

# Groton Daily Independent

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

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

## Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Swimming Pool Hours

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

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

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

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

### 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.

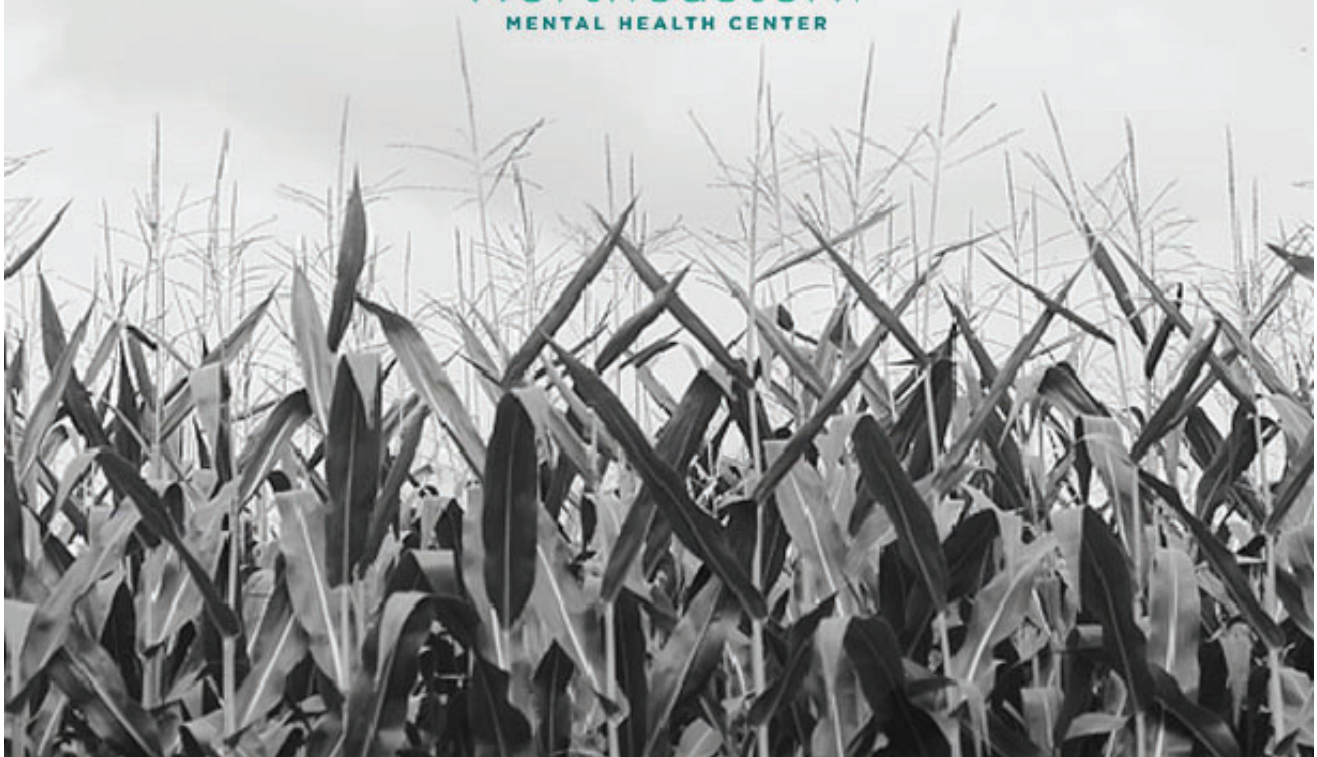
We're here to help.

**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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## **Pet Owners Should Be Aware of Blue-Green Algae**

PIERRE, S.D. – As the “dog days” of summer roll on, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) officials would like to warn pet owners of blue-green algae blooms appearing in ponds and lakes across the state.

“Blue-green algae blooms happen every year when summer really gets hot,” said GFP regional fisheries manager Mark Ermer. “It’s nearly impossible to tell if algae in a pond or lake are poisonous or not, so we recommend not letting dogs swim in a body of water that has a visible layer of thick, floating algae on the surface. Even one drink of water that has a blue-green algae bloom can be fatal for dogs.”

Though most often a blue-green color, the algae can also be blue, green, reddish-purple or brown.

“Blue-green algae blooms are caused by cyanobacteria, which grow particularly well in slow-moving or stagnant water with high phosphorus or nitrogen content,” said Mendel Miller, South Dakota Assistant State Veterinarian. “Some of these cyanobacteria may produce dangerous toxins which, if ingested, can lead to liver or nervous system damage in animals. These toxins cause serious damage quickly, so prompt medical care is critical following potential exposures.”

Because it is not easy to tell if an algae bloom is producing toxins, it is best to avoid all water where cyanobacteria appear to be present.

“If you think you or your pet has come into contact with blue-green algae, contact your doctor or veterinarian immediately,” Miller said. “Symptoms of blue-green algae poisoning include, lethargy, the inability to walk, hyper-salivating, weakness, vomiting, diarrhea, pale gums, shock, seizures, loss of appetite, tremors and difficulty breathing.”

The toxins can also be present in fish caught during a bloom, though research has shown the concentrations of toxins are higher in the organs of fish than in the muscle tissue or fillets. Toxin levels decrease after an algae bloom has ended, but fish consumption from lakes experiencing a high algae bloom should be limited.

Anyone observing what they believe is a harmful algae bloom should contact their local GFP office or the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources at 605.773.4729.

## **Amateur Baseball Regional Games**

Round 1:

Redfield 14

Groton Posse 4

Groton Locke Electric 7

Northville Merchants 9

Round 2

Redfield 9

Northville 0

Groton Locke Electric 5

Groton Posse 0

Groton Locke Electric plays Northville today at 6:30. Winner advances to championship vs Redfield right after.

Groton Locke Electric, Northville, and Redfield all advance to state.

Games may be postponed today due to weather.

## **Brown County 4-H Royalty**

We are excited to announce that we have two candidates for 4-H Queen and two candidates for 4-H King this year! McKenzie Hassebroek, Tessa Erdmann, Travis Sharp and Spencer Heupel are the Royalty candidates for the 2019 Brown County Fair. We will crown 4-H Royalty on Thursday, August 15th, 2019 at 6:00 pm following the Fashion Revue Show in the Ken's tent.

McKenzie Hassebroek has been part of 4-H for 12 years and is a member of Rural Lads and Lassies club. McKenzie is active in clothing and textiles, poultry and eggs and sheep and wool

Tessa Erdmann has been part of 4-H for 9 years and is a member of the Lazy Farmers club. Tessa has participated in Beef, Meat Goat and clothing and textiles.

Travis Sharp has been part of 4-H for 9 years and is a member of the Dakota Sharpshooters club. Travis is active in Automotive, small and tractor engines, Dairy cattle, and Welding Science.

Spencer Heupel has been involved in 4-H for 9 years and is a member of the Dream Reachers club. Spencer is involved in electricity, hobbies and collections, and shooting sports.



## S.D. Farmers Union Meets with EPA Director to Discuss E30

HURON, S.D. - South Dakota Farmers Union, together with leaders from 13 South Dakota agriculture organizations, sat down with Gregory Sopkin, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regional Administrator for District eight to discuss challenges facing South Dakota farmers and ranchers, as well as opportunities to be found through expanded support for higher ethanol blends. The August 1, 2019 South Dakota Ag Roundtable was hosted in Sioux Falls by South Dakota Corn.

"This was a valuable opportunity to provide the farmers' story and give the EPA a chance to put a face to that story," explains Doug Sombke, President of S.D. Farmers Union.

Stories like the one shared by a young farmer who participated in the roundtable. "He did a good job describing what it is like as a young farmer. He's the same age as my son. He shared that there are no markets. All he and other farmers want is to have their markets back. One of the best ways to do this is through ethanol and distillers grains," explains Sombke, a fourth-generation Conde farmer.

Because of the local marketing opportunities it provides for South Dakota farmers, supporting ethanol has been a focus of South Dakota Farmers Union policy for more than 30 years. Sombke says it was encouraging to hear other organization's support for expanding the state's ethanol industry through increased sales of higher ethanol blends, like E30. "During the discussion, the comment was made that young farmers are going broke and E15 isn't going to cut it," Sombke shares.

Prior to the roundtable, Sopkin traveled to Watertown to tour Glacial Lakes Energy Cooperative ethanol plants and learn about how the cooperative bolstered local sales of E30 600 percent through an educational campaign, the E30 Challenge.

"The Administration has been trying to help farmers. One way is to expand use of E15. I received education on possibilities of E30 and what a community is doing to promote E30," Sopkin shared. "When I was at Glacial Lakes Energy, many in the community showed up to say how they used E30 in non-flex fuel vehicles and in general, they had a positive experience."

Hearing Sopkin's words, SDFU Executive Director Karla Hofhenke says she is optimistic about the future growth of the state's ethanol industry. "We've worked for decades lobbying for ethanol use to be part of policy dealing with clean air and the environment. It's not easy because our largest competitor is Big Oil.



**Doug Sombke (left), President of South Dakota Farmers Union, together with leaders from 13 South Dakota agriculture organizations, sat down with Gregory Sopkin (right), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regional Administrator for District eight to discuss challenges facing South Dakota farmers and ranchers, as well as opportunities to be found through expanded support for higher ethanol blends. The August 1, 2019 South Dakota Ag Roundtable was hosted in Sioux Falls by South Dakota Corn.**

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But, after Administrator Sopkin's tour of Glacial Lakes and meeting with leaders of ag organizations who shared that one way the President can support farmers is through his support of E30, I am hopeful."

## **Support in tough times**

Hope is also a word Sombke used when reflecting on the discussion. "Unity was demonstrated today. On the surface, we each have different focuses, but overall, the work we do boils down to supporting South Dakota's farmers and ranchers. We're like a family. We may not always get along, but in tough times, we are here for each other. I felt that today," Sombke says.

Sombke explains that in his role, he visits with farmers and ranchers daily and hears how the current depressed ag economy impacts their lives. "This is the worst I've seen South Dakota's agriculture economy, and I started farming in the 80s."

Also, during the roundtable, a participant shared that they talked with a South Dakota lawyer who typically works on three to five farm bankruptcies a year, and as of January 2019, the lawyer is working on 52 cases.

"It was encouraging to sit beside other leaders and know that we are all working together," Sombke says. E30 was not the only opportunity discussed. Land stewardship and farmers and ranchers' work to improve soil health were also topics brought up.

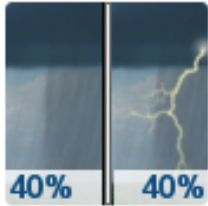
"Communicating with the EPA how South Dakota's farmers and ranchers care for the land and its resources is important," Sombke explained. "It's our land and our livelihood."

To learn more about how South Dakota Farmers Union supports the state's family farmers and ranchers, visit [www.sdfu.org](http://www.sdfu.org).

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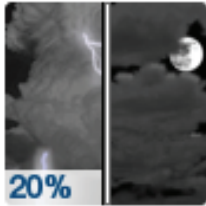
Today



Chance  
Showers then  
Chance  
T-storms

**High: 80 °F**

Tonight



Slight Chance  
T-storms then  
Mostly Cloudy

**Low: 63 °F**

Saturday



Mostly Sunny

**High: 84 °F**

Saturday  
Night



Mostly Clear

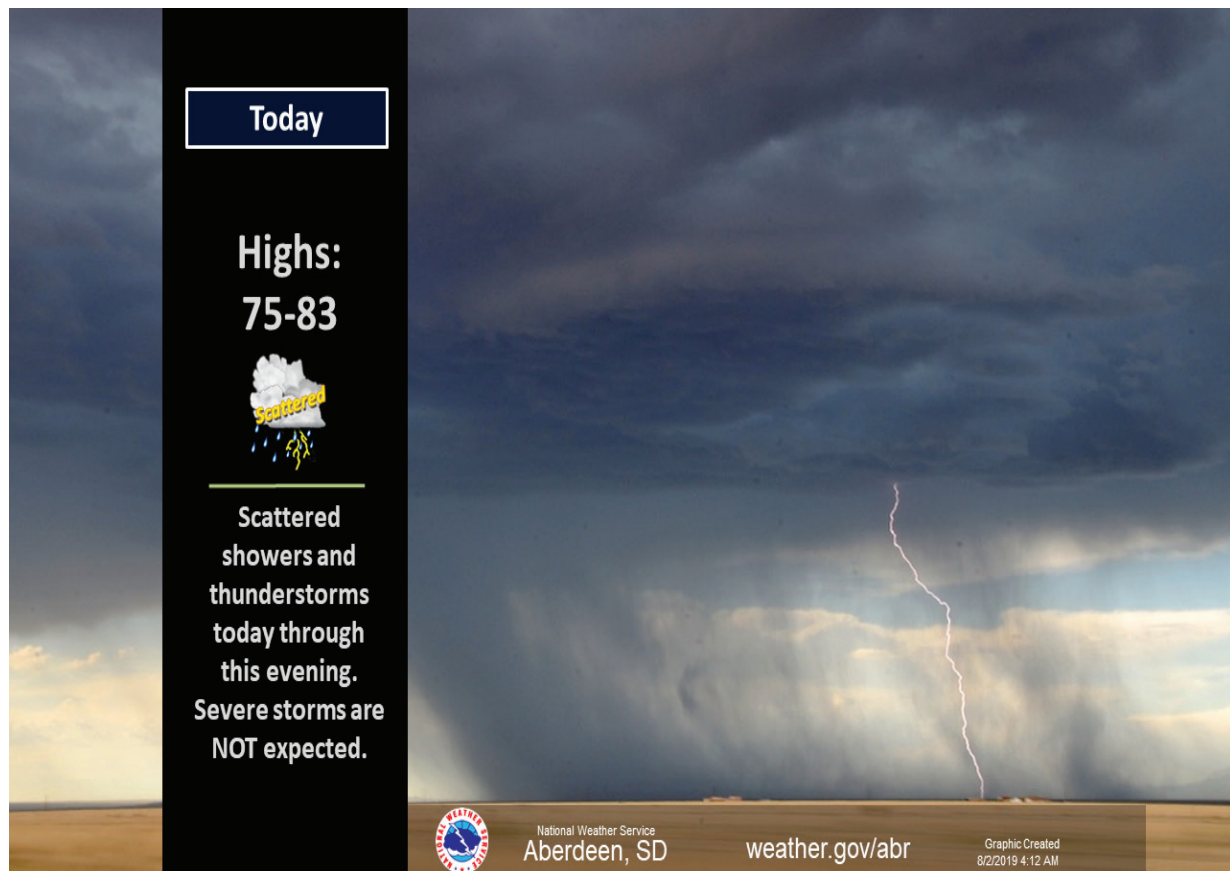
**Low: 65 °F**

Sunday




Sunny

**High: 87 °F**



**Today**

**Highs:  
75-83**



Scattered  
showers and  
thunderstorms  
today through  
this evening.  
Severe storms are  
NOT expected.

National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD  
weather.gov/abr

Graphic Created  
8/2/2019 4:12 AM

Published on: 08/02/2019 at 12:16AM

A storm system will bring scattered showers and thunderstorms to the area today into this evening. Severe storms are not expected. High temperatures will range in the mid-70s, to the lower 80s. Dry conditions are expected on Saturday.

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## Today in Weather History

August 2, 1960: Hail, the size of a hen egg caused moderate damage to a total loss of corn, soybean, and grain crops on 50 to 75 farms in Marshall, Roberts, and Grant Counties. High winds caused damage to buildings and uprooted trees in Britton.

1985: A strong and sudden wind gusts cause a plane crash at the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport in Texas that kills 135 people. The rapid and unexpected formation of a supercell, an incredibly powerful form of a thunderstorm, led to the tragedy. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the History Channel.

2006: Johannesburg, South Africa residents see snow flurries for the first time in at least eight years.

1954 - Severe thunderstorms produced golf ball size hail for thirty minutes in north central Kansas. One drift measured 200 feet long, seventy feet wide and three feet deep. (The Weather Channel)

1975 - Record heat gripped New England. Highs of 104 degrees at Providence, RI, and 107 degrees at Chester and New Bedford, MA, established state records. The heat along the coast of Maine was unprecedented, with afternoon highs of 101 degrees at Bar Harbor and 104 degrees at Jonesboro. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Hot weather continued in the central U.S. Fifteen cities reported record high temperatures for the date, including Concordia KS with a reading of 106 degrees, and Downtown Kansas City, MO, with a high of 105 degrees. Evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in the Ohio Valley and the north central U.S. Thunderstorms in South Dakota produced wind gusts to 70 mph at Philip, and hail two inches in diameter at Faulkton. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Searing heat continued from the Middle and Upper Mississippi Valley to the Middle and Northern Atlantic Coast States. Twenty-six cities reported record high temperatures for the date. Chicago IL reported a record seven days of 100 degree heat for the year. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Low pressure representing the remains of Hurricane Chantal deluged north central Texas with heavy rain. Up to 6.50 inches drenched Stephens County, and Wichita Falls reported 2.22 inches of rain in just one hour. Bismarck, ND, reported a record warm morning low of 75 degrees, and record hot afternoon high of 101 degrees, and evening thunderstorms in North Dakota produced wind gusts to 78 mph at Lakota. Early evening thunderstorms in Florida produced high winds which downed trees at Christmas. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)



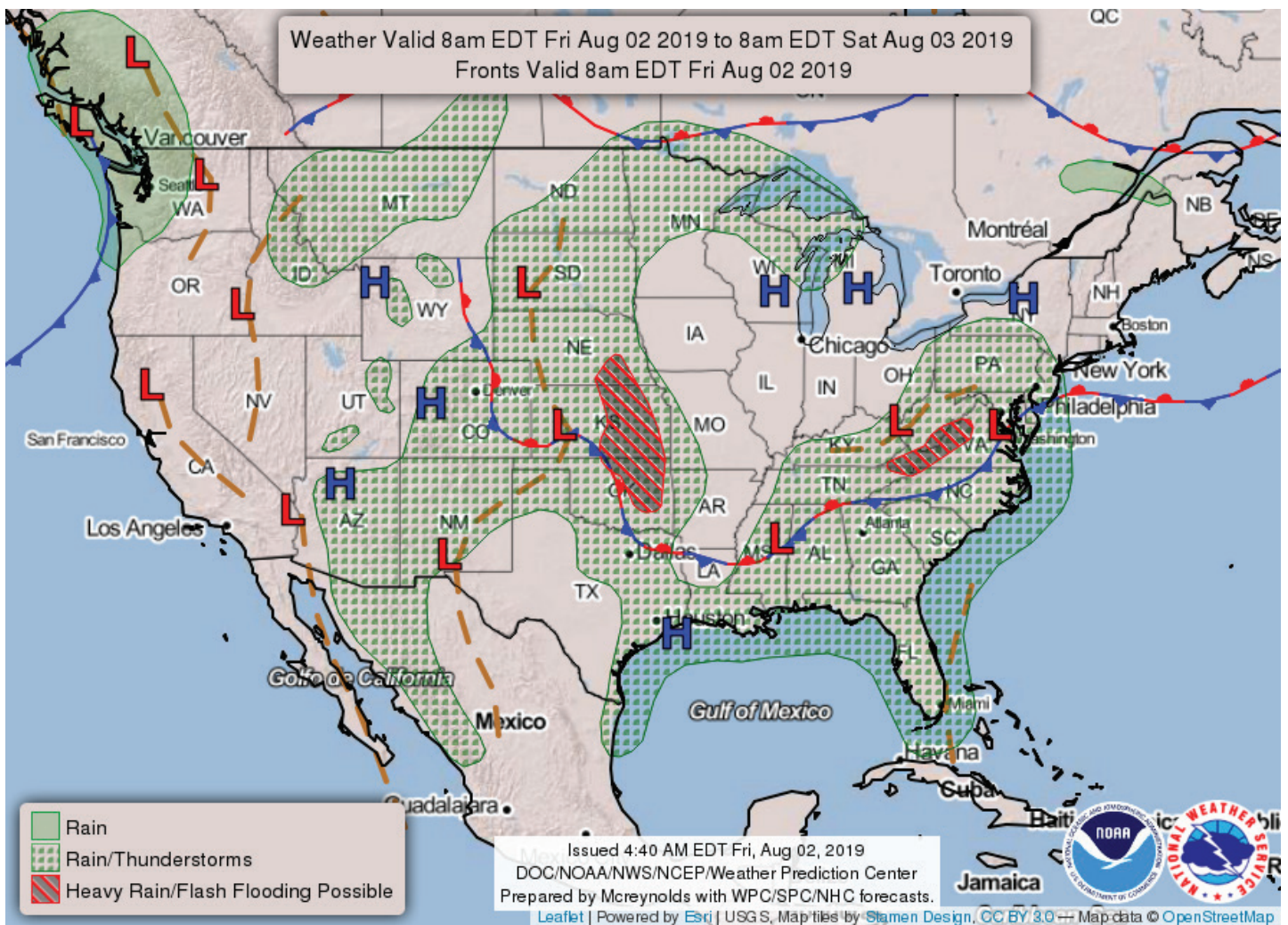
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp:** 81 °F at 4:08 PM  
**Low Temp:** 66 °F at 4:37 AM  
**Wind:** 16 mph at 9:14 AM  
**Day Rain:** 0.18 this morning

**Record High:** 105° in 1938, 1930  
**Record Low:** 40° in 1971, 2018  
**Average High:** 84°F  
**Average Low:** 59°F  
**Average Precip in Aug.:** 0.08  
**Precip to date in July.:** 4.05  
**Average Precip to date:** 13.94  
**Precip Year to Date:** 16.77  
**Sunset Tonight:** 9:01 p.m.  
**Sunrise Tomorrow:** 6:20 a.m.



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## APPLES OF GOLD

Words wound and leave scars. Words are often used by design to discredit or destroy the hopes and dreams of another. Words are often spoken with disgust and disapproval intending to hurt or harm a persons best intentions or desires. Words can be cruel and hateful, spiteful and repulsive. They can be disastrous to a persons reputation and future goals.

But words can also be blessings and bring hope and encouragement. A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver. What a thought-provoking scene. Imagine if you will, fruit carved from gold by a craftsman and then placed in a brightly polished bowl made from silver - a sight that would excite the senses and bring feelings of amazement.

The phrase A word aptly spoken suggests saying the right thing at the right time in the right place. It may be sharing a verse of Scripture with a loved one as they are passing through a difficult experience. It may be sharing words of comfort and hope, encouragement and support or wiping tears that are flowing from the eyes of one who is experiencing the loss of a loved one and is unable to deal with the grim realities of grief. One thing is certain: Not all words fit all occasions. Not all words are good for all occasions. There are times to speak and times to be silent. There are times to talk and even more times to listen. It is the caring heart with the love of God flowing through it to others in their time of need that becomes a word aptly spoken.

Prayer: Lord, use our mouths to speak words of kindness and comfort to those who are in pain or may be suffering. May we bring them help, hope, and healing. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 25:11 A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.

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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

### **Culvert in washout that killed 2 was overdue for maintenance**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A culvert that washed out from under a highway on the Standing Rock Reservation in July, killing two people when they drove into the chasm, had been identified for replacement seven years ago.

Ron His Horse Is Thunder, the tribe's director of transportation and planning, tells the Bismarck Tribune that the culvert was bowing but not considered dangerous.

The culvert and road above it eroded after a 7-inch rain fell. His Horse Is Thunder says that scouring caused the culvert to collapse, rather than the structure failing.

But His Horse Is Thunder said the culvert is a symptom of a lack of funding for many road projects on reservation land.

A 60-year-old woman and a 65-year-old man, both from Mobridge, S.D., died after the roadway failed.

Information from: Bismarck Tribune, <http://www.bismarcktribune.com>

### **'Basketball or Nothing' covers hoop dreams on Navajo Nation**

By **RUSSELL CONTRERAS** Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — High school basketball fans in Arizona and New Mexico likely know all about "rez ball" — a run-and-gun, pass-cut-and-shoot style of play popular in Native American communities. The style excites fans and allows teams without big centers to wear down opponents by running them off the court with speed and strong shooting.

The best practitioners of rez ball help build community in some of the most isolated towns in the American Southwest. Fans travel for hours to see the games, while others listen to radio broadcasts spoken in Native American languages.

A new Netflix docuseries "Basketball or Nothing" examines the hoop dreams of one such team from a rural, Arizona town in the heart of the Navajo Nation.

The series, set to debut Friday on the streaming service, follows the Chinle High School boys' basketball team as it seeks to capture the community's first state title. But to get there, the players must battle normal teen pressures and the realities that surround them in the nation's largest Native American reservation.

Through the eyes and words of Wildcats coach Raul Mendoza and his players, the series documents how their isolation and experiences in one of the poorest regions of the country have shaped them. The teens speak on living in homes without basic services. Filmmakers show them traveling for hours across the state for games and returning home after midnight while resting on cold bus windows.

Basketball is a diversion, team member Josiah Tsosie says, but also a chance to hope. "We always dream big," he tells filmmakers.

At practice, the players imitate the moves of Golden State Warrior point guard Stephen Curry or then-Duke standout Zion Williamson, who would become the No. 1 pick of the 2019 NBA draft.

But will the team overcome its past of never achieving a basketball state title for the town of 4,500 people?

Can Mendoza, a member of the Tohono O'odham tribe in Arizona, convince his young men to suppress their disadvantages and focus on perfecting their advantages — for the season and life?

"There's really nothing going on in Chinle," die-hard fan Mo Draper says in the opening of the series. "(There're) no clubs, no dance, no movie theatres. There's really no outlet for the kids or the adults."

That's why Chinle basketball is an addiction, Draper said, but one that brings happiness.

Or pain if the team sees another losing season.

PGA golfer Rickie Fowler, who served as an executive producer and whose grandmother is Navajo, told The Associated Press that he joined the project to show audiences the obstacles high school students



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face on the reservation.

"It was something for me to give back to my Navajo side," said Fowler, who grew up in California. "But I also wanted to show the hardship of what the rez is all about (and) bring awareness...it will be eye-opening."

Co-director and executive producer Matt Howley said he got the idea for the film after watching an online video about rez ball and reading a New York Times profile on Mendoza.

Yet, he didn't want to be another outsider coming into a Native American community with assumptions and stereotypes. So, Howley and the film crew opted to skip a narrator and only allow the people of Chinle to speak.

"It was important to let them tell their own story," Howley said.

To do that, filmmakers had to stop shooting for a while and gain the trust of the players, Howley said. "After a week or two," the players allowed filmmakers inside their homes.

The docuseries couldn't escape issues of life on the reservation: poverty, health care, addiction. However, Howley said he left it up to the players and their coach to discuss the subjects.

Fowler said the realities of the reservation are often on his mind when he's traveling around the world to compete in golf majors. "It's a part of who am I," said Fowler, who helps out golfer Notah Begay III with his foundation to tackle Native American obesity and type 2 diabetes. Begay is Navajo, San Felipe and Isleta.

In the first episode, Mendoza races to prepare the players for their opening game against a taller Snowflake, Arizona, team. The Wildcats have to travel two hours to get there.

"Don't take the first shot they give you," he tells them during the game. "Take the shot you want."

It's an ongoing theme he will stress throughout the series. Play rez ball but with structure, and you'll be in a position to win today. And if you win today, you can win tomorrow.

And the next day. And the next day.

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

## 10 years in prison for distributing methamphetamine

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls woman has been sentenced to 10 years in federal prison for distributing methamphetamine.

The U.S. Attorney's Office says 42-year-old Dixie Leigh Murphy received several pounds of meth from co-conspirators that she distributed in Sioux Falls.

U.S. District Judge Karen Schreier also sentenced Murphy to five years of supervised release. Murphy pleaded guilty to conspiring to distribute meth in April.

## Midwest economy: July state-by-state glance

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The Institute for Supply Management, formerly the Purchasing Management Association, began formally surveying its membership in 1931 to gauge business conditions.

The Creighton Economic Forecasting Group uses the same methodology as the national survey to consult supply managers and business leaders. Creighton University economics professor Ernie Goss oversees the report.

The overall index ranges between 0 and 100. Growth neutral is 50, and a figure greater than 50 indicates growth in that factor over the next three to six months.

Here are the state-by-state results for July:

Arkansas: Arkansas' overall index plummeted to 51.0 last month from June's 60.1. Index components were new orders at 48.7, production or sales at 52.4, delivery lead time at 54.0, inventories at 46.7 and employment at 53.2. Recent surveys indicate that manufacturers in the state were experiencing solid gains in economic activity. "U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data show that workers in the state have experienced a strong 5.2% gain in hourly wages over the past 12 months, well above the national gain of 3.2%," Goss said.

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Iowa: The state's overall index rose to 52.6, compared with 50.4 in June. Index components for July were new orders at 52.6, production or sales at 52.2, delivery lead time at 54.1, employment at 56.6 and inventories at 47.2. Recent surveys indicate that manufacturers were experiencing gains in economic activity. Federal data shows Iowa workers have experienced a 3.1% increase in hourly wages over the past 12 months, slightly below the national gain of 3.1% over the same period, he said.

Kansas: Kansas' overall index plunged to 52.1 in July from June's regional high of 62.9. Index components were new orders at 54.7, production or sales at 51.7, delivery lead time at 51.7, employment at 57.2 and inventories at 45.2. Recent surveys show gains in manufacturers' economic activity. Federal data shows that workers have experienced a 5.4% gain in hourly wages over the past 12 months, well above the national gain of 3.2%, Goss said.

Minnesota: The state's overall index fell in July to 51.7 from 53.4 in June. Index components were new orders at 50.0, production or sales at 52.6, delivery lead time at 53.8, inventories at 46.2 and employment at 55.9. Recent surveys indicate that durable-goods manufacturers were experiencing slow to no gains in economic activity. Nondurable-goods producers experienced slightly negative economic conditions in recent months. Federal data shows that Minnesota workers have experienced a 3.6% increase in hourly wages over the past 12 months.

Missouri: Missouri's overall index slumped to 51.9 last month from June's 59.9. Index components were new orders at 51.8, production or sales at 51.4, delivery lead time at 48.8, inventories at 50.0 and employment at 57.5. Recent surveys show that manufacturers were experiencing solid gains in economic activity. Federal statistics show that workers have experienced a weak 2.7% gain in hourly wages over the past 12 months, well below the national gain of 3.2%, Goss said.

Nebraska: After falling below growth neutral in May, Nebraska's overall index remained above the growth neutral threshold of 50.0 for a second straight month. However, it dropped to 52.9 in July from 55.9 in June. Index components were new orders at 53.4, production or sales at 52.0, delivery lead time at 54.3, inventories at 47.9 and employment at 56.8. "Recent surveys indicate that durable-goods producers, including machinery manufacturers, experienced declines in economic activity. On the other hand, nondurable-goods producers, including food manufactures, are experiencing solid gains in economic activity," Goss said. Federal data shows that workers have experienced a 3.1% increase in hourly wages over the past 12 months, slightly below the national gain of 3.2%, he said.

North Dakota: The state's overall index rose slightly. It hit 55.4 in July, compared with 55.0 in June. Index components were new orders at 54.0, production or sales at 55.6, delivery lead time at 58.5, employment at 57.0 and inventories at 52.0. "Recent surveys indicate that durable-goods producers, including machinery manufacturers, are experiencing solid gains in business activity. On the other hand, nondurable-goods producers, including food manufacturers, are experiencing slight declines in economic activity," he said. Federal statistics show North Dakota workers have experienced a solid 4.6% increase in hourly wages over the past 12 months.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma's overall index dropped to 52.8 last month from June's 54.9. Index components were new orders at 53.2, production or sales at 52.1, delivery lead time at 54.3, inventories at 47.7 and employment at 56.8. Recent surveys indicated that manufacturers experienced business pullbacks in economic activity, Goss said. Federal data shows that workers have experienced a strong 4.5% increase in hourly wages over the past 12 months.

South Dakota: The state's overall index fell to 52.5 last month from June's 54.1. Index components were new orders at 52.6, production or sales at 52.3, delivery lead time at 47.2, inventories at 47.2 and employment at 56.6. Recent surveys indicate that manufacturers were experiencing solid gains in economic activity. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data shows that workers have experienced a weak 2.5% gain in hourly wages over the past 12 months, well below the national gain of 3.2%, he said.

## Pro-EU party wins, cuts Johnson's UK Parliament margin to 1

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Brexit-backing Conservative Party lost a special election Friday to a pro-EU opposition candidate, leaving Johnson with only a one-vote majority in Parliament as the U.K.'s departure from the European Union looms.

In the Conservatives' first electoral test since Johnson became prime minister last month on a vow to complete Brexit "do or die," the party was defeated for the seat of Brecon and Radnorshire in Wales by Jane Dodds of the Liberal Democrats. Dodds won 43% of the vote, against 39% for Conservative Chris Davies, who fought to retain the seat after being convicted and fined for expenses fraud.

Dodds urged the prime minister to rule out leaving the EU without a divorce agreement, saying "a no-deal Brexit would be a disaster" for agricultural areas like her constituency some 175 miles (280 kilometers) west of London.

Sheep farmers in Wales worry that, without a Brexit deal, steep tariffs on lamb exports will devastate their business.

Johnson won a Conservative Party leadership race by vowing that Britain will leave the European Union on Oct. 31, with or without a divorce deal. But he faces opposition from Parliament, and the by-election result makes it even harder for the government to pass laws and win votes in the 90 days before the Brexit deadline.

The outcome also reflects the seismic effect the U.K.'s decision three years ago to leave the 28-nation EU has had on the country's politics, with voters increasingly split into pro-Brexit and pro-EU camps.

The centrist Liberal Democrats have seen their support surge because of their call for the U.K. to remain in the bloc. In European Parliament elections in May, the party took 20% of U.K. votes, trouncing both the Conservatives and the main opposition Labour Party, whose leadership is divided over Brexit.

Labour won just 5% of the votes in Brecon. The Liberal Democrats made a pact with two other pro-EU parties, which did not run to give Dodds a better chance.

The Conservatives, meanwhile, lost support to the Brexit Party led by longtime euroskeptic figurehead Nigel Farage, which took 10% of the votes.

The Conservatives lack an overall majority in the House of Commons, and rely on an alliance with 10 lawmakers from Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party. The loss of the Brecon seat leaves the governing alliance with 320 of the 639 voting lawmakers — the bare minimum needed to carry votes.

The loss illustrates the risks of Johnson's hard-line stance on Brexit. It comes after a week that saw the new prime minister booed by pro-independence protesters in Scotland, criticized by Welsh farmers and accused by Northern Ireland politicians of destabilizing the economy and the peace process with his willingness to opt for a no-deal exit.

Johnson insists that he wants a Brexit deal, but is demanding that the EU make major changes to the divorce agreement it struck with his predecessor Theresa May, which was rejected three times by Britain's Parliament. The EU is adamant that it won't renegotiate.

Johnson argues that a no-deal Brexit will be "vanishingly inexpensive" if Britain prepares properly. This week the government set aside 2 billion pounds (\$2.4 billion) for no-deal measures including more border officers and stockpiling essential medicines.

Economists say no amount of preparation can eliminate the shock if Britain crashes out the EU's single market without a transition period or framework of new trade rules.

A slide prepared for the government outlining worst-case scenarios in the day, week and month after a no-deal Brexit mentioned "potential consumer panic and food shortages" and "possible increased risk of serious organized crime including people smuggling and illegal migration."

The slide was published by Sky News, which said it was drawn up before May left office last month. The government said it would not comment on leaked documents.

Bank of England Governor Mark Carney said a no-deal Brexit would deliver an "instantaneous shock" to the economy in which the pound would fall, prices would rise, GDP would slow and many businesses

could face ruin.

"There are some very big industries in this country where that which is highly profitable becomes not profitable, becomes uneconomic, and very difficult decisions will need to be taken," Carney told the BBC on Friday.

Meanwhile a volatile political situation has become even more unpredictable.

Parliament voted in the past against Britain leaving the EU without an agreement, and is likely to try again in the fall to thwart Johnson's plans.

Faced with obstructive lawmakers, Johnson could gamble on an early election in hope of winning more seats. The opposition could also call for a no-confidence vote that could topple the government and trigger an early general election.

The Liberal Democrats hope their staunch opposition to Brexit will let them shed their perennial third-party status. Jo Swinson, the 39-year-old Scottish lawmaker who was elected party leader last month, said the Brecon result sent a "really clear message that the country doesn't have to settle for Boris Johnson or (Labour leader) Jeremy Corbyn."

But political experts advise caution. The Liberal Democrats have surged before, notably in 2010 when the party ended up with 57 seats and formed a coalition government with the Conservatives.

A backlash followed after the government slashed public spending and tripled university tuition fees — overturning a key Liberal Democrat campaign pledge. Many Lib Dem voters felt betrayed. At the next election in 2015 they won just eight seats.

Rob Ford, professor of politics at the University of Manchester, said the Brecon result was "unambiguously good news for the Lib Dems," but Britain's political volatility made it impossible to say whether it would lead to a breakthrough for the party.

"This a very small straw in a very strong wind," he said.

Follow AP's full coverage of Brexit at: <https://www.apnews.com/Brexit>

## **Saudi Arabia allows women to travel without male consent**

**By AYA BATRAWY Associated Press**

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Saudi Arabia on Friday published new laws that loosen restrictions on women by allowing all citizens — women and men alike — to apply for a passport and travel freely, ending a long-standing guardianship policy that had controlled women's freedom of movement.

The new laws, a potential game-changer for Saudi women's rights, are to go into effect by the end of the month.

The kingdom's legal system has long been criticized because it treated adult women as minors, requiring they have a man's consent to obtain a passport or travel abroad. Often a woman's male guardian is her father or husband, and in some cases a woman's son.

The changes were widely celebrated by Saudis on Twitter, with many posting memes showing people dashing to the airport with luggage and others hailing the 33-year-old crown prince believed to be the force behind these moves. But the changes also drew backlash from conservatives, who posted clips of senior Saudi clerics in past years arguing in favor of guardianship laws.

Other changes issued in the decrees allow women to register a marriage, divorce or a child's birth, and obtain official family documents, which could ease hurdles women faced in obtaining a national identity card and enrolling their children in school.

Women are now also allowed to be legal guardians of their children, a right previously held only by men.

Still in place, however, are rules that require male consent for a woman to leave prison, exit a domestic abuse shelter or marry. Women, unlike men, still cannot pass on citizenship to their children and cannot provide consent for their children to marry.

Under the kingdom's guardianship system, women essentially relied on the "good will" and whims of male relatives to determine the course of their lives. There were cases, for example, of young Saudi women



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whose parents are divorced, but whose father is the legal guardian, being unable to accept scholarships to study abroad because they did not have permission to travel.

Amnesty International said Friday a lot remains to be done for women's rights in Saudi Arabia but that the new laws could ease the guardianship system. Guardianship laws have "been a stifling system in the daily lives of women in Saudi Arabia," said Lynn Malouf, Mideast's research director at Amnesty.

"These reforms really are a testament to the work of the brave activism and the suffering and the ordeals" Saudi women and men fought for in their calls for reform, she added.

Saudi women fleeing domestic abuse and the guardianship system occasionally drew international attention to their plight, as 18-year-old Rahaf al-Qunun did before Canada granted her asylum. The stories of runaway women have created a flurry of negative headlines for the kingdom.

To leave the country, some Saudi women say they had to hack into their father's phone and change the settings on a government app to allow themselves permission to leave the country. There were calls in Washington for Google and Apple to block access to the app entirely.

In a lengthy study of Saudi male guardianship laws in 2016, Human Rights Watch criticized it as "system that was ripe for abuse."

The new rules, approved by King Salman and his Cabinet, allow any person 21 and older to travel abroad without prior consent and any citizen to apply for a Saudi passport on their own.

The decrees, issued Wednesday, were made public before dawn Friday in the kingdom's official weekly Um al-Qura gazette. The government said Friday the new rules would be in effect by the end of August.

A number of sweeping changes have been promoted by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman as he drives an ambitious economic reform plan that encourages more women to enter the workforce. He was behind lifting the ban on women driving last year, loosening rules on gender segregation and bringing concerts and movie theaters to the country.

He has also led a simultaneous crackdown on activists, including detaining the country's leading women's rights activists who had demanded an end to the very male guardianship rules now being curtailed. The women, among them Loujain al-Hathloul, are facing trial and allege they were tortured in prison.

The crown prince continues to face widespread international criticism over the killing of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi at the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul last year. Saudi Arabia has denied any involvement by the prince but its own investigation acknowledged the operation was planned by two of the prince's top aides.

Saudi newspaper Arab News noted that in the segment on travel, the new decree were written in gender-neutral language rather than outright stating that women no longer need male consent.

News of the changes had been teased in state-linked Saudi media for weeks, possibly to ready the public and gauge reaction.

The way the decrees were announced and the language used signal how sensitive these moves are among conservatives in the country. For years, state-backed preachers told the Saudi public that women should not travel longer than a night alone, claiming this was rooted in Islamic practice.

Other Muslim countries, however, don't have similar restrictions on women's travel. Still, Saudi clerics have supported the imposition of male guardianship based on a Quran verse that states men are the protectors and maintainers of women.

Other Islamic scholars argue this misinterprets fundamental Quranic concepts like equality and respect between the sexes.

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Associated Press writer Fadi Tawil in Beirut contributed to this report.

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Aya Batrawy on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ayaelb>

## Trump denounces Dems at rally, plays down race

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and DAN SEWELL Associated Press

CINCINNATI (AP) — President Donald Trump used a revved-up rally in Cincinnati to tear into the Democrats he has been elevating as his new political foils, attacking four liberal congresswomen of color and their party's urban leaders, while also directing fire at those he could be facing in 2020.

But the president mostly avoided the racial controversy that has dominated recent weeks as he basked in front of the raucous crowd Thursday for nearly 90 minutes, unleashing broadside after broadside on his political foes. Trump, who had faced widespread criticism for not doing more to stop the chants of "Send her back" about Somali-born Rep. Ilhan Omar at a rally last month, seemed to want to avoid further furor, saying ahead of the rally that he would prefer his supporters avoid the chant. He largely stuck to a greatest hits performance.

But while he did not mention Omar or her three colleagues by name in the opening moments of his Ohio gathering, the target of his attacks was unmistakable.

"The Democrat party is now being led by four left-wing extremists who reject everything that we hold dear," Trump said of Omar and her fellow House Democrats Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, Rashida Tlaib of Michigan and Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts.

But the fleeting mention did not lead to further chants. Nor did an extended attack on Democratic leaders of urban areas, which Trump has laced into in recent days as part of his incendiary broadsides against Rep. Elijah Cummings and the majority-black city of Baltimore.

"No one has paid a higher price for the far-left destructive agenda than Americans living in our nation's inner cities," Trump said, drawing cheers from the mostly white crowd in the packed arena on the banks of the Ohio River. "We send billions and billions and billions for years and years and it's stolen money, and it's wasted money."

The rally was the first for Trump since the "Send her back" chant at a North Carolina rally was denounced by Democrats and unnerved Republicans fearful of a presidential campaign fought on racial lines.

In the early moments of Thursday's rally, Trump declared, "I don't want to be controversial." He mostly stuck to it.

With the eyes of the political world shifting from two days of Democratic debates to see if Trump would stoke racial anger, the president largely delivered his standard stump speech. But Trump, the most avid cable news viewer in the history of the office, could not resist delivering his review of the Detroit debates.

"That's was long, long television," Trump said. "The Democrats spent more time attacking Barack Obama than they did attacking me, practically."

He mocked some of the leading Democratic contenders, reviving his nickname of "Sleepy" for Joe Biden, teasing Elizabeth Warren for claiming some Native American heritage and lashing the Democrats for their health care and immigration proposals.

"The Democrats have never been so far outside the mainstream," Trump claimed.

Hours earlier, Trump announced that China had not kept up its end of trade negotiations, prompting him to increase tariffs 10 percent on \$300 billion worth of new goods. Trump at the rally expressed confidence that a deal would get settled but said, "Until such time there is a deal we'll be taxing the hell out of China."

The rally was also Trump's first since special counsel Robert Mueller testified before Congress, the apparent final chapter of the Russia probe that has shadowed the White House for more than two years. But Trump only mentioned it once, mocking Mueller's at-times halting appearance by sarcastically saying the investigator seemed "sharp as a tack."

Though boisterous at the beginning, the crowd began to thin as Trump crossed the hour mark and stayed disciplined in touting the strong economy and his administration's accomplishments. The president's remarks were also interrupted twice by protesters.

Speaking to reporters before leaving for Cincinnati, Trump said he didn't know whether his supporters would revive the "Send her back" chant anyway or what his response would be if they did — adding that, regardless, he "loves" his political supporters.

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"I don't know that you can stop people," Trump told reporters. "If they do the chant, we'll have to see what happens."

The chant in North Carolina followed racist tweets Trump sent against Omar and three other first-term lawmakers of color, instructing them to get out of the U.S. "right now" and saying if the lawmakers "hate our country," they can "go back" to their "broken and crime-infested" countries.

Two weeks ago, Trump wavered in his response to the divisive cries, letting the chant roll at the rally, expressing disapproval about it the next day and later retreating from those concerns.

Since then, Trump has pushed ahead with his attacks of Cummings and Baltimore. Heightening the drama, Trump's Ohio rally took place against a backdrop of simmering racial tension in the host city of Cincinnati.

A variety of opinions about the chant dotted the crowd before the rally.

Robyn McGrail, 64, and her husband were celebrating their 44th wedding anniversary by attending their third Trump rally. She said that if the crowd did begin the chant, "I'll probably be cheering. If they don't like America, they should leave. We love our country."

Cynthia Wells, 63, a Cincinnati nurse, said she would follow Trump's lead.

"We listen to him and we won't do it," Wells said. "I don't think it will happen. If it does, we won't participate because he's against that. That's not what his message is."

Hours before the president's rally, Omar posted a photo of herself and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi in Africa, writing, "They said 'send her back' but Speaker Pelosi didn't just make arrangements to send me back, she went back with me."

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.

Several protests took place 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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Associated Press writers Kevin Freking in Washington and Andrew Welsh-Huggins in Columbus, Ohio, contributed to this report.

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## US-Russia arms control treaty dies; US to test new weapon

By DEB RIECHMANN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States plans to test a new missile in coming weeks that would have been prohibited under a landmark, 32-year-old arms control treaty that the U.S. and Russia ripped up on Friday.

Washington and Moscow walked out of the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces treaty that President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev signed in 1987, raising fears of a new arms race. The U.S. blamed Moscow for the death of the treaty. It said that for years Moscow has been developing and fielding weapons that violate the treaty and threaten the United States and its allies, particularly in Europe.

"Russia is solely responsible for the treaty's demise," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a statement released on Friday.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg similarly blamed Russia for what he described as repeated blatant violations of the treaty.

Stoltenberg said members of the 29-nation alliance "regret that Russia showed no willingness and took no steps to comply with its international obligations."

But the U.S. also sees an upside to exiting the treaty. Washington has complained for years that the

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arms control playing field was unfair. U.S. officials argued that not only was Russia violating the treaty and developing prohibited weapons, but that China also was making similar non-compliant weapons, leaving the U.S. alone in complying with the aging arms control pact.

Now, the U.S. is free to develop weapons systems that were previously banned. The U.S. is planning a test flight of such a weapon in coming weeks, according to a senior administration official, who was not authorized to publicly discuss the weapons development and spoke only on condition of anonymity.

The current Pentagon budget includes \$48 million for research on potential military responses to the Russian violations of the INF treaty, but the options do not include a nuclear missile.

The official downplayed the test and said it was not meant as a provocation against Russia. Because the United States adhered to the treaty for 32 years, the United States is "years away" from effectively deploying weapons previously banned under the agreement, the official said Thursday.

Arms control advocates still worry that America's exit from the INF treaty will lead the two nations to also scrap the larger New START treaty, which expires in early 2021.

"Pulling out of this treaty leaves New START as the only bilateral nuclear arms agreement between the U.S and Russia," said physicist David Wright, co-director of the Global Security Program at the Union of Concerned Scientists. If President Donald Trump "pulls out of that treaty as well or allows it to lapse, it will be the first time since 1972 that the two countries will be operating without any mutual constraints on their nuclear forces."

Trump hasn't committed to extending or replacing New START, which beginning in 2018 imposed limits on the number of U.S. and Russian long-range nuclear warheads and launchers. Trump has called New START "just another bad deal" made by the Obama administration, and Trump's national security adviser, John Bolton, said in June that it's unlikely the administration will agree to extend the treaty for five years, which could be done without legislative action in either capital.

The Trump administration thinks talks about extending New START are premature. The administration claims that with China's growing arsenal of nuclear warheads, Beijing can no longer be excluded from nuclear arms control agreements. Trump has expressed a desire to negotiate a trilateral arms control deal signed by the U.S., Russia and China.

"We'll see what happens," Trump told reporters at the White House on Thursday. "I will say Russia would like to do something on a nuclear treaty and that's OK with me. They'd like to do something and so would I."

The administration official said the U.S. has had regular discussions with the Russians and Chinese about the possibility of a three-way arms control agreement. Trump wants the agreement to address not just intermediate-range weapons, but "all nuclear weapons," the official said.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov urged the United States to observe a moratorium in using intermediate-range weapons.

"We invited the U.S. and other NATO countries to assess the possibility of declaring the same moratorium on deploying intermediate-range and shorter-range equipment as we have, the same moratorium Vladimir Putin declared, saying that Russia will refrain from deploying these systems when we acquire them unless the American equipment is deployed in certain regions," he said in an interview with state news agency Tass.

European leaders are expected to react to Friday's demise of the INF with disappointment and concern. "With the end of the INF treaty, a bit of security in Europe is being lost," German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said this week. "Now we call all the more on Russia and the U.S. to preserve the New START treaty as a cornerstone of worldwide arms control.

"Nuclear powers such as China must also face up to their responsibility on arms control — they have more weight in the world than at the time of the Cold War."

Over its lifetime, the 1987 INF treaty led to the elimination of 2,692 U.S. and Soviet Union nuclear and conventional ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles. Until its demise, the treaty banned land-based missiles with a range between 500 and 5,500 kilometers (310 to 3,410 miles).

Pompeo said the U.S. first raised its concerns that Russia was violating the treaty in 2013 during the



Obama administration. He said the U.S. tried for six years to prod Russia back into compliance.

In February, Trump determined that Moscow was in material breach of the treaty and the U.S. suspended its own obligations under the agreement. That started a six-month clock to get Russia back into compliance — time that ran out on Friday.

"As it has for many years, Russia chose to keep its non-compliant missile rather than going back into compliance with its treaty obligations," Pompeo said. "The United States will not remain party to a treaty that is deliberately violated by Russia."

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Associated Press writers Geir Moulson in Berlin and Lorne Cook in Brussels contributed to this report.

## **Yemen officials: Al-Qaida kills at least 20 at military camp**

**By AHMED AL-HAJ Associated Press**

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — Al-Qaida militants targeted a military camp in Yemen's southern Abyan province, killing at least 20 troops and setting off hours-long clashes that lasted into early morning Friday, Yemeni officials and tribal leaders said.

The attack began around midnight, with militants firing rocket propelled grenades at the camp belonging to members of a Yemeni force trained by the United Arab Emirates, a member of the Saudi-led coalition fighting the Houthi rebels in Yemen since 2015.

The militants then overran the camp, seizing and confiscating equipment and weapons, before setting it on fire, according to the tribal leaders. There was no immediate claim of responsibility by al-Qaida but the officials said the attack bore all the hallmarks of the Sunni militant group.

The attack came a day after the main southern city of Aden was shaken by double attacks. The Houthi rebels fired a missile at a military parade of the same UAE-trained militia known as the Security Belt while suicide bombers blasted a police station in another of the city's neighborhoods.

At least 51 people were killed in the double attacks — the deadliest day in Aden in nearly two years. The city has been the seat of Yemen's internationally recognized government, which is at war with the Houthis.

For nearly four years, Yemen has been torn by the civil war between the Iran-backed Houthi rebels, based in the capital, Sanaa, to the north, and the government forces, backed by the Saudi-led coalition.

Islamic militants — both Yemen's al-Qaida branch and the Islamic State group's affiliate — have exploited the chaos of the civil war to carry out bombings, shootings and assassinations in an effort to expand their footprints in Yemen, the Arab world's most impoverished country.

In Thursday's attacks in Aden, the Houthis announced they had fired a ballistic missile at the camp of the UAE-trained forces. That attack killed 40 troops.

On Friday, the Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack on the Aden police station, which killed 11. In a statement posted on an IS-linked website, the group said it targeted "apostate" Yemeni officers loyal to the UAE and identified one of the suicide bombers involved in the attack.

Following the deadly attack in Abyan, to the east of Aden, security officials said the UAE-trained force sent reinforcements to pursue militants who had ransacked the Security Belt's camp.

Meanwhile, Saudi-led forces launched airstrikes Friday on al-Qaida targets in the area.

The Yemeni officials and tribal leaders spoke on condition of anonymity, the officials because they were not authorized to talk to reporters and the tribal elders because they feared reprisals.

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Associated Press writers Noha ElHennawy and Maamoun Youssef in Cairo contributed to this report.

## **SKorea vows countermeasures as Japan downgrades trade status**

**By MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press**

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's Cabinet on Friday approved the removal of South Korea from a list of countries with preferential trade status, prompting retaliation from Seoul where a senior official summoned the Japanese ambassador and told him that South Koreans may no longer consider Japan a friendly nation.

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The decision expanding controls over exports of sensitive materials takes effect on Aug. 28. It follows an earlier requirement that Japanese exporters to South Korea be approved on a case-by-case basis for three materials used in semiconductors, smartphones and other high-tech devices — South Korea's key exports.

Trade Minister Hiroshige Seko said the decision was needed to "appropriately carry out export controls for national security purposes" and was based on South Korea's "insufficient" export controls.

In addition to escalating tensions between the Asian neighbors, the move will ripple across the high-tech sector, further affecting supply chains already rattled by U.S.-China trade tensions.

The loss of preferential trade status will apply to dozens more products on a list of items that potentially could be converted to weapons. That's in addition to more than 200 other items requiring individual inspection for exports to all countries. Ending South Korea's "white country" status would also mean Japan could limit exports of any product on national security grounds.

South Korea's President Moon Jae-in, before heading into an emergency Cabinet meeting to discuss the Japanese measures, vowed stern countermeasures against Japan's planned downgrading of his country's trade status, calling it an attempt to contain South Korea's economic growth and harm global supply chains. Moon accused Japan of retaliating against South Korean court rulings that ordered Japanese companies to compensate Korean plaintiffs for their wartime labor during Japan's 1910-1945 colonization of the Korean Peninsula.

"There are deep wounds between Korea and Japan due to our unfortunate history. However, our two countries have long endeavored to heal the wounds by using stitches, medicine and bandages. Nonetheless, if Japan, the aggressor, reopens the old wounds after so long, an international community aware of the facts will never tolerate it. Japan must squarely face up to this," Moon said.

He said South Korea today is one of the world's top democracies and economic powers with the potential to fully overcome the difficulties. "However, if we succumb to challenges, history will repeat itself. If we take the current challenges as an opportunity instead and turn them into a chance to make a new economic leap, we can fully triumph over Japan. Our economy can surpass Japan's," he said.

South Korea says the Japanese trade curbs could hurt its export-dependent economy and has accused Japan of weaponizing trade to retaliate over disputes stemming from wartime history. Tokyo's export measures since early July have already triggered angry protests and boycotts from South Korea.

South Korean presidential office said Seoul will consider ending a military intelligence-sharing pact with Tokyo as part of countermeasures against Japan. The pact's renewal is coming up later this month.

South Korea's Foreign Ministry summoned the Japanese ambassador and Vice Foreign Minister Cho Seiyong told him Japan's trade measures betray a history of cooperation and that South Koreans may no longer consider Japan a friendly nation because it imposed what Seoul sees as an economic retaliation.

South Korea's Finance Minister Hong Nam-ki said Seoul will also take steps to remove Japan from its own "whitelist" of nations receiving preferential trade treatment, and speed up efforts to file a complaint with the World Trade Organization.

Japan denies Seoul's allegation that the export controls were retaliation for South Korean court rulings allowing Japanese companies' assets to be seized as compensation for their wartime use of Korean laborers.

"We have no intention whatsoever to affect relations between Japan and South Korea, and it's not meant to be retaliation on something to begin with," Seko said. "I hope South Korea understands that this is not an export ban."

In Bangkok, the South Korean and Japanese foreign ministers met with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. After about half an hour, all three came out of the room for the camera spray, stood in front of the cameras without saying a word and without even shaking hands.

The tighter approval for the export of the three items — fluorinated polyimides, photo resists and hydrogen fluoride — has had a limited impact, analysts say, because South Korean companies have at least three-month stockpiles of the computer chips and displays that would be affected, amid slowing demand and worries over U.S.-China trade tensions.

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Additional controls, however, add to uncertainty for Korean manufacturers including SK Hynix and Samsung Electronics that rely heavily on Japanese suppliers.

"Japan has responded to a resurfacing, deeply felt, historical grievance with the use of highly impactful and damaging trade restrictions, seeking to choke off the South Korean semiconductor industry," Fitch Solutions said in a recent report. "The ripple effects to the technology, consumer and tourism sectors, the Korean and Japanese economies, as well as the fragile political and security balance in the region, will be notable."

Japan and South Korea are both important hosts for U.S. military bases in East Asia. But they've been bickering for years over a territorial dispute and over South Korean demands for more contrition and compensation for the wartime labor and sexual abuse of Korean women in military brothels during Japan's colonial rule.

Until recently, the history disputes had not affected trade between the two export-dependent countries. Japan has run a perennial trade surplus with South Korea, at \$20.3 billion in 2018, with parts, chemicals and other materials and equipment accounting for about \$15 billion of its exports last year.

The trade spat came as relations between the two neighbors have soured over South Korea's demands for compensation for their harsh labor for Japanese companies before and during World War II, an issue Japan says was "completely and finally" settled under the 1965 treaty normalizing relations. The Foreign Ministry released Monday official documents from May 1961 that showed South Korea declined Japan's proposal for compensation to individual forced labor victims.

Associated Press writer Kim Tong-hyung in Seoul, South Korea, contributed to this report.

## 10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

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

### 1. WHAT CONSUMER GOODS MAY NOW BE AFFECTED

If Trump's threat to go ahead with 10% tariffs on the remaining \$300 billion in Chinese imports he hasn't already taxed, products from cellphones to silk scarves could cost more.

### 2. TRUMP DENOUNCES DEMOCRATS AT RALLY, PLAYS DOWN RACE

The president uses a revved-up rally in Cincinnati to tear into the Democrats, attacking four liberal congresswomen of color and their party's urban leaders.

### 3. NORTH KOREA FIRES WEAPONS AGAIN

Pyongyang launches what appeared to be two short-range ballistic missiles into the sea, the third test in just over a week, an activity seen as brinkmanship over stalled nuclear negotiations.

### 4. 1987 ARMS CONTROL TREATY EXPIRES

The U.S. plans to test a new missile in coming weeks that would have been prohibited under a landmark, 32-year-old arms control treaty that the U.S. and Russia ripped up.

### 5. SAUDI ARABIA PERMITS HISTORIC FREEDOMS

The kingdom publishes new laws that loosen restrictions on women by allowing any citizen to apply for a passport and travel freely, diminishing male control.

### 6. WHERE MIGRANTS HAVE RETURNED

The U.S. government has sent about 800 mostly Central American and Cuban migrants back to the dangerous northern Mexico border city of Matamoros.

### 7. SYRIANS SAY PLIGHT WORSE THAN EVER

Western sanctions push war-weary Syrians deeper into poverty and many say it's even harder now to make ends meet than it was at the height of their country's civil war.

### 8. CONSERVATIVES LOSE KEY SEAT IN BRITAIN

Boris Johnson's governing party loses a special election to Liberal Democrats, leaving it with a one-vote working majority in Parliament as Brexit looms.

## 9. CITIES NOW SEE MORE OVERDOSE DEATHS THAN RURAL AREAS

After more than a decade with rural areas taking the biggest hits, U.S. drug overdose deaths are most common in big cities again, the federal government says.

## 10. ROBERT F. KENNEDY'S GRANDDAUGHTER DIES AT 22

Saoirse Kennedy Hill, the daughter of Robert and Ethel Kennedy's fifth child, Courtney, died at the storied family compound in Hyannis Port, Massachusetts.

## Western sanctions push war-weary Syrians deeper into poverty

By **BASSEM MROUE** Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Mohammed Haji Abed drives his yellow taxi through the busy streets of the Syrian capital for about 12 hours a day, toiling in the sweltering summer heat but earning barely enough for his family of five to get by.

It was easier for him to make ends meet at the height of his country's civil war, when rebels regularly lobbed mortars into Damascus from their strongholds on the outskirts of the city.

In the past year, as the Trump administration tightened sanctions on Syria and re-imposed sanctions on its chief regional ally, Iran, living conditions have become steadily worse, compounding the daily struggles of a worn-out population that has lived through eight years of conflict.

"The economic sanctions are affecting the whole country," said Haji Abed, sitting behind the wheel of his car in an eastern Damascus neighborhood that until last year was a front-line with insurgents. "People can't take any more," added the gray-haired man in his late 50s.

Sanctions by the U.S., European Union and some Arab countries have been in place since 2011, after President Bashar Assad's security apparatus cracked down on protests against his rule. The sanctions targeted the oil industry, money transfers and a number of institutions and officials, including Assad.

The Trump administration has hiked up the punishment, particularly by moving to stop oil exports by Iran — including its shipments to its ally Syria. In November, the U.S. Treasury Department added a network of Russian and Iranian companies to its blacklist for shipping oil to Syria and warned of "significant risks" for sanctions violators. In early July, a supertanker likely carrying around 2 million barrels of Iranian crude was detained in Gibraltar on suspicion of violating EU sanctions against oil shipments to Syria.

The results have hit hard on a population traumatized by a civil war that has killed nearly half a million people and displaced half the population over the past eight years.

Once an oil exporter, Syria now relies on imports, and higher fuel costs caused by the sanctions have pushed up prices in nearly every sector. The currency lost a third of its value in 2019 alone, and now stands at 600 Syrian pounds to the dollar, compared to 47 at the onset of the conflict. Eight out of 10 Syrians live below the poverty line, making less than \$100 a month, according to the U.N.

Haji Abed says he makes 12,000 pounds (\$20) a day, but after paying for fuel he is left with only about \$5 a day. His rent is \$35 a month. What's left after that is barely enough for food and other expenses, he said.

He used to be able to buy unlimited subsidized fuel. But since the new U.S. sanctions, the government set a monthly cap — private car owners can buy 100 liters a month, taxi drivers 350 liters. Those who want more must pay the market price, which is double.

The government says Syria's losses from sanctions are in the billions of dollars.

The ban on money transfers and other measures have particularly hurt medicine and pharmaceutical industries, a stinging loss for a country that once produced 90% of what its people needed. Syria now relies on imports of vaccines, medicines for cancer, blood derivatives and dialysis supplies.

This triggers sporadic shortages. "Three months ago, there was no baby formula available," said a pharmacist, Samir Aftimos. "People with children ran from one pharmacy to another to search for it." The crunch was relieved when Iran sent supplies.

Because of shipping restrictions, most medicine imports must be brought by land from Lebanon, increasing costs, Assistant Health Minister Habib Abboud told The Associated Press. Companies have a hard time



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collecting or making payments abroad and several foreign medical companies that used to work in Syria are canceling their licenses, Abboud said. Syria is looking to firms in Russia, China, Iran and India to step in.

Around 25 of Syria's 70 medicine factories were destroyed or badly damaged during the conflict, Abboud said. He said many have been repaired as government forces regained large parts of Syria over the past three years. That has brought production nearly back up to pre-war levels, according to the Health Ministry.

One of the largest Syrian companies affected by the war is The Arabian Medical Co., or Thameco, whose factory in the eastern Damascus suburbs of Mleiha was taken by insurgents and heavily damaged during the war. The state-owned company now works out of a Damascus building that used to be a storage space, where dozens of employees produce painkillers, antibiotics and other medicines.

But it is difficult to obtain raw materials and spare parts, said Thameco's general manager, Fidaa Ali. "Most foreign companies complied with the conspiracy of the economic sanctions and the imposed embargo on Syria," he said.

EU and U.S. sanctions also target hundreds of entities and individuals, many of them businessmen close to Assad's leadership. Washington adds names to the list each year. The most recent, added in June, was businessman Samer Foz and his family, and their Aman Holding company. Washington accused Foz of making a fortune by developing lands confiscated from Syrians who fled the country.

Fares Shehabi, a lawmaker and prominent industrialist, calls EU sanctions on him "unfair" and says they have cost him millions of dollars.

"No one can claim not to have been affected by the sanctions. It is not only the people who are under sanctions like myself," said Shehabi, who is based in Aleppo, Syria's largest city and once its commercial center.

Tayseer Darkalt, who owns a factory in Aleppo producing machines that make potato chips, says that because of sanctions he can't import or export products or spare parts. With no money transfers, he travels abroad to collect payments in cash, but that adds airplane and hotel costs. And he's wary of carrying a lot of cash.

"The sanctions are harming normal citizens. They are not punishing the government. They are punishing us."

## China threatens retaliation for Trump's planned tariff hike

By JOE McDONALD AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — China on Friday threatened retaliation if U.S. President Donald Trump's planned tariff hikes go ahead, while the renewed acrimony between the two biggest global economies sent stock markets tumbling.

China's government accused Trump of violating his June agreement with President Xi Jinping to revive negotiations aimed at ending a costly fight over Beijing's trade surplus and technology ambitions.

Trump rattled financial markets with Thursday's surprise announcement of 10% tariffs on \$300 billion of Chinese imports, effective Sept. 1. That would extend punitive duties to everything the United States buys from China.

If that goes ahead, "China will have to take necessary countermeasures to resolutely defend its core interests," said a foreign ministry spokeswoman, Hua Chuying.

"We don't want to fight, but we aren't afraid to," Hua said at a regular news briefing. She called on Washington to "abandon its illusions, correct mistakes, and return to consultations based on equality and mutual respect."

Washington and Beijing are locked in a battle over complaints China steals or pressures companies to hand over technology. The Trump administration worries American industrial leadership might be threatened by Chinese plans for government-led creation of global competitors in robotics and other technologies. Europe and Japan echo U.S. complaints those plans violate Beijing's market-opening commitments.

Washington earlier imposed 25% tariffs on \$250 billion in Chinese products. Beijing has retaliated by raising import duties on \$110 billion of U.S. goods.

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Beijing is about to run out of American imports for retaliation due to their lopsided trade balance.

China imported U.S. goods worth about \$160 billion last year. But regulators have extended retaliatory measures to include slowing down customs clearance for American companies and putting off issuing license in insurance and other fields.

Beijing also is threatening to release an "unreliable entities" blacklist of foreign companies that might face restrictions on doing business with China. Plans for that were announced after Washington imposed crippling restrictions in May on sales of U.S. technology to Chinese tech giant Huawei Technologies Ltd.

Trump's announcement surprised investors after the White House said Beijing promised to buy more farm goods. It came as their latest trade talks ended in Shanghai with no sign of a deal. Officials said they would resume next month in Washington.

The announcement "is likely to put a comprehensive deal further out of reach," said Fitch Solutions in a report.

Tokyo's main stock market index fell 2.5% by midday and Hong Kong's benchmark lost 2.3%. Markets in Shanghai, Sydney and Seoul also declined.

Earlier on Wall Street, the benchmark Standard & Poor's 500 fell for a fourth day, losing 0.9% to 2,953.56.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average declined 1% to 26,583.42. The Nasdaq composite ended 0.8% lower at 8,111.12.

Also Friday, China's yuan fell to its lowest level this year against the dollar after Trump's tariff threat fueled concerns about slowing economic growth, coming close to breaking the politically sensitive level of seven to the U.S. currency.

The yuan tumbled to 6.9520 to the dollar, its weakest since December, but recovered slightly by midday.

Trump's threat "will likely put more depreciation pressure" on the currency, said Tao Wang of UBS in a report. She said Beijing is likely to "tightly manage" the exchange rate "to avoid any significant depreciation."

The currency's weakness is helping to fuel Washington's trade complaints. The U.S. Treasury Department declined in May to label China a currency manipulator but said it was closely watching Beijing.

The level of seven yuan to the dollar has no economic significance, but could revive U.S. attention to the exchange rate.

Trump's earlier tariffs were intended to minimize the impact on ordinary Americans by focusing on industrial goods. But the new tariffs will hit a vast range of consumer products from cellphones to silk scarves.

China's foreign minister criticized the move.

"Imposing tariffs is definitely not the right way to resolve trade frictions," Wang Yi told reporters in Bangkok, where he was attending a meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Trump has long said he was preparing to tax the \$300 billion in additional Chinese tariffs. But he had suspended the threat after meeting Xi at a gathering of the Group of 20 major economies in Osaka, Japan.

The president accused Beijing of failing to follow through on stopping the sale of fentanyl to the United States or on purchasing large quantities of farm goods such as soybeans. Speaking to reporters Thursday at the White House, Trump complained Xi is "not moving fast enough."

Talks broke down in May after the United States accused the Chinese of reneging on earlier commitments.

## Walloped by heat wave, Greenland sees massive ice melt

By DAVID RISING Associated Press Writer

BERLIN (AP) — The heat wave that smashed high temperature records in five European countries a week ago is now over Greenland, accelerating the melting of the island's ice sheet and causing massive ice loss in the Arctic.

Greenland, the world's largest island, is a semi-autonomous Danish territory between the Atlantic and Arctic oceans that has 82% of its surface covered in ice.

The area of the Greenland ice sheet that is showing indications of melt has been growing daily, and hit a record 56.5% for this year on Wednesday, said Ruth Mottram, a climate scientist with the Danish

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Meteorological Institute. She says that's expected to expand and peak on Thursday before cooler temperatures slow the pace of the melt.

More than 10 billion tons (11 billion U.S. tons) of ice was lost to the oceans by surface melt on Wednesday alone, creating a net mass ice loss of some 197 billion tons (217 billion U.S. tons) from Greenland in July, she said.

"It looks like the peak will be today. But the long-term forecast is for continuing warm and sunny weather in Greenland, so that means the amount of the ice loss will continue," she said Thursday in a telephone interview from Copenhagen.

The scope of Wednesday's ice melt is a number difficult to grasp. To understand just how much ice is being lost, a mere 1 billion tons — or 1 gigaton — of ice loss is equivalent to about 400,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools, the Danish Meteorological Institute said. And 100 billion tons (110 billion U.S. tons) corresponds to a 0.28 mm (0.01 inch) rise in global sea levels.

Mottram said since June 1 — roughly the start of the ice-loss season — the Greenland ice sheet has lost 240 gigatons (240 billion metric tons) this year. That compares with 290 gigatons lost overall in the 2012 melt season, which usually goes through the end of August.

A June 2019 study by scientists in the U.S. and Denmark said melting ice in Greenland alone will add between 5 and 33 centimeters (2 to 13 inches) to rising global sea levels by the year 2100. If all the ice in Greenland melted — which would take centuries — the world's oceans would rise by 7.2 meters (23 feet, 7 inches), the study found.

The current melting has been brought on by the arrival of the same warm air from North Africa and Spain that melted European cities and towns last week, setting national temperature records in Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Britain.

In Russia, meanwhile, forest fires caused by hot, dry weather and spread by high winds are raging over nearly 30,000 square kilometers (11,580 sq. miles) of territory in Siberia and the Russian Far East — an area the size of Belgium. The smoke from these fires, some of them in Arctic territory, is so heavy it can easily be seen in satellite photos and is causing air quality problems in towns and some cities, including Russia's third-largest city, Novosibirsk. Residents want the Russian government to do more to fight the blazes.

Greenland has also been battling a slew of Arctic wildfires, something that Mottram said was uncommon in the past.

In Greenland, the melt area this year is the second-biggest in terms of ice area affected, behind more than 90% in 2012, said Mark Serreze, director of the Snow and Ice Data Center in Boulder, Colorado, which monitors ice sheets globally. Records go back to 1981.

A lot of what melts can later refreeze onto the ice sheet, but because of the conditions ahead of this summer's heat wave, the amount of ice lost for good this year might be the same as in 2012 or more, according to scientists. They noted a long build up to this summer's ice melt — including higher overall temperatures for months — and a very dry winter with little snow in many places, which would normally offer some protection to glacier ice.

"This is certainly a weather event superimposed on this overall trend of warmer conditions" that have increasingly melted Greenland ice over the long term, Serreze said.

Compounding the melt, the Greenland ice sheet started out behind this year because of the low ice and snow accumulation, said Snow and Ice Data Center scientist Twila Moon.

With man-made climate change, "there's a potential for these kind of rates to become more common 50 years from now," Moon said.

Heat waves have always occurred, but Mike Sparrow, a spokesman for the U.N. World Meteorological Organization, noted that as global temperatures have risen, extreme heat waves are now occurring at least 10 times more frequently than a century ago. This year, the world saw its hottest month of June ever.

"These kind of heat waves are weather events and can occur naturally but studies have shown that both the frequency and intensity of these heat waves have increased due to global warming," Sparrow said in

a telephone interview from Geneva.

He noted that sea ice spread in the Arctic and Antarctic are both currently at record lows.

"When people talk about the average global temperature increasing by a little more than 1 degree (Celsius), that's not a huge amount to notice if you're sitting in Hamburg or London, but that's a global average and it's much greater in the polar regions," he said.

Even though temperatures will be going down in Greenland by the end of this week, the ice melt is not likely to stop anytime soon, Mottram said.

"Over the last couple of days, you could see the warm wave passing over Greenland," she said. "That peak of warm air has passed over the summit of the ice sheet, but the clear skies are almost as important, or maybe even more important, for the total melt of the ice sheet."

She added that clear skies are likely to continue in Greenland "so we can still get a lot of ice melt even if the temperature is not spectacularly high."

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Science Writer Seth Borenstein contributed to this report from Southern Pines, North Carolina

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For more Associated Press stories about climate change, go to <https://www.apnews.com/Climate>

## North Korea fires weapons again in possible pressure tactic

By KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea fired what appeared to be short-range ballistic missiles twice Friday into the sea off its eastern coast in its third round of weapons tests in just over a week, South Korea's military and presidential office said.

The increased testing activity is seen as brinkmanship aimed at increasing pressure on Seoul and Washington over stalled nuclear negotiations. North Korea also has expressed frustration at planned U.S.-South Korea military exercises, and experts say its weapons displays could intensify in coming months if progress on the nuclear negotiations isn't made.

By test-firing weapons that directly threaten South Korea but not the U.S. mainland or its Pacific territories, North Korea may also be trying to dial up pressure on Seoul and test how far Washington will tolerate its bellicosity without actually causing the nuclear negotiations to collapse.

Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the launches were conducted at 2:59 a.m. and 3:23 a.m. from an eastern coastal area and said the projectiles flew 220 kilometers (137 miles) on an apogee of 25 kilometers (15 miles) and at a max speed of Mach 6.9.

South Korea's presidential office, which held an emergency meeting presided over by chief national security adviser Chung Eui-yong to discuss the launches, said the South Korean and U.S. militaries shared an assessment that the projectiles were likely newly developed short-range ballistic missiles the North has been testing in recent weeks. However, the office said further analysis was needed because the projectiles showed similar flight characteristics with the weapons that the North test fired on Wednesday and described as a new rocket artillery system.

Kim Eun-han, a spokesman for South Korea's Unification Ministry, said the Seoul government expressed "deep regret" over launches that it believes could hurt efforts for peace on the Korean Peninsula.

Japan's Defense Ministry said it was analyzing the launch and that the projectiles did not reach Japanese territorial waters or its exclusive economic zone.

The North fired short-range ballistic missiles on July 25 and conducted what it described as a test firing of a new multiple rocket launcher system on Wednesday.

Amid the stalemate in nuclear negotiations with the United States, North Korea has significantly slowed diplomatic activity with the South while demanding Seoul turn away from Washington and proceed with joint economic projects that have been held back by U.S.-led sanctions against the North.

The North's new launches came as the United Kingdom, France and Germany — following a closed U.N. Security Council briefing — condemned the North's recent ballistic activity as violations of U.N. sanctions



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and urged Pyongyang to engage in “meaningful negotiations” with the United States on eliminating its nuclear weapons.

The three countries also urged North Korea “to take concrete steps toward its complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization” and said international sanctions should remain in place and be fully enforced until its nuclear and ballistic missile programs are dismantled.

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

However, the North’s recent weapons demonstrations have dampened the optimism that followed President Donald Trump’s impromptu summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on June 30 at the inter-Korean border. The leaders agreed to resume working-level nuclear talks that stalled since February, but there have been no known meetings between the two sides since then.

The North has claimed the United States would violate an agreement between the leaders if it moves on with its planned military exercises with South Korea and said it will wait to see if the August exercises actually take place to decide on the fate of its diplomacy with Washington.

Trump said on Thursday he wasn’t worried about the weapons recently tested by North Korea, calling them “short-range missiles” that were “very standard.”

On Thursday, North Korea’s state media said leader Kim Jong Un supervised the first test firing of a new multiple rocket launcher system he said would soon serve a “main role” in his military’s land combat operations.

South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff had assessed the activity Wednesday as a short-range ballistic missile launch, saying the missiles flew about 250 kilometers (155 miles), a range that would be enough to cover the metropolitan region surrounding capital Seoul, where about half of South Koreans live, and a major U.S. military base just south of the city.

On July 25, 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.

Attending an Asian security conference in Bangkok, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Thursday the Trump administration remains ready to resume talks with North Korea now, but said a meeting this week would be unlikely.

AP writer Mari Yamaguchi contributed to this report from Tokyo.

## **FBI: Delivery drivers involved in Amazon theft ring**

**By GENE JOHNSON Associated Press**

SEATTLE (AP) — The two contract delivery drivers working for Amazon had a clear-cut assignment: They were supposed to bring packages from a warehouse south of Seattle to a post office for shipping, or sometimes drive to Seattle-Tacoma International Airport to pick up items that were being returned to the company.

Instead, the FBI said in a search warrant affidavit unsealed last month, they routinely stole the items and sold them at pawn shops.

A police detective last summer noticed that one of the drivers had dozens of pawn shop transactions, and thus began an investigation that uncovered a theft ring that sold millions of dollars’ worth of stolen goods on Amazon.com in the past six years, the FBI said.

According to the search warrant affidavit, two storefront businesses posing as pawn shops bought the goods from shoplifters, then had the items shipped to Amazon warehouses, where they were stored until sold online.

Entities associated with the alleged ringleader did at least \$10 million in sales on Amazon since 2013, FBI agent Ariana Kroshinsky wrote in her affidavit. The agency said it was awaiting further records from

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Amazon to determine the full amount.

No charges have yet been filed, though investigators have raided the pawn shops and the home of the man identified as the ringleader, Aleksandr Pavlovskiy, 44, of Auburn. Pavlovskiy's lawyer, Cristine Beckwith, did not return a message seeking comment.

A man who answered the door at one of the shops Wednesday identified himself as Alex and told The Associated Press his business was legitimate, that he kept good records and he should not be in any trouble.

Among those who provided stolen items to the pawn shops were the two contract Amazon drivers, Kroshinsky said.

Amazon did not immediately return an email seeking comment about the case Thursday.

The investigation began last summer when a police detective in Auburn, a south Seattle suburb, was perusing a record of pawn shop sales and noticed that one man had made 57 transactions. It turned out to be one of the drivers.

He had received nearly \$30,000 selling items to the pawn shops between February and July last year, the affidavit said. Police initially arrested the driver, but released him from jail to avoid disrupting their larger investigation.

The other driver, identified as Abbas Zghair, was believed to be a roommate of the first. Amazon told investigators that Zghair stole about \$100,000 worth of property, including gaming systems, sporting goods and computer products — items he sold to one of the pawn shops for less than \$20,000, the agent wrote.

In an unrelated case, Zghair has been charged with murder after police said he shot and killed a man in an Auburn field in March, then fled to the Canadian border, where he was arrested trying to cross with a fake ID. He's being held on \$2.5 million bail.

Both drivers worked for Amazon contractor JW Logistics, based in Frisco, Texas. It was unclear how long Zghair had worked for the company, but in 2015, he was convicted of reckless driving in Lewis County after leading police on a chase in excess of 100 mph (161 kph), running red lights, driving across multiple lanes of travel and crashing into a field.

The company said a representative was not immediately available to comment after regular business hours Thursday.

Detectives staked out the pawn shops, Innovation Best in Kent and Thrift-Electro in Renton, and observed that they appeared to be paying shoplifters and drug users cash for new items from Home Depot, Lowes and Fred Meyer department stores. Unlike typical pawn shops, they didn't make sales; instead, the products were moved to a warehouse and to Amazon "fulfillment centers," from where they were shipped when they were sold on Amazon's website by sellers using the handles "Bestforyouall" or "Freeshipforyou," the affidavit said.

According to a database of pawnshop transactions reviewed by Auburn police, the suspect pawn shops paid more than \$4.1 million to sellers who brought them nearly 48,000 items in the past six years. The items included allergy medication, razors, electric toothbrushes and tools in their original packaging. Detectives also conducted undercover operations in which they sold new items in their original packaging to the shops, which accepted them no questions asked, Kroshinsky wrote.

The sale of stolen or counterfeit goods on Amazon or other digital marketplaces is not uncommon, but it was not immediately clear how many other schemes had reached such a volume of sales. Last year, police raided a pawn shop in Monroe, north of Seattle, that they said had taken in \$428,000 fencing stolen items, much of it on Amazon.

Amazon has several requirements for third-party sellers on its website: They must provide a business name, address, contact information, a valid credit card, and tax identity information.

Jon Reily, a vice president for the digital consultancy firm Publicis Sapient and previously the head of e-commerce user experience for Amazon Devices, said preventing the sale of stolen goods is a major challenge for the company, but retailers can be held liable if they don't do enough to ensure they're not selling stolen goods. Because it's impossible for Amazon to review "every Tide pod" that's sold on its site, the company will likely need to do more to vet sellers, Riley said.

"It's a little bit of an arms race for Amazon to be able to take in product, put it on the web and get it to their customers in a speedy fashion and not unwittingly sell stolen stuff at the same time," Reilly said. "Ultimately what Amazon has to do is show good faith if the government comes knocking on the door and says, 'Look, you're selling stolen goods.'"

## Trump says he'll put 10% tariffs on remaining China imports

By PAUL WISEMAN, KEVIN FREKING and JOSH BOAK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump intensified pressure on China to reach a trade deal by saying he will impose 10% tariffs Sept. 1 on the remaining \$300 billion in Chinese imports he hasn't already taxed. The move immediately sent stock prices sinking.

U.S. consumers will likely feel the pain if Trump proceeds with the new tariffs. Trump's earlier tariffs had been designed to minimize the impact on ordinary Americans by focusing on industrial goods. But the new tariffs will hit a vast range of consumer products from cellphones to silk scarves.

The president's announcement via Twitter on Thursday came as a surprise, in part because the White House on Wednesday had said Beijing confirmed that it planned to increase its purchases of American farm products. That word came just as U.S. and Chinese negotiators were ending a 12th round of trade talks in Shanghai, which the White House called "constructive."

China's foreign minister criticized the move.

"Imposing tariffs is definitely not the right way to resolve trade frictions," Wang Yi told reporters in Bangkok on Friday, where he was attending a meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

The Chinese foreign and commerce ministries didn't immediately respond to questions about how Beijing would react.

Though the negotiations concluded without any sign of a deal, they are scheduled to resume next month in Washington.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average, which had been up nearly 300 points earlier in the day, was down nearly 200 points after Trump's tweets announcing the new tariffs. The Dow closed for the day down 280 points — more than 1%.

Trump has long said he was preparing to tax the \$300 billion in additional Chinese tariffs. But he had suspended the threat after meeting with President Xi Jinping in Osaka, Japan, in June.

It isn't clear when American consumers are likely to feel the impact of the additional tariffs, but higher prices could show up in stores this fall.

"Attention all Target & Wal-Mart shoppers ... the price on the goods you buy ahead of the holidays are going up due to trade policy," tweeted Joseph Brusuelas, chief economist at the consultancy RSM.

Besides announcing the additional tariffs on Chinese imports, Trump tweeted that "we look forward to continuing our positive dialogue with China on a comprehensive Trade Deal, and feel that the future between our two countries will be a very bright one!"

The president accused Beijing of failing to follow through on stopping the sale of fentanyl to the United States or on purchasing large quantities of farm goods such as soybeans. Speaking to reporters Thursday at the White House, Trump complained that Xi is "not moving fast enough."

Trump said he scheduled the additional tariffs to begin Sept. 1 to give exports already en route from China time to get to the United States — a journey that can take three or four weeks. By setting the import taxes at 10%, he has leeway to ratchet them higher if necessary to further increase pressure on Beijing.

"Until such time as there's a deal," Trump said, "we'll be taxing them."

The world's two biggest economies are locked in a trade war over U.S. allegations that Beijing uses predatory tactics — including stealing trade secrets and forcing foreign companies to hand over technology — in a drive to overtake American technological dominance.

Talks had broken down in May after the United States accused the Chinese of reneging on earlier commitments.

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"The fact that this tweet comes after only one meeting with the Chinese delegation following the resumption of talks is extremely concerning," said Rick Helfenbein, president of the American Apparel & Footwear Association.

Wendy Cutler, a former U.S. trade negotiator who is now vice president at the Asia Society Policy Institute, said: "These talks are not getting any easier. I don't expect the Chinese to sit by ... The combination of these latest tariffs, with Chinese counter-retaliation, is going to take a heavy toll on U.S. consumers, workers, farmers and businesses."

Trump's trade war and its consequences were a key factor in the Federal Reserve's decision Wednesday to cut interest rates in an otherwise healthy U.S. economy. During a news conference, Chairman Jerome Powell pointed repeatedly to the uncertainty caused by Trump's pursuit of trade wars on multiple fronts as a reason for the rate cut.

The president's decision to impose a 10% tax on an additional \$300 billion of Chinese imports might have been predicated, in fact, on his confidence that Powell's Fed stands ready to cut rates again. The bond market signaled its belief in that theory Thursday, with Treasury yields dropping sharply after Trump's announcement.

And according to the CME Group, market traders now foresee a roughly 70 percent likelihood of another rate cut when the Fed next meets in September. Before Trump's announcement, the likelihood was pegged at under 50 percent.

Sarah Bloom Raskin, a former Fed board member, has warned that Fed rate cuts could embolden Trump to escalate trade battles for that very reason.

In the meantime, the additional Trump tariffs risk further souring the relationship between the world's two largest economies.

"The stage is now set for a further escalation of trade tensions between China and the U.S.," said Eswar Prasad, a Cornell University economist and former head of the China division at the International Monetary Fund. "It has become clear that there is no clear path to a resolution of the trade dispute in the coming months, and China might choose to live with a trade war while waiting out the Trump presidency."

Trump has insisted that the tariff war is hurting China but not the United States. He tweeted two days ago: "Trump's got China back on its heels, and the United States is doing great."

But his administration is providing \$16 billion in aid to American farmers — on top of \$11 billion last year — to offset sales lost after China imposed retaliatory tariffs on soybeans and other U.S. farm products.

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AP Business Writer Marcy Gordon contributed to this report.

## Cities now see more overdose deaths than rural areas

By MIKE STOBBE AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. drug overdose deaths, which have been concentrated in Appalachia and other rural areas for more than a dozen years, are back to being most common in big cities again, according to a government report issued Friday.

The report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said the urban overdose death rate surpassed the rural rate in 2016 and 2017. Rates for last year and this year are not yet available. But experts, citing available data, say the urban rate is likely to stay higher in the near future.

The difference between the urban and rural counties was not large. In 2017, there were 22 overdose deaths per 100,000 people living in urban areas, compared with 20 per 100,000 in rural areas.

The nation is battling the deadliest drug overdose epidemic in U.S. history. About 68,000 Americans died of overdoses last year, according to preliminary CDC statistics reported last month.

Experts believe the epidemic has been playing out differently in different parts of the country, and they say it is best understood by comparing geographic regions — Appalachia and the Northeast, for example.

The new CDC report looked at urban and rural overdose death rates for the nation overall. The researchers found both rates have been rising, but the urban rate shot up more dramatically after 2015 to surpass



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the rural rate.

New York, Chicago and Baltimore all reported dramatic spikes in overdose deaths in the last few years, and they are not alone.

Diego Cuadros, a University of Cincinnati researcher, said the CDC findings are consistent with what he and his colleagues have seen in Ohio.

"Most of the hot spots are in the urban areas," he said.

The CDC found the urban rates are driven by deaths in men and deaths from heroin, fentanyl and cocaine.

That probably is due to a shift in the current overdose epidemic, said Dr. Daniel Ciccarone, a drug policy expert at the University of California, San Francisco.

The epidemic was initially driven by opioid pain pills, which were often as widely available in the country as in the city. But then many drug users shifted to heroin and then to fentanyl, and the illegal drug distribution system for heroin and fentanyl is more developed in cities, Ciccarone said.

Another possible explanation is increasing overdose deaths among blacks and Hispanics, including those concentrated in urban areas, he added.

"Early on, this was seen as an epidemic affecting whites more than other groups," he said. "Increasingly, deaths in urban areas are starting to look brown and black."

Women still die of overdoses at higher rates in rural areas, the CDC report found. And death rates tied to methamphetamine and prescription opioid painkillers remain higher in rural areas, too.

Using death certificate data, the CDC researchers looked at whether overdose victims were living in rural or urban counties at the time they died. They defined urban areas as counties with large and small cities and their suburbs. Rural areas were non-suburban counties with fewer than 50,000 residents.

The report looked at trends from 1999 through 2017. Overdose death rates for 2018 are to be reported later this year.

The urban and rural death rates were nearly identical for people ages 25 to 44 — the age group with the worst fatal overdose problem. "Drug epidemics tend to affect young people," Ciccarone said.

But the urban rate was significantly higher in other age groups, particularly in those ages 45 to 64. Experts interviewed by The Associated Press said it's not clear why the urban overdose death rates were markedly higher for middle-aged and older Americans.

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

## At rally, Trump laces into Democrats but avoids race

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

CINCINNATI (AP) — President Donald Trump used a revved-up rally Thursday in Cincinnati to tear into the Democrats he has been elevating as his new political foils, attacking four liberal congresswomen of color and their party's urban leaders, while also training fire on those he could be facing in 2020.

But the president mostly avoided the racial controversy that has dominated recent weeks as he basked in front of the raucous crowd for nearly 90 minutes, unleashing broadside after broadside on his political foes. Trump, who had faced widespread criticism for not doing more to stop the chants of "Send her back" about Somali-born Rep. Ilhan Omar at a rally last month, seemed to want to avoid further furor, saying he would prefer his supporters avoid the chant. He largely stuck to a greatest hits performance.

While he did not mention Omar or her three colleagues by name in the opening moments of his Ohio gathering, the target of his attacks was unmistakable.

"The Democrat party is now being led by four left-wing extremists who reject everything that we hold dear," Trump said of Omar and her fellow House Democrats Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, Rashida Tlaib of Michigan and Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts.

But the fleeting mention did not lead to further chants. Nor did an extended attack on Democratic leaders of urban areas, which Trump has laced into in recent days as part of his incendiary broadsides against

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Rep. Elijah Cummings and the majority-black city of Baltimore.

"No one has paid a higher price for the far-left destructive agenda than Americans living in our nation's inner cities," Trump said, drawing cheers from the mostly white crowd in the packed arena on the banks of the Ohio River. "We send billions and billions and billions for years and years and it's stolen money, and it's wasted money."

The rally was the first for Trump since the "Send her back" chant at a North Carolina rally was denounced by Democrats and unnerved Republicans fearful of a presidential campaign fought on racial lines.

In the early moments of Thursday's rally, Trump declared, "I don't want to be controversial." He mostly stuck to it.

With the eyes of the political world shifting from two days of Democratic debates to see if Trump would stoke racial anger, the president largely delivered his standard stump speech. But Trump, the most avid cable news viewer in the history of the office, could not resist delivering his review of the Detroit debates.

"That's was long, long television," Trump said. "The Democrats spent more time attacking Barack Obama than they did attacking me, practically."

He mocked some of the leading Democratic contenders, reviving his nickname of "Sleepy" for Joe Biden, teasing Elizabeth Warren for claiming some Native American heritage and lashing the Democrats for their health care and immigration proposals.

"The Democrats have never been so far outside the mainstream," Trump claimed.

Hours earlier, Trump announced that China had not kept up its end of trade negotiations, prompting him to increase tariffs 10 percent on \$300 billion worth of new goods. Trump at the rally expressed confidence that a deal would get settled but said, "Until such time there is a deal we'll be taxing the hell out of China."

The rally was also Trump's first since special counsel Robert Mueller testified before Congress, the apparent final chapter of the Russia probe that has shadowed the White House for more than two years. But Trump only mentioned it once, mocking Mueller's at-times halting appearance by sarcastically saying the investigator seemed "sharp as a tack."

Though boisterous at the beginning, the crowd began to thin as Trump crossed the hour mark and stayed disciplined in touting the strong economy and his administration's accomplishments. The president's remarks were also interrupted twice by protesters.

Speaking to reporters before leaving for Cincinnati, Trump said he didn't know whether his would revive the "Send her back" chant anyway or what his response would be if they did — adding that, regardless, he "loves" his political supporters.

"I don't know that you can stop people," Trump told reporters. "If they do the chant, we'll have to see what happens."

The chant in North Carolina followed racist tweets Trump sent against Omar and three other first-term lawmakers of color, instructing them to get out of the U.S. "right now" and saying if the lawmakers "hate our country," they can "go back" to their "broken and crime-infested" countries.

Two weeks ago, Trump wavered in his response to the divisive cries, letting the chant roll at the rally, expressing disapproval about it the next day and later retreating from those concerns.

Since then, Trump has pushed ahead with his attacks of Cummings and Baltimore. Heightening the drama, Trump's Ohio rally took place against a backdrop of simmering racial tension in the host city of Cincinnati.

A variety of opinions about the chant dotted the crowd before the rally.

Robyn McGrail, 64, and her husband were celebrating their 44th wedding anniversary by attending their third Trump rally. She said that if the crowd did begin the chant, "I'll probably be cheering. If they don't like America, they should leave. We love our country."

Cynthia Wells, 63, a Cincinnati nurse, said she would follow Trump's lead.

"We listen to him and we won't do it," Wells said. "I don't think it will happen. If it does, we won't participate because he's against that. That's not what his message is."

Hours before the president's rally, Omar posted a photo of herself and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi in Africa, writing, "They said 'send her back' but Speaker Pelosi didn't just make arrangements to send me

back, she went back with me.”

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.

Several protests took place 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.

Associated Press writers Kevin Freking in Washington and Andrew Welsh-Huggins in Columbus, Ohio, contributed to this report.

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

## **Katy Perry, others ordered to pay \$2.78M for copying song**

**By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Katy Perry, her collaborators and her record label must pay more than \$2.78 million because the pop star’s 2013 hit “Dark Horse” copied a 2009 Christian rap song, a federal jury decided Thursday.

It was an underdog victory for rapper Marcus Gray, a relatively obscure artist once known as Flame, whose 5-year-old lawsuit survived constant court challenges and a trial against top-flight attorneys for Perry and the five other music-industry heavyweights who wrote her song.

The amount fell well short of the nearly \$20 million sought by attorneys for Gray and the two co-writers of “Joyful Noise” — Emanuel Lambert and Chike Ojukwu — but they said they were pleased.

“We weren’t here seeking to punish anyone,” said Gray’s attorney, Michael A. Kahn. “Our clients came here seeking justice, and they feel they received justice from a jury of their peers.”

Perry herself was hit for just over \$550,000, with Capitol Records responsible for the biggest part of the award — \$1.2 million. Defense attorneys had argued for an overall award of about \$360,000.

Perry’s attorney, Christine Lepera, said they plan to vigorously fight the decision.

“The writers of Dark Horse consider this a travesty of justice,” Lepera said.

“Dark Horse,” which combines elements of pop, hip-hop and trap styles, was a mega-hit for the Santa Barbara, California-born singer, with its call-and-response chorus of “Are you ready for (ready for), a perfect storm (perfect storm)?”

It spent four weeks at No. 1 on Billboard’s Hot 100 in early 2014, and Perry would later perform it at the Super Bowl.

Gray, a native of St. Louis, sued later in 2014. His song of earnest and ebullient praise stood in stark contrast to the playful black magic evoked by “Dark Horse,” and an early version of the lawsuit faulted Perry’s song for tainting the sanctity of his.

The two-week trial had two phases: One about music, one about money.

Perry took the witness stand on the first day of testimony. She testified, as her co-writers would, that she had never heard of Gray or Flame or “Joyful Noise” until he sued.

She got a rare laugh from the courtroom when her attorneys were struggling with technical issues as they tried to play a part of “Dark Horse.”

“I could perform it for you live,” said Perry, who did not appear in court for the rest of the trial.

The jury heard testimony from musicologists on the disputed section of the two songs — a piece of the musical backing track that plays during the verses of “Dark Horse” and throughout almost all of “Joyful Noise.”

While jurors were told to consider only those sections, they gave a surprisingly sweeping verdict Monday

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that held all six songwriters responsible for copying "Joyful Noise." That included Perry, who wrote only lyrics, her co-lyricist Sarah Hudson, and Juicy J, who only provided a rap verse for the song.

The instrumental track that was most at issue was created by Dr. Luke, Max Martin and Circuit.

During closing arguments earlier Thursday, Gray's attorneys said that because the relevant riff plays through 45 percent of "Dark Horse," the plaintiffs should get 45 percent of its earnings, including every album that included it. They put those overall earnings at \$41 million, thus seeking nearly \$20 million.

The defense argued that only fractions of the album earnings should count for the single song and that considerable promotional expenses paid by Capitol Records should be subtracted.

Gray's attorneys said those expenses were gratuitous, pointing out to jurors that they included \$13,000 for a hairstylist for Perry for one awards show and nearly \$2,000 for flashing cocktail ice cubes.

The nine jurors deliberated for two full days to reach their initial verdict but took just a few hours to decide on dollar amounts.

Perry's five co-writers were each given penalties to pay that ranged from about \$60,000 for Dr. Luke to more than \$250,000 for Martin.

The jurors decided that the instrumental riff the two sides were fighting over was responsible for 22.5 percent of the success of "Dark Horse" and handed out the awards accordingly.

The defendants' fight against the decision will begin immediately. U.S. District Judge Christina A. Snyder, who presided over the trial, will now consider a motion to throw out the case.

Lepera, Perry's attorney, said outside court that the plaintiffs presented no evidence of copyright infringement, no evidence that the songwriters had access to "Joyful Noise" and no evidence the songs that were substantially similar.

"The only matter in common is an unprotectable C and a B note, repeated," Lepera said. "We've been receiving outcry from people all over the world, including other musicologists."

If the judge upholds the verdict, the case will almost certainly head to an appeals court, where jury awards in similar cases have often been changed or thrown out in recent years.

In the case of another 2013 mega-hit, "Blurred Lines," a jury found singers Robin Thicke and Pharrell Williams copied R&B legend Marvin Gaye's "Got to Give it Up" and ordered them to pay Gaye's children nearly \$7.4 million. The award was trimmed on appeal last year to just short of \$5 million.

Kahn said he would be happy to keep up the battle.

"We think this is a fair and a just result, and we will defend it no matter how they fight it," he said.

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

## Phoenix video stirs up ghosts of 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.



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Warren H. Stewart Sr., pastor of the First 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 were not 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 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 state line. 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.

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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."

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

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

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This story corrects the name of the Phoenix church to First Institutional Baptist Church.

## Kentucky pipeline blast leaves 1 dead, 5 injured

JUNCTION CITY, Ky. (AP) — A regional gas pipeline ruptured early Thursday in Kentucky, causing a massive explosion that killed one person, hospitalized five others, destroyed railroad tracks and forced the evacuation of a nearby mobile home park, authorities said.

Some homes were consumed by the blaze when firefighters extinguished the flames hours later, Lincoln County Emergency Management Director Don Gilliam said.

"The part of the area that has been compromised, there's just nothing left," Gilliam said when asked whether residents might return to their trailer homes. "The residences that are still standing or damaged will be accessible. There doesn't really look like there's any in-between back there. They're either destroyed or they're still standing."

Kentucky State Police spokesman Robert Purdy said at least five homes were completely destroyed and structures within 500 yards (457 meters) had damage. He said a handful of people who were missing after the blast have now been accounted for.

The 30-inch (76-centimeter) wide pipeline moves natural gas under such high pressure that the flames reached about 300 feet (91 meters) in the air and could be seen throughout the county, he said.

The explosion around 1 a.m. was so huge that it showed up on radar, according to a tweet from WKYT-TV meteorologist Chris Bailey. It took hours for firefighters to douse the flames, with trucks repeatedly refilling their tanks and returning to the scene.

Purdy said the fire burned so hot that it left the landscape barren, burning trees and grass and leaving

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only red dirt, rocks and gravel.

Nearby residents said they were awakened by the initial blast.

Naomi Hayes told The Associated Press that she lives within a mile of the scene and felt her home shake, then saw light outside the window.

"It was so bright that it was like daylight outside, just with an orange tint," she said.

"When we went out the door, we could see the flames. They were so high and so bright ... and the noise was insane," she said about the burning fire. "It was a roar, like a monster roar. We had to yell to talk to each other. That's how deafening it was."

Another nearby resident, Sue Routin, told WLEX-TV that the blast shook her home too.

"It woke us up and it was just a big roar and it was fire going up into the sky as far as you could see," she said. "Our windows were shaking really bad, and our doors and the ground, you could hear the ground just moving and tumbling and rolling. And then we got to feeling the heat from the fire, so we got in our vehicle and took off to get away from it."

Purdy said the woman who died was taken to the medical examiner's office in Frankfort to determine her cause of death. Purdy said it appears she may have left her home due to the fire and was overtaken by the heat. Lincoln County Coroner Farris Marcum identified the woman as Lisa Denise Derringer, 58, of Stanford.

Emergency managers said the rupture involved the Texas Eastern Transmission pipeline, which is owned and operated by Enbridge. The pipeline stretches several thousand miles from the Mexican border in Texas to New York City. A statement from the company based in Calgary, Canada, said "Enbridge is aware of and is responding to a rupture on the Texas Eastern system in Lincoln County."

Enbridge spokesman Jim McGuffey said two other nearby gas lines don't appear to be affected but will be inspected. He said there's no indication of what might have caused the explosion.

The blast also damaged railroad tracks, forcing 31 trains to back up overnight, authorities said. Crews were working to repairs the tracks. Purdy said the track should reopen later in the day.

Some 75 people in the Indian Camp trailer park in the Moreland community were evacuated to the New Hope Baptist Church in Stanford. Authorities urged people gathering for the multistate 127 Yard Sale to stay away as crews worked to contain the damage.

Gilliam said affected residents could access their homes by Thursday evening. Representatives from Enbridge, the Red Cross and other groups gathered with residents to offer assistance.

Emergency management officials were beginning an assessment Thursday evening and would continue Friday, Gilliam said.

Purdy said several agencies are investigating to determine what caused the explosion.

The National Transportation Safety Board said it was sending three investigators to the site.

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This story has been corrected to say the pipeline is several thousand miles long, instead of more than 9,000 miles long.

## Once a retail shrine , flagship stores lose their shine

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It used to be considered the retailer's crown jewel — a large format store on a swank corridor that showed off the best of what a brand had to offer.

But now the so-called flagship store is disappearing from high-profile shopping thoroughfares like Manhattan's Madison Avenue and Chicago's Magnificent Mile because of skyrocketing rents and the shift to online shopping.

Over the last year or so, Gap, Tommy Hilfiger, Lord & Taylor and Polo Ralph Lauren have closed their flagship stores on Manhattan's Fifth Avenue. Abercrombie announced in May that it was closing three more of its big locations — an Abercrombie store in Milan, an Abercrombie store in Fukuoka, Japan and a Hollister-branded store in Manhattan's SoHo area. The announcement came after the teen retailer shut

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down flagships in Hong Kong and Copenhagen.

Other retailers are reimagining the flagship concept instead of abandoning it altogether. Nike, for instance, opened a massive store on Fifth Avenue late last year that doesn't have any cash registers. It lets shoppers see details of items displayed on a mannequin by scanning the QR code and then having those items delivered to a fitting room or a designated pickup spot. Levi Strauss & Co.'s new flagship in Manhattan's Time Square features larger dressing rooms with call buttons and tailors who can add trims and patches to customers' jeans.

Those still clinging to the old concept, however, are having a harder time. The latest victim could be Barneys New York, which opened its 10-story Madison Avenue store in 1993 and became a cultural icon in luxury shopping but now risks closure. High rents and a dramatic shift toward online shopping are pressuring it to evaluate restructuring options, including possible bankruptcy, according to a source close to the matter who asked to remain anonymous because the discussions are confidential.

Joseph Aquino, who runs his namesake real estate services firm, says the days of the shop-til-you drop mentality on Madison Avenue popularized by the HBO popular series of the 1990s "Sex in the City" are over.

"She was 45 and now she is 65... She isn't shopping like she was 45," Aquino said. "We are in the phase where a lot of younger shoppers don't want to go the high street. They sit around and buy online and that's what we are fighting against."

The concept of a flagship store is more than a century old and used to be limited to retailers' biggest store — one in their first or most prominent location. But in the last 20 years, a flagship store frenzy took hold and retailers from Gap to H&M looked at them as a must-have shrine to their brands, opening multiple flagships in multiple locations. Not only that but they were willing to pay exorbitant sums of money to showcase their merchandise in luxury corridors.

Rents have swelled so much, however, that many retailers can no longer justify the high price, especially as more shoppers shift their spending online and physical stores lose foot traffic.

CoStar Group, a real estate research firm, examined retail leasing at luxury corridors in seven cities: Miami's Lincoln Road, Beverly Hills' Golden Triangle, Chicago's Magnificent Mile, Washington D.C.'s Georgetown district, Boston's Newbury Street, Manhattan's Fifth Avenue and San Francisco's Union Square. It found the vacancy rate shot up to 7% last year from 3% in 2017 — greater than the 4% those areas saw in the Great Recession.

Last year, the net number of retail square footage lost in these corridors topped 353,000, surpassing the 214,000 loss of square feet seen in 2009. The loss was exaggerated by Macy's selling of its I. Magnin portion of its flagship store at Union Square in San Francisco. But CoStar found that excluding even that move, every high-end shopping corridor it tracked saw a weakening trend.

As a result, rents on Madison Avenue and Fifth Avenue have taken a hit as demand for these locations have fallen. Average annual asking rents for ground floor locations for the Fifth Avenue strip between 49th and 60th Street was \$2,779 per square feet in the first quarter of 2019, down 11% from its peak of the first quarter of 2017, says commercial real estate broker Cushman & Wakefield.

But many analysts believe they haven't fallen far enough. In fact, commercial rents in 45 out of the 60 cities including New York, Los Angeles and Miami, are higher than in 2009 when the economy was in a recession, according to data from CBRE, a commercial real estate service firm. In the case of Barneys New York's Madison Avenue store, the landlord there reportedly raised its rent to \$30 million from \$16 million earlier this year. A Barneys spokeswoman declined to comment.

Still, flagship stores aren't dead. Many retailers like Nike and Levi are embracing new versions that beckon shoppers with less merchandise and more high-tech experiences.

"I don't think you have a need for these massive stores," Stacey Widlitz, president of SW Retail Advisors, said. "Shoppers are shopping completely differently. You don't need a full assortment. They have to become an experience, letting customers get to know who you are versus selling stuff."

A growing number of retailers are also thinking smaller. Hollister, for instance, is embracing shrunken stores that offer online services and serve both local and tourist customers.



"Our customers continue to want smaller, more intimate stores where they can interact with associates and our smaller prototypes have proven higher productivity," said Abercrombie in an emailed statement.

Tommy Hilfiger, which also closed its other U.S. flagships on the swank Collins Avenue in Miami, will be testing smaller shops with online interaction in the U.S. that could be more like pop-ups.

Caroline Nash, 18 of Washington, D.C. says she finds massive stores too overwhelming, especially when she can get the merchandise online.

"I associate big stores with long fitting lines and big crowds," Nash said. "Unless it is something that offers a different experience, I'm not interested."

Follow Anne D'Innocenzio: <http://twitter.com/ADInnocenzio>

## AP Analysis: Biden wrestles with his Obama problem

By KATHLEEN HENNESSEY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Joe Biden came to the debate stage with stats and one-liners aimed at the feisty group of challengers. But the weapon he used the most was just two words: Barack Obama.

On health care, immigration, and civil rights, Biden deflected blows from Democrats by invoking the policies and the popularity of the first black president. When it worked, Biden argued forcefully for saving and improving on Obama's signature policies on health care or climate change. At other times, Biden risked appearing trapped in a past many in his party have moved beyond.

"It looks like one of us has learned the lessons of the past, and one of us hasn't," Julián Castro, Obama's housing and urban development secretary, said to Biden in a memorable tussle over the Obama administration's deportation of immigrants. Biden declined to criticize Obama's immigration policies. Castro, tapping into many liberals' deep frustration on the issue, was eager. "What we need are politicians that actually have some guts on this issue."

Such is the burden and the blessing of Obama for Biden. The former vice president owes his title and his front-runner status to the former president. But it's far from clear that running as an unwavering Obama loyalist is enough to inherit Obama's winning coalition of voters.

The base of the party has moved left since he moved out of the White House. As popular as Obama remains with Democrats, many of the young people, women and progressives who lined up for him are more than ready to turn the page. Biden showed Wednesday he's not going to do it for them.

That is the tension that drove both nights of debates in Detroit between all 20 Democrats vying to take on President Donald Trump. On Tuesday, the fight was between purists — Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders — and a cast of lesser-known pragmatists. Warren and Sanders both argued for big ideas and bold plans — "Medicare for All," free college — while others pushed for plans they claimed were better grounded in reality.

On Wednesday, it showed through as nearly every Democrat on stage targeted Biden, the most prominent pragmatist there, piling on the attacks on his record and suggesting he should step aside for new ideas.

California Sen. Kamala Harris hit Biden for his health plan that preserves "Obamacare" and builds on it, arguing it didn't go far enough and would leave millions uninsured. Both Castro and New York Mayor Bill de Blasio pressed Biden on deportations. When Biden declined to discuss his counsel to Obama on the matter, New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker cried foul.

"Mr. Vice President, you can't have it both ways. You invoke President Obama more than anybody in this campaign. You can't do it when it's convenient and then dodge it when it's not," he said.

When de Blasio asked Biden about his role in police brutality and civil rights issues, a frustrated Biden referred back to Obama again.

"I find it fascinating everybody is talking about how terrible I am on these issues," Biden said. "Barack Obama knew exactly who I was. He had 10 lawyers do a background check on everything about me on civil rights and civil liberties, and he chose me, and he said it was the best decision he made."

That argument has been working for Biden with at least one key slice of the Democratic coalition. Polls

show he has strong support among black voters, well ahead of Harris and Booker, the two black candidates in the race.

In South Carolina, where some two-thirds of the Democratic primary electorate is black, Biden has the support of 51% of African American Democratic voters, according to a recent Monmouth University poll. Harris landed at 12%.

But there may be limits for Biden in relying on his association with Obama. It's not enough for some young voters, including the young black voters Biden needs to push to the polls if he wants to avoid the fate of Hillary Clinton, another Obama loyalist.

"For a certain set of people, older black voters, Obama is golden. That's all you need to hear," said Branden Snyder, the 32-year-old executive director of Detroit Action, a group that organizes people of color. Snyder noted Obama campaigned for Clinton in Detroit, but the city still saw turnout drop and Michigan go for Trump. For voters roughly 45 and younger, "we've seen this before."

"The promises that were made, by and large, weren't met," he said, citing immigration and the uneven economic recovery that followed the housing crash. "We want the understanding of what will be different, of what your plan is."

Harris and other Democrats have tried to lay their own claim to Obama's legacy. Harris attacked Biden on his career before Obama, claiming the former president would not have sided with Biden in his opposition to federally mandated busing to desegregate schools, or in his willingness to work with segregationist senators.

"Had those segregationists had their way, I would not be a member of the United States Senate," Harris said. "Cory Booker would not be a member of the United States Senate. And Barack Obama would not have been in the position to nominate (Biden) to the title he now holds."

Biden's campaign says they have no concerns about his close alignment with the former president. On Thursday, he expressed bewilderment at the beating Obama's legacy took.

"I hope the next debate we can talk about our answers to fix the things that Trump has broken, not how Barack Obama made all these mistakes," Biden said. "He didn't. He didn't."

Biden's resistance to the party's leftward drift may help him win traction with other key pieces of Obama's winning coalition — white working-class and union voters who tend to be moderate on immigration and economic issues.

That may help explain Biden's most notable split from Obama — a break on trade policy. The former vice president declared Wednesday he would not rejoin Obama's massive Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal as it was negotiated. He also suggested he would reject and renegotiate Trump's new version of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Upon hearing that, de Blasio showed clear surprise: "I consider that a victory," he said.

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Hennessey is a national political editor for The Associated Press. She has covered Congress, politics and the White House since 2009.

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Associated Press writers Sara Burnett and Thomas Beaumont contributed to this report from Detroit.

## 1-year-old daughter, wife of Congo's Goma victim have Ebola

By SALEH MWANAMILONGO and IGNATIUS SSUUNA Associated Press

KINSHASA, Congo (AP) — The wife and 1-year-old daughter of the man who died of Ebola in Goma this week have tested positive for the disease, health officials confirmed Thursday, the first transmission of the virus inside the densely populated crossroads city on the border with Rwanda, a scenario that health experts have long feared.

Rwanda briefly closed its border with Congo over the virus outbreak in the city of more than 2 million as the painstaking work of finding, tracking and vaccinating people who had contact with the man — and the contacts of those contacts — began.

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The man died on Wednesday after spending several days at home with his large family while showing symptoms. Congo's presidency said the entire family was at "high risk" and in quarantine. The Ebola coordinator for North Kivu province, Dr. Aruna Abedi, confirmed the wife's case to The Associated Press hours after that of the child.

"We're seeing the first active transmission chain in Goma and expect more to come," the International Rescue Committee's Ebola response director, Andre Heller, warned in a statement.

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 Nduhungirehe, 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, citing the Ebola outbreak, shortly before the annual hajj pilgrimage there this month.

Congo's presidency condemned Rwanda's decision, and Congolese at the busy frontier expressed frustration. "I can't understand why they don't just test us instead of closing these borders," said Angel Murhula, who works in Rwanda.

Several hours later Congo's presidency said the border had reopened. A Rwanda health ministry statement called the events a "traffic slowdown" as surveillance for Ebola was reinforced. The ministry advised against unnecessary travel to the Goma area.

WHO has recommended against travel restrictions amid the outbreak but says the risk of regional spread is "very high." Any border closure is likely to push people to avoid official crossings equipped with hand-washing stations and where people are checked for signs of fever or other Ebola symptoms. In June, three people who crossed on an unguarded footpath into Uganda died there before their family members were taken back to Congo for treatment.

The death Wednesday in Goma "in such a dense population center underscores the very real risk of further disease transmission, perhaps beyond the country's borders," 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 the city of 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 before going 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 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 a previous one in Goma 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.

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

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## Leaders of religious right balk at labeling Trump a racist

By DAVID CRARY AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Many religious leaders have strongly condemned President Donald Trump's disparaging remarks about minority members of Congress. Prominent figures on the religious right have not joined in, instead maintaining public silence or insisting that Trump's tactics reflect hard-nosed politics rather than racism.

"He does not judge people by the color of their skin," said the Rev. Robert Jeffress, pastor of the Southern Baptist megachurch First Baptist Dallas and a frequent guest at the White House.

"He judges people on whether they support him," Jeffress said. "If you embrace him, he'll embrace you. If you attack him, he'll attack you. That's the definition of colorblind."

Debate over Trump's inflammatory tweets and comments has flared over the past few weeks. He told four outspoken congresswomen of color — three of them born in the U.S.—to "go back" where they came from. He also derided two black leaders — the Rev. Al Sharpton and Democratic Rep. Elijah Cummings, of Maryland — and called the majority-black city of Baltimore a "rodent-infested mess."

In response, 11 leaders of Protestant and Catholic groups in Maryland issued a public letter Tuesday imploring Trump to "stop putting people down."

"Enough of the harmful rhetoric that angers and discourages the people and communities you are called to serve," the leaders wrote.

A similar message came the same day from leaders of the Washington National Cathedral, designated by Congress as a non-denominational National House of Prayer.

"As leaders of faith who believe in the sacredness of every single human being, the time for silence is over," said a statement from three cathedral leaders. "We must boldly stand witness against the bigotry, hatred, intolerance, and xenophobia that is hurled at us, especially when it comes from the highest offices of this nation."

The Rev. Jim Wallis, founder of the Christian social justice group Sojourners, assailed Trump's remarks as "a public sin that must be called out" and challenged five of the president's evangelical supporters, including Jeffress and the Rev. Franklin Graham, to publicly denounce his rhetoric.

"If we hear silence from white people of faith, we are in deep spiritual trouble," Wallis wrote on Sojourners' web site. "Christian moral objection to the president's racist language must grow every day and from many quarters."

Graham, the son of renowned evangelist Billy Graham and president of the charity Samaritan's Purse, said the president's critics had devalued the word "racism."

"The left has weaponized it and uses it against their opponents," he said in a telephone interview Thursday. "The president is not afraid to go after anyone — their color has nothing to do with it. It's the person's ideology and politics."

Graham contended that Trump was justified in his criticism of Cummings' district encompassing much of Baltimore.

"The president is right — it should be investigated," Graham said. "Billions of federal dollars have been given to this area. It certainly hasn't helped the people of Baltimore."

Among Trump's most outspoken evangelical supporters is Alveda King, a niece of civil rights leader Martin



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Luther King Jr. and a longtime anti-abortion activist. She was among a group of black pastors who met with Trump at the White House on Monday.

Citing her family's credo, King said, "When we dealt with racism, it was in prayer, not condemnation." "I don't have to pray for President Trump for being a racist, because he's not," she said. "He's not colorblind—he can see and appreciate ethnic differences. But he's going to treat everybody with the same regard." Some prominent evangelical leaders, thus far, have chosen not to wade into the public debate over Trump and racism.

Three high-level leaders in the Southern Baptist Convention update their websites frequently with topical commentary, but there have been no postings about the Trump/racism debate by the SBC's president, the Rev. J.D. Greear; the head of its flagship seminary, the Rev. Albert Mohler; or the head of its public policy arm, the Rev. Russell Moore.

Jeffress, the Dallas pastor who's been a friend of Trump's since 2015, said there are numerous SBC leaders who have been "Never Trumpers" since the launch of his candidacy.

"They're out of step with mainstream Southern Baptists, who've been loyal to Donald Trump since the beginning," Jeffress said. "It's caused many of them to go silent."

Another conservative denomination, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, this week declined to comment on the racial discussion triggered by Trump's recent tweets. Spokesman Eric Hawkins instead cited a July 21 speech by church President Russell M. Nelson at the NACCP convention in Detroit, where he urged people to love one another no matter their differences.

"We are all connected, and we have a God-given responsibility to help make life better for those around us," Nelson said. "We don't have to be alike or look alike to have love for each other. We don't even have to agree with each other to love each other."

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Associated Press writer Brady McCombs in Salt Lake City contributed to this report.

## **GOP pushes immigration bill, skirting rules as Dems protest**

**By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee upended the rules Thursday for immigration legislation that would extend family detentions as chairman Lindsey Graham muscled the measure forward over the objections of Democrats.

It's one last battle, led by a top ally of President Donald Trump, before senators break for a long August recess and the start of 2020 campaigning with immigration at the forefront of the debate.

Graham gavelled open the hearing saying he wasn't going to wait any longer to address the crisis at the southern border. He acknowledged that his outreach to Democrats has failed to reach a compromise on detention policies for children and families.

In pushing the bill forward, the chairman skirted committee rules allowing for amendments and requiring minority participation in certain actions, including to end debate.

"What am I supposed to do?" asked the South Carolina Republican. "We have a right to vote."

Democrats have protested the bill and refused to attend a panel session last week, setting off the battle Thursday. They voted against the measure, decrying what Rhode Island Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse called an "illegitimate process."

Ripping up a copy of the committee's rules, Democratic Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont, a former chairman of the panel, questioned why normal rules were being discarded.

"Apparently, it's for legislation to give the president what he wants in his political war on immigration," Leahy said.

"It's supposed to be the Senate Judiciary Committee, not the Donald Trump committee."

The bill would change existing law, which limits family detentions to 20 days for migrants traveling with children and requires them to be released pending asylum hearings. Instead, Graham's bill would allow longer detentions by doing away with the limits, which have been part of the so-called Flores legal

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settlement.

Among other changes, the legislation would restructure asylum law to have applicants apply in Mexico and other countries, rather than when they arrive at the U.S. border, and bring on 500 new immigration judges to help process the backlog of cases.

Sen. Mazie Hirono, D-Hawaii, said the bill is unworkable. "In a word, it's nuts and probably unconstitutional," she said.

The morning hearing set off a particularly heated dispute over not just immigration policy, which often divides the political parties, but the traditions of the Senate, where Republicans hold the majority and have chipped away at longstanding rules.

Ground zero for much of the uproar has been the work of the Judiciary Committee, which handled Brett Kavanaugh's nomination to the Supreme Court last year.

Senate rules were changed to allow faster confirmation of Trump's judicial nominees, and confirming Kavanaugh and filling court vacancies with Trump's picks has been a top accomplishment of the Republican-led Senate.

Graham, who faces his own re-election alongside Trump in 2020, acknowledged his immigration bill may not be approved by the Senate — and faces even less chance in the House, where Democrats have the majority.

He indicated a willingness to continue negotiating with Democrats and the president on a compromise, but said he wasn't going to leave for the August break without acting.

Graham also acknowledged that negotiating a bipartisan solution can be a problem when Trump changes his mind, as he did last year on immigration policy.

In earlier immigration talks Trump has suggested he liked one bipartisan approach only to drop it days later. "The Tuesday-Thursday Trump is a real dilemma," Graham said.

"Bipartisanship is going to be required," he said. "Maybe we can get there."

Lawmakers are eager to return home saying they have taken action to stem the crisis at the border.

## Hard-won budget, debt deal clears Senate, advances to Trump

By ANDREW TAYLOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A hard-won budget and debt deal easily cleared the Senate on Thursday, powered by President Donald Trump's endorsement and a bipartisan drive to cement recent spending increases for the Pentagon and domestic agencies.

The legislation passed by a 67-28 vote as Trump and his GOP allies relied on lots of Democratic votes to propel it over the finish line.

Passage marked a drama-free solution to a worrisome set of looming Washington deadlines as both allies and adversaries of the president set aside ideology in exchange for relative fiscal peace and stability. The measure, which Trump has promised to sign, would permit the government to resume borrowing to pay all its bills and would set an overall \$1.37 trillion limit on agency budgets approved by Congress annually.

It does nothing to stem the government's spiraling debt and the return of \$1 trillion-plus deficits but it also takes away the prospect of a government shutdown in October or the threat of deep automatic spending cuts.

The administration and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., played strong hands in the talks that sealed the agreement last week, producing a pragmatic measure that had much for lawmakers to dislike.

Trump did step back from a possible fight over spending increases sought by liberals, and he achieved his priorities on Pentagon budgets and the stock market-soothing borrowing limit.

"Budget Deal is phenomenal for our Great Military, our Vets, and Jobs, Jobs, Jobs!" Trump tweeted before the vote. "Two year deal gets us past the Election. Go for it Republicans, there is always plenty of time to CUT!"

Pelosi won remarkable Democratic unity in pushing the bill through the House last week despite divides on issues such as impeachment and health care.

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Democrats in the GOP-controlled Senate delivered most of their votes for the deal. Many of the more solidly conservative Republicans said it allowed for unchecked borrowing and too much spending.

The measure was an epitaph to the 2011 Budget Control Act, which came about due to a tea party-fueled battle over debt limit legislation during the run-up to President Barack Obama's re-election. That law promised more than \$2 trillion in deficit cuts through 2021, including automatic spending cuts that were put in place after the failure of a so-called deficit supercommittee.

"It's not just Democrats. Republicans are also guilty. At least the big-government Republicans who will vote for this monstrous addition of debt," said Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky. "Many of the supporters of this debt deal ran around their states for years complaining that, 'President Obama's spending too much and borrowing too much,' and these same Republicans now, the whole disingenuous lot of them, will wiggle their way to the front of the trough."

The bill would lift the debt limit for two years, into either a second Trump term or the administration of a Democratic successor.

It would reverse scheduled 10 percent cuts to defense and nondefense programs next year, at a two-year cost of more than \$200 billion. An additional \$100 billion over two years would add to recent gains for military readiness, combating opioids and other domestic initiatives, and would keep pace with rising costs for veterans' health care.

Those increases alone, assuming they are repeated year after year, promise to add \$2 trillion or more to the government's \$22 trillion debt over the coming decade.

The bill was powered by a coalition of GOP defense hawks, Democrats seeking to preserve gains in domestic accounts, and the leaders of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. Democrats voted for the bill by a wide margin, and it won a healthy majority of Senate Republicans.

"Providing sufficient funding for our military and eliminating the threat of sequestration for good are absolutely necessary for our military to have the budgetary stability and predictability they so desperately need," said the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla.

It was also a long-sought victory for Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., who initiated the negotiations and was deeply invested in bringing order and relative predictability to the budget and debt deadlines.

Losers included more conservative elements of the White House. Acting Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney, a former tea party congressman from South Carolina, and acting budget director Russell Vought were rebuffed in attempts to add spending cuts to defray the bill's cost.

"We have to invest in improved readiness to help our military commanders plan for emerging challenges, in research and development to support the U.S. military of the future, and in rock-solid support for our alliance commitments," McConnell said. "This deal is an opportunity to do exactly that. This is the agreement the administration has negotiated. This is the deal the House has passed. This is the deal President Trump is waiting and eager to sign into law."

Sen. Michael Bennet, D-Colo., a longshot candidate for president, accused Republicans of financial hypocrisy.

"When I first came here in 2009, Republicans railed against the rising debt and federal spending, even as our economy reeled," Bennet said. "Remarkably, they seemed to have forgotten their supposedly principled calls for fiscal discipline now that President Trump is in office."

Follow-up legislation would fill in the line-by-line details of agency budgets when the Senate returns in September. Trump is sure to continue seeking billions of dollars for border security and wall construction, but unlike last year he does not appear eager for a government shutdown over it.

## Mozambique peace accord brings hope of economic growth

By ANDREW MELDRUM Associated Press

GORONGOSA NATIONAL PARK, Mozambique (AP) — Mozambique's president signed a peace accord Thursday with the country's main opposition party Renamo to end decades of hostilities that followed a

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devastating 15-year civil war that killed an estimated 1 million people.

The ceremony, held in a national wildlife park that was a rebel stronghold and a center of the conflict, brought hope for a new era of peace and economic growth in one of the world's poorest countries, where an estimated 70% of the population lives on less than \$2 per day.

It came as more than 5,200 of the former rebel group's fighters were disarming just weeks before a visit by Pope Francis and a national election that will test the resolve of the two parties to sustain the peace.

"We are living in a moment of hope. This is the moment of our reconciliation," President Filipe Nyusi told a cheering, ululating crowd in Gorongosa National Park, which he said was chosen for the signing because it was where the conflict began and would now be a "sanctuary of peace and biodiversity."

Renamo leader Ossufo Momade also pledged that the warring sides had put aside their hostilities.

"We are now brothers in peace," he declared. "With this signing we are showing all Mozambicans and the world that we have buried our legacy of violence and now we are committed to dialogue to resolve our differences."

The permanent cease-fire was the culmination of years of negotiations to end the fighting that has flared sporadically in the 27 years since the civil war ended in 1992.

After signing the accord, Nyusi and Momade shook hands and embraced at the foot of Mount Gorongosa, where the rebels maintained their military headquarters. Some 800 of the disarming fighters were to live in a tented demobilization camp next to the wildlife park.

The accord is to be followed by another agreement to be signed Tuesday in Mozambique's capital, Maputo, pledging peaceful national elections in October. Previous elections have been marred by violence and Renamo allegations that the ruling Frelimo party rigged the results.

Renamo, which is the Portuguese acronym for National Resistance of Mozambique, fought the bloody civil war with backing from the white-minority regimes in South Africa and Rhodesia. When the war ended in 1992 it became an opposition party but never fully disarmed.

"This agreement has historic significance because up until now Mozambique has had an opposition party in parliament that also has armed fighters in the countryside. Now there can be peace," Neha Sanghrajka, a negotiator of the deal, told The Associated Press.

Unlike in previous peace efforts in Mozambique, she noted, the important issues have been implemented before the signing.

These include an amnesty for rebel fighters that Nyusi signed earlier this week and a constitutional amendment that stipulates provincial governors and other local officials will be elected rather than appointed by the central government.

Mozambique could be a model for other countries trying to resolve long-lasting rebel conflicts through negotiations, because of the example of implementing key reforms before the actual signing, according to mediators. The agreement to end Colombia's rebel conflict, for example, faced several difficulties in implementation after it was signed.

"Here in Mozambique, there has been implementation of 90% of the issues before the actual signing," said negotiator Mirko Manzoni, the Swiss ambassador to Mozambique and the personal envoy of the U.N. secretary-general.

There is "tremendous symbolic value" in having the accord signed at Gorongosa, Manzoni added.

"Gorongosa was where the war started and now it is where it ends," he said, pointing out that the mountain is in a strategic location in the center of Mozambique. "This agreement gives people hope that there will be lasting peace."

Several countries have supported the peace process, including the United States.

"This is an exciting time of positive transformation in Mozambique," said U.S. ambassador Dennis Hearne. "There is significant investment in the energy sector on the horizon. Now with this signing and the initiation of demobilization and disarmament process we are at the beginning of an important transformation of the country's politics which will be consolidated with the elections in October. It is a hopeful and exciting time."

Renamo's longtime leader Afonso Dhlakama died in Gorongosa in 2018. Momade succeeded him and is responsible for concluding the peace agreement.



"We will no longer commit the mistakes of the past," Momade said this week as Renamo fighters started turning in their arms. "We are for a humanized and dignified reintegration and we want the international community to help make that a reality."

Momade, who flew by helicopter from the rebels' mountaintop camp for the signing, also said he hoped Gorongosa Park would help Renamo's ex-combatants and their families re-enter society.

After falling into neglect during the civil war, the park that sprawls over 4,067 square kilometers (1,570 square miles) has been re-invigorated with help from American philanthropist Greg Carr, who said he was inspired to take on the project after the late Nelson Mandela told him that wildlife parks should be places of national reconciliation and development.

The park has also helped surrounding communities recover after Cyclone Idai devastated large parts of central Mozambique in March, killing more than 600 people. More than 80,000 people are receiving food aid and help in planting crops, while aid groups warn that many others in the region face a hunger crisis in the months ahead.

"I'm excited at what the park can do in the next five years and beyond to help keep the peace," said Carr, who attended the signing ceremony with dozens of ambassadors, generals, Cabinet ministers and nearly 2,000 local residents. "We need the park to deliver opportunities and benefits to the demobilized fighters to sustain the peace. Now it's, 'Go, go, go,' for us to build on the achievement of this peace agreement."

Nyusi flew in for the ceremony from the capital, Maputo, on the country's southern tip, more than 1,000 kilometers (700 miles) from Gorongosa, and highlighted the significance of signing the accord in the park.

"We are here in Gorongosa, which has been the center of the conflict, as proof of our commitment to peace," he said. "The park is no longer a center of violence. From now on Gorongosa will be a park that is a sanctuary of peace and biodiversity. It is the place where we pledge to forgive and move forward with tolerance and respect."

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## 2 Dillinger relatives doubt body in grave is the gangster

By RICK CALLAHAN Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Two relatives of notorious 1930s gangster John Dillinger who plan to have his remains exhumed as part of a television documentary say they have "evidence" the body buried in an Indianapolis cemetery may not be him and that FBI agents possibly killed someone else in 1934.

The FBI immediately disputed that idea, calling it a "myth" that its agents didn't fatally shoot Dillinger outside a Chicago theater more than 85 years ago. The agency said in a statement that "a wealth of information supports Dillinger's demise" including fingerprint matches.

But in affidavits released by the Indiana State Department of Health, two relatives of the famed criminal say they're seeking to have "a body purported to be John H. Dillinger" exhumed from Crown Hill Cemetery for a forensic analysis and possible DNA testing.

The planned exhumation will be part of a documentary on Dillinger for The History Channel, a spokesman for A&E Networks confirmed earlier this week.

Mike Thompson and Carol Thompson Griffith, who say Dillinger was their uncle, wrote in affidavits supporting an exhumation and reburial permit the state agency approved in July that they have received "evidence that demonstrates that the individual who was shot and killed at the Biograph Theater in Chicago on July 22, 1934 may not in fact have been my uncle, John H. Dillinger."

In their affidavits, both say that "evidence" includes that the eye color of the man killed outside that theater didn't match Dillinger's eye color, his ears were shaped differently, the fingerprints weren't a match and that he had a heart condition. The document doesn't elaborate on why the heart condition supports their theory that the man wasn't Dillinger.

But both say they want the body exhumed and subjected to a forensic analysis and possibly DNA testing "in order to make a positive identification."

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"It is my belief and opinion that it is critical to learn whether Dillinger lived beyond his reported date of death of July 22, 1934. If he was not killed on that date, I am interested in discovering what happened to him, where he lived, whether he had children, and whether any such children or grandchildren are living today," both say in the documents.

The Chicago Sun-Times and WLS-TV in Chicago first reported on the affidavits supporting the exhumation permit.

A&E Networks spokesman Dan Silberman said Thursday that he only learned this week about the relatives' affidavits and their belief that Dillinger might not be buried in the grave.

He said he can't comment on the planned documentary or what the film's focus will be because the project hasn't gone into production yet.

"It's really early in the process," Silberman said. "In documentaries, it's not like there's a script, so it's hard to say at this point."

He said no date has been scheduled for the exhumation and approvals are still needed from other government entities. Silberman said he did not know if Dillinger's relatives would be paid by the network as part of the documentary.

The FBI took the unusual step of issuing a statement late Wednesday insisting that its agents had in fact shot and killed Dillinger "as he reached for a pistol from his trouser pocket" outside the theater.

The FBI said Dillinger was pronounced dead at a Chicago hospital. The agency also said that it's a "common myth" that "a stand-in" and not Dillinger was the man killed, saying that such claims "have been advanced with only circumstantial evidence."

Another Dillinger relative said he considers the planned exhumation to be disrespectful. Great-nephew Jeff Scalf tells WTHR-TV that he's certain the late gangster is buried in the concrete-encased grave that's marked with his name at the cemetery.

"I don't believe in desecrating the dead. I think it's been 85 years. It doesn't matter," Scalf told the Indianapolis station.

"Unless somebody was successful in robbing the grave, that's John. I know that that's John," added Scalf, who's a cousin of Mike Thompson, one of the relatives who sought the state permit.

The Indianapolis-born Dillinger, who was portrayed by Johnny Depp in the 2009 movie "Public Enemies," was one of America's most notorious criminals. The FBI says Dillinger's gang killed 10 people as they pulled off a bloody string of bank robberies across the Midwest in the 1930s.

Dillinger was considered a folk hero by some during the Great Depression, when banks foreclosed on homes and farms amid the economic crisis, said Susan Sutton, a historian with the Indiana Historical Society.

Dillinger was awaiting trial in the slaying of an East Chicago police officer when he escaped from jail in Crown Point, Indiana, in March 1934 with a gun carved out of wood. While on the run, he underwent plastic surgery to alter his face and was said to have tried to remove his fingerprints with acid.

Months later, Dillinger was fatally shot outside Chicago's Biograph Theater after he was betrayed by a woman who became known in newspapers as the "Lady in Red."

Dillinger's family feared that vandals might dig up his body, Sutton said, citing a 2013 book the historical society published about the Indianapolis cemetery's history, "Crown Hill: History, Spirit, and Sanctuary." Days after his funeral, Dillinger's father had his son's casket reburied under a protective cap of concrete and scrap iron topped by four reinforced-concrete slabs.

"The Dillingers had actually been offered money to 'lend out' his body for exhibits, so they were concerned," Sutton said Tuesday.

## US adds a solid 164,000 jobs; unemployment rate stays 3.7%

By JOSH BOAK AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. employers slowed their hiring in July but still added a solid 164,000 jobs to an economy that appears poised to extend its decade-long expansion.

The unemployment rate remained at 3.7% for a second straight month, the Labor Department said

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Friday. Average hourly earnings rose 3.2% from a year ago, up from a 3% year-over-year gain in June.

Though the pace of hiring has slowed this year, one reason is that a growing share of Americans already have jobs. Unemployment is near a half-century low. The overall U.S. economy remains on firm footing, and last month the expansion became the longest on record.

Still, the economy has faced some tumult as President Donald Trump has escalated his trade conflict with China. On Thursday, Trump announced plans to tax an additional \$300 billion of Chinese imports beginning in September, a move that could slow economic growth at least slightly.

Yet the Federal Reserve has acted to sustain the expansion in part because some of the benefits are only now reaching America's lower-income communities. The Fed on Wednesday cut its benchmark interest rate for the first time in a decade to try to counter the impact of Trump's trade wars, stubbornly low inflation and global weakness.

In July, several industry sectors posted solid gains. Health care added a robust 30,400 jobs. Restaurants and bars added 15,400 jobs. Local governments contributed 14,000 jobs, primarily in education. The finance and insurance industry added 13,900.

The manufacturing sector, though, has been struggling with declines in output. Manufacturers posted healthy gains of 16,000 jobs in July, though most of the growth was in the transportation sector that could soon be hit by auto plant layoffs.

But other areas showed some signs of weakness. Construction companies added just 4,000 workers. The transportation and warehousing sector added just 300 jobs. Retailers shed 3,600.

Though it is growing consistently, the economy does appear to be sliding into a slower phase. The gross domestic product — the total output of goods and services produced in the United States — grew at a decent if unspectacular 2.1% annual rate in the April-June quarter, down from a 3.1% pace in the January-March period.

Consumer spending increased at a 4.3% annual rate and helped propel much of the growth. But business capital investment declined for the first time in three years, a likely sign that Trump's aggressive use of tariffs against China and other countries has slowed corporations' expansion plans.

Home sales have fallen as high prices have kept many people out despite the benefits of low mortgage rates and job gains. Sales of existing homes have tumbled 2.2% over the past 12 months, according to the National Association of Realtors.

Factories have also been coping with a slowdown. In part, that's because the global economy has weakened and the president's tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of goods — and threats to add more — have disrupted supply chains. The Fed said this month that manufacturing output has improved just 0.4% from a year ago after having declined over the past six months.

There are signs, though, that consumers are optimistic. The Conference Board's index of consumer confidence last month reached its best reading since November. A higher percentage of Americans anticipate pay raises in the next six months.

Indeed, spending at restaurants and bars has increased 4.2% year-to-date, according to government reports. And while traditional store retailers have faced hardships, online stores have prospered: Non-store retailers have enjoyed a 10.6% jump in sales.

## Asian stocks plunge on US-China trade war worries

By JOE McDONALD AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Asian stock markets plunged Friday after President Donald Trump's surprise threat of tariff hikes on additional Chinese imports.

In early trading, Tokyo's main index tumbled 2.2% and Hong Kong's benchmark lost 2%. Markets in Shanghai, Sydney and Seoul also fell.

Trump's announcement of 10% tariffs on \$300 billion of Chinese goods, due to take effect Sept. 1, surprised investors after the White House said Beijing promised to buy more farm goods. That came as their latest round of trade talks ended in Shanghai.

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That added to investor unease following Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell's suggestion Wednesday that the U.S. central bank had no plans for an extended cycle of interest rate cuts.

"Markets are reeling after President Trump expressed his frustration with China's stalling techniques," said Stephen Innes of VM Markets in a report. "With the global markets on edge after Chair Powell's communication failed so miserably, few traders have been willing to step in front of this steamroller."

The Shanghai Composite Index lost 1.4% to 2,867.20 while Tokyo's Nikkei 225 declined to 21,047.38.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell to 26,998.20. Seoul's Kospi shed 1% to 1,998.06 and Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 retreated 0.7% to 6,762.30. Markets in New Zealand, Taiwan and Southeast Asia also fell.

On Wall Street, the benchmark Standard & Poor's 500 fell for a fourth day, losing 0.9% to 2,953.56.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average declined 1% to 26,583.42. The Nasdaq composite ended 0.8% lower at 8,111.12.

The escalation in U.S.-Chinese trade tension comes only a couple of days after both sides resumed negotiations.

In a series of tweets, Trump noted that while slow-moving negotiations have been "constructive," China has not followed through on some prior agreements.

Washington has imposed tariffs of 25% on \$250 billion worth of Chinese goods over complaints Beijing steals or pressures companies to hand over technology. Beijing retaliated with tariffs on \$110 billion of American goods, including agricultural products, in a direct shot at Trump supporters in the U.S. farm belt.

Unlike earlier tariffs, which were meant to minimize the impact on ordinary Americans by targeting industrial goods, the new ones would affect a wide range of consumer products.

Trump also expressed frustration the Fed isn't cutting interest rates more aggressively.

The Fed cut its key interest rate for the first time in a decade Wednesday, citing uncertainty over the U.S. trade conflicts.

U.S. share price declines come despite unexpectedly strong corporate earnings.

Oil companies Exxon and Chevron will report results on Friday. The government will also release its employment report for July on Friday.

Qualcomm fell 2.7% after the chipmaker gave investors a surprisingly weak profit and revenue forecast because of problems in China. A ban on exports to China's Huawei, which is part of the ongoing trade war between the U.S. and China, hangs over the company.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude jumped 99 cents to \$54.94 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract plunged \$4.53 on Thursday — its biggest drop in more than four years — to \$53.95. Brent crude, used to price international oils, soared \$1.51 to \$62.01 per barrel in London. It fell \$4.55 the previous session to \$60.50.

CURRENCY: The dollar declined to 107.04 yen from Thursday's 107.35 yen. The euro edged down to \$1.1076 from \$1.1085.

## Today in History By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Friday, Aug. 2, the 214th day of 2019. There are 151 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 2, 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait, seizing control of the oil-rich emirate. (The Iraqis were later driven out in Operation Desert Storm.)

On this date:

In 1610, during his fourth voyage to the Western Hemisphere, English explorer Henry Hudson sailed into what is now known as Hudson Bay.

In 1776, members of the Second Continental Congress began attaching their signatures to the Declaration of Independence.

In 1876, frontiersman "Wild Bill" Hickok was shot and killed while playing poker at a saloon in Deadwood,



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Dakota Territory, by Jack McCall, who was later hanged.

In 1921, a jury in Chicago acquitted several former members of the Chicago White Sox baseball team and two others of conspiring to defraud the public in the notorious "Black Sox" scandal. Opera singer Enrico Caruso, 48, died in Naples, Italy.

In 1922, Alexander Graham Bell, generally regarded as the inventor of the telephone, died in Nova Scotia, Canada, at age 75.

In 1923, the 29th president of the United States, Warren G. Harding, died in San Francisco; Vice President Calvin Coolidge became president.

In 1934, German President Paul von Hindenburg died, paving the way for Adolf Hitler's complete takeover.

In 1939, Albert Einstein signed a letter to President Franklin D. Roosevelt urging creation of an atomic weapons research program. President Roosevelt signed the Hatch Act, which prohibited civil service employees from taking an active part in political campaigns.

In 1974, former White House counsel John W. Dean III was sentenced to one to four years in prison for obstruction of justice in the Watergate cover-up. (Dean ended up serving four months.)

In 1980, 85 people were killed when a bomb exploded at the train station in Bologna, Italy.

In 1985, 137 people were killed when Delta Air Lines Flight 191, a Lockheed L-1011 Tristar, crashed while attempting to land at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.

In 2000, Republicans awarded Texas Gov. George W. Bush their 2000 presidential nomination at the party's convention in Philadelphia and ratified Dick Cheney as his running mate.

Ten years ago: A mystery from the 1991 Gulf War was finally solved as the Pentagon announced that the remains of missing Navy pilot Michael "Scott" Speicher (SPY'-kur) had been found. Catriona Matthew won the Women's British Open for her first major title, beating Karrie Webb by three strokes.

Five years ago: Dr. Kent Brantly, the first Ebola victim to be brought to the United States from Africa, was safely escorted into a specialized isolation unit at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta, where he recovered from the disease. Author Billie Letts, 76, died in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

One year ago: Pope Francis changed Catholic Church teaching on capital punishment, decreeing that the death penalty is "inadmissible" under all circumstances. Apple became the world's first publicly-traded company to be valued at \$1 trillion. The Trump administration proposed weakening Obama-era mileage standards designed to make cars more fuel efficient and less polluting.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Nehemiah Persoff is 100. Rock musician Garth Hudson (The Band) is 82. Singer Kathy Lennon (The Lennon Sisters) is 76. Actress Joanna Cassidy is 74. Actress Kathryn Harrold is 69. Actor Butch Patrick (TV: "The Munsters") is 66. Rock music producer/drummer Butch Vig (Garbage) is 64. Sen. Jacky Rosen, D-Nev., is 62. Singer Mojo Nixon is 62. Actress Victoria Jackson is 60. Actress Apollonia is 60. Actress Cynthia Stevenson is 57. Actress Mary-Louise Parker is 55. Rock musician John Stanier is 51. Writer-actor-director Kevin Smith is 49. Actress Jacinda Barrett is 47. Actor Sam Worthington is 43. Figure skater Michael Weiss is 43. Actor Edward Furlong is 42. Rock musician Devon Glenn is 39. TV meteorologist Dylan Dreyer (TV: "Today") is 38. Actress Marci Miller is 34. Singer Charli XCX is 27. Actress Hallie Eisenberg is 27.

Thought for Today: "A beautiful soul has no other merit than its own existence." — Friedrich von Schiller, German author (1759-1805).