans say it was so successful: Everyone cast politics aside on an island long fixated with its political status and unified under a common goal and shared outrage.

"They were all in a pressure cooker waiting to explode," said Ricardo Santos Ortiz, a spokesman for the Workers Socialist Movement, which also joined the protests.

Cellphones across Puerto Rico dinged dozens of times a day as regular citizens and groups including labor unions posted announcements on social media about upcoming protests or shared them in private chats: a paddle-out for surfers, a horse ride to the governor's mansion, a twerkathon, a motorcycle run, and a yoga gathering.

"It was nobody's but it was everyone's," Yaddeliz Martínez Pérez said of the protests. "The will of the people triumphed above everything else."

The 38-year-old unemployed Puerto Rican was among those who took it upon themselves to organize a protest. She posted it on Facebook, but when she realized there was another protest already organized for that day, she cancelled the event and told those who had confirmed that they should join the other protest.

Other efforts fell flat, including an attempt to recreate a week later the mammoth July 22 demonstration that shut down one of Puerto Rico's main highways, said Santos, the socialist activist, adding that the legitimacy of events sometimes depended on whether certain activists backed them.

Like many other Puerto Ricans, Santos said he wants the movement to continue but believes it should be more organized.

"We have to figure out how to keep people in the streets," he said. "The announcements that have gone out have been a bit anarchic."

But it is unlikely the movement will remain as strong as it has in recent days, said Gabriel Torres Colón, a cultural and political anthropologist at Vanderbilt University who has focused on Puerto Rico.

Torres said it would be very difficult to maintain the same intensity, adding that people realize corruption runs deep and will not be wiped out simply by replacing high-ranking government officials.

However, many Puerto Ricans say they will not give up.

Marisel Robles, a 29-year-old unemployed woman who studied engineering, is part of a group that was formed a couple of years ago to try to oust the federal control board overseeing Puerto Rico's government finances. The group joined the protests to oust Rosselló and is now trying to keep the movement alive by forming an anti-corruption group, she said.

"This will be a learning experience for organizations on how to change," she said. "We can keep up the momentum, but it will depend on the work each person puts in."

## US presidential envoy sent to Sweden for A\$AP Rocky's trial

By JARI TANNER Associated Press

HELSINKI (AP) — American rapper A\$AP Rocky pleaded not guilty to assault as his trial in Sweden opened Tuesday, a month after a street fight that landed him in jail and became a topic of U.S.-Swedish diplomacy.

Rocky, whose real name is Rakim Mayers, is accused with two others of beating a 19-year-old man in Stockholm on June 30. Prosecutors played video footage in court that showed Mayers throwing a young man to the ground.

Wearing sweatpants and a green T-shirt in court, Mayers, 30, pleaded not guilty to an assault charge that carries a maximum penalty of two years in prison. He says he acted in self-defense.

The Grammy-nominated artist's extended detention prompted U.S. President Donald Trump to personally intervene on his behalf earlier this month. Mayers nevertheless remained behind bars, angering Trump.

Swedish news agency TT said Trump sent the U.S. special presidential envoy for hostage affairs to Stockholm to monitor the court proceedings and to show support for Mayers.

The special envoy, Ambassador Robert O'Brien, was seen at Stockholm District Court in the morning. A biographical statement on the State Department's website says O'Brien "leads the U.S. government's diplomatic efforts on overseas hostage-related matters."

"He works closely with the families of American hostages and advises the senior leadership of the U.S. Government on hostage issues," the website states.

A senior U.S. official in Washington described O'Brien's presence as part of an effort to convey Trump's concern about the case, support American citizens "and, to, hopefully, bring them home." The official spoke on condition of anonymity to The Associated Press because they were not authorized to discuss it by name.

Fellow rapper RZA (RIHZ'-uh) of the Wu-Tang Clan told The Associated Press on Friday he was concerned about A\$AP Rocky and "disappointed that a judge cannot discern that this is not a man you hold hostage."

A\$AP Rocky's mother, Renee Black, also attended the proceedings. She said beforehand she was convinced her son is not guilty,

"This is a nightmare," Black was quoted by Swedish media as saying.

Prosecutors and defense lawyers presented competing narratives on the trial's opening day of what happened the night of the fight.

Prosecutors said 19-year-old Mustafa Jafari and a friend got into an argument with Mayers and one of his bodyguards near a fast-food restaurant where the rapper's entourage had eaten.

Mayers has published videos on his Instagram account that showed him repeatedly pleading with the two to stop following him and his associates.

Defense lawyer Slobodan Jovicic stressed Tuesday that the rapper and his entourage "didn't want any trouble" and alleged that Jafari and his friend had exhibited "aggressive and deeply provocative behavior."

A\$AP Rocky previously encountered violent situations because of his fame and "there are some people who don't always wish him well." Jovicic said.

"He's has been harassed in the past. In this case, the bodyguard made the assessment that these people should move on ... and not to come close," the lawyer said.

Prosecutors alleged in court documents that Mayers and the two other men thought to be part of his entourage beat and kicked Jafari while he was on the ground.

Jafari also was hit with parts of or a whole bottle, they alleged. The court file includes photos of Jafari's cuts, bruises and blood-stained clothes.

Another lawyer representing A\$AP Rocky in Sweden, Martin Persson, told public broadcaster SVT he would present evidence showing "no bottle has been used to hit or injure anyone."

Any physical aggression by Mayers and his co-defendants was "within the limits of the law," Persson said.

The trial is expected to continue with witness testimony on Thursday and could run through Friday, Stockholm District Court.

Mayers, along with two men thought to be members of his entourage, was jailed on July 3 and remains in custody.

His case has drawn the attention of American celebrities and Mayers' fellow recording artists, including Sean "Diddy" Combs and Justin Bieber. A social media campaign for his release, #JusticeForRocky, was created soon after his arrest.

Trump also weighed in, asking for a phone call with Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven and offering to personally guarantee A\$AP Rocky's bail. The two leaders spoke, and the prime minister's spokeswoman said Lofven stressed he couldn't interfere in a legal case.

Sweden doesn't have a bail system, so Mayers stayed behind bars despite Trump's vouching for him. After prosecutors filed charges Thursday, Trump took to Twitter to criticize Lofven "for being unable to act."

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

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Associated Press writer Eric Tucker in Washington contributed to this report.

## **Pentagon nominee denies sexual misconduct allegations**

**By LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Air Force general nominated to be the nation's number two military officer flatly denied allegations of sexual misconduct Tuesday, and appeared headed for confirmation after answering pointed questions from senators for more than two hours.

With his wife of 32 years sitting behind him and his accuser looking on from a short distance away, Air Force Gen. John Hyten told senators that "all the allegations are completely false." Most of the senators on the Armed Services Committee appeared to support him, including Sen. Martha McSally, R-Az., a former fighter pilot who has publicly described her own sexual assault.

Hyten's forceful denial comes after several months delay in the nomination process as senators held five classified sessions, poured over thousands of pages of the investigation and interviewed Hyten and Army Col. Kathryn Spletstoser, the officer who made the allegations.

Spletstoser says Hyten, who has been nominated to be the next vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, subjected her to a series of unwanted sexual advances in 2017.

"Nothing happened. Ever," Hyten told the committee, adding that the allegations were shown to be false after a "fair and extensive investigation."

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

The committee is expected to approve the nomination by the end of the week, but a final Senate vote is unlikely until September, after the August recess. The current vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Paul Selva, retires Wednesday.

Hyten was asked about military issues, including his views on Trump administration efforts to wind down the war in Afghanistan and the need to modernize the nation's nuclear weapons, but a large portion of the hearing focused on the allegations against him.

Many senators hit the issue head-on, asking detailed questions about specific allegations from Spletstoser. Committee members and Hyten avoided criticizing Spletstoser and some appeared troubled by her allegations.

Former Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson, who authorized the initial investigation, opened the hearing with an endorsement of Hyten, calling his accuser a "wounded soldier" who might "believe what she is saying is true."

Spletstoser told The Associated Press she was stung by Wilson's remarks.

"I was appalled and hurt quite frankly," said Spletstoser, who received a mild head injury while serving in Afghanistan in 2005. "To suggest that I would lie under oath and make up an allegation of sexual assault because of my combat injury is disgusting. If you don't believe me that is your prerogative, but do not dishonor my service to this country."

Spletstoser told the AP 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.

Asked about one of the incidents, Hyten denied ever going to her hotel room while they were traveling on business. Members of his security detail, who stay close tabs to him because his job includes overseeing the U.S. nuclear arsenal, corroborated his account of his whereabouts.

McSally said she has "full confidence" in Hyten and believes he is innocent.

"This wasn't just a jump ball. Not a he said, she said," McSally said. "Sexual assault happens in the military. It just didn't happen in this case."

Several senators questioned Hyten's leadership abilities, particularly since he initially considered Spletstoser a brilliant officer but later had her investigated for being a "toxic leader."

Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, a retired National Guard commander who disclosed earlier this year she was a survivor of a college sexual assault, said she had concern over Hyten's "judgment, leadership and fitness to serve" in leadership.

Sen. Mazie Hirono, D-Hawaii, also remained skeptical about the assault charges.

"While we have not been presented with any corroborating evidence, the lack of it does not necessarily mean that the accusations are untrue," she told Hyten. "Women are assaulted all the time and don't tell anyone. Men assault women all the time and don't leave behind any evidence."

Spletstoser told the AP 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 he would not pose a risk to any other service members.

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 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. Lawmakers have also criticized the department's handling of assault cases and tried repeatedly to overhaul what some say is a broken system.

They continued that criticism Tuesday, asking Hyten what he will do to get after the problem of sexual assault in the military. He said the Pentagon and Congress must work together to solve the problem.

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Associated Press writer Lisa Mascaro contributed to this report.

## Top aides leave Dem campaign arm amid diversity complaints

By ALAN FRAM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A mass departure of top aides shook the House Democrats' campaign arm Tuesday, an exodus that followed complaints from Hispanic and black lawmakers that the organization's staff lacked diversity and that came amid a war of words between the party and President Donald Trump over race.

Rep. Cheri Bustos, D-Ill., chairwoman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, said in a statement late Monday that she had "fallen short" and promised to "work tirelessly to ensure that our staff is truly inclusive." Executive Director Allison Jaslow announced her departure Monday, and a DCCC aide said five other senior aides had also resigned hours later.

The tumult comes as race has become a partisan battlefield, following a series of Twitter attacks by Trump on House Democrats of color. In his latest blasts, he has disparaged Democratic Rep. Elijah Cummings and his city of Baltimore, which is majority black, as a "disgusting" place where "no human being would want to live."

The shakeup also occurred as both parties are already fundraising and recruiting candidates for the elections in 2020, when Democrats will be defending their House majority. The DCCC outspent its coun-



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terpart, the National Republican Congressional Committee, in 2018 elections that saw Democrats gain House control after eight years in the minority.

Lawmakers complaining about the DCCC's staff have included Texas Democratic Reps. Filemon Vela and Vicente Gonzalez and Ohio Rep. Marcia Fudge, a member of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Bustos spent Tuesday talking about how to address the problem with leaders of House caucuses representing Hispanics, blacks and other minority groups and with Democratic incumbents expected to face competitive reelection races, the DCCC aide said.

The aide provided supportive statements from several lawmakers, including Rep. Cedric Richmond, D-La., former head of the Congressional Black Caucus. Richmond said he was happy see Bustos "hear the concerns of her colleagues and tackle issues of diversity and inclusion head on."

A House leadership aide said top Democrats largely faulted the now-departed Jaslow for not quickly responding to the complaints. The aide, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to discuss the situation publicly, said leaders did not believe Bustos should leave her post.

Bustos, 57, became chairwoman of the campaign committee following the 2018 elections, arguing she would be effective because she has represented a swing district that supported Trump in 2016 and knew how to win in such areas. Democrats owed their 2018 triumph to winning closely divided districts, especially in suburbs.

Hispanic lawmakers became disenchanted after Bustos replaced top staffers, including many minorities, with aides who were largely white, said an aide to Gonzalez who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to discuss the matter publicly. New committee leaders often name longtime aides to their staffs.

In a statement last weekend, Gonzalez and Vela said the DCCC was "in complete chaos." They said Bustos should appoint a person of color to be executive director "to restore confidence in the organization and to promote diversity."

Fudge also told Politico, which first reported about the DCCC's disarray, about her unhappiness regarding the committee's lack of diversity.

"It is shocking, and something needs to be done about it," she said.

Gabrielle Brown, spokeswoman for the Congressional Black Caucus, said black House lawmakers have been holding meetings with DCCC officials for months and expressing similar concerns.

None of the lawmakers complained about the DCCC's performance this year in raising money and finding candidates to challenge Republicans, the committee's main job.

But liberals in and out of Congress were angered when Bustos announced the DCCC would not do business with political consultants who help Democrats challenging incumbent House Democrats. Much of DCCC's money comes from dues paid by House Democrats, and incumbents have argued that an organization they finance should not give some of its lucrative business to consultants who work for challengers trying to unseat them.

Many Democrats were also unhappy when Bustos planned to attend an event in support of fellow Illinois Democratic Rep. Dan Lipinski, an abortion opponent and one of the most conservative House Democrats. Bustos ended up not attending.

Jaslow, an Iraq War veteran, said in a statement that "sometimes selfless service means having the courage to take a bow for the sake of the mission — especially when the stakes are so high."

Bustos has appointed a council of aides to search for a permanent replacement for Jaslow.

## Despite polls, Trump says blacks like his Baltimore remarks

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is claiming a groundswell of African American support in response to his comments denigrating Democratic Rep. Elijah Cummings and the congressman's majority-black Baltimore district, despite polling showing consistently negative numbers.

Speaking to reporters as he left the White House on Tuesday, Trump claimed the building had been

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flooded with thousands of letters, emails and phone calls after his criticism of Baltimore thanking him for "getting involved" and exposing corruption.

"They really appreciate what I'm doing, and they've let me know it," said the Republican president. The White House did not immediately provide any evidence backing up Trump's claims.

Trump's comments came in response to fierce backlash against his earlier remarks lashing out at Cummings, the chairman of the House Oversight Committee, and calling his district a "disgusting, rat and rodent infested mess." Trump also is under fire for his ongoing attacks on four Democratic congresswomen of color, who he tweeted should "go back" to their countries — even though three of the four were born in the United States and all are U.S. citizens.

But Trump on Tuesday nonetheless declared himself "the least racist person" in the world, despite his recent comments and racist tweets. And he said "African American people love the job" he's doing, despite the fact that numerous polls have shown African Americans are overwhelmingly negative in their assessments of his performance.

Approval among black Americans has hovered around 10% over the course of Trump's presidency, according to Gallup polling, with 8% approving in June. And a new Quinnipiac University poll out Tuesday found that 80% of registered African American voters think Trump is racist, versus 11% who think he's not.

Polling also suggests his recent attacks could hurt Trump with suburban voters — and especially women — whom he may need to win next year. Trump in recent days, however, has expressed to advisers on his reelection team that he believes his broadsides against the minority Democrats will help excite his core supporters.

Trump insisted Tuesday that there was "zero strategy" in his attacks and that he was only "pointing out facts," even as he argued they were benefiting him.

"I think I'm helping myself because I'm pointing out the tremendous corruption that's taking place in Baltimore and other Democratic-run cities," Trump said, as he continued to hammer his criticism.

"Those people are living in hell in Baltimore," he said, adding he was open to some kind of unspecified federal involvement.

"If they ask," he said, "We will get involved."

Maryland's two Democratic senators, saying they could not sit by as Trump continued his assault on the city and its representative, delivered back-to-back Senate speeches Tuesday urging the president to do better.

Sen. Chris Van Hollen called Baltimore a "great American city." He said Trump's "poisonous barrage" has only served to rally not just the people of Maryland, but all over America, to support it.

"It doesn't do Baltimore city or any city in this country any good when the person in the highest office in this country launches these nasty, personal, racial diatribes," he said. "All of us have an obligation and a responsibility to speak out."

Sen. Ben Cardin, noting that he and Cummings graduated from the same Baltimore public high school, called the congressman an "inspiration." He said the president is "trying to bully minorities and others in this country" to distract from congressional oversight. "It won't work."

Vice President Mike Pence, speaking to reporters in Columbus, Ohio, also defended Trump, pointing to the low black unemployment rate and criminal justice reform legislation that Trump signed into law last year.

"President Trump is someone who calls it like he sees it," said Pence. "President Trump believes in being able to say when things are not what they should be, to call on leadership, to call on state leadership, and say you have to do better."

But Rep. Karen Bass, D-Calif., and chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, accused Trump of exaggerating the economic gains that African Americans have made since he took office and noted the continued racial gap.

"Currently, African American unemployment remains double that of white Americans and the national average despite gains in the job market," she said.

Black unemployment did reach a record low during the Trump administration: 5.9 percent in May 2018. It currently stands at 6 percent. But many economists view the continued economic growth since the middle

of 2009, when Democratic President Barack Obama was in office, as the primary explanation for hiring.

Associated Press Deputy Polling Director Hannah Fingerhut contributed to this report.

## **Sheriff: Wisconsin gunman may have imitated Closs kidnapping**

**By GRETCHEN EHLKE and JEFF BAENEN Associated Press**

A Wisconsin man killed three of his family members before blasting his way into the home of a stranger he had been harassing through text messages and killing her, authorities said Tuesday, speculating that he may have been trying to imitate last year's home invasion and abduction of teenager Jayme Closs.

Ritchie German Jr., 33, shot his mother, brother and 8-year-old nephew at their home in Lafayette, likely on or before Saturday morning, Chippewa County Sheriff Jim Kowalczyk said at a news conference. On Sunday night, he drove about 10 miles (16 kilometers) to the Lake Hallie home of 24-year-old Laile Vang, blasted his way inside with a shotgun, and shot and wounded her parents before killing her. He then killed himself in the home, where several others were hiding, the sheriff said.

German left his car running outside of the Vangs' home and had items in it — including handcuffs and a loaded handgun clip — that led investigators to believe he could have been planning to imitate last October's deadly home invasion and abduction of Jayme from her family's home just 40 miles (65 kilometers) away, the sheriff said. In both cases, the attackers used guns to blast their way into the homes.

However, Kowalczyk said investigators may never know why German carried out the attacks.

"What was the motive? Why did this happen? I don't have the answer," he said, asking anyone who had been in contact with German in the last week to call the sheriff's office.

A couple of days before the attack, German sent unsolicited sexual texts to Laile Vang, but she apparently didn't know him and replied "Who is this? I don't know you," authorities said. Kowalczyk said there is no evidence that the two had ever met.

Chief Deputy Chad Holum said authorities are going through about 10 cellphones and are working to find out how German got Vang's phone number, but they suspect he may have gotten it off the internet.

Vang's parents, 51-year-old Teng Vang and 39-year-old Mai Chang Vang, suffered defensive wounds and each had to have an arm amputated, authorities said. They remained hospitalized Tuesday but are expected to survive. None of the four people, including three children, who managed to hide in the home during the attack were hurt.

German was a loner who was often unemployed and who occasionally lived at the Lafayette home where he gunned down his 66-year-old mother, Bridget German, his 32-year-old brother, Douglas German, and his brother's 8-year-old son, Calvin Harris, Kowalczyk said. All three were shot once in the head with a handgun.

Ritchie German called the grocery store where his mother worked on Saturday morning and said she was sick and in the hospital, Kowalczyk said. And a neighborhood boy who played with Calvin Harris knocked on the door and asked if Calvin was home, but German told the boy that Calvin was shopping with his grandmother.

Ritchie German Sr., who was divorced from Bridget German, told the Star Tribune that he was shocked to learn of the killings and that his son Ritchie had struggled with mental illness. He said his son lived with him from 2005 to 2014 and worked for just one year during that time, at a Menards warehouse. He said his son stayed in his bedroom most of that time.

German Jr. was convicted of disorderly conduct in 2006 and sentenced to a year of probation after the sheriff said he pointed a gun in the direction of his brothers. But Kowalczyk said, "We don't have a lot of history with him."

Jayme Closs was abducted from her parents' home on Oct. 15, 2018, in Barron. She eventually escaped her abductor, Jake Patterson, who was sentenced to life in prison in May for kidnapping the 13-year-old and killing her parents.

## Q&A: What to know about the Capital One data breach

By **KEN SWEET, FRANK BAJAK and MICHELLE CHAPMAN AP Business Writers**

NEW YORK (AP) — One of the country's biggest credit card issuers, Capital One Financial, is the latest big business to be hit by a data breach, disclosing that roughly 100 million people had some personal information stolen by a hacker.

The alleged hacker, Paige A. Thompson, obtained Social Security and bank account numbers in some instances, as well other information such as names, birthdates, credit scores and self-reported income, the bank said Monday. It said no credit card account numbers or log-in credentials were compromised.

Capital One Financial is just the latest business to suffer a data breach. Only last week Equifax, the credit reporting company, announced a \$700 million settlement over its own 2017 data breach that impacted half of the U.S. population. Other companies that have had breaches include the hotel chain Marriott, retail giants Home Depot and Target.

### WHAT HAPPENED?

Thompson, 33, who uses the online handle "erratic," allegedly obtained access to Capital One data stored on Amazon's cloud computing platform Amazon Web Services in March. She downloaded the data and stored it on her own servers, according to the complaint.

Thompson was a systems engineer at Amazon Web Services between 2015 and 2016, about three years before the breach took place. The breach went unnoticed by Amazon and Capital One.

Thompson used the anonymous web browser Tor and a Virtual Private Network in extracting the data — typical methods hackers use to try to mask infiltrations — but she later boasted about the hack on Twitter and a chat group on Slack, posting screenshots as evidence of her exploit.

It was only after Thompson began bragging about her feat in a private group chat with other hackers that someone reached out to Capital One to let them know on July 17.

Once the informant told Capital One the company closed the vulnerability. The company verified its information had been stolen by July 19 and started tracking Thompson and working with the FBI. The FBI raided Thompson's residence on 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."

### WHAT DID THOMPSON TAKE?

The data breach involves about 100 million people in the U.S. and 6 million in Canada.

Prosecutors said a misconfigured Capital One firewall let Thompson access folders of data that Amazon Web Services was hosting for the bank. Thompson sent a command that returned a list of more than 700 folders and copied data from an unspecified number of them. Capital One 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. The hacker also was able to gain some access to fragments of transactional information from dates in 2016, 2017 and 2018.

The bank said it believes it is unlikely that the information obtained was used for fraud, but the investigation is ongoing.

Capital One says 140,000 individuals had their Social Security numbers accessed, and another 80,000 had their bank account information accessed.

### HOW DID CAPITAL ONE HANDLE THE BREACH?

Capital One says once it learned of the breach on July 17, it immediately closed the vulnerability, and it was able to figure out what Thompson accessed 36 hours later, on July 19. The company was able to build a profile on Thompson from their internal investigation, and handed that to the FBI, who arrested her 10 days later, the day the bank disclosed the breach.

By contrast, it took Equifax six weeks before it publicly disclose its security incident, which was similar in size.

### WHAT TO DO

Capital One said it will reach out to those affected using "a variety of channels."



That bank said it will make free credit monitoring and identity protection available to everyone affected. The company also said that consumers can visit [www.capitalone.com/facts2019](http://www.capitalone.com/facts2019) for more information. In Canada, information can be found at [www.capitalone.ca/facts2019](http://www.capitalone.ca/facts2019).

Consumers should also obtain copies of their credit reports at [AnnualCreditReport.com](http://AnnualCreditReport.com). By federal law, consumers can receive a free copy of their credit report every 12 months from each of the three big agencies — Equifax, Experian and TransUnion.

Look over all of your listed accounts and loans to make sure that all of your personal information is correct and that you authorized the transaction. If you find something suspicious, contact the company that issued the account and the credit-rating agency.

You may also want to consider freezing your credit, which stops thieves from opening new credit cards or loans in your name. This can be done online. Consumers can freeze their credit for free because of a law that President Donald Trump signed last year. Before that, fees were typically \$5 to \$10 per rating agency.

You'll need to remember to temporarily unfreeze your credit if you apply for a new credit card or loan. Also keep in mind that a credit freeze won't protect you from thieves who file a fraudulent tax return in your name or make charges against an existing account.

You should also change your passwords regularly. CreditCards.com industry analyst Ted Rossman recommends using a password aggregator like LastPass that helps create strong, unique passwords for all of your logins.

## Richer US households fueling a hot job sector: 'wealth work'

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ken McNamee has an upfront view of the river of wealth cascading through Seattle these days.

A private chef, McNamee prospects for clients at the tony country club where he spends part of his week preparing luxe meals. The parking lot is dotted with Ferraris and Porsches. The members include Bill Gates and Jeff Bezos.

McNamee has cooked in exclusive clubs around the world. Yet he's sometimes overwhelmed by the scale of riches around Seattle. On a visit to a potential client at a home on Lake Washington, not far from Gates' house, McNamee encountered an indoor pool, two kitchens, a dumbwaiter and a trove of artwork.

"That," he said, "was one of the only times I've been awed."

A rising number of American workers may be feeling nearly as dazzled on the job. One of the fastest-growing job categories of the past decade has been in what David Autor, an economics professor at MIT, calls "wealth work": Catering to the whims and desires of affluent households.

The trend has coincided with the longest U.S. expansion on record, which surpassed the decade mark this month. That streak of growth — and the surging stock market gains that accompanied it — has left the richest households with a greater proportion of America's wealth than before the Great Recession began in 2007. By contrast, just 2% of the increased wealth has gone to the bottom half of the population.

Most "wealth work" jobs aren't quite as glamorous as McNamee's. But they're growing fast.

The number of massage therapist jobs has more than doubled in the past decade. So have manicurists and pedicurists. The number of private chefs, like McNamee, has quintupled. A category that mostly consists of jobs walking and grooming dogs is up 60%. You can now even get a college degree in "canine training and management."

These jobs have grown faster than government economists had forecast before the Great Recession. Though such positions have long been part of the U.S. workforce, Autor expects them to become a more substantial source of jobs and income in coming years, especially in cities.

Yet economists note that most so-called wealth jobs don't benefit workers or the economy as much as traditional employment does. Most wealth workers are self-employed and so lack employer-provided health insurance, retirement plans and other benefits. They often earn relatively low wages, and their incomes tend to fluctuate depending on how many clients they have. Nor do they have many opportunities to learn

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new skills, undergo advanced training or move up a career ladder.

For that reason, the increased prevalence of wealth jobs — and of contractors and gig workers like Uber drivers — may be a cautionary sign for an economy that appears relatively healthy by most measures.

“They contribute to this jittery, anxious moment,” said Mark Muro, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. “It’s a boom that also feels precarious.”

Still, wealth workers, many of them squeezed out of previous jobs, have often had little choice. As middle-skill positions have been lost to automation or offshoring, some who lost those jobs have turned to wealth occupations instead.

In data analyzed exclusively for The Associated Press, Muro calculates that there were 3.2 million wealth worker jobs in 2017, up from 2.8 million in 2010. They have grown faster than such traditional occupations as sales, education, manufacturing and office administrative work.

Muro’s figures for wealth workers include maids and housekeepers, landscapers, personal trainers and skincare specialists (think facials). Their pay averaged about \$36,000 in 2017, far below the average for all occupations of \$51,000.

At the same time, wealth work has been a crucial source of jobs and income, particularly for those without college degrees, Autor and Anna Salomons of Utrecht University wrote in a paper earlier this year.

And in an era that has witnessed a steady loss of manufacturing jobs, wealth positions hold one major distinct advantage: Because these jobs require personal interaction, they are immune to the threat of automation and outsourcing.

“You can’t have someone spotting you on a weight bench from China,” said Lucas Puente, formerly the chief economist at Thumbtack, an online small business marketplace.

Yet jobs that require interpersonal skills, like nursing, tend to be disproportionately held by women. Muro calculates that about 60% of wealth workers are women, compared with about half of all workers. That means that men aren’t fully participating in a sector with rapid job growth.

“Men historically have been much less excited to take jobs that are mostly customer service,” Autor said.

They have also been more reluctant to take lower-paying positions. But that could change, Autor noted, if this sector is where job opportunities will increasingly exist. Men have started to slowly take more jobs as flight attendants and nurses, he added.

Economists expect the number of wealth occupations to keep growing. As more two-income professional families congregate in wealthier, more congested cities with sometimes long commutes to work, they will want help from people who can cook or clean or walk their dogs for them.

The McKinsey Global Institute projects that massage therapist jobs will surge 88% by 2030. Dietitians and nutritionists are forecast to jump by about half. Landscape architect jobs will increase by a third, the institute projects.

The main driver of growth in these jobs is the expansion of the upper-middle class. Nearly 8% of U.S. households earned \$200,000 a year or more in 2017, according to the Census Bureau. That figure is up from just below 6% in 2007, adjusted for inflation, when the recession began.

And since the recession ended in 2009, the top 30% of U.S. households by income have boosted their wealth by about one-fifth, in inflation-adjusted dollars, according to data from the Federal Reserve. The bottom 70%, by contrast, are still poorer than they were in 2007.

Sue Forrest, 58, has hired three personal chefs in the past several years to cater parties and visit her house to cook a week’s worth of meals that are then frozen and reheated. Forrest works as a graphic designer from her home in Durham, North Carolina. Her husband, George, is a consultant for the utility industry.

“Business has continued to thrive and grow,” she said, making it affordable for her family to pay a chef.

Forrest paid McNamee when he lived in the area, before he and his wife, Arika, moved to Seattle. She has encouraged friends to consider hiring a chef, though some of them have said they consider it extravagant. Not Forrest. She regards a personal chef as a time-saver.

“It’s the same reason I have someone come and clean my house,” she said. “I’m going to spend that time working, and I can make three or four times what I am paying.”

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Wealth workers are more common in large metro areas, where their clients congregate. As such, they are likely contributing to the widening economic divides between the most vibrant big cities and smaller towns and rural areas. Wealth occupations are 1½ times more likely to exist in the 20 richest metro areas than in other large cities, Muro calculates. Only 15% are in small towns or rural areas.

Like many wealth workers, Sabrina Gallon, 58, a personal chef and caterer in Atlanta, was laid off from a more traditional corporate job before deciding in 2014 to follow her longtime dream of becoming a chef. She had directed operations at a small pharmaceutical marketing firm. After her layoff, she couldn't find a similar position.

Gallon earns less now than in her previous job, and the work is harder than she expected. There is a lot of physical exertion — lifting and carrying cooking equipment for catering events. Trying to coordinate menus for multiple clients who have ordered a week's worth of meals, so she can buy in bulk, is challenging, too.

"The service industry is hard work, and that is one thing I was not aware of when I started," Gallon said.

Still, she values the greater freedom she now has.

"I'm no longer at the mercy of a boss or tied to rules I had no input in creating," she said. "I live comfortably and am able to make ends meet."

One thing that could slow the growth of these jobs, of course, would be another recession. A stock market plunge would shrink the wealth of affluent Americans, which would likely lead them to cut back on spending.

Still, higher-income households typically weather recessions better than others, Muro notes. If that trend holds true, it could sustain demand for wealth work jobs. Many wealth occupations held steady or even grew through the Great Recession.

If a recession were to cause widespread layoffs, Muro said, it could potentially push more workers into these fields. The increased competition could inevitably erode their income.

Nicholas Smith, a personal trainer in San Francisco, says he tries to keep his prices affordable for upper-income workers, rather than relying on the uber-wealthy, as a hedge against a downturn. Still, he harbors no illusions.

"I know I'm a luxury," Smith said. "If the economy were to fall, I'd be one of the first things to go most likely."

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Contact Chris Rugaber on Twitter at <http://Twitter.com/ChrisRugaber>

## 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.

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"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 "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.

Vice President Mike Pence highlighted the carmaker provisions during a speech Tuesday in Lancaster, Ohio, where officials are beginning construction of a car seat manufacturing plant. He's been traveling to states the Trump administration believes would most benefit from a new agreement.

I mean, this state has so much to gain from the USMCA," Pence said. "And so, for Ohio, for the automotive industry, and for America, we've got to get the USMCA done. And we got to get it done this year."

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.

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.

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.

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

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

## In a globalized world, music fragments take unexpected roads

By TED ANTHONY AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — At my son's fourth birthday party, a classmate presented him with a toy recycling truck. Atop it was a button that, when pushed, uncorked a familiar tune with the words: "To the dump, to the dump, to the dump dump dump!" An adult nearby heard the melody and said, "Hey — that's the 'Lone Ranger' theme song."

Well, yes and no. It is indeed the fanfare to the famed 1950s TV series. But before that it was something even more venerable — the William Tell Overture, by a 19th-century Italian composer named Gioachino Rossini.

So goes the story of modern music. A century of near-continuous recording, packaging, repackaging, riffing and — more recently — the technical ability for anyone to create cultural collage and sample all facets of creative expression, has turned our musical reservoir into a collection of quotations. Millions of snippets, words and music sit at the ready, waiting to be recruited into the service of something new.

Or, occasionally, retooled into something legally actionable.

On Monday, a federal jury decided unanimously that pop star Katy Perry and her record label had, with her song "Dark Horse," copied a 2009 Christian rap song called "Joyful Noise" released by an artist named Marcus Gray.

Perry's lawyer, Christine Lepera, had taken issue with this line of thinking, saying that "they're trying to own basic building blocks of music, the alphabet of music that should be available to everyone."

Legal arguments aside, those basic building blocks — the "alphabet of music" — are responsible for producing huge chunks of the American songbook in ways far more fundamental than most listeners realize.

The likes of Eric Clapton and the Rolling Stones built their repertoires by plundering traditional Delta Blues. Bob Dylan made his name remixing the folk canon in innovative ways; "A Hard Rain's Gonna Fall," for instance, is a direct descendant of a centuries-old British ballad called "Lord Randall." Simon and Garfunkel's "Scarborough Fair," with its "parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme," traces back straight through American mountain folklore to British tradition.

Think you're familiar with the 1970 Steve Miller Band classic "The Joker" and its lyrics, "You're the cutest thing that I ever did see/I really love your peaches, wanna shake your tree"? North Carolinian Charlie Poole, one of America's seminal early country musicians, recorded a jaunty song in 1930 called "If the River Was Whiskey," which included this line:

"I was born in Alabama, raised in Tennessee,  
if you don't like my peaches, don't shake on my tree."

This stuff can be revelatory for so many music listeners because it operates under the radar. It's our own musical history, hiding in plain sight, an ocean of raw material awaiting some fresh genius glue to bind it into something new.

This was true at least as far back as the second half of the 19th century.

By then, according to the eccentric roots-music pioneer Harry Smith, enough folk lyrics were kicking around the republic, cross-pollinating between black and white musicians, to provide fodder for thousands of still-to-be-written songs — what the critic Greil Marcus calls "an almost infinite repertory of performances." So many tales of American experience emerged from that era and its critical mass of storytelling fragments.

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Now, the fragmentation has gone global. The character of this new dispora, though, is different. It now includes high-powered marketing, mass intellectual-property theft and economic forces that dwarf — sometimes steamroll — the local and regional traditions that spread folk music around in the 1800s.

Today, the practice of harvesting musical and lyrical snippets is flourishing — most creatively, perhaps, in hip-hop and dance music, where readily accessible technology encourages sampling for remixes, remakes, dance mixes and party mixes.

But what to one artist is a nod or tribute can, to another, be theft. And when lyricists and musicians begin drawing not from tradition but from fellow modern, revenue-conscious entertainers, the results get more contentious.

In 1976, former Beatle George Harrison was ordered to pay damages of nearly \$1.6 million after a court ruled that his song "My Sweet Lord" had copied musical pieces of the Chiffons' 1963 hit "He's So Fine," written by Ronnie Mack. The battle went on for years and the damages were later reduced.

In 2015, songwriter Sam Smith agreed to share the royalties for his song "Stay With Me" with Tom Petty and Jeff Lynne, whose 1989 hit "I Won't Back Down" had melodies similar enough to also give Petty and Lynne co-writing credits.

The list of disputes based on musical similarity goes on: Radiohead ("Creep," 1992) and Lana Del Ray ("Get Free," 2017); Huey Lewis and the News ("I Want a New Drug," 1984) and Ray Parker Jr. ("Ghostbusters," 1984). And many more.

Advertisers recognize the power of the American songbook, too. "Bonaparte's Retreat," appropriated by Aaron Copland after being recorded in the field by musicologist Alan Lomax through the fiddler W.H. Stepp, showed up in a recent ad from the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. The old tune "Turkey in the Straw" was used in the 1970s and 1980s as an ad for Murphy's Oil Soap.

And several Decembers ago, when I sang "Jingle Bells," my young son objected. "That's not a Christmas song," he said indignantly. "That's Elmo's song from the end of his show." And so it was. Who's to say I'm any more right than he is?

The wholesale expropriation of music on such a large scale is unprecedented and can be roundly blamed on — or credited to — two things: technology and globalization.

It has produced some genuinely odd mashups. I have found "Edelweiss," a show tune, cast as a cowboy song; Wham's elegiac "Careless Whisper" branded as perfect driving music; and Scott Joplin's 1902 ragtime classic "The Entertainer" pressed into service as a cell-phone ringtone in Islamabad, Pakistan, by a man who didn't know it but liked it better than the built-in ring.

If the recent past is any hint, cultural context will matter less and less.

Consider what happened to my wife in China a few years back. She was driving around Beijing with a twentysomething Chinese real-estate agent named Kimberly Teng when they passed a certain roast-chicken restaurant named after a certain white-bearded Southern singer known for certain pop-country standards such as "The Gambler" and "Coward of the County."

"Do you know of Kenny Rogers?" Teng asked reverently. Then an earnest, serious look came over her face. "He sings many ancient and beautiful love songs."

A good chunk of our global culture — misquoted, revered, decontextualized and misquoted again, then served up for an entirely new audience — is, for better or worse, now in the hands of a generation of Kimberly Tengs in many lands. Movies, videogames and music are their currency, streamed into the devices in their pockets, purses and packs.

It can bind itself to local traditions and flourish, growing into something fresh and exciting. Or, commoditized to the nth degree, it could become the equivalent of putting "Careless Whisper" on a road-trip playlist — something decontextualized and irrelevant to anyone's life experience anywhere. To the dump indeed.

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Ted Anthony, director of digital innovation for The Associated Press, writes frequently about American culture. He is the author of the 2007 book, "Chasing the Rising Sun: The Journey of an American Song." Follow him on Twitter at @anthonyted.

## Asian shares fall as markets look to US Fed rate decision

By YURI KAGEYAMA AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares were mostly lower Wednesday as investors looked cautiously ahead to a key policy update from the U.S. Federal Reserve later in the day.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 fell 1.0% to 21,490.57 in early trading. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 lost 0.3% to 6,823.70. South Korea's Kospi dropped 1.1% to 2,015.92. Hong Kong's Hang Seng dropped 1.4% to 27,763.20, while the Shanghai Composite edged down 0.8% to 2,929.09.

On Wall Street, a mixed batch of corporate earnings helped drag indexes slightly lower Tuesday, pulling the market farther from its recent record highs for the second straight day.

The S&P 500 index fell 7.79 points, or 0.3%, to 3,013.18. Despite its two-day slide, the benchmark index remains within 0.4% of its all-time high set on Friday. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 23.33 points, or 0.1%, to 27,198.02. The Nasdaq composite slid 19.71 points, or 0.2%, to 8,273.61. The Russell 2000 index rose 16.57 points, or 1.1%, to 1,585.60.

The Fed is widely expected to cut its benchmark interest rate for the first time in a decade. The Fed has decided that a rate cut now — and possibly one or more additional cuts to follow — could help inoculate the economy against a potential downturn.

"It's Fed day and I honestly can't bring myself to repeat what was already said on Monday and Tuesday other than 'Yes, the Fed will cut but it won't be enough,'" according to RaboResearch.

The lingering trade war between the U.S. and China has been cutting into U.S. corporate profit for some industries all year and has investors concerned that it will continue to crimp business investment and growth. Delegates from the U.S. and China are meeting in Shanghai this week in the latest round of negotiations, months after the trade spat escalated with more tariffs.

President Donald Trump ramped up criticism of Beijing just as the new round of talks began Tuesday. In a series of tweets, Trump claimed China is trying to hold off on an agreement until after the next U.S. elections. Trump threatened to get "much tougher" with China on trade if he is reelected in 2020.

North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles off its east coast Wednesday, South Korea's military said, its second weapons test in less than a week. North Korea is angry over planned U.S.-South Korean military drills and may be trying to boost pressure on the United States to win concessions as the rivals struggle to set up talks over the North's nuclear weapons.

Also weighing on investor sentiments is the ongoing trade spat between South Korea and Japan. Japan has decided to deprive South Korea of so-called "white country" preferential trade status.

### ENERGY:

Benchmark crude oil added 36 cents to \$58.41 a barrel. It rose \$1.18 to \$58.05 a barrel Tuesday. Brent crude oil, the international standard, gained 53 cents to \$65.16 a barrel.

### CURRENCIES:

The dollar inched down to 108.52 Japanese yen from 108.59 yen Tuesday. The euro strengthened to \$1.1154 from \$1.1139.

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 Wednesday, July 31, the 212th day of 2019. There are 153 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 31, 1954, Pakistan's K2 was conquered as two members of an Italian expedition, Achille Comagnoni (ah-KEE'-lay kohm-pahn-YOH'-nee) and Lino Lacedelli (LEE'-noh lah-chee-DEHL'-ee), reached the summit.

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On this date:

In 1715, a fleet of Spanish ships carrying gold, silver and jewelry sank during a hurricane off the east Florida coast; of some 2,500 crew members, more than 1,000 died.

In 1777, during the Revolutionary War, the Marquis de Lafayette, a 19-year-old French nobleman, was made a major-general in the American Continental Army.

In 1945, Pierre Laval, premier of the pro-Nazi Vichy government, surrendered to U.S. authorities in Austria; he was turned over to France, which later tried and executed him.

In 1961, IBM introduced its first Selectric typewriter with its distinctive "typeball."

In 1964, the American space probe Ranger 7 reached the moon, transmitting pictures back to Earth before impacting the lunar surface.

In 1970, "The Huntley-Brinkley Report" came to an end after nearly 14 years as co-anchor Chet Huntley signed off for the last time; the broadcast was renamed "NBC Nightly News."

In 1971, Apollo 15 crew members David Scott and James Irwin became the first astronauts to use a lunar rover on the surface of the moon.

In 1972, Democratic vice-presidential candidate Thomas Eagleton withdrew from the ticket with George McGovern following disclosures that Eagleton had once undergone psychiatric treatment.

In 1991, President George H.W. Bush and Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev signed the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty in Moscow.

In 1992, the former Soviet republic of Georgia was admitted to the United Nations as its 179th member. Thai Airways Flight 311, an Airbus A310, crashed while approaching Tribhuvan International Airport in Nepal; all 113 people aboard died.

In 2002, a bomb exploded inside a cafeteria at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, killing nine people, including five Americans.

In 2008, scientists reported the Phoenix spacecraft had confirmed the presence of frozen water in Martian soil.

Ten years ago: Three American tourists were arrested by Iran on suspicion of espionage while hiking along the Iraq-Iran border. (Shane Bauer and Josh Fattal were sentenced to eight years after being convicted on spy-related charges, but were released after more than two years; Sarah Shourd was released on health grounds after 14 months.) Space shuttle Endeavour and its seven astronauts returned to Earth, completing a long but successful construction job that boosted the size and power of the international space station.

Five years ago: The CIA's insistence that it did not spy on its Senate overseers collapsed with the release of a stark report by the agency's internal watchdog documenting improper computer surveillance and obstructionist behavior by CIA officers. The death toll from the worst recorded Ebola outbreak in history surpassed 700 in West Africa.

One year ago: Jury selection began in the trial of Paul Manafort, President Donald Trump's former campaign chairman; he was accused of failing to report tens of millions of dollars in Ukrainian political consulting fees. (Manafort was sentenced to a total of seven and a-half years in prison after being convicted at trial in Virginia and pleading guilty in Washington to two conspiracy counts.) Actor Alan Alda revealed that he has Parkinson's disease, telling "CBS This Morning" that he'd been diagnosed three and a half years ago.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Don Murray is 90. Jazz composer-musician Kenny Burrell is 88. Actress France Nuyen is 80. Actress Susan Flannery is 80. Singer Lobo is 76. Actress Geraldine Chaplin is 75. Former movie studio executive Sherry Lansing is 75. Singer Gary Lewis is 74. Actor Lane Davies is 69. Actress Susan Wooldridge is 69. International Tennis Hall of Famer Evonne Goolagong Cawley is 68. Actor Barry Van Dyke is 68. Actor Alan Autry is 67. Jazz composer-musician Michael Wolff is 67. Actor James Read is 66. Actor Michael Biehn is 63. Rock singer-musician Daniel Ash (Love and Rockets) is 62. Actor Dirk Blocker is 62. Entrepreneur Mark Cuban is 61. Rock musician Bill Berry is 61. Actor Wally Kurth is 61. Actor Wesley Snipes is 57. Country singer Chad Brock is 56. Musician Fatboy Slim is 56. Rock musician Jim Corr is 55. Author J.K. Rowling (ROHL'ing) is 54. Actor Dean Cain is 53. Actor Jim True-Frost is 53. Actor Ben Chaplin is 50. Actor Loren Dean is 50. Actress Eve Best is 48. Retired NFL quarterback Gus Frerotte is 48. Actress Annie Parisse (pah-REES') is 44. Actor Robert Telfer is 42. Country singer-musician Zac Brown is 41. Actor-



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producer-writer B.J. Novak is 40. Actor Eric Lively is 38. Country singer Blaire Stroud (3 of Hearts) is 36. Singer Shannon Curfman is 34. NHL center Evgeni Malkin is 33. Hip-hop artist Lil Uzi Vert is 25. Actor Reese Hartwig is 21. Actor Rico Rodriguez is 21.

Thought for Today: "The art of life is to show your hand. There is no diplomacy like candor. You may lose by it now and then, but it will be a loss well gained if you do. Nothing is so boring as having to keep up a deception." — E.V. Lucas, English author and critic (1868-1938).