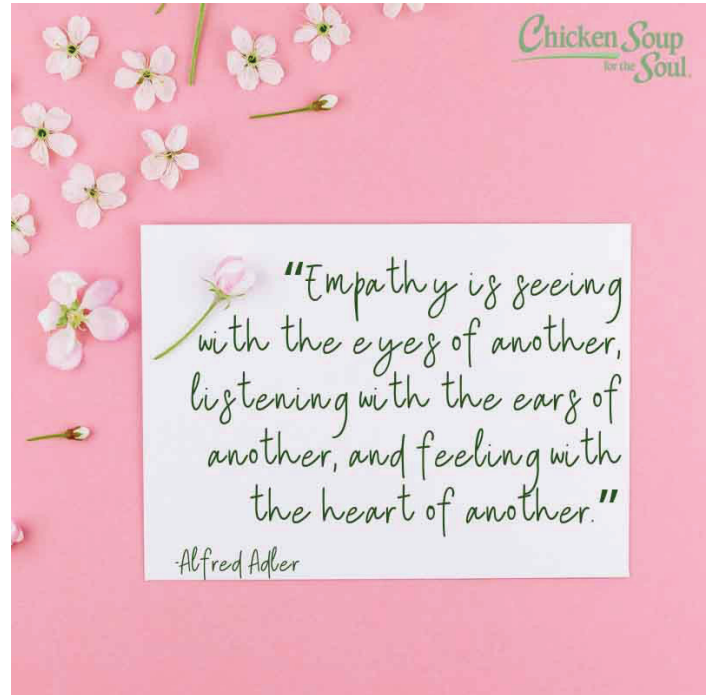


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## **CLOSED:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

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.

### 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

- Aug. 5..... First allowable day for soccer practice
- Aug. 12 ..... First allowable day for FB/Golf practice
- Aug. 15 ..... First allowable day for C-C/VB practice
- Aug. 20 ..... Faculty Inservice
- Aug. 20 ..... Open House / Picnic (5-7:30)
- Aug. 21 ..... Faculty Inservice
- Aug. 22 ..... 1st Day of School

## 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.

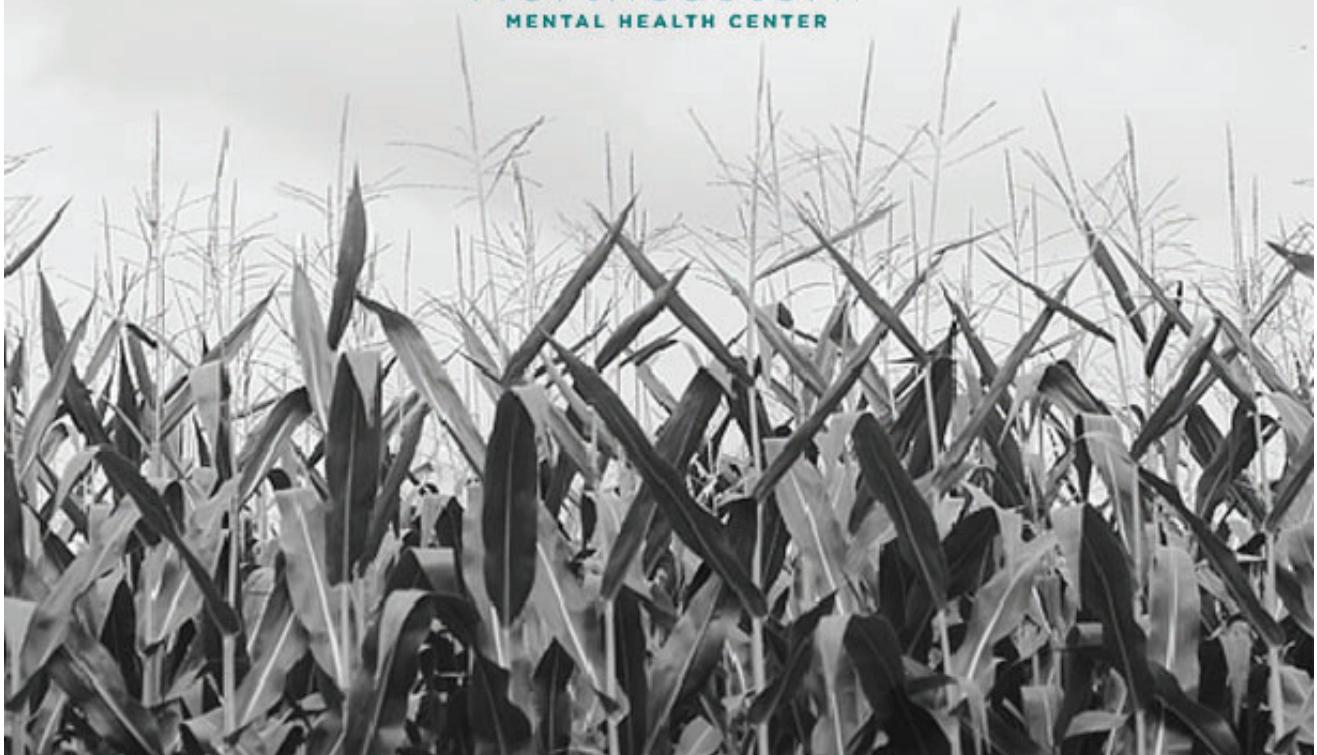
We're here to help.

**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.



Northeastern  
MENTAL HEALTH CENTER



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## 2019 South Dakota American Legion State Class "B" Jr. Baseball Tournament

**South Dakota American Legion  
State Class "B" Jr. Baseball Tournament  
Groton, SD  
August 9 - August 11, 2019**

W.I.N. Post 137 <i>2B Third Place</i>			
8/9 Game 1 11:00 AM			
Claremont/Britton Post 262 <i>1B Second Place</i>	8/10 Game 7 5:00 PM		
Lennox Post 174 <i>1B Fourth Place</i>			
8/9 Game 2 30 Min After G1			
Wagner Post 11 <i>2B Champion</i>		8/11 Game 11 3:00 PM	<i>Champion</i>
Elk Point/Jefferson Post 134 <i>1B Third Place</i>			
8/9 Game 3 5:00 PM			
Winner/Colome Post 169 <i>2B Second Place</i>	8/10 Game 8 30 Min After G7		
Redfield Post 92 <i>2B Fourth Place</i>			
8/9 Game 4 30 Min After G3			
Groton Post 39 <i>1B Champion</i>		8/11 Game 10 30 Min After G9	<i>3rd Place</i>
	8/10 Game 5 11:00 AM		
		8/11 Game 9 10:00 AM	<i>5th Place</i>
	8/10 Game 6 30 Min After G5		
<i>Tournament MVP:</i>			
<i>Big Stick Award:</i>			
<i>Porter T. Talcott Sportsmanship Award:</i>			

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

Winner's Bracket

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



**\$1 foul balls**

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

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

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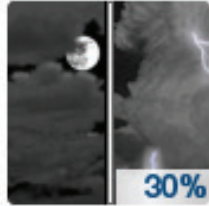
Today



Areas Dense  
Fog then  
Partly Sunny

High: 83 °F

Tonight



Mostly Cloudy  
then Chance  
T-storms

Low: 67 °F

Friday



Chance  
T-storms

High: 83 °F

Friday  
Night



Partly Cloudy

Low: 65 °F

Saturday



Mostly Sunny


High: 85 °F

**Warm and Humid Through Friday**  
(showers/storms possible Tonight/Friday)

Today  
79-86°

Tonight  
62-70°

Friday  
79-85°

 National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

[www.weather.gov/abr](http://www.weather.gov/abr)

graphic created:  
8/1/2019 3:42 AM

Published on: 07/31/2019 at 11:42PM

Today will be warm and humid across the region. By late afternoon, showers and thunderstorms will form over western South Dakota. Some of that rain will move east across the state tonight and into Friday. Severe weather is NOT expected at this time. The highest chances for measurable rain will exist over western and southern South Dakota through Friday.

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## Today in Weather History

August 1, 1978: A severe thunderstorm developed in west-central Beadle County during the afternoon hours and moved southeast. High winds near 80 mph and hail up to golf ball size pelted several counties along the storm path. Hail piled up to six inches deep and up to three feet in ditches. Hail remained visible in some areas up to thirty-six hours after the storm passed. Approximately 480,000 acres of crops were severely damaged or destroyed. Damage to crops and personal property were estimated to be nearly four million dollars.

August 1, 2000: A severe thunderstorm produced large hail up to golf ball size and damaging winds estimated at 90 to 110 mph across northeastern Wyoming and western South Dakota during the evening hours. The northern foothills of the Black Hills and the communities of Spearfish and Sturgis received the brunt of the storm. Considerable F0 and F1 wind damage (90 to 110 mph) occurred in and around Spearfish. The strong winds blew down trees, business and road signs, and damaged tents for the 60th Annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, destroying vendor merchandise and mobile homes.

1983: During the early afternoon hours, a strong microburst swept across Andrews Air Force Base in Washington, D.C. Although the base anemometer was not calibrated at extreme wind speeds, the peak gust hit 149 mph. It was reported that Air Force One, with President Reagan on board, landed less than 10 minutes before the peak gust.

1986: A powerful thunderstorm produced 100 mph winds and large hail in eastern Kansas and southwestern Missouri causing 71 million dollars damage, and injuring 19 persons. It was one of the worst thunderstorms of record for Kansas. Crops were mowed to the ground in places and roofs blown off buildings along its path, 150 miles long and 30 miles wide, from near Abilene to southeast of Pittsburg.

1954 - Mount Rainier in Washington State was still covered with sixteen inches of snow at the 5500 foot level following a big snow season. (David Ludlum)

1985 - A nearly stationary thunderstorm deluged Cheyenne, WY, with rain and hail. Six inches of rain fell in six hours producing the most damaging flash flood of record for the state. Two to five feet of hail covered the ground following the storm, which claimed twelve lives, and caused 65 million dollars property damage. (Storm Data)

1986 - A powerful thunderstorm produced 100 mph winds and large hail in eastern Kansas and southwestern Missouri causing 71 million dollars damage, and injuring nineteen persons. It was one of the worst thunderstorms of record for Kansas. Crops were mowed to the ground in places and roofs blown off buildings along its path, 150 miles long and 30 miles wide, from near Abilene to southeast of Pittsburg. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Record heat gripped parts of the Midwest. A dozen cities reported record high temperatures for the date, including Lincoln, NE, with a reading of 105 degrees, Moline, IL, with an afternoon high of 103 degrees, and Burlington, IA, with a reading of 102 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Two dozen cities in the Upper Midwest reported record high temperatures for the date, including La Crosse WI with a reading of 105 degrees. Highs of 103 degrees at Milwaukee, WI, and South Bend, IN, were records for the month of August. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Hurricane Chantal made landfall along the Upper Texas coast about sunrise. Chantal deluged parts of Galveston Island and southeastern Texas with 8 to 12 inches of rain. Unofficial totals ranged up to twenty inches. Winds gusted to 82 mph at Galveston, and reached 76 mph in the Houston area. Tides were 5 to 7 feet high. The hurricane claimed two lives, and caused 100 million dollars damage. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 81 °F at 4:28 PM**

**Low Temp: 63 °F at 3:25 AM**

**Wind: 24 mph at 1:53 PM**

**Day Rain: 0.00**

**Record High: 111° in 1900**

**Record Low: 44° in 1948**

**Average High: 84°F**

**Average Low: 59°F**

**Average Precip in July.:3.02**

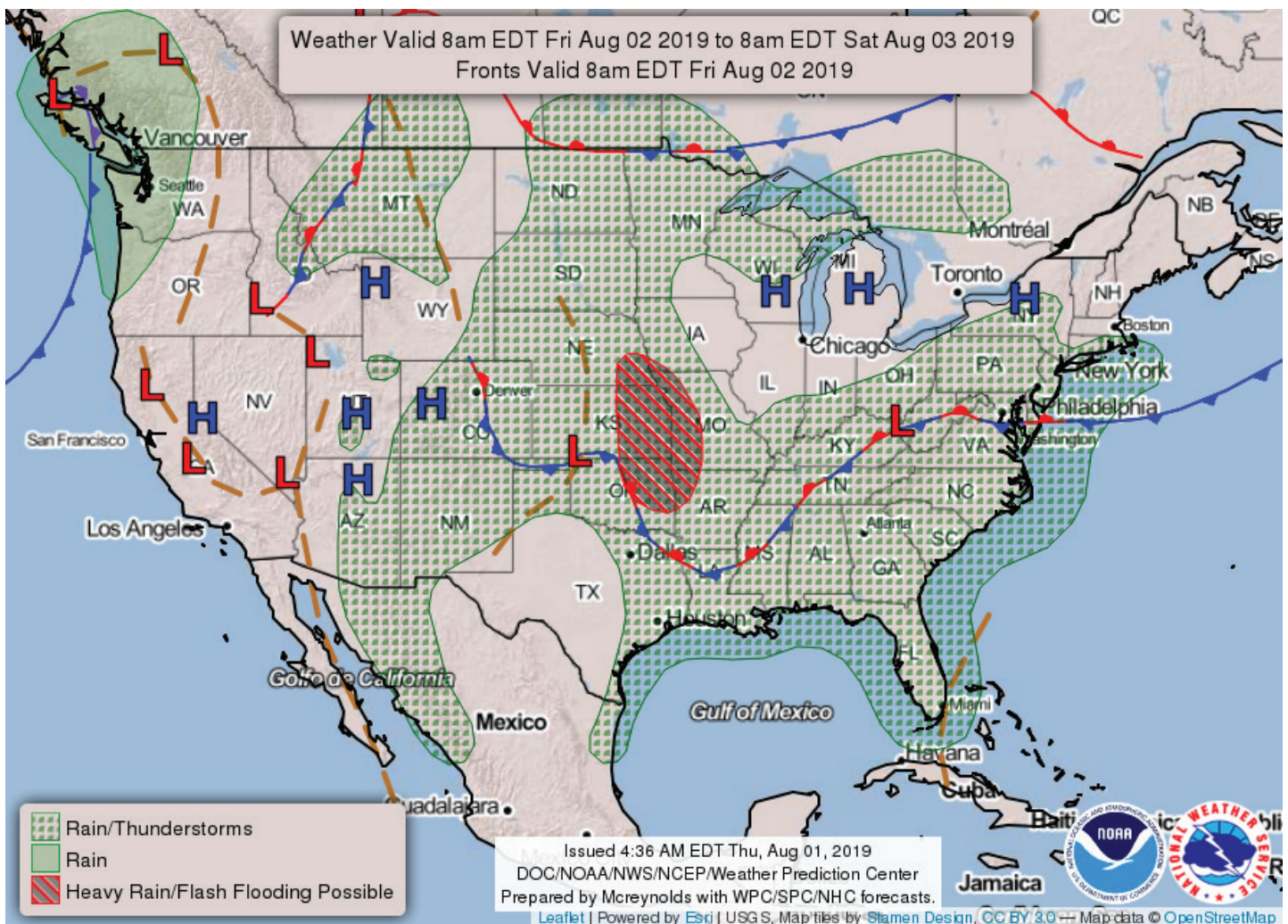
**Precip to date in July.: 4.05**

**Average Precip to date: 13.86**

**Precip Year to Date: 16.77**

**Sunset Tonight: 9:02 p.m.**

**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:19 a.m.**



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## HIDE AND SEEK

One of my favorite pastimes, when I was a child, was playing hide and seek with my neighborhood friends. It was always more fun to play at dusk when shadows from trees and buildings would provide secret places. The first one found from the previous round was always given the task to count while others hid from his sight. Then, the search began for those who were quietly hiding in places they thought were impossible to find. On occasion, someone would find a place that no one had thought of before and the one searching would have to give up and the game would start again.

God conceals His glory in much the same way. He does not do it in a malicious manner or play a game with us. Rather, it is His way of revealing His majesty and might, power and presence. He is always there doing something in some way. But it is not always obvious.

It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings, said Solomon. In fact, on a previous occasion, he said, The Lord has said that He would dwell in a dark cloud.

So, where does all of this leave us? Why would He not be obvious all of the time? Why does He hide from us at all? It is because He is above and beyond us though beside and within us anxious for us to seek and trust Him.

God is worthy of worship and wonder even when He cannot be seen, when dark clouds gather over us, and darkness surrounds us. Though we may walk through a valley filled with shadows, His light is always waiting for us when we walk by faith and trust in Him.

Prayer: Give us courage, Lord, to walk in faith when days are dark, nights long and lonely, and the journey difficult. Increase our trust when our hope turns to doubt. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 25:2 It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings.



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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

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## News from the Associated Press

### **Survey suggests slower economic growth in Midwest, Plains**

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A new report says a July survey of business supply managers suggests economic growth will slow over the next three to six months in nine Midwest and Plains states.

The report issued Thursday says the Mid-America Business Conditions index dropped to 52.0 in July from 55.4 in June. It's the lowest figure in more than three years.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss oversees the survey, and he blamed the slowdown on weak farm income, produced in part by tariffs and flooding.

The survey results are compiled into a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Survey organizers say any score above 50 suggests growth. A score below that suggests decline.

The survey covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

### **SD Lottery**

**By The Associated Press**

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

Dakota Cash

04-05-07-18-32

(four, five, seven, eighteen, thirty-two)

Estimated jackpot: \$46,000

Lotto America

04-13-21-41-46, Star Ball: 1, ASB: 3

(four, thirteen, twenty-one, forty-one, forty-six; Star Ball: one; ASB: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$2.25 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$50 million

Powerball

14-37-47-55-67, Powerball: 6, Power Play: 2

(fourteen, thirty-seven, forty-seven, fifty-five, sixty-seven; Powerball: six; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$88 million

### **Man, dog die after SUV plunges into northeast Montana river**

GLASGOW, Mont. (AP) — Authorities say a man died after he drove an SUV through a highway intersection and into the Milk River in northeast Montana.

Valley County Sheriff Tom Boyer tells The Billings Gazette that Tuesday morning's accident on Montana 24 near Glasgow killed 46-year-old Adam Nees, whose last known address was in Rapid City, South Dakota.

A dog also was found dead at the scene.

Boyer says the SUV was traveling south on Montana 24 North when it came to a "T" intersection of Montana 24 South and Montana 42. The car appeared to have gone through a traffic sign, a barbed wire fence and a field and was found submerged in the river about 100 yards (91.4 meters) from the intersection.

A preliminary investigation indicates Nees' death was an accidental drowning.

Information from: The Billings Gazette, <http://www.billingsgazette.com>

## South Dakota man sentenced for spitting at federal officer

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota man has been sentenced to nearly two years in custody for spitting at a federal officer.

Thirty-four-year-old Myron Night Shield of St. Francis was sentenced Tuesday for assaulting a federal officer. Night Shield pleaded guilty in May.

Law officers were called to Night Shield's home in September 2017 because he was drinking and not taking his medication. When he was arrested, Night Shield began shouting death threats at the officer. When the officer and Night Shield got to the patrol car, Night Shield turned toward the officer and spat in his face.

Night Shield also will be on two years of supervised release. The U.S. Attorney's office says Night Shield was released upon sentencing.

## The Black Hills Studios just opened in Spearfish

By **KAIJA SWISHER** Black Hills Pioneer

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — People might do a double take when driving by the sign for The Black Hills Studios at 125 E. Grant St. in Spearfish — and yes, the name is a tribute to a well-known photographer and studio of old in the Black Hills.

Owner and photographer Russ Aman said that he and George Fassbender, of Black Hills Studios — and what would become the Fassbender Photographic Collection — were friends "back in the day" when Aman was attending college at Black Hills State. Aman tried to convince Fassbender to take him on as an intern, but as Aman describes it, Fassbender did him a favor by refusing, which led Aman to seek other ways into the industry.

He would eventually attend Elkins Institute in Dallas, Texas, to study photography, which opened doors for work in the profession — and after 30 years, Aman has had a variety of experience capturing images on film and digital for clients such as Dillard's, Dr. Pepper, Fossil, JCPenney, Motorola, PepsiCo, Zales Jewelry, and more.

Aman, originally from Spearfish, has family in the community, and about a decade ago, he and his wife bought property in Higgins Gulch, with the intention to move to the Black Hills.

"It was just time, and I'm from here. This was always home," he said of the recent move.

He also heard from friends in the area that once James Photography closed in town, there was a need for a photography studio, as a lot of business went to Rapid City versus remaining in the community.

"There's no reason for that," he said, adding, "In that 30 years (of experience), I've acquired a ton of skills, and (I'm) looking at what's here and what I can do to improve and pull the business that's going to Rapid City back."

Aman hopes to help to continue to build the photography program at Black Hills State University, with the idea of offering internships and opportunities to students in the program. He would also like to partner with the university to have students learn by creating a new website for The Black Hills Studios that can be launched.

Aman remembers being a student interested in photography; he got his camera in about seventh-grade, and he remembers doing "some kind of edgy cool stuff with a Polaroid Swinger."

However, his interest turned to architecture, and after enlisting in the military for four years, Aman attended Black Hills State with the dream of becoming an architect. At a certain point, his sister asked him why he wasn't studying photography — and that question caused Aman to switch tracks, researching options for where he could go to study photography and eventually attending Elkins Institute in Dallas and finding a job with a communications company that did audio-visual shows for various corporations and major clients. This opportunity eventually led to freelancing and other staff jobs for Aman through the years.

"I've done some wonderful stuff," he told the Black Hills Pioneer, adding that most of the work has been commercial photography.

One of the first jobs he landed when he moved back to the area was as the official photographer for

the 2019 Downtown Friday Nights, and Aman said his motto for this event is, "I'm living with eyes wide open," seeing things in the crowd no one else is noticing and capturing that in photos so that others can see it later.

"It's been a lot of fun," he said, adding that he's also photographed the Festival in the Park, D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and Archives and other events. He prefers to work outdoors, and a sign at the window in the studio states, "Catch me here or by appointment," as Aman is generally out and about. The studio is a "place to hang" his gear and meet and greet, he said. Some of his work, as well as vintage cameras, are on display in the space.

The studio has been open for about three months, Aman said, adding that he was working on it for longer than that. The space is a former garage.

"It's me," Aman joked of the interior of the studio, describing it as "kind of old and rough."

He added that he's been pleased with the response of people reaching out to him, interested in The Black Hills Studios, and he said that his goal is to do what he can for the community to bring them a step up, whatever their photography needs.

Information from: Black Hills Pioneer, <http://www.bhpioneer.com>

## Man pleads guilty in death of retired South Dakota teacher

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A man accused of fatally beating a retired Rapid City teacher in 2017 has pleaded guilty to a reduced charge in a plea deal with prosecutors.

"I know I'm responsible," Andrew Eastman said in court Tuesday after pleading guilty to first-degree manslaughter in the death of 64-year-old Larry Mintzlaff, who worked as a teacher and coach at North Middle School from 1983 to 2013.

Eastman was originally charged with first-degree murder and could have faced the death penalty if convicted. The plea agreement has the prosecution asking for a 60-year sentence. The defense will argue that Eastman's mental health is a mitigating factor that should result in a shorter sentence, Judge Jeff Davis said in state court in Rapid City.

The plea deal also dismissed charges of second-degree escape and grand theft.

Eastman told Davis that he fled while serving time at a job site as an inmate at the minimum security prison in Rapid City and stole a vehicle, but that he can't remember anything about what happened next. He said he realized he "made a horrible choice" once he sobered up.

Eastman was serving time for drug and theft offenses, left his inmate job at the city landfill, stole a city-owned pickup truck and attacked Mintzlaff at his home, according to police. The retired teacher was found dead on June 2, 2017.

Investigators traced Mintzlaff's stolen cell phone and credit cards and a fugitive task force arrested Eastman a week later after finding him driving Mintzlaff's stolen blue Ford Focus in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Police say a baseball bat and bloody clothing were found in the vehicle.

## 'Trailblazer' takes new challenge after decades of service

By DANIELLE FERGUSON Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — In a way, Michelle Boyd's interest in criminal justice started with accounting. The Yankton native started her collegiate years with an accounting major, but she switched after hearing her roommate talk about some of the cases she was learning about in criminal justice classes.

"Accounting is a great career, just not for me," Boyd, 49, said with a laugh.

Nearly three decades after shifting her career focus, Boyd sits at her desk in the Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office, with a view of the second jail project she's overseen during her 26 years in Sioux Falls law enforcement.

Her desk is full of documents that share space with constantly buzzing phones and family pictures,

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including images of her kids playing volleyball and hockey.

Boyd gets teary-eyed when discussing her career path as deputy, sergeant, lieutenant, jail warden, chief deputy and liaison for emergency communications.

The heartbreaking situations she's seen on the streets, in the jail or at drug court, and the strong bonds she's made with other law enforcement are aspects of her job that stay with her as she approaches another career shift.

She is about to step into somewhat new territory and become the program and services manager for Minnehaha County — another step along her path of public service.

"I'm more interested in trying to find ways to help people find ways to keep them out of the system and getting them back on track," Boyd said. "This helps me to work toward that goal."

It's a new position, created when county commissioners realized there were a lot of projects that needed a point person. They knew Boyd was reaching the retirement age for law enforcement.

"We created the job first, and were able to entice her into it," commission chair Jean Bender said. "She's too gifted and too able (to be done). She's been a trailblazer."

When Boyd graduated from the University of South Dakota in 1993, she didn't think she'd stay this long within the same city and office.

But it didn't take her long to figure out she'd found her niche.

She has held just about every position that exists within the sheriff's office, finding ways to make an impact. Within the last few years, she was liaison to Metro Communications when the emergency communication agency's leadership was in transition.

Boyd spent the majority of her time working in the jail, but she would respond to some calls as a supervisor. The calls that stick out are the ones that drum up tears, both sad and grateful. Sad for the families hurt by whatever had happened, and grateful for her coworkers with whom in those moments she built a strong bond.

"We have such good officers," Boyd told the Argus Leader. "You grow up with them, go through a lot of these things with them. The bond we have is strong. I'm going to miss the friends."

She recalled her early days as a deputy at the jail, where she watched over inmates typically lodged for charges such as drunk driving, marijuana possession, failing to appear to court and failing to pay fines.

These days, she said, most people facing those types of charges are out on the 24/7 program or electronic monitoring, while people accused of more serious crimes are the ones in jail cells.

"Working in the jail when I was younger, there was maybe a handful of inmates that were serious offenders that you had to be careful of," Boyd said. "We don't really house low-risk offenders anymore. People who are behind bars need to be behind bars. That has changed since I started."

Methamphetamine wasn't on anyone's radar when Boyd got her first badge.

She would see people struggling with alcohol, marijuana and cocaine, but meth was not a central part of law enforcement's discussions at that point.

It's now something they see on an all-too-regular basis. Within the last five years, confiscations of meth by Sioux Falls police have increased from just over 9,000 grams to more than 25,000. Meth-related arrests statewide have increased threefold in the same time period.

"What meth is doing to our community is so scary to me," she said.

She's hopeful, though, that the community's attitude toward how to help is transitioning, and she's looking forward to using her new role to contribute.

It's easy to have a "lock 'em up" attitude when first stepping into law enforcement.

It was no different for Boyd.

In one of her first jobs in the jail, she'd see people cycle through again and again.

"I'd think to myself, 'Why can't they just stay out of jail? Aren't they tired of this?'" Boyd said.

Then she got involved working with addicts in drug court. She learned their history, their story, why they started using drugs, what trauma led them to numb themselves with substances.

"Had I known that way back when, would I have tried to do something different or make a different

impact?" Boyd said, tears welling under her eyes.

"Unfortunately they made some decisions in their life that some of us haven't made. They're struggling to raise their children, hold their job, keep a home, those kinds of things. I probably wasn't as understanding or compassionate."

While in her next title she technically won't be considered law enforcement anymore, Boyd is thankful she's not done interacting with the justice system.

She'll continue working with drug court in her new role as program and services manager, and she will step in for the sheriff's office once the mental health court begins this winter. Those specialty courts and the new triage center are things she sees as some of the biggest needs for those in the community struggling with addiction and mental illness.

"It takes a while to move toward seeing things in a different light than strictly law enforcement," Boyd said. "The specialty courts are a different mindset. People will fail a (urine test) and the goal is not to put them in jail because they used. The goal is to find out why they're using, how to keep them from using and to provide them more resources and treatment so they don't continue to use."

Minnehaha County Sheriff Mike Milstead said Boyd's next step is a perfect fit for her.

"She's a strong leader but also extremely caring and compassionate," Milstead said, nodding to her involvement with the drug court since it started. "We're excited to keep her in our operation, just in a different role."

Boyd will pick up the title as programs and services manager full time this September.

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

## Town hall address uptick in Sioux Falls gun violence

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Several hundred people showed up for a town hall meeting to address a recent rash of shootings in Sioux Falls.

Some expressed frustration over the increase in gun violence during the meeting Tuesday night at a community center. Others questioned if police are doing enough, while others praised officers for their difficult work.

The Argus Leader reports that since July 8, there have been 12 confirmed shootings in Sioux Falls, mainly on the city's east side. Lt. Adam Petersen told the crowd the department has shifted officers' duties to respond to the violence. Peterson says investigators are trying to determine where the firearms being used in the shootings are coming from in hopes of holding the suppliers accountable.

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

## Rebel missile attack, suicide bombs kill 51 in Yemen's Aden

By MAGGIE MICHAEL and AHMED AL-HAJ Associated Press

ADEN, Yemen (AP) — Rebels in Yemen fired a ballistic missile Thursday at a military parade in the southern port city of Aden and coordinated suicide bombings targeted a police station in another part of the city. The attacks killed at least 51 people and wounded dozens, officials said.

The missile hit in the city's neighborhood of Breiqa where a military parade was underway by forces loyal to the United Arab Emirates, a member of the Saudi-led coalition that has been fighting the Iran-backed Houthi rebels since 2015 in support of Yemen's internationally recognized government.

The missile attack killed at least 40, a health official said.

The parade was taking place at the pro-coalition al-Galaa camp in Aden, said a security official, without give a breakdown for the casualties. Since the rebels seized the country's capital, Sanaa, in 2014, Aden has served as the temporary seat of the government.

The website of the Houthi rebels, Al-Masirah, quoted spokesman Brig. Gen. Yehia Sarea as saying the

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rebels had fired a medium-range ballistic missile at the parade, leaving scores of casualties, including military commanders.

The security official told The Associated Press that UAE-backed commander Monier al Yafie, also known by his nickname Aboul Yamama, was among those killed. He was delivering a speech during the parade, the official said.

A short while earlier, a car, a bus and three motorcycles laden with explosives targeted a police station in the city's Omar al-Mokhtar neighborhood during a morning police roll-call, said Abdel Dayem Ahmed, a senior police official.

Four suicide bombers were involved in the attack, which killed 11 and wounded at least 29, Ahmed told The Associated Press.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the police station bombings but both Yemen's al-Qaida branch and an Islamic State group affiliate have exploited the chaos of the country's war between the Houthis and the government forces, backed by the Saudi-led coalition.

A Yemeni health official said that along with the 51 killed, as many as 56 were wounded in Thursday's attacks. Both the security and health official spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to reporters.

Charred remains of the attackers' vehicles were seen at the scene of the police station attack, next to a meter-deep crater caused by the bombings. Doctors Without Borders tweeted that dozens of wounded were transferred to the aid group's surgical hospital in Aden, where families of the victims had gathered.

Zakarya Ahmed, a senior police officer who was inside the three-story station when the bombings took place, described the attack as "a disaster."

"I felt myself flying in the air and falling down, hitting the floor," Ahmed said. "When I got up on my feet, I saw bodies burning, others torn into pieces."

Thursday's attacks were the deadliest in Aden since November 2017, when the IS affiliate in Yemen targeted the city's security headquarters, leaving 15 dead, mostly policemen.

Deputy Interior Minister Ali Nasser Lakhsha told reporters as he inspected the site of the bombed-out police station that it was unclear who was behind the assault.

"This is a horrific terrorist attack targeting our police," the minister said.

The attackers' motorcycles were still burning as blood pooled on the staircase of the police station and the street outside was littered with shattered glass and debris from blown-out doors and windows.

The conflict in Yemen began with the 2014 takeover of Sanaa by the Houthis, who drove out the internationally recognized government. Months later, in March 2015, a Saudi-led coalition launched its air campaign to prevent the rebels from overrunning the country's south.

In the relentless campaign, Saudi-led airstrikes have hit schools, hospitals and wedding parties and killed thousands of Yemeni civilians. The Houthis have used drones and missiles to attack Saudi Arabia and have also targeted vessels in the Red Sea.

Thursday's attacks in Aden came just weeks after the UAE began withdrawing thousands of its troops from Yemen, leaving behind what it says are some 90,000 trained local forces. The UAE also has high level commanders and forces in Yemen, but has pulled back 50-75% of its forces, insiders have said.

The UAE pullout came against the backdrop of escalating tensions in the Persian Gulf amid a crisis between Washington and Tehran following the U.S. pullout last year from the nuclear deal with Iran.

For its part, Iran has repeatedly denied supplying the Houthis with drone or ballistic missile technology, both of which the rebels have increasingly used, including to target neighboring Saudi Arabia. The kingdom has claimed that Iran supplied the missiles or at least helped the Houthis manufacture them from parts that were in Yemen before the war.

Al-Haj reported from Sanaa, Yemen. Associated Press writers Noha ElHennawy in Cairo and Aya Batrawy in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, contributed to this report.

## AP FACT CHECK: Dems gloss over econ, migrant complexities

By CALVIN WOODWARD and HOPE YEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some of the Democratic presidential contenders dug in their heels with unsupported rhetoric about immigration, the economy and more Wednesday night as they scrambled to stay in contention for the winnowed-down debates to come.

Several persisted in their distorted depiction of caged migrant children as a singular cruelty of President Donald Trump. Others glossed over the intricacies of complex issues, at times dismissing pointed questions as a “Republican talking point” — and not answering.

Ten candidates debated in Detroit, as did 10 the night before. After this, it becomes harder to qualify for the debates ahead and some won’t make the cut.

A look at some of their claims and how they compare with the facts:

**BILL DE BLASIO**, mayor of New York City, on why he hasn’t fired the police officer who used a chokehold on Eric Garner: “For the first time, we are not waiting on the federal Justice Department which told the city of New York that we could not proceed because the Justice Department was pursuing their prosecution and years went by and a lot of pain accrued.”

**THE FACTS:** This is false. The Justice Department did not stop the city from moving forward on the matter. The New York Police Department decided to delay disciplinary proceedings for Officer Daniel Pantaleo on its own accord.

While local officials sometimes defer their investigation as federal prosecutors conduct criminal probes, there was no requirement for the police department to wait for the federal civil rights investigation in weighing a decision about whether to fire Pantaleo.

The Justice Department announced this month that it would not bring any charges in connection with Garner’s death. Pantaleo faced an internal departmental trial and a departmental judge hasn’t officially rendered a recommendation yet on whether he should be fired or disciplined.

The police commissioner, who reports to de Blasio, could act at any time to fire Pantaleo.

**CORY BOOKER**, senator from New Jersey, on decriminalizing illegal entry at the border: “Doing it through the civil courts means you won’t need these awful detention centers that I’ve been to.”

**THE FACTS:** Not exactly. It’s true that there could be reduced immigration detention at the border if there were no criminal charge for illegal entry. But border officers would still need to process people coming over the border and that could lead to temporary holding, such as the so-called cages that Democrats call inhumane.

Also, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement uses detention to hold people awaiting deportation who have been accused or convicted of more serious crimes, including those who have green cards or other legal status.

For example, in December 2018, ICE detained 47,486 people, according to an analysis at Syracuse University. Of those, 29,753 had no conviction, and those people probably would not be in detention if illegal entry were a civil issue.

But 6,186 had serious crime convictions, 2,237 had other convictions and 9,310 had minor violations and those people could still be held, according to the analysis.

**KAMALA HARRIS**, senator from California: “Autoworkers we expect, perhaps, hundreds of thousands will be out of jobs by the end of the year.”

**THE FACTS:** This dire prediction is faulty. The auto industry is not facing the imminent risk of such a collapse.

That might have happened — as a worst-case scenario — if Trump had followed through on threats to enact new tariffs and policies that would have hurt the auto industry. But he didn’t.

Harris has been citing the Center for Automotive Research’s 2018 study, which examined hypothetical



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job losses across all U.S. industries touched by the auto business — not just the nation's nearly 1 million autoworkers — if Trump introduced certain tariffs and policies.

The study gave a wide range of possible job losses, from 82,000 to 750,000. The findings were later revised in February to a worst-case scenario of 367,000 across all industries by the end of this year. Those hypothetical job losses would be spread across car and parts makers, dealers, restaurants, retail stores and any business that benefits from the auto industry.

Impact on the auto industry was further minimized when the Trump administration lifted tariffs on steels and aluminum products coming from Canada and Mexico.

The industry has added thousands of jobs since a crisis in 2009 that sent General Motors and Chrysler into bankruptcy protection.

After a record sales year of 17.55 million in 2016 demand has fallen to an expected 16.8 million new vehicle sales this year. But the industry is still posting strong numbers and is not heading off a cliff.

**HARRIS:** "Right now in America, we have seniors who every day - millions of seniors - are going into the Medicare system."

**THE FACTS:** It's more like 10,000 people a day who turn 65 and become eligible for Medicare, which offers coverage for hospitalization, doctor visits, prescription drugs and other services.

Medicare covers more than 60 million people, including disabled people of any age.

**JOE BIDEN:** "We should put some of these insurance executives who totally oppose my plan in jail for the 9 billion opioids they sell out there."

**THE FACTS:** The former vice president must have meant drug company executives, since insurance companies pay for medications — they don't sell them.

**HARRIS:** "We've got a person who has put babies in cages and separated children from their parents."

**MICHAEL BENNET,** senator from Colorado, in a message directed at Trump: "Kids belong in classrooms not cages."

**THE FACTS:** The "cages" for young migrants at the border were built and used by President Barack Obama . The Trump administration has used them, too. He is referring to chain-link enclosures inside border facilities where migrants have been temporarily housed, separated by sex and age.

It's true that the Trump administration separated at least 2,700 migrant children from their parents under the now-suspended "zero tolerance" policy. Obama did not routinely separate families detained at the border.

Associated Press writers Colleen Long, Michael Balsamo and Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar in Washington and Amanda Seitz in Chicago contributed to this report.

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## After 'Send her back!' chant, Ohio rally a test for Trump

By **JONATHAN LEMIRE** and **DAN SEWELL** Associated Press

CINCINNATI (AP) — President Donald Trump's latest rally will be a test for both candidate and crowd.

The Cincinnati gathering Thursday night will be Trump's first since his audience chanted "Send her back!" about a Somali-born congresswoman during a July rally in North Carolina , raising the prospect of a 2020 presidential campaign increasingly fought along racial lines.

The chant about Democratic Rep. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota by a roaring Greenville crowd rattled Republicans and left Trump wavering over how to respond. He let the chant roll at the rally, expressed disapproval about it the next day and later retreated from those concerns.

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Since then, Trump has pushed ahead with incendiary tweets and a series of attacks on a veteran African-American congressman and his predominantly black district in Baltimore. Heightening the drama, Trump's Ohio rally will come on the heels of a pair of debates among the Democrats who want to replace him and will take place against a backdrop of simmering racial tension in the host city of Cincinnati.

All eyes will be watching both the Ohio crowd's behavior — and how Trump reacts. Even his closest advisers seem uncertain as to what may transpire.

"If it happened again, he might make an effort to speak out about it," Vice President Mike Pence said recently.

Republican Rep. Steve Chabot, who represents a Cincinnati-area district, said Wednesday he hopes the crowd will avoid such chants this time, and he thinks Trump will react more quickly if does happen.

"I would discourage the crowd from doing anything inappropriate and I think saying something like that would be inappropriate," Chabot said. "I would hope that the president would silence the crowd, tell them, 'Hey, don't do that, there's no place for that. It's not helpful, it's not right.'"

Long accused of weaponizing race for political gain, Trump has escalated his harsh language in recent weeks, beginning with racist tweets about Omar, the Minnesota congresswoman who moved to the United States as a child, and her Democratic colleagues Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, Rashida Tlaib of Michigan and Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts.

Days later, the Greenville crowd's "Send her back!" shouts resounded for 13 seconds as Trump paused in his speech and took in the uproar.

Democrats condemned the scene and GOP lawmakers scrambled to denounce it lest the moment come to define their party heading into the next election. Though not faulting Trump himself, House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy of California said the chant had "no place in our party and no place in this country."

After first saying he wasn't happy about the chant, Trump in subsequent days praised the "patriots" in the North Carolina crowd. Since then, he has not backed off his criticism of the congresswomen of color, and instead launched repeated attacks on Rep. Elijah Cummings and the city of Baltimore, describing the majority-black city as a "living hell."

Trump's reelection campaign did not respond to questions about whether the president or campaign staffers would try to prevent the chant from erupting Thursday in the same downtown Cincinnati arena that housed one of Trump's most raucous 2016 rallies.

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine said Wednesday that he found Trump's comments about the congresswomen "inappropriate" but added that he would not raise the matter with the president.

"If Trump allows his supporters to hijack his own rally, that does not bode well for the rest of his campaign," said Alex Conant, a Republican strategist who worked on Marco Rubio's 2016 campaign. "If he encourages the chant, it would be divisive for the country and for the Republican Party."

Conant added: "I'd hope to see him steer clear of anything that could evoke the chant. And if his supporters began chanting it anyway, and he shut it down, I think he would appear strong and get some bipartisan praise."

Trump captured Ohio by nearly 9 percentage points in 2016, and he fared somewhat better among midterm voters in Ohio than among voters in Rust Belt neighbors Michigan and Wisconsin. About half of Ohio voters, 49%, expressed approval of Trump's job as president, according to AP VoteCast, a survey of the electorate in 2018. Forty-four percent of voters in Michigan, and 43% of voters in Wisconsin, approved of Trump.

Though Trump did not carry Cincinnati in 2016, he ran up impressive margins of victory in its conservative, vote-rich surrounding suburban counties.

Cincinnati, which sits across the Ohio River from Kentucky, has long battled racial demons. And Trump's arrival comes just a week after a black former judge, her heels dragging across a courtroom floor as her supporters shouted in anger, was physically pulled away to begin a six-month jail sentence. The sentencing of Tracie Hunter prompted the Cincinnati Enquirer opinion editor to wonder in print if the matter would be "the match to start Cincinnati's next racial fire?"

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Hunter was convicted in 2014 of a felony count involving mishandling of a confidential document involving her brother's court job.

"I would say in a similar case, if the person was a white judge, they may not have been charged; most likely, they would have been able to walk away," said Royce Winters, a former Cincinnati police officer who's now director of African-American Ministries for the Catholic Archdiocese of Cincinnati. "We know that there were some other options that she would not have had to go through all that."

Riots broke out in 2001 after the fatal police shooting of an unarmed black man, and they were followed by a black-led economic boycott of the city. Police reforms and action by community leaders have revitalized Cincinnati, but there were angry demonstrations after a University of Cincinnati police officer shot and killed an unarmed black man during a 2015 traffic stop for a missing front license plate. Charges were dropped against the white officer after two hung juries.

"Cincinnati reflects the United States," Winters said. "There has been some great progress made, yet we realize that when people are threatened, whether the racist language or acts that are coming out even here in Cincinnati are conscious or unconscious, it is something that is embedded in the bloodstream of America."

Hamilton County GOP Chairman Alex Triantafilou, a former judge, said he believes Trump's rhetoric on race has been "overhyped" and that it's more about the way he responds to "withering" attacks by his critics.

"While Cincinnati and Hamilton County aren't particularly Republican these days, the region continues to be very Republican," Triantafilou said. "Southwest Ohio is an area of huge import to any Republican trying to win this state."

Several protests are planned around the Trump rally, including one at the nearby National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. It focuses on the slavery era and current struggles against injustice around the world.

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Lemire reported from New York. Associated Press writer Andrew Welsh-Huggins in Columbus, Ohio, contributed to this report.

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

## Debate takeaways: Democratic divisions intensify

By **SARA BURNETT, BRIAN SLODYKO and HUNTER WOODALL** Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — From the beginning, Joe Biden knew he would take heat at Wednesday's presidential debate. He was right — but he was not alone.

The evening marked some of the toughest attacks California Sen. Kamala Harris has faced as a candidate. The exchanges were part of a broader ideological fight for the future of the Democratic Party.

Takeaways from the debate:

**BIDEN (OBAMA) 2020**

Most candidates claimed to be Democrats of the future. Biden found himself defending Democrats of the past.

The former vice president repeatedly found himself defending Barack Obama's policies on immigration and health care when they came under withering attack, a continuation of his near-constant efforts to highlight his service to the first black president.

While his rivals saber-rattled for "Medicare for All," which would scrap Obama's signature health care law, Biden called for a more modest public option that would build on the Affordable Care Act.

When former Obama Housing Secretary Julián Castro criticized the high number of deportations under Obama, Biden retorted that Castro's passion about the issue appeared newfound.

"I never heard him talk about this when he was the secretary," Biden said.

But he also deflected when asked why he didn't do more to stop the deportations, saying it was Obama's call. And that gave Cory Booker an opening.

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"You invoke President Obama more than anybody in this campaign," Booker retorted. "You can't do it when it's convenient and then dodge it when it's not."

## HARRIS UNDER FIRE

Harris' rising profile made her a target for the first time.

Colorado Sen. Michael Bennet derided her recently released "Medicare for All" plan, which he said was not "honest" and would raise taxes to the middle class "to the tune of \$30 trillion." Hawaii Rep. Tulsi Gabbard went hard after Harris' record on criminal justice from her time as California's attorney general.

"Sen. Harris says she's proud of her record as a prosecutor and that she'll be a prosecutor president, but I'm deeply concerned about this record," Gabbard said. "Too many examples to cite, but she put over 1,500 people in jail for marijuana violations and laughed about it when she was asked if she ever smoked marijuana."

Harris has shown her deft ability to prosecute a case. But at least at the beginning of the night, she seemed rattled by some of the attacks. She took some of the later hits in stride, reorienting attention back to her criticism of Biden.

## WILL THERE BE A BOOKER BOUNCE?

Booker needed a good debate to breathe new life into his flagging campaign. He largely succeeded.

The New Jersey senator avoided getting into nitty-gritty policy fights. But he came armed with zingers, talked about big issues and delivered many of the night's most memorable lines — often at Biden's expense.

"Mr. Vice President, there's a saying in my community: You're dipping into the Kool-Aid and ya don't even know the flavor," Booker said to Biden when he criticized his criminal justice record as mayor of Newark.

Booker went after Biden for his role in passing a 1994 crime bill that disproportionately impacted African Americans. He also spoke memorably about voter suppression, race and the Democrats' loss in Michigan to President Donald Trump in 2016.

"We lost the state of Michigan because everyone from Republicans to Russians were targeting the suppression of African American voters — we need to say that," Booker said.

## HAVING BIDEN'S BACK

Though he faced attacks from multiple candidates, Biden had a vocal ally in Bennet, who at times made the former vice president's arguments more effectively than Biden himself.

The Colorado senator aligned with Biden against Medicare for All, the health care plan that has spurred the biggest divide among the crowded Democratic field. After Biden argued for several minutes with Harris about her health plan, Bennet came to Biden's side, saying "we need to be honest" about the details in Harris' proposal.

Later in the evening, Bennet had Biden's back again, after a back-and-forth about segregation and busing. It was a repeat of the attack Harris launched against Biden during the June debate for not supporting federally ordered busing as a means of desegregation when he was a senator decades ago.

"This is the fourth debate that we have had and the second time that we are debating what people did 50 years ago with busing," Bennet said, noting schools today — including in Detroit — are as segregated as they were then. "We need a conversation about what's happening now."

## CLIMATE CHANGE SHORTCHANGED?

Even with Washington Gov. Jay Inslee on stage, the debate over climate change took a backseat. Inslee has made the issue the heart of his campaign and he cast the issue Wednesday in the starkest terms: "The time is up. Our house is on fire."

As in Tuesday night's debate, health care and immigration were the first topics to get lengthy amounts of time and attention. Candidates were not asked about climate change until an hour and a half had passed. The discussion lasted for about 10 minutes.

While Democratic voters often say climate change is a major issue that 2020 contenders must address, Inslee's attempt to fashion his candidacy around the issue has proven difficult. This may have been Inslee's last chance to use the debate stage as the spotlight. He is among the candidates in jeopardy of not having enough donors or support in polling to qualify for the September debate.

## **1-year-old daughter of Congo man who died of Ebola has virus**

**By SALEH MWANAMILONGO and IGNATIUS SSUUNA Associated Press**

KINSHASA, Congo (AP) — The 1-year-old daughter of the man who died of Ebola in Congo's major city of Goma this week has the disease, the health ministry said Thursday, while Rwanda closed its border with Congo over the virus outbreak that now enters its second year.

The man died on Wednesday after spending several days at home with his large family while showing symptoms. This is the first transmission of Ebola inside Goma, a city of more than 2 million people on the Rwandan border, a scenario that health experts have long feared. The painstaking work of finding, tracking and vaccinating people who had contact with the man — and the contacts of those contacts — has begun.

This outbreak has killed more than 1,800 people, nearly a third of them children. It is now the second-deadliest Ebola outbreak in history, and last month the World Health Organization declared it a rare global emergency.

Rwanda's state minister for foreign affairs Olivier Nduhungerehe confirmed the border closure, a day after WHO officials praised African nations for keeping their borders open. Last week Saudi Arabia stopped issuing visas to people from Congo while citing the Ebola outbreak, shortly before the annual hajj pilgrimage there this month.

Congo's presidency swiftly condemned Rwanda's decision

WHO has recommended against travel restrictions amid the outbreak but says the risk of regional spread is "very high." Rwanda, Uganda and South Sudan have long begun vaccinating health workers. In June, three people died in Uganda before their family members were taken back to Congo for treatment and Ugandan officials declared the country free of the disease.

The death on Wednesday in Goma "in such a dense population center underscores the very real risk of further disease transmission, perhaps beyond the country's borders, and the very urgent need" for more global support, United Nations agencies said in a joint statement marking a year of the outbreak.

The man in his 40s was a miner returning from an area of northeastern Ituri province, Mongwalu, where no Ebola cases in this outbreak have been recorded, WHO said. He was exposed to the virus along the roughly 300-mile-long (490-kilometer) route from Komanda to Goma as he took motor taxis over a number of days through the densely populated region at the heart of the outbreak.

The man arrived in Goma on July 13 and started showing symptoms on July 22. He was isolated at an Ebola treatment center on Tuesday. He had spent five days being treated at home and then went to a health facility, where Ebola was suspected. Symptoms can start to occur between two and 21 days from infection, health experts say.

"He may not even have been aware of the exposure that he had," WHO emergencies chief Dr. Michael Ryan said on Wednesday. Symptoms such as fever can be confused with malaria, which is endemic in the region.

Congo's new Ebola response coordinator, Jean-Jacques Muyembe, has said there appears to be no link between the case and the previous one in Goma that was announced two and a half weeks ago. That case was a 46-year-old preacher who managed to pass through three health checkpoints on the way from Butembo, one of the communities hardest hit by this outbreak.

The declaration of a global health emergency — the fifth in history — came days after that first Goma case. It has brought a surge of millions of dollars in new pledges by international donors, but some health workers say a new approach is needed to combat misunderstandings in a part of Congo that had never experienced Ebola before.

Health workers responding to the outbreak have been attacked, even killed, in a region where rebel

groups are active and the population is wary of outsiders.

There is no licensed treatment for Ebola, which is spread by close contact with bodily fluids of those infected, and survival can depend on seeking treatment as quickly as possible. And yet many people in the region don't believe that the virus is real, health workers have said.

This outbreak is second only to the 2014-16 Ebola outbreak in West Africa that left more than 11,300 people dead.

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Ssuuna reported from Kigali, Rwanda. Associated Press writer Al-Hadji Kudra Maliro contributed.

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## North Korea says it tested crucial new rocket launch system

By KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea said Thursday leader Kim Jong Un supervised the first test firing of a new multiple rocket launcher system that could potentially enhance its ability to strike targets in South Korea and U.S. military bases there.

The report by North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency differed from the assessment by South Korea's military, which had concluded Wednesday's launches were of two short-range ballistic missiles.

The launches from the eastern coastal town of Wonsan were North Korea's second weapons test in less than a week and were seen as a move to keep up pressure on Washington and Seoul amid a stalemate in nuclear negotiations. Pyongyang has also expressed anger over planned U.S.-South Korea military drills.

KCNA said Kim expressed satisfaction over the test firing and said the newly developed rocket system would soon serve a "main role" in his military's land combat operations and create an "inescapable distress to the forces becoming a fat target of the weapon."

The report didn't directly mention the United States or South Korea, but experts say the rocket system, along with new short-range missiles the North tested last week, could potentially pose a serious threat to South Korea's defense. North Korea places thousands of rocket launchers and artillery pieces near its border with South Korea, and its perceived ability to quickly devastate the Seoul metropolitan area, where about half of South Koreans live, has been a central part of its strategy to deter military action from its rivals.

KCNA provided no specific descriptions of how the "large-caliber multiple launch guided rocket system" performed, but said the test confirmed the system's "combat effectiveness." North Korean state TV released still photos that showed Kim, smiling and equipped with binoculars, watching the launches from a viewing deck and a rocket soaring out of what appeared to be a launcher installed on a truck. The network obscured the images of the launcher and vehicle, apparently to limit outside analysis of the system.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said Wednesday that the weapons it assessed as missiles flew about 250 kilometers (155 miles) at an apogee of 30 kilometers (19 miles), a range that would be enough to cover the region surrounding Seoul and a major U.S. military base just south of the city.

Kim Dong-yub, an analyst from Seoul's Institute for Far Eastern Studies, said the North might have tested an improved version of its 300-millimeter multiple rocket launcher system or an entirely new system, such as 400-millimeter rockets.

When asked whether it failed to distinguish between multiple-rocket launchers and ballistic missiles, the JCS said South Korean and U.S. militaries shared an assessment that the flight characteristics from Wednesday's launches were similar to North Korea's new short-range missiles tested last week. JCS official Kim Joon-rak said further analysis was needed to identify the weapons.

South Korea's military had said the flight data of the missile launched last week showed similarities to the Russian-made Iskander, a solid-fuel, nuclear-capable missile that is highly maneuverable and travels on lower trajectories compared to conventional ballistic weapons.

Choi Hyun-soo, spokeswoman of Seoul's Defense Ministry, refused to answer when asked whether it's possible that the North might have mixed in a ballistic missile launch while testing its new rocket system.

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In a closed-door briefing to lawmakers, officials from South Korea's National Intelligence Service said North Korea might extend its weapons tests into August. The spy agency believes the North would want to demonstrate its displeasure over the planned U.S.-South Korea military exercises and the South's acquisition of advanced weapons such as F-35 fighter jets while also speeding up its own weapons development before it gets deeper in nuclear negotiations with the United States, lawmaker Lee Eun-jae said.

U.S. officials have downplayed the threat of the launches to the United States and its allies.

Analysts say North Korea, with its consecutive weapons tests, is demonstrating displeasure with the pace of nuclear diplomacy with Washington. The North's testing activity could intensify if the negotiations do not proceed rapidly over the next few months, said Srinivasan Sitaraman, a North Korea expert at Clark University in Massachusetts.

By firing weapons that directly threaten South Korea but not the U.S. mainland or its Pacific territories, North Korea also appears to be dialing up pressure on Seoul and testing how far Washington will tolerate its bellicosity without actually causing the nuclear negotiations to collapse, other experts say.

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 said those tests 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. The North also tested short-range missiles on May 4 and 9.

Earlier last week, Kim visited a newly built submarine and expressed his satisfaction with its weapons 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. If confirmed, it would be North Korea's first operational submarine with missile launch tubes, some experts said.

## 10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

### 1. DEMOCRATS' DIVISIONS TEST JOE BIDEN

The ideological divisions over health care, immigration and race are testing the strength of the early front-runner's candidacy.

### 2. OHIO RALLY A TEST FOR TRUMP

The president's gathering in Cincinnati will be a test for both candidate and crowd, the first since his audience chanted "Send her back!" about Somali-born Rep. Ilhan Omar.

### 3. NORTH KOREA DETAILS LATEST WEAPONS TEST

Kim Jong Un supervised the first test firing of a new multiple rocket launcher system that could potentially enhance its ability to strike targets in South Korea and U.S. military bases there.

### 4. HOW PHOENIX'S RACE RELATIONS ARE TINGED

The Arizona capital's past segregation has been in focus after last month's national outrage over a videotaped encounter of police pointing guns and cursing at a black family.

### 5. 'ERRATIC' LIVED UP TO ONLINE PERSONA

Paige Thompson, the 33-year-old former Amazon software engineer accused of hacking Capital One, made little attempt to hide her attack.

### 6. WHAT IS DISAPPEARING

Flagships stores for Gap, Tommy Hilfiger, Lord & Taylor and Polo Ralph Lauren have closed their doors in New York City because of skyrocketing rents and the shift to online shopping.

### 7. IMPEACHMENT THRESHOLD HITS MILESTONE

Nearly half the House Democrats now support an impeachment inquiry of Trump, AP finds, but Speaker Nancy Pelosi is still likely not to be swayed.

### 8. WHY RWANDA CLOSED ITS BORDER

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The East African nation closed its border with Congo over the deadly Ebola outbreak.

9. EXPENSIVE STYLISTS, FLASHING COCKTAIL ICE CUBES

Jurors in Katy Perry's copyright infringement trial get a glimpse into what it costs to market a major pop hit.

10. ASTROS 'ACE' DEAL

Houston gets a huge lift for its World Series aspirations by adding top-line starter Zack Greinke to an already imposing rotation.

## Phoenix race relations tinged by Southwest's segregated past

By ANITA SNOW Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Three American Legion posts stand within miles of each other in central Phoenix, a curious reminder of how segregation once ruled the U.S. Southwest as well as the Deep South.

Soldiers returning after World War I in 1919 chartered one of the first posts of the U.S. veterans organization near downtown. But when black and Mexican American men returned from World War II, they opened their own posts, in their own neighborhoods farther south.

Decades later, tensions in Phoenix's minority communities remain, spilling over this summer after video of police officers pointing guns and cursing at a black couple revived disturbing memories of the days of segregation, when black and Hispanic residents recall commonly being mistreated by police.

The couple in the cellphone video filed a \$10 million claim against the city, and the police department launched an internal investigation.

Minority residents, meanwhile, packed meetings at a church and City Council chambers to express distrust and resentment of police, who they complained have historically meted out harsh treatment in their neighborhoods.

"That has long been a reality for African Americans, to not be treated fairly by the police," said Rev. Dr. Warren H. Stewart Sr., pastor of the Institutional Baptist Church in Phoenix. "Segregation has been outlawed, but the remnants of systemic racism and discrimination remain."

His son and fellow pastor Warren Stewart Jr. encouraged hundreds at a downtown gathering in June to help heal the community.

"Over 20 years ago we didn't have a King holiday, and we fought and won that," the younger Stewart said. "In Phoenix, we will be the initiators of that change."

Arizona was among the last states to make Martin Luther King Day a paid day off in 1993, after the NFL pulled the Super Bowl out of Phoenix because voters rejected an initiative to create the holiday.

Confederates from southern slave states settled much of the Southwest, and Civil War skirmishes were fought here, including the Battle of Picacho Pass, south of Phoenix. More than 350 combatants from both sides were killed in the Battle of Glorieta Pass in New Mexico.

"Phoenix was as much a southern city as a western city into the 1960s," said journalist and historian Jon Talton.

Real estate covenants barred black and Hispanic people from buying or leasing homes north of downtown Phoenix, according to Thomas Sheridan's book, "Arizona: A History."

As late as 1960, half of the African Americans in Phoenix lived south of downtown. Until the 1960s, nearby Tempe was a "sundown town." Black people could work there during the day but were encouraged to live elsewhere.

Princess Lucas-Wilson, of the Maricopa County NAACP, said her family left Texas after burning crosses appeared around their neighborhood, but things weren't much better in Phoenix.

"I remember a Mexican restaurant refusing us service," said Lucas-Wilson, now 64. "I also remember a black doctor who moved to Scottsdale and had both arms broken by white adolescents who said he shouldn't live there. He refused to move."

Before the adoption of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, African Americans like well-known funeral home owner and former Tuskegee Airman Lincoln Ragsdale Sr. protested outside the Arizona Capitol for the



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desegregation of public places.

Phoenix public schools like the all-black Booker T. Washington Elementary were segregated for decades before Arizona state courts declared the practice unconstitutional in 1953, a year before the U.S. Supreme Court's decision regarding the desegregation of U.S. schools, *Brown V. Board of Education of Topeka*. Still, Tucson took longer to integrate, and partial compliance wasn't reached until last fall in a federal court case overseeing the desegregation of black and Hispanic students at Tucson schools that has dragged on more than 40 years.

Schools were also segregated in some eastern New Mexico cities including Hobbs and Clovis near the Texas border. Charles Becknell Sr., 77, of Rio Rancho, New Mexico, grew up in segregated Hobbs and recalls entering some restaurants with his family from the back because only whites could enter from the front. He also attended sit-ins at restaurants where blacks were not allowed at all.

"Even our high school football games had segregated seating," recalled Becknell, who said close friends of differing races would sit on each side of a dividing rope on the bleachers so they could watch a game together.

As a U.S. Air Force colonel, conservative Sen. Barry Goldwater of Arizona was among those who pushed the Pentagon to end segregation in the military in 1948.

Still, minorities returning to Phoenix after World War II encountered the discrimination they always knew.

Mexican Americans formed Post 41, which Tempe historian Jared Smith said helped Hispanics gain access to the once-segregated Tempe Beach pool beginning in 1946. That post now serves menudo Sunday mornings at a building painted with a mural of service members under the words: "America's Hispanic Heroes."

Post 65, meanwhile, draws a largely black crowd.

"It's affordable, and there is camaraderie," said activist Lawrence Robinson, 37, who attends legion events with friends.

That post was founded by the late real estate developer Travis L. Williams. His son Cody is a justice court judge married to Phoenix's black Police Chief Jeri Williams, who was caught up in the outrage over the video. Williams and Mayor Kate Gallego have apologized to the community over how officers handled the encounter, and they have promised more meetings to work on improving relations between the police and minority neighborhoods.

Patrick Mays, a past commander of Phoenix's first American Legion post, said the creation of the other two posts had to do with "self-imposed segregation" and the makeup of the city's neighborhoods.

Mays said shifting demographics in Phoenix, now the fifth-largest U.S. city, brought diversity to his post, which hopes to preserve the group's headquarters inside a planned development at the site that will include veteran services and housing.

The changes played out over the 1960s as white schools were opened to minorities, sparking white flight to the suburbs. By 1970, the once all-white student body at Phoenix Union High had fallen to less than 20%, according to the book "Phoenix: The History of a Southern Metropolis."

Black and Hispanic residents are now scattered around Phoenix, with more young whites downtown and a south Phoenix development boom attracting white families and empty nesters to homes priced as high as the mid-\$600,000s. Black people now account for 6.9% of the city's population, while Hispanics make up 42.5%, according to U.S. Census estimates.

Minorities in Phoenix today say they remain wary of law enforcement because of past racial profiling under former Sheriff Joe Arpaio. He was convicted of contempt of court in 2017 for ignoring an order to stop patrols targeting Hispanics, but President Donald Trump pardoned him.

And despite changing demographics, tensions between minority neighborhoods and the police are "huge and historical," said Lucas-Wilson, of the local NAACP's criminal justice committee. "We need to work together to do what we can."

\_\_\_ Associated Press writer Russell Contreras contributed from Rio Rancho, New Mexico.

\_\_\_ Follow Anita Snow at: <https://twitter.com/asnowreports>

## Democrats' divisions test Biden's front-runner strength

By STEVE PEOPLES and SARA BURNETT Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — The ideological divisions gripping the Democratic Party intensified on Wednesday as presidential candidates waged an acrimonious battle over health care, immigration and race that tested the strength of early front-runner Joe Biden's candidacy.

The former vice president was repeatedly forced to defend his decades-old political record against pointed attacks from his younger, diverse rivals, who charged that Biden's eight-year relationship with President Barack Obama was not reason enough to earn the Democratic nomination.

The attacks on Biden in the second presidential debate were most vivid coming from California Sen. Kamala Harris, who declared that his willingness to work with segregationists in the U.S. Senate during the 1970s could have had dramatic consequences on the surge of minority candidates in political office. And, she said, it could have prevented her and fellow presidential candidate Cory Booker, both of whom are black, from becoming senators.

"Had those segregationists had their way, I would not be a member of the United States Senate, Cory Booker would not be a member of the United States Senate, and Barack Obama would not have been in a position to nominate" Biden to become vice president, she said.

When pressed, Biden repeatedly leaned on his relationship with Obama.

"We're talking about things that occurred a long, long time ago," Biden said. "Everybody's talking about how terrible I am on these issues. Barack Obama knew who I was."

The dynamic showcased the challenges ahead for Biden and his party as Democrats seek to rebuild the young and multiracial coalition that helped Obama win two presidential elections. Those differences were debated on a broad menu of issues including health care, immigration and women's reproductive rights.

But it was the discussion of race that marked an escalating rift shaping the Democratic primary. At the same time, polls show that Biden has far more support from minority voters than his challengers, especially in the crucial early voting state of South Carolina.

Booker, who at times adopted the position of peacemaker, also took Biden to task over criminal justice issues and his role in passing a crime bill while a Delaware senator in the 1990s. When Biden fought back by criticizing Booker's tenure as mayor of Newark, New Jersey, before becoming a New Jersey senator, Booker shot back: "You're dipping into the Kool-Aid and you don't even know the flavor."

In Detroit, a city where Democrats desperately need strong minority turnout to beat President Donald Trump next year, Biden, 76, repeatedly clashed with the two black candidates in the race, as well as the only candidate of Mexican heritage, all of whom are more than two decades his junior. Biden emphasized his work as vice president to help the auto industry and the city repair its bankrupt finances.

For Democrats, the internal fight, while common to almost every primary cycle, is one many would rather avoid, favoring instead a focus on defeating Trump. Several candidates said they thought Trump should be impeached and others called him a racist.

"The first thing I am going to do is Clorox the Oval Office," New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand said.

Biden's struggling 2020 competitors see no better way to undermine his candidacy than raising questions about his commitment to black voters and women.

Anticipating a rough night, Biden greeted Harris onstage by quipping, "Go easy on me, kid."

She did not — and he often responded in kind.

Biden charged that Harris' health care plan would cost taxpayers \$3 trillion even after two terms in office and would force middle-class taxes to go up, not down. He said that would put Democrats at a disadvantage against Trump.

"You can't beat President Trump with double talk on this plan," he said.

Harris slapped back that Biden was inaccurate.

"The cost of doing nothing is far too expensive," Harris said. She added: "Your plan does not cover everyone in America."

For the first time in the months-old Democratic contest, Harris faced pointed attacks on her plan to

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provide universal health care. Harris faced criticism from all sides this week after releasing a competing plan that envisions a role for private insurance with strict government rules, but she wants to transition to a single-payer government-backed system within 10 years.

And she was also challenged for her record as a prosecutor and California's attorney general, notably by Rep. Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii.

"Sen. Harris says she's proud of her record as a prosecutor and that she'll be a prosecutor president, but I'm deeply concerned about this record," Gabbard said. "Too many examples to cite, but she put over 1,500 people in jail for marijuana violations and laughed about it when she was asked if she ever smoked marijuana."

There were also tense exchanges on immigration that pitted Biden against former Obama housing secretary Julián Castro, the only Latino candidate in the race.

Biden suggested that some of his rivals favor immigration laws that are far too forgiving. Castro, for example, would decriminalize illegal border crossings.

"People should have to get in line. That's the problem," Biden said.

Castro shot back: "It looks like one of us has learned the lessons of the past and one has not."

Biden did have a defender of sorts in Sen. Michael Bennet of Colorado, who derided the cost and impact of "Medicare for All" on middle-class families and those with private health insurance.

While the first primary votes won't come for six more months, there is a sense of urgency for the lower-tier candidates to break out. More than half the field could be blocked from the next round of debates altogether — and possibly pushed out of the race — if they fail to reach new polling and fundraising thresholds implemented by the Democratic National Committee.

The dire stakes have forced many Democrats to turn against one another in recent weeks. But their common focus was how they characterized Trump's impact on American life.

One of them, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, was particularly blunt.

"We can no longer allow a white nationalist to be in the White House," he said.

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Peoples reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Thomas Beaumont in Detroit and Colleen Long in Washington contributed to this report.

## **Alleged Capital 1 hacker barely bothered to hide**

**By GENE JOHNSON and FRANK BAJAK Associated Press**

SEATTLE (AP) — The 33-year-old former Amazon software engineer accused of hacking Capital One made little attempt to hide her attack. In fact, she effectively publicized it.

It's one of many riddles swirling around Paige Thompson, who goes by the online handle "erratic." Well-known in Seattle's hacker community, Thompson has lived a life of tumult, with frequent job changes, reported estrangement from family and self-described emotional problems and drug use.

FBI agents arrested Thompson Monday for allegedly obtaining personal information from more than 100 million Capital One credit applications, including roughly 140,000 Social Security numbers and 80,000 bank account numbers. There is no evidence the data was sold or distributed to others.

Thompson, in federal custody pending an Aug. 15 detention hearing, wasn't reachable. Her public defender, Mohammad Hamoudi, did not return an emailed request for comment.

But her online behavior suggested that she may have been preparing to get caught. More than six weeks before her Monday arrest, Thompson had discussed the Capital One hack online with friends in chats and in a group she created on the Slack messaging service.

Those chats and the recollections of others offer a sketch of someone talented and troubled, grappling with what friends and her own posts indicate was an especially bumpy crossroads in her life.

Friends and associates described Thompson as a skilled programmer and software architect whose career and behavior — oversharing in chat groups, frequent profanity, expressions of gender confusion and emotional ups and downs — mirror her online handle.

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"She had a habit of openly struggling with her state of mind in public channels," said Aife Dunne, an online friend. "It's where her screen name comes from."

Prior to working for Amazon, Thompson held six jobs, each for less than a year, at organizations such as ATG Stores, Onvia Inc. and Zion Preparatory Academy. She joined Amazon in 2015 to work at Amazon Web Services, a division that hosted the Capital One data she allegedly accessed illegally beginning in March.

When Thompson departed that job in 2016, she lost her apartment and moved into a group home. FBI agents who searched that house after her arrest also detained the owner, a convicted felon, for illegal possession of firearms when they discovered roughly 20 guns, including assault rifles, on the property.

In a Wednesday court filing, federal authorities also accused Thompson of threatening to "shoot up" a California social media company.

Along the way, Thompson forged friendships online and impressed many with her programming talent. But she had also alienated many local hackers.

She dominated, sometimes monopolized chats on her favorite channel on Internet Relay Chat, a hacker mainstay, and in the Slack group she created. She was also active on Twitter. The Associated Press obtained access to the Slack group, which was deleted Tuesday, and to IRC messages dating back to February 2018.

Thompson openly discussed the hack with friends and associates on several of those channels beginning in mid-June. In April, she created the group "Seattle Warez Kiddies" on the site Meetup — the month after prosecutors say she began hacking Capital One.

Friends told the AP they didn't believe she had carried out the Capital One hack with malicious intent or for profit.

These people said they believed the unemployed Thompson — destitute and, by her own account, grappling with serious depression — believed the hack could bring her attention, respect and a new job.

"I think she wanted to release all of this responsibly but she didn't know how to do it," said Aleyna Vaughan, 36, a friend who said she has texted with Thompson nearly every day for the past two years.

While often endearing online, Thompson could also be alienating and even menacing. Members of Seattle's "white hat" hacking community said Thompson had sometimes bombarded them with automated emails in what amounted to denial-of-service attacks.

Friends said Thompson was estranged from her mother, with whom she had moved from Arkansas as a child, and that her father had long been out of her life.

Sarah Stensberg said her husband, Kevin, met Thompson in a coding group for young people in the Seattle area and lived with her for a while. Thompson's abusive behavior eventually led the couple to cut off contact in 2011, she said. Prior to that, they sometimes took Thompson to Seattle's Harborview Medical Center for mental treatment.

"We'd get her into inpatient treatment, we'd visit her, and she'd seem to be doing well," Stensberg said in an interview Tuesday. "Then she'd go off the deep end. We couldn't deal with it anymore."

Thompson repeatedly stalked and harassed them, the couple said, sending them multiple insulting and demeaning messages, until they moved to get away. Then, they allege, she used geolocation tracking from online postings to find their new home. Last fall, the couple obtained protection orders against Thompson, which the AP reviewed along with their petitions.

In the Slack group, Thompson wrote in late June that she was seeing a therapist at least twice a month. "Never a moment in which my mind can just be free," she typed, posting a photo of herself in new Armani sunglasses. After noting that she regretted her hacks and harassment of others, she wrote, "it f(asterisk)(asterisk)ing pisses me off, it pisses me off even more that im not in jail."

Her Twitter feed also reflected struggles.

"I'm going to go check into the mental hospital for an indefinite amount of time," she wrote in a public tweet on July 4. "I have a whole list of things that will ensure my involuntary confinement from the world. The kind that they can't ignore or brush off onto the crisis clinic. I'm never coming back."

Thompson, who said in chats that she had been transitioning to a woman since age 22 with hormone treatment, wrote on the Slack group that her gender transition might have contributed to her mental

anguish. She often discussed her use of legal and illegal drugs online.

The subject of suicide also arose frequently.

"I've tried to kill myself a few times," Thompson wrote on IRC on April 19, 2018. "I cant do it."

## **Advocates: 'Horrible deja vu' in continued family separation**

**By DEEPTI HAJELA and SOPHIA TAREEN Associated Press**

NEW YORK (AP) — In the first couple of months after a federal judge ordered the Trump administration last year to stop separating most parents and children at the U.S.-Mexico border, the number of children sent to New York fell.

Then, advocates say, the children started coming again in a steady stream, many too young to understand their circumstances or how to find their parents.

"It's just been this horrible sense of deja vu," said Anthony Enriquez, director of the unaccompanied minors program for the Archdiocese of New York's Catholic Charities Community Services. The organization is among the advocacy agencies around the country that have joined in a filing from the American Civil Liberties Union that says more than 900 children were taken from parents in the year after the judge issued the injunction.

It's "the same problem that we had over a year ago prior to the injunction that we hoped against hope would be stayed by the court," he said. "But the government seems to not care about the court's order, frankly."

The 911 children were separated from 844 parents between the court order issued on June 26, 2018, and June 29 of this year, according to the ACLU's analysis of government records it received under the judge's supervision. The Justice Department declined to comment.

More than half, or 481 children, were under 10. And 1 in 5, or 185 children, was under 5. Thirteen were less than a year old. The median age was 9.

Nearly 3 of 4 children, or 678, were separated on grounds of a parent's criminal conduct, but only half of those cases indicated a conviction in records produced by the government, according to the ACLU analysis by data specialist Brooke Watson.

A parent's "traffic or driving-related violations" accounted for 47 child separations, including three for driving under the influence and 14 for DUI combined with an unspecified traffic violation.

Advocates said they filed their complaint because of concerns that the government was not complying with last summer's court order barring family separations, according to Lisa Kroop with the National Immigrant Justice Center, or NIJC. Her Chicago-based organization represents families in roughly 120 separation cases, including about 20 mothers from El Salvador detained at a facility in Laredo, Texas.

Advocates found that in nearly all the cases from El Salvador, women who were fleeing gang violence were falsely accused of gang activity. Most of the women had cleared the first hurdle in seeking asylum by being able to demonstrate credible fear of returning to their home countries.

"The things that make them asylum seekers are being used against them," Kroop said.

The NIJC has been able to produce paperwork for several clients showing their innocence and reuniting several families.

"These individuals have no criminal record, and yet these are mothers who have languished in immigration jails away from their kids for months on end," Kroop said. "They are suffering so much."

Others are still separated.

In one case, a nursing child was forcibly removed from her mother, according to Kroop. The mother, who entered the U.S. from El Salvador in March, had been prosecuted on a minor drug charge after being forced to deliver a small amount of marijuana, roughly 33 grams, to a gang-member who had beaten and raped her. The mother was sentenced to time served and community service, but the government appealed without notifying her, and she faces 10 years if she returns as a "result of this sham appellate process," Kroop wrote.

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The child, who turned 2 the day they arrived in the U.S., has been placed with friends in Iowa, where she continues to cry for her mother at night. One night the toddler was sleepwalking and tried to nurse by sucking on her caregiver's arm, according to Kroop.

"It just feels like gratuitous cruelty," Kroop said. "There is no discernable child welfare reason to be doing this."

The government has reunited 97 children with their parents, after having been separated a median length of 85 days. The government lists 40 children who were released to "other distant relative" or "unrelated sponsor." Two 1-year-olds were reunited with their parents after five months apart.

The majority are in the custody of the U.S. Health and Human Services Department.

Enriquez said advocates hoped the ACLU filing would lead to the judge giving more specific instructions to the government.

The government "doesn't seem to have the will to want to stop this or repair the damage it's caused." So it will be up to the judge to order with more specificity "how we can begin to bring these families back together," he said.

Tareen reported from Chicago. Associated Press Writer Elliot Spagat in San Diego contributed to this report.

## **Powell Fed raises as many questions as answers with rate cut**

**By MARTIN CRUTSINGER AP Economics Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve cut its key interest rate Wednesday for the first time in a decade to try to counter the impact of President Donald Trump's trade wars, stubbornly low inflation and global weakness.

It left open the possibility of future rate cuts, but perhaps not as many as Wall Street had been hoping for. During a news conference, Chairman Jerome Powell struggled to find just the right words to articulate the Fed's strategy and what might prompt future rate cuts at a time when the risk of a recession in the United States seems relatively low.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average tumbled to finish down 333 points, or 1.2%. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.01% from 2.06% late Tuesday, a sharp drop.

The central bank reduced its benchmark rate — which affects many loans for households and businesses — by a quarter-point to a range of 2% to 2.25%. It's the first rate cut since December 2008 during the depths of the Great Recession, when the Fed slashed its rate to a record low near zero and kept it there until 2015. The economy is far healthier now despite risks to what's become the longest expansion on record.

But Powell stressed that the Fed is worried about the consequences of Trump's trade war and sluggish economies overseas.

"Weak global growth and trade tensions are having an effect on the U.S. economy," he said.

Powell also said that sluggishness in some sectors of the U.S. economy, like manufacturing, along with inflation chronically below the Fed's target level justify the "insurance of a rate cut now."

Yet he struggled to explain clearly whether, why and by how much the Fed might further reduce rates.

"It's not the beginning of a long series of rate cuts," he said. "I didn't say it's just one or anything like that. When you think about rate-cutting cycles, they go on for a long time, and the committee is not seeing that — not seeing us in that place. You would do that if you saw real economic weakness."

Market analysts said it was no surprise that stock traders were disappointed.

"Powell appeared very reluctant to suggest that additional rate cuts were likely, only doing so when he was asked if this cut was 'one and done,'" said Eric Winograd, senior U.S. economist at Alliance Bernstein. "Even then, he emphasized that if there are additional cuts it would likely be a brief cycle."

Trump, who has repeatedly attacked the Fed for failing to cut rates aggressively, expressed irritation with its message Wednesday.

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"What the market wanted to hear from Jay Powell and the Federal Reserve was that this was the beginning of a lengthy and aggressive rate-cutting cycle which would keep pace with China, the European Union and other countries around the world," Trump tweeted. "As usual, Powell let us down."

He added, "We are winning any way, but I am certainly not getting much help from the Federal Reserve!"

In addition to its rate cut, the Fed also announced that it would stop shrinking its enormous bond portfolio in August, two months earlier than planned. This step is intended to avoid putting upward pressure on long-term borrowing rates. The Fed had aggressively bought Treasury and mortgage bonds after the financial crisis to drive down long-term rates but had been gradually shrinking its balance sheet as the economy strengthened.

The Fed's action Wednesday was approved 8-2 vote, with two dissents: Esther George, president of the Fed's Kansas City regional bank, and Eric Rosengren, head of the Boston Fed, wanted to keep rates unchanged. It was the first time there have been as many as two dissents since December 2017 and suggested that Powell may face opposition if he seeks further rate cuts this year.

Compared with when the Fed previously cut rates more than a decade ago, the economy is now solid by most measures, if not spectacular. Consumers are spending. Unemployment is close to a half-century low. A recession hardly seems imminent.

Yet the Fed has decided that a rate cut could help provide a kind of insurance policy against an economic downturn. The idea is that lowering its key short-term rate could encourage borrowing and spending and energize growth.

A key concern expressed by the Powell Fed is that Trump's pursuit of trade conflicts, with his punishing tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars in Chinese and European goods, have escalated uncertainties for American companies. Some companies have put off plans to expand and invest.

Powell has also expressed concern about undesirably low inflation. In delivering the Fed's semiannual monetary report to Congress this month, he noted that the central bank needs to prevent the economy from sinking into a low-inflation trap like the one that has bedeviled Japan's 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.

Another source of pressure for the Fed has been the relentless series of public attacks by Trump over its rate policy under Powell. Trump has blamed the Fed's four rate hikes in 2018 as a key reason why the U.S. economy is slowing.

Powell has 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 criticism raises the question of whether the attacks could eventually undermine confidence that the Fed will remain politically independent and not try to boost the economy before next year's presidential election.

Recent government reports— on economic growth, consumer spending and orders for durable manufactured goods — have confirmed that the economy remains on firm footing even with pressures at home and abroad. As a result, some analysts believe the Fed may pause after Wednesday's rate cut to see if the economic outlook further brightens before deciding on any further easing.

And skeptics wonder whether Fed rate cuts at this point would 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.

The impact of the Fed's decision will be muted when it comes to consumer rates, unless there are more cuts ahead, said Tendayi Kapfudz, chief economist at LendingTree.

Mortgage rates and savings rates were already historically quite low. And credit card companies are less inclined to lower rates in response to a Fed move than to raise them, especially when the move was so modest.

AP Business Writers Josh Boak in Washington and Sarah Skidmore Sell in Portland, Oregon, contributed to this report.

## US fighter jet crashes in Death Valley, 7 park visitors hurt

By **BRIAN MELLEY** Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A U.S. Navy fighter jet crashed Wednesday in Death Valley National Park, injuring seven people who were at a scenic overlook where aviation enthusiasts watch military pilots speeding low through a chasm dubbed Star Wars Canyon, officials said.

The crash sent dark smoke billowing in the air, said Aaron Cassell, who was working at his family's Panamint Springs Resort about 10 miles (16 kilometers) away and was the first to report the crash to park dispatch.

"I just saw a black mushroom cloud go up," Cassell told The Associated Press. "Typically you don't see a mushroom cloud in the desert."

A search was underway for the pilot of the single-seat F/A-18 Super Hornet that was on a routine training mission, said Lt. Cmdr. Lydia Bock, spokeswoman for Naval Air Station Lemoore in California's Central Valley.

"The status of the pilot is unknown at this time," Bock said about four hours after the crash.

A military helicopter searched for the pilot.

Ambulances were sent to the crash site near Father Crowley Overlook, said park spokesman Patrick Taylor. He said initial reports were that seven park visitors had minor injuries. KABC-TV spoke to tourists who said they were treated for minor burns and cuts from flying fragments after the plane crashed and exploded.

The injured tourists told the news station they were taking photos of the sweeping landscape when the jet screamed into view and suddenly slammed into the canyon wall.

The lookout point about 160 miles (257 kilometers) north of Los Angeles is popular with photographers and aviation buffs who gawk at jets flying in the steep, narrow canyon.

U.S. and foreign militaries train pilots and test jets in the gorge officially called Rainbow Canyon near the park's western entrance. Military flights there date back to World War II.

The chasm got its nickname because mineral-rich soil and red, gray and pink walls bring to mind the home planet of "Star Wars" character Luke Skywalker.

Training flights are almost a daily feature with jets thundering below the rim of the canyon and passing so close viewers can see the pilots' facial expressions.

Cassell said he heard jets roaring through the area and then saw the cloud of smoke.

"It looked like a bomb," Cassell said. "To me that speaks of a very violent impact."

A jet that was following the downed craft pulled up and began circling, Cassell said. He didn't see any parachute.

His father drove up to the area after the crash and saw a large black scorch mark and shattered parts of the jet scattered throughout the area between the parking lot and lookout, Cassell said. A nose cone from the jet was the size of a bowling ball and the rest of the debris was no larger than a ball cap.

The jet was from strike fighter squadron VFA-151 stationed at Lemoore. The squadron is part of an air group attached to the aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis.

The Super Hornet is a twin-engine warplane designed to fly from either aircraft carriers or ground bases on both air-superiority and ground-attack missions.

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Associated Press reporters Christopher Weber and John Antczak also contributed to this story.

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A previous version of this story incorrectly identified Panamint Springs Resort as Panamint Springs Ranch.

## Astros ace Greinke deal; 2 dozen trades on deadline day

By **BEN WALKER** AP Baseball Writer

Out of nowhere, the Houston Astros got a huge head start on October.

On a dizzying day that featured two dozen trades, the Astros pulled off the biggest and most startling deal, adding ace Zack Greinke to an imposing rotation already loaded with All-Stars Justin Verlander and Gerrit Cole.

Plenty of familiar names were on the go Wednesday — Shane Greene and Mark Melancon boosted the



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Braves' bullpen, with Scooter Gennett, Jesús Aguilar, Mike Leake and Tanner Roark among those also moving. But it was the Astros' acquisition of Greinke from Arizona for four minor leaguers that quickly became the talk of baseball. The deal came right before the deadline for swapping players to still have them eligible for the postseason.

"We had him high on our list and we didn't know this was even remotely possible and it really wasn't until the last 48 hours and really the last 24 hours that we started to get traction on something," Houston general manager Jeff Luhnow said.

The AL West leaders and 2017 World Series champions added two other pitchers, too, getting starter Aaron Sanchez and reliever Joe Biagini from Toronto.

"Houston made some big deals. They're really good. They were good before," Red Sox President of Baseball Operations Dave Dombrowski said.

A lot of contenders were busy.

The Chicago Cubs added Detroit's Nicholas Castellanos to their lineup, the Phillies got outfielder Corey Dickerson from Pittsburgh and the Washington Nationals acquired relievers Daniel Hudson, Roenis Elías and Hunter Strickland.

In most cases, major leaguers were swapped for minor leaguers.

"When it comes to trades, one thing I've learned is, just wait," Cubs manager Joe Maddon said. "You've got to wait until the very end and it plays itself out. The 11th hour is the most powerful hour there is. To get things done before that, it normally doesn't work to get what you want. There's the 11th hour at work."

Several players whose names swirled in the tradewinds stayed put.

Giants ace Madison Bumgarner, Mets starters Noah Syndergaard and Zack Wheeler and Pirates closer Felipe Vázquez remained in place. So did Mets closer Edwin Díaz and Texas starter Mike Minor.

"Nothing changed for me. I never expected to be somewhere else until that happened," Bumgarner said. "I just have a job to do and I'm going to do it. We're going to miss a few guys we got rid of. That's going to be tough."

Major League Baseball made July 31 a hard deadline this year for trades. Now, no deals can be made until after the World Series.

"This was a unique deadline, it felt," said Yankees general manager Brian Cashman, whose AL East-leading team didn't make any significant moves.

Pitchers Marcus Stroman, Andrew Cashner, Homer Bailey and Jason Vargas were among the players who were traded in recent weeks.

And on Tuesday night, the Cleveland Indians agreed to send pitcher Trevor Bauer to Cincinnati in a three-team swap that brought back outfielder Yasiel Puig. That trade became official Wednesday, setting off a full morning and afternoon of swaps.

Wheeler heard the speculation involving him.

"It's almost happened several times and never did. I'm happy to be here and I'm concentrating on producing and doing well here," he said. "It was all there for it to happen and just didn't. I was ready for it, especially with me being a free agent after the season."

Atlanta concentrated its effort on padding its bullpen.

A day after getting reliever Chris Martin from Texas, the Braves got Greene from Detroit and Melancon from the Giants.

"We engaged everything — position players, starting pitchers, the bullpen — right up until the end," general manager Alex Anthopoulos said. "At the end of the day, where we thought there were deals that made sense for us and what we had to give up and so on, the bullpen made the most sense. But we definitely tried some other areas. We just couldn't wind up with a deal that made sense to our organization."

The 30-year-old Greene has 22 saves and 1.18 ERA and was an All-Star this season. He's likely to take over the closer's role — Luke Jackson had been the latest to try it for the Braves, and was just 17 for 25 in save chances.

"They're excited, I'm excited," Greene said in Anaheim, where the Tigers played the Los Angeles Angels. "I'm starting a new chapter and going to a contender."

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At Yankee Stadium, Greinke had been pulled after five innings because of a rain delay and was watching video of his start when manager Torey Lovullo interrupted — GM Mike Hazen wanted to break the news.

Hazen said the trade was finished in a hurry, in the final 20 minutes before the 4 p.m. deadline. Soon, word reached Progressive Field in Cleveland, where Houston was preparing to play the Indians.

Cole said the Astros did “a lot of hooting and hollering” about “getting a Hall of Fame pitcher, a craftsman.” “We are just really shocked and ecstatic,” Cole said.

The 35-year-old Greinke is 10-4 with a 2.90 ERA this season. The Astros now have four starters with ERAs in the top 15 in the majors this year — Verlander is fifth with a 2.73 ERA, Greinke is ninth, Cole is 11th at 2.94 and Wade Miley ranks 14th at 3.06. Verlander leads the AL in wins (14) and ERA, and Cole tops the majors with 212 strikeouts.

“If we stay healthy,” Luhnow said, “this team is as good as any team I’ve ever seen.”

More AP MLB: <https://apnews.com/MLB> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Sports](https://twitter.com/AP_Sports)

## Arizona asks for US Supreme Court involvement in opioid case

By ANITA SNOW and GEOFF MULVIHILL Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Arizona’s attorney general on Wednesday asked the U.S. Supreme Court to force the Sackler family, which owns OxyContin-maker Purdue Pharma, to return billions of dollars they took out of the company.

The court filing marks the first time the high court has been asked to weigh in directly on the nation’s opioid crisis.

Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich said the filing is meant to ensure that Purdue has enough money to pay any future judgments or settlements. Nearly all other opioid-related cases brought by states, including a separate one filed last year by Arizona, are in state courts.

“We need to do everything we can to stop the opioid manufacturers from profiting from this crisis,” Brnovich said in an interview. “They have siphoned off billions of dollars from the company, and I want to make sure that any money will end up with states and victims of the crisis — not in an account in the Cayman Islands or a Swiss bank.”

A spokesman for the Sackler family said they deny the allegations in the claim. Brandon Messina said Arizona’s claims are “inconsistent with the factual record.”

The filing is the latest maneuver from a state seeking to hold the drug industry accountable for a crisis that costs more American lives each year than vehicle crashes.

“It’s a power play,” Abbe Gluck, a law professor at Yale Law School, said of Arizona’s filing with the Supreme Court.

She said a ruling by the high court on the opioid issue, although a longshot, would have national impact.

Attorney Travis Lenkner, managing partner at a Chicago law firm representing Arizona in the Supreme Court case, said there were concerns that Sackler family members were sending some of the money abroad.

With sales down and legal liabilities looming, Purdue Pharma said earlier this year that it was considering filing for bankruptcy protection — potentially complicating the opioids lawsuits.

“This sort of seems like an end-run around the bankruptcy process,” said Elizabeth Burch, a University of Georgia law professor who is following the opioid litigation.

Most U.S. states have sued Purdue over the toll of the national opioid crisis. At least 17 of them have now named members of the Sackler family, which owns the Stamford, Connecticut-based drug company.

The family includes major philanthropists who have given to museums and universities around the world. Some institutions, including New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art, have announced this year that they will no longer accept money from the family.

Some 2,000 local and tribal governments have sued Purdue and other companies that make and distribute drugs. Most of those cases are in federal court and are overseen by a judge in Cleveland. Judge Dan Polster is pushing the parties to negotiate a settlement but also has scheduled the first trial for October.

The negotiations are being conducted in secret, but there are signs of animosity between local and state governments over control of any money the settlements would generate.

Opioids, a class of drugs that includes prescription medications such as OxyContin and Percocet and illicit drugs including heroin and fentanyl, have been blamed for more than 400,000 deaths in the U.S. since 2000. The drugs were linked to more than 47,000 deaths in both 2017 and 2018 — more than auto accidents.

Arizona's lawsuit alleges that the family has pulled "billions of dollars out of the company in recent years. The law does not permit the Sacklers to reap a windfall while Purdue's creditors absorb a massive loss."

The filing notes that the U.S. Constitution allows the Supreme Court to have jurisdiction over controversies between a state and citizens of another state.

Mulvihill contributed from Cherry Hill, New Jersey.

## Impeachment watch: Nearly half of House Dems support inquiry

By LISA MASCARO and MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nearly half the House Democrats now support an impeachment inquiry of President Donald Trump — a milestone but still probably not enough to push Speaker Nancy Pelosi to launch proceedings.

A tally by The Associated Press on Wednesday showed 114 Democrats in the House, and one Republican-turned independent, are now publicly backing an inquiry, a notable spike in the days since special counsel Robert Mueller testified on Capitol Hill. Some two dozen House Democrats, and two top senators, added their names after Mueller's public appearance last week.

The numbers also show the limits. Even with half the Democrats favoring impeachment efforts, it's not seen by leadership as a working majority for quick action. Pelosi, who needs at least a 218-vote majority to pass most legislation in the House, has been unwilling to move toward impeachment without a groundswell of support — both on and off Capitol Hill.

"The dynamics have shifted," said Kevin Mack, the lead strategist at Need to Impeach, a group funded by Tom Steyer, who's now a Democratic presidential contender and stepped down from the organization. "It's time to get it started. It's not enough to keep kicking the can down the road, running out the clock."

For Democrats who won control of the House, partly on the promise of providing a checks-and-balance on the Trump administration, the weeks ahead will be pivotal as lawmakers hear from voters during the August recess and attention turns toward the 2020 election.

Outside groups have struggled to make inroads with the House, despite tens of thousands of phone calls and office visits pushing lawmakers to act more urgently. Steyer's group and another founded by activist Sean Eldridge have been key advocates for impeachment. But it's taken longer than expected to reach this benchmark, some say. Their work may become more daunting ahead of the primary elections if Democrats are reluctant to take greater strides toward impeachment.

Still, what's striking about the growing list of House Democrats who support some sort of impeachment inquiry is as much the names as the numbers.

This week, Rep. Eliot Engel of New York, the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, became the ninth to call for impeachment inquiry -- almost half of the House's committee chairmen now on record in favor.

Engel said the president's "repeated abuses have brought American democracy to a perilous crossroads." His committee is among those investigating Trump's business dealings and ties to Russia - and running into obstruction by the administration that some say are grounds for impeachment.

Also joining the list in the immediate aftermath of Mueller's testimony was a top party leader, Rep. Katherine Clark, D-Mass., the vice chair of the Democratic caucus, who said the House has been met with "unprecedented stonewalling and obstruction" by the Trump administration.

"That is why I believe we need to open an impeachment inquiry that will provide us a more formal way to fully uncover the facts," she said.

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Two top Democratic senators, Patty Murray of Washington and Debbie Stabenow of Michigan, the third and fourth-ranking members of leadership, also announced their support for a House impeachment inquiry.

Republican-turned independent Rep. Justin Amash of Michigan announced his support for impeachment shortly after he said he read Mueller's findings about Russian interference in the 2016 election and the Trump administration's response.

Mueller's testimony was supposed to be a game changer, his appearance months in the making since the April release of his 448-page report. But the 74-year-old Mueller's halting testimony and one-word answers left a mixed result.

Pelosi swiftly assembled lawmakers behind closed doors the evening after Mueller testified. The speaker has held Democrats in line on her strategy, with many deferring to her leadership.

Pelosi's only counsel was that if they needed to speak in favor of impeachment, they should not to turn it into a moral ultimatum. It was a signal that Democrats should not badmouth lawmakers who were still reluctant to call for an inquiry, according a person familiar with the private session and granted anonymity to discuss it.

While the speaker called Mueller's appearance "a crossing of a threshold," she also quickly pivoted to the House's legal action against the White House, saying Democrats are building the case that Trump is obstructing their ability to conduct oversight of the executive branch.

"We still have some outstanding matters in the courts," Pelosi said. She reminded that the Watergate case burst open after the House sued for access to audio tapes Richard Nixon made in the White House.

"We want to have the strongest possible case to make a decision as to what path we will go down and that is not endless, in terms of time, or endless in terms of the information that we want," she said.

Yet the House Judiciary Committee has yet to file a lawsuit on one of their next priorities — enforcing a subpoena against Donald McGahn. That filing could come as soon as this week, but the process could take several months, pushing the impeachment timeline closer to the end of the year and the presidential primaries.

The former White House counsel is among long list of administration officials who have refused to testify or provide documents to the panel under orders from Trump. The suit would challenge White House claims that such officials have "absolute immunity" from such testimony.

In a separate case, the committee is in court trying to obtain secret grand jury information underlying Mueller's report. In a court filing Wednesday, the committee and the Justice Department agreed to next steps in that matter by the end of September, pushing any resolution until October.

Pelosi is of the mindset that impeachment should not be done for political reasons, or not done for political reasons, as she pursues a step-by-step case. In many ways, she is protecting those lawmakers who joined the House from districts Trump creating the House majority, from having to make tough choices on impeachment. But critics say Pelosi is depriving Democrats of a clear vote on impeachment, and they say that decision will leave voters deflated for the 2020 election.

The group Stand Up America, which is part of a coalition with MoveOn, Indivisible and other advocates of impeachment, believes the August recess will be a critical moment to convince lawmakers to go on the record.

"If lawmakers in Congress haven't felt the pressure to start an impeachment inquiry, they haven't been listening," said Eldridge, the group's founder and president, in a statement. "During the August recess we will ensure that every member of Congress hears from their constituents on why it's the only path forward."

## Judge sets tentative date for Jeffrey Epstein's trial

By LARRY NEUMEISTER and JIM MUSTIAN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A subdued Jeffrey Epstein listened passively in court Wednesday as a judge said he won't face trial on sex trafficking charges before June 2020, and more likely a few months afterward.

There was no mention at the Manhattan federal court appearance or any visible sign of injuries after the 66-year-old financier was found on the floor of his cell last week with neck bruises.

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Epstein's lawyer, Martin Weinberg, refused to say what might have left his client with the bruises after the court hearing.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Alison Moe urged a June trial date for the man accused of arranging to have sex with girls as young as age 14, saying there is "a public interest in bringing this case to trial as swiftly as possible."

But Weinberg said the case is far from "ordinary," adding the defense team won't be ready before Labor Day 2020. He said prosecutors delayed bringing charges that relate to alleged crimes that occurred in the early 2000s at Epstein's residences in Manhattan and Florida.

U.S. District Judge Richard M. Berman said a trial projected to last four to six weeks could tentatively begin June 8, but he'll likely defer to defense lawyers' needs if they are not ready.

Epstein's demeanor in court was noticeably different from previous appearances, when he was actively engaged with his lawyers and looking through papers.

On Wednesday, he sat quietly, his hands folded in front of his face through much of the 20-minute proceeding. Occasionally, he looked toward courtroom artists and reporters seated in a jury box.

Epstein has remained at the Metropolitan Correction Center, which is adjacent to the downtown Manhattan courthouse.

He has pleaded not guilty to sex trafficking charges that carry the potential for up to 45 years in prison.

Berman refused bail after concluding he is a danger to the community and a flight risk. Prosecutors have said they fear he might try to influence a growing number of witnesses who support charges that he recruited and abused dozens of girls in New York and Florida in the early 2000s. His lawyers had argued he should be allowed to stay under house arrest in his Manhattan mansion.

His lawyers say an agreement reached with federal prosecutors a dozen years ago disallows the charges, and they say he has committed no new crimes.

The lawyers agreed to file written arguments about the agreement and double jeopardy claims by Sept. 13. Oral arguments will occur in October.

The non-prosecution deal was reached before he pleaded guilty in state court in Florida to prostitution-related charges involving underage girls. Afterward, he was required to register as a sex offender and pay restitution to many victims. While he served a 13-month jail term, he was permitted to leave jail to work for 12 hours a day, six days a week.

Epstein was arrested July 6 when he arrived at a New Jersey airport on a private jet from Paris, where he has a home.

## Senate confirms Kelly Craft as US ambassador to UN

By MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate has confirmed Kelly Craft to become the next U.S. envoy to the United Nations despite Democratic concerns about her inexperience and potential conflicts of interest.

Craft, a longtime GOP activist from Kentucky, is currently U.S. ambassador to Canada. She was confirmed 56-34, ending a more than seven-month vacancy in the key diplomatic position.

She and her husband, Joe Craft, have donated millions of dollars to Republican political candidates, and she will be first major political donor to occupy the top U.N. post for any administration. Joe Craft is the chief executive of Alliance Resource Partners, one of the largest coal producers in the country.

In her confirmation hearing, Craft vowed to continue the efforts of Trump's first ambassador to the U.N., Nikki Haley, to push for reform at the world body and to fight against anti-Israel resolutions and actions by the United Nations and its affiliated agencies. During Haley's tenure, the administration withdrew from the U.N. Human Rights Council and the U.N. educational and scientific agency for adopting positions it deemed to be hostile to Israel.

Trump nominated Craft to replace Haley after his first choice for the job, former State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert, withdrew from consideration. Haley stepped down from the post in December.

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Democrats criticized Craft at the hearing for previous remarks she had made doubting the causes and severity of climate change and suggesting that climate change skeptics have valid arguments. They were also concerned about possible conflicts of interest as she holds extensive investments in fossil fuels.

Craft said at the hearing that she acknowledges the "vast amount of science" regarding climate change and the role humans have played.

"If confirmed, I will be an advocate for addressing climate change," she said.

The Democrats have also expressed concerns about her time away from Canada during her tenure as ambassador. Craft testified that all of her travel had been approved in advance by the State Department, that much of it was work-related and that she and her husband had paid for all personal trips.

A report issued by the top Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, New Jersey Sen. Bob Menendez, just before the vote called Craft "inexperienced," "unknowledgeable" and "outmatched." The report said Craft's "lack of diplomatic or substantive policy experience" could threaten her ability to forcefully represent and defend U.S. national interests against other powerful nations.

"Never in our nation's history have we nominated such an underqualified person to this critical post," said Menendez.

Republicans, including her home-state senator, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, came to her defense.

"During her tenure as ambassador to Canada, America's relationship with our northern neighbor was tested," McConnell said in a floor speech before the vote. "A number of challenging policy hurdles threatened to trip up progress on several important issues, including trade negotiations. But by all accounts, Ambassador Craft's involvement led to greater cooperation."

As ambassador, Craft played a role in facilitating the U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement, Trump's long-sought revamp of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

It was also a low point in relations between the two countries. Last year, Trump called Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau weak and dishonest, words that shocked Canadians.

## Moscow couple shaken but defiant after police crackdown

By NATALIYA VASILYEVA Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — The young woman screamed as her boyfriend lay atop her, absorbing the blows of a helmeted riot policeman.

It's one of the indelible images of the violent police response to an unauthorized protest in Moscow.

Inga Kudracheva's terror and anguish are clear in the video and photos that spread across Russian social media and foreign news coverage of the July 27 crackdown in which an arrest-monitoring group said nearly 1,400 people were detained.

Yet Kudracheva and Boris Kantorovich say the ordeal has only strengthened them.

"People are not afraid of police anymore. Even though police were beating us violently and tried to intimidate us, it was worth it," the 27-year-old told The Associated Press on Tuesday, sitting on a sofa with Kudracheva and occasionally squeezing her hand reassuringly.

"I'm really scared, but being scared is fine, and there are other things more important than fear," said Kantorovich, who works in sales.

Such determination suggests that the fierce police response might have been a miscalculation, hardening resistance rather than dissipating it. Both police and activists likely will be tested again on Saturday, as protest organizers have called for another unsanctioned rally in the Russian capital.

There have been a series of demonstrations denouncing the exclusion of some opposition and independent candidates from a Sept. 8 election for the Moscow city council. In the past month, the issue has provoked a surprisingly large outcry for a local election; on July 20, about 20,000 people turned out for a demonstration that was the largest in the city in several years.

But that earlier demonstration had been sanctioned. When the July 27 protest was called, authorities were clearly determined to stifle the dissent.

The police actions were "demonstrative cruelty," said Ilya Shablinsky, head of the voters' rights committee

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of the presidential human rights council, in an interview with the newspaper Kommersant.

Ivan Sustin, a human-rights lawyer, said the police violence was at a level previously seen only in a 2012 demonstration against President Vladimir Putin's inauguration and that the recent protesters were far less aggressive.

The police action came amid declining approval rates for Putin and the dominant United Russia party, whose nominees suffered crushing defeats in several gubernatorial elections last fall.

There has been widespread condemnation of the crackdown. The U.S. Embassy in Moscow decried it as "use of disproportionate police force."

Hugh Williamson, Human Rights Watch's director for Europe and Central Asia, said the "government's strong-arm response is a warning to Russians that people who take to the streets, no matter how peaceful, to demand free and fair elections will face dire consequences."

But Russian authorities show no sign of backing down.

In his first public comments on the disorder, Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said Tuesday the protesters "forced police to use force that in this situation was completely appropriate."

At the same time, Russia's Investigative Committee opened a criminal investigation for charges of organizing or participating in mass disorder, a crime that carries a potential prison sentence of up to 15 years.

During the July 27 demonstration, police tried to grab Kantorovich as he was sitting on a curb. He curled up as police hit him with their batons, and Kudracheva tried to intervene. Nearby police dogs barked and howled.

Moments later, she was on the pavement with Kantorovich atop her.

"The scariest moment was when I was lying underneath Boris ... and I felt as if the policeman was jumping on him," said Kudracheva, a 27-year-old human resources specialist. "I felt like he was going to crush my chest."

"We were not doing anything," Kudracheva said of the minutes before the melee. "We were not trying to break the cordons. We weren't throwing anything at the police."

Kantorovich was shoved into a police van. After arriving at a police station, he called for an ambulance and went to a hospital for treatment of heavy bruises. Kudracheva suffered only scratches.

By coincidence, Kudracheva also figured in one of the day's other stunning visual scenes, helping to wrap gauze on the head of Alexandra Parushina, her face masked with blood, after she was beaten by police at a different site.

Parushina, a deputy in a Moscow district council, told AP she hadn't known Kudracheva before that earlier incident.

The beating left her with stitches in her head and severe bruises, and she said she was so unwell that she couldn't leave her apartment. But she said she's ready for future protests.

"Well, it may be frightening and dangerous, but on the other hand, I personally can't see another way but to go to these kinds of protests. Otherwise, we just aren't able to overcome this misuse of power," she said.

Kantorovich, who had taken part in previous protests, said the authorities' refusal to register the candidates was a brazen insult: "Candidates who want to run did everything by the book. After that, the system told them 'So you did everything by the book? We're not going to register you anyway.' I feel this is what really angered people."

Lyubov Shangina, a 71-year-old protester, said she was bruised when a policeman grabbed her, but "they didn't detain because they were scared that by taking me I'd drop dead and they'd be responsible."

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Associated Press writers Tanya Titova, Francesca Ebel, Harriet Morris and Jim Heintz contributed.

## Puerto Rico braces for clashes over island's next leader

By DÁNICA COTO Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Puerto Rico's political crisis appeared to deepen on Wednesday as the island's outgoing governor and legislators — including those from his own party — clashed over who should be the next leader of a U.S. territory unbalanced by massive protests.

The upheaval has raised fears that a government in chaos will have trouble negotiating for more federal funding for recovery from Hurricane Maria and coping with the island's grave economic woes.

Gov. Ricardo Rosselló announced that he had chosen Puerto Rico's former non-voting representative to Congress, Pedro Pierluisi, as his secretary of state — a post that would put Pierluisi in line to be governor when Rosselló steps down on Friday.

But he's unlikely to be approved by legislators, several of whom proposed instead naming Senate President Thomas Rivera Schatz, a declared candidate for the 2020 governor's election.

Some lawmakers complained about Pierluisi's work for a law firm that represents the federal control board that was created to oversee Puerto Rico's finances before the territory, saddled with more than \$70 billion in public debt, declared a sort of bankruptcy. Pierluisi's brother-in-law also heads the board, which has clashed repeatedly with Rosselló and other elected officials over demands for austerity measures.

"That's a serious conflict of interest," Rep. José Enrique Meléndez told The Associated Press.

Rep. Milagros Charbonier and House of Representatives President Johnny Méndez also said they would vote against Pierluisi and urged Rosselló to instead nominate Rivera Schatz. All three legislators are members of Rosselló's pro-statehood New Progressive Party.

Méndez has said Pierluisi does not have the votes needed in the House of Representatives.

"The situation could not be more complicated," said Sen. José Antonio Vargas Vidot, who ran for Senate as an independent. "This is absurd, what we're going through. We never thought something like this could happen. In an extraordinary crisis, we have to take extraordinary measures."

Sen. Eduardo Bhatia bitterly accused Rivera Schatz of trying to maneuver himself into the top job.

"This attitude of (Rivera Schatz) taking the island hostage is very dangerous," Bhatia tweeted. "It's him or no one' is in keeping with what has been a life silencing and destroying democracy."

Rosselló has said he will resign on Friday, bowing to the demands of massive street protests by Puerto Ricans frustrated with corruption, mismanagement and an obscenity-laced chat that was leaked in which Rosselló and 11 other men made fun of women, gay people and victims of Hurricane Maria.

More than a dozen officials have resigned in the wake of the chat, including former Secretary of State Luis Rivera Marín.

On Wednesday, new excerpts of the chat were released by an online blog called "En Blanco y Negro con Sandra," which released the first excerpts of the same chat earlier this month. In the newest release, the group makes fun of people including the Senate president Schatz and several journalists, while Rosselló once again calls another female politician a "whore." The authenticity of the chat could not be immediately verified. A spokeswoman for Rosselló did not immediately return a message for comment.

By law, the secretary of state would take over if the governor resigns, but if someone is not named by Friday, Justice Secretary Wanda Vázquez would be next in line. She has said she doesn't want the job, however, and has not said what she'd do if it falls to her anyway.

Meanwhile, Rivera Schatz, whose spokeswoman said he was not granting interviews, said in a Facebook post on Wednesday that all problems have solutions and that Puerto Rico should be focused on finding them.

"We should promote unity, not discord," he wrote.

Legislators were expected to meet on Thursday to debate Pierluisi's nomination, which must be approved by both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Political analyst Annabelle Colberg Toro said Pierluisi has proven to be a conciliatory leader in the past and warned that Puerto Rico needs stability soon.

"People want a return to normalcy," she said. "We are experiencing a paralysis in which no one knows



what's going to happen next."

Pierluisi, who took a leave of absence from the law firm, said in a statement Wednesday that much work remains to be done to recover the trust of federal authorities, U.S. Congress and the people of Puerto Rico as it also struggles to recover from Hurricane Maria.

"My goal is now to transform the energy shown by our people in constructive actions that help Puerto Rico go forward," he said. "Puerto Rico is facing times never before seen and we all have to be part of the path to progress."

Pierluisi represented Puerto Rico in Congress from 2009-2017 and then ran against Rosselló in the 2016 primaries and lost. He also previously served as justice secretary under Rosselló's father, Pedro Rosselló, when he was governor.

## US to set up plan allowing prescription meds from Canada

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration said Wednesday it will create a way for Americans to legally and safely import lower-cost prescription drugs from Canada for the first time, reversing years of refusals by health authorities amid a public outcry over high prices for life-sustaining medications.

The move is a step toward fulfilling a 2016 campaign promise by President Donald Trump. It weakens an import ban that has stood as a symbol of the political clout of the pharmaceutical industry.

But it's unclear how soon consumers will see benefits, as the plan has to go through time-consuming regulatory approval and later could face court challenges from drugmakers. And there's no telling how Canada will react to becoming the drugstore for its much bigger neighbor, with potential consequences for policymakers and consumers there.

The U.S. drug industry is facing a crescendo of consumer complaints over prices, as well as legislation from both parties in Congress to rein in costs, not to mention proposals from the Democratic presidential contenders. Ahead of the 2020 election, Trump is feeling pressure to deliver on years of harsh rhetoric about pharmaceutical industry prices.

Making the announcement, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar said the administration recognizes that prescription drug manufacturing and distribution is now international.

"The landscape and the opportunities for safe linkage between drug supply chains has changed," Azar said. "That is part of why, for the first time in HHS's history, we are open to importation. We want to see proposals from states, distributors, and pharmacies that can help accomplish our shared goal of safe prescription drugs at lower prices."

Stephen Ubl, president of the industry group Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America called the plan "far too dangerous" for American patients. "There is no way to guarantee the safety of drugs that come into the country from outside the United States' gold-standard supply chain," Ubl said in a statement. "Drugs coming through Canada could have originated from anywhere in the world."

Most patients take affordable generic drugs to manage conditions such as high blood pressure or elevated cholesterol. But polls show concern about the prices of breakthrough medications for intractable illnesses like cancer or hepatitis C infection, whose annual costs can run to \$100,000 or much more. And long-available drugs like insulin have seen serial price increases that forced some people with diabetes to ration their own doses.

Azar, a former drug company executive, said U.S. patients will be able to import medications safely and effectively, with oversight from the Food and Drug Administration. Azar used to be a skeptic of importation, and was once quoted dismissing it as a gimmick.

One prong of the administration's proposal would allow states, wholesalers and pharmacists to get FDA approval to import certain medications that are also available here. Trump had recently endorsed a new Florida law to allow importation.

Another part of the plan would allow drugmakers to seek approval for re-importation of their own drugs. This second provision would cover cutting-edge biologic drugs as well mainstays like insulin, and it could

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apply to drugs from other countries besides Canada.

Azar said complex regulations setting up the system could take "weeks and months." He called on Congress to pass legislation that would lend its muscle to the effort, making it harder to overturn the policy in court.

"The FDA has the resources to do this," said acting FDA Commissioner Ned Sharpless. "The agency is interested in considering any reasonable proposal that maintains the bedrock of safety and efficacy for the American consumer."

Importation has backers across the political spectrum.

Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, chairman of the panel that oversees Medicare, is a longtime supporter. He and Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota have a bill to facilitate importation. Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., who chairs the health committee, welcomed the plan but said the key is whether importation can be done safely.

During Tuesday night's Democratic presidential debate, multiple candidates talked about the need to lower drug costs. Sen. Bernie Sanders, Vermont Independent, noted the disparity in U.S. and Canadian prices. "I took 15 people with diabetes from Detroit a few miles into Canada and we bought insulin for one-tenth the price being charged by the crooks who run the pharmaceutical industry in America today," he said.

The leading drug industry trade group, known as PhRMA, is a powerhouse that generally gets its way with lawmakers. It spent \$128 million on lobbying in 2017, according to its most recent tax filings. But pressure on the industry is rising across many fronts.

In the Senate, Trump is supporting Grassley's bipartisan bill to cap medication costs for Medicare recipients and require drugmakers to pay rebates to the program if price hikes exceed inflation. Democrats in the House are pressing for a vote on a bill allowing Medicare to directly negotiate prices on behalf of millions of seniors. Separately, the Trump administration is pursuing a regulation that would tie what Medicare pays for drugs administered in doctors' offices to lower international prices.

Drug costs are lower in other economically advanced countries because governments take a leading role in setting prices. But in the U.S., Medicare is not permitted to negotiate.

Some experts have been skeptical of allowing imports from Canada, partly from concerns about whether Canadian suppliers have the capacity to meet the demands of the much larger U.S. market.

Backers argue that the prospect of competition will pressure U.S. drugmakers to reduce prices.

## Towering Broadway director and producer Hal Prince has died

By MARK KENNEDY AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Harold Prince, a Broadway director and producer who pushed the boundaries of musical theater with such groundbreaking shows as "The Phantom of the Opera," "Cabaret," "Company" and "Sweeney Todd" and won a staggering 21 Tony Awards, has died. Prince was 91.

Prince's publicist Rick Miramontez said Prince died Wednesday after a brief illness in Reykjavik, Iceland. He was in transit from Europe to New York. Broadway marquees will dim their lights in his honor Wednesday night.

Prince was known for his fluid, cinematic director's touch and was unpredictable and uncompromising in his choice of stage material. He often picked challenging, offbeat subjects to musicalize, such as a murderous, knife-wielding barber who baked his victims in pies or the 19th-century opening of Japan to the West.

Along the way, he helped create some of Broadway's most enduring musical hits, first as a producer of such shows as "The Pajama Game," "Damn Yankees," "West Side Story," "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" and "Fiddler on the Roof." He later became a director, overseeing such landmark musicals as "Cabaret," "Company," "Follies," "Sweeney Todd," "Evita" and "The Phantom of the Opera."

Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, reached by phone Wednesday, told The Associated Press that it was impossible to overestimate the importance of Prince to the stage. "All of modern musical theater owes practically everything to him."

Lloyd Webber recalled that, as a young man, he had written the music for the flop "Jeeves" and was feeling low. Prince wrote him a letter urging him not to be discouraged. The two men later met and Lloyd

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Webber said he was thinking of next doing a musical about Evita Peron. Prince told him to bring it to him first. "That was game-changing for me. Without that, I often wonder where I would be," Lloyd Webber said.

Tributes also poured in from generations of Broadway figures, including "The Band's Visit" composer David Yazbek, who called Prince "a real giant," and the performer Bernadette Peters, who called it a "sad day." "Seinfeld" alum Jason Alexander, who was directed by Prince in "Merrily We Roll Along," said Prince "reshaped American theater and today's giants stand on his shoulders."

Composer Jason Robert Brown hailed Prince's "commitment and an enthusiasm and a work ethic and an endless well of creative passion." Actress Carolee Carmello said he "lit up a room like no one I've ever known and I always felt so lucky when I was in that room."

In addition to Lloyd Webber, Prince, known by friends as Hal, worked with some of the best-known composers and lyricists in musical theater, including Leonard Bernstein, Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick, John Kander and Fred Ebb, and, most notably, Stephen Sondheim.

"I don't do a lot of analyzing of why I do something," Prince once told The Associated Press. "It's all instinct."

Only rarely, he said, did he take on an idea just for the money, and they "probably were bad ideas in the first place. Theater is not about that. It is about creating something. The fact that some of my shows have done so well is sheer luck."

During his more than 50-year career, Prince received a record 21 Tony Awards, including two special Tonys — one in 1972 when "Fiddler" became Broadway's longest running musical then, and another in 1974 for a revival of "Candide." He also was a recipient of a Kennedy Center Honor.

He earned a reputation as a detail-heavy director. Barbara Cook in her memoir "Then & Now" wrote: "I admire him greatly, but he also did not always make things easy, for one basic reason: he wants to direct every detail of your performance down to the way you crook your pinky finger."

A musical about Prince called "Prince of Broadway" opened in Japan in 2015 featuring songs from many of the shows that made him famous. It landed on Broadway in 2017.

It was with Sondheim, who was the lyricist for "West Side Story," that Prince developed his most enduring creative relationship. He produced "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" (1962), the first Broadway show for which Sondheim wrote both music and lyrics.

They cemented their partnership in 1970 with "Company." Prince produced and directed this innovative, revue-like musical that followed the travails of Bobby, a perpetual New York bachelor ever searching for the right woman.

"Company" was followed in quick succession by "Follies" (1971), which Prince co-directed with Michael Bennett; "A Little Night Music" (1973); "Pacific Overtures" (1976); and "Sweeney Todd" (1979).

Their work together stopped in 1981 after the short-lived "Merrily We Roll Along," which lasted only 16 performances. It wasn't to resume until 2003 when Prince and Sondheim collaborated on "Bounce," a musical about the adventure-seeking Mizner brothers that had a troubled birth and finally made it off-Broadway as "Road Show."

Prince was mentored by two of the theater's most experienced professionals — director George Abbott and producer Robert E. Griffith.

"I've had a unique life in the theater, uniquely lucky," Prince said in his midlife autobiography, "Contradictions: Notes on Twenty-Six Years in the Theatre," which was published in 1974. "I went to work for George Abbott in 1948, and I was fired on Friday that year from a television job in his office. I was rehired the following Monday, and I've never been out of work since."

Born in New York on Jan. 30, 1928, Prince was the son of affluent parents, for whom Saturday matinees in the theater with their children were a regular occurrence. A production of "Julius Caesar" starring Orson Welles when he was 8 taught him there was something special about theater.

"I've had theater ambitions all of my life," he said in his memoir. "I cannot go back so far that I don't remember where I wanted to work."

After a stint in the Army during the Korean War (he kept his dog-tags on his office desk), he returned to Broadway, serving as stage manager on Abbott's 1953 production of "Wonderful Town," starring Rosalind

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Russell.

The following year, he started producing with Griffith. Their first venture, "The Pajama Game," starring John Raitt and Janis Paige, was a big hit, running 1,063 performances. They followed in 1955 with another musical smash, "Damn Yankees," featuring Gwen Verdon as the seductive Lola.

In 1957, Prince did "West Side Story," a modern-day version of "Romeo and Juliet" told against the backdrop of New York gang warfare. Directed and choreographed by Jerome Robbins and with a score by Bernstein and Sondheim, it, too, was acclaimed.

Yet even its success was dwarfed by "Fiddler on the Roof" (1964), which Prince produced and Robbins directed and choreographed. Set in Czarist Russia, the Bock-Harnick musical starred Zero Mostel as the Jewish milkman forced to confront challenges to his way of life.

Prince had gotten his first opportunity to direct on Broadway in 1962. The musical was "A Family Affair," a little-remembered show about the travails of a Jewish wedding. Its Broadway run was short — only 65 performances — but "A Family Affair" gave Prince a chance to work with composer John Kander.

Four years later, Kander would provide the music for one of Prince's biggest successes, "Cabaret," based on Christopher Isherwood's "Berlin Stories."

And it was "Cabaret" that established Prince as a director of first rank. With its use of a sleazy master of ceremonies (portrayed by Joel Grey), the musical juxtaposed its raunchy nightclub numbers with the stories of people living in Berlin as the Nazis rose to power in the 1930s.

"I became a producer because fate took me there, and I was delighted," Prince recalled in his book. "I used producing to become what I wanted to be, a director. (Ultimately, I hired myself, which is more than anyone else would do.)"

As he became more interested in directing, he withdrew from producing altogether.

Among his more notable achievements: "On the Twentieth Century" (1978) and two of Lloyd Webber's biggest hits, "Evita" (1979), starring Patti LuPone as the charismatic Argentinian, and "The Phantom of the Opera," in London (1986), New York (1988) and around the world.

"Phantom" is the longest-running musical on Broadway and hit producer Cameron Mackintosh noted that in a statement mourning Prince's death: "The Gods of the theater salute you, Hal."

Prince was a champion of imagination in the theater and tried never to rely on technology to give his shows pop, preferring canvas to LEDs.

"I believe the theater should take advantage of the limitations of scenery and totally unlimited imagination of the person who is sitting in the audience," he told the AP in 2015. "I like what the imagination does in the theater."

He explained that in one scene of "Phantom of the Opera" in London, candles come up at different times thanks to stage workers cranking ancient machinery, but on Broadway that function was automated.

"I would sit in the house and I'd see the candles come up. Something told me that was not as exciting as when the candles came up in London," he said. "So I said, 'Let's make this tiniest adjustment so they don't all come up at exactly the same time.' Now, no one knows that. No one could care less. But it meant something to me."

Prince worked for the expansive Canadian impresario Garth Drabinsky, overseeing productions of the Tony-winning "Kiss of the Spider Woman" (1993), a lavish remounting of "Show Boat" (1994) and a short-lived revival of "Candide" (1997).

Yet there were creative misfires, too. Among his more notorious flops was the five-performance "A Doll's Life," a musical follow-up to Ibsen's "A Doll's House." It began where the play ends, when Nora walks out on her husband. And Prince directed the American production of Lloyd Webber's "Whistle Down the Wind" (1997), which didn't get past its Washington tryout, although the London production, with a different director, had a longer run.

Prince also worked as an opera director, with productions at the Metropolitan Opera House, the Chicago Lyric Opera, New York City Opera, San Francisco Opera and more. And he directed two films, "Something for Everyone" (1970) and a screen version of "A Little Night Music" (1977).

"To be both a genius and a gentleman is rare and extraordinary," said Thomas Schumacher, chairman of The Broadway League. "Hal Prince's genius was matched by his generosity of spirit, particularly with those building a career."

Prince is survived by his wife of 56 years, Judy; his daughter, Daisy; his son, Charles; and his grandchildren, Phoebe, Lucy, and Felix.

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

## US records nearly 20 mass killings for the year so far

By MARTHA BELLISLE and MEGHAN HOYER Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — The U.S. has recorded nearly 20 mass killings so far this year, the majority of them domestic violence attacks that receive scant national attention compared to high-profile public shootings in recent years at schools, churches and concerts.

A database compiled by The Associated Press, Northeastern University and USA Today shows that the number of mass killings has held steady in 2019 compared with past years. But if the trend continues, the year could end with a lower death count because there have been fewer mass-casualty attacks such as those in Las Vegas, Parkland, Florida, and the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando.

Four mass shootings happened in public places so far this year, compared with 10 in 2018 and seven in 2017. But 2019 saw a big increase in the number of mass killings in domestic disputes, helping to keep this year's overall numbers similar to past years.

There have been 10 family mass killings this year; there were 10 during all of 2017.

In July alone, 13 people were slain in three killings involving domestic violence or drugs in Missouri, Wisconsin and Washington state, but those stories drew little attention. Meanwhile, a gunman killed three people and wounded 12 at a garlic festival in California, with smartphones and social media quickly spreading the word.

"There were more people killed in Wisconsin than in California," said Northeastern University professor James Alan Fox, referring to five family members killed Sunday in Wisconsin. "Three of the four were family members, so it doesn't get the same attention because people don't feel at risk."

The database examines every mass killing dating back to 2006 and tracks a number of variables for each. It counts killings involving four or more fatalities, not including the killer, the same standard used by the FBI.

Part of the problem with determining whether there are trends in mass shootings is "everyone has a different way of counting the data," said Adam Winkler, a law professor at the University of California, Los Angeles.

While the FBI defines a mass shooting as four or more dead, others use a standard of three dead, and some count injuries, he said.

"It's hard to imagine that you can shoot 12 people but it's not considered a mass shooting," Winkler said, referring to the attack Sunday at the Gilroy Garlic Festival that left three dead, not including the shooter, and 12 people wounded. That shooting is not included in the AP database.

Seven months into 2019, there have been 19 mass killings in the U.S., and all but three of them were carried out with guns.

The deadliest attack occurred May 31 at a government office in Virginia Beach, where a 40-year-old city employee walked through his office building with two .45-caliber pistols, killing 12 people before being fatally shot by police.

Many other shootings occurred under the radar.

A 26-year-old man went on a shooting spree in Southern California last week, killing his father, brother, a former girlfriend and a man at a gas station.

A man in Port Angeles, Washington, was charged with murder and arson after killing his wife and three children ages 9, 6 and 5 on July 6. He then set fire to their home.

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And federal prosecutors say four suspects are responsible for the shooting deaths of five people near Yakima, Washington.

Seventy-seven people have died this year in mass shootings that include family violence and other events, while 26 people were killed in mass shootings in public places, the data show.

That compares to previous years that were marked by killings with large victim counts but similar numbers of overall shootings. Forty-nine people were killed in the shooting at the Pulse nightclub in 2016 in Orlando. Fifty-nine people were killed at a country music concert in 2017 in Las Vegas.

Those shootings shocked the nation — especially in an era of social media and cellphone video that instantly captured the panic and mayhem.

"The ready availability of video does make mass shootings more poignant and powerful," said Adam Winkler, a law professor at the University of California, Los Angeles. "We are much more attuned to these mass shootings. They seem more prevalent."

Fox said the public mass shootings do not happen "all that often, but they certainly do shock us."

"The sound of gunfire replayed over and over has an impact," Fox said. "There hasn't been an increase except in fear."

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Follow Martha Bellisle on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/marthabellisle>

## Unopened 1987 Nintendo video game could sell for \$10,000

RENO, Nev. (AP) — An unopened copy of a 1987 cult-classic video game that a Nevada man found in the attic of his childhood home is expected to sell for up to \$10,000 at an online auction.

The boxed game cartridge of Nintendo's "Kid Icarus" was still in the bag with the receipt for \$38.45 from J.C. Penney's catalog department three decades earlier.

Scott Amos of Reno told the Reno Gazette Journal he initially thought it might be worth a couple hundred dollars.

But Valarie McLeckie, video game consignment director at Heritage Auctions, says it's one of the hardest Nintendo titles to find in sealed condition. She says there are fewer than 10 in the hands of vintage game collectors.

"To find a sealed copy 'in the wild,' so to speak, not to mention one in such a nice condition and one with such transparent provenance, is both an unusual and rather historic occurrence," she said. "We feel that the provenance will add a significant premium for serious collectors."

Wata Games, a video game grading service, gave Amos' copy a rating of 8.0 on a 10-point scale.

Amos said no one in the family has a recollection of purchasing the game, but the Dec. 8, 1988, purchase date hints it may have been intended as a Christmas present.

"I can remember the game. My neighbor down the street had it. I remember it being hard, and I was never that good of a gamer guy," he said. "All the family has been trying to come up with a hypothesis ... (My mom) thinks she put it there and never got it back out, and then it ended up in the attic."

The game, based loosely on Greek mythology, follows a cupid-like protagonist named Pit attempting to rescue Palutena, the goddess of light, who is imprisoned by the evil Medusa.

"Get ready for the action and adventure of Greek Mythology translated to the Video Age," the game's packaging says. "Will you survive to restore Palutena's light and return it to 'Angel Land'? Only you know."

The online auction closes Thursday.

If the sale goes as expected, it could net Amos and his family \$10,000. They're planning to have some fun with it.

"I have an older sister, too. We're splitting (the proceeds) 50-50," Amos said. "We're going to do a Disney World vacation next month."

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Information from: Reno Gazette-Journal, <http://www.rgj.com>

## UAE and Iran hold rare talks in Tehran on maritime security

By AMIR VAHDAT and AYA BATRAWY Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — For the first time in six years, officials from Iran and the United Arab Emirates met in Tehran to discuss maritime security amid an increase in tensions in the Persian Gulf, both countries confirmed Wednesday.

This week's meeting was significant because the UAE, a close ally of Iran's top rival Saudi Arabia, had downgraded ties with Tehran in 2016. Abu Dhabi, the UAE's seat of power, has long pushed for more hawkish U.S. policies toward Iran, including supporting tough American sanctions.

The UAE and Saudi Arabia have also been at war against Iran-aligned rebels in Yemen since 2015. In recent weeks, though, the UAE has pulled thousands of its troops from Yemen as it boosts security at home.

Recent confrontations in the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial oil shipping corridor, and fears of a wider conflict have prompted the UAE to call for de-escalation and diplomacy with Iran.

In recent months, the U.S. has boosted its military presence in the Persian Gulf while Iran has begun openly exceeding limits on its nuclear activities set in a 2015 accord with world powers. President Donald Trump withdrew the United States from that pact before imposing crippling sanctions on the country.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas told reporters Wednesday that his country would not be participating in a proposed U.S.-led mission to protect maritime traffic in the Persian Gulf area. Germany had previously expressed skepticism, saying that priority must be given to de-escalation of tensions and diplomatic efforts.

Several incidents have rattled maritime security in the region, starting with four oil tankers that were sabotaged off the UAE coast in May. In line with its calls for de-escalation, the UAE has declined to join Washington in blaming Iran for the attacks, which Tehran denies.

Earlier this month, Iran seized an Emirati-based ship it accused of illegally smuggling subsidized Iranian fuel abroad. The UAE has stressed the ship was neither owned nor operated by the state.

A day later, Iran seized a British-flagged oil tanker in the Strait of Hormuz in what some Iranian officials have suggested was retaliation for the seizure of an Iranian tanker by British authorities in Gibraltar.

An Emirati official said the Iran-UAE meeting focused on issues related to border security and navigation in shared waters, describing the talks as "nothing new" and unrelated to current tensions.

The official said there were periodic meetings scheduled between technical teams in both countries, and this was the sixth one to take place. The official was not authorized to discuss the talks with reporters and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The state-run IRAN daily reported that a seven-member delegation from Abu Dhabi met with Iranian border and coast guard commanders in Tehran on Tuesday in the first such meeting since 2013.

Another daily, Etemad, described the meeting as an effort to boost maritime security cooperation between the two countries. It reported that the Emirati delegation met Iran's police border guard commander, Gen. Ghasem Rezaei.

Despite pursuing rival policies in the region, the UAE and Iran have maintained links. The UAE has kept its embassy in Iran open, and Dubai remains a popular destination for Iranian tourists. Emirati citizens with Iranian heritage also maintain links with Iran, which operates a hospital, cultural club and school in Dubai.

News of the visit to Iran sparked a regional Twitter hashtag that read in Arabic: "Saudi Arabia discovers the Emirates' betrayal." It drew more than 73,000 tweets, but loyalists of both the Saudi and the UAE government quickly flooded the hashtag with videos and messages about the two countries' historic and fraternal ties.

Also Wednesday, Iran dismissed as a "hypocritical gesture" an offer by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to visit and address the Iranian people.

"You don't need to come to Iran," Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on the sidelines of a Cabinet meeting in remarks directed at Pompeo. He suggested Pompeo instead grant visas for Iranian reporters to travel to the U.S. and interview him, accusing him of having rejected their requests.

Zarif later tweeted that rather than make an "empty and disingenuous offer," Pompeo should accept any of the requests made by Iranian journalists to interview him and face their rigorous questioning.

On Monday, Pompeo tweeted: "We aren't afraid of (Zarif) coming to America where he enjoys the right to speak freely."

"Are the facts of the (Khamenei) regime so bad he cannot let me do the same thing in Tehran?" Pompeo said, referring to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. "What if his people heard the truth, unfiltered, unabridged?"

The Trump administration has said its policies are aimed at changing Iran's behavior in the region, not its government.

Zarif, a relative moderate within Iran's clerically overseen political system, was an architect of the nuclear agreement. The U.S. and Iran cut off all diplomatic relations after the 1979 Islamic Revolution, but the U.S. allows Iranian officials to visit United Nations headquarters in New York.

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Batrawy reported from Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

## Asian stocks follow Wall Street lower after Fed rate cut

By **JOE McDONALD AP Business Writer**

BEIJING (AP) — Asian stock markets followed Wall Street lower Thursday after the U.S. central bank cut its key interest rate but left investors uncertain about future reductions.

Benchmarks in Shanghai, Hong Kong and Australia tumbled while Tokyo was little-changed.

The Federal Reserve's quarter-point cut, its first in a decade, was widely expected. But Chairman Jerome Powell disappointed investors by saying at a news conference the central bank had no plans for a long cycle of lowering interest rates. He called Wednesday's cut a "mid-cycle adjustment."

Powell was "less dovish than expected," said Jingyi Pan of IG in a report. Pan said share prices declines reflect "significant disappointment" that the Fed wasn't "embarking on the beginning of a rate cut cycle."

The CME Fedwatch Tool, operated by CME Group Inc., said investors expect only one more U.S. rate cut of one-quarter point this year, down from previous expectations of two.

Powell's comments "suggested that the Fed is largely undetermined in their next steps," said Pan.

The Shanghai Composite Exchange lost 0.6% to 2,914.07 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng shed 0.6% to 27,627.66. Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 lost 0.2% to 6,795.70 and benchmarks in New Zealand, Taiwan and Southeast Asia also retreated.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 edged up 4 points to 21,525.85 and South Korea's Kospi gained 3 points to 2,028.44.

On Wall Street, the Standard & Poor's 500 index had its worst day in two months, falling 1.1% to 2,980.38. The index had hit an all-time high on Friday.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 1.2% to 26,864.27. The Nasdaq composite fell 1.2% to 8,175.42.

The Fed hopes the rate cut will counter threats to the U.S. economy ranging from uncertainties caused by the nation's trade disputes to chronically low inflation and a dimming global growth outlook.

Fed officials had signaled their readiness to take action to help shore up the U.S. growth, which faces threats from a tariff war with China.

Wednesday's cut was the first since December 2008 during the global financial crisis, when the Fed slashed its rate to a record low near zero and kept it there until 2015. After that, the Fed went on to make nine quarter-point rate increases from December 2015 to December 2018.

The 10-year Treasury yield fell to 2.01% from 2.06% late Tuesday, a big move. The two-year yield, which is more influenced by the Fed's movements, rose sharply to 1.86% from 1.83%.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude fell 68 cents to \$57.90 in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract gained 53 cents on Wednesday to close at \$58.58. Brent crude, used to price international oils, lost 70 cents to \$64.53 per barrel in London. It rose 42 cents the previous session to \$65.05.

CURRENCY: The dollar gained to 109.13 yen from Wednesday's 108.78 yen. The euro declined to \$1.1049 from \$1.1077.



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## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Aug. 1, the 213th day of 2019. There are 152 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 1, 1944, an uprising broke out in Warsaw, Poland, against Nazi occupation; the revolt lasted two months before collapsing.

On this date:

In 1714, Britain's Queen Anne died at age 49; she was succeeded by George I.

In 1876, Colorado was admitted as the 38th state.

In 1907, the U.S. Army Signal Corps established an aeronautical division, the forerunner of the U.S. Air Force.

In 1914, Germany declared war on Russia at the onset of World War I.

In 1936, the Olympics opened in Berlin with a ceremony presided over by Adolf Hitler.

In 1957, the United States and Canada announced they had agreed to create the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD).

In 1966, Charles Joseph Whitman, 25, went on an armed rampage at the University of Texas in Austin that killed 14 people, most of whom were shot by Whitman while he was perched in the clock tower of the main campus building. (Whitman, who had also slain his wife and mother hours earlier, was finally gunned down by police.)

In 1973, the movie "American Graffiti," directed by George Lucas, first opened.

In 1981, the rock music video channel MTV made its debut.

In 1994, Michael Jackson and Lisa Marie Presley confirmed they'd been secretly married 11 weeks earlier. (Presley filed for divorce from Jackson in Jan. 1996, citing irreconcilable differences.)

In 2007, the eight-lane Interstate 35W bridge, a major Minneapolis artery, collapsed into the Mississippi River during evening rush hour, killing 13 people.

In 2013, defying the United States, Russia granted Edward Snowden temporary asylum, allowing the National Security Agency leaker to slip out of the Moscow airport where he had been holed up for weeks.

Ten years ago: A fierce storm caused an outdoor stage at the Big Valley Jamboree in Camrose, Alberta, Canada, to collapse, killing one person and injuring dozens of others. A gunman opened fired at a gay youth center in Tel Aviv, Israel, killing two people. Former Philippine President Corazon Aquino, 76, died in Manila.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama, in a televised news conference, said that the United States had "tortured" al-Qaida detainees captured after 9/11, adding, "We did some things that were contrary to our values." Congress approved a \$225 million package to replenish Israel's missile defense system known as Iron Dome. A medical examiner ruled that a New York City police officer's chokehold caused the death of Eric Garner, whose videotaped arrest and final pleas of "I can't breathe!" had sparked outrage.

One year ago: The remains of dozens of presumed casualties of the Korean War were returned to U.S. soil; in an emotional ceremony in Hawaii, military members carried 55 boxes draped with American flags off two military transport planes. Ohio State University put football coach Urban Meyer on paid leave amid claims that his wife knew about allegations of domestic violence against an assistant coach years before the staff member was fired.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Ramblin' Jack Elliott is 88. Former Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, R-N.Y., is 82. Actor Giancarlo Giannini is 77. Basketball Hall of Fame coach Roy Williams is 69. Blues singer-musician Robert Cray is 66. Singer Michael Penn is 61. Rock singer Joe Elliott (Def Leppard) is 60. Rock singer-musician Suzi Gardner (L7) is 59. Rapper Chuck D (Public Enemy) is 59. Actor Jesse Borrego is 57. Actor Demian Bichir is 56. Rapper Coolio is 56. Actor John Carroll Lynch is 56. Rock singer Adam Duritz (Counting Crows) is 55. Movie director Sam Mendes is 54. Country singer George Ducas is 53. Country musician Charlie Kelley is 51. Actress Jennifer Gareis is 49. Actor Charles Malik Whitfield is 47. Actress Tempestt Bledsoe is 46. Actor

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Jason Momoa is 40. Actress Honeysuckle Weeks is 40. Singer Ashley Parker Angel is 38. Actress Taylor Fry is 38. Actor Elijah Kelley is 33. Actor James Francis Kelly is 30. Actress Ella Wahlestedt is 21.

Thought for Today: "As scarce as truth is, the supply is always greater than the demand." — "Josh Billings" (Henry Wheeler Shaw), American author (1818-1885).