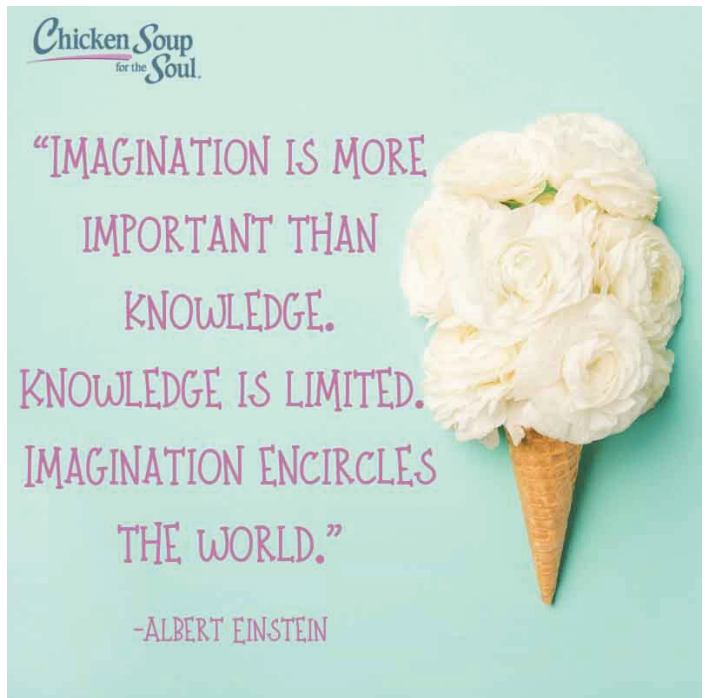


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- [2- Drilling for new water tower site](#)
- [3- School Board Story](#)
- [4- NE Mental Health Ad](#)
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- [8- Daily Devotional](#)
- [9- 2019 Groton Events](#)
- [10- News from the Associated Press](#)



OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

- 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

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.

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Drilling for soil samples at the proposed site of the new water tower has begun. The city will be putting up a new one next year. Soil samples are being taken east of the reservoir. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Getting ready for school

School officials are getting everything fine tuned for the August 22nd start of the 2019-20 school year. The back-to-school picnic will be held August 20th starting at 5 p.m. at the elementary school commons. Sixth grade orientation will be held at the MS/HS at 6 p.m.

Nearly all positions are filled. Assignment changes have Ashley Seeklander as K-12 school counselor, Jodi Schwan as opportunity coordinator, Melissa Ulmer as high school office and study hall, Matt Locke as head girls' basketball coach, Becky Erickson as eighth grade girls' basketball coach, and Jodi Schwan as student council advisor. New staff include Tasha Dunker as elementary librarian, Linda McInerney as route 1 (Claremont) bus driver, Brian Dolan as athletic director and head boys' basketball coach, Seth Erickson as assistant football coach and Trent Traphagen as assistant girls' basketball coach. Positions still open are yearbook and assistant boys' basketball coach.

Faculty in-service is scheduled for August 20 and 21.

Work on the boiler replacement is underway with the old one being removed today (Aug. 13). The burner for the new boiler has arrived and the vessel is scheduled to be here in about three weeks.

The elementary tuckpointing project is running behind. Superintendent Joe Schwan talked with Greg at Midwest Masonry and reported that they will be on site within the next week. Work in the playground area will be done first and the remainder of the work done during times when it does not pose a distraction to classrooms.

Elementary Principal Brett Schwan reported on the proposed enrollment numbers with second grade seeing an uptick from 39 to 45 students. The board also approved the earlier start time of junior kindergarten from 12:30 p.m. to 12:15 p.m. which will be equal to adding 14 days of learning during the school year. Tasha Dunker was hired as elementary librarian as Melissa Ulmer will move to administrative assistant, replacing retired Kathy Harry. Superintendent Schwan reported there were 23 applicants for that position.

Meanwhile high school principal, Kiersten Sombke, had several handouts she presented to the board from sixth grade orientation, the comfort closet, graduation requirements and dual credit listings. Class schedule change day is August 19 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Kristen Gonsoir was one of 25 teachers from around the United States chosen to participate in the Japan-US Information and Communication Technology Teacher Exchange Program in Hilo, Hawaii. The event ran August 4-10.

It was also reported that 40 athletes reported for the first day of football practice.

We need our farmers.

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

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

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

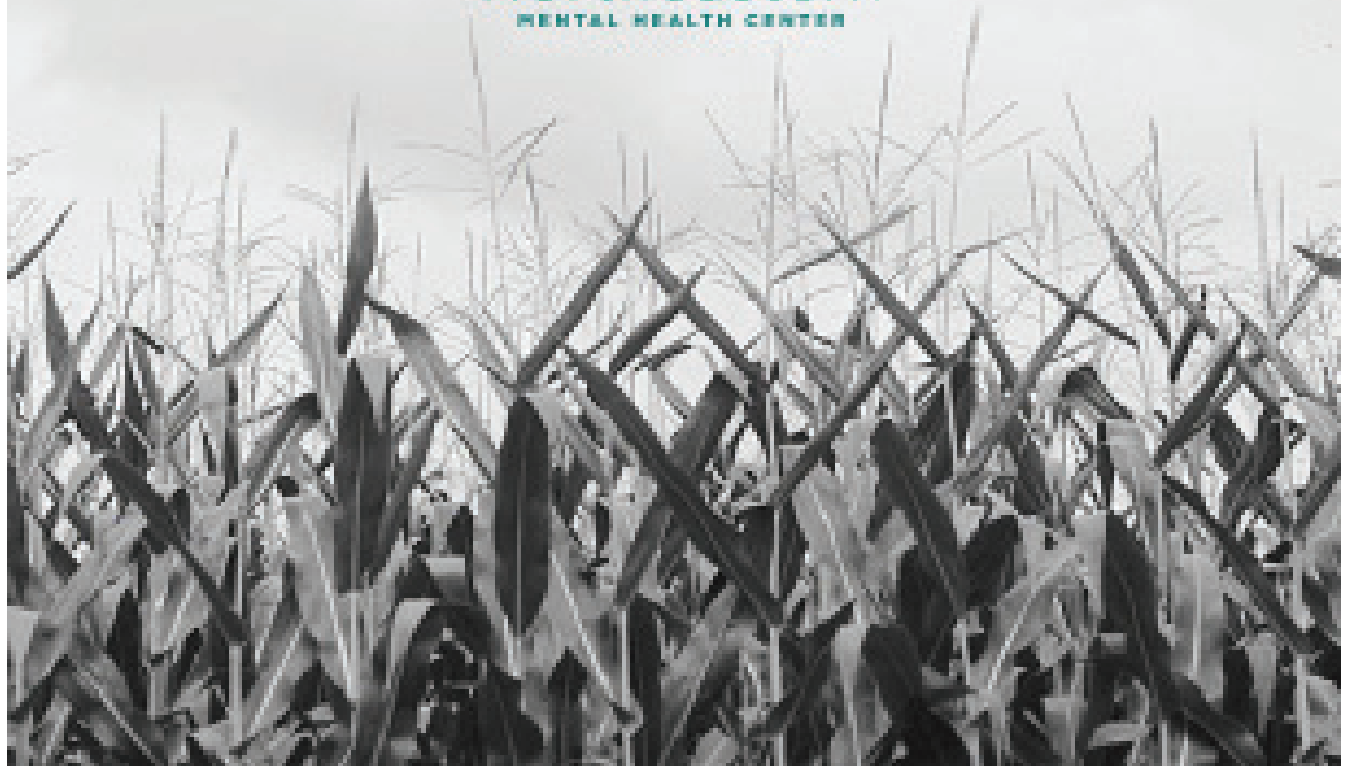
We're here to help.

Call 605-225-1010 for more information.

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



Northeastern
MENTAL HEALTH CENTER



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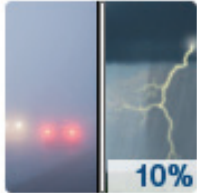
Today

Tonight

Wednesday

Wednesday
Night

Thursday



Patchy Fog
then Slight
Chance
T-storms and
Breezy

High: 71 °F



Decreasing
Clouds

Low: 53 °F



Mostly Sunny

High: 73 °F



Partly Cloudy
then Slight
Chance
T-storms

Low: 56 °F



Chance
T-storms

High: 77 °F

Today
66 to 80°
patchy dense morning fog over portions of northeast SD

Wednesday
68 to 78°
Sunny w/ light winds

Thursday
70 to 83°
shower and thunderstorm chances increasing in the morning west spreading east through the day

Cool & Mostly Dry
today through wednesday night

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD
weather.gov/abr
Graphic Created
8/13/2019 5:12 AM

Published on: 08/13/2019 at 1:20AM

The weather will be cool and mostly dry today, starting off with some sunshine before conditions become partly cloudy. Can't rule out an isolated shower over the Prairie Coteau region eastward into Minnesota. High pressure is building into the region, sticking around through Wednesday. Temperatures today and Wednesday will feel almost fall-like, noticeably below normal. Rain chances increase by early Thursday morning across the central portion of South Dakota before spreading over into eastern South Dakota in the afternoon and evening.

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Today in Weather History

August 13, 2000: A thunderstorm set numerous prairie fires in Harding County. Over a thousand acres burned by the end of the day.

1831: The Great Barbados Hurricane was an intense Category 4 hurricane that left cataclysmic damage across the Caribbean and Louisiana in 1831. From August 11 through the 13, Bermudians were amazed to see the sun with a decidedly blue appearance, giving off an eerie blue light when it shone into rooms and other enclosed places. Ships at sea as far west as Cape Hatteras reported that "their white sails appeared a light blue colour." A month later it was learned that the astounding blue sunlight had coincided with a terrible hurricane that caused 1,477 people to lose their lives. It was assumed that the hurricane was intensive enough to cause an unusual disturbance in the higher atmospheric strata, and refraction, diffraction or absorption of light rays, to produce the blue reflection. Because the sun appeared bluish-green, Nat Turner took this as the final signal and began a slave rebellion a week later on August 21.

1987: A succession of thunderstorms produced rainfall that was unprecedented in 116 years of precipitation records at Chicago, Illinois during an 18 hour period from the evening of the 13th to the early afternoon of the 14th. The resulting flash flood was the worst ever to strike the Chicago metropolitan area, causing three deaths and water damage that amounted to 221 million dollars. O'Hare International Airport received an event total of 9.35 inches of rain in 18 hours, shattering the previous 24-hour record of 6.24 inches. For about 24 hours, the airport was only accessible from the air as all roads were blocked by high water, including the Kennedy Expressway.

1991: Stockton, California received 0.05 inch of rainfall on this day. Since 1949, this is the only measured rainfall in Stockton on August 13th.

2003: A string of days in Paris France with temperatures from the 4th to the 12th above 95°F ends when the day's high drops to 90°F. During the long, hot summer which began 25 July and has registered several days above 100°F, an estimated 14,800 have died from heat-related causes, the French government admits.

2014: An official, New York State 24 hour precipitation record was set at Islip, NY on August 12-13 when 13.57" of rain fell.

1831 - A blue sun was widely observed in the southern states. The phenomena was believed to have pre-staged Nat Turner's slave uprising. (David Ludlum)

1919 - High winds and heavy rain struck the Middle Atlantic Coast Region. In New Jersey, winds gusted to 60 mph at Atlantic City, and nine inches of rain fell at Tuckerton. The wind and rain leveled crops and stripped trees of fruit causing several million dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1980 - The afternoon high at New York City was just 89 degrees. But there were fifteen days of 90 degree heat during the month, their hottest August of record. (The Weather Channel)

1985 - Hail larger than golf balls, driven by 70 mph winds, moved down crops, stripped trees, and broke windows, near Logan KS. Road graders cleared three foot drifts of hail on Kansas Highway 9 east of Logan. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms deluged the Central Gulf Coast States with torrential rains. Thunderstorms in Mississippi drenched Marion County with up to 15 inches of rain during the morning hours, with 12.2 inches reported at Columbia. Floodwaters swept cars away in the Lakeview subdivision of Columbia when the the Lakeview Dam broke. Flash flooding caused more than three million dollars damage in Marion County. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A dozen cities in the northeastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Lansing MI reported a record 35 days of 90 degree weather for the year, Detroit MI reported a record 37 days of 90 degree heat for the year, and Williamsport PA reported a record 38 days of 90 degree weather for the year. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing in a tropical airmass over the northeastern U.S. soaked Connecticut and Massachusetts with four to eight inches of rain over the weekend, between the 11th and 13th of the month. Hartford CT received 7.70 inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 79 °F at 5:01 PM

Low Temp: 67 °F at 6:49 AM

Wind: 16 mph at 11:14 AM

Day Rain: 0.07

Record High: 112° in 1965

Record Low: 35° in 1964

Average High: 83°F

Average Low: 57°F

Average Precip in Aug.: 0.94

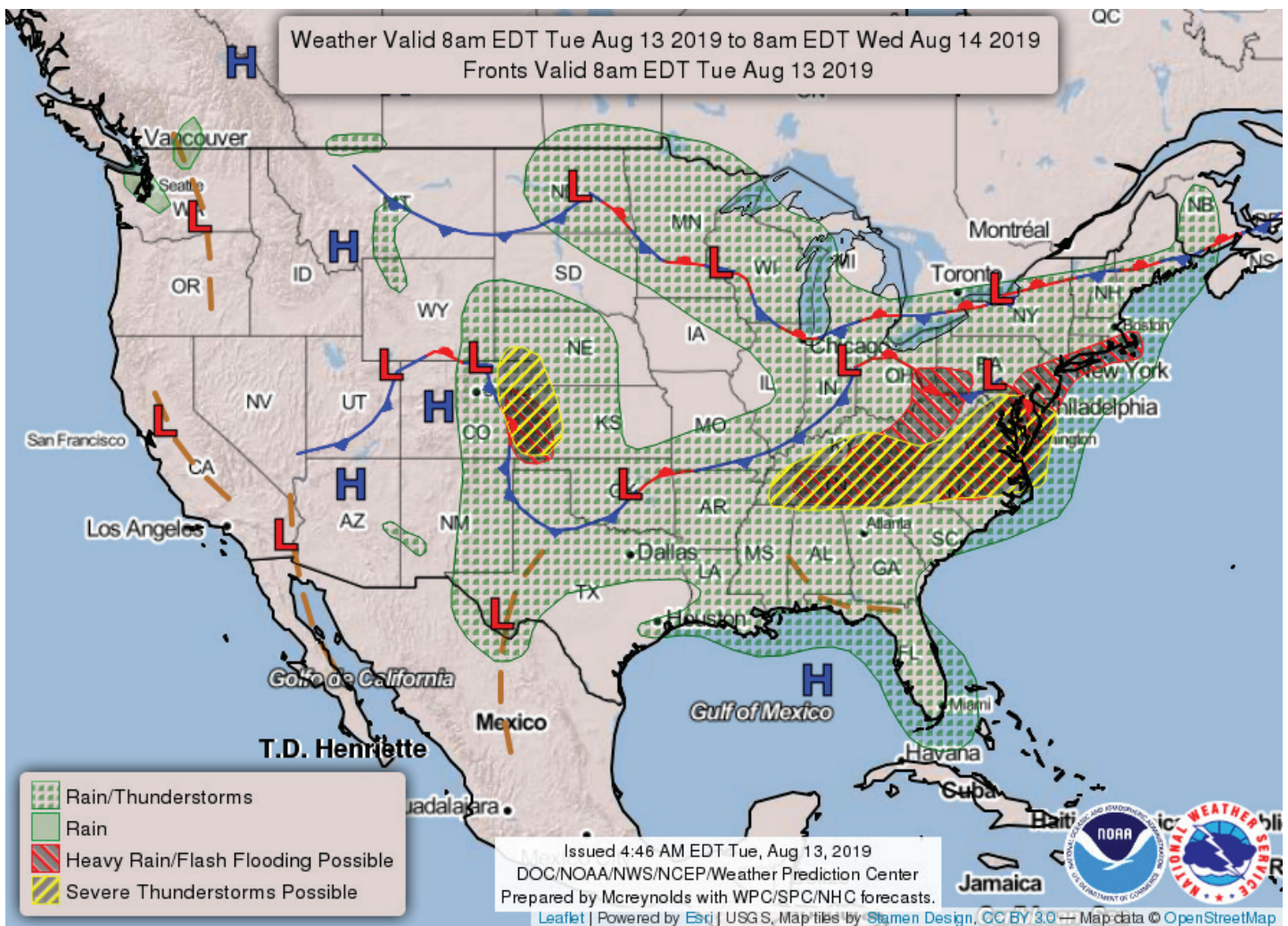
Precip to date in Aug.: 1.62

Average Precip to date: 14.80

Precip Year to Date: 18.21

Sunset Tonight: 8:45 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:33 a.m.





PRAISEWORTHY?

He who tooteth not his own horn, the same shall be substituted, was the favorite proverb of Ray O., a dear friend during my days in college. Whenever anyone would begin to describe their greatness or why they were superior to anyone, he would immediately reach for his Bible. He would furrow his brow, focus his eyes, and begin to fumble through the pages of the Word and say, I know that verse is in here somewhere. I read it just this morning during my devotions. Oh well, trust me. You know it has to be here somewhere! Its the truth and you know where to go for the truth.

He was never able to find the verse, but we all knew what he was talking about. Some people, usually those who have accomplished little, want to make sure that we think they are superheroes. For whatever reason, perhaps fear of being overlooked or under-appreciated, they have the need to bore us with words that contradict the reality of their lives.

Perhaps Ray was looking for the proverb that supports his position: The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but man is tested by the praise of others. There are proven ways to refine metals to make certain that they contain no impurities. When we speak of ourselves, however, it is easy to forgo the refiners fire and praise ourselves to make good impressions. All of us want the respect and esteem of others. It is normal. But the most accurate observations of who we are comes from reading Gods Word and the observations of friends.

Prayer: Help us Father, to work diligently and with determination to develop a reputation that is worthy of Your Name. May others see Your Son in us and what we do. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 27:21 The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but man is tested by the praise of others.

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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
- 09/12/2019 St. John's Lutheran Luncheon
- 09/20/2019 Presbyterian Luncheon
- 09/28/2019 Granary Living History Fall Festival
- 10/11/2019 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/12/2019 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/31/2019 Trunk or Treat/Halloween on Main (Halloween)
- 11/09/2019 Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/07/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Holiday Party
- 12/07/2019 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
- Bingo: every Wednesday at the Legion Post #39

2020 Groton SD Community Events

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

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News from the Associated Press

Rapid City teacher pleads not guilty to abusing student

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City teacher has pleaded not guilty to charges that she abused a disabled student.

Twenty-five-year-old Shea Lindsey entered her plea during her arraignment in Pennington County Monday. The Rapid City Journal reports Lindsey has remained out of jail on bond since her arrest in May.

Authorities say they began an investigation into the alleged abuse May 14, but did not specify what they believe happened. The alleged victim is a male student, whose age was not given.

Lindsey is a teacher at East Middle School. The school district placed Lindsey on administrative leave when the investigation began.

Lindsey's defense lawyer declined to discuss the case with the newspaper. Prosecutors previously have declined to comment, and police reports are sealed.

A status hearing is tentatively scheduled for Oct. 3.

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

Jury convicts Sioux Falls man of drug deal killing in 2018

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A jury has convicted a Sioux Falls man of killing another man during a drug deal last year.

Thirty-six-year-old Manuel Frias was found guilty Monday of second-degree murder. The Argus Leader reports Frias was acquitted of first-degree murder.

Frias was charged in the death of 28-year-old Samuel Crockett. Frias testified at his trial that he killed Crockett in self-defense.

Prosecutors say Frias, Corey Zephier and Crystal Habben planned to rob Crockett during a drug deal in January 2018. Frias was accused of shooting Crockett after Crockett killed Zephier during the holdup.

Crockett died at a hospital. The 30-year-old Zephier died at the scene of the shooting. Habben pleaded guilty to being an accessory to a felony, was sent to prison and is now on parole.

Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press undefined

Rapid City Journal, Aug. 9

Preserve charm of Sylvan Lake

An oval sapphire ringed by emerald flecks, silver spires and opaline sky, Sylvan Lake remains a Black Hills crown jewel 138 years after Theodore Reder dammed Sunday Gulch Creek to create it.

It needs help staying that way.

"The area is kind of being loved to death ... in terms of visitor capacity," Custer State Park visitor services program manager Kobee Stalder said recently.

On a typical summer day, arriving visitors encounter county fair-style parking — cars wedged into weeds and queues. Wedding chairs fill positions on the preferred postcard point. Fast walkers overcome the slow like Harleys around pokey Airstreams on worn and narrow lake pathways.

Officials worry about deteriorating water quality and lake silt. Increasing numbers of rock climbers scamper up and across nearby granite walls. A popular trailhead to Black Elk Peak has grown congested. Drones and helicopters frequently hover over Cathedral Spires. Limber pines have declined.

The state hired Wyss Associates of Rapid City for \$78,500 to help compose an area master plan — last addressed 45 years ago.

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At the initial meeting for the plan in June, park management set this over-riding goal: Sustain and improve the study area's natural resources without expanding visitor capacity.

Amen to that.

There's potential for this to go awry.

A hedge fund manager would probably create larger concessions and gift shops.

An engineer might note the parking shortages and build bigger lots. It's happened before.

A miser might raise the entrance price until only the wealthy can enjoy it.

A booking manager might require reservations.

An architect might design a grand entrance worthy of this natural jewel.

A state bent on enhancing tourism might do all of the above and then wonder why people reminisce about what was lost.

The new study and plan are overdue. The patient needs a checkup and updated recommendations. There's little knowledge about how visitors view their experience at the lake, whether locals avoid it during summer, whether Needles Highway is becoming gridlocked.

The first question should be: How many people can the area sustain indefinitely? The second: How do we design eventual replacement infrastructure to support this limit while discouraging overuse?

It's a small area that has reached maturity in terms of visitation. It needs no further development but rather preservation. Let's not throw away this jewel through misguided efforts to enhance it.

Madison Daily Leader, Aug. 5

We'll need to boost mental health pros

Health officials say years of alcohol abuse on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation near Whiteclay, Nebraska, requires more doctors, psychologists and counselors to deal with the aftereffects.

It's a shortage that we're reading about in all sorts of places.

South Dakota's criminal justice system, in particular, is stressed because of a shortage of counselors to treat people whose crimes were either caused or worsened by drug and alcohol abuse.

South Dakota lawmakers have stated that diversion from the state prison system should start with substance addiction problems. But even if the framework is put in place and the money appropriated, trained workers are still needed to execute the strategy.

Separately, the Human Services Center in Yankton, the state's only public psychiatric hospital, has been plagued by a shortage of workers. The stress of the shortage may have contributed to the high turnover of administrators, with the latest resignation coming in May. The state is conducting its fourth search for the top position since 2011.

Even local law enforcement is feeling the shortage, as drug, alcohol and domestic violence sentences usually come with a required counseling component. The wait to meet with counselors can sometimes be long.

Ultimately, the state will need to work to recruit and train more mental health professionals. We may need to appropriate additional money for scholarships and incentives to bring new people into the field. We may have to provide additional compensation for working in underserved areas or in specialized fields.

We know this will all be expensive, but it is a critical field that needs attention. Our public safety depends on it.

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Aug. 8

Spring flood woes won't recede soon

It's now terribly clear — with each passing day, with each new assessment — that the great flood year of 2019 is going to be the gift that keeps on giving.

And those gifts, at least in the short term, are going to be headaches, heartburn, hard choices, hard feelings and hard facts.

This week provided a small example of that, as both the Yankton City Commission and County Commis-

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sion steered deeper into their respective annual budgeting processes. And this year, perhaps more than ever, the waters — an appropriate metaphor in this case — are murky, uncertain, mysterious.

The City Commission is working with the largest budget in its history — more than \$71.5 million — thanks to a lot of big projects that are under way, but the wrath of the spring floods hangs over everything. The city alone sustained about \$20 million of damage, including the destruction of a portion of the Auld-Brokaw Trail (which is not, it turns out, the “all broken trail” that many of us initially feared a few months ago). FEMA is on the case, but what that means in the eventual terms of dollars is still not known.

Alas, budget season cannot wait, and local governing bodies have to settle on their decisions now.

“Overall, this is the most certain uncertain budget that I’ve seen,” said longtime City Commissioner Jake Hoffner during a budget meeting Tuesday night. “When I read through it, I thought, ‘Wow, there’s so many what-ifs.’ What if FEMA doesn’t pay a penny? What is our fail-safe plan in regards to that?”

Good questions, especially when those final budgetary answers must be determined before FEMA’s decisions are even known.

It was also made clear during Tuesday’s meeting that rebounding from the flood will not be a quick process, or even necessarily a complete process.

When Yankton City Manager Amy Leon was asked about the conditions and the progress of the Auld-Brokaw Trail — a flood mitigation instrument that is also a popular recreational amenity — she admitted that restoring the trail to its precise pre-flood condition is virtually impossible, since some portions of the land upon which the trail once crossed aren’t even there anymore.

And, as for when the trail might be completely passable again, Leon admitted it “could take years.”

Meanwhile, the county has its own set of problems and was facing budgetary issues even before the spring storms. But the flooding casts an inescapable pall over everything. The storms may have hit Yankton County harder than any county in South Dakota: It was estimated at one point that flooding may have damaged up to 75 percent of the county’s roads, some of which weren’t in great shape in the first place. Now, county commissioners are trying to figure out how to repair at least some of those roads while awaiting FEMA’s plans, as well as try to do work on roads and bridges that needed work, pre-flood, anyway.

Among other things, commissioners are looking at cuts in their \$15 million proposed budget. This could mean possible cuts to city-county entities such as The Center, the library and the Yankton County Historical Society.

On Tuesday night, supporters of those entities turned out in force at the county meeting to make their feelings known. And those impassioned feelings — as well as the tough choices that will be attached to them, one way or another — are also part of the fallout of the flooding and the uncertainty of FEMA’s final decisions, which may be months away.

The flood damage plays into everything.

And so does the uncertainty.

The aftermath of the storms of spring is going to be with us for many, many seasons to come. Normal as we knew it may be gone for a very long time — or perhaps it has changed altogether. We’re in rebuilding mode, and that will probably factor into a lot of budgetary questions in the Yankton area for the foreseeable future. And the answers may not be easy or painless for anyone.

1,000 people have searched for missing girl in South Dakota

ROCKERVILLE, S.D. (AP) — The search for 9-year-old girl who ran away from a children’s home in South Dakota has involved more than 1,000 people who have logged more than 4,300 miles since she disappeared in February, according to sheriff’s officials.

Serenity Dennard left the Black Hills Children’s Home near Rockerville on the cold and snowy day of Feb. 3 in a mountainous and forested area in the southwestern part of the state.

“It’s frustrating to people that we haven’t found her,” Pennington County Sheriff Kevin Thom said. “It’s frustrating to us that we haven’t found her. But that doesn’t mean we’re going to stop looking.”

Another search involving about 35 people from multiple local and regional agencies on Thursday combed

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the area where Serenity was last seen, the Rapid City Journal reported. It's the latest of numerous official searches that have also included 91 dogs and their handlers and seven aircraft.

Investigators have chased 195 leads in 15 states, conducted 440 interviews or contacts and executed six search warrants, according to the sheriff's office.

Additionally, the sheriff's office has shared information on social media. The case on the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children website has resulted in millions of views, according to web traffic monitored by the sheriff's office.

The search changed from a rescue to a recovery effort not long after Serenity went missing. Authorities said Serenity likely wouldn't have survived if she was outside in subzero temperatures.

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

Longtime Argus Leader editor Kueter dies

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Former Sioux Falls Argus Leader editor Maricarrol Kueter has died.

An obituary prepared by her family and published in the Argus Leader says Kueter died Saturday at Avera Dougherty Hospice House in Sioux Falls. She was 63.

Kueter joined the Argus Leader in 1990 and held a variety of positions on her way to becoming executive editor, a post she held from 2008 until she retired in 2015. After retirement, she helped establish South Dakota News Watch, a nonprofit investigative news organization, and served as its first editor.

Kueter was a Sioux Falls native.

Fatal crashes down at Sturgis motorcycle rally

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — The number of fatal traffic crashes at the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally is down this year.

The 10-day rally wrapped up Sunday with two fatalities, compared with four last year. Authorities identified the second person killed during the rally as 59-year-old Debra Milota, of Omaha, Nebraska. She died Friday, several days after missing a highway curve west of Lead and striking another motorcycle, injuring two others.

Another person from Omaha died at the rally from a suspected case of carbon monoxide poisoning. He was found dead in his motor home last Tuesday.

The Highway Patrol says drunken driving and drug arrests increased this year. The patrol made 171 DUI arrests and 344 drug arrests.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

1. HONG KONG AIRPORT CANCELS FLIGHTS A 2ND DAY

Protesters demanding an independent inquiry into alleged police abuse take over terminals, forcing one of the world's busiest transport hubs to shut down.

2. WOMEN ACCUSE PLACIDO DOMINGO OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Numerous women tell the AP that the opera superstar tried to pressure them into sexual relationships by dangling jobs and in some cases punishing them when they refused his advances.

3. QUESTIONS SWIRL AROUND EPSTEIN'S MONITORING BEFORE SUICIDE

One of the new details provided by people familiar with the New York City jail was that one of his guards the night he died in his cell wasn't a regular correctional officer.

4. WHERE TRUMP IS PUSHING ECONOMIC MESSAGE

The president is showcasing growing efforts to capitalize on western Pennsylvania's natural gas deposits by turning gas into plastics.

5. ALEPPO SYMBOLIZES ENDURING WAR

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The Syrian city, still half destroyed with a scattered population, remains a potent reminder of how President Assad has been unable to secure victory in the ruinous conflict or bring total security to Syria's people — and appears unlikely to soon.

6. PORTLAND BRACING FOR UNREST

Police in this Oregon city are mobilizing to prevent clashes between out-of-state far-right groups planning a rally here this weekend and the homegrown anti-fascists who oppose them.

7. CHINA GETS TOUGHER AFTER NEW TARIFF THREAT

Beijing fires what economists call a "warning shot" at Washington by letting the yuan weaken in response to Trump's latest threat of more punitive import duties on Sept. 1.

8. REPORT: COSTS IN MOST STATES EXCEED SUBSIDIES FOR CHILD CARE

The shortfall in federal subsidy payments provided to low-income parents leave working families with few affordable options.

9. COMEDIAN ANDY DICK REPORTS ATTACK

The former "NewsRadio" actor says he was assaulted outside a New Orleans nightclub after performing in the French Quarter.

10. WHO'S ON THE HOT SEAT IN COLLEGE FOOTBALL

USC's Clay Helton and Florida State's Willie Taggart are among college football coaches who need results entering 2019.

Trump to promote turning natural gas into plastics in Pa.

By JILL COLVIN and JOSH BOAK Associated Press

BERKELEY HEIGHTS, N.J. (AP) — Trying to hold support in the manufacturing towns that helped him win the White House in 2016, President Donald Trump is showcasing growing efforts to capitalize on western Pennsylvania's natural gas deposits by turning gas into plastics.

Trump will be in Monaca, about 40 minutes north of Pittsburgh, on Tuesday to tour Shell's soon-to-be completed Pennsylvania Petrochemicals Complex. The facility, which critics claim will become the largest air polluter in western Pennsylvania, is being built in an area hungry for investment.

The focus is part of a continued push by the Trump administration to increase the economy's dependence on fossil fuels in defiance of increasingly urgent warnings about climate change. And it's an embrace of plastic at a time when the world is sounding alarms over its ubiquity and impact.

Trump's appeals to blue-collar workers helped him win Beaver County, where the plant is located, by more than 18 percentage points in 2016, only to have voters turn to Democrats in 2018's midterm elections. In one of a series of defeats that led to Republicans' loss of the House, voters sent Democrat Conor Lamb to Congress after the prosperity promised by Trump's tax cuts failed to materialize.

Today, Beaver County is still struggling to recover from the shuttering of steel plants in the 1980s that surged the unemployment rate to nearly 30%. Former mill towns like Aliquippa have seen their populations shrink, while Pittsburgh has lured major tech companies like Google and Uber, fueling an economic renaissance in a city that reliably votes Democratic.

The region's natural gas deposits had been seen, for a time, as its new road to prosperity, with drilling in the Marcellus Shale reservoir transforming Pennsylvania into the nation's No. 2 natural gas state. But drops in the price of oil and gas caused the initial jobs boom from fracking to fizzle, leading companies like Shell to turn instead to plastics and so-called cracker plants — named after the process in which molecules are broken down at high heat, turning fracked ethane gas into one of the precursors for plastic.

The company was given massive tax breaks to build the petrochemicals complex, along with a \$10 million site development grant, with local politicians eager to accommodate a multibillion-dollar construction project.

White House spokesman Judd Deere said Trump would be touring the plant and delivering remarks "touting his Administration's economic accomplishments and support for America's expanding domestic manufacturing and energy production." Shell announced its plans to build the complex in 2012, when

President Barack Obama was in office.

But “fracking for plastic” has drawn alarm from environmentalists and other activists, who warn of potential health and safety risks to nearby residents and bemoan the production of ever more plastic. There has been growing alarm over the sheer quantity of plastic on the planet, which has overwhelmed landfills, inundated bodies of water and permeated the deepest reaches of the ocean. Microplastics have also been found in the bodies of birds, fish, whales and people, with the health impacts largely unknown.

While many in town see the plant as an economic lifeline, other local residents, community organizations and public health advocates are planning a protest Tuesday to coincide with Trump’s visit. Cheryl Johncox, a local organizer with the Sierra Club who lives in Ohio, said she expects several hundred people to attend to voice opposition to the plant, as well as demonstrate against Trump’s immigration and gun policies.

In addition to concerns about the safety of their air and groundwater, her group has heard from residents “dismayed these facilities will create single-use plastic,” she said.

“Of all the things we could invest in, of all the things we should be prioritizing, of all the companies we should be giving our taxpayer money to, this seems like the worst of all worlds,” said David Masur, executive director of PennEnvironment, a statewide environmental advocacy organization, who called the project “a pretty big taxpayer boondoggle for a pretty dirty project.”

A spokesman for the company, Ray Fisher, said Shell has “dedicated a great deal of time and resources” to ensure emissions from the plant meet or exceed local, state and federal requirements. “As designed, the project will actually help improve the local air shed as it relates to ozone and fine particulates,” he said.

Republicans, who worry that Trump has failed to expand his voter base beyond his 2016 supporters, are eager to shift the focus from recent controversies to economic gains made on his watch.

The project currently has 5,000 construction workers. Once operational, however, the site will employ far fewer — 600 — permanent employees.

And the area still faces other headwinds. The nearby Beaver Valley Power Station, a nuclear plant that has employed 850 people, has announced plans to close in 2021.

More importantly, the area lacks younger workers, with college graduates moving east to Pittsburgh for better opportunities. The median age in the county is now 44.9, compared to 32.9 in Pittsburgh.

Boak reported from Washington. Associated Press writer Mark Scoloro in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, contributed to this report.

Women: Opera’s Domingo abused power to sexually harass them

By JOCELYN GECKER Associated Press

For decades, Placido Domingo, one of the most celebrated and powerful men in opera, has tried to pressure women into sexual relationships by dangling jobs and then sometimes punishing the women professionally when they refused his advances, numerous accusers told The Associated Press.

Regarded as one of the greatest opera singers of all time, Domingo also is a prolific conductor and the director of the Los Angeles Opera. The multiple Grammy winner is an immensely respected figure in his rarefied world, described by colleagues as a man of prodigious charm and energy who works tirelessly to promote his art form.

At 78, Domingo still attracts sellout crowds around the globe and continues adding to the 150 roles he has sung in 4,000-plus performances, more than any opera singer in history.

But his accusers and others in the industry say there is a troubling side to Domingo — one they say has long been an open secret in the opera world.

Eight singers and a dancer have told the AP that they were sexually harassed by the long-married, Spanish-born superstar in encounters that took place over three decades beginning in the late 1980s, at venues that included opera companies where he held top managerial positions.

One accuser said Domingo stuck his hand down her skirt and three others said he forced wet kisses on their lips — in a dressing room, a hotel room and at a lunch meeting.

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"A business lunch is not strange," said one of the singers. "Somebody trying to hold your hand during a business lunch is strange — or putting their hand on your knee is a little strange. He was always touching you in some way, and always kissing you."

In addition to the nine accusers, a half-dozen other women told the AP that suggestive overtures by Domingo made them uncomfortable, including one singer who said he repeatedly asked her out on dates after hiring her to sing a series of concerts with him in the 1990s.

The AP also spoke to almost three dozen other singers, dancers, orchestra musicians, members of backstage staff, voice teachers and an administrator who said they witnessed inappropriate sexually tinged behavior by Domingo and that he pursued younger women with impunity.

Domingo did not respond to detailed questions from the AP about specific incidents, but issued a statement saying: "The allegations from these unnamed individuals dating back as many as thirty years are deeply troubling, and as presented, inaccurate.

"Still, it is painful to hear that I may have upset anyone or made them feel uncomfortable — no matter how long ago and despite my best intentions. I believed that all of my interactions and relationships were always welcomed and consensual. People who know me or who have worked with me know that I am not someone who would intentionally harm, offend, or embarrass anyone.

"However, I recognize that the rules and standards by which we are — and should be — measured against today are very different than they were in the past. I am blessed and privileged to have had a more than 50-year career in opera and will hold myself to the highest standards."

Seven of the nine accusers told the AP they feel their careers were adversely impacted after rejecting Domingo's advances, with some saying that roles he promised never materialized and several noting that while they went on to work with other companies, they were never hired to work with him again.

Only one of the nine women would allow her name to be used — Patricia Wulf, a mezzo-soprano who sang with Domingo at the Washington Opera. The others requested anonymity, saying they either still work in the business and feared reprisals or worried they might be publicly humiliated and even harassed.

The accusers' stories lay out strikingly similar patterns of behavior that included Domingo persistently contacting them — often calling them repeatedly at home late at night — expressing interest in their careers and urging them to meet him privately for a drink or a meal, or at his apartment or hotel room, under the guise of offering professional advice.

None of the women could offer documentation, such as phone messages, but the AP spoke to many colleagues and friends who they confided in. In addition, the AP independently verified that the women worked where they said they did and that Domingo overlapped with them at those locations.

The AP has withheld certain details in cases where it could lead to identification of the accuser.

Two of the women said they briefly gave in to Domingo's advances, feeling they couldn't risk jeopardizing their careers by saying no to the most powerful man in their profession.

One of them said she had sex with him twice, including at the Biltmore hotel in Los Angeles. When Domingo left for a performance, the woman said, he put \$10 on the dresser, saying, "I don't want you to feel like a prostitute, but I also don't want you to have to pay to park."

Many of the accusers said they were warned repeatedly by colleagues to never be alone with Domingo, even in an elevator. If they did join him for a meal, they said they were told to avoid alcohol and meet at a public place — for lunch, not dinner.

The women making the accusations were mostly young and starting their careers at the time.

Several said they took extreme measures to avoid Domingo, including no longer using the ladies' room near his office, asking other singers or backstage staff to stick with them while at work, and not answering their phones at home.

The dancer called her avoidance technique "the bob and weave, the giggle and get out," and one soprano labeled it "walking the tightrope."

Domingo's influence in the opera world is so great that Wulf was the only person among the dozens who talked to the AP who spoke on the record. And many of those who spoke did so reluctantly, fearing

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retribution but also not wanting to inflict collateral damage on the industry itself.

But ultimately, those who talked to the AP said they felt emboldened by the #MeToo movement and decided the most effective way to attack the entrenched sexual misconduct in their industry was to call out the behavior of opera's most prominent figure.

"There is an oral tradition of warning women against Placido Domingo," said a mezzo-soprano who worked at the LA Opera but is not among the accusers. She echoed advice that several women said they had received: "Avoid interaction with him at all costs. And definitely don't be alone with him."

"Am I going to be the target or not?"

Another mezzo-soprano who is one of the accusers was 23 and singing in the LA Opera chorus when she first met Domingo in 1988.

During a rehearsal of "Tales of Hoffman," she was selected to kiss Domingo in an orgy scene. She said she remembers wiping his saliva off her face from a sloppy, wet kiss after which he whispered in her ear, "I wish we weren't on stage."

After that incident, she said, Domingo started calling her at home frequently, although she had not given him her number. He told her she was a talented singer with a promising future and he wanted to help her.

"I hadn't started my career yet. I was completely flattered. And floored. And excited," she said. "Then it got creepier."

"He would say things like, 'Come to my apartment. Let's sing through some arias. I'll give you coaching. I'd like to hear what you can do for casting.'"

Over the course of the next three years, she said, he was uncomfortably affectionate, slipping a hand around her waist when they crossed backstage or giving her a kiss on the cheek a bit too close to the mouth. He knew the key codes for the dressing rooms and would enter uninvited, she said, which she said she assumed was to catch her undressed.

Domingo was an artistic consultant at LA Opera in the 1980s when his stardom went mainstream. Newsweek magazine dubbed him "The King of The Opera" in a 1982 cover story and he appeared on popular television shows like "Sesame Street," where a character, Placido Flamingo, was named for him. His collaboration in the "Three Tenors," with the late Luciano Pavarotti and Jose Carreras, produced the best-selling classical recording of all time.

Rather than offend Domingo and risk losing future assignments, the mezzo-soprano said she strenuously tried to avoid being alone with him, while also striving not to insult him. But he did not take the hint, she said, and resumed his unwelcome pursuit whenever he returned to Los Angeles.

One night, she said, she agreed to meet Domingo about 11 p.m. "and then I had a full-blown panic attack. I freaked out, and I just kept not answering the phone. He just filled up the machine, calling me until 3:30 in the morning."

She said she didn't report his behavior because "that just wasn't done" and also feared any misstep could kill her career.

Singers and administrators would "smile and shrug," she said. "Everybody would see me running around to avoid him and laugh it off. That's how everybody dealt with Placido."

One backstage staff member said many felt Domingo was pursuing the mezzo-soprano "in some way that she was not wanting. We were all aware of that." And a male singer and friend told the AP that he remembered the singer seeking his advice about how to navigate the situation.

The mezzo-soprano said she would mentally prepare herself for the star's returns to Los Angeles. "I used to steel myself when he was in town, thinking, 'Am I going to be the target or not? What will I say to him when he asks me again? How am I going to get out of it?'"

In 1991, she said, "I finally gave in and slept with him. I ran out of excuses. It was like, 'OK, I guess this is what I have to do.'"

She said she had sex with Domingo on two occasions, at the Biltmore and at his Los Angeles apartment.

She said the superstar mentioned his "superstition that he had to be with a woman before a show" to help him relax and calm his nerves.

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"I will sing better — and it will all be because of you," she said he told her before he deposited \$10 on the hotel dresser for the parking fee.

She cut off physical contact after the second encounter, a move she is convinced derailed her career at LA Opera.

"I don't have a smoking gun," she said, but "for somebody who was calling me and trying to see me every year, every time he was in town, to just never contact me again and never hire me again is pretty convenient."

"How do you say no to God?"

The LA Opera announced in 1998 that Domingo would become its artistic director, after working for years as a consultant for the company.

A young singer who met Domingo at a rehearsal that year said he immediately began calling her at home.

"He would say, 'I'm going to talk to you as the future artistic director of the company'" and discuss possible roles for her, she said. "Then he would lower his voice and say, 'Now I'm going to talk to you as Placido,'" she said, and ask her to meet him — for a drink in Santa Monica, to see a movie, to come to his apartment so he could cook her breakfast.

During one of his frequent uninvited visits to her dressing room, he admired her costume, leaning forward to kiss her cheeks and placing one hand on the side of her breast, she said.

From the beginning, the singer — who was 27 and just starting her career — said she felt panicked and trapped.

"I was totally intimidated and felt like saying no to him would be saying no to God. How do you say no to God?" she said.

As the calls wore on, she stopped picking up the phone. In person, she gave excuses, she said: She was busy, she was tired, she had an audition, she was married. She quoted Domingo as replying on one occasion: "It's a shame your husband doesn't understand about your career."

After one performance, the singer said she went home and answered the phone, her heart sinking when she heard Domingo's voice.

He told her he had champagne and asked if he could come pick her up so they could celebrate the performance. In that moment, she said, she had "a feeling of impending doom" that "I wasn't going to have an opera career if I didn't give in." So, she said, she reluctantly agreed.

"He picked me up in his BMW and I got in the car with him. He was very excited. He was touching my knee. I went in my mind into acting so I could live with myself," she said. She said they drove to his apartment near the opera's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, where champagne was waiting.

"We were sitting on the couch and at some point, he started kissing me," she said. She said he then led her to a bedroom where he took her clothes off, then undressed himself. They engaged in "heavy petting" and "groping," she said.

Domingo continued to pursue her in the days and weeks after, she said, calling her repeatedly. "I felt like prey. I felt like I was being hunted by him," she said.

Ultimately, she told him the calls needed to stop and reminded him that she was married.

"I was not prepared for how much it would mess with my confidence, and my feeling shame about it and wondering who knew and if they thought that's why I got an opportunity or a role," she said. "I started to doubt my own talent and skills."

The singer's husband confirmed to the AP that she had told him at the time Domingo was persistently calling and that "eventually it was quite clear he was propositioning her." When she confessed to what had happened with Domingo, the husband said her description of the star's behavior persuaded him "that the only way to get out of it was to either give in — or give him a hard no and give up all concerns of your career."

A friend and colleague of the singer told the AP that she remembered the singer saying Domingo was inundating her with calls and ignoring requests to stop. The singer's weight dropped dramatically and she

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developed problems with her nerves, the colleague said.

"It was like watching someone be psychologically killed," the colleague said. "She got smaller and smaller as a person."

The singer said that once Domingo took over control of casting decisions at the LA Opera, he never hired her again.

Now 49 and retired, she said she is haunted by fears that submitting to Domingo had mitigated any wrongdoing on his part.

"I still struggle with the sense that I let myself down, pushing through and doing my job when I should have raised holy hell," she said.

"Do you have to go home tonight?"

Patricia Wulf, another mezzo-soprano who worked with Domingo, said he would confront her night after night with the same whispered question.

"Every time I would walk off stage, he would be in the wings waiting for me," she said. "He would come right up to me, as close as could be, put his face right in my face, lower his voice and say, 'Patricia, do you have to go home tonight?'"

At first, she said, she nervously laughed off Domingo's remarks, even though she considered them offensive. But when he persisted, she made her position clear.

"I would say, 'Yes! I have to go home tonight.' And I would walk away."

It was 1998 and Wulf's career was taking off at the Washington Opera, where Domingo served as artistic director from 1996-2003 and general director from 2003-2011.

Then 40, she had been hired to do two solo roles that year, first in a production of "The Magic Flute" and later in "Fedora," which starred Domingo and the great Italian soprano Mirella Freni. The opportunity to work with such famous singers was a career high point, she said, but the experience quickly became a nightmare.

In an interview at her home in Virginia, Wulf, now 61, held back tears as she related how, after investing years training her voice, she finally arrived on the big stage, only to find herself facing a predicament she didn't know how to handle.

"You have to understand that when a man that powerful — he is almost like God in my business — when he would come up that close and say that, the first thing that goes through your mind is 'What?!'"

"But," she added, "you also think as soon as you walk away and get away, you think, 'Did I just ruin my career?' And that went on through that entire production."

Wulf said Domingo's pursuit seemingly had no bounds.

"It got to a point that I would come off stage and try to slither behind a pillar, and he would still find a way to get to me," she said.

She said Domingo would often knock on her dressing room door uninvited and that she feared leaving the room if he was in the hallway.

"I'd open the door and peek and see if he was there. And if he was there, I would just wait," she said.

She said when she brought her husband, Richard Lew, to the "Magic Flute" opening night party, Domingo "came right up to me, took my hand, shook my hand, kissed both cheeks and he whispered in my ear, 'I would like to meet my rival.'"

Lew told the AP that he would ask his wife after each performance, "Did it happen again? Did he say the same thing?" He added that "at a certain point, we didn't have to ask. You could just tell by how upset she was."

Wulf recalled the compassion of a male colleague who offered to stand up for her if she wanted to report him. "They're not going to fire him — they'll fire me," she remembered telling him.

Contacted by the AP, the former colleague recalled Wulf's discomfort and said he would accompany her to her car at work because she feared going alone.

Wulf said that Domingo did not physically touch her but that there was no mistaking his intentions.

"Absolutely and most certainly, that was sexual harassment," she said. "When a man steps that close to

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you and with a wry smile asks if I have to go home — repeatedly — I can come up with no other conclusion than him wanting to bed me. Especially given his reputation for that.”

“It affected the way I dealt with men for the rest of my operatic career and the rest of my life,” she added.

Wulf said she is speaking out because the silence about what she called the “well-known secret” of Domingo’s behavior has stretched on too long. “I’m stepping forward because I hope that it can help other women come forward, or be strong enough to say no,” she said.

“I was frozen in terror.”

Another singer who worked in Los Angeles in the mid-2000s told the AP that she already knew of Domingo’s reputation when he took an extreme interest in her career. She made sure she always had an excuse for leaving right after work.

“In the beginning, I wasn’t scared. I thought I could handle it,” she said, noting that he was persistent but not physically aggressive.

But one night after rehearsal, he caught her off-guard, she said, asking her for a ride home.

“The whole premise was ridiculous: Why would Placido Domingo not have a ride home?” she said. “But what was I going to do?”

Halfway through the short drive, she said, he put his hand on her leg and, as she reached his building, directed her toward a side entrance and told her to pull over.

“He leaned in and tried to kiss me,” then asked her upstairs, she said. She added that she declined, saying she had other plans.

Several weeks later, she said, Domingo approached her on a night that he knew she was scheduled to stay late.

He told her, “I’ve been trying to get you to work on this aria with me for weeks. I really want to hear you sing this role. Can you come to my apartment and we’ll run through this aria?”

His tone was different, she recalled. He sounded impatient.

“It sounds crazy to say, but it felt like he had invested so much time in this pursuit that he was annoyed with me,” she said. “I felt like I have dragged this out and avoided him for six weeks and he is Placido and he is my boss and he is offering to work with me on this role.”

She went to his apartment, where he poured two glasses of wine, she said.

“He sat down at the grand piano and we really did sing this aria, and we worked on it,” she said. “And he gave me coaching and was very complimentary.”

But then, she said, “When it was over, he stood up and slid his hand down my skirt, and that was when I had to get out of there.”

She said he followed her into the hallway, begged her to stay, then gestured downward and told her he had “two hours left,” which she believed was a reference to a sexual performance drug.

Back at her car, she sat in shock “for a long time until I felt like I could drive,” she said.

“I went home and was terrified to go back to work,” she said. “I was frozen in terror for that whole contract.”

Since then, she has sung at New York’s Metropolitan Opera, the San Francisco Opera and elsewhere, but has never again been hired to sing at the Los Angeles house or with Domingo.

“I’ve been hard on myself for a while,” the singer said. “Having a coaching session with somebody who offers you coaching is not consenting to sex.”

“Does he understand the risk he’s putting me in?”

A dancer who worked with the superstar in several cities began recounting her experiences with him by stating, “My story is exceptionally common.”

She said a flirtatious Domingo called her late at night on-and-off for about a decade in the 1990s, leaving brazen messages that she would listen to in shock with her husband.

Domingo would ask her to meet him, including in his hotel room, but she said she would only go to

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lunch with him, always framed as a business meal. Still, she said, his hands would wander to her knee or he would hold her hand or kiss her cheek in ways that made her uncomfortable.

She said she would wonder to her husband: "Does he understand the risk he's putting me in, that he could wreck my marriage, wreck my career? Does he understand what he's doing here?" But he didn't care."

"When you're working for the most powerful man in the opera, you try to play ball," she said, adding that she was careful to never insult him and tried to appeal to his ego.

One afternoon when they were working together at the Washington Opera, she said Domingo asked her to meet for lunch at his hotel restaurant to discuss work. After the meal, he suggested they walk to rehearsal but said he needed to first stop at his room.

"He took me up to his room, ostensibly to pick up his stuff, and he invites me in," she said. "And he starts hugging me and kissing me."

She pushed him away, she said, and insisted she had to get to rehearsal.

"When I clearly was not going to have sex with him, he just walked me to the elevator and went back to his room," she said. "The elevator doors opened, and I dropped. I just fell to the floor in the elevator and was sweating profusely."

A former opera administrator said he was aware for years that Domingo was "constantly chasing" the dancer. And a conductor who is friends with the dancer said he recalled after she "said no to Domingo, she had the rug pulled out for several years."

An opera employee who worked closely with Domingo said she found him gentlemanly and respectful, but confirmed that the dancer had complained of being harassed by the superstar for years. She said the dancer told her what happened in Domingo's hotel room, adding that her impression was that "even though he was persistent, he did take no for an answer."

After the hotel incident, the dancer said she didn't work with Domingo for several years.

"There were years when I was a wreck about it and scared that I'd never be hired again," the dancer said. Eventually, she said, she was "let back into his good graces."

Perhaps for that reason, she said she feels conflicted about how to categorize Domingo's behavior.

"What he did is wrong," the dancer said. "He used his power, he stalked women, he put women in positions of vulnerability. People have dropped out of the business and been just erased because of submitting or not submitting to him."

"He kept calling and leaving messages. I got frightened."

Domingo's pursuits extended beyond the concert hall, according to one singer who said she encountered him in Italy during a backpacking trip.

In her 20s at the time, the singer was a master's student at The Juilliard School in 1992, spending the summer traveling in Europe with her sister.

While in Rome, they stayed at a budget hotel off the Campo de Fiori, where she sang in the shower one morning with the window open. The doorman from a nearby luxury hotel yelled up to ask who was singing, she said, telling her that Domingo was a guest in his hotel and had heard her.

"He said you have a beautiful voice and he wants to meet you," she said the doorman told her.

Domingo — who was in Rome that summer performing "Tosca" for a live broadcast around the world — sent a message asking her to meet him about 10 p.m. at another hotel.

She remembered walking into the hotel lobby and telling a clerk that she was meeting Placido Domingo. She was led up to the roof, where a private table was set up and Domingo emerged dressed in an elaborate costume-like robe and a billowy white shirt, with a beautiful, young brunette on his arm.

"The whole thing felt like something out of a movie," she said.

She said she told him she was a student at Juilliard and he insisted she come see him that fall at the Metropolitan Opera, located a block from her school on Manhattan's Upper West Side, so she could sing for him.

"He said he thought he could help me with my career," she said.

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Back in New York, she went to one of Domingo's performances, then went backstage, where he remembered her and asked for her phone number, she said.

"At that point, I was enamored with the whole situation and excited to meet this really famous person with an amazing voice," she said. "Then I started getting phone calls."

"He would talk in this childlike voice that was flirty," she recalled. "He wanted to come to my apartment — and that was weird."

"In Italy and at the Met, the hook was, 'I want to hear you sing. I can connect you with people.' Once he started calling, it was just, 'I want to see you. I want to meet you,'" she said.

She said she consulted a friend in the opera business who warned her to stay away from him.

"He was tenacious. He did not stop calling and calling and calling. The first couple times, I put him off. Then it got ridiculous. He kept calling and leaving messages. I got frightened."

"His aggressiveness was too much to think he didn't have an ulterior motive," she said.

At one point, she asked a male classmate to answer her phone. Domingo never called again, she said.

"It was the death of the hero."

Another soprano said she felt she had reached the pinnacle of her career when the opportunity arose to work with Domingo at the Met in 2002. Domingo was her idol. His rich, spellbinding, soulful voice had inspired her to become an opera singer. Then in her 40s, her career goal had long been to work with him.

She remembers feeling elated when he praised her singing, taking her face in his hands after one performance and telling her, "You have moved me. Your performance moved me." He was artistic director at both the Washington and LA operas and told her, "I'm going to find work for you. . I do many concerts. And I ask my favorite singers to join me."

One evening at intermission, she said, Domingo knocked on her dressing room door and they chatted about the performance before he moved to kiss her goodbye.

"I gave him my cheek and instead he turned my face and kissed my lips," the soprano said. "Suddenly there are wet lips on mine. It was a wet, slimy kiss." As he pulled back, she said, he asked: 'Do you understand?'"

"Yes," the soprano answered.

"Do you really understand?" she said Domingo asked again, caressing her cheek.

"Yes, I absolutely understand." she said she answered.

"That's all I said. But for me, it was the death of the hero. That was the death of my dream," she said. Going forward, she said she gave him only her cheek to kiss and no longer looked him in the eye.

"He got the clear idea that I was not going to be cooperating. And he never pursued me again," she said. Despite earlier declarations of future employment, she said she was never again asked to work with Domingo.

Domingo's celebrity and fame are well-deserved, she said, and the opera world has benefited from his tremendous talent as a singer and performer.

"He's got a soul when he sings, and that soul is there in the midst of this abuse of power," she said.

Echoing several other accusers, she said she felt conflicted about damaging the legendary singer's reputation but wanted him to know his behavior was wrong.

"It's not that I want him to be punished. I want him to be made aware. I want him to have the opportunity to know exactly the kind of damage — emotional, psychological, professional and otherwise — that he's responsible for," she said.

Contact Associated Press writer Jocelyn Gecker via Twitter: <https://twitter.com/jgecker>

Epstein death shifts federal focus to possible conspirators

By JIM MUSTIAN and MICHAEL R. SISAK Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — In the wake of Jeffrey Epstein's suicide, federal prosecutors in New York have shifted their focus to possible charges against anyone who assisted or enabled him in what authorities say was his rampant sexual abuse of underage girls.

Two days after the 66-year-old financier's death in a New York jail where he was awaiting trial on sex trafficking charges, Attorney General William Barr warned on Monday that "any co-conspirators should not rest easy."

"Let me assure you that this case will continue on against anyone who was complicit," Barr said at a law enforcement conference in New Orleans. "The victims deserve justice, and they will get it."

Authorities are most likely turning their attention to the team of recruiters and employees who, according to police reports, knew about Epstein's penchant for underage girls and lined up victims for him. The Associated Press reviewed hundreds of pages of police reports, FBI records and court documents that show Epstein relied on an entire staff of associates to arrange massages that led to sex acts.

If any Epstein assistants hoped to avoid charges by testifying against him, that expectation has been upended by his suicide.

"Those who had leverage as potential cooperators in the case now find themselves as the primary targets," said Jacob S. Frenkel, a former federal prosecutor. "They no longer have anyone against whom to cooperate."

One possible roadblock to further charges is the controversial plea agreement Epstein struck more than a decade ago in Florida. The non-prosecution agreement not only allowed Epstein to plead guilty in 2008 to lesser state charges and serve just 13 months behind bars, it also shielded from prosecution several Epstein associates who allegedly were paid to recruit girls for him.

Federal prosecutors in New York, in charging Epstein last month, argued that the non-prosecution agreement is binding only on their counterparts in Florida.

But Gerald Lefcourt, a lawyer who negotiated the agreement, said the deal should still protect any alleged co-conspirators for what happened between 2001 and 2007.

"I would never have signed the agreement or recommended it unless we believed that it resolved what it said: all federal and state criminal liability," Lefcourt said Monday.

Police reports say Epstein's assistants worked like an advance team to facilitate his twice-daily massages, often from high school girls who were paid hundreds of dollars per "appointment." Epstein's personal assistant, Sarah Kellen, would call ahead to recruiters in Florida when Epstein was planning a trip to his Palm Beach mansion, the police reports say.

Kellen, who is among four women named in the non-prosecution agreement, would allegedly greet girls arriving at the mansion and escort them to a room with a massage table where Epstein would be waiting, wearing only a towel. A 2008 lawsuit in Florida accused Kellen of not only scheduling encounters between Epstein and an underage girl but of taking nude photographs of her.

Kellen now goes by the name Sarah Kensington and runs an interior design firm. Her attorneys did not respond to requests for comment.

Epstein's former girlfriend, British socialite Ghislaine Maxwell, was described in a 2017 lawsuit as the "highest-ranking employee" of Epstein's alleged sex trafficking enterprise. She oversaw and trained recruiters, developed recruiting plans and helped conceal the activity from law enforcement, the lawsuit said.

Representatives of Maxwell have not responded to requests for comment. In sworn statements, she has denied any wrongdoing.

Another woman named in the plea deal, Leslie Groff, was accused in a 2017 lawsuit of making travel arrangements for Epstein's alleged victims and taking steps to ensure the girls complied with "the rules of behavior imposed upon them by the enterprise."

Another alleged Epstein recruiter, Haley Robson, received \$200 payments each time she escorted a new "masseur" to Epstein's home, according to police reports. Robson targeted girls from the rural area outside Palm Beach, where she grew up, lawsuits alleged, because Epstein believed they were less likely

to complain to the authorities.

Robson likened herself to the so-called Hollywood Madam, Heidi Fleiss, in an interview with Palm Beach police, and said Epstein once admonished her for bringing a 23-year-old recruit to his home.

"He told her the younger the better," a detective wrote in one police report.

Lawyers for those potential defendants are likely to seize on wording in Epstein's non-prosecution agreement that appears to tie the hands of the entire Justice Department when it comes to indicting co-conspirators, said David Weinstein, a former federal prosecutor in Miami who has followed the case closely.

He noted that the agreement states that "the United States" — not a specific prosecutor's office — agreed not to charge anyone who assisted Epstein.

"The argument that's going to be made by unindicted co-conspirators is that this paragraph was much broader than any other paragraph in the agreement," Weinstein said. "I would argue that this was a very broad grant of transactional immunity."

Associated Press writer Larry Neumeister contributed to this report.

Portland, Oregon, braces for far-right rally, counterprotest

By GILLIAN FLACCUS Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Portland police are mobilizing to prevent clashes between out-of-state far-right groups planning a rally here and the homegrown anti-fascists who oppose them as America's culture wars seep into this progressive haven.

Saturday's rally — and the violence it may bring — are a relatively new reality here, as an informal coalition of white nationalists, white supremacists and extreme-right militias hones its focus on Oregon's largest city as a stand-in for everything it feels is wrong with the U.S. At the top of that list are the masked and black-clad anti-fascists who turn out to violently oppose right-wing demonstrators as soon as they set foot in town.

"It's Portlandia, and in the public mind it represents everything these (far-right) groups are against," said Heidi Beirich, director of the Intelligence Project at the Southern Poverty Law Center, which tracks hate groups. "It's progressive, and even more offensive to them, it's progressive white people who should be on these guys' side."

The groups know they will get a headline-grabbing reaction from Portland's so-called "antifa," whose members have issued an online call to their followers to turn out to "defend Portland from a far-Right attack." Portland's Rose City Antifa, the nation's oldest active anti-fascist group, says violence against right-wing demonstrators is "exactly what should happen when the far-right attempts to invade our town."

Portland leaders are planning a major law enforcement presence on the heels of similar rallies in June and last summer that turned violent, and the recent hate-driven shooting in El Paso, Texas. None of the city's nearly 1,000 police officers will have the day off, and Portland will get help from the Oregon State Police and the FBI. Mayor Ted Wheeler has said he may ask Gov. Kate Brown, a Democrat, to call up the Oregon National Guard.

"There's no winning for the cops in a situation like this. There just isn't," Beirich said. "This is hard-core stuff, and I don't think you can be too cautious."

Experts who track right-wing militias and hate groups warn that the mix of people heading to Portland also came together for a Unite the Right rally in 2017 in Charlottesville, Virginia, which ended when a participant rammed his car into a crowd of counterprotesters, killing one person and injuring 19.

The rally is being organized by a member of the Proud Boys, who have been designated by the Southern Poverty Law Center as a hate group. Others expected include members of the American Guard, the Three Percenters, the Oathkeepers and the Daily Stormers. American Guard is a white nationalist group, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center, while the Three Percenters and the Oathkeepers are extremist anti-government militias. The Daily Stormers are neo-Nazis, according to the center.

Portland's fraught history with hate groups adds to the complex dynamic.

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Many of today's anti-fascists trace their activist heritage to a group that battled with neo-Nazis in Portland's streets decades ago, and they feel this is the same struggle in a new era, said Randy Blazak, the leading expert on the history of hate groups in Oregon.

White supremacists murdered an Ethiopian man, Mulugeta Serawin, in Portland in 1988. And by the 1990s, Portland was known as Skinhead City because it was the home base of Volksfront, at the time one of the most active neo-Nazi groups in the U.S. As recently as 2007, neo-Nazis attempted to gather in Portland for a three-day skinhead festival.

"When I'm looking at what's happening right now, for me it's a direct line back to the 1980s: the battles between the racist skinheads and the anti-racist skinheads," Blazak said. "It's the latest version of this thing that's been going on for 30 years in this city."

Police, meanwhile, have seemed overwhelmed by the cultural forces at war in their streets.

At the June rally, masked antifa members beat up a conservative blogger named Andy Ngo. Video of the 30-second attack grabbed national attention and further turned the focus on Portland as a new battleground in a divisive America.

Republican Sens. Ted Cruz, of Texas, and Bill Cassidy, of Louisiana, introduced a congressional resolution calling for anti-fascists to be declared domestic terrorists, and President Donald Trump echoed that theme in a tweet last month. Portland's City Hall has been evacuated twice due to bomb threats after the June 29 skirmishes, and Wheeler, the mayor, has been pilloried by critics who incorrectly said he told police to stand down while anti-fascists went after right-wing demonstrators.

"I don't want for one minute anyone to think that because we're being thrust into this political show, that I or the public have lost confidence in (police officers') ability to do what we do," said Police Chief Danielle Outlaw, who is regularly heckled as she leaves City Hall by those who feel the police target counterprotesters for arrest over far-right demonstrators.

Police have noted the violence in June was limited to a small area of downtown Portland despite three different demonstrations that lasted more than five hours, with hundreds of people constantly on the move. They also made two arrests last week in a May Day assault on an antifa member that became a rallying cry for the city's far-left.

"We'll be ready for the 17th here in little Portland, Oregon," Wheeler, the mayor, told The Associated Press. "But at the end of the day, the bigger question is about our nation's moral compass and which direction it's pointing."

Blazak, the Oregon hate groups expert, said he worries the extreme response from a small group of counterprotesters is starting to backfire. Many in the city oppose the right-wing rallies but also dislike the violent response of antifa, which provides social media fodder for the far-right.

"The opposition is playing right into the alt-right's hands by engaging with them this way," he said.

Joe Biggs, organizer of Saturday's rally, said the attack on Ngo made him decide to hold the event with the goal of getting antifa declared a domestic terrorist organization. Biggs said those coming to Portland have been told not to bring weapons or start fights, but they will defend themselves if attacked.

Biggs toned down his online rhetoric after the El Paso shootings and urged followers coming to Portland to keep a cool head. He says he is not racist — he has a toddler daughter with his Guyanese wife — but wants to show the world antifa's violent tactics.

"That group of antifa there in Portland needs to be exposed for who they are," Biggs said in a phone interview with The Associated Press. "And guess what? They should be scared."

Everyday Portlanders, however, are feeling more frustrated than scared by the protests that bring their city to a standstill. A 5K race scheduled for Saturday along the waterfront was moved at the last minute to avoid any violence, and an Irish bar that's a city institution canceled an amateur boxing event that draws 500 spectators. Other businesses plan to close on one of the last weekends of the city's peak tourist season.

"People are nervous, people are hesitant to go anywhere near that area, and I don't blame them," said Aaron Montaglione, owner of Terrapin Events, which is putting on the 5K race. "It's affecting everyone."

Follow Gillian Flaccus on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/gflaccus>

Flights out of Hong Kong canceled again amid protests

By YANAN WANG and KATIE TAM Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Protesters severely crippled operations at Hong Kong's international airport for a second day Tuesday, forcing authorities to cancel all remaining flights out of the city after demonstrators took over the terminals as part of their push for democratic reforms.

After a brief respite early Tuesday during which flights were able to take off and land, the airport authority announced check-in services for departing flights were suspended as of 4:30 p.m. Other departing flights that had completed the process would continue to operate.

It said it did not expect arriving flights to be affected, though dozens of arriving flights were already cancelled. The authority advised the public not to come to the airport, one of the world's busiest transport hubs.

On Monday more than 200 flights were canceled and the airport was effectively shut down with no flights taking off or landing.

Passengers have been forced to seek accommodation in the city while airlines struggle to find other ways to get them to their destinations.

The airport protests and their disruption are an escalation of a summer of demonstrations aimed at what many Hong Kong residents see as an increasing erosion of the freedoms they were promised in 1997 when Communist Party-ruled mainland China took over what had been a British colony.

Those doubts are fueling the protests, which build on a previous opposition movement that shut down much of the city for seven weeks in 2014 that eventually fizzled out and whose leaders have been imprisoned.

The central government in Beijing ominously characterized the current protest movement as something approaching "terrorism" that posed an "existential threat" to the local citizenry.

Meanwhile, paramilitary police were assembling across the border in the city of Shenzhen for exercises in what some saw as a threat to increase force brought against the mostly young protesters who have turned out in their thousands over the past 10 weeks.

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam said the ongoing instability, chaos and violence have placed the city on a "path of no return."

The demonstrators have shown no sign of letting up on their campaign to force Lam's administration to respond to their demands, including that she step down and entirely scrap legislation that could have seen criminal suspects sent to mainland China to face torture and unfair or politically charged trials.

While Beijing tends to define terrorism broadly, extending it especially to nonviolent movements opposing government policies in minority regions such as Tibet and Xinjiang, the government's usage of the term in relation to Hong Kong raised the prospect of greater violence and the possible suspension of legal rights for those detained.

Demonstrators have in recent days focused on their demand for an independent inquiry into what they call the police's abuse of power and negligence. That followed reports and circulating video footage of violent arrests and injuries sustained by protesters.

Some protesters have thrown bricks, eggs and flaming objects at police stations and police said they arrested another 149 demonstrators over the weekend, bringing the total to more than 700 since early June. Police say several officers have suffered burns, bruises and eye damage inflicted by protesters.

Lam told reporters Tuesday that dialogue would only begin when the violence stopped. She reiterated her support for the police and said they have had to make on-the-spot decisions under difficult circumstances, using "the lowest level of force."

"After the violence has been stopped, and the chaotic situation that we are seeing could subside," Lam said, "I as the chief executive will be responsible to rebuild Hong Kong's economy ... to help Hong Kong to move on."

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She did not elaborate on what steps her government will take toward reconciliation. After two months, the protests have become increasingly divisive and prompted clashes across the city.

The airport shutdown added to what authorities say is already a major blow to the financial hub's crucial tourism industry.

Kerry Dickinson, a traveler from South Africa, said she had trouble getting her luggage Tuesday morning. "I don't think I will ever fly to Hong Kong again," she said.

The protests early on were staged in specific neighborhoods near government offices. However, the airport protest was had a direct impact on business travel and tourism. Analysts said it could make foreign investors think twice about setting up shop in Hong Kong, which has long prided itself as being Asia's leading business city with convenient air links across the region.

The black-clad protesters Tuesday held up signs in Simplified Chinese and English to appeal to travelers from mainland China and other parts of the world. "Democracy is a good thing," said one sign in Simplified Chinese characters, which are used in mainland China instead of the Traditional Chinese script of Hong Kong.

Adding to the protesters' anger, Hong Kong's Cathay Pacific Airways told employees in a memo that the carrier has a "zero tolerance" for employees joining "illegal protests" and warned violators could be fired.

While China has yet to threaten sending in the army — as it did against pro-democracy protesters in Beijing in 1989 — the exercises in Shenzhen were a further demonstration of its ability to crush the demonstrations, even at the cost to Hong Kong's reputation as a safe haven for business and international exchange. Images shown on the internet showed armored personnel carriers belonging to the People's Armed Police driving in convoy Monday toward the location of the exercises just across the border from Hong Kong.

The People's Liberation Army also stations a garrison in Hong Kong, which recently released a video showing its units combating actors dressed as protesters. The Hong Kong police on Monday also put on a display of armored car-mounted water cannons that it plans to deploy by the middle of the month.

Associated Press photographer Vincent Thian in Hong Kong contributed to this report.

Malaysia finds body near where London teen went missing

SEREMBAN, Malaysia (AP) — Malaysian rescuers on Tuesday found the body of a Caucasian female in the forest surrounding a nature resort where a 15-year-old London girl was reported missing more than a week ago, police said.

Negeri Sembilan state police chief Mohamad Mat Yusop said officials were in the process of determining whether the body is Nora Anne Quoirin, who was discovered missing by her family from the Dusun eco-resort in the southern state on Aug. 4.

The Lucie Blackman trust, a charity that helps the families of Britons who are in crisis overseas, said in a statement: "At this time we cannot confirm it is Nora. However it sadly seems likely."

Quoirin's family arrived Aug. 3 for a two-week stay at the Dusun, a small resort located in a durian orchard next to a forest reserve 63 kilometers (39 miles) south of Kuala Lumpur.

Police believe the teen, who has learning and physical disabilities, climbed out through an open window in the living room of the resort cottage. They listed her as a missing person but did not rule out a possible criminal element. The girl's family says she isn't independent and wouldn't wander off alone, and was likely to have been abducted.

Nearly 350 people are involved in a massive search operation that includes sniffer dogs, elite commando forces and thermal detectors, but no evidence had turned up until the discovery of the body on Tuesday. Police from Ireland, France and the U.K. are also on site to assist in the investigation. The girl's mother is from Ireland and her father is French, but the family has lived in London for 20 years.

On Monday, the mother, Meabh Quoirin, announced a 50,000 ringgit (\$11,900) reward, donated by a Belfast-based business, for information that directly helps police find her daughter.

Syria's Aleppo symbol of Assad's wins and of enduring war

By **BASSEM MROUE** Associated Press

ALEPPO, Syria (AP) — Members of the al-Ali family were walking home from shopping when several shells slammed into the busy street on the western edges of the Syrian city of Aleppo. The blast tore through them, killing 2-year-old Salam and one of her cousins, and incinerated a car nearby with a woman and her infant daughter inside.

It was one of multiple attacks by rebels firing from Aleppo's outskirts that killed more than a dozen civilians last month.

Nearly three years have passed since President Bashar Assad's forces gained full control of Aleppo, sweeping out rebels who had held the eastern half of the city through years of fighting.

That victory made Aleppo — Syria's largest city — a symbol of how Assad succeeded with crucial assistance from Russia and Iran in turning the tide of the long civil war, clawing back most opposition-held territory in the country's heartland and ensuring Assad's survival.

But Aleppo is equally a symbol of how Assad has been unable to secure full victory in the war or bring total security to Syria's people — and appears unlikely to in the near future.

Half of Aleppo remains destroyed, much of its population is scattered, and deadly attacks like the July 24 mortar fire that killed Salam — whose name means peace in Arabic — are still common. Aleppo still sits on the edge of the opposition's last major stronghold, a territory stretching across the neighboring province of Idlib and parts of Hama province. From positions on Aleppo's outskirts, rebels frequently fire mortars and rockets into the city's western districts.

Frustrated supporters of Assad call for the army to recapture Idlib or at least push the rebels further west.

"Let it be war," said Ahmad al-Ali, Salam's uncle. The girl's mother was wounded along with three of her cousins. Dry blood stains where the family was hit could still be seen on the pavement days later. Al-Ali said he wasn't afraid of having a full-fledged battle on his neighborhood's doorstep. "Either we all live in peace or — if we die — others will live in peace."

Government forces backed by Russian warplanes have been waging an intense air and ground campaign in Idlib since April 30 — resulting in the death of at least 450 civilians and displacing hundreds of thousands within Idlib, according to the U.N.'s human rights office. So far, they have only managed to take a fringe of villages along the enclave's southern edge, but the campaign picked up momentum last week, with troops drawing close to a major town.

One objective is to recapture the highway linking Damascus with Aleppo, which runs through opposition-held territory. Doing so would push the rebels back from Aleppo and provide Aleppans with a further bit of normalcy — a better connection to the capital. Opening the highway would reduce travel time to Damascus by two hours, since drivers now must take a longer desert road.

But that would mean retaking a large chunk of Idlib, including several major towns, a fight that could take months and exact a heavy toll. Idlib is dominated by Islamic militant opposition factions, and the rebel territory is crowded with hundreds of thousands of people, including many who fled from other opposition-held areas that fell to the government.

Retaking territory further north is even more out of reach, since areas bordering Turkey are a patchwork of militias and foreign troops, with Americans and Europeans in the east and the Turkish military in the west.

Syria's southern province of Daraa, recaptured by government troops in July last year, is becoming chaotic with assassinations and attacks against government forces inside what were once areas held by rebels.

"It is doubtful if Damascus will ever be able to exert authority over the entire country," said Fawaz Gerges, a professor of Middle Eastern politics at the London School of Economics. "Large swaths of Syria are under the control of rebels, militants, Kurds and foreign forces, including Turkey, Iran, Russia and the U.S. and Europeans."

"Equally important, social reconstruction is a distant dream. The international community will not invest precious resources in reconstruction as long as there is no reconciliation and political transition," he said. "Western powers will do everything in their power to keep Assad from consolidating his central authority

over the whole country.”

In Aleppo, reconstruction has been limited. Most of the eastern neighborhoods that were taken from rebels remain empty and destroyed.

“We cannot say that this city will easily return to its normal status,” said Muhannad Haj Ali, a lawmaker from Aleppo and a member of parliament’s national security committee. “It still needs a lot of effort and restoration of security and stability.”

Because of the insurgents’ shelling, he noted, Aleppo’s international airport has been unable to resume flights, even though it has been repaired.

Although the western neighborhoods are regularly hit, the rest of the city is safe. People go out at night to enjoy a cool breeze in the city’s cafes and restaurants. The poor often go to public spots like parks or Aleppo’s famous medieval Citadel.

On a Saturday afternoon, Saleh Haji Ali, who works at a state-owned cement factory, brought his four children to play in the yard below the Citadel. Haji Ali is one of the few people who have moved back into eastern Aleppo. He fled his home in Myasar district when rebels took over the eastern half in 2012, then came back after their defeat and repaired his apartment.

He hopes to raise his kids — three daughters and a son, ranging from 4 to 16 — in Aleppo. “Things have been improving,” he said, noting that when they first moved back they were alone, but now some others have returned.

Houshig Mouradian, an architect who belongs to Syria’s Armenian minority, was touring a newly rebuilt market nearby in the historic Old City, parts of which were levelled in the fighting. Most of her community has fled the war, leaving for Armenia or beyond. But she won’t go.

“We are always optimistic and that is why we are staying in Aleppo,” she said.

Report: Costs in most states exceed subsidies for child care

WASHINGTON (AP) — Child care costs in most states exceed federal subsidy payments provided to low-income parents, according to a newly released report from the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General, leaving working families with few affordable options.

The report, released Tuesday, focuses on the Child Care Development Fund, an \$8.2 billion block grant that goes toward offsetting the cost of care for 1.4 million children nationwide. The fund is the primary federal funding source for child care assistance for eligible working parents.

The federal recommendation is that states provide payment rates at the 75th percentile, which allows eligible families to access 3 out of 4 providers without paying more out of pocket. But the report shows most states set their rates much lower.

States have discretion over the how to administer the program: They set their own income requirements and decide how much families are expected to contribute. The report cites several reasons that states may keep their rates low, including stretching limited resources to serve more families and taking into consideration the cost of higher-quality care. Nineteen states reported paying enrollment and registration fees for low-income families, and seven states said they pay for extra child care activities such as field trips.

The Administration for Children and Families, which oversees the block grant, relies on states to self-certify that they are setting rates that ensure low-income families have equal access to care. But the inspector general report shows most states aren’t meeting the requirements.

Last year, under a bipartisan agreement, Congress approved a \$2.4 billion increase to the fund. But advocates say money continues to be a problem.

“CCDF is severely underfunded, and as families across the country are struggling to afford care across all income levels, it’s dire for low-income families,” said Catherine White, director of child care and early learning at the National Women’s Law Center.

Meanwhile, the Trump administration has moved to tighten work requirements for low-income families that receive food stamps and housing assistance, creating concern for parents unable to find affordable child care.

"This shows how the administration is talking out of both sides of their mouth," White said. "They say they want to support children and families, but they're stripping families of basic assistance they need. It's another trend where they are both not following through on promises and needs of families, but working directly to undermine them."

The report recommends that ACF should develop new methods for ensuring equal access for CCDF families, establish a forum for states to share strategies, and encourage states to minimize administrative burdens to expand access for families.

In its response, ACF said it has placed 33 states on a corrective action plan to ensure they're complying with equal access requirements and accurately collecting data. ACF said it will provide states with training and guidance.

Asian stocks follow Wall Street lower on trade war jitters

By JOE McDONALD AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Asian stock markets followed Wall Street lower Tuesday amid anxiety the U.S.-Chinese trade war will hurt already slowing global economic growth.

Benchmarks in Shanghai, Tokyo, Hong Kong and Sydney all retreated.

Investor anxiety has been fed by President Donald Trump's threat of new U.S. tariff hikes on Chinese goods, protests in Hong Kong and weaker-than-expected data from India, Argentina and Singapore.

"The global economy is perched precariously, hoping for a positive inflection, but braced for a stumble," said Vishnu Varathan of Mizuho Bank in a report.

The Shanghai Composite Index lost 0.5% to 2,801.33, and Tokyo's Nikkei 225 tumbled 1.2% to 20,433.65. Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 1.2% to 25,524.86.

Seoul's Kospi lost 0.7% to 1,928.80, while Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 was 0.3% lower at 6,579.70. Markets in Taiwan, New Zealand and Southeast Asia also retreated.

Investors were rattled by a Chinese government statement Monday saying mostly nonviolent protests in Hong Kong were "beginning to show the sprouts of terrorism" and were an "existential threat" to the population.

Hong Kong's airport, one of the world's busiest, canceled all flights Monday evening after thousands of pro-democracy protesters crowded into its main terminal.

Beijing's use of the term terrorism "triggered a wave of risk aversion across global markets," said Stephen Innes of VM Markets in a report.

On Wall Street, the benchmark Standard & Poor's 500 had its biggest decline in a week while the Dow Jones Industrial Average lost nearly 400 points.

Selling was widespread. Technology companies and banks accounted for a big share of the decline.

Investors sought safety in U.S. government bonds, sending their yields tumbling. The price for gold, another traditional safe-haven asset, closed higher.

The S&P 500 lost 1.2% to 2,883.09. The Dow fell 1.5%, or 389.73 points, to 25,897.71.

The Nasdaq composite dropped 1.2% to 7,863.41.

Trump has promised 10% tariffs on some \$300 billion in Chinese imports that haven't already been hit with tariffs of 25%. The new tariff would go into effect Sept. 1 and more directly affect U.S. consumers.

Last week, Trump said he'd be "fine" if the U.S. and China don't go ahead with a meeting next month, dampening investors' hopes for a resolution.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude lost 13 cents to \$54.80 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract gained 43 cents on Monday to close at \$54.93. Brent crude, used to price international oils, declined 19 cents to \$58.38 per barrel in London. It added 4 cents the previous session to \$58.57.

CURRENCY: The dollar gained to 105.57 yen from Monday's 105.30 yen. The euro declined to \$1.1188 from \$1.1214.

5 Russian nuclear engineers buried after rocket explosion

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Thousands of people attended the funerals Monday of five Russian nuclear engineers killed by an explosion as they tested a new rocket engine, a tragedy that fueled radiation fears and raised questions about a secretive weapons program.

The engineers, who died Thursday, were laid to rest Monday in Sarov, which hosts Russia's main nuclear weapons research center, where they worked. Flags flew at half-staff in the city 370 kilometers (230 miles) east of Moscow that has been a base for Russia's nuclear weapons program since the late 1940s. The coffins were displayed at Sarov's main square before being driven to a cemetery.

The Defense Ministry initially reported the explosion at the navy's testing range near the village of Nyoksa in the northwestern Arkhangelsk region killed two people and injured six others. The state-controlled Rosatom nuclear corporation then said over the weekend that the blast also killed five of its workers and injured three others. It's not clear what the final toll is.

The company said the victims were on a sea platform testing a rocket engine and were thrown into the sea by explosion.

Rosatom director Alexei Likhachev praised the victims as "true heroes" and "pride of our country."

"Our further work on new weapons that we will certainly complete will be the best tribute to them," Likhachev said during the funeral, according to Rosatom. "We will fulfill the Motherland's orders and fully protect its security."

Rosatom said the explosion occurred while the engineers were testing a "nuclear isotope power source" for a rocket engine. Local authorities in nearby Severodvinsk, a city of 183,000, reported a brief spike in radiation levels after the explosion, but said it didn't pose any health hazards.

Still, the statement from Severodvinsk's administration came just as the Defense Ministry insisted that no radiation had been released, a claim that drew comparisons to Soviet-era attempts to cover up catastrophes. Spooked residents rushed to buy iodide, which can help limit the damage from exposure to radiation.

Following the explosion, Russian authorities also closed part of Dvina Bay on the White Sea to shipping for a month, in what could be an attempt to prevent outsiders from seeing an operation to recover the missile debris.

The Severodvinsk city administration said the radiation level rose to 2 microsieverts per hour for about 30 minutes on Thursday before returning to the area's natural level of 0.1 microsieverts per hour. Emergency officials issued a warning to all workers to stay indoors and close the windows.

The radiation level of 2 microsieverts per hour is only slightly higher than the natural background radiation, which could vary between 0.1 and 0.4 microsieverts per hour. It's lower than the cosmic radiation that plane passengers are exposed to on longer haul flights.

Regional authorities haven't reported any radiation increases after Thursday's spike.

Russian environmental groups have urged the government to release details of the radioactive leak, but officials offered no further details.

Neither the Defense Ministry nor Rosatom mentioned the type of rocket that exploded during the test, saying only that it had liquid propellant.

But Rosatom's mention of a "nuclear isotope power source" led some Russian media to conclude it was the Burevestnik (Petrel), a nuclear-powered cruise missile first revealed by Russian President Vladimir Putin in March 2018 during his state of the nation address along with other doomsday weapons.

President Donald Trump weighed in Monday on the blast, tweeting, "The United States is learning much from the failed missile explosion in Russia. We have similar, though more advanced, technology. The Russian 'Skyfall' explosion has people worried about the air around the facility, and far beyond. Not good!"

The U.S. and the Soviet Union pondered nuclear-powered missiles in the 1960s, but they abandoned those projects as too unstable and dangerous.

While presenting the new missile, Putin claimed it will have an unlimited range, allowing it to circle the globe unnoticed, bypassing the enemy's missile defense assets to strike undetected. The president claimed

the missile had successfully undergone the first tests, but observers were skeptical, arguing that such a weapon could be very difficult to handle and harmful to the environment.

Some reports suggested previous tests of the Burevestnik missile had been conducted on the barren Arctic archipelago of Novaya Zemlya and the Kapustin Yar testing range in southern Russia before they were moved to Nyonoksa. Moving the tests from unpopulated areas to a range close to a big city may reflect the military's increased confidence in the new weapon.

The Sarov nuclear center director, Valentin Kostyukov, said that the victims tried but failed to prevent the explosion. "We saw that they were trying to regain control over the situation," he said.

Sergei Kirienko, Putin's deputy chief of staff who previously led Rosatom, said at the funeral that the victims were aware of the danger, but "took the risk, realizing that no one else would do the job better than them." He said they would be posthumously awarded with top medals.

China's Xi gets tougher on Trump after new tariff threat

By JOE McDONALD AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Facing another U.S. tariff hike, Chinese President Xi Jinping is getting tougher with Washington instead of backing down.

Beijing fired what economists called a "warning shot" at Washington by letting its yuan currency weaken in response to President Donald Trump's latest threat of more punitive import duties on Sept. 1. Chinese buyers canceled multibillion-dollar purchases of U.S. soybeans. Regulators are threatening to place American companies on an "unreliable entities" list that might face curbs on their operations.

Both sides have incentives to settle a trade war that is battering exporters on either side of the Pacific and threatening to tip the global economy into recession. But Xi's government is lashing out and might be, in a revival of traditional Chinese strategy, settling in for prolonged wrangling in response to what it deems American bullying and attempts to handicap China's economic development.

Negotiators are to meet in September in Washington, but China's political calendar makes progress unlikely. The ruling Communist Party is preparing to celebrate its 70th anniversary in power on Oct. 1 — a nationalism-drenched milestone that puts pressure on Xi, the party leader, to look tough.

"The downside risk of no deal has increased," said Raoul Leering, chief trade analyst for Dutch bank ING.

Six months ago, Chinese negotiators were discussing possible concessions including more purchases of American farm goods, market opening and changes in business rules. But by May, Chinese leaders had turned skittish in the face of what they saw as constantly shifting American priorities on a list of demands that range from narrowing their trade surplus to opening markets to possibly scrapping their economic development strategy.

Talks broke down in May over how to enforce any settlement. Beijing says once it takes effect, Trump has to lift punitive 25% tariffs imposed on \$250 billion of Chinese imports. Washington insists the tariffs stay to enforce compliance because Beijing has broken too many past promises.

The tone of Chinese state media toward Trump, relatively mild to that point, turned nasty. The ruling Communist Party newspaper accused Washington of "American bullying."

"Good faith broke down and we took many steps backward," said Bryan Mercurio, a former Canadian trade official and law professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Despite a June agreement by Trump and Xi for more negotiation, neither has shown willingness to compromise. A round of talks in Shanghai last month ended with no sign of progress.

Trump says Beijing needs a deal more than he does. On paper, he is right. Their lopsided trade balance means American demand contributes four times as much to Chinese economic activity as China's purchases provide for the United States.

But Trump's demand for changes to Beijing's industrial policy strikes at the heart of a development strategy Communist leaders see as the basis of their economic success and a path to prosperity and global influence.

That includes initiatives to transform China into a global competitor in profitable technologies through

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nurturing champions in robotics, electric cars and other fields with subsidies and shielding them from competition.

Washington, Europe, Japan and other trading partners say those violate Chinese market-opening commitments and are based on stealing or pressuring companies to hand over technology. Chinese officials retort that they are entitled to develop higher-value industries and have tried to deflect criticism by saying foreign companies might be allowed a role.

Chinese leaders insist on "maintaining their system of economic development. They can't have that crumble," said Mercurio.

Chinese suspicions deepened when, after the May talks, Trump imposed sanctions on telecom equipment maker Huawei Technologies Ltd., blocking its access to American technology. Trump cited security concerns but Chinese officials saw an attempt to cripple China's first global tech brand.

Washington is "using improper official measures to suppress Chinese enterprises," a foreign ministry spokeswoman, Hua Chunying, said last week.

Xi might feel more confident because, after facing accusations he bungled relations with China's biggest export market, he has strengthened his political position and silenced critics, said Willy Lam, a politics specialist at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

A year ago, Xi felt threatened enough that he was "anxious to get this over with," said Lam. But now, he has gathered support and "can dig in for the long haul."

That would mark a return to Beijing's traditional "war of attrition" strategy of holding out — for a decade or more, if needed — to get what it wants from the United States, Europe and other partners.

China spent 12 years, longer than any other government, negotiating its 2001 entry into the World Trade Organization.

Eighteen years later, it still is dickering over terms for joining the Government Procurement Agreement, which extends WTO free-trade principles to official purchases.

"I'm not really surprised that they are doing this," said Leering. "I was more surprised that they had been so low-profile from 2017 onwards, when Donald Trump took office."

In a sign Beijing might be digging in, two veteran trade envoys — Commerce Minister Zhong Shan and one of his deputies, Yu Jianhua — were added in July to the delegation — led by Vice Premier Liu He. Liu is Xi's economic adviser but has little experience in negotiations.

The government has told exporters to find new markets and replace American farm goods with imports from Russia, Brazil and other sources.

Xi also might be looking to the U.S. political calendar for leverage — a possibility Trump cited when he accused Beijing in July of stalling in hopes he would fail to win re-election next year.

Xi might not want to wait that long, because support in Washington for action against Beijing crosses party lines, say political analysts. But they said Chinese leaders might hope as Trump's campaign picks up, he will need a settlement to burnish his status as a trade warrior.

"Trump will want deals to show to the public," said ING's Leering. He said without that, Trump's track record of agreements with Canada, Mexico and South Korea looks "pretty meager" for a leader who made trade a cornerstone of his 2016 election campaign.

That means "in the end, the U.S. will be prepared to give in a bit more," he said.

China also might be holding out for a deal that lets it keep subsidizing technology industries and "cheating on intellectual property," said Lam. That might include retaining leverage to pressure foreign companies to give or license technology at low prices to Chinese competitors.

Letting the yuan slide to an 11-year low against the dollar on Aug. 5 reflects another traditional Chinese strategy: Showing an opponent that China can endure painful losses to get what it wants.

A weaker yuan would make Chinese exports cheaper abroad and help to offset Trump's tariff hikes. But economists warn a further decline will harm Chinese banks, construction companies and others that have hundreds of billions of dollars in foreign debt by making that more expensive to repay.

Canada police: 2 teen fugitives took their own lives

By **ROB GILLIES** Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Canadian police said Monday they believe two teenage fugitives suspected of killing a North Carolina woman, her Australian boyfriend and another man took their own lives amid a nationwide manhunt.

The Manitoba Medical Examiner completed the autopsies and confirmed that two bodies found last week in dense bush in northern Manitoba province were indeed 19-year-old Kam McLeod and 18-year-old Bryer Schmegelsky. A police statement said they appeared to die by suicide.

McLeod and Schmegelsky were charged with second-degree murder in the death of Leonard Dyck, a University of British Columbia lecturer whose body was found July 19 along a highway in British Columbia.

They were also suspects in the fatal shootings of Australian Lucas Fowler and Chynna Deese of Charlotte, North Carolina, whose bodies were found July 15 along the Alaska Highway about 300 miles (500 kilometers) from where Dyck was killed. The couple had met at a hostel in Croatia and their romance blossomed as they adventured across the U.S., Mexico, Peru and elsewhere, the woman's older brother said.

A manhunt for the teenage suspects had spread across three provinces and involved the Canadian military. The suspects had not been seen since July 22, and their bodies were found near Gillam, Manitoba — more than 2,000 miles (3,200 kilometers) from northern British Columbia.

Police said in a statement McLeod and Schmegelsky were dead for a number of days before they were found, but said there were strong indications they had been alive for a few days after they were last seen. Two guns were located, and authorities are working to definitively confirm that the firearms are connected to the murders in British Columbia.

The British Columbia Prosecution Service said criminal charges don't move forward if the person who has been accused is proven dead.

Police said items that were found on the shoreline of the Nelson River proved key in helping locate the suspects. Specialized teams began searching high-probability areas nearby, and on Wednesday morning, the two bodies were found within 1 kilometer (0.6 miles) of the objects.

The deaths of the three victims had shaken rural northern British Columbia and Manitoba.

Schmegelsky's father, Alan Schmegelsky, said last month that he expected the nationwide manhunt to end in the death of his son, who he said was on "a suicide mission."

McLeod and Schmegelsky grew up on Vancouver Island and worked together at a local Walmart before they set off on what their parents thought was a trip to Yukon for work.

They were originally considered missing persons and only became suspects later.

Police were investigating photographs of a swastika armband and a Hitler Youth knife that Schmegelsky allegedly sent online to a friend on the video-game network Steam.

Alan Schmegelsky said his son took him to an army surplus store about eight months ago in his small Vancouver Island hometown of Port Alberni, where his son was excited about the Nazi artifacts.

Troops let some Muslims go to mosques in locked-down Kashmir

By **AIJAZ HUSSAIN** Associated Press

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — Troops in Indian-administered Kashmir allowed some Muslims to walk to local mosques alone or in pairs to mark the Eid al-Adha festival Monday on the eighth day of an unprecedented security lockdown imposed as India stripped the disputed region of its autonomy.

Thousands of additional troops were sent to the mostly-Muslim region before India's Hindu nationalist-led government said Aug. 5 it was revoking Kashmir's special constitutional status and downgrading its statehood. All communications and the internet remained cut off to limit protests against the decision in the Himalayan region where most people oppose Indian rule. Streets were deserted, with most people staying indoors and authorities not allowing large groups to gather.

"Our hearts are on fire," said Habibullah Bhat, 75, who said he came out to pray on the Islamic holy day despite his failing health. "India has thrown us into the dark ages, but God is on our side and our

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resistance will win.”

Hundreds of worshippers gathered on a Srinagar street after the prayers and chanted, “We want freedom” and “Go India, go back,” witnesses said. Officials said the protest ended peacefully.

Elsewhere, two people were injured in violence, senior police officer S.P. Pani said. He did not give any details.

There were “no reports of starvation” and medical facilities, utilities and banking services were functioning normally, he said.

The near-constant curfew and the communications blackout meant independent verification of events was difficult, especially beyond the region’s main city of Srinagar.

Kashmiris are accustomed to stockpiling essentials during the region’s harsh winters, and during past, less severe crackdowns. But in Srinagar, residents have begun to run short of food, prescription drugs and other necessities as shops remain closed and movement is restricted. Parents have struggled to entertain their children who are unable to go to school.

Vijay Keshav Gokhale, the ministry’s top diplomat, said communications restrictions “will be gradually eased when we feel the law and order situation improves.” He said most mosques opened for Eid prayers, but some were not for security reasons.

The lockdown is expected to last through Thursday, India’s independence day.

Kashmir is divided between India and Pakistan but claimed in full by both. The nuclear neighbors and bitter rivals have fought two wars over Kashmir, and the first one ended in 1948 with a promise of a U.N.-sponsored referendum in the territory. It has never been held.

Rebels have been fighting Indian rule for decades in the portion administered by New Delhi.

Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and opposition leader Bilawal Bhutto Zardari expressed support for people in the Indian-administered portion of Kashmir to have self-determination. Both visited the Pakistani-controlled portion of Kashmir for Eid.

Qureshi urged the international community to take notice of “Indian atrocities and human rights violations in Kashmir.” He said Islamabad was trying its best to highlight the issue internationally and expose Indian “cruelties.”

Associated Press writers Ashok Sharma and Emily Schmall in New Delhi and Roshan Mughal in Muzafarabad, Pakistan, contributed to this report.

Parts of South and Midwest grapple with dangerous heat wave

By JAY REEVES and JEFF MARTIN Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — Forecasters are warning about days of scorching, dangerous heat gripping a wide swath of the U.S. South and Midwest, where the heat index on Monday eclipsed 120 degrees (48.9 Celsius) in one town and climbed nearly that high in others.

With temperatures around 100 degrees (37 Celsius) at midday and “feels like” temperatures soaring even higher, parts of 13 states were under heat advisories, from Texas, Louisiana and Florida in the South to Missouri and Illinois in the Midwest, the National Weather Service reported.

“It feels like hell is what it feels like,” said Junae Brooks, who runs Junae’s Grocery in Holly Bluff, Mississippi. Around her, many of her customers kept cool with wet rags around their necks or by wearing straw hats.

Some of the most oppressive conditions were in Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi and Oklahoma.

The heat index soared to 121 degrees (49.4 Celsius) by late afternoon in Clarksdale, Mississippi; and to 119 degrees (48.3 Celsius) in West Memphis, Arkansas, the weather service reported. Similar readings were expected in eastern Oklahoma.

In Alabama, the temperature hit 100 degrees with a heat index of 106 degrees by mid-afternoon in Birmingham, the state’s largest city.

Heat exhaustion and heat stroke were the leading threats.

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"You are more likely to develop a heat illness quicker in this type of weather, when it's really humid and hot," said Gary Chatelain, a National Weather Service meteorologist based in Shreveport, Louisiana, where a wet summer contributed to high humidity.

More of the same is in store for Tuesday, when heat and humidity will again make for dangerous heat indexes over a wide area. However, an approaching cool front should help ease the intense heat by Wednesday in some areas, Chatelain said.

"If you're going out in the summer, prepare for the worst," he said.

In the Mississippi Delta, farmers had no choice but to work in the fields Monday as they scrambled to clear debris and make repairs after floodwaters inundated the region in recent months, Brooks said. Farmers just now able to reach their land.

"The mosquitoes the gnats, the spiders, the snakes — all of them — have been way worse this year," Brooks said.

In Alabama and Tennessee, high school football coaches were adjusting practice schedules Monday and Tuesday, with some moving the workouts indoors and others conducting training in the early morning or evening, The Tennessean reported .

Cooling stations were open in several cities, including Tulsa, Memphis, and Little Rock, Arkansas, officials said.

In northern Alabama, forecasters with the weather service's Huntsville office said Monday they issued the first "excessive heat warning" for the area in more than seven years. Such a warning is more serious than a heat advisory.

The region hardest-hit by the heat wave could experience many more days each year when the heat index soars as the effects of climate change increase, scientists say.

Historically, cities such as Austin, Texas; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Jackson, Mississippi; and Tallahassee, Florida experience less than a week's worth of days each year when the heat index is over 105 degrees (41 Celsius).

If no action is taken to stop climate change, the number of days when it's that hot will soar in those cities and others, according to a recent study by the Union of Concerned Scientists, "Killer Heat in the United States ." By midcentury, Austin would see 59 days of such extreme heat in an average year. The number of days would increase to 57 in Baton Rouge; 52 in Jackson; and 50 in Tallahassee.

Southern states would feel the brunt of increasingly dangerous heat in coming years, said Astrid Caldas, one of the study's authors.

"Texas and Florida stand out, but also of course Louisiana, and Mississippi and the whole area all the way up to North Carolina," said Caldas, a climate scientist.

Martin reported from Atlanta.

Feds: Friend of Ohio gunman bought body armor, ammo magazine

By JOHN SEEWER and MICHAEL BALSAMO Associated Press

A longtime friend of the Dayton gunman bought the body armor, a 100-round magazine and a key part of the gun used in the attack, but there's no indication the man knew his friend was planning a massacre, federal agents said Monday.

Ethan Kollie told investigators that he also helped Connor Betts assemble the AR-15-style weapon about 10 weeks ago, according to a court document.

Kollie first spoke with investigators just hours after the assault and later said he bought the body armor, the magazine and the rifle's upper receiver and kept the equipment at his apartment so Betts' parents would not find it, the court filing said.

Federal investigators emphasized that there was no evidence that Kollie knew how Betts would use the equipment or that Kollie intentionally took part in the planning.

The accusations came as prosecutors unsealed charges against Kollie that were unrelated to the Aug. 4

shooting. Early that day, Betts opened fire in a popular entertainment district, killing his sister and eight others. Police killed Betts within 30 seconds outside a crowded bar, and authorities have said hundreds more people may have died if Betts had gotten inside.

Prosecutors accused Kollie of lying about not using marijuana on federal firearms forms in the purchase of a pistol that was not used in the shooting.

Possessing a firearm as an unlawful user of a controlled substance is a federal crime punishable by up to 10 years in prison. Making a false statement regarding firearms carries a potential maximum sentence of up to five years' imprisonment.

Kollie fully cooperated with authorities before his arrest, his attorney said.

"He was as shocked and surprised as everyone else that Mr. Betts committed the massacre," attorney Nick Gounaris said.

Gounaris would not comment on what Kollie thought his friend would do with the equipment.

Police have said there was nothing in Betts' background to prevent him from buying the gun.

The weapon was purchased online from a dealer in Texas and shipped to another firearms dealer in the Dayton area, police said.

Betts and Kollie apparently had been friends for several years.

Kollie told agents that they smoked marijuana and used acid several times a week beginning in 2014 through 2015, said U.S. Attorney Benjamin Glassman.

Betts was with Kollie in 2016 when Betts was charged with driving under the influence, according to a police report from Bellbrook, where the gunman lived with his parents.

Investigators have not released a motive for the shooting.

Eight of the victims who died were shot multiple times, according to the Montgomery County coroner's office. More than 30 others were hurt, including at least 14 with gunshot wounds, hospital officials and investigators said.

Just days after the shooting, Ohio Republican Gov. Mike DeWine proposed a package of gun-control measures, including requiring background checks for nearly all gun sales in Ohio and allowing courts to restrict firearms access for people perceived as threats.

Two state lawmakers on Monday reintroduced legislation that would restrict access to guns. One bill would establish universal background checks. The second would raise the minimum age for all gun purchases to 21.

Seewer reported from Toledo, Ohio, and Balsamo reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Andrew Welsh-Huggins and Julie Carr Smyth in Columbus contributed to this report.

US government weakens application of Endangered Species Act

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration moved on Monday to weaken how it applies the 45-year-old Endangered Species Act, ordering changes that critics said will speed the loss of animals and plants at a time of record global extinctions.

The action, which expands the administration's rewrite of U.S. environmental laws, is the latest that targets protections, including for water, air and public lands. Two states — California and Massachusetts, frequent foes of President Donald Trump's environmental rollbacks — promised lawsuits to try to block the changes in the law. So did some conservation groups.

Pushing back against the criticism, Interior Secretary David Bernhardt and other administration officials contend the changes improve efficiency of oversight while continuing to protect rare species.

"The best way to uphold the Endangered Species Act is to do everything we can to ensure it remains effective in achieving its ultimate goal — recovery of our rarest species," he said in a statement. "An effectively administered Act ensures more resources can go where they will do the most good: on-the-ground conservation."

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Under the enforcement changes, officials for the first time will be able to publicly attach a cost to saving an animal or plant. Blanket protections for creatures newly listed as threatened will be removed. Among several other changes, the action could allow the government to disregard the possible impact of climate change, which conservation groups call a major and growing threat to wildlife.

Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said the revisions "fit squarely within the president's mandate of easing the regulatory burden on the American public, without sacrificing our species' protection and recovery goals."

The Endangered Species Act is credited with helping save the bald eagle, California condor and scores of other animals and plants from extinction since President Richard Nixon signed it into law in 1973. The act currently protects more than 1,600 species in the United States and its territories.

While the nearly half-century-old act has been overwhelmingly successful in saving animals and plants that are listed as endangered, battles over some of the listings have been yearslong and legendary. They have pitted northern spotted owls, snail darters and other creatures and their protectors against industries, local opponents and others in court and political fights. Republican lawmakers have pushed for years to change the law itself.

John Barrasso, a Wyoming Republican who leads the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, said Monday's changes in enforcement were "a good start" but he would continue working to change the act.

Previous Trump administration actions have proposed changes to other bedrock environmental laws — the clean water and clean air acts. The efforts include repeal of an Obama-era act meant to fight climate change by getting dirtier-burning coal-fired power plants out of the country's electrical grid, rolling back tough Obama administration mileage standards for cars and light trucks, and lifting federal protections for millions of miles of waterways and wetlands.

Monday's changes "take a wrecking ball to one of our oldest and most effective environmental laws, the Endangered Species Act," Sen. Tom Udall, a New Mexico Democrat, said in a statement. "As we have seen time and time again, no environmental protection - no matter how effective or popular - is safe from this administration."

One of Monday's changes includes allowing the federal government to raise in the decision-making process the possible economic cost of listing a species. That's even though Congress has stipulated that economic costs not be a factor in deciding whether to protect an animal. The prohibition was meant to ensure that the logging industry, for example, would not be able to push to block protections for a forest-dwelling animal on economic grounds.

Gary Frazer, an assistant director at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, told reporters that the government would adhere to that stipulation by disclosing the costs to the public without it being a factor for the officials as they consider the protections.

Price tag or no, Frazer said, federal officials would keep selecting and rejecting creatures from the endangered species list as Congress required, "solely on the basis of the best available scientific information and without consideration for the economic impacts."

"Nothing in here in my view is a radical change for how we have been consulting and listing species for the last decade or so," Frazer added.

But Brett Hartl, a government affairs director for the Center for Biological Diversity conservation group, contended any such price tag would be inflated, and "an invitation for political interference" in the decision whether to save a species.

"You have to be really naive and cynical and disingenuous to pretend" otherwise, Hartl said. "That's the reason that Congress way back ... prohibited the Service from doing that," he said. "It's a science question: Is a species going extinct, yes or no?"

A United Nations report warned in May that more than 1 million plants and animals globally face extinction, some within decades, owing to human influence, climate change and other threats. The report called the rate of species loss a record.

In Washington state, Ray Entz, wildlife director for the Kalispel tribe, spoke of losing the struggle to save the last wild mountain caribou in the lower 48 states, despite the creature's three decades on the Endangered Species List. With logging and other human activities and predators driving down the numbers of the south Selkirk caribou, Canadian officials captured and penned the last surviving members of the species over the winter for their protection.

"There were some tears shed," Entz said, of the moment when tribal officials realized the animal had dwindled in the wild past the point of saving. "It was a tough pill to swallow."

Despite the disappearance of the protected caribou species from the contiguous United States, Entz said, "We don't want to see a weakening of the law."

"There's times where hope is something you don't even want to talk about," he said. But, "having the Endangered Species Act gives us the opportunity to participate in that recovery."

In Idaho on Monday, meanwhile, officials reported that the state's sage grouse population has dropped 52% since the federal government decided not to list the birds under the Endangered Species Act in the fall of 2015.

Wildfires, as well as oil and gas exploration and farming, have cut into the grouses' habitat, so that as few as 200,000 are believed to remain out of as many as 16 million a century ago.

Saudi rights no concern for Anthony Joshua's fight promoter

By **ROB HARRIS AP Sports Writer**

LONDON (AP) — Putting profits ahead of politics, the promoter of heavyweight boxer Anthony Joshua is dismissing concerns over the decision to contest a championship fight in Saudi Arabia.

The human rights organization Amnesty International contends Joshua will be part of "sportswashing" — the Saudi government being given a chance to cleanse its image — with the heavyweight title rematch against Andy Ruiz Jr. in December on the outskirts of the capital, Riyadh.

"I don't understand that term," promoter Eddie Hearn said Monday in an interview with The Associated Press.

"What I do know is all the events that they have been running have been hugely accepted by the public, enjoyed by the public and you will see when Joshua fights Ruiz in Saudi Arabia the public will love this event. They will grow the sport of boxing in that region."

Hearn sees no reason why he should not cash in as long as other sports events and concerts are being held in Saudi Arabia.

"Every promoter under the sun has been trying to land a mega fight in the Middle East for many, many years," Hearn said in a London hotel. "I'm the one that's done it, and with that comes a little bit of a stick because we're the trailblazers behind that."

Just last week, the Saudis announced plans for the world's richest horse race in Riyadh in February with a \$20 million prize pool.

"Financially, obviously, it was a good deal for A.J.," Hearn said.

Many in Italy were outraged when one of the country's soccer trophies — the Super Cup — was contested in Jeddah in January, with Cristiano Ronaldo's Juventus beating AC Milan.

Janet Jackson and 50 Cent appeared in the country last month — performances cited by Hearn, who overlooked Nicki Minaj pulling out of the same Jeddah World Fest lineup over human rights concerns.

While laws have loosened in the kingdom with women now allowed to drive and attend events at sports stadiums, there have been reports several women's rights activists have been tortured while in detention.

Minaj said she wanted to show support for women's rights, freedom of expression and gay rights. Hearn showed a lack of awareness of the country's anti-LGBT laws, and the impact on visiting boxing fans or any gay members of his own staff.

"You're asking me questions that are more political based," Hearn said. "I'm a sports promoter and how I answer that is, is that they have a vision for the sport of boxing and a vision for sport. You either believe in that, or you think that has potential, or you refer to other stories."

Stories such as the investigation into the brutal killing of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul last year. Saudi Arabia has denied any involvement by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman but its own investigation acknowledged the operation was planned by two of the prince's top aides.

"We knew the criticism we may face when we announced it," Hearn said.

Hearn has turned to journalism recently by hosting an interview podcast series for the BBC.

"I refer to the fact that I've been to Saudi to an event," Hearn said, citing the World Boxing Super Series final in Jeddah last year when asked about the Saudi state being implicated in Khashoggi's death. "It was a first-class event."

There is no disassociating the Ruiz-Joshua title fight from the Saudi government, with the General Sports Authority's name appearing under "Clash on the Dunes" on the news conference set in London on Monday.

Hearn said he also had offers from Qatar, Dubai and Abu Dhabi across the Gulf. The bout will be aired on streaming subscription service DAZN in the United States and by Comcast-owned Sky in Britain.

A purpose-built 12,000-seat open-air stadium will be the setting in Diriyah on Dec. 7 for Joshua's attempt to win back the IBF, WBA and WBO belts he lost to Ruiz at New York's Madison Square Garden in June. Buying a ticket will secure a tourist visa for visiting fans.

"Men and women are all welcome to this event," he said. "We've got to make sure that as many fans attend the events possible."

Hearn was asked about any of Joshua's Israeli fans, who would be unable to enter Saudi Arabia.

"That's one well beyond my head as a sports promoter," he said. "What I can tell you is, again following in the footsteps of major organizations that have staged very, very huge events."

More AP sports: <https://apnews.com/apf-Sports> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

New rules to deny green cards to many legal immigrants

By COLLEEN LONG and JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration announced Monday it is moving forward with one of its most aggressive steps yet to restrict legal immigration: Denying green cards to many migrants who use Medicaid, food stamps, housing vouchers or other forms of public assistance.

Federal law already requires those seeking to become permanent residents or gain legal status to prove they will not be a burden to the U.S. — a "public charge," in government speak — but the new rules detail a broader range of programs that could disqualify them.

It's part of a dramatic overhaul of the nation's immigration system that the administration has been working to put in place, despite legal pushback. While most attention has focused on President Donald Trump's efforts to crack down on illegal immigration, including recent raids in Mississippi and the continued separation of migrant parents from their children, the new rules target people who entered the United States legally and are seeking permanent status.

Trump is trying to move the U.S. toward a system that focuses on immigrants' skills instead of emphasizing the reunification of families.

Under the new rules, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will now weigh whether applicants have received public assistance along with other factors such as education, income and health to determine whether to grant legal status.

The rules will take effect in mid-October. They don't apply to U.S. citizens, though immigrants related to the citizens may be subject to them.

Ken Cuccinelli, acting director of Citizenship and Immigration Services, said the rule change will ensure those who come to the country don't become a burden, though they pay taxes.

"We want to see people coming to this country who are self-sufficient," Cuccinelli said. "That's a core principle of the American dream. It's deeply embedded in our history, and particularly our history related to legal immigration."

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Migrants make up a small percentage of those who get public benefits. In fact, many are ineligible for such benefits because of their immigration status.

Immigrant rights groups strongly criticized the changes, warning the rules would scare immigrants away from asking for needed help. And they voiced concern the rules give officials too much authority to decide whether someone is likely to need public assistance in the future.

The Los Angeles-based National Immigration Law Center said it would file a lawsuit, calling the new rules an attempt to redefine the legal immigration system "in order to disenfranchise communities of color and favor the wealthy."

And David Skorton, president and CEO of the Association of American Medical Colleges said, "The consequences of this action will be to potentially exacerbate illnesses and increase the costs of care when their condition becomes too severe to ignore,"

"This change will worsen existing health inequities and disparities, cause further harm to many underserved and vulnerable populations and increase costs to the health care system overall, which will affect all patients," he said in a statement.

Cuccinelli defended the move, insisting the administration was not rejecting long-held American values.

Pressed on the Emma Lazarus poem emblazoned below the Statue of Liberty that reads: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free," he told reporters at the White House: "I'm certainly not prepared to take anything down off the Statue of Liberty."

A new Pew Research Center survey released Monday found the American public is broadly critical of the administration's handling of the wave of migrants at the southern border, with nearly two-thirds of Americans — 65% — saying the federal government is doing a very bad or somewhat bad job. The survey found broad support for developing a pathway to legal status for immigrants living in the country illegally.

On average, 544,000 people apply for green cards every year, with about 382,000 falling into categories that would be subject to the new review, according to the government. Guidelines in use since 1999 refer to a "public charge" as someone primarily dependent on cash assistance, income maintenance or government support.

Under the new rules, the Department of Homeland Security has redefined a public charge as someone who is "more likely than not" to receive public benefits for more than 12 months within a 36-month period. If someone uses two benefits, that is counted as two months. And the definition has been broadened to include Medicaid, housing assistance and food assistance under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP.

Following publication of the proposed rules last fall, the Homeland Security Department received 266,000 public comments, more than triple the average number. It made a series of amendments to the final rules as a result.

For example, women who are pregnant and on Medicaid or who need public assistance will not be subject to the new rules during pregnancy or for 60 days after giving birth. The Medicare Part D low-income subsidy also won't be considered a public benefit. And benefits received by children until the age of 21 won't be considered. Nor will emergency medical assistance, school lunch programs, foster care or adoption, student loans and mortgages, food pantries, homeless shelters or disaster relief.

Active U.S. military members are also exempt, as are refugees and asylum seekers. And the rules will not be applied retroactively, officials said.

Green card hopefuls will be required to submit three years of federal tax returns in addition to a history of employment. If immigrants have private health insurance, that will weigh heavily in their favor.

According to an Associated Press analysis of census data, low-income immigrants who are not citizens use Medicaid, food aid, cash assistance and Supplemental Security Income, or SSI, at a lower rate than comparable low-income native-born adults.

Non-citizen immigrants represent 6.5% of those participating in Medicaid and 8.8% of those receiving food assistance.

The new public assistance threshold, taken together with higher requirements for education, work skills

and health, will make it more difficult for immigrants to qualify for green cards, advocates say.

"Without a single change in the law by Congress, the Trump public charge rules mean many more U.S. citizens are being and will be denied the opportunity to live together in the U.S. with their spouses, children and parents," said Ur Jaddou, a former Citizenship and Immigration Services chief counsel who is now director of the DHS Watch run by an immigrant advocacy group. "These are not just small changes. They are big changes with enormous consequences for U.S. citizens."

Colvin reported from Berkeley Heights, New Jersey. Associated Press writers Sophia Tareen in Chicago and Zeke Miller contributed to this report.

EPA won't approve warning labels for Roundup chemical

The Trump administration says it won't approve warning labels for products that contain glyphosate, a chemical in the weed killer Roundup.

**By ADAM BEAM
Associated Press**

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — The Trump administration says it won't approve warning labels for products that contain glyphosate, a move aimed at California as it fights one of the world's largest agriculture companies about the potentially cancer-causing chemical.

California requires warning labels on glyphosate products — widely known as the weed killer Roundup — because the International Agency for Research on Cancer has said it is "probably carcinogenic."

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency disagrees, saying its research shows the chemical poses no risks to public health. California has not enforced the warning label for glyphosate because Monsanto, the company that makes Roundup, sued and a federal judge temporarily blocked the warning labels last year until the lawsuit could be resolved.

"It is irresponsible to require labels on products that are inaccurate when EPA knows the product does not pose a cancer risk," EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler said in a statement. "We will not allow California's flawed program to dictate federal policy."

California's Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act, approved by voters in 1986, requires the government to publish a list of chemicals known to cause cancer, as determined by a variety of outside groups that include the EPA and IARC. The law also requires companies to warn customers about those chemicals.

California regulators have twice concluded glyphosate did not pose a cancer risk for drinking water. But in 2015, the IARC classified the chemical as "probably carcinogenic," triggering a warning label under California law.

Federal law regulates how pesticides are used and how they are labeled. States can impose their own requirements, but they can't be weaker than the federal law, according to Brett Hartl, government affairs director for the Center for Biological Diversity.

Hartl said it is unusual for the EPA to tell a state it can't go beyond the federal requirements.

"It's a little bit sad the EPA is the biggest cheerleader and defender of glyphosate," Hartl said. "It's the Environmental Protection Agency, not the pesticide protection agency."

In a letter to companies explaining its decision, Michael L. Goodis, director of EPA's registration division in its Office of Pesticide Programs, said the agency considers labels warning glyphosate to cause cancer to "constitute a false and misleading statement," which is prohibited by federal law.

Charla Lord, a representative for Monsanto's parent company Bayer AG, said the EPA's announcement "is fully consistent with the science-based conclusions reached by the agency and leading health regulators worldwide for more than four decades."

"Glyphosate is not carcinogenic," Lord said.

An estimated 13,000 plaintiffs have pending lawsuits against Monsanto concerning glyphosate. Three of those cases went to trial in California, and juries awarded damages in each case, although judges later

reduced the amounts.

In May, a jury ordered Monsanto to pay a California couple \$2.055 billion dollars after a trial where they blamed the company's product for caused their cancers. Last month, a judge reduced that award to \$87 million.

Oklahoma latest to grapple with online school problems

By SEAN MURPHY Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — When two tech-savvy Oklahoma men launched their vision for an innovative charter school in 2011 that students could attend from home, the timing was perfect.

Republicans had just extended their majorities in the Legislature, taken control of every elected statewide office and installed a new state superintendent of public instruction who was eager to embrace new ideas.

Epic Charter Schools, which has no schoolhouse and serves pre-kindergarten through 12th grade students who attend online, has exploded in growth in the eight years since it launched and now boasts an enrollment that rivals the biggest districts in Oklahoma. Last year, the school reported more than 21,000 students and received nearly \$113 million in state funding. But those numbers are now coming under scrutiny from state investigators who revealed last month they are looking into whether the school's two founders, David Chaney and Ben Harris, artificially inflated the number of students and pocketed millions of dollars illegally.

While the bulk of state money pays for teacher salaries and benefits at Epic, Chaney and Harris own a for-profit company that manages the school for 10% of its overall revenue and have made millions of dollars on the endeavor. With a glitzy advertising campaign, the school attracts more students every year.

Chaney and Harris also opened up their wallets to prominent politicians, donating more than \$160,000 almost entirely to Republican candidates in the last two election cycles, including the governor, state superintendent and attorney general. Epic also operates in California, where it has more than 500 students from five counties. A contract in Texas was put on hold because of the ongoing probe in Oklahoma.

No charges have been filed, but an Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation agent wrote in an affidavit for a search warrant that the men recruited and enrolled "ghost students" who received little to no instruction. Many of these students were home-schooled or attended private school, but they were recruited by Chaney and Harris to also enroll in Epic, the investigator wrote.

Neither Chaney nor Harris responded to requests for an interview, but they released a statement in which they denied wrongdoing and disputed the allegations.

"We are confident the facts will once again vindicate our team," the statement read.

The "once again" refers to a fraud investigation of Epic that the OSBI started several years ago at the behest of then-Gov. Mary Fallin. Findings were referred to the attorney general's office, but no charges were brought. A spokesman for Attorney General Mike Hunter said the case never was closed.

Epic is hardly the only online charter school to have found itself in hot water. In a similar case this year in California, 11 people were indicted on multiple criminal charges related to a series of charter schools that prosecutors allege stole more than \$50 million by creating phantom institutions that enrolled students, sometimes without their knowledge. A charter school management company, A3 Education, is at the center of those allegations.

In 2016, a Virginia-based for-profit company that operated online charter schools in California, K12 Inc., reached a \$168.5 million settlement with the state over attendance and academic progress records.

Last year in Ohio, the attorney general sued the founder and leaders of what had been that state's largest online charter school, aiming to recoup millions of dollars after it shut down mid-school year amid a dispute over public funding and how students were counted.

And in Indiana, education officials want to recover about \$40 million from two online charter schools, after an audit found they inflated enrollment figures.

"Public education laws in this country were not written to contemplate kids attending school on the internet," said Greg Richmond, chief executive officer of the National Association of Charter School Authorizers.

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In many states, laws governing virtual charter schools are not clear, a problem often compounded by understaffed oversight entities and confusion about who enforces enrollment and attendance laws, Richmond said.

"When you put all that together, someone who is ill-intentioned can drive a truck through that, and we've seen that happen now in several states," he said. "And because they are virtual schools, they're not misappropriating funds for 300 or 400 kids. It can be 3,000 or 4,000 kids, so the scale is at a whole other level compared to a brick-and-mortar school."

The rapid growth of virtual charter schools in Oklahoma reflects a national trend, with more than 430,000 students nationwide enrolled in 501 full-time virtual schools and 300 blended schools that mix in some traditional classroom time, according to a May study by the National Education Policy Center. Virtual schools operated by for-profit entities were more than four times as large as other virtual schools, the study noted.

The study found that students in district-operated virtual schools performed far better than charter-operated schools and recommended states slow or stop the growth of virtual charter schools, reduce student-to-teacher ratios and sanction schools that perform poorly.

Charter schools, which are publicly funded but exempt from most government regulations, have become increasingly popular in recent years, particularly among Republicans, as a way to provide more alternatives to traditional public schools.

How virtual charter schools stack up against traditional public schools is a mixed bag. An analysis of Epic's student performance released last year shows that students at some grade levels exceeded the statewide averages in math and English, but that the school's four-year graduation rate had been less than half the statewide average over the last few years.

In Oklahoma, lawmakers plan to explore the issue before next year's legislative session, and the state's new Republican governor has ordered an investigative audit of the school and related entities.

"I think this was a foreseeable crisis, and it came from a lack of preparation and planning in the initial legislation," said state Rep. John Waldron, a Democrat and public school teacher elected to the state House last year. "We didn't put the right procedures in place to monitor things, and it's raised inevitable questions."

Follow Sean Murphy on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/apseanmurphy>

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 13, the 225th day of 2019. There are 140 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 13, 1961, East Germany sealed off the border between Berlin's eastern and western sectors before building a wall that would divide the city for the next 28 years.

On this date:

In 1846, the American flag was raised in Los Angeles for the first time.

In 1860, legendary sharpshooter Annie Oakley was born in Darke County, Ohio.

In 1889, William Gray of Hartford, Conn., received a patent for a coin-operated telephone.

In 1910, Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing, died in London at age 90.

In 1932, Adolf Hitler rejected the post of vice chancellor of Germany, saying he was prepared to hold out "for all or nothing."

In 1960, the first two-way telephone conversation by satellite took place with the help of Echo 1. The Central African Republic became totally independent of French rule.

In 1967, the crime caper biopic "Bonnie and Clyde," starring Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway, had its U.S. premiere; the movie, directed by Arthur Penn, was considered shocking as well as innovative for its graphic portrayal of violence.

In 1989, searchers in Ethiopia found the wreckage of a plane which had disappeared almost a week

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earlier while carrying Rep. Mickey Leland, D-Texas, and 14 other people — there were no survivors.

In 1995, baseball Hall of Famer Mickey Mantle died at a Dallas hospital of rapidly spreading liver cancer; he was 63.

In 2003, Iraq began pumping crude oil from its northern oil fields for the first time since the start of the war. Libya agreed to set up a \$2.7 billion fund for families of the 270 people killed in the 1988 Pan Am bombing.

In 2008, a man barged into the Arkansas Democratic headquarters in Little Rock and opened fire, killing state party chairman Bill Gwatney before speeding off in a pickup. (Police later shot and killed the gunman, Timothy Dale Johnson.) Michael Phelps swam into history as the winningest Olympic athlete ever with his 10th and 11th career gold medals.

In 2017, in a statement, the White House said President Donald Trump “very strongly” condemns individual hate groups such as “white supremacists, KKK and neo-Nazis;” the statement followed criticism of Trump for blaming the previous day’s deadly violence at a white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, on “many sides.” Protesters decrying hatred and racism converged around the country, saying they felt compelled to respond to the white supremacist rally in Virginia.

Ten years ago: The Philadelphia Eagles signed Michael Vick to a one-year deal, prompting criticism from animal rights activists over his role in a dogfighting ring. NFL commissioner Roger Goodell suspended Cleveland Browns receiver Donte Stallworth for the entire season after Stallworth served 24 days in jail for DUI manslaughter in the death of 59-year-old Mario Reyes in Miami.

Five years ago: Six people — including Associated Press video journalist Simone Camilli — were killed when leftover ordnance believed to have been dropped in an Israeli airstrike blew up in the Gaza Strip. Brazilian presidential candidate Eduardo Campos died when the small plane that was carrying him and several campaign officials plunged into a residential neighborhood in the port city of Santos.

One year ago: President Donald Trump dared New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo to challenge him in 2020, warning, “Anybody that runs against Trump suffers.” A lawyer for longtime FBI agent Peter Strzok, who’d been removed from the Russia investigation over anti-Trump text messages, said Strzok had been fired by the agency.

Today’s Birthdays: Former U.S. Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders is 86. Actor Kevin Tighe is 75. Former Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen is 73. Opera singer Kathleen Battle is 71. High wire aerialist Philippe Petit is 70. Hockey Hall of Famer Bobby Clarke is 70. Golf Hall of Famer Betsy King is 64. Movie director Paul Greengrass is 64. Actor Danny Bonaduce is 60. TV weatherman Sam Champion is 58. Actress Dawnn (correct) Lewis is 58. Actor John Slattery is 57. Actress Debi Mazar is 55. Actress Quinn Cummings is 52. Actress Seana Kofoed is 49. Country singer Andy Griggs is 46. Actor Gregory Fitoussi is 43. Country musician Mike Melancon (Emerson Drive) is 41. Actress Kathryn Fiore is 40. Former White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders is 37. Actor Sebastian Stan is 37. Actor Eme Ikwuakor is 35. Pop-rock singer James Morrison is 35. Actress Lennon Stella is 20.

Thought for Today: “People are lonely because they build walls instead of bridges.” — Joseph Fort Newton, American clergyman (1876-1950).