

# 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

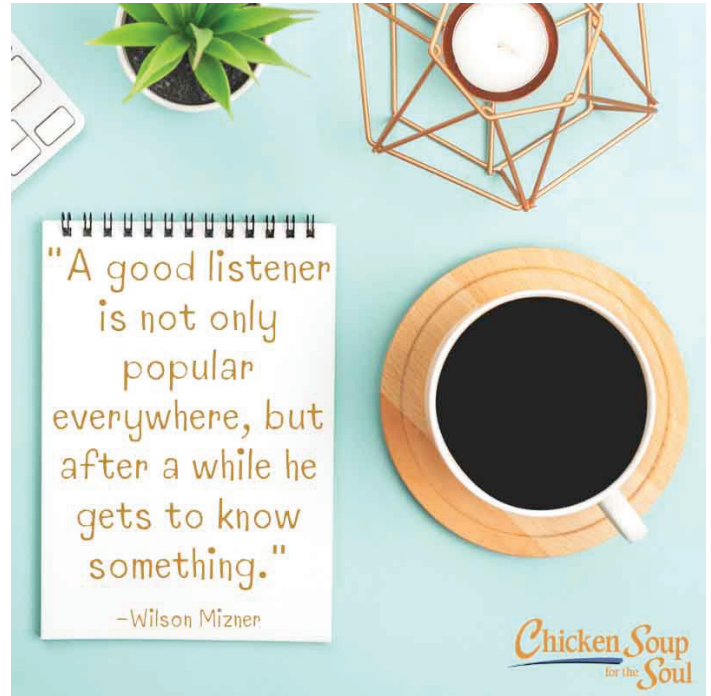
### Swimming Pool Hours

**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.



### 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.

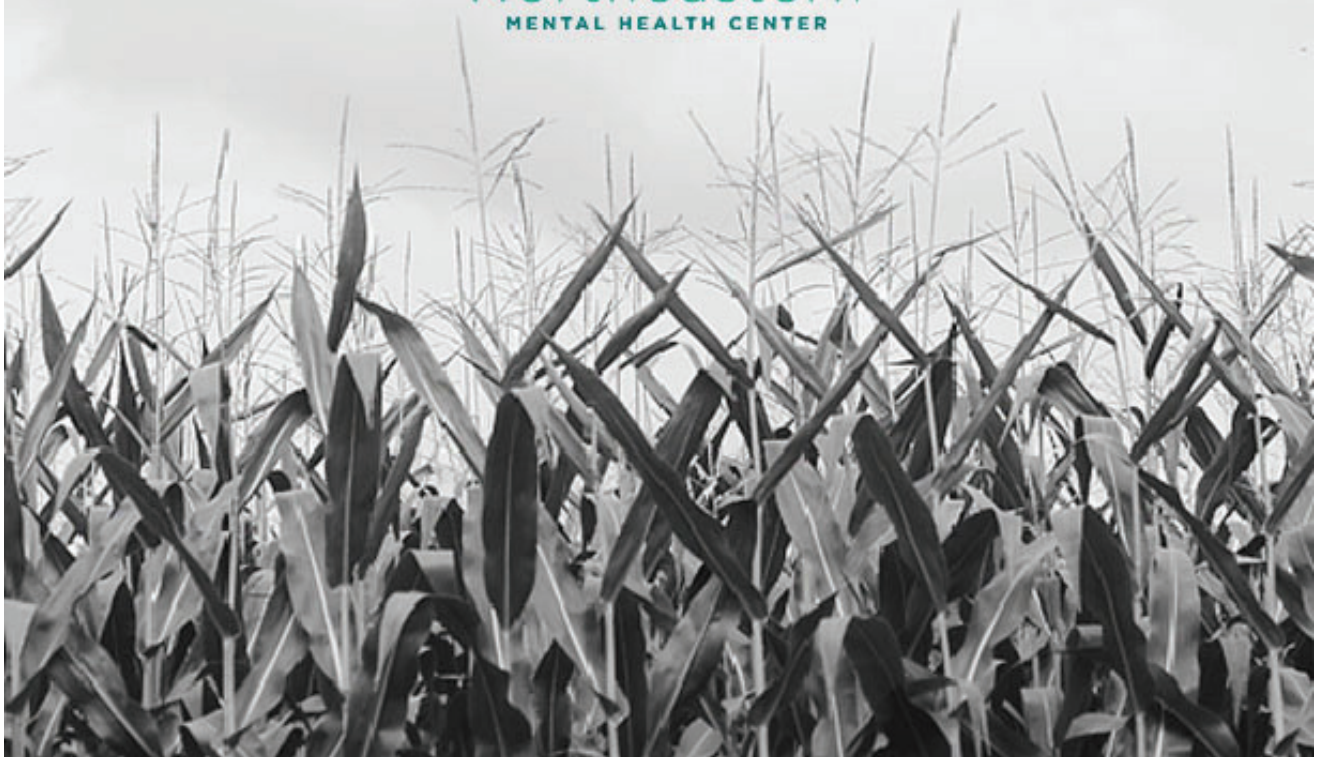
We're here to help.

**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





## **Risky youth behaviors harder to track in S.D. Poor participation rate on CDC-funded survey leads to four-year data gap on unhealthy behavior trends facing South Dakota youth.**

**Bart Pfankuch**

**South Dakota News Watch**

South Dakota parents, educators and health officials are facing a four-year gap in data about risky youth behaviors related to drinking and drug use, sexual activity and eating habits.

The lack of information about what young people are actually doing can impair efforts at the state and local levels to prevent dangerous or unhealthy behaviors. Inadequate data limits the ability of the state, school districts and community groups to seek grants or spend money wisely on programs to reduce risky behaviors.

The data gap emerged in 2017 after South Dakota lawmakers three years earlier strengthened rules requiring written parental consent for children to take surveys at school.

The reduced participation means that for the first time in nearly 30 years, data collected from the anonymous Youth Risk Behavior Surveys taken by South Dakota high school students was not considered valid owing to low participation rates among schools. By not achieving statistical validity, or "weighted status," the data collected becomes useless because it is not shared with the state and cannot be generalized to the entire state population of young people.

The 2017 failure means the data on youth behaviors was last considered valid four years ago, in 2015. Since 1991, the data from the YRBS has helped guide South Dakota government agencies, policymakers and community-service organizations to make informed decisions about how and where to spend money on programs to help keep youths safe and healthy. Administered in odd-numbered years, the survey asks questions related to smoking, drinking and drug use, sexual behaviors and dining habits, and provides data on youth behaviors that can lead to early mortality, increase the risk of addictions or prevent success in school and later in life.

The survey is administered by state agencies on behalf of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which pays for the testing. The CDC then aggregates the data and publishes a wide range of reports and fact sheets related to youth behaviors on a national and state basis.

But in 2017, not enough students participated in the survey in South Dakota, creating a now four-year gap in useful data about emerging trends such as vaping, the use of methamphetamines or opioids, binge drinking, lack of exercise and overconsumption of sugary drinks.

The data gap has raised concerns among health officials and social-service groups that prevention and education efforts may be less effective because of outdated information on youth behaviors.

As an anonymous, self-reported survey, the YRBS provides a unique view into youth behaviors and is especially useful in tracking trends in risky behaviors over time, said South Dakota Epidemiologist Joshua Clayton.



"It is a key data set for us," Clayton said.

Roland Loudenburg, senior research scientist with the data compilation firm Mountain Plains Evaluation in Salem, S.D., said the data gap "prevents identification of any emerging trends of changes in student health and substance-use risk behaviors."

Loudenburg, whose firm compiles data and trendlines on health behaviors for clients that include the state of South Dakota, said the lack of valid data on youths makes it hard for state and federal governments and agencies to track trends on drug use, suicide and emerging health concerns such as use of vaping devices by young people.

"Most critical in my mind is it does not provide us a scientifically valid picture of student risk behaviors and limits the ability to address these behaviors through prevention efforts before irreversible consequences occur in some students' lives," Loudenburg wrote to News Watch in an email.

To prevent the data gap from growing to six years, the state Health Department has undertaken an aggressive effort to improve participation on the YRBS in 2019.

A new Health Department staff member, YRBS Coordinator Virginia Peterson, began working on test preparation and school preparedness several months earlier than usual. Furthermore, the testing period was moved from its typical date in the spring to a date in the fall when school districts tend to be less busy and less focused on wrapping up the school year.

The state has also delivered the testing materials further in advance than in the past to give schools more time to prepare and, if necessary, expedite the process of gaining parental permission for students to take the test, said Joan Adam, director of the Division of Administration for the Health Department, which oversees data and statistics.

"She [Peterson] is hand-holding as best she can, telling them we will provide them the assistance they need to make this as easy as possible," Adam said. "We have fingers crossed, working very hard so that we get this all back on track for 2019."



**South Dakota Epidemiologist Joshua Clayton said gaps in data on youth behaviors can make it harder to spot trends that may endanger young people across the state.** Photo: Submitted

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## Higher threshold for parental permission

The YRBS is a voluntary, anonymous survey given to students in grades 9-12 at 25 schools in each state selected at random by the CDC (for privacy purposes, the list of schools selected for testing is kept confidential).

From 1991 to 2011, the South Dakota Department of Education administered the survey; in 2013, the state Department of Health assumed testing duties.

The test given to students in grades 9-12 covers six topic areas deemed critical to understanding and preventing dangers to youth health and safety as well as identifying barriers to academic success. According to the state health department website, the six areas are:

- Behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries and violence.
- Sexual behaviors that contribute to unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV.
- Alcohol and drug use.
- Tobacco use.
- Dietary behaviors.
- Levels of physical activity.

School districts are asked to provide the tests to a random group of students whose parents are then alerted and asked to give permission for their child to take the test.

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In order for the results to be considered weighted, the overall response rate within a state must be 60% or higher. If weighted status is not achieved, the data from the state is not counted in national statistics compiled by the CDC, and the state does not receive a report of student responses from the CDC.

The response rate in South Dakota was 75% in 2013 and 67% in 2015; the state is not told the response rate if weighted status is not achieved.

State officials cannot say with certainty why South Dakota did not obtain weighted survey results for the first time in 2017.

Adam said the primary cause is probably that school districts are undergoing "survey burnout" because they are asked by numerous agencies and groups to conduct student surveys on their behalf.

Adam also noted that a shift had occurred in some school districts in regard to how or whether parents provide permission for their students to take a survey involving such sensitive personal questions.

Schools have two ways to get parental permission, and the distinction has become important in survey-participation rates.

With what is known as "opt-in" consent, students cannot take surveys unless a parent has signed a form allowing participation. With "opt-out" consent, the student may participate unless a parent has signed a form refusing participation, in a type of implied consent.

Invariably, participation is higher in an "opt-out" scenario, which is no longer in place at many South Dakota school districts, including Sioux Falls.

The consent situation changed after the state Legislature in 2014 tightened the rules on obtaining parental consent for student surveys that probed into certain personal or familial behaviors. The debate at the time came largely in response to new federal education standards that were opposed by some lawmakers as intrusive. Those lawmakers said they wanted to make it harder for the federal government to obtain or share sensitive information on South Dakota students and their families, and it required written parental consent for survey data to be collected.

"We've got to have parental control to prevent certain questions that need not be asked; that's a private matter with the parents and the kids," state Sen. Ernie Otten, R-Tea, sponsor of the survey-consent bill, said during committee debate on the 2014 legislation. "There's nothing nefarious in it in my view, it's just to protect our children as much as we can in this brave new world that we're in."

Adam said that legislative language addressed only mandatory youth surveys and did not directly affect the YRBS since it is voluntary, but some school districts do not distinguish between voluntary and mandatory surveys, and as a result have moved solely to an "opt-in" consent method because of the legislation.

Such is the case in the Sioux Falls School District, where parents sign a blanket permission form at the beginning of each school year designating whether their child is permitted to take any surveys during the school year, said Teresa Boysen, assistant superintendent of academic achievement for the district.

Boysen said that "opt-in" consent has likely reduced the number of students who are allowed to be surveyed. If, for example, half of parents checked the box not to allow surveys of their child, the pool of potential participants on the YRBS would be halved, and reaching a 60 percent threshold would become almost impossible for the district.

"If I have 50 percent that cannot participate because they have not opted in, we're not going to achieve that level of participation no matter what," Boysen said.

Boysen said the district plans to administer the YRBS this year and is



**Teresa Boysen, assistant superintendent of academic achievement for the Sioux Falls schools, said the district intends to participate in the Youth Risk Behavior Survey this year.** Photo: Submitted



hopeful a high participation rate can be obtained.

"That information is valuable to our counselors, and our mental health agencies across the community can use that, so it is very valuable information about trends and what is changing among students," she said.

Katy Urban, spokeswoman for the Rapid City Area Schools system, said the district intends to participate in the YRBS this year and is hopeful that participation rates will rise.

*"That information is valuable to our counselors, and our mental health agencies across the community can use that, so it is very valuable information about trends and what is changing among students."*

**-- Teresa Boysen, assistant superintendent of academic achievement for the Sioux Falls schools**

## A 'very easy' way to get information

Adam said the YRBS is among the best options to obtain quality data on student behaviors.

"This is a very easy, low-cost, low-impact way to get a good representation of the students of south Dakota," she said.

Obtaining statistically weighted results allows the survey results to be generalized to all South Dakota students rather than only to those who took the survey.

Beyond that, however, obtaining weighted results every two years is critical to the CDC, the state and even local governments or community-service organizations that seek to understand what decisions and behaviors – both positive and negative – are part of the lives of youths in South Dakota and across the nation.

"You can't impact public health if you don't know what the issues are, where the issues are, and if you don't know how many people have that issue," said Adam.

The survey results are used by the CDC to track national and state trends, and by the state health department and school districts to monitor youth behaviors. The data can ultimately guide the spending of federal, state or local tax dollars on prevention or education programs to better target areas of concern, and increase the chances of improving the health and safety of youths.

The YRBS results are also used by civic, community and advocacy groups across South Dakota to support requests for grants or to obtain contracts to provide youth services. Writing grant proposals with outdated survey information can reduce the rate of success in funding youth programs.

"This information is so important, whether you're writing for funding for a school district or if you're a community member involved in an organization that wants to do good things for kids," Adam said.

"When you have a loss like that or a gap in data, that is challenging."

Clayton, the state epidemiologist, said the state has other sources for information to track behavior trends among youth, including the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, the School Height and Weight Survey, the Youth Tobacco Survey and the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program.

Still, Clayton said tracking trends becomes more difficult when any data source indicating the true behaviors of young people is no longer available.

For example, Clayton said when it comes to abuse of prescription medications, the Health Department can use the state Prescription Drug Monitoring Program to get an idea of who has been prescribed opioids. But without YRBS data, it is more difficult to determine how many youths are abusing prescription drugs without a prescription, Clayton said.

"We don't rely on one single source to make decisions," Clayton said. "It's like removing one of these pictures does leave a gap."

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## South Dakota Group Honored as National Volunteers of the Year

SIOUX FALLS, SD (August 1, 2019) —The American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL) named the recipients for the 2019 AHCA/NCAL Awards program today. We are pleased to announce the 2019 Group Volunteer of the Year award recipient is the Friends of Good Samaritan Society- Scotland, South Dakota.

The award recognizes an organization which has served for more than a year and has made a positive contribution to residents and staff of a Long Term Care Center. It is awarded to only one group in the nation each year.

"It is a great honor for this award to be given to the Good Samaritan Society in Scotland," said Mark B. Deak, Executive Director of the South Dakota Health Care Association. "The work this group has done is truly commendable. Their dedication to improving the lives of residents has made a big impact, and they are very much deserving of this recognition."

The Friends of Good Samaritan Society in Scotland host many activities throughout the Center for the residents. The group is always willing to lend a helping hand. When there is a need, no matter how big or small, the group is available to take on the challenge any way they need to. Their compassion, caring and willingness to lend their hearts and talents goes above and beyond making the residents' lives brighter.

Julie Ramey, Good Samaritan Society – Scotland's Administrator adds, "Although this group may not know it, the Friends have branched out to being friends and support to all of us; including the staff. We appreciate their time and what it allows us to do with busy schedules and deadlines that often take us away from fulfilling the needs of the residents. They help lift us up and offer assistance and encouragement."

The 2019 AHCA/NCAL Awards recipients are:

Hero of the Year- Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: Barbara Smith, Valley Village, Winnetka, California

Not for Profit Program of the Year: Good Samaritan Society- Ambassador, New Hope, Minnesota

Not for Profit Trustee Award: Dave Gessel, Mission Health Services, West Valley City, Utah

Adult Volunteer of the Year: Richard Cole, LACOPA Homes, Inc., Monett, Missouri

Group Volunteer of the Year: Friends of Good Samaritan Society- Scotland, South Dakota

Young Adult Volunteer of the Year: Railey Connor, Crestview Health & Rehabilitation, Crestview, Florida

The Friends of Good Samaritan Society- Scotland will be honored at the South Dakota Health Care Association Annual Fall Convention in September in Sioux Falls, SD and then at the AHCA/NCAL 70th Convention in Orlando, FL in October.

Nationally, South Dakota has been known for its dedicated volunteers in long term care. Previous AHCA/NCAL national winners include:

2016 Young Adult Volunteer of the Year: Zach Severson, Good Samaritan Society – Canton, SD

2017 Group Volunteer of the Year: Parkview Care Center Auxiliary, Bryant, SD

2018 Group Volunteer of the Year: Tieszen Memorial Home Auxiliary, Marion, SD

While we were on vacation in Minnesota, a new law went into effect on August 1. Minnesota became the 19th state to have a Hands Free law. This should be a nation-wide law and hopefully, will be passed soon in South Dakota. The following is from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety followed by the article in the Star Tribune.

## MINNESOTA DISTRACTED DRIVING LAWS

### Texting and Web Access

It is illegal for drivers of all ages to compose, read, or send electronic messages or access the Internet on a wireless device when the vehicle is in motion or part of traffic. This includes being stopped in traffic or at a light.

The law does not apply to devices that are permanently affixed to the vehicle or global positioning or navigation systems.

[Texting and web access statute — M.S. 169.475](#)

### Cell Phone Use and Texting

It is illegal for drivers under age 18 to use a cell phone, whether hand-held or hands-free — except to call 911 in an emergency.

[Permit and Provisional License statues--MS 171.05 and MS 171.055 Subd. 2\(a\)](#)

Cell phone use is totally banned for school bus drivers.

[School bus driver statute --MS 169.443 Subd. 9\(b\)](#)

### Reckless or Careless Driving

Distracted drivers can be ticketed for reckless or careless driving when their actions demonstrate a disregard for the safety or rights of others.

[Reckless and Careless Driving Statute - M.S. 169.13](#)

## Police begin issuing tickets to drivers violating Minnesota's hands-free law

Not everybody got the message, or complied with it. But overall, police said they were pleased with how well drivers were adjusting.

**By Tim Harlow Star Tribune AUGUST 2, 2019 — 8:48AM**

Minnesota's new law prohibiting drivers from holding cellphones while behind the wheel was just hours old when Sgt. Mike Glassberg of the Hopkins Police Department spotted his first offender.

A man in a Mercedes-Benz GL 450 was holding a phone to his ear as he drove east on Hwy. 7 near Hopkins Crossroad just after 7 a.m. Glassberg stopped him and wrote the driver a ticket.

"We have zero tolerance on this right now," said Glassberg as he worked an overtime shift Thursday morning to enforce the hands-free law that took effect just after midnight. "The goal is to change behavior."

The driver Glassberg stopped was not the first to be cited. The State Patrol issued its first ticket just after 2 a.m. in the west metro, said patrol spokesman Col. Matt Langer.

Minnesota on Thursday became the 19th state with a hands-free law. For months, authorities have spread



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the word about the law through news reports, social media and literature passed out at civic events. Gov. Tim Walz and his daughter, Hope, even made a video about it.

But not everybody got the message, or complied with it.

In Eagan, police ticketed a woman who was texting her friend about the new law and then put the phone up to her ear to make a call, said Officer Aaron Machtemes. In New Hope, a group of officers from a handful of northwest metro suburbs gave warnings to some drivers and tickets to others. The first driver Glassberg cited in Hopkins admitted that he knew about the law but still picked up the phone.

Glassberg stopped four other drivers, including one woman who said she was unaware of the law. Another woman said she could not resist making a call to her daughter, even though she knew holding the phone was illegal. A driver in New Hope didn't know the law banned programming his GPS while at the wheel.

Tickets come with a fine of \$50 for the first offense and \$275 for each violation after, plus court costs that may get tacked on.

Hopkins police officer Rob Rebai said he noticed more drivers fighting the urge to use their phones by fidgeting with their fingers when stopped at traffic lights, as if they felt lost without their devices. Overall, police said they were pleased with how well drivers were adjusting to not having a phone in their hand.

"It seems more were getting it than not," said Sgt. Dave Johnson with the New Hope police.

For drivers accustomed to using hand-held phones, stopping can be hard. It's kind of like weaning yourself off alcohol, said cognitive psychologist David Strayer of the University of Utah, who has studied distracted driving and has become one of the nation's foremost authorities on the topic.

"It is difficult. They get used to the behavior that is not safe," Strayer said. "This law is about not engaging in an activity that is distracting. Driving a little drunk is not OK. Driving a little distracted is not OK."

Law enforcement authorities, lawmakers and advocates who pushed for more than five years to get the law passed, gathered at the State Capitol on Thursday to mark enactment of the law, which they hope will make state roads safer.

"This is a historic and monumental day for Minnesota transportation safety," said Rep. Frank Hornstein, DFL-Minneapolis, one of the lead authors on the bill. "We celebrate today and go back to work on traffic safety tomorrow."

Distracted driving was a factor in crashes that left 291 people dead on state roads from 2013 to 2018, according to the Department of Public Safety.

Greg Tikalsky's father, Joe, was struck and killed by a distracted driver in 2015 near New Prague. He was among several people who had pushed for the law.

"Distracted driving has consequences," Tikalsky said during a news conference Thursday as scores of others holding photos of loved ones killed in distracted driving crashes listened. "Be thankful you are not among us and hopeful that you will never be."

Police say this won't just be a one-day crackdown as the new law takes effect. Drivers who don't go hands-free can expect to get a ticket.

"We continue to enforce the law, saving lives and reducing crashes caused by distracted driving," Johnson said.

Tim Harlow covers traffic and transportation issues in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area, and likes to get out of the office, even during rush hour. Harlow also covers general assignment and breaking news and weather.

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Today



Mostly Sunny

High: 80 °F

Tonight



Partly Cloudy

Low: 65 °F

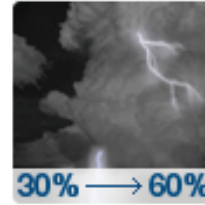
Sunday



Mostly Sunny

High: 88 °F

Sunday  
Night



30% → 60%

Chance  
T-storms then  
T-storms  
Likely

Low: 65 °F

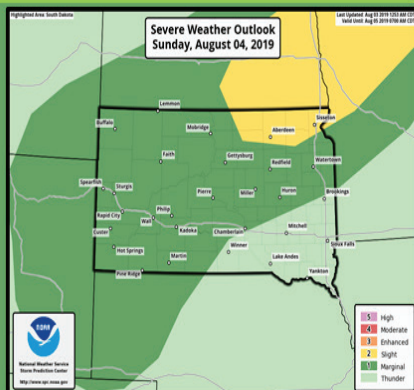
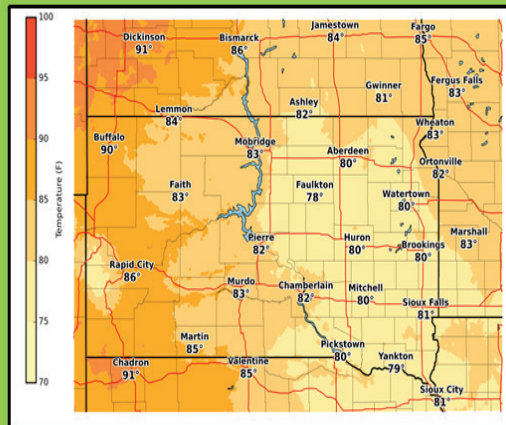
Monday



Chance  
T-storms

High: 83 °F

**Humid Today,  
with Isolated  
Showers**



Sunday's Severe Weather Outlook

**Strong to Severe  
Storms Return on  
Sunday**

**Thunderstorms best  
late afternoon through  
Sunday night**

ISSUED: 5:57 AM - Saturday, August 03, 2019

Published on: 08/03/2019 at 2:30AM

Showers, and perhaps a thunderstorm will be possible today. Otherwise, today will feature partly to mostly cloudy skies with humid conditions. A cold front will slide across the area during the late afternoon hours on Sunday with strong to severe storms possible.

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## Today in Weather History

August 3, 1984: During the morning hours, estimated four to six inches of rain fell from west of Garden City in Clark County to north of Henry in Codrington County. Low lying areas were flooded, and a potato field west of Garden City was washed out.

August 3, 1989: Strong thunderstorm winds gusted to 70 mph, driving golf ball size hail through most the windows on the west side of buildings in Amherst, Marshall County. Corn crops were stripped off their leaves with an estimated 1800 acres being severely damaged.

August 3, 1996: High winds up to 90 mph uprooted and damaged many trees in Mobridge. The roofs of two buildings were blown off while other roofs received some damage. Windows were broken out in eight vehicles at the South Dakota Winds up to 90 mph also caused damage in Herreid where doors on a concrete elevator were blown out.

August 3, 2008: Severe thunderstorms moved across north-central South Dakota during the early morning hours bringing large hail and damaging thunderstorm winds to the area. Isabel, Timber Lake, and Selby were among the hardest hit locations. Isabel in Dewey County saw eighty mph winds which damaged or downed several trees, damaged carnival equipment, destroyed some sheds, and rolled some large hay bales. High winds up to 80 mph severely damaged a barn, downed some power poles along with many trees and branches in and around Timber Lake. Also, several vehicles and many acres of crops were damaged by the hail and high winds. The Little Moreau Elk Lodge roof was destroyed, and some windows were broken. One-hundred mph winds downed six power poles and caused considerable damage to sunflowers, corn, wheat, and beans in and around Selby in Walworth County. Also, an empty grain bin was blown over and damaged. Numerous trees were snapped off. The coop seed building in Selby sustained considerable damage with many trees uprooted or damaged throughout town.

August 3, 2009: A cold front moving southeast across the area brought many severe thunderstorms to parts of central and northeast South Dakota. Large hail up to golf ball size along with wind gusts nearing 80 mph occurred across the area. Brown, Hyde, Lyman, and Gregory Counties were among the hardest hit locations. Hail and sixty mph winds significantly damaged many acres of soybeans and corn near Putney in Brown County. Seventy to 80 mph winds brought down several large trees along with many large tree branches in and around Highmore in Hyde County. The high winds also tipped over a semi, a gravity wagon, and a grain auger along with damaging several fences. There were also power outages in Highmore. Golf ball size hail combined with strong winds broke many windows in the house and dented several vehicles south of Kennebec in Lyman County. The house pet was also injured. Large hail, up to two inches in diameter, fell in a swath a few miles wide from northwestern to south-central Gregory County. The hail broke numerous windows, severely damaged siding and roofs of homes and other buildings, and severely damaged vehicles, while covering the ground in several places. Property damage has been particularly severe in the town of Gregory. Crop damage was also severe along the swath, with corn crops in some areas destroyed to the point of only small stubble left.

1885 - A tornado hit Philadelphia and Camden along its eight mile path. (David Ludlum)

1970 - Hurricane Celia struck the coast of Texas producing wind gusts to 161 mph at Corpus Christi, and estimated wind gusts of 180 mph at Arkansas Pass. The hurricane was the most destructive of record along the Texas coast causing 454 million dollars damage, and also claimed eleven lives. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A severe thunderstorm moved across Cheyenne, WY, during the mid afternoon. The thunderstorm produced hailstones up to two inches in diameter causing more than 37 million dollars damage. The eastern U.S. sweltered in the heat. A dozen cities reported record high temperatures for the date, including Paducah KY with a reading of 102 degrees. Beckley WV established an all-time record with an afternoon high of 93 degrees. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)





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## CLOUDS AND RAIN

On July 12, 1990, Pastor Trenny Thomas called the members of his Evergreen Baptist Church in Metter, Georgia to a day of prayer. The farmers of this small, rural area had endured a long, devastating drought and were about to lose their crops. They gathered together and prayed for twenty-four hours. At the end of the vigil, there were a few clouds but no rain.

The congregation decided to begin another twenty-four hour time of prayer when some fluffy clouds joined the others. Slowly, more clouds appeared and covered the blue sky. Finally, the clouds exploded with rain and covered the dry, thirsty land. Then the rain turned into a mist and lasted through the night. The crops and families were saved by the grace of God.

Said Rev. Thomas, It was a feast. It was just like the manna falling from heaven when God fed his people. It was a divine intervention from God. God can always answer our needs.

Like clouds and wind without rain is a man who boasts of gifts he does not give, said Solomon. He is describing a man who is bragging of talents and skills he does not possess and is representing himself to be more than he is - like clouds without rain that appear to tease the hopeful and destroy their faith because they are not what they appear to be.

We who call ourselves Christs disciples have something to offer those who are thirsty and crying for the water or life. People all around us are looking for clouds with water that can bring life to parched hearts with living water to end the drought in their lives. We who know Him who is the fountain of life dare not let those around us die of thirst!

Prayer: Thank You, Father, for being the fountain of life. May we who have experienced water from Your well share Your gift of life willingly with others! In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 25:14 Like clouds and wind without rain is a man who boasts of gifts he does not give.

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## 2019 Groton SD Community Events

- 08/07/2019 Storybook Land Theatre Performace at Granary Rural Cultural Center
- 09/07/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 09/08/2019 Sunflower Classic at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 09/19/2019 St. John's Lutheran Luncheon
- 09/20/2019 Presbygerian Luncheon
- 09/28/2019 Granary Living History Fall Festival
- 10/11/2019 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/12/2019 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/31/2019 Trunk or Treat/Halloween on Main (Halloween)
- 11/09/2019 Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/07/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Holiday Party
- 12/07/2019 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
- Bingo: every Wednesday at the Legion Post #39

## 2020 Groton SD Community Events

- 01/26/2020 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
- 04/04/2020 Groton Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 04/25/2020 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 05/02/2020 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 06/8-10/2020 St. John's VBS
- 07/04/2020 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)  
Groton Hosting State B American Legion Baseball Tournament
- 07/12/2020 Summer Fest/Car Show
- 09/12/2020 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 10/10/2020 Pumpkin Fest



## News from the Associated Press

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

By DANIELLE FERGUSON Argus Leader

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

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

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

Her desk is full of documents that share space with constantly buzzing phones and family pictures, including images of her kids playing volleyball and hockey.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

It was no different for Boyd.

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

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

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

"Had I known that way back when, would I have tried to do something different or make a different impact?" Boyd said, tears welling under her eyes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Painting, party celebrate Faulkton WWII veteran, family

By KATHERINE GRANDSTRAND Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Cyril Huss was an Army soldier from South Dakota, and Dorothy T. Peek was a dental hygienist from Montgomery, Alabama.

He flirted with her at the dentist office on the base where he was stationed before he served in World War II, but she wouldn't give him the time of day until they were formally introduced. In time, he won her over. They married in 1944.

After the war, the couple moved to Faulkton. But not before Huss performed acts of aerial bravery in an aircraft named for his new bride.

"It's about a man who thought enough of his wife to emblazon her name on an airplane he took to war against the enemy," said John Mollison.

The Sioux Falls-based artist has completed a painting commemorating Huss' plane, The Dot T., and the Huss family. It's set to be unveiled Saturday in Faulkton on what Mayor Slade Roseland has proclaimed Of Hearth and Home Day.

The day is named after Mollison's work of art.

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"These people are important to our American story," Mollison said. "When we remember the stories of people who have had significant impact in our past, we're also remembering how these stories impact our present."

The painting was commissioned by Dr. David West, a Sioux Falls ophthalmologist.

"He found out that Cyril's wife was still alive," Mollison said. "That's a connection to history from today that we can go back to World War II, and it's still alive, and it's still present. ... That's an interesting thing that makes you stop and think. Not too many people today have that kind of connection to that kind of of a world moment."

Huss served in the China-Burma-India Theater during the war, and he would often shoot at trains in China. The Dot T.'s final mission took place in January 1945 near Shanghai.

The Dot T. returned from that mission with more than 30 bullet holes. People didn't know how Huss made it out, said his son, David Huss, of Faulkton.

"Once he landed, they pushed it off the runway and destroyed it," David Huss said. "It was not repairable."

There were very few pictures of The Dot T., but Mollison said it was imperative to be as accurate as possible with the piece.

"My job is to use whatever skill and whatever talent I have to go back in time," Mollison said.

Factors like the color of the paint on the nose of the plane and how long it was in service have an effect on what the aircraft would have looked like, Mollison said.

Once Huss got back to the U.S. and was discharged, he and his wife moved to Faulkton — a change for Dorothy Huss, who grew up in Alabama, David Huss said.

"Dad was really proud of serving in the military," he said. "He was active in the American Legion and the VFW here."

For the Huss family, the painting is more than a commemoration of their father's service during World War II, it's an ongoing testament to how he lived his daily life.

"Because of Dad's belief in God and country, he raised us with that same mentality," David Huss told Aberdeen American News .

He and three of his brothers served in the military, and his sisters found careers in nursing and teaching.

The seven Huss children moved all over the country — two brothers have died. Gerald Huss lived in the Faulkton area, but died in a snowmobile accident in 2003. Another, Donald Huss, died in Florida in 1994, David Huss said. James Huss lives in Florida, Margaret Lindbloom lives in Wisconsin, Theodore Huss lives in Wyoming and Ann Mollman lives in Spearfish.

Huss died in 1995.

In 2009, after Dorothy Huss had a heart attack the previous year, David Huss said he decided to move back home and help his mom run The Lyric Theatre, which Huss started.

"In September of 2012, she tricked me, though," David Huss said. "I had taken her to a doctor's appointment and we were just driving around, and she said, 'I think I want to talk to the bank.' ... I came back about a half hour later, they're shaking hands, and I said, 'What's up?'"

"I just bought a steakhouse," she said.

"Who's going to run it, why would you do that?" David Huss asked.

"You're going to run it."

"I don't know nothing about running a supper club."

"You'll learn."

Dorothy Huss thought that Faulkton needed a nice place to eat, David Huss said. The restaurant was named after the famed fighter plane, of course.

Dorothy Huss, now 96, has been suffering from dementia the last few years, and lives in a nursing home, but David Huss said he makes sure to have supper with her every day.

"Of Hearth and Home" will have a home at The Dot T. Steakhouse, David Huss said.

"I think it should be prominently displayed," he said.

\_\_\_ Information from: Aberdeen American News, <http://www.aberdeennews.com>



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## SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

11-20-26-48-70, Mega Ball: 19, Megaplier: 2

(eleven, twenty, twenty-six, forty-eight, seventy; Mega Ball: nineteen; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$50 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$102 million

## ACLU concerned about surveillance balloons over Midwest

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union says it's concerned about a report that the U.S. military is using high-altitude balloons to conduct surveillance tests in six Midwestern states.

The Guardian reports that up to 25 balloons are being launched from South Dakota, and will drift through parts of Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Missouri and Illinois. The Guardian examined filings with the Federal Communications Commission, which say the balloons are meant to provide persistent surveillance to locate drug trafficking and homeland security threats.

According to KELO, the ACLU says this kind of constant surveillance violates the privacy of citizens, creating what's a pervasive checkpoint over cities. The ACLU says the military needs to be clear about information it's collecting.

A spokesman with the U.S. military didn't immediately respond to an email from The Associated Press.

## Bill would expand health care options for Native veterans

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) — A bill introduced in Congress would expand health care options for Native American veterans.

New Mexico Sen. Tom Udall and California Rep. Ro Khanna announced the bill Friday. A bipartisan group of lawmakers has signed on as co-sponsors.

The measure would allow the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs to reimburse about three dozen health care facilities in 20 states for services provided to Native veterans in urban areas. California leads in the number of urban Indian health centers.

A reimbursement system already exists for about 185 hospitals and clinics run by the federal Indian Health Service or by tribes in more remote areas. Udall's office says those agreements helped more than 9,300 Native veterans last year.

Census figures show about three-quarters of Native Americans live in urban areas.

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This story corrects the number of states to 20, not 19.

## South Dakota's 'In God We Trust' law helped by foundation

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Legislation requiring South Dakota schools to display the "In God We Trust" motto will get assistance from the Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation, a group that has been working to pass such laws in all 50 states.

South Dakota's law took effect last month and requires all public schools in the state's 149 districts to paint, stencil or otherwise prominently display the national motto, the Argus Leader reported .

Supporters said the requirement was meant to inspire patriotism in the state's public schools. Displays must be at least 12-by-12 inches and must be approved by the school's principal, according to the law.

Critics say the law confuses patriotism with piety.

Republican Sen. Phil Jensen said he introduced the legislation after seeing "In God We Trust" window

decals on vehicles in his home district of Rapid City.

Jensen said the Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation has been working on similar laws nationwide and invited the nonprofit religious organization to help with the legislation in South Dakota.

The group, whose members include lawmakers in Congress and statehouses across the county, also would help defend the state if the law is challenged, Jensen said.

"In God We Trust" model bills are part of the Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation's "Project Blitz" legislative playbook that includes model bills on topics such as requiring schools to teach about the Old and New Testament, favoring sex between married men and women, and talking points against laws that add "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" to civil rights laws.

The Freedom From Religion Foundation, based in Madison, Wisconsin, which has legally challenged the motto's inclusion on U.S. currency, opposed South Dakota's bill.

Annie Laurie Gaylor, co-president, is wary of the group's intention with the "In God We Trust" bill.

"They want to pass this and then proceed to more onerous things," Gaylor said. "They're going with the symbols first because it's harder to sue over a national motto."

"In God We Trust" was adopted when President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed legislation in 1956. According to the U.S. Department of Treasury website, it first appeared on paper money the following year.

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

## 2 indicted in starvation death of South Dakota toddler

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Two people have been indicted in the starvation death of a 3-year-old South Dakota girl who was in their care.

A grand jury charged 25-year-old Renae Fayant and 27-year-old Robert Price Jr., of Brookings, with second-degree murder, first-degree manslaughter and abuse or cruelty to a minor. Fayant was the girl's aunt. She and Price had been the child's caregivers for two years.

Brookings County State's Attorney Dan Nelson said Friday that Fayant called 911 on Wednesday to say her niece wasn't breathing. The girl was pronounced dead at the scene. Authorities have declined to name the girl.

The Argus Leader reports Nelson says an autopsy showed the toddler died of dehydration and malnourishment.

Both are being held on \$100,000 cash bond. Nelson says he doesn't know if they have hired an attorney.

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

## Trump administration asks judge to toss new pipeline lawsuit

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — The Trump administration and a Canadian energy company are asking a Montana judge to dismiss environmental groups' legal challenge of a new presidential permit allowing construction of the Keystone XL oil pipeline across the U.S.-Canada border.

Attorneys for the U.S. Department of Justice and TC Energy filed separate requests Thursday arguing that the groups have no right to sue.

Justice Department attorney Marissa Pirovato says in her request that "this is not a hard case" and that President Donald Trump had clear authority to issue the permit in March.

Trump signed the new permit after U.S. District Judge Brian Morris blocked construction of the 1,184-mile (1,900-kilometer) pipeline from Canada to Nebraska.

Morris ruled officials had not fully considered oil spills and other impacts.

Environmental groups are asking the judge to block the new permit, too.

## Impeachment summer? August town halls may decide next steps

By LISA MASCARO, MIKE CATALINI, DENISE LAVOIE and DAVID EGGERT Associated

### Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Freshman Democratic Rep. Andy Kim came face to face with impeachment fervor at a town hall in New Jersey. “Do your job!” shouted one voter.

Several states away, a woman held up a copy of special counsel Robert Mueller’s report and told freshman Rep. Elissa Slotkin at a Michigan town hall she hoped she would “be the person that puts us over the top to start an impeachment inquiry.”

And in semi-rural Virginia, newcomer Rep. Abigail Spanberger encountered voters with questions, if not resolve, about impeaching President Donald Trump.

“I don’t have blood dripping from my fangs for or against impeachment,” said David Sussan, 70, a retired U.S. Postal inspector from Chesterfield, who favors starting an inquiry. “I just want the truth to come out.”

It’s these freshman lawmakers, and others like them, who will likely decide when, if ever, House Democrats start formal efforts to impeach the president.

Neither Kim, nor Slotkin, nor Spanberger supports impeachment. But with half the House Democrats now in favor of beginning an inquiry, the pressure will only mount on the holdouts to reach a tipping point. And with lawmakers returning home to voters during the August recess, what happens next may prove pivotal.

The pro-impeachment group Need to Impeach is running television ads and, along with activists from other groups, fanning out to congressional districts to push lawmakers, and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, to move more swiftly toward impeachment proceedings.

The organization’s lead strategist Kevin Mack says his counsel to lawmakers, especially those new freshmen who took over formerly Republican-held seats, is to ignore the campaign consultants and party strategists, and “do what you think is right” about Trump.

“You can’t really make the argument he’s the most corrupt president in American history and not hold him accountable,” he said. “Either you think what he’s doing is OK or you hold him accountable.”

For lawmakers, though, the calculus is not so simple. Voters in many of these districts helped elect Trump in 2016, but flipped to give Democrats control of the House in last year’s election. Many of the first-term Democrats already face challengers for 2020 and are trying to balance the divergent views in their districts. While some voters want impeachment, others have different priorities.

New Jersey lawmaker Kim, a former national security official, told some 80 voters at a town hall in Riverside to remain even-keeled and to trust in the investigative process that House Democrats are pursuing.

“I don’t think getting caught up in the knife fighting and name calling is going help us get out of this pit,” Kim said.

That caused some from the crowd to retort that pursuing impeachment wasn’t “knife fighting” but part of the Constitution.

“Just do the investigation into impeachment,” said Marianne Clemente, of Barnegat. “Just so that we’re doing something” to show Trump he’ll be held accountable, she said. “If we let him get away with this, we can kiss our democracy goodbye.”

Among the loudest applause from the audience came when one constituent stood up and said Trump was “destroying our country.”

Another voter said the congressman’s focus on other issues, like health care, was like “cutting the grass while the house is on fire.”

In Spanberger’s Virginia district over the past week, she, too, fielded several questions about her stand on the impeachment inquiry as she crisscrossed the region for town hall events.

When she was asked about it in Culpeper, Spanberger told voters that she helped block an impeachment bill based on Trump’s racism because she did not believe that qualifies as “high crimes and misdemeanors” set out by the Constitution.

“My opinion and stance has long been that I believe in facts and evidence,” she said. “As long as the investigations are continuing, and we see my colleagues are continuing to gather information, I am watching very closely.”

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Democrat Ron Artis, a retiree, seemed satisfied with the new congresswoman's approach.

"If she was to come out without having enough people behind her, that stuff is suicidal," he said.

And when Michigan lawmaker Slotkin faced the questioner armed with Mueller's report, she told those gathered at the store in Mason about two recent moves by House Democrats that she sees as important — the special counsel's testimony and House subpoenas of the Trump administration.

"I'm open to where this goes," Slotkin said. "But I think that it is important that we do it in a way that communicates clearly what we are intending. And we do it in a way that doesn't forget about the other part of our job, which is to legislate."

One of those attending the event, Army veteran Joshua Johnson, 41, of Webberville, expressed some skepticism about impeachment and said Congress should keep investigating.

"I don't know that impeaching the president is going to be a good thing," he said. He worries the 2020 election is right around the corner, and any impeachment proceeding won't get done "in time to make a difference."

He added, "I think it might hurt more than it helps. ... It probably splits people worse."

Pelosi has made it clear she has no plans to press toward impeachment without a groundswell of support on and off Capitol Hill.

The speaker, who was herself a newer congresswoman during Bill Clinton's impeachment and rejected calls to impeach George W. Bush during her first speakership, is not eager for Democrats to take on such a politically, emotionally fraught issue alone.

So far, Pelosi's effort to cater to the frontline freshmen appears to be holding House Democrats in line. Even though she gave lawmakers a greenlight after Mueller's testimony to speak their minds on impeachment, and dozens of lawmakers announced their support for starting an inquiry, it's still nowhere near the 218 votes Pelosi would need to pass legislation in the House.

The holdouts will likely determine what Pelosi does next.

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Catalini reported from Riverside, N.J.; Lavoie from Chesterfield, Va.; Eggert from Mason, Mich. Associated Press writers Laurie Kellman in Culpeper, Va., and Mary Clare Jalonick in Washington contributed to this report.

## Freed from Swedish jail, rapper A\$AP Rocky lands in US

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Nearly a month after he was arrested in Sweden, rapper A\$AP Rocky returned to the United States as the verdict in an assault case against him and two other Americans looms.

Los Angeles television stations reported the 30-year-old artist was among a group of people shown emerging from a private airplane at Los Angeles International Airport in footage broadcast late Friday night. The rapper, whose real name is Rakim Mayers, had flown out of Stockholm Arlanda Airport on Friday, the same day the trio learned they would be released while judges mull a verdict that's expected Aug. 14.

Along with David Rispers Jr. and Bladimir Corniel, the rapper is accused of beating 19-year-old Mustafa Jafari on June 30 outside a fast-food restaurant in central Stockholm. Mayers, who had been jailed since his July 3 arrest, pleaded not guilty at the start of the three-day trial Tuesday.

The case has attracted the attention of prominent figures, from Justin Bieber to President Donald Trump. Trump, who caused a stir in U.S.-Swedish diplomatic relations after publicly offering support to the Grammy-nominated artist, celebrated the temporary release.

"It was a Rocky Week, get home ASAP A\$AP!" the U.S. president said in a tweet.

Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven heard an appeal from Trump in July, but said he couldn't interfere in a legal case.

During the final day of the trial Friday, one of the witnesses to the assault revised her story from initial police reports that she didn't actually see Mayers hit Jafari with a bottle — a key focus of the case. She and a friend, testifying anonymously at Stockholm District Court, both maintained that they did see Mayers and his partners assaulting Jafari, though.



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"Everything happened very quickly. We were scared for our lives," the first woman told the court in Swedish. "He (Jafari) was bleeding. He showed his injuries on his hand. He also said he had a sore back."

Mayers said he acted in self-defense when Jafari and another man would not leave them alone. Mayers' bodyguard, Timothy Leon Williams, also testified Friday, sharing a story similar to what the rapper told the courtroom when he took the stand earlier in the week.

Williams said he asked Jafari to "go away" when he approached the group a second time outside the restaurant.

"I knew something's not right about him. I'm noticing it because I'm a bodyguard," Williams said in English. "And now, I'm looking at him like, 'Yo, what's wrong with you?' I'm looking at him and saw that his eyes were really glossy, like he's on something."

Mayers had also testified earlier this week that he suspected Jafari and his friend were under the influence of some drug, which officials have not yet commented on.

After learning they would be released, the three suspects shared hugs as some of the public gathered inside the courthouse loudly cheered. Mayers' mother, Renee Black, was present throughout court proceedings and was with her son when he was released.

The rapper shared an emotional post on Instagram after he was released, thanking his fans for their support during this "very difficult and humbling experience."

## Trump pick for national intelligence director is withdrawing

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's pick for national intelligence director, Texas Rep. John Ratcliffe, withdrew from consideration Friday after just five days as he faced growing questions about his experience and qualifications.

The move underscored the uncertainty over his confirmation prospects. Democrats openly dismissed the Republican congressman as an unqualified partisan and Republicans offered only lukewarm and tentative expressions of support.

The announcement will leave the intelligence community without a permanent, Senate-confirmed leader at a time when the U.S. government is grappling with North Korea's nuclear ambitions, the prospect of war with Iran and the anticipated efforts of Russia or other foreign governments to interfere in the American political system.

In a tweet Friday, Trump said Ratcliffe had decided to stay in Congress so as to avoid "months of slander and libel."

Trump didn't cite specific media reports, though multiple stories in the last week have questioned Ratcliffe's qualifications and suggested that he had misrepresented his experience as a federal prosecutor in Texas.

Ratcliffe is a frequent Trump defender who fiercely questioned former special counsel Robert Mueller during a House Judiciary Committee hearing last week.

Even as Mueller laid bare concerns that Russia was working to interfere with U.S. elections again, Ratcliffe remained focused on the possibility that U.S. intelligence agencies had overly relied on unverified opposition research in investigating the Trump campaign's ties to Russia.

In his own statement, Ratcliffe said he remained convinced that he could have done the job "with the objectivity, fairness and integrity that our intelligence agencies need and deserve."

"However," he added, "I do not wish for a national security and intelligence debate surrounding my confirmation, however untrue, to become a purely political and partisan issue."

Ratcliffe would have replaced Dan Coats, who repeatedly clashed with Trump and announced his resignation a week ago. Coats is departing the office Aug. 15.

The White House in recent days fielded a number of calls from Republicans wary of Ratcliffe's confirmation chances and uncomfortable with his qualifications, according to two administration officials not authorized to speak publicly about private conversations.

Several news stories in recent days called into question aspects of Ratcliffe's resume and career, alarming

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some in the GOP, while a few key Republican senators already greeted his nomination with a lukewarm response.

Taking their cue from the president's instinct to push back against the media and fight for problematic nominees, White House officials initially planned to rally around the choice. But Ratcliffe himself expressed concern to the West Wing about the scrutiny, the administration officials said.

They said that though the president long admired Ratcliffe's interviews in which he defended the White House, as well as his performance in the Mueller hearings, Trump grew convinced that the nomination battle would become a distraction — and was quick, as he often is, to blame the media for treating his administration unfairly.

The scuttled nomination deepened questions about the White House's seemingly haphazard vetting process, but Trump brushed aside those concerns, even crediting the media for its role in the process.

"You vet for me. I like when you vet. ... I think the White House has a great vetting process. You vet for me," Trump said. "When I give a name, I give it out to the press and you vet for me. A lot of times you do a very good job. Not always."

North Carolina Sen. Richard Burr, the chairman of the Senate intelligence committee, said in a statement that he respects Ratcliffe's decision and he is committed to moving the official nomination through committee. "There is no substitute for having a Senate-confirmed director in place to lead our Intelligence Community," Burr said.

Until then, lawmakers have privately and publicly urged Trump to put Sue Gordon, Coats' No. 2, in charge once Coats steps down. But it's unclear whether he will. Trump told reporters Friday that "certainly she will be considered" for the acting director position.

For Coats' permanent replacement, Trump told reporters he has a list of three people from the "intelligence world" whom he'll review over the weekend, and "probably Monday I'll give you an answer."

After Trump announced that Ratcliffe was his pick, Senate Republicans were publicly lukewarm on the nomination. Some expressed concerns that the House lawmaker, who was viewed as a partisan, did not come with the gravitas of Coats, as a former senator. Some senators said they had never even heard of Ratcliffe before his questioning of Mueller.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell signaled a wait-and-see approach Tuesday, saying only that he looked forward to meeting with Ratcliffe and discussing his background.

McConnell, R-Ky., said that "generally speaking, I'd lean toward the president's nominees." But he declined to fully endorse Ratcliffe, who served as a mayor of a small Texas town and a U.S. attorney before being elected to Congress in 2014.

Oklahoma Sen. James Lankford, a Republican who is a former member of the intelligence committee, appeared more concerned, saying Ratcliffe will have "some catching up to do" in the role. He said Coats, who had spent decades in Washington, clearly had more experience.

"Is he qualified for that job?" Lankford asked, referring to Ratcliffe. "He's a qualified, gifted individual, but I think it will take some time for him to do some on the job training to be able to get into it."

Maine Sen. Susan Collins, a critical swing vote for the GOP who sits on the intelligence panel, praised Coats and said the intelligence position is very important to her because she co-wrote the legislation that created it 15 years ago. She said she had never heard of Ratcliffe before last week, so she couldn't comment on his qualifications, but added that she wants "an independent, well-qualified individual in that post."

Democrats strongly criticized Ratcliffe's partisanship, noting he was a vocal skeptic of former special counsel Mueller's investigation. They said he wasn't suited for a position that is designed to objectively oversee the nation's intelligence agencies.

Trump did little to assuage those concerns, saying of Ratcliffe on Tuesday: "I think we need somebody like that there. We need somebody strong that can really rein it in. Because, as I think you've all learned, the intelligence agencies have run amok. They've run amok."

Sen. Mark Warner, the top Democrat on the intelligence committee, said he wanted a nominee like Coats: "someone with a deep knowledge of the intelligence community, respect for the hard work intel-

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ligence professionals do to keep us safe, and the independence and integrity to speak truth to power when necessary.”

Associated Press writers Darlene Superville and Lisa Mascaro contributed to this report.

## AP Explains: Congress’ fight over election security bills

By MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — While House Democrats are haggling over whether to consider impeachment of President Donald Trump, Senate Democrats are focusing on a different angle in former special counsel Robert Mueller’s report — securing future elections from foreign interference.

Democrats have tried to pass several election security bills in recent weeks only to have them blocked by Republicans, who say they are partisan or unnecessary. The federal government has stepped up its efforts to secure elections since Russians intervened in the 2016 presidential election, but Democrats say much more is needed, given ongoing threats from Russia and other countries.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has seethed in response to criticism over the issue, including some Democrats’ new moniker for him: “Moscow Mitch.” In an angry floor speech on Monday, he noted that Congress has already passed some bills on the subject, including ones that give money to the states to try to fix security problems.

McConnell also left the door open to additional action, saying “I’m sure all of us will be open to discussing further steps.”

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer predicted that Democrats’ “relentless pushing” will work. “We’re forcing his hand,” Schumer said.

The top Democrat on the Senate intelligence committee, Virginia Sen. Mark Warner, said Thursday that he’s “much more optimistic than even 10 days ago” that the Senate will ultimately pass something on election security. Warner said he believes that in his home state, at least, the issue “has broken through” with voters more than other aspects of Mueller’s probe. But action will have to wait until at least September, with senators having scattered from Washington for the summer recess.

A look at various election security bills in the Senate:

### REPORT FOREIGN INTERFERENCE

Legislation introduced by Warner would require campaigns to report to federal authorities if they have any contacts with foreign officials who are attempting to interfere in a presidential election.

Mueller’s report, issued in April, details a meeting between a Russian lawyer and members of the Trump campaign before which dirt on Democrat Hillary Clinton had been promised. There’s no evidence that such material was provided at the meeting, and Mueller concluded that he wasn’t able to establish a conspiracy between Trump’s campaign and Russia. But Democrats say more safeguards are needed to ensure future campaigns don’t receive foreign help.

Republicans blocked Warner’s bill on the floor last month, but at least one in their ranks has signed on — Maine Sen. Susan Collins, a key swing vote on the intelligence panel.

“Russia’s efforts to interfere in our elections remain relentless,” Collins tweeted July 30. “I’m proud to join Sen. @MarkWarner in cosponsoring the bipartisan FIRE Act to require presidential candidates to immediately call the FBI if they are contacted by a foreign power attempting to target our elections.”

Democratic Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut has a similar bill that has also been blocked by Republicans.

### SECURE STATE ELECTION SYSTEMS

Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, a Democratic candidate for president, has introduced legislation to require states to use paper ballots, which would make election systems less vulnerable to hacking. It would also provide additional grants for states to make improvements, among other measures.

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Homeland Security officials notified election officials in 21 states in 2017 that their systems had been targeted by Russia. Authorities have since said they believe all states were targeted to varying degrees. The federal government has ramped up its efforts to help states prevent such intrusions, and both sides say the relationship has greatly improved.

Republicans blocked passage of Klobuchar's bill on the Senate floor in June. GOP critics of the bill say they fear creating too many new federal rules for states when they are already working with the government to make improvements.

Some Republicans supported similar legislation in the last Congress, including Oklahoma Sen. James Lankford and Missouri Sen. Roy Blunt. Lankford has said he's still working with Klobuchar's office on details of the legislation, but Blunt says he doesn't think it's needed, for now.

The House passed similar legislation to help states, but Republicans blocked that on the Senate floor as well.

## SENATE CYBERSECURITY

Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon and Republican Sen. Tom Cotton of Arkansas have sponsored a bill to protect personal electronic devices and accounts of senators and Senate staff from cyber threats. It would allow Senate officials to provide voluntary assistance to the senators.

That bipartisan legislation, which was also blocked on the Senate floor last month, came after former Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., said last year that Russian hackers had tried unsuccessfully to infiltrate her Senate computer network in 2017.

The senators said they proposed the legislation after Senate officials said they couldn't use public funds to protect non-government devices and accounts.

## RUSSIAN SANCTIONS

Another bipartisan election security measure from Sens. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., and Chris Van Hollen, D-Md., would slap new sanctions on Russia if it tries to interfere in U.S. elections.

Rubio and Van Hollen pushed the legislation last session and reintroduced it this year, but it hasn't yet moved.

McConnell hasn't signaled opposition to the bill, but some lawmakers in the House and Senate have raised concerns it casts too wide a net and could cause problems for allied nations that do business with Russia.

## MORE REGULATION OF ONLINE CAMPAIGN ADS

Legislation first introduced in 2017 by Warner and Klobuchar would extend some political ad rules that now apply to TV, radio and print to the internet. That bill has bipartisan support as well, with Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham as a cosponsor.

The senators wrote the legislation in response to Russia's broad social media disinformation campaign on Facebook and other sites. It would require social media companies to keep public files on election ads and meet some of the same disclaimer requirements as political broadcast and print advertising.

The social media companies say they have started to take those steps voluntarily, but the bill's supporters say they should be required by law.

## MAKING IT A CRIME FOR FOREIGN NATIONS TO INTERFERE

In arguing against too many new federal laws, Republicans point to two election security bills that have already passed the Senate.

Bills passed unanimously in June in July would make it a federal crime to hack any voting systems used in a federal election and to make it a violation of immigration law to interfere. That means violators would be barred from obtaining a visa to the United States.



## Hong Kong protesters throw Chinese flag into iconic harbor

By YANAN WANG Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong protesters removed a Chinese national flag from its pole and flung it into the city's iconic Victoria Harbour on Saturday after a pro-democracy rally once again continued into the evening despite police warnings to stick to a short, pre-approved route.

Tens of thousands of black-clad protesters filled a major road in a usually bustling market district where shop owners had shuttered their storefronts in anticipation of a prolonged demonstration. They also blocked a tunnel and surrounded police stations where non-emergency services were suspended.

The protest was the latest in a summer-long pro-democracy movement in Hong Kong, a semi-autonomous Chinese territory. While the rallies have been largely peaceful, they have increasingly devolved into skirmishes with police after some protesters refused to disperse at assigned times.

Since the rallies began in early June, protesters have vandalized buildings and thrown bricks, while police have fired tear gas and rubber bullets.

In a separate demonstration on Saturday, thousands of people dressed in white gathered at a Hong Kong park to express their support for the police. They held up signs that read "Give Peace a Chance."

Pro-democracy demonstrators began setting up first aid stations and handing out helmets a few hours into their rally. When one group reached the harbor near a luxury shopping center and high-end hotels, some protesters climbed up a cluster of flag poles and removed the Chinese national flag.

After some debate over whether to paint the flag black, they decided to throw it into the water before the police could intervene.

Shortly afterward, a 38-year-old protester named Paladin Cheng planted himself beside the poles with his own set of flags, which read "Hong Kong Independence."

"We're losing our freedom little by little," said Cheng, who was clad in head-to-toe black with a black visor and face mask. "Those who don't support Hong Kong independence will have no choice but to become Chinese."

A former British colony, Hong Kong was returned to China in 1997 under the framework of "one country, two systems," which promises the city certain freedoms not afforded to mainland residents. In recent years, however, some Hong Kong residents have accused Beijing of chipping away at their autonomy through the arrests of booksellers and activists.

Such sentiments have propelled the current mass demonstrations, which were initially triggered by a proposed extradition law that would have allowed Hong Kong residents to be sent to mainland China to stand trial.

While the government has since suspended the legislation, protesters have pressed on with five major demands, including direct elections and an investigation into alleged police brutality. Hong Kong's leader is chosen by a pro-Beijing committee.

Police warned earlier Saturday that those who continued past the pre-approved route would be breaking the law. They called on protesters to stick to designated routes and times after violent clashes marred previous rallies in the summer-long protest movement. Any demonstrations that are not pre-approved will be "cleared out" as unlawful assemblies, police said.

Zarine Chau, a 56-year-old security guard, said she rarely used to get involved in politics, but was angered after she saw videos of police officers beating up protesters.

"I feel so hurt," Chau said. "Why doesn't the government answer to us?" She attended Saturday's rally with her 5-month-old Chihuahua, who was there to help protesters relax, Chau said.

A 44-year-old nonprofit worker surnamed Wai said he was worried about protesters' safety because violent incidents have often occurred after marches draw to a close.

"Some things have gone too far," Wai said. "Hong Kong's future belongs to all of us. We need to keep it safe."

Hong Kong residents have accused police of negligence after 44 people were injured last month in a mob attack by white-clad assailants who appeared to target protesters. Authorities said their resources

were stretched due to the prolonged demonstrations.

Mong Kok, the site of Saturday's pro-democracy protest, was one area where protesters set up a pro-democracy demonstration zone in 2014. Near the end of the Occupy Central protests, police officers descended on the site and tore down the metal barricades, bamboo and wooden planks protesters had used to block off key streets.

## Nearly 90 protesters reported held in Moscow

By JIM HEINTZ Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Moscow police on Saturday detained nearly 90 people protesting the exclusion of some independent and opposition candidates from the city council ballot, a monitoring group said, a week after authorities arrested nearly 1,400 at a similar protest.

Lyubov Sobol, one of the excluded candidates and a driving figure of the current wave of protests, was among those detained. She was grabbed by police in central Moscow and hustled into a police van, loudly demanding to know why she was being held.

Demonstrators were aiming to hold a march along the Boulevard Ring that skirts central Moscow and is a popular local for promenades.

But helmeted riot police started seizing demonstrators from a scattered crowd on Pushkin Square and pushing them back from another square further along the route.

The initial arrests appeared less harsh than many of them a week earlier, when police beat some protesters with truncheons. Some of those detained on Saturday appeared nonchalant, smirking or checking their phones as police led them to buses.

The OVD-Info group, which monitors arrests, said at least 89 people had been detained.

Despite repeated warnings that police would take active measures against a protest on Saturday, activists aimed to hold a march for about four kilometers (2.5 miles) along the Boulevard Ring that circles central Moscow and is a popular area to stroll.

Once a local, low-key affair, the September vote for Moscow's city council has shaken up Russia's political scene as the Kremlin struggles with how to deal with strongly opposing views in its sprawling capital of 12.6 million.

In the past month, the issue has provoked a surprisingly large outcry for a local election. On July 20, about 20,000 people turned out for a demonstration that was the largest in the city in several years.

On Saturday, about 3,000 people attended a rally in St. Petersburg supporting the Moscow protests, the local news site Fontanka.ru reported.

The Moscow city council, which has 45 seats, is responsible for a large municipal budget and is now controlled by the pro-Kremlin United Russia party. All of its seats, which have a five-year-term, are up for grabs in the Sept. 8 vote.

## AP FACT CHECK: The Democratic debates and Trump counterpunch

By CALVIN WOODWARD and HOPE YEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In his typically boastful rally this past week, Donald Trump placed himself too high in the pantheon of presidents when it comes to getting his judicial picks on federal courts. He's been having a good run on that front but he's not where he said he is — ranking right under George Washington, no less.

Much of the week was filled with the cacophony of Democratic presidential candidates having their say on the debate stage. Their pronouncements did not always fit with the facts. They skewed reality on climate science, immigration policy, the auto industry and more.

A review:

JUDGES

TRUMP, on his record of filling federal judicial appointments: "There's only one person ... who percentage-

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wise has done better than me with judges." — Cincinnati rally Thursday.

THE FACTS: No, at least four have done better.

Trump is properly ceding first place to George Washington, who had a judiciary entirely made up of his choices simply because he was the first president. But he's not acknowledging that at least three modern presidents had a better record than Trump of getting their judicial choices on the courts. Russell Wheeler, a visiting fellow at the Brookings Institution and former deputy director of the Federal Judicial Center, has been keeping track.

He found that Trump's confirmed judges make up 17% of total federal judgeships. At this point in their presidencies, John Kennedy had filled 30% of the federal judiciary, Bill Clinton had filled 20% and Nixon had filled 25%.

## CLIMATE

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

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

ANDREW YANG, entrepreneur: "This is going to be a tough truth, but we are too late. We are 10 years too late." — Democratic debate Wednesday.

THE FACTS: These statements are out of step with science. Climate scientists don't agree on an approximate time frame, let alone an exact number of years, for how much time we have left to stave off the deadliest extremes of climate change. Nor do they think it's too late already.

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

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

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

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

## IMMIGRATION

KAMALA HARRIS, senator from California: "We've got a person who has put babies in cages and separated children from their parents." — Democratic debate Wednesday.

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

TRUMP: "The cages for kids were built by the Obama Administration in 2014. He had the policy of child separation. I ended it even as I realized that more families would then come to the Border!" — tweet Wednesday.

THE FACTS: There's deception on both sides here.

Family separations as a matter of routine came about because of Trump's "zero tolerance" enforcement policy. President Barack Obama had no such policy and Trump's repeated attempts to pin one on him flies in the face of reality. Trump only ended — or suspended — what Trump had started, and that was after a judge ordered that the practice be sharply curtailed and as an international uproar grew.

Moreover, the American Civil Liberties Union now says in a legal challenge that more than 900 children were separated from their parents at the border in the year after the judge's order.

The Obama administration also separated migrant children from families when a child's safety appeared

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at risk with the adults or in other limited circumstances. But the ACLU says children have been removed after the judge's order for minor transgressions by the adults, like traffic offenses, or for unfounded suspicions of wrongdoing.

Trump, though, is correct in noting that the "cages" — chain-link enclosures inside border facilities where migrants have been temporarily housed, separated by sex and age — were built and used by the Obama administration. Democrats routinely ignore that fact when they assail Trump for what they call the cruelty of putting "babies in cages." The Trump administration has been using the same facilities as the Obama administration.

JOE BIDEN, former vice president, on Obama's approach to people who came to the U.S. illegally as children: "The president came along and he's the guy that came up with the idea, first time ever, of dealing with the Dreamers. He put that in the law." — Democratic debate Wednesday.

**THE FACTS:** He's wrong that Obama achieved a law protecting those young immigrants. He notably failed on that front. Instead he circumvented Congress and used his executive authority to extend temporary protection, letting them stay in the country if they met certain conditions. The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, as its name implies, merely defers deportations.

Trump, also with executive action, tried to end the program but the effort has been tied up in courts, so the protection continues for now.

CORY BOOKER, senator from New Jersey, on decriminalizing illegal entry at the border: "Doing it through the civil courts means you won't need these awful detention centers that I've been to." — Democratic debate Wednesday.

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

Also, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement uses detention to hold people awaiting deportation who have been accused or convicted of crimes more serious than illegal entry.

For example, in December 2018, ICE detained 47,486 people, according to an analysis at Syracuse University. Of those, 29,753 had no conviction, and those people probably would not be in detention if illegal entry were a civil issue. But 6,186 had serious crime convictions, 2,237 had other convictions and 9,310 had minor violations, and those people could still be held, according to the analysis.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT

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

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

While local officials sometimes defer their investigation as federal prosecutors conduct criminal probes, there was no requirement for the police department to wait for the federal civil rights investigation in weighing a decision about whether to fire Pantaleo. Police Commissioner James O'Neill, who reports to de Blasio, could have fired him at any time.

The Justice Department announced last month that it would not bring any charges in connection with Garner's death. After an internal departmental trial, an administrative judge on Friday recommended that Pantaleo be fired. The officer was suspended pending a decision on whether O'Neill will oust him.



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JULIAN CASTRO, former Obama administration housing secretary: "We need to ensure we have a national use of force standard and that we end qualified immunity for police officers so that we can hold them accountable for using excessive force." — Democratic debate Wednesday.

THE FACTS: Castro is correct that qualified immunity, a legal protection shielding public servants from lawsuits for actions they take in the course of their jobs, is a barrier toward holding police officers accountable in court for acts of excessive force.

But officers can nonetheless be criminally prosecuted by state and federal authorities for excessive force.

And qualified immunity is hardly the only hurdle for accountability: sometimes it's the tall burden of proof that stands in the way. The Justice Department brings criminal charges against police officers in cases when it can prove that the officer intentionally violated someone's civil rights by using more force than the law allows. Department officials said they could not make such a case in the investigation Castro and other Democrats were discussing — the 2014 chokehold death in New York of Eric Garner.

## ECONOMY and WAGES

TRUMP: "The facts speak far louder than words! The Democrats always play the Race Card, when in fact they have done so little for our Nation's great African American people. Now, lowest unemployment in U.S. history, and only getting better." — tweet on July 28.

THE FACTS: Trump is seeking credit he doesn't deserve for black job growth. He's also wrong to assert that Democrats haven't done anything to improve the economic situation for African Americans.

It's true that black unemployment did reach a record low during the Trump administration: 5.9 percent in May 2018. It currently stands at 6 percent.

But many economists view the continued economic growth since the middle of 2009, when Obama was in office, as the primary explanation for hiring. More important, there are multiple signs that the racial wealth gap is now worsening and the administration appears to have done little, if anything, to specifically address this challenge.

African Americans also had higher income prior to the Trump administration. A black household earned median income of \$40,258 in 2017, the latest data available. That's below a 2000 peak of \$42,348, according to the Census Bureau.

The most dramatic drop in black unemployment came under Obama, when it fell from a recession high of 16.8 percent in March 2010 to 7.8 percent in January 2017.

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

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

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

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

THE FACTS: Most Americans, by far, only work one job, and the numbers who juggle more than one have declined over a quarter century.

In the mid-1990s, the percentage of workers holding multiple jobs peaked at 6.5%. The rate dropped

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significantly, even during the Great Recession, and has been hovering for a nearly a decade at about 5% or a little lower. In the latest monthly figures, from June, 5.2% of workers were holding more than one job.

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

**HARRIS:** "Autoworkers we expect, perhaps, hundreds of thousands will be out of jobs by the end of the year." — Wednesday debate.

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

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

Harris has been citing the Center for Automotive Research's 2018 study, which examined hypothetical job losses across all U.S. industries touched by the auto business — not just the nation's nearly 1 million autoworkers — if Trump introduced certain tariffs and policies.

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

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

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

## HEALTH CARE

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

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

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

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

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

**HARRIS:** "Even though we spend more, we have failed to insure nearly 30 million Americans, and the problem has gotten worse under Donald Trump. Seven million people have lost their health insurance under his presidency." — Medium article published Monday introducing her "Medicare for All" plan.

**THE FACTS:** Harris is selectively marshaling her evidence, citing a survey that has found a significant increase in the number of uninsured adults under Trump while ignoring others that show coverage basically holding steady.

Under Trump, the U.S. has not advanced in reducing the number of uninsured, but major studies differ on whether there's been significant backsliding, as Harris asserts.

Harris' numbers come from the Gallup National Health and Well-Being Index, which found the uninsured rate among adults has gone up. Gallup reported that nearly 14% of adults were uninsured in the last three months of 2018. That translates to about 7 million more uninsured adults since 2016, the last full year of Obama's tenure. Gallup measured adults only.

However, there's been no major slippage in an ongoing survey from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

CDC estimated that 30.4 million Americans of all ages were uninsured last year, or 9.4% of the popula-

tion. That compares with 28.6 million uninsured, or 9% of the population, in 2016. CDC says those changes reflected in the National Health Interview Survey are not statistically significant because such surveys are not precise enough to measure differences that small.

An estimate by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office finds an increase of 1.4 million uninsured people under age 65 from 2016 to 2018.

A private study tracks with the government's findings. The Commonwealth Fund's Biennial Health Insurance Survey found no statistically significant change in the uninsured rate among adults ages 19 to 64 from 2016 to 2018, at about 12%.

The picture may get clearer by the time Americans elect their next president. The previous Republican-led Congress repealed "Obamacare" fines on people who remain uninsured. That change took effect this year, and experts believe it will prompt some people to drop coverage. The uninsured rate may well go up, but Harris will have to wait for a definitive ruling.

Associated Press writers Colleen Long, Christopher Rugaber, Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, Michael Balsamo, Eric Tucker and Ellen Knickmeyer in Washington and Amanda Seitz in Chicago contributed to this report.

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## Collapsing California cliff claims 3 lives along beach

ENCINITAS, Calif. (AP) — A popular surfing beach was closed Saturday after a cliff collapsed, sending tons of sandstone onto beachgoers and killing three people.

A 30-foot-long slab of the cliff plunged onto the sand near Grandview Beach north of San Diego. A KNSD-TV helicopter captured footage of beach chairs, towels, surf boards and beach toys strewn about the sand.

Other beachgoers and lifeguards at a nearby tower scrambled to the towering pile of debris, which was estimated to weigh tens of thousands of pounds, to help dig out victims.

"I saw first responders, and I saw lifeguards frantically digging people out of the debris," Jim Pepperdine, who lives nearby, told the San Diego Union-Tribune.

Pepperdine said he saw people trying to resuscitate a woman before her body was covered.

A woman died at the scene, and two more people later died at hospitals. Another person was taken to a hospital, and a person who had minor injuries was treated at the scene, according to statements from the city.

Their names and ages were not immediately released. All the victims were adults, authorities said.

Search dogs were brought in to hunt for other possible victims, and a skip loader was brought in to move the dense, heavy debris. No other victims were found by late Friday night.

The beach is reached by wooden stairs from a parking lot above. Homes atop the cliff were not in any danger, Encinitas Fire Chief Mike Stein said.

The cliff remained unstable and complicated the search effort, Stein said.

Suburbs north of San Diego have contended with rising water levels in the Pacific Ocean, pressuring bluffs along the coast. Some bluffs are fortified with concrete walls to prevent multimillion-dollar homes from falling into the sea.

Long stretches of beach in Encinitas are narrow strips of sand between stiff waves and towering rock walls. People lounging on beach chairs or blankets are sometimes surprised as waves roll past them and within a few feet of the walls.

Grandview Beach is fairly narrow, with tides high this week. Surfers lay their boards upright against the bluff.

Cliffside collapses are not unusual as the ocean chews away at the base of the sandstone, authorities said. Some beach areas were marked with signs warning of slide dangers.

Several people have been killed or injured over the years in bluff collapses. The Tribune reported that

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Rebecca Kowalczyk, 30, of Encinitas died near the same area on Jan. 16, 2000, when a 110-yard-wide chunk of bluff fell and buried her.

Bluffs give way four to eight times a year in Southern California, but "nothing of this magnitude," said Brian Ketterer, southern field division chief of California State Parks.

"This is a naturally eroding coastline," Encinitas Lifeguard Capt. Larry Giles said. "There's really no rhyme or reason, but that's what it does naturally. .... This is what it does, and this is how beaches are actually partially made. It actually has these failures."

## North Korea says Kim supervised latest rocket launcher test

By KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

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

The report by Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency came a day after South Korea's military said it detected North Korea firing projectiles twice into the sea off its eastern coast in its third round of weapons tests in just over a week.

Experts say the North's increased testing activity is aimed at ramping up pressure on Washington and Seoul over stalled nuclear negotiations with the United States and planned U.S.-South Korea military exercises, and that its weapons displays could intensify in the coming months if progress in talks isn't made.

North Korea has said Kim supervised the first test of the same rocket artillery system on Wednesday. KCNA said Kim expressed "great satisfaction" over Friday's tests, which it said confirmed the system's "altitude control level flight performance, track changing capability, accuracy of hitting a target and warhead explosion power of the guided ordnance rocket."

The report didn't include any direct mention of the United States or South Korea.

South Korea's presidential office had said the U.S. and South Korean militaries shared an assessment that Friday's launches were likely of short-range ballistic missiles.

South Korea's military had also concluded the weapons North Korea tested on Wednesday are ballistic missiles and maintained its assessment even after the North described them as a newly developed "large-caliber multiple launch guided rocket system."

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said Friday's launches were conducted at 2:59 a.m. and 3:23 a.m. from an eastern coastal area and the projectiles flew 220 kilometers (137 miles). The range would be enough to cover the metropolitan area surrounding Seoul, where about half of South Koreans live, and a major U.S. military base just outside the city.

On July 25, North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles that Seoul officials said flew 600 kilometers (370 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.

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 and urged Pyongyang to engage in "meaningful negotiations" with the United States on eliminating its nukes. The three countries said international sanctions should remain in place until North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programs are dismantled.

In a separate report carried through KCNA on Saturday, an unidentified spokesperson of North Korea's Foreign Ministry criticized the statement released by the three countries, saying that the North never has and never will recognize the U.N. resolutions it sees as a "grave provocation" against its government.

The spokesperson said North Korea has never signed an agreement with any country to limit the range of missiles and other projectiles it tests and wasn't bound to any legal requirement. The spokesperson said the North's unilateral suspension of nuclear and intercontinental range ballistic missile tests, announced



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by Kim last year amid a diplomatic outreach to Washington, was based on "goodwill and consideration for a dialogue power."

The spokesperson also seemed to reaffirm the North's stance that the weapons it tested on Wednesday were rocket artillery, not ballistic missiles.

"It is the very self-evident truth that any projectile draws a ballistic curve, not a straight line owing to earth gravity. The UNSC takes issue with the firing based on the ballistic technology, not the range of the projectile, which means that the DPRK should give up the right to self-defense," the spokesperson said, referring to North Korea by its formal name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

President Donald 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."

However, the North's recent weapons demonstrations have dampened the optimism that followed Trump's impromptu summit with Kim 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. It said it will wait to see if the August exercises actually take place to decide on the fate of its diplomacy with Washington and also whether to continue its suspension of nuclear and ICBM tests.

## Gonzalez enters hall with 3 DBs who tried covering him

By BARRY WILNER AP Pro Football Writer

CANTON, Ohio (AP) — At one end of the room sat Tony Gonzalez. All the way across it was Ed Reed. Sometimes in the past, that's as close to each other as the two new Hall of Famers cared to be.

Same thing for Champ Bailey and Ty Law when it came to covering Gonzalez, the game-changing tight end and matchup nightmare for defensive backs.

They're all part of the class of 2019 that will be inducted Saturday night. On Friday, they spoke about each other — and the honor of entering the pro football shrine together.

"It was a hassle dealing with Tony," said Reed, a five-time All-Pro for Baltimore as a ball-hawking safety and member of the NFL 2000s All-Decade Team, as were Gonzalez, Bailey and Law. "Tony was tough. You needed somebody else to help you. I'd tell Terrell Suggs, 'You got to hit him before you pass rush.'

"Tony was crafty, big, tough to get around, a basketball guy."

True. Gonzalez was a two-sport star at Cal. Clearly he chose the right profession, making six All-Pro teams, catching more passes (1,325) than anyone except Jerry Rice, and becoming the most accomplished tight end in NFL history.

Entering the hall with three exceptional DBs was striking for Gonzalez, whose ability to outrun linebackers and outmuscle or even outjump safeties and cornerbacks made him a dominant performer for 17 seasons.

"I loved it because he was the best," Bailey said of his matchups with Gonzalez while both were in the AFC West, the tight end with Kansas City, the cornerback with Denver. Rarely did defensive coordinators ask cornerbacks to take on Gonzalez, but Bailey had the smarts, skill and temperament to do so.

"Tony was not necessarily fast, but fast enough. It was kind of refreshing for me to go against a bigger guy, not one of those (tight ends who play like wideouts). I knew if the ball ever came his way, I had to worry about that big body (Gonzalez played at 6-5, 250, Bailey at 6-0, 195) and try to make a play. I never got a pick on him. He was one of the best."

Gonzalez echoed those thoughts about Reed, Bailey and Law, who was a teammate in Kansas City in 2006-07.

"Ed was the only safety (of the three), and he was a top guy," Gonzalez said. "I loved going against him and seeing how I stacked up. I won some and lost some.

"I went the most against Champ, twice a year, because the Broncos would match him against me a lot.

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Man, that was tough.

"Ty was my teammate for a while and I learned a lot, how hard he worked at the game."

The four were joined in an interview session by fellow enshrinees Kevin Mawae, a dominant center for 16 seasons — and, yes, a player on the 2000s All-Decade team — Johnny Robinson, Gil Brandt and the family of late Broncos owner Pat Bowlen.

All of them conveyed the same message: never back off from your goals.

"I never took my eye off the process," said Bailey, who spent his first five pro seasons in Washington. "What was it going to take to succeed? Bu I dreamed big from the beginning."

Bailey as mentored by a Hall of Famer, Darrell Green during his time in Washington. He also spent some time with Deion Sanders, also a Canton enshrine, as a Redskin.

"How did I get all this greatness around me?" he wondered. "It set my foundation."

Law spoke of his roots in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, mentioning how his grandparents set him on the correct path when he could have strayed and wound up "six feet under."

"Everything I have faced in my life, I can go back to Aliquippa and the lessons I learned," he said.

Brandt, who from 1960-89 was the personnel director of the Cowboys and recently has been a league consultant for the draft, will lead off the induction ceremony on Saturday night. One of football's great story tellers, he promises to leave plenty of time for the others on the docket to speak.

"It's kind of surreal," the 86-year-old Brandt said. "I have been at the hall since 1965; one of my jobs was getting helmets and other things signed. You always hope for something to happen, but it's almost impossible to happen."

On Saturday, the hall's doors will open to Brandt and the other members of the 2019 class.

"Very special," Brandt concluded. "Very."

More AP NFL: <https://apnews.com/NFL> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_NFL](https://twitter.com/AP_NFL)

## Democratic White House hopefuls target labor at Nevada forum

By MICHELLE L. PRICE and KATHLEEN RONAYNE Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Nineteen Democrats hoping to be the next president are in Nevada Saturday to win support from labor unions that hold sway in the state that will cast the first votes in the West in next year's primary.

Candidates including former Vice President Joe Biden and Sens. Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and Kamala Harris will speak Saturday at a labor forum hosted by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, a public employees union that has 1.6 million members nationally.

The event is a moment for the candidates to prove their pro-union credentials as they jockey for support from a powerful source of cash and manpower. Some Nevada Democrats hope to zero in on kitchen-table issues that matter in a state hit hard by the Great Recession.

"The big thing that strikes me about Las Vegas is that it really reflects the future," South Bend, Ind., Mayor Pete Buttigieg said while campaigning Friday night at a downtown Las Vegas art walk. "Demographically, it is what the country will look like in a few decades, and economically, I think it shows a lot of the opportunity but also a lot of the vulnerability that is going to be true for more and more of us as Americans."

The Democrats in the crowded field have presented a broad array of policies to help working Americans, including easing student debt and raising wages. They've tussled, though, over health care reform, an issue that is very important to many union members. While Sanders and Warren have pushed for a complete elimination of private and employer-sponsored health plans, Biden and others argue workers have bargained hard for benefit plans they'll want to keep.

While candidates won't get to make lengthy speeches at the union forum, many are packing in events around the Las Vegas area over the weekend in a nod to Nevada's status as the third state where Democrats will vote in the primary, just after Iowa and New Hampshire and before South Carolina. Warren, speaking at a town hall Friday night in a high school gymnasium, said she's expanding her footprint in

Nevada and will soon have six campaign offices, more than any other candidate.

Buttigieg told the youthful crowd at the art walk that as Nevadans, they "have extra influence in this presidential process."

His campaign just announced his first Nevada hires, and he told reporters he's been slow to build up his team in the state because he's been working to boost his national name recognition and resources. He says he will be expanding his Nevada operation swiftly.

Despite Democrats largely sweeping the state in 2018, it remains a battleground where President Donald Trump sees a chance of winning next year. He lost the state in 2016 to Democrat Hillary Clinton by 2 percentage points.

More than a decade after the Great Recession, which hit Nevada particularly hard, economic anxieties remain strong among the state's voters, who often cite them among the top concerns they want the next president to address.

Aside from its robust labor unions, the Western state is home to a diverse immigrant community and a population that's 29% Latino.

## US to test new missile as arms treaty with Russia ends

By **ROBERT BURNS** and **DEB RIECHMANN** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — With the scrapping of a landmark arms control agreement Friday, the U.S. announced plans to test a new missile amid growing concerns about emerging threats and new weapons.

U.S. officials said they are no longer hamstrung and could now develop weapons systems previously banned under the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces treaty with Russia, a Cold War-era agreement that both sides repeatedly accused the other of violating. The treaty was also criticized because it did not cover China or missile technology that did not exist a generation ago.

The end of the treaty comes amid rising doubts about whether the two countries will extend an agreement on long-range nuclear weapons scheduled to expire in 2021. President Donald Trump said he has been discussing a new agreement to reduce nuclear weapons with China and Russia.

"And I will tell you China was very, very excited about talking about it and so was Russia," Trump told reporters. "So I think we'll have a deal at some point."

The Trump administration, which gave its six-month notice on Feb. 2 of its pending withdrawal from the INF, had repeatedly said Russia was violating its provisions, an accusation President Barack Obama made as well.

"The United States will not remain party to a treaty that is deliberately violated by Russia," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in announcing the formal withdrawal, calling a Russian missile system prohibited under the agreement a "direct threat to the United States and our allies."

The end of the INF, which comes as world powers seek to contain the nuclear threat from Iran and North Korea, is another milestone in the deterioration of relations between the U.S and Russia.

"The denunciation of the INF treaty confirms that the U.S. has embarked on destroying all international agreements that do not suit them for one reason or another," the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement. "This leads to the actual dismantling of the existing arms control system."

A senior administration official downplayed the upcoming U.S. weapons test, saying it was not meant to be a provocation. The official, who was not authorized to publicly discuss the test flight, said the U.S. is "years away" from effectively deploying weapons previously banned under the agreement.

But the U.S. might eventually want to base such weapons in Europe as a counterbalance to Russia, or in Asia to counter China.

The central issue with the INF was that both Russia and the U.S. had long accused the other of cheating on the treaty, which banned land-based missiles of ranges between 500 and 5,500 kilometers (310 and 3,410 miles).

The U.S. said the noncompliant missile systems the Russians fielded gave Moscow an advantage over NATO forces in Europe.

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The Obama administration in 2014 first publicly accused Moscow of violating the INF by testing a treaty-busting cruise missile, and the Trump administration pressed the accusation. Russia denies it has cheated, and counters with a contention that America's armed drones and missile defense system in Europe are violations.

U.S. military officials have said 95% of China's ballistic and cruise missiles would have violated the treaty. "Since the strategic environment has changed rapidly since the end of the Cold War, we need to find ways to use arms control to address the rise of China's nuclear arsenal, the increase of Russia's non-strategic weapons stockpiles, and the emergence of new technologies like hypersonic weapons," said Texas Rep. Michael McCaul, the top Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Chinese U.N. Ambassador Zhang Jun on Friday challenged what he said were efforts to make his country "an excuse" for the demise of the treaty: "You know, the United States is saying China should be a party in this disarmament agreement, but I think everybody knows that China is not at the same level with the United States and the Russian Federation."

The point of arms control is to limit or stop a competition in weapons that, if left unconstrained, could endanger not just the big powers but much of the rest of the world. Nuclear weapons are the clearest example of this, but advances in technology, the rise of China and the spread of nuclear capabilities to smaller countries like North Korea have complicated the problem.

That is one reason many in the Trump administration argue that extending the New START agreement with Russia, which is set to expire in February 2021, might not make sense. It is the only remaining treaty constraining the U.S. and Russian nuclear arsenals.

New START imposes limits on the number of U.S. and Russian long-range nuclear warheads and launchers. The deal was made in 2010, but the limits didn't take effect until 2018.

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 it is unlikely the administration will agree to the five-year extension to New START that the treaty allows and which can be done without legislative action in either capital.

David Wright, co-director of the Global Security Program at the Union of Concerned Scientists, said if Trump doesn't extend or replace New START it will be first time since 1972 that the U.S. and Russia will be "operating without any mutual constraints on their nuclear forces."

Some U.S. military leaders also doubt the wisdom of extending New START.

Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has publicly expressed doubt about arms agreements with Russia in light of what he calls Russian violations of the INF treaty.

Dunford's view is at odds with that of many private arms control advocates, including Thomas Countryman, a former senior State Department official and now chairman of the Arms Control Association.

In congressional testimony last month, Countryman, who retired from diplomatic service in 2017, said it would be "national security malpractice" to allow New START to expire in 2021. He said the Trump administration is engaged in a "dangerous fantasy" by thinking Russia needs the New START treaty more than the United States does.

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Associated Press writer Edith Lederer at the United Nations contributed to this report.

## **Puerto Rico governor resigns as promised; successor sworn in**

**By DÁNICA COTO Associated Press**

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rosselló resigned Friday as promised, clearing the way for veteran politician Pedro Pierluisi to be sworn in as his replacement, a move that threw the U.S. territory into a period of fresh political uncertainty.

Rosselló had promised to step down in response to weeks of popular protest over mismanagement and a series of leaked chats in which he and advisers denigrated a range of Puerto Ricans. Because of problems with the qualifications of members of Rosselló's administration in the constitutional line of succession, it



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was unclear until the last minute who would become governor.

Pierluisi was named secretary of state, the next in line to be governor, in a recess appointment this week. In an emailed announcement from his office, Rosselló said Pierluisi would succeed him. He was sworn in by a judge at 5 p.m., the hour Rosselló had set to leave office.

Four hours later, San Juan Mayor Carmen Yulín Cruz tweeted that the municipality at 8 a.m. on Monday would be challenging Pierluisi's swearing in as governor. Meanwhile, a well-respected attorneys' organization accused Pierluisi of "hijacking" the constitution.

The territory's House of Representatives confirmed Pierluisi as secretary of state Friday, but the Senate has not yet voted on his appointment. Rosselló said confirmation by both houses was unnecessary for a recess appointment, an assertion that appeared certain to generate legal challenges.

After taking the oath at his sister's house, Pierluisi emerged at the governor's residence to address the press and promised only to serve as governor until the Senate's hearing on his nomination, which has been moved up to Monday. If the Senate votes no, Pierluisi said, he will step down and hand the governorship to the justice secretary, the next in line under the constitution.

Nothing more was heard from Rosselló.

Pierluisi said he was "fully capable and authorized to act, but the Senate will have its say."

Depending on the Senate's action, his tenure "could be very short-lived," he said. He did not plan to move into the governor's mansion until after the vote. He also said he would avoid any major changes and concentrate on meeting with top government officials.

The down-to-the-wire maneuvering risked political chaos and sowed bitterness and pessimism among Puerto Ricans about the fate of their island, which has been battered by years of bankruptcy and Hurricane Maria in 2017, one of the worst natural disasters in U.S. history.

Only days ago, there was jubilation over the success of the popular movement to force Rosselló out of office. On Friday, Puerto Ricans bemoaned the confusion that left them not knowing who would be their next governor.

"People are disgusted with the government in general, not just Ricardo Rosselló, everyone," said Janeline Avila, 24, who recently received her degree in biotechnology.

Senate President Thomas Rivera Schatz, a member of Rosselló's party who is seen as a possible future governor, criticized Rosselló for naming Pierluisi and appeared to hint at fighting the succession plan.

"He never regretted anything," Schatz said of Rosselló. "He did not respect the demands of the people. In fact, he mocked them, using new accomplices."

Schatz said that order and morals will prevail: "No one should lose faith."

Hundreds of protesters marched to the governor's residence, the Fortaleza, banging pots and drums and singing the national anthem. Protesters had not been highly critical of Pierluisi before Friday but expressed disgust with the succession process and Pierluisi's ties to the federal control board that has promoted cutbacks on the island.

Bryan Carhu Castro Vega, a 21-year-old university student, said he was disappointed.

"It's obvious that the constitutional setup that we have isn't working for the people," he said. "None of the options is one the people chose or want or deserve."

Rosa Cifrian, a 47-year-old professor of nursing, said Pierluisi would not be a good governor "for the people."

"He'll keep promoting policies of austerity, cutbacks, everything that the board says," she said.

By late Friday night, police warned protesters that they would fire tear gas if needed as some chanted, "Guilty of the crisis! Pierluisi! Pierluisi!"

"Ideally, we would clean the entire house," said Roxana López, a 34-year-old musician who wanted fresh faces in top government positions.

The legislature, which is controlled by Pierluisi's New Progressive Party, erupted into cheers when the House voted 26-21, with one abstention, to confirm Pierluisi as secretary of state.

One constitutional amendment states that everyone in line to become governor has to be confirmed by both House and Senate, except for the secretary of state.

Constitutional law professor Carlos Ramos and other legal experts questioned the validity of that amendment and believed Pierluisi must be confirmed by the House and Senate because the amendment contradicts the intent of the constitution and its statement of motives.

Lawmakers and Pierluisi himself expressed concern that the continuing political uncertainty would damage Puerto Rico's efforts to get federal funds to recover from the hurricane and confront the economic crisis.

Several legislators have accused Pierluisi of a conflict of interest because he worked for a law firm that represents the control board, which has repeatedly clashed with local officials over demands for austerity measures.

Pierluisi, whose brother-in-law is the board's chairman, tried to dispel those concerns in his opening remarks.

"Who better than me to advocate for our people before the board? Who better than me to facilitate the process that will force the board to leave? That is what we all want," he said.

The board was created by Congress to oversee the restructuring of more than \$70 billion in public debt after Puerto Rico declared a form of bankruptcy.

Pierluisi told lawmakers he is against several austerity measures demanded by the board, including laying off public employees and eliminating a Christmas bonus.

He said he supports public-private partnerships and the privatization of the island's public power company.

"The people want a change, and I don't blame them," he said.

A key obstacle for Pierluisi has been Rivera Schatz, who wants to run for governor himself next year. Several legislators have said they prefer Rivera Schatz over Pierluisi, but the Senate leader is a powerful figure deeply associated with Puerto Rico's political and business elite, and his elevation to the governorship could re-ignite popular outrage.

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

Rosselló joined more than a dozen government officials who have resigned in the wake of an obscenity-laced chat in which they made fun of women, gay people and hurricane victims.

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Associated Press writers Mariela Santos in San Juan and Michael Weissenstein in Havana contributed to this report.

## California festival gunman killed himself, officials say

By STEFANIE DAZIO Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The gunman who opened fire on a California food festival killed himself after officers shot him multiple times, officials said Friday, correcting previous police accounts that the officers fired the fatal bullet.

Police gave the update soon after the Santa Clara County Medical Examiner-Coroner's Office said 19-year-old Santino William Legan died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Legan killed three people — including two children — and injured 13 others at the popular Gilroy Garlic Festival on Sunday. Authorities say they have not yet been able to determine his motive.

Gilroy Police Chief Scot Smithee told reporters that the timeline remains the same: Three veteran police officers responded in less than a minute and fired multiple rounds when Legan turned his AK-47-style semi-automatic rifle on them. Smithee said the officers hit him multiple times and he fell to the ground with the rifle.

"He was able to get one more round off, and he was able to shoot himself in the head," the police chief said.

Smithee said he was "a little surprised" to hear that Legan had shot himself.

"I don't think that changes anything about the heroics of our officers," Smithee said.

The chief did not know how many times police fired at him, or how many bullets struck him. A full coro-

ner's report is pending.

Legan killed 6-year-old Stephen Romero and 13-year-old Keyla Salazar of San Jose, along with Trevor Irby, 25, of Romulus, New York, on the last day of the long-running festival. It draws more than 100,000 people with music, food booths and cooking classes to the city roughly 80 miles (129 kilometers) south-east of San Francisco.

John Bennett, the FBI's special agent in charge in San Francisco, has said Legan did not appear to be targeting a particular group and that he did not seem to follow a specific ideology.

Legan's social media raised questions after he urged his Instagram followers on the day of the attack to read a 19th-century book popular with white supremacists on extremist websites. Profilers were working to determine a motive through interviews and combing through physical and digital evidence.

Officials say their investigation has not shown that anyone else was involved.

But authorities arrested a man earlier this week on suspicion of making threats online that apparently referenced the deadly shooting. Jose Pinon, 40, of Gilroy, posted Wednesday on Facebook that "my goal is to kill 500, not three," Gilroy police said.

Police Capt. Joseph Deras said officials did not seize any weapons from Pinon's home Thursday and do not believe he was planning an attack.

A 22-year-old man, whom police did not identify, posted on Facebook soon after the shooting that he had participated — prompting a SWAT response to his Gilroy home. He was arrested on unrelated warrants but police did not charge him in connection with his Facebook post because authorities did not believe he had any "criminal intent," Deras said.

## **NYPD judge recommends firing officer in Eric Garner death**

**By MICHAEL R. SISAK Associated Press**

NEW YORK (AP) — In a reckoning five years in the making, an administrative judge on Friday recommended firing a New York City police officer over the 2014 chokehold death of an unarmed black man whose dying cries of "I can't breathe" fueled a national debate over policing, race and the use of force.

The city's police commissioner will make a final decision this month on whether to fire Officer Daniel Pantaleo, who is white, for his role in Eric Garner's death. Pantaleo was suspended shortly after the judge's decision became public, about two weeks after federal prosecutors closed the book on criminal charges.

Mayor Bill de Blasio hailed the judge's report as "a step toward justice and accountability," while Pantaleo's lawyer and a union leader said it penalized an officer for properly doing his job. The lawyer said he will appeal to state court if Pantaleo is fired.

Garner's mother, Gwen Carr, said the report brought her "some relief" but was overdue and fell short of true accountability.

"It's past time for Mayor Bill de Blasio and the NYPD to end their obstruction, stop spreading misleading talking points and finally take action for my son," she said in a statement.

Garner's death came at a time of a growing public outcry over police killings of unarmed black men that sparked the national Black Lives Matter movement. Just weeks later, protests erupted in Ferguson, Missouri, over the fatal shooting of unarmed teenager Michael Brown.

When a Staten Island grand jury declined to indict Pantaleo on state charges in December 2014, demonstrations flared in New York and several other cities.

And on Friday evening, several dozen protesters gathered in front of police headquarters, demanding that Pantaleo be fired.

The administrative judge's findings were provided Friday to Pantaleo's lawyer and the Civilian Complaint Review Board, the watchdog agency that acted as a prosecutor at his department trial last spring.

Under department rules, Pantaleo's lawyer will have about two weeks to respond before Police Commissioner James O'Neill makes his decision.

The attorney, Stuart London, said Pantaleo, 33, was disappointed in the judge's recommendation but remains "cautiously optimistic" he ultimately won't be dismissed.

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London and Police Benevolent Association President Patrick Lynch urged O'Neill to stand up for Pantaleo, saying he'd done nothing wrong and that firing him would leave officers feeling they can't do their jobs without losing them.

"We're calling on Commissioner O'Neill to save the New York Police Department. Allow us to be effective again," Lynch said.

Lynch said that, given the decision, police officers might be considered reckless every time they put their hands on someone. He urged officers to keep responding to 911 calls but "take it a step slower" and call for a supervisor instead of using physical force on an uncooperative suspect.

Police department spokesman Phillip Walzak said Pantaleo's suspension was standard in disciplinary cases in which termination is recommended. He wouldn't comment further.

The administrative judge, Deputy Commissioner of Trials Rosemarie Maldonado, had been tasked with deciding whether Pantaleo used a chokehold — banned by police department policy — to take Garner to the ground during a confrontation on a Staten Island street.

Pantaleo's lawyers argued he used an approved "seat belt" technique to subdue Garner, who refused to be handcuffed after officers accused him of selling untaxed cigarettes.

London said that while Maldonado found that a chokehold was used, she concluded in her 45-page report that a lot of the contact with the neck was accidental and unintentional. The report has not been made public.

In a bystander's video, it appeared that Pantaleo initially tried to use two approved restraint tactics on Garner, much larger at 6-foot-2 (188 centimeters) and about 400 pounds (180 kilograms), but ended up wrapping his arm around Garner's neck for about seven seconds as they struggled against a glass storefront window and fell to the sidewalk.

The footage showed Garner, who was 43 at the time, crying out, "I can't breathe," at least 11 times before he fell unconscious. The medical examiner's office said a chokehold contributed to Garner's death.

Civilian Complaint Review Board Chairman Fred Davie said Maldonado's recommendation confirmed what the agency argued at the trial: that Pantaleo's use of a chokehold caused Garner's death.

The Rev. Al Sharpton, appearing with two of Garner's children, called on O'Neill to "immediately and unequivocally" to accept the recommendation.

He added: "This is not justice for the Garner family. Justice for the Garner family would have been a federal proceeding or a criminal proceeding in the local courts."

Pantaleo was stripped of his gun and put on desk duty after the death but continued to draw a salary, with his pay peaking at more than \$120,000 in 2017, according to city records.

Last month, federal prosecutors announced they would not bring criminal charges against Pantaleo following a five-year civil rights investigation.

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., on Friday urged the Justice Department's Inspector General to review Attorney General William Barr's role in the decision.

Presented with opposing recommendations from two Justice Department units, Barr sided with prosecutors in Brooklyn who said there wasn't sufficient evidence to make a case.

Garner's death has dogged de Blasio since it happened in his first year in office.

His initial statements after the death were critical of the officers involved, and he talked publicly about having had to warn his own son, who is black, to be careful during any encounters with police. Then, as protests flared, a disturbed man angry about the Garner and Brown cases ambushed and killed two New York City police officers as they sat in their cruiser.

Lynch, of the police union, said at the time that the mayor had "blood on his hands" over the killings. Police turned their backs on de Blasio at the officers' funerals.

De Blasio, who like Gillibrand is running for the Democratic presidential nomination, also wound up infuriating police reform advocates because of the department's yearslong wait to begin disciplinary proceedings against Pantaleo. The city said it wanted to avoid interfering in the federal civil rights investigation.

Chants of "Fire Pantaleo" interrupted de Blasio at Wednesday's Democratic presidential debate in Detroit.



Protesters briefly interrupted de Blasio's news conference Friday chanting the same thing.

Associated Press writer Jennifer Peltz contributed to this report.

## San Francisco curbs waste with public toilets, 'poop patrol'

By JANIE HAR Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The sidewalks surrounding Ahmed Al Barak's corner market in one of San Francisco's roughest neighborhoods are filled with cardboard, used syringes and homeless people who have nowhere safe to go at night.

But Al Barak says it's an improvement from a year ago, before the city posted a portable toilet across the street from his business in the city's Tenderloin district.

He no longer regularly sees people relieve themselves in broad daylight, and he does not see as much feces and urine on the streets. In his opinion, it's the one bright spot in a city where taxes are too high.

"We used to have a disaster here. I used to call the city all the time to come and clean, because they don't know where to go," he said, recalling one woman in particular who shrugged at him in a "what can you do?" gesture as she squatted to pee.

San Francisco started its "Pit Stop" program in July 2014 with public toilets in the city's homeless-heavy Tenderloin, after children complained of dodging human waste on their way to school. Today, the staffed bathrooms have grown from three to 25 locations, and the program has expanded to Los Angeles. In May, the toilets in San Francisco recorded nearly 50,000 flushes, all logged by attendants.

The condition of San Francisco's streets has been a source of embarrassment to city leaders, and cleaning up is not cheap. The city received nearly 27,000 requests for feces removal in the most recent fiscal year, although not all are human.

Mayor London Breed last year announced the formation of a special six-person "poop patrol" team where each cleaner earns more than \$70,000 a year.

Advocates say steam cleaning requests have dropped in areas surrounding some of the public toilets. The mayor signed a budget Thursday that includes more than \$9 million for the Pit Stop toilets this year, up from \$5 million last fiscal year. San Francisco will add seven new bathrooms in a city where a one-night count of homeless people grew 17% in the past two years.

The toilets each cost an average of \$200,000 a year to operate, with most of the money going to staffing and overhead.

Some of the bathrooms are permanent fixtures, while others are portables with two toilets that are trucked in and out. The stops have receptacles for used syringes and dog waste. Attendants who are paid the city's minimum wage of \$16 an hour check after every use and knock on doors to make sure people are not doing drugs or other illicit activity. The bathrooms must shine or they do not open.

The staffing is what makes a toilet a Pit Stop, and the work is usually done by men coming out of prison after decades behind bars.

The "practitioners" stand guard at some of society's bleakest intersections of poverty, addiction and mental illness, says Lena Miller, founder of nonprofit Hunters Point Family and its spinoff, Urban Alchemy, which staffs the Pit Stops in San Francisco and Los Angeles. They prevent overdoses, break up fights and greet regulars, she says.

"Really what we're doing is we're creating this space where people know that they can walk into it, and it's going to smell good. It's going to look good," Miller said. "There won't be trash everywhere, and they're safe. And I think that makes all the difference in the world."

Nelson Butler was a 19-year-old Los Angeles gangster when he went to prison for 30 years for killing a person. Butler was released last year from San Quentin State Prison, scared and apprehensive and in need of a job. He went to work at a Pit Stop.

Technically, his job was to prevent drug use in the bathrooms and make sure homeless people didn't set up camp.

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"The reality is I'm a security guard. I was a babysitter, I was a social worker, I was a counselor. I did a lot of things that was not necessarily in the scope of my job description, but this is my community," Butler said. "So my thought was, if I saw somebody that needed help, that's why I'm there — to help."

Homelessness has surged throughout California, and cities are struggling to open more bathrooms. Officials are considering adding port-a-potties and special loos designed by the city of Portland, Oregon, and expanding hours of restrooms in government buildings.

Sacramento, which is in a county where a one-night count of the homeless increased 19% in two years, tried a Pit Stop but stopped after a few months because it cost too much.

Los Angeles Councilmember Mike Bonin initially thought the stops too pricey, but he now understands that having someone to watch over the bathrooms has its upsides. Los Angeles saw a 16% increase over a year in its one-night count of homeless, to 36,000.

"I heard from everyone, from people affiliated with law enforcement, from people who live in the neighborhood, from homeless advocates, from people who are homeless themselves, that it's important to have a staff to make sure they stay clean and free of destruction or abuse," he said.

Down the street from Ahmed Al Barak's corner market is Aref Elgaali's Z Zoul, a Sudanese cafe. The public bathroom by his eatery has helped, he says, but it closes too early, and there should be many more of the toilets.

"Why not to have in this corner one and that corner one and the other corner one? That will solve a lot of problems for the people here in San Francisco," he said.

## **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 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.

In a statement, Amazon said it does not tolerate fraud.

"When we learned there was an investigation into two contracted drivers, we cooperated with law enforcement by providing them the information they requested. Additionally, we strictly prohibit inauthentic or stolen goods from being offered in our store and take action when sellers do not comply," the statement said.

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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," Reily 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.'"

## Europe pushes World Bank official Georgieva for top IMF job

By DAVID McHUGH AP Business Writer

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — European governments have decided to put forward World Bank official Kristalina Georgieva from Bulgaria as their candidate to replace Christine Lagarde as head of the Washington-based International Monetary Fund.

Georgieva prevailed in a vote Friday among EU governments over former Netherlands finance minister Jeroen Dijsselbloem, according to tweets from French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker.

Europe traditionally nominates the head of the IMF while a U.S. candidate becomes president of the World Bank, under a long-standing informal arrangement.

The IMF executive board must choose a replacement for Lagarde, who has been nominated to head the European Central Bank and resigned effective Sept. 12. The 189-country IMF, a key international financial institution, provides members with economic advice and financial assistance.

World Bank President David Malpass said in a statement that Georgieva would take a leave of absence from her duties as World Bank chief executive officer for the nomination period. He said he congratulated Georgieva on the nomination, "which reflects her strong global leadership on economics, finance and development."

Georgieva previously served as an EU commissioner for international cooperation and humanitarian aid and later oversaw the EU budget.

For her to be chosen the IMF would have to change its bylaws, which require that a person selected as managing director has to be less than 65 years old at the time of initial appointment. Georgieva is 65.

IMF governors or executive directors can nominate candidates until Sept. 6. The IMF executive board has said it intends to complete the selection process by Oct. 4. A non-European candidate, Agustin Carstens from Mexico, sought the post in 2011 when Lagarde, who is French, was chosen.

## Nevada GOP could let Trump bypass its nominating caucuses

By MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The Nevada Republican Party next month will consider bypassing its presidential nominating caucuses next year by having governing members endorse President Donald Trump and avoid any primary challenge.

The Nevada GOP's governing central committee will vote at its September meeting whether to approve the change, allowing the central committee members to then commit the state's Republican delegates all for the president.

"The Nevada Republican Party is firmly behind President Donald J. Trump's re-election campaign," Nevada GOP chair Michael McDonald said in a statement. "We are all in and are excited to get to work on sending President Trump back to the White House for four more years!"

The potential rule change comes as the Republican National Committee has joined forces with the president's re-election bid, four years after Trump cleared a crowded field of GOP challengers, leaving corners of opposition within his party.

That opposition has become quieter, positioning Trump as all-but-assured to win his party's nomination next year.

The Republican National Committee this year issued a nonbinding resolution that declares the party's undivided support for Trump, and Republicans in South Carolina are set to consider next month whether to cancel their primary, shielding the president from an inter-party contest.

The Nevada Republican Party's proposed rule change "isn't about any kind of conspiracy theory about protecting the president," said Nevada GOP spokesman Keith Schipper.

"He's going to be the nominee," Schipper said. "This is about protecting resources to make sure that the president wins in Nevada and that Republicans up and down the ballot win in 2020."

Former Massachusetts Gov. Bill Weld, the only Republican who has so far declared he's challenging



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Trump for the party's nomination, is considered a longshot.

"We don't elect Presidents by acclamation in America," Weld said in a Friday statement on the Nevada GOP proposal. "Donald Trump is doing his best to make the Republican Party his own personal club, and this is just one more example. Republicans deserve better."

If the Nevada GOP central committee approves the change at a Sept. 7 meeting in Winnemucca, the group could cast a vote as soon as that day to bind their delegates to vote for Trump.

Schipper said the party would still hold caucuses on Feb. 25, 2020, but the neighborhood meetings would be of a much smaller scale and solely set up to pick which Nevada residents are delegates to the national GOP convention.

## 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."

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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, "I love them."

"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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## **RFK granddaughter dies; police awaiting toxicology reports**

**By WILLIAM J. KOLE Associated Press**

BOSTON (AP) — Authorities said Friday they are looking to toxicology reports for clues to the death of Saoirse Kennedy Hill, the 22-year-old granddaughter of assassinated presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy.

The Kennedy family confirmed the death in a statement after police responded to a call Thursday after-

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noon about a possible drug overdose at the storied Kennedy compound in Hyannis Port, Massachusetts. The statement was issued by Brian Wright O'Connor, a spokesman for Saoirse Hill's uncle, former congressman Joseph P. Kennedy II.

Hill was the daughter of Robert and Ethel Kennedy's fifth child, Courtney, and Paul Michael Hill, who was one of four people falsely convicted in the 1974 Irish Republican Army bombings of two pubs. The two are now divorced.

"She lit up our lives with her love, her peals of laughter and her generous spirit," the statement said, adding she was passionate about human rights and women's empowerment and worked with indigenous communities to build schools in Mexico.

Hill, whose first name is pronounced SIR-shuh, attended Boston College, where she was a member of the class of 2020. The college issued a statement Friday saying she was a communications major and "a gifted student."

"She was also active in the College Democrats, and had many friends on the BC campus," spokesman Jack Dunn said.

The Cape & Islands district attorney's office said Barnstable police responded to a home "for a reported unattended death." Barnstable police and Massachusetts State Police detectives were investigating. The district attorney's office said Friday that Hill was taken to Cape Cod Hospital, where she was pronounced dead. It said an autopsy showed no signs of trauma, and that toxicology reports would help determine the cause and manner of death.

The family statement did not include a cause of death, but audio of a Barnstable police scanner call obtained by The Associated Press said officers were responding to a report of a drug overdose at the compound.

"The world is a little less beautiful today," the Kennedy family statement quoted Hill's 91-year-old grandmother and RFK's widow, Ethel Kennedy, as saying.

Hill had written frankly and publicly about her struggles with mental health and a suicide attempt while in high school. "My depression took root in the beginning of my middle school years and will be with me for the rest of my life," she wrote in a February 2016 column in The Deerfield Scroll, the student newspaper at Deerfield Academy, the elite private school in Massachusetts she attended.

Hill wrote that she became depressed two weeks before her high school junior year started and she "totally lost it after someone I knew and loved broke serious sexual boundaries with me." She wrote that she pretended it hadn't happened, and when it became too much, "I attempted to take my own life."

She urged the school to be more open about mental illness.

Hill also helped found a group at the school called Deerfield Students Against Sexual Assault, according to a November 2016 story in the paper, and she attended a March for Our Lives gun violence prevention rally in Barnstable in March 2018, The Barnstable Patriot newspaper reported at the time.

Robert F. Kennedy was gunned down in Los Angeles in 1968 after winning California's Democratic presidential primary. He had served as attorney general in the administration of his brother, President John F. Kennedy, who was assassinated in Dallas in 1963. He also served as a U.S. senator from New York.

RFK's family, like the rest of the Kennedy clan, has been touched by tragedy.

One of his and Ethel Kennedy's 11 children, Michael Kennedy, was killed in a skiing accident in Colorado on New Year's Eve 1997 at age 39. And in 1984, another son, David Anthony Kennedy, died of a drug overdose in Florida at age 28.

JFK's son, John F. Kennedy Jr., was killed with his wife and sister-in-law when his small plane crashed off Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, in July 1999.

One of Hill's relatives, former U.S. Rep. Patrick Kennedy, who is now an advocate for substance abuse and mental health treatment, tweeted in tribute to her Friday.

"Saoirse will always remain in our hearts. She is loved and will be deeply missed," he wrote.

Funeral plans were incomplete Friday.

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Associated Press reporter Mark Pratt in Boston contributed.

## R. Kelly pleads not guilty to sexually abusing women, girls

By TOM HAYS Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Embattled R&B singer R. Kelly pleaded not guilty Friday to federal charges he sexually abused women and girls who attended his concerts as his lawyers continued to label the alleged victims disgruntled “groupies.”

A sullen-looking Kelly appeared in a Brooklyn courtroom where a magistrate judge also denied his request for bail, agreeing with prosecutors that he’s a flight risk and danger to public safety. His defense attorneys, who argued he should be released so he could better fight the charges, said they would appeal the ruling.

Kelly, whose full name is Robert Kelly, is accused of using his fame to recruit young women and girls into illegal sexual activity. Prosecutors say he isolated them from friends and family and demanded they call him “Daddy.”

On Friday, Assistant U.S. Attorney Elizabeth Geddes argued against bail by saying Kelly and his inner circle had a history of paying off and intimidating potential witnesses in past sexual misconduct cases.

Geddes said witnesses were told “they had the option of choosing his side or the other side.”

If freed, she said, “There’s a serious risk he’ll attempt to obstruct justice.”

The New York City hearing followed Kelly’s arrest last month in a separate Chicago case accusing him of engaging in child pornography. He was to be returned to Chicago, where he remains jailed with a decision still pending on where he could face trial.

Kelly, 52, is charged in New York with exploiting five victims, identified only as “Jane Does.” According to court papers, they include one he met while she was a radio station intern in about 2004 and another at one of his concerts in 2015.

Prosecutors allege Kelly sometimes arranged for some victims to meet him on the road for illegal sex. He had one victim travel in 2017 to a show on Long Island, New York, where he had unprotected sex with her without telling her “he had contracted an infectious venereal disease,” in violation of New York law, they say.

A defense filing said Kelly’s alleged victims were regulars at his shows who made it known they “were dying to be with him.” They only started accusing him of abuse years later when public sentiment shifted in the #MeToo era, his lawyers said.

The accusers “are groupies,” defense attorney Douglas Anton said outside court Friday. “There’s no way around it.” At the time, his client was merely “leading a touring musician’s life,” he added.

The arraignment was attended by two women who recently lived with Kelly. They declined to speak with reporters. Those in the gallery also included a woman wearing a “Free R. Kelly” shirt and Des Alexander, a fan from Brooklyn who said she was “confused” by the case.

Alexander said she hopes Kelly is innocent but added, “If he did it, he deserves to go down.”

“I have daughters of my own,” she said.

This story has been corrected to show R. Kelly pleaded not guilty to federal charges. A previous version said he pleaded guilty.

## Cummings says he scared off intruder at Baltimore home

By LISA MASCARO and DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. Elijah Cummings says he scared off an intruder at his Baltimore home last weekend, providing details for the first time after President Donald Trump tweeted Friday about the break-in.

In a statement Friday, the Maryland Democrat said someone “attempted to gain entry into my residence at approximately 3:40 a.m. on Saturday, July 27.”

“I was notified of the intrusion by my security system, and I scared the intruder away by yelling before the person gained entry into the residential portion of the house,” Cummings said. “I thank the Baltimore Police Department for their response and ask that all further inquiries be directed to them.”

The break-in happened hours before Trump launched a Twitter tirade against Cummings, calling his



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majority-black district a "disgusting, rat and rodent infested mess."

Trump tweeted earlier Friday, "Really bad news! The Baltimore house of Elijah Cummings was robbed. Too bad!"

The president told reporters later in the day that it was "too bad" that Cummings' home had been broken into and that he was just repeating what he had heard on the news. He said he meant no harm with the social media post, saying "that was really not meant as a wise-guy tweet."

Cummings' House Oversight and Reform Committee has been investigating Trump family members serving in the White House.

Baltimore police said it was unknown whether property was taken. Detectives were seeking information on the incident.

## How Trump's latest China tariffs could squeeze US consumers

By **JOSH BOAK, ANNE D'INNOCENZIO and JOE McDONALD AP Business Writers**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The latest tariffs President Donald Trump plans to impose on Chinese goods would cost U.S. households an average of \$200 a year, some economists estimate, and would start to bite consumers and retailers just as the holiday shopping season begins.

That cost would come on top of the roughly \$830 cost imposed per household from Trump's existing tariffs, according to a New York Federal Reserve analysis.

Trump plans to tax \$300 billion of Chinese imports at 10% starting in September with the goal of accelerating trade talks with Beijing to favor the United States. The new tariffs would be in addition to 25% tariffs Trump has imposed on \$250 billion in Chinese products. Those are mostly industrial goods. By contrast, the new tariffs would target products used by American consumers, like shoes, clothing and cellphones.

By Friday, Trump's new planned tariffs had triggered worries, especially among retailers, about the consequences. Retail stores, many of which have been struggling, would have to make the painful choice of either absorbing the higher costs from the new tariffs or imposing them on price-conscious customers.

Additionally, China has signaled the likelihood of imposing counter-tariffs on U.S. goods, which would hit American exporters. The stock market sold off sharply on Friday, in part over concerns about the effect on corporate profits.

For retailers already feeling pressure, the higher prices would hit hard just as the critically important holiday shopping season was getting under way.

Some companies are considering moving up their delivery of goods before the new tariffs take effect. Isaac Larian, CEO of Los Angeles-based MGA Entertainment, which makes the popular L.O.L. doll, said the company will be accelerating shipments from China to the U.S. ahead of the Sept. 1 deadline — and will pay an extra \$300 to \$400 more per shipping container to do so.

He envisions having to raise prices 10 percent across his entire toy line.

"A lot of consumers can't afford it, and demand will go down," Larian said.

iPhone sales would also be hurt if consumers respond to the tariffs by keeping their existing devices to avoid higher prices. Wedbush Securities analyst Daniel Ives estimates that Apple will sell 6 million to 8 million fewer iPhones in the U.S. if it includes the tariff in the sale price.

Peter Bragdon, executive vice president at Columbia Sportswear, said his company had been diversifying away from China and now makes products in more than 20 countries. He said he thinks companies like Columbia Sportswear will fare better than the smaller outdoor rivals.

"The larger companies that have the experience are going to be able to weather really bad public policy," he said.

Washington and Beijing are locked in a battle over complaints that China steals or pressures companies to hand over technology. The Trump administration worries that 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 that those plans violate Beijing's market-opening commitments.

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Companies were already shifting to suppliers outside of China in countries such as Vietnam to avoid the existing tariffs on \$250 billion worth of Chinese imports. But plenty of clothing and footwear companies are still vulnerable, and the president's announcement means that all Chinese imports might be taxed.

In 2018, 42% of all U.S. sold apparel was made in China, according to the American Apparel & Footwear Association, a trade group. That number is 69% for footwear.

"This creates a cash crunch, a lot of confusion and uncertainty," said Steve Lamar, executive vice president of the trade group. "It couldn't come at a worse time."

The Trump administration has publicly denied that consumers would be significantly harmed by the tariffs.

"Any consumer impact is very, very small," Larry Kudlow, director of the National Economic Council, told reporters Friday.

But based on estimates from Oxford Economics, the planned tariffs would cost \$200 per household. This would be in addition to the estimated \$831 per household cost from the existing tariffs.

Taken together, the tariffs would more than wipe out the savings a middle-class household received from Trump's 2017 income tax cuts. The average tax filer earning between \$50,000 and \$75,000 paid \$841 less in taxes last year, according to Congress' Joint Committee on Taxation.

Many economists forecast that the proposed tariffs would shave about 0.1% off economic growth but that the real risk is a further escalation and side effects that could be devastating.

Douglas Porter, chief economist at BMO Capital Markets, likened the president's actions to the errors that led to destruction in World War I.

He said of World War I: "Leaders were relentlessly overconfident on the prospects of victory, fully convinced that any war would be brief, incompetent in planning and execution, and miscalculated economic damage. Accordingly, the war dragged on for over four years at terrible, terrible costs. See any parallels?"

Answering his own question, Porter noted that Trump has declared that trade wars are "good" and "easy to win."

On Friday, China threatened retaliation in ways that could magnify the potential damage to both of the world's two biggest economies. Stocks fell around the globe as investors adjusted to these risks.

Beijing 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 technological ambitions. China's new U.N. Ambassador Zhang Jun suggested that the new tariffs could halt negotiations that were expected to resume next month.

Later, outside the White House, Trump told reporters that he thinks Xi wants to make a deal but that "frankly, he's not moving fast enough."

"China has to do a lot of things to turn it around," Trump said. The tariff increase "goes on Sept. 1, and frankly, if they don't do them, I can always increase it very substantially."

D'Innocenzio contributed from New York and McDonald from Beijing. AP writers Edith M. Lederer contributed from New York and Michael Liedtke from San Francisco.

## Retirement of only black House Republican jars GOP for 2020

By ALAN FRAM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The only black House Republican, a critic of President Donald Trump's, has joined a growing list of GOP lawmakers not seeking reelection next year, jarring the party's efforts to woo minority voters and recapture House control.

Rep. Will Hurd, a moderate Texan who's split with Trump over race and immigration, became the ninth House Republican to say he or she will depart and the sixth in just over a week. Those retirements — and Republicans say there are more to come — will only complicate the GOP's pathway to gaining the minimum 18 seats it will need to grab the chamber's majority in the November 2020 elections.

Hurd, 41, personifies some problems his party faces as the campaign season gears up: He is among several junior lawmakers to abruptly abandon vulnerable seats and is a visible symbol of the GOP's struggle

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to shed its image as a bastion for white men.

While the former CIA agent's written announcement late Thursday said he was pursuing an opportunity in technology and national security, he added, "I will stay involved in politics to grow a Republican Party that looks like America." He was not specific.

Hurd's exit puts the GOP ahead of its pace in 2018, when 34 of its members declined to seek reelection — the party's most retirements since at least 1930. It also underscored a distaste among many Republicans for life as the House minority party, today's razor-sharp partisanship and Trump's tantrums and tweets.

Republicans say they don't expect this election's retirements to reach last year's levels. But the recent departures put perhaps four additional GOP seats in play and suggest an underlying unease within the party.

"There's a mood of tremendous frustration with the lack of accomplishment," Rep. Paul Mitchell, R-Mich., said in an interview this week, days after stunning colleagues when he said he's leaving after just two House terms. Mitchell, 62, blamed leaders of both parties for prioritizing politics over problem solving.

Mitchell also criticized Trump's tweets last month telling four Democratic congresswomen of color — including his Michigan colleague, Rep. Rashida Tlaib — to "go back" to their home countries, though all are American. The tweet was "below the behavior of leadership that will lead this country to a better place," Mitchell said.

Hurd's district, which he's represented for three terms, skirts the Mexican border and is majority Hispanic. While he said he's "taken a conservative message to places that don't often hear it," Democrats consider it a prime pickup opportunity. Gina Ortiz Jones, the Democrat he narrowly defeated in 2018, is already campaigning.

Hurd was a leader in a failed bipartisan effort last year, opposed by Trump, to help young immigrants brought to the U.S. illegally to be able to stay in this country. He was also among four Republicans to back a Democratic condemnation of Trump's "go back" insult as racist.

In another blow to the GOP's reach for diversity, it is losing two of its 13 female House Republicans to retirement. Rep. Martha Roby of Alabama, 43, like Michigan's Mitchell, is vacating a deeply red seat, while the retirement of Susan Brooks, 58, could put her Indiana seat at risk.

Also abandoning competitive seats are Reps. Rob Woodall of Georgia, 49, and Pete Olson of Texas, 56.

Rep. Michael Conaway, R-Texas, said Wednesday he won't seek reelection, which he attributed to his loss of a leadership role atop his beloved House Agriculture Committee. Conaway, 71, represents a central Texas district that is safe Republican territory.

Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, top Republican on the House Natural Resources Committee, is also leaving. Conaway and Bishop, 68, will both exhaust the self-imposed six-year limit the House GOP allows for lawmakers to chair a committee or serve as its top Republican.

Another retiring Republican, Alabama Rep. Bradley Byrne, 64, is running for Senate and leaves behind a solid Republican district.

Republicans say it can be demoralizing to be in the minority in the House, where the chamber's rules give the majority party almost unfettered control.

"When you've been in the majority, it's no fun to be in the minority," said veteran Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla.

But other Republicans in the Capitol and outside it — several speaking on condition of anonymity to avoid alienating colleagues — say the frustration runs deeper.

They describe worries that they won't win back the majority in 2020, which would mean two more years of legislative futility, and exasperation over Trump's outbursts, including his racist tweets taunting the four Democratic women.

"The White House isn't helping the atmosphere up to this point for these guys. They're having to answer every day for things they didn't say or do," said former Rep. Tom Davis, R-Va. "That's not a good place to be."

Michael McAdams, a spokesman for the National Republican Congressional Committee, said the retirements are "what happens this time of year." He said Republicans are "in a prime position to pick up seats and recapture the majority."

But in next year's House contest, history favors Democrats, who have a 235-197 majority with two vacancies and one independent.

Party control of the chamber hasn't changed during a presidential election since 1952, when Republican Dwight Eisenhower won the White House and majority Democrats lost the House.

## Rapper A\$AP Rocky heading back to US as verdict looms

JARI TANNER and DOROTHEE THIESING Associated Press

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Rapper A\$AP Rocky and two other American suspects were temporarily freed from a Swedish jail and planning to head back to the U.S. on Friday as judges mull a verdict in the assault case against them.

The Stockholm District Court released the 30-year-old rapper, whose real name is Rakim Mayers, as well as David Rispers Jr. and Bladimir Corniel until Aug. 14 —when a verdict is expected in the case. They are accused of beating 19-year-old Mustafa Jafari on June 30 outside a fast-food restaurant in central Stockholm.

The three suspects were seen hugging each other at the court after they learned they would be released as some of the public gathered inside the courthouse loudly cheered.

Mayers' mother, Renee Black, who was present throughout the court proceedings, was with her son when he was released. A private plane was waiting at the Stockholm Arlanda Airport to transport the suspects and Black back to the U.S. Friday evening, according to the Swedish newspaper Aftonbladet.

Mayers shared an emotional post on Instagram after he was released, thanking his fans for their support during this "very difficult and humbling experience."

President Donald Trump, who had caused a stir in U.S.-Swedish diplomatic relations after publicly offering support to the Grammy-nominated recording artist, celebrated Mayers' release, tweeting, "It was a Rocky Week, get home ASAP A\$AP!"

Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven heard an appeal from Trump in July, but said he couldn't interfere in a legal case.

Robert O'Brien, a U.S. special presidential envoy sent to monitor the court proceedings, stressed that Washington was "grateful that I got to attend and observe the judicial process" in Sweden.

The case has also drawn the attention of celebrities, including Sean "Diddy" Combs and Justin Bieber, and a social media campaign that was pressing for the rapper's release.

Mayers' release came after his three-day trial concluded Friday.

One of the witnesses to the assault revised her story from initial police reports, testifying that she didn't actually see Mayers hit Jafari with a bottle — a key issue the trial focused on. She and a friend, testifying anonymously at Stockholm District Court, both maintained their previous statements to police that they saw Mayers and his partners assaulting Jafari.

"Everything happened very quickly. We were scared for our lives," the first woman told the court in Swedish. "He (Jafari) was bleeding. He showed his injuries on his hand. He also said he had a sore back."

The rapper pleaded not guilty at the start of the trial Tuesday, saying he acted in self-defense when Jafari and another man would not leave them alone. He had been behind bars since he was arrested on July 3.

Mayers' bodyguard, Timothy Leon Williams, also testified Friday, sharing a similar story to what the rapper told the courtroom when he took the stand earlier in the week.

Williams said he asked Jafari to "go away" when he approached the group a second time outside the restaurant.

"I knew something's not right about him. I'm noticing it because I'm a bodyguard," Williams said in English. "And now, I'm looking at him like, 'Yo, what's wrong with you?' I'm looking at him and saw that his eyes were really glossy, like he's on something."

Mayers had also testified earlier this week that he suspected Jafari and his friend were under the influence of some drug, which officials have not yet commented on.



This story has been corrected to show Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven and President Donald Trump spoke on July 20, not earlier this week.

## Cities again see more overdose deaths than country town

By MIKE STOBBE AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. drug overdose deaths had been most common in Appalachia and other rural areas in recent years, but they are back to being more concentrated in big cities, according to a government report Friday.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that both urban and rural overdose death rates have been rising, but the urban rate shot up more dramatically after 2015.

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 fentanyl, and the illegal drug distribution system for those drugs is more developed in cities, Ciccarone said.

Another possible explanation: rising 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.”

The report 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 doubt it will flip back again any time soon.

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 — counties with large and small cities and their suburbs. There were 20 per 100,000 in rural areas — non-suburban counties with fewer than 50,000 residents.

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

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 government statistics reported last month.

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

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.

Experts interviewed by The Associated Press were unable to immediately explain one of the report’s findings: The urban and rural death rates were nearly identical for people ages 25 to 44, but the urban rate was significantly higher in other age groups, particularly in those ages 45 to 64.

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.

10,000 bottles of beer on the road: German truck loses load

BERLIN (AP) — Police in Germany say a truck carrying crates of beer lost part of its load, spilling about 10,000 bottles onto a road in the southwest of the country.

Mannheim police said Saturday that volunteer firefighters from two nearby towns and a local civil defense team took part in the salvage operation, but an estimated 12,000 euros (\$13,330) worth of beer was lost in the crash late Friday.

Police said the truck driver is being investigated for failing to properly secure his load.

## S&P 500 posts its worst week of 2019 as trade tensions flare

By STAN CHOE and ALEX VEIGA AP Business Writers

Investors rattled by President Donald Trump's latest escalation in his trade war with China drove another round of selling on Wall Street Friday.

The latest losses marked the fifth straight drop for the S&P 500 and the worst week of the year for the market just seven days after the benchmark index hit an all-time high.

The selling picked up a day after Trump shocked markets by promising 10% tariffs on all the Chinese imports that haven't already been hit with tariffs of 25%. China struck back Friday, saying it will take "necessary countermeasures" if Trump follows through on the new tariffs, which would kick in next month.

The re-escalation in tensions between the world's largest economies has raised worries about a global recession. Investors have responded by selling stocks and buying gold and government bonds. The heightened tensions have also raised Wall Street's expectations that the Federal Reserve will be forced to cut interest rates several times to cushion the trade war's blow.

"The threat of additional tariffs on China and the lack of any progress in the trade negotiations again have made investors more worried that the disruptions which have led the Fed to need to cut rates might in fact escalate faster than the positive impact of rate cuts," said Kate Warne, chief investment strategist at Edward Jones.

The S&P 500 fell 21.51 points, or 0.7%, to 2,932.05. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 98.41 points, or 0.4%, to 26,485.01. The average had briefly fallen by 334 points.

The Nasdaq composite, which is heavily weighted with technology stocks, lost 107.05 points, or 1.3%, to 8,004.07. Smaller company stocks also fell sharply. The Russell 2000 index gave up 17.11 points, or 1.1%, to 1,533.66.

Despite the weekly loss, the major indexes are all up solidly this year, led by the Nasdaq's 20.6% gain. The S&P 500 is up nearly 17%.

Technology companies accounted for much of Friday's sell-off, which lost some strength toward the end of the day. Communications services, consumer discretionary and energy stocks also bore a big share of the losses. Investors shifted money into bonds and stocks traditionally seen as less risky: real estate and utilities.

The government's monthly jobs report hewed close to economists' expectations, showing a slowdown in hiring last month. But analysts said it was overshadowed by worries about trade and what the Fed could do about it.

The Fed cut interest rates Wednesday and Chairman Jerome Powell cited "trade policy uncertainty" as a major reason for the move. But he stopped short of promising a long cycle of rate cuts, which left investors disappointed and Trump tweeting that "as usual, Powell let us down."

The next day came Trump's tweet on tariffs, and investors now say there's a 98% probability that the Fed will cut rates again at its next meeting in September. That's up from a roughly 50% probability Wednesday afternoon.

"We just ratcheted up the trade conflict and now that makes the Fed much more likely to cut," said Randy Frederick, vice president of trading & derivatives at Charles Schwab.

Traders see low rates as steroids for stocks and other risky investments because they make bonds less attractive in comparison. By making borrowing cheaper, low rates can also help goose the economy.

But the Fed has less ammunition than in the past to cut rates because they're already historically low. The federal funds rate sits at a range of 2% to 2.25%, compared with the 5.25% perch it sat at before the Great Recession.

Rate cuts alone also may not be able to fully counteract the possible negative repercussions of the trade war.

Trade uncertainty has been weighing on business investment spending, and this latest escalation only adds to it. "It will be important to monitor business sentiment surveys to see whether there is a significant impact on the demand for workers — if businesses stop hiring, this would greatly increase the risk of a

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recession," UBS Global Wealth Management's Chief Investment Officer Mark Haefele said in a report.

The latest round of announced tariffs, which would go into effect Sept. 1, more directly affect U.S. consumers shopping at Wal-Mart or Target. If Trump ramps them up to 25% and keeps them there for four to six months, Morgan Stanley economists say they would expect a recession within nine months.

The concerns about the trade war and Fed have also blotted out what's been a better-than-expected earnings reporting season. Roughly three quarters of S&P 500 companies have updated investors on how much profit they made from April through June, and earnings for S&P 500 companies are on pace for a drop of 1% from a year ago. While weak, that's still better than the nearly 3% drop that analysts were earlier forecasting, according to FactSet.

Treasury yields were mixed. The 10-year yield fell to 1.85% from 1.89% late Thursday. It's close to its lowest point since Trump's election in 2016. The two-year yield held steady at 1.71%.

Markets abroad sold off more heavily in their first opportunity to trade following Trump's tariff tweet. Markets in France and Germany dropped more than 3%, while stocks in Japan and Hong Kong fell more than 2%.

U.S. crude oil rose \$1.71, or 3.2%, to settle at \$55.66 a barrel, recovering about a third of its plunge from the day before. Brent crude, the international standard, gained \$1.39 to close at \$61.89 a barrel.

Gold rose \$27.70 to \$1,445.60 per ounce. Silver rose 10 cents to \$16.22 per ounce and copper fell 9 cents to \$2.57 per pound.

Wholesale gasoline rose 3 cents to \$1.78 per gallon. Heating oil climbed 4 cents to \$1.89 per gallon. Natural gas fell 8 cents to \$2.12 per 1,000 cubic feet.

The dollar fell to 106.55 Japanese yen from 107.33 yen on Thursday. The euro strengthened to \$1.1113 from \$1.1082.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

### Today in History

Today is Saturday, Aug. 3, the 215th day of 2019. There are 150 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On August 3, 1972, the U.S. Senate ratified the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union. (The U.S. unilaterally withdrew from the treaty in 2002.)

### On this date:

In 1492, Christopher Columbus set sail from Palos, Spain, on a voyage that took him to the present-day Americas.

In 1807, former Vice President Aaron Burr went on trial before a federal court in Richmond, Virginia, charged with treason. (He was acquitted less than a month later.)

In 1921, baseball commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis refused to reinstate the former Chicago White Sox players implicated in the "Black Sox" scandal, despite their acquittals in a jury trial.

In 1936, Jesse Owens of the United States won the first of his four gold medals at the Berlin Olympics as he took the 100-meter sprint.

In 1958, the nuclear-powered submarine USS Nautilus became the first vessel to cross the North Pole underwater.

In 1966, comedian Lenny Bruce, whose raunchy brand of satire and dark humor landed him in trouble with the law, was found dead in his Los Angeles home; he was 40.

In 1981, U.S. air traffic controllers went on strike, despite a warning from President Ronald Reagan they would be fired, which they were.

In 1987, the Iran-Contra congressional hearings ended, with none of the 29 witnesses tying President Ronald Reagan directly to the diversion of arms-sales profits to Nicaraguan rebels.

In 1993, the Senate voted 96-to-three to confirm Supreme Court nominee Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

In 1994, Arkansas carried out the nation's first triple execution in 32 years. Stephen G. Breyer was sworn

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in as the Supreme Court's newest justice in a private ceremony at Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist's Vermont summer home.

In 2004, the Statue of Liberty pedestal in New York City reopened to the public for the first time since the 9/11 attacks.

In 2005, 14 Marines from a Reserve unit in Ohio were killed in a roadside bombing in Iraq. The journal Nature reported that a South Korean researcher had created the world's first cloned dog, an Afghan hound named "Snuppy." (Although the scientist, Hwang Woo-suk, was later disgraced over faked research, the cloning of Snuppy was independently confirmed.)

Ten years ago: Iran's supreme leader formally endorsed Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (ah-muh-DEE'-neh-zahd) for a second term as president. A court in Los Angeles appointed Michael Jackson's mother, Katherine, permanent guardian of the late pop star's children.

Five years ago: Israel withdrew most of its ground troops from the Gaza Strip in an apparent winding down of a nearly monthlong operation against Hamas that had left more than 1,800 Palestinians and more than 60 Israelis dead. A strong earthquake in China's southern Yunnan province toppled thousands of homes, killing more than 600 people.

One year ago: China said it was ready to impose tariffs on \$60 billion worth of U.S. imports if Washington went ahead with its threat to impose duties on \$200 billion in Chinese goods. President Emmerson Mnangagwa was declared the winner of Zimbabwe's presidential election as the ruling party maintained control of the government in the first vote since the fall of longtime leader Robert Mugabe. Las Vegas police said they were closing their investigation into the Oct. 1 shooting that left 58 people dead at a country music festival without a definitive answer for why Stephen Paddock unleashed gunfire from a hotel suite onto the concert crowd.

Today's Birthdays: Football Hall of Fame coach Marv Levy is 94. Singer Tony Bennett is 93. Actor Martin Sheen is 79. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Lance Alworth is 79. Lifestyle guru Martha Stewart is 78. Singer Beverly Lee (The Shirelles) is 78. Rock musician B.B. Dickerson is 70. Movie director John Landis is 69. Actress JoMarie Payton is 69. Actor Jay North (TV: "Dennis the Menace") is 68. Hockey Hall-of-Famer Marcel Dionne is 68. Actor Philip Casnoff is 65. Actor John C. McGinley is 60. Rock singer-musician Lee Rocker (The Stray Cats) is 58. Actress Lisa Ann Walter is 58. Rock singer James Hetfield (Metallica) is 56. Rock singer-musician Ed Roland (Collective Soul) is 56. Actor Isaiah Washington is 56. Country musician Dean Sams (Lonestar) is 53. Rock musician Stephen Carpenter (Deftones) is 49. Hip-hop artist Spinderella (Salt-N-Pepa) is 48. Actress Brigid Brannagh is 47. Actor Michael Ealy is 46. Country musician Jimmy De Martini (Zac Brown Band) is 43. NFL quarterback Tom Brady is 42. Actress Evangeline (ee-VAN'-gel-een) Lilly is 40. Actress Mamie Gummer is 36. Olympic gold medal swimmer Ryan Lochte is 35. Country singer Whitney Duncan is 35. Actor Jon Foster is 35. Actress Georgina Haig is 34. Singer Holly Arnstein (Dream) is 34. Actress Tanya Fischer is 34. Pop-rock musician Brent Kutzle (OneRepublic) is 34. Rapper D.R.A.M. is 31.

Thought for Today: "We are healed of a suffering only by experiencing it to the full." — Marcel Proust, French author (1871-1922).