

Groton Daily Independent

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

Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

Swimming Pool Hours

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

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

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

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

- 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

It will be the **COOLEST**
thing you'll see all summer!



**A robot
will serve
you your
Blizzard®!**

Friday, Aug. 16 - 1 p.m. to close

\$1 for every Blizzard® sold during this time
will be donated to the GT Robotics Club.

**When you buy a Blizzard®, the
GT Robotics robot will serve
you the Blizzard®.**

**Only at the Groton Dairy Queen
Only inside service**

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We are re-running the school board story as I made additions to the story which appeared in the weekly but not the first draft in the GDI.

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. The portal for students to get access to their class schedule will be opened on August 16th.

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. Volunteer coaches approved at the meeting Monday were Craig Sternhagen for boys soccer and Sarah Schuster for volleyball.

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.

And speaking of sports, Superintendent Schwan reported that Athletic Director Brian Dolan has been working with Avera in securing athletic training services here in Groton. "We're excited to have someone here at home events for athletic services," Schwan said. The service will cost \$9,000 for the year which will include home event coverage and summer acceleration program. Schwan said the fees charged for the summer acceleration program will help defray the cost of the entire service. The board approved the contract.

SD State Fair Advanced Daily Gate Admission Available Online

HURON, S.D. – The South Dakota State Fair is excited to announce that fairgoers can now buy advanced daily gate admission for the 2019 SD State Fair online at www.sdstatefair.com.

The SD State Fair is transitioning to an electronic system at the gates for admission and parking to help increase efficiency. It is the same system that is utilized for grandstand ticket sales, Etix.

Admission and parking passes will have bar codes on them that will be scanned at the gates. Fairgoers coming to the fair that have an admission pass that has a barcode can go directly to the scanner. People leaving the fair and wishing to return will need to receive a handstamp upon exiting. Parking passes will be scanned upon entry and exit from the fairgrounds. Passes are only valid for the area and terms listed on the pass.

“The goals for this transition are to increase efficiency for gate admissions and to eliminate any abuse or misuse of parking and admission credentials,” commented Peggy Besch, State Fair manager, on the change.

The 2019 South Dakota State Fair will run from Thursday, Aug. 29, through Monday, Sept. 2. Channel Seeds Preview night will be Wednesday, Aug. 28. This year’s theme is “There’s No Time Like Fair Time.” For more information on State Fair events, contact the Fair Office at 800-529-0900, visit www.sdstatefair.com or find them on Facebook or Twitter.

Agriculture is a major contributor to South Dakota’s economy, generating \$32.5 billion in annual economic activity and employing over 132,000 South Dakotans. The South Dakota Department of Agriculture's mission is to promote, protect and preserve South Dakota agriculture for today and tomorrow. Visit us online at sdda.sd.gov or find us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

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Domestic Gasoline Stocks Soar, Push Down Gas Prices

August 12, 2019 - The national gas price average, \$2.64, represents a seven-cent drop on the week as domestic gasoline stocks built by a surprising 4.4 million bbl, according to the Energy Information Administration's (EIA) latest data. Contributing to the build was at least 1.2 million b/d of imports at U.S. ports. With the large bump, stocks now sit 235 million bbl – a U.S. stock level not seen in nearly five months (end of March).

"On the week, nearly half of all states saw gas price averages decrease by at least a nickel," said Marilyn Buskohl, AAA spokesperson. "While gasoline demand increased week-over-week, it wasn't enough to stay on pace with the huge jump in gasoline stocks. Therefore, pump prices continue to decline across the country."

South Dakota Gas Prices

Today \$2.67

Yesterday \$2.67

Last week \$2.68

Last month \$2.71

Last year \$2.89

Today's national gas price average is 13-cents less than a month ago and 21-cents cheaper than a year ago.

Quick Stats

The nation's top 10 largest weekly decreases are: Ohio (-19 cents), Indiana (-17 cents), Illinois (-12 cents), Michigan (-12 cents), Kentucky (-10 cents), Florida (-7 cents), Oklahoma (-7 cents), Louisiana (-6 cents), Missouri (-6 cents) and Georgia (-6 cents).

The nation's top 10 least expensive markets are: Louisiana (\$2.27), Mississippi (\$2.28), South Carolina (\$2.31), Alabama (\$2.31), Arkansas (\$2.32), Oklahoma (\$2.34), Tennessee (\$2.37), Texas (\$2.38), Missouri (\$2.39) and Kansas (\$2.41).

Great Lakes and Central States

Motorists in five Great Lakes and Central states saw significant – double digit – declines at the pump this week: Ohio (-19 cents), Indiana (-17 cents), Illinois (-12 cents), Michigan (-12 cents) and Kentucky (-10 cents). These states not only lead the top 10 list for weekly declines in the country, but also lead the largest monthly decline with savings as much as a quarter since this time in July: Illinois (-33 cents), Michigan (-32 cents), Ohio (-29 cents), Indiana (-30 cents) and Kentucky (-24 cents).

While all states in the region saw declines at the pump, they were not all significant. South Dakota saw the smallest decrease of just a penny. Gas prices in the region range from \$2.79 in Illinois to \$2.39 in Missouri.

Gas prices declined as gasoline stocks in the region jumped by 1.1 million bbl to bring total levels to 50 million bbl. The increase in stocks was supported by a 5% increase in regional refinery utilization, which was reported at 100% by the EIA. The Great Lakes and Central states are well-known for weekly volatility. While this week is starting with significant savings for much of the region, there is the potential for this coming week to bring increases.

Oil market dynamics

At the close of Friday's formal trading session on the NYMEX, WTI increased by a \$1.96 to settle at \$54.50. Crude prices increased last week after reports emerged that OPEC is considering additional crude production cuts. In July, the cartel announced that it and its partners would extend the 1.2 million b/d crude production reduction agreement for an additional nine months. More details about the potential production cuts will likely be discussed at OPEC's next meeting on December 5-6 in Vienna. Crude prices could increase this week amid further indications that global crude supply will tighten this fall.

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.

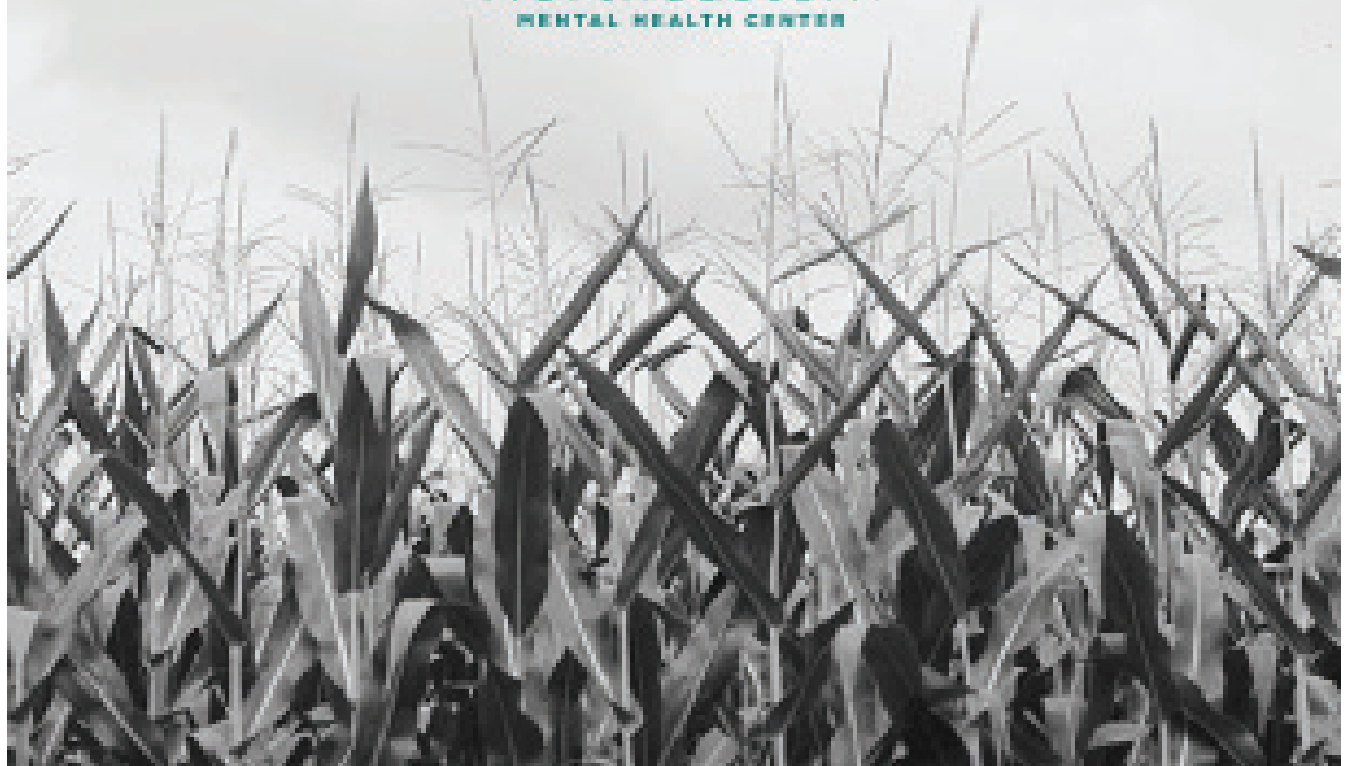
We're here to help.

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



The Life of Michael G. "Mike" Dylla



Michael G. "Mike" Dylla, age 64, of Watertown, SD, passed away on Sunday, August 11, 2019, at the local hospital. Funeral Mass will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 15, 2019, at Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church. Father Michael Wensing will be the celebrant. Music will be provided by Jane Rokusek as organist with Blaine Martian as the song leader. The family is requested to meet at the church by 10:30 a.m. for a prayer service.

Visitation will be at the Crawford-Osthus Funeral Chapel in Watertown on Wednesday, August 14, 2019, from 5-7 p.m. with a 7:00 Scripture Wake Service. Visitation will also continue prior to services at the church on Thursday.

Burial will be at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Watertown. Pallbearers will be Ben Mohning, Andrew Davies, Chris Dylla, Dan Omer, Mark Heine and Todd Thoennis.

Mike was born on May 27, 1955, in Webster, SD, to George and Dorothy "Mick" (Murphy) Dylla. He graduated from Groton High School in 1973 and later from South Dakota State University in 1977.

On May 29, 1982, Mike married Linda Ness in Watertown, SD. The couple lived in Clark, SD, where he worked for First Bank. In 1986, Mike and Linda moved to Watertown where he worked for First Premier Bank.

He recently retired from Benchmark Foam where he put in over 20 years of service.

Mike was a member of Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church. He was a current member of the Watertown Bicycle Club and a former member of the Optimist Club. He enjoyed gardening, playing cards and hunting with his family. He was an avid fan of the Watertown Arrows and the SDSU Jackrabbits.

Mike is survived by his wife, Linda of Watertown, SD; his sons, Joseph "Joe" (Kira) Dylla of Sioux Falls, SD, and Benjamin "Ben" Dylla of Fargo, ND; his parents, George and Dorothy Dylla of Watertown, SD; his brother-in-law, Ron (Donna) Ness of Eden Prairie, MN; his sister-in-law, Nancy (Myron) Goens of Watertown, SD; his brothers: Bill (Pam) Dylla of Bristol, SD, Gary (Penny) Dylla of Wichita Falls, TX, Tom Dylla of Canyon Country, CA, Jay Dylla of Houston, TX, and Jim (Carrie) Dylla of Watertown, SD; his sisters: Beth (Dan) Omer of Lee Summit, MO, Janet Price of Shawnee, KS, Mary (Todd) Thoennes of Watertown, SD, and Marci (Mark) Heine of Spearfish, SD; and all of his nieces and nephews.

Mike is preceded in death by his in-laws, Lloyd and Esther Ness; his brother-in-law, Kevin Price; and his nephew, Kevin Dylla.

Groton City-wide Rummage Sale



**Saturday,
September 7th, 2019
8 am-3 pm**



*Sponsored by the
Groton Lions Club*

All listings are due by 5pm on August 28th to City Hall or email your listing to city.april@nvc.net, \$15 per listing

Listings will be available on Groton, SD Lions Club Facebook Page and www.city.grotonsd.gov

To Tackle Climate Change We Need to Rethink Our Food System

By Kathleen Rogers and Dr. Shenggen Fan

The way we produce, consume and discard food is no longer sustainable. That much is clear from the newly released UN climate change report which warns that we must rethink how we produce our food — and quickly — to avoid the most devastating impacts of global food production, including massive deforestation, staggering biodiversity loss and accelerating climate change.

While it's not often recognized, the food industry is an enormous driver of climate change, and our current global food system is pushing our natural world to the breaking point. At the press conference releasing the Special Report on Climate Change and Land, report co-chair Eduardo Calvo Buendía stated that "the food system as a whole — which includes food production and processing, transport, retail consumption, loss and waste — is currently responsible for up to a third of our global greenhouse gas emissions."

In other words, while most of us have been focusing on the energy and transportation sectors in the climate change fight, we cannot ignore the role that our food production has on cutting emissions and curbing climate change. By addressing food waste and emissions from animal agriculture, we can start to tackle this problem. How do we do that?

Livestock production is a leading culprit — driving deforestation, degrading our water quality and increasing air pollution. In fact, animal agriculture has such an enormous impact on the environment that if every American reduced their meat consumption by just 10 percent — about 6 ounces per week — we would save approximately 7.8 trillion gallons of water. That's more than all the water in Lake Champlain. We'd also save 49 billion pounds of carbon dioxide every year — the equivalent of planting 1 billion carbon-absorbing trees.

What's more, to the injury from unsustainable food production, we add the insult of extraordinary levels of food waste: nearly one third of all food produced globally ends up in our garbage cans and then landfills. We are throwing away \$1 trillion worth of food, or about half of Africa's GDP, every single year. At our current rates, if food waste were a country, it would be the world's third-largest carbon emitter after the U.S. and China.

To ensure global food security and sustainable food practices in an ever-growing world, we need to reexamine our food systems and take regional resources, such as land and water availability, as well as local economies and culture into account. To start, the United States and other developed countries must encourage food companies to produce more sustainable food, including more plant-based options, and educate consumers and retailers about healthy and sustainable diets. Leaders must create policies that ensure all communities and children have access to affordable fruits and vegetables. And we all can do our part to reduce food waste, whether it's in our company cafeterias or our own refrigerators.

Technology also plays a part. Developed countries should support and incentivize emerging innovative technologies in plant-based foods, as well as carbon-neutral or low-carbon meat production.

Developing countries, on the other hand, face high levels of undernutrition, as well as limited access to healthy foods. Many nutrient-dense foods (such as fruits, vegetables and quality meats) are highly perishable, often making prices significantly higher than ultra-processed, nutrient-poor and calorie-dense foods. The high cost of nutrient-dense foods creates a significant barrier to healthy diets, as seen in urban Malawi and many other countries.

By promoting enhanced production of healthy and nutritious foods while also improving markets in low-

income countries, we can lower prices and increase accessibility of healthy and sustainable diets. Politicians can also tackle systemic inequalities by redirecting agricultural subsidies to promote healthy foods, as well as investing in infrastructure like rural roads, electricity, storage and cooling chain.

Change must happen at every level if we want to build a better food system. International participation and resource-sharing can spread regional solutions across countries. And working for change at the ground level — among individuals, communities, local and federal governments and private entities — can help fight hunger and food inequality firsthand.

Yes, our food system is broken, but not irrevocably so. The challenges are enormous, but by understanding the problem and potential solutions, we can effect critical changes in the ways we produce, consume and dispose of food.

Kathleen Rogers is President of Earth Day Network. Dr. Shenggen Fan is Director General of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and a Commissioner for the EAT - Lancet Commission.

Final Sturgis Rally Vehicle Counts

STURGIS, S.D. – Final vehicle traffic counts from the South Dakota Department of Transportation for vehicles entering Sturgis for the 79th annual Sturgis motorcycle rally Aug. 2-11, 2019, show a slight decrease over 2018.

Traffic counts at nine locations entering Sturgis for the 2019 Rally are as follows:






Friday, Aug. 2:	52,099 entering – up 5.4% from Friday last year
Saturday, Aug. 3:	59,572 entering – down -0.9% from Saturday last year
Sunday, Aug. 4:	55,551 entering – up 6.5% from Sunday last year
Monday, Aug. 5:	61,126 entering – up 2.9% from Monday last year
Tuesday, Aug. 6:	59,361 entering – down -1.5% from Tuesday last year
Wednesday, Aug. 7:	56,204 entering – down -7.3% from Wednesday last year
Thursday, Aug. 8:	51,540 entering – down -8.5% from Thursday last year (revised number)
Friday, Aug. 9:	45,369 entering – down -6.9% from Friday last year
Saturday, Aug. 10:	36,661 entering – down -2.3% from Saturday last year
Sunday, Aug. 11:	22,171 entering – up 3.6% from Sunday last year

10 Day total:

2019: 499,654	2018: 505,969	down -1.2% over last year
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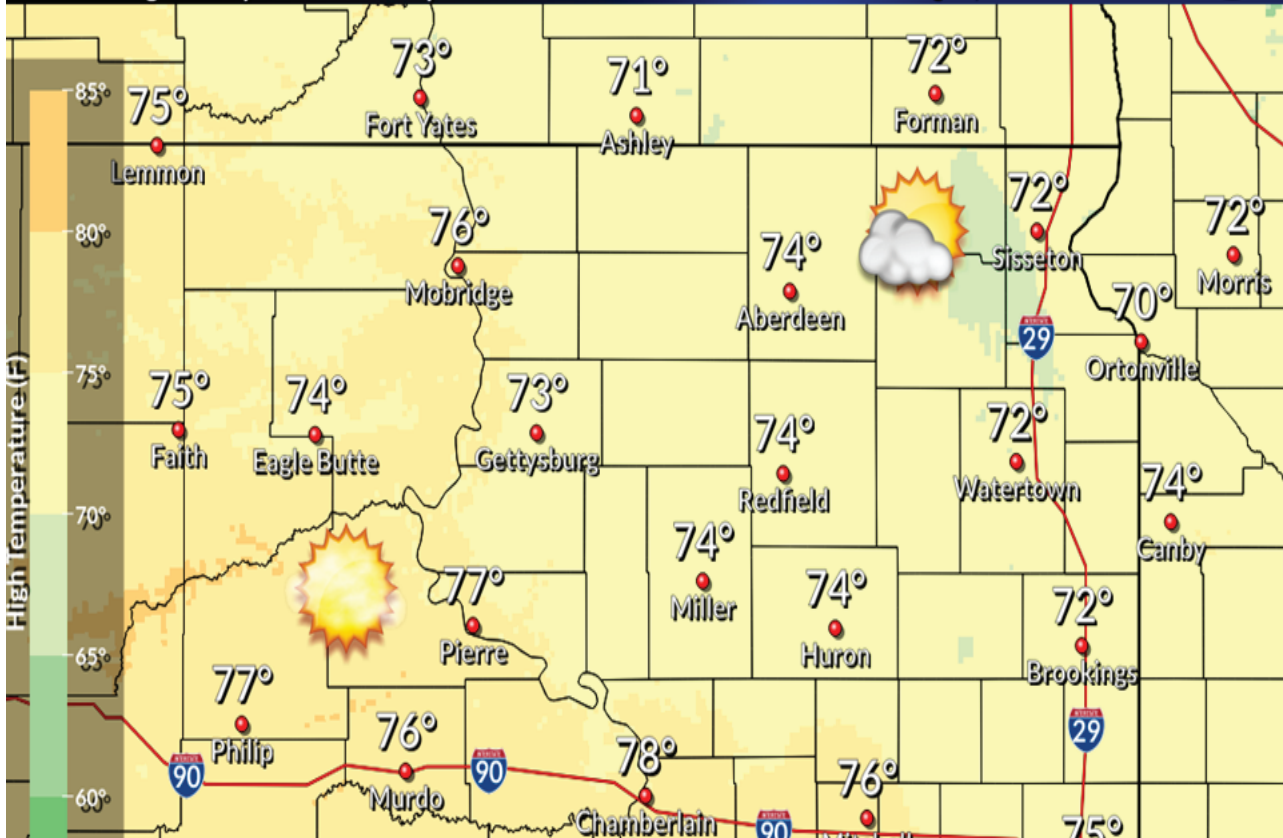
Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
				
Areas Drizzle then Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Mostly Sunny then Slight Chance T-storms
High: 72 °F	Low: 55 °F	High: 77 °F	Low: 57 °F	High: 77 °F

Light Winds and Pleasant Temps Today

Weather Forecast Office
Aberdeen, SD
Issued Aug 14, 2019 4:25 AM CDT



Clouds will gradually decrease today



Surface high pressure will be in place across the region today, bringing light winds and mostly dry conditions. There may be a few sprinkles or pockets of drizzle early this morning over northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota. Otherwise, clouds over eastern portions of the area will gradually decrease through the day, with perhaps a passing sprinkle or two. More significant showers and thunderstorms return to the forecast on Thursday.

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Today in Weather History

August 14, 1898: A deadly, estimated F4 tornado moved southeast from 12 miles northwest of Clear Lake, passing 7 miles north of town and ending about 4 miles west of Gary. Deaths occurred on two farms. One man was killed when the kitchen of his farm house was torn off. Five members of one family were killed along with two labors on another farm as every building was swept away. Buildings suffered massive damage on eight farms. This tornado was one of the earliest, estimated F4 tornadoes on record for South Dakota.

August 14, 2008: Several severe thunderstorms developed along a cold front across parts of central and northeast South Dakota. Large hail, some flash flooding, and a couple of weak tornadoes occurred with these storms. An EF0 tornado touched down briefly at the Brown County Fairgrounds, blowing over several tents and awnings. Another EF0 tornado touched down briefly in an open field causing no damage north of Stephan in Hyde County.

August 14, 2009: A warm front brought severe thunderstorms with large hail up to the size of golf balls along with sixty mph winds to parts of north central and northeast South Dakota. Also, very heavy rain fell across western Brown County with 2 to 4 inches of rain reported. This heavy rain brought flash flooding conditions. Numerous county roads and area fields were overrun with flowing water. The water level on Richmond Lake rose nearly a foot the next day after the event from high inflows. This rapid rise in the lake level resulted in numerous boat and fishing docks being submerged. Several boats were also trapped under lift canopies due to the high water. There were reports of several boats breaking free of their mooring and floating toward the spillway.

1953: Hurricane Barbara hits North Carolina as a Category 2 hurricane. Damage from the storm was relatively minor, totaling around \$1.3 million (1953 USD). Most of it occurred in North Carolina and Virginia from crop damage. The hurricane left several injuries, some traffic accidents, as well as seven fatalities in the eastern United States; at least two were due to electrocution from downed power lines. Offshore Atlantic Canada, a small boat sunk, killing its crew of two.

1969: Hurricane Camille, a powerful, deadly, and destructive hurricane formed just west of the Cayman Islands on this day. It rapidly intensified, and by the time it reached western Cuba the next day, it was a Category 3 hurricane. Hurricane Camille was spawned on August 5th by a tropical wave off the coast of Africa. The storm became a tropical disturbance four days later on the 9th and a tropical storm on the 14th with a 999-millibar pressure center and 55 mph surface winds.

1975: In London, England, a localized torrential downpour known as The Hampstead Storm, drops 6.72 inches of rain in 155 minutes at Hampstead Heath. One died in the storm. The water floods the Underground and forces sewer covers up.

1936 - Temperatures across much of eastern Kansas soared above 110 degrees. Kansas City MO hit an all-time record high of 113 degrees. It was one of sixteen consecutive days of 100 degree heat for Kansas City. During that summer there were a record 53 days of 100 degree heat, and during the three summer months Kansas City received just 1.12 inches of rain. (The Kansas City Weather Almanac)

1987 - Slow moving thunderstorms deluged northern and western suburbs of Chicago IL with torrential rains. O'Hare Airport reported 9.35 inches in 18 hours, easily exceeding the previous 24 hour record of 6.24 inches. Flooding over a five day period resulted in 221 million dollars damage. It was Chicago's worst flash flood event, particularly for northern and western sections of the city. Kennedy Expressway became a footpath for thousands of travelers to O'Hare Airport as roads were closed. The heavy rains swelled the Des Plaines River above flood stage, and many persons had to be rescued from stalled vehicles on flooded roads. (13th- 14th) (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data) (The Weather Channel)

1988 - Eighteen cities in the northeastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, and the water temperature at Lake Erie reached a record 80 degrees. Portland ME reported a record fourteen straight days of 80 degree weather. Milwaukee WI reported a record 34 days of 90 degree heat for the year. Afternoon and evening thunderstorms resulted in about fifty reports of severe weather in the northeastern U.S. One person was killed at Stockbridge MI when a tornado knocked a tree onto their camper. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

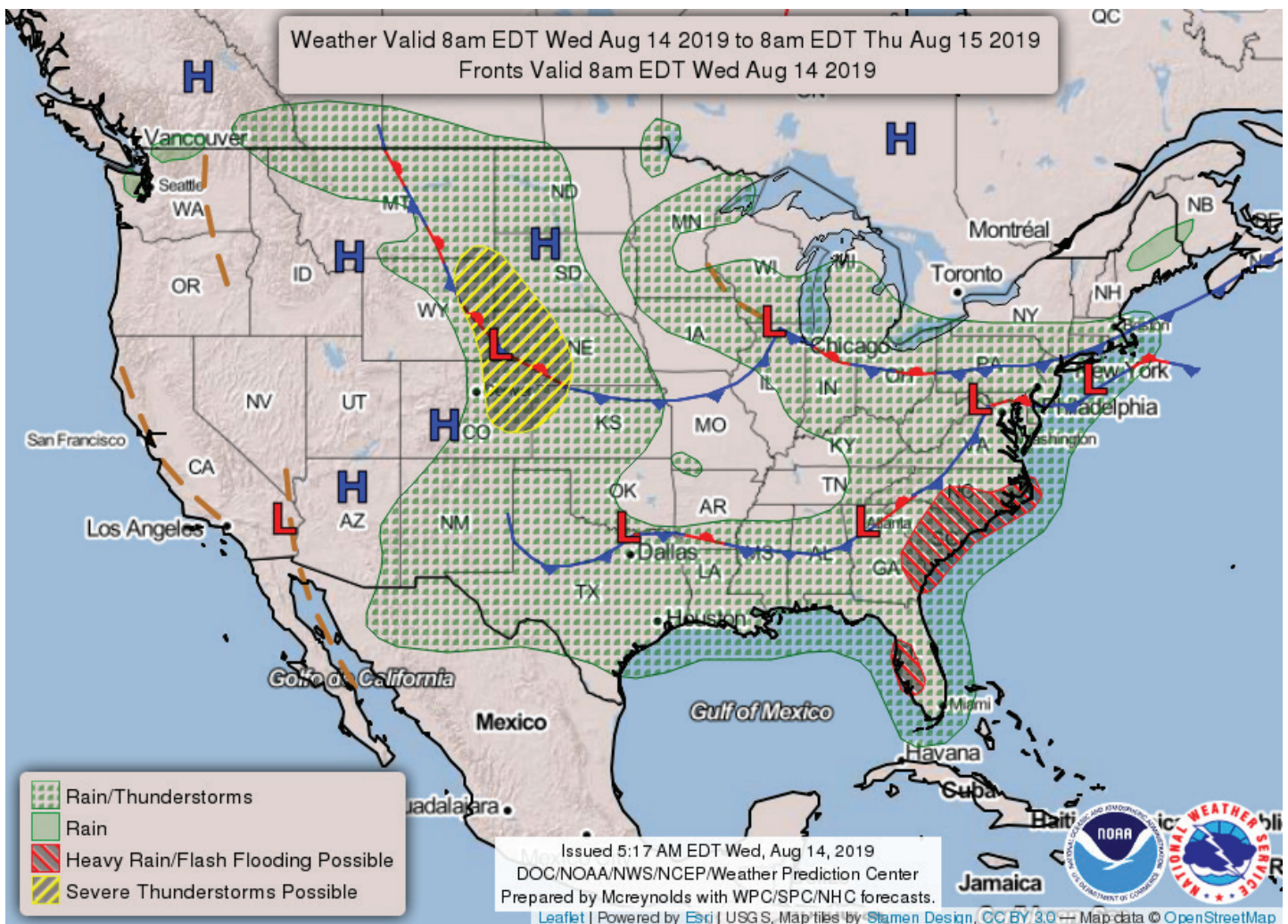
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 71 °F at 2:13 PM
Low Temp: 61 °F at 10:21 PM
Wind: 22 mph at 4:19 PM
Day Rain: 0.00

Record High: 104° in 1952
Record Low: 38° in 1968
Average High: 83°F
Average Low: 57°F
Average Precip in Aug.: 1.02
Precip to date in Aug.: 1.62
Average Precip to date: 14.88
Precip Year to Date: 18.21
Sunset Tonight: 8:43 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:34 a.m.



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FINANCES AND FRIENDSHIP

Is there a limit to friendship? It seems that there is.

"A man lacking in judgment strikes the hand of another in a pledge, and puts up security for his neighbor" is sound advice!

Only the hardest of hearts want to see anyone suffer from a lack of life's necessities. Most of us want to be thought of as having kind hearts and willing hands. Many have given more than their share of their goods and finances without thinking of the cost to them personally. There have been times that what once seemed wise, in the final analysis, was not wise, but stupid. So, we come to a verse that puts the idea of giving into the proper context for us.

It's foolish or a "man lacks judgment" for a person to place their name on a contract unless they know for certain the character and financial resources of the other person. So, there is indeed a limit to friendship.

Very often, and with good intentions and the desire to be "liked," we foolhardily shake hands or "make a pledge" for a person who cannot or will not honor their word. To enter into any agreement with any person for any reason must be given careful, prayerful thought. It is foolish to give our word and promise to fulfill any contract simply to be liked or considered a "friend."

This proverb addresses the idea of "certainty." If, for example, the person who is the primary individual on the contract becomes unable to fulfill his obligations, the burden of fulfilling the obligation falls on the "hand shaker." To do so may endanger the family of the co-signer as well as encourage the one wanting financial assistance to be extravagant and careless in spending. Being "nice" often results in being swindled. However, always be kind.

Prayer: We ask, Lord, that we may seek Your wisdom and guidance before making foolish choices to help others. May we be kind, cautious and prayerful. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 17:18 A man lacking in judgment strikes the hand of another in a pledge, and puts up security for his neighbor.

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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

News from the Associated Press

10 men arrested for enticing minors at Sturgis rally

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — Federal court records show 10 men were arrested in an undercover sting operation targeting people using the internet to meet minors for sex at the Sturgis motorcycle rally.

The sting conducted this month involved law enforcement posing as girls and a boy age 15. The Rapid City Journal says it was conducted by the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigations, federal Homeland Security Investigations and local agencies.

Nine men have pleaded not guilty to enticing a minor using the internet. A conviction carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison. A 10th man is charged as a convicted sex offender. Four of the men have been released from jail.

The operation targeted "online predators" by posting or creating profiles on Craigslist and dating and chatting apps.

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

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

07-27-31-34-51, Mega Ball: 5, Megaplier: 3

(seven, twenty-seven, thirty-one, thirty-four, fifty-one; Mega Ball: five; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$65 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$138 million

Police capture 4 suspects after shooting near Wounded Knee

WOUNDED KNEE, S.D. (AP) — Police from the Oglala Sioux Tribe have captured four suspects following a shooting near Wounded Knee.

KOTA-TV reports the teens were captured after citizens helped police find them at a home in the Wounded Knee housing area.

Tribal police chief Robert Ecoffey says an officer responded to a call of shots fired on Tuesday morning. When the officer tried to stop the suspects, they took off in a stolen car.

Ecoffey says the officer came across the car in a ravine, and when he got out of his patrol car and approached the suspects, a gun was fired at him but the officer was not hit.

No one was hurt in the earlier shooting.

This story corrects that gun was fired at officer, not at patrol car, and deletes reference to high-powered rifle.

Man pleads not guilty to threatening to kill fed prosecutor

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A 36-year-old man has pleaded not guilty to charges he threatened to kill a federal prosecutor and burn down a South Dakota courthouse during a courtroom outburst.

Steven Shane McCann entered his plea Tuesday in federal court in Rapid City. McCann faces one count of threatening to murder a federal law enforcement officer and two counts of contempt.

The Rapid City Journal reports McCann was arrested in July in Colorado. He is accused of threatening

to kill Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric Kelderman in December when McCann was sentenced for violating a condition of his supervised release.

McCann also is accused of yelling in front of a federal judge and saying, "When I get out, I'm going to burn this place to the ground" as he was escorted from the courtroom.

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

Colorado man dies from Sturgis rally motorcycle crash

JOHNSON SIDING, S.D. (AP) — A Colorado man is the third motorcyclist to die from injuries suffered during this year's Sturgis motorcycle rally in South Dakota.

Officials say 67-year-old Tony Weber of Yuma, Colorado, crashed Friday near Johnson Siding. Weber lost control of his motorcycle while approaching a bridge, slid into a ditch and struck a barbed wire fence.

The South Dakota Department of Public Safety says Weber died at a Rapid City hospital on Sunday. He was not wearing a helmet.

The 10-day rally wrapped up Sunday. Four people died in crashes at last year's rally. Another person died at this year's rally from a suspected case of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Sturgis vehicle traffic down slightly in 2019

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — Traffic for the annual Sturgis motorcycle rally was down slightly this year.

The South Dakota Department of Transportation says just under 500,000 vehicles entered Sturgis during the 10-day rally that ended Sunday. That's down 1% from the 2018 tally of more than 505,000 vehicles.

Thursday saw the biggest drop, with 51,540 vehicles entering the rally, a decrease of 8.5% percent from Thursday last year.

The first Sunday of the rally recorded 55,551 vehicles entering, a jump of 6.5% from the same day a year ago.

Traffic was counted at nine locations. The full report will be available next week at the SDDOT website.

Unified Dems press Trump, GOP on curbing guns

By ALAN FRAM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats pressed Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell on Tuesday to approve House-passed legislation expanding background checks and to take other steps curbing guns, in an offensive fueled by public outrage over this month's mass killings in Texas and Ohio.

It seemed unlikely that Democrats' moves would have much impact on top Republicans. While President Donald Trump and McConnell have expressed a new openness to unspecified gun curbs following the back-to-back mass shootings in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio, their decisions will reflect the sentiment of fellow Republicans, not predictable pressure tactics by Democrats.

Still, Democrats' moves underscore their focus on an issue that largely unites them — responding to the massacres that killed 31 people — and away from the party's hand-wringing over whether to impeach Trump, a question that deeply divides Democrats.

McConnell, R-Ky., came under the sharpest attacks at a news conference held by No. 2 House Democratic leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., five other House Democrats and gun activists and survivors of shootings.

Rep. Don Beyer, D-Va., said McConnell hadn't moved gun curb legislation because "he's waiting for the outrage to die down, the headlines to change, the people to turn the page and think about something else." Congress is out of town on recess until a week after Labor Day.

Hoyer resorted to reading lyrics from "Blowin' in the Wind," Bob Dylan's 1962 song. "How many deaths will it take till he knows that too many people have died," Hoyer said, pausing for effect.

Rep. Anthony Brown, D-Md., cited statistics on the thousands of gun fatalities annually and said, "In the face of this epidemic, Mitch McConnell is doing nothing."

Democrats focused on McConnell's failure to let the Senate consider a measure the House approved in February. It would require background checks for most private sales, including online and gun show purchases of firearms, not just for transactions involving registered gun dealers.

The White House has threatened that Trump would veto that bill, which the Democratic-led House approved largely along party lines. In an interview last week with Louisville, Kentucky, radio station WHAS-AM, McConnell pointedly noted that for a proposal to become law, it must pass the House and Senate "and it has to be signed by President Trump."

Trump told reporters in New Jersey on Tuesday that he's "convinced that Mitch wants to do something" on guns. He added, "He wants to do background checks and I do too."

Trump also said he'd had "a very good conversation" with Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., a strong gun control advocate.

Trump provided no specifics and it was unclear how tough a background check measure Republicans might consider. McConnell said earlier this month that background checks and "red flags" — bills helping authorities remove guns from unstable people — would "probably lead the discussion."

"What we can't do is fail to pass something," McConnell said. "What I want to see here is an outcome."

Hoyer said the Democratic-run House Judiciary Committee will consider gun control legislation, though he stopped short of saying they would hold votes. He said the panel could discuss measures banning assault weapons and high-capacity magazines and making it easier for authorities to confiscate guns from unstable people.

The committee could return from recess in early September to consider gun measures, according to people familiar with the panel's plans who weren't authorized to speak on the record.

Separately, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer called on Trump to divert \$5 billion he's wanted to build his wall along the southern border to investigating domestic terrorism and conducting research on gun violence.

"The dual scourges of gun violence and violent white supremacist extremism in this country are a national security threat plain and simple, and it's time the Trump administration and Republicans in Congress starting treating them as such," Schumer, D-N.Y., said in a statement.

Patrick Crusius, 21, accused of the El Paso shootings, has told authorities he was targeting Mexicans.

Schumer's plea appeared to largely be an attempt to frame the issue politically, and it seemed highly unlikely Trump will heed it.

AP reporter Mary Clare Jalonick and congressional correspondent Lisa Mascaro contributed.

Story has been corrected to reflect that Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer is the Senate minority leader, not the majority leader.

No charges in raid of CBD oil containing THC

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Prosecutors in Pennington County have declined to issue charges resulting from a police raid of a health food store and the seizure of hemp-derived CBD oil which was found to contain THC, the compound in marijuana that produces a high sensation.

Police and sheriff's deputies raided Staple and Spice Market in Rapid City May 23 and seized 16 individual or bundled packages of CBD oil products worth about \$3,000. The raid was the result of an earlier purchase by a Rapid City police officer who had a CBD product tested and found it was positive for THC, according to the Rapid City Journal.

Pennington County State's Attorney Mark Vargo said he chose not to charge the owner whose products came from Plus CBD Oil, a California manufacturer.

"In order to prosecute somebody for the distribution of THC, which is a schedule 1 (drug), we would have to prove that they did so knowingly. And when they're relying on manufacturer representations, which turn out to be wrong, it would be kind of hard to prove that they did so knowingly," Vargo said Monday.

"I didn't do anything wrong," store owner Carol Pugh said.

Vargo recently sent a letter to stores that sell or are interested in selling CBD products urging caution in sourcing CBD manufacturers.

"Significantly, some of the tests show that the products, which claim to have no THC, not only have THC acid but also have the psychoactive form of THC," Vargo wrote, adding that THC is illegal in South Dakota in any quantity or concentration.

"Given the lack of quality control of products that are not FDA approved, I would again urge caution in your sourcing of products claiming to be CBD. Third party testing of any new brands would be distinctly advisable," Vargo told the businesses.

CBD most often comes from a cannabis plant known as hemp, which is defined by the U.S. government as having less than 0.3% THC, the compound that causes marijuana's mind-altering effect. CBD doesn't produce that high, but fans of the products claim benefits including relief for pain and anxiety.

Plus CBD Oil said on its website that its products contain less than 0.3%, but that anyone who takes a drug test should not use their products since they're not completely THC free.

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

Hit-and-run driver injures teen in Lincoln County

CANTON, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a hit-and-run driver struck a teenage girl along the interstate in Lincoln County, leaving her with life-threatening injuries.

Sheriff's officials say the 15-year-old girl was either walking or standing along the northbound lanes of Interstate 29 when she was struck near the Tea-Harrisburg exit.

A passer-by saw the injured girl about 3 a.m. Monday and called authorities. Sheriff Steve Swenson says he doesn't know when the teen was hit.

The Argus Leader reports investigators found some pieces of evidence at the scene.

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

2 fishermen rescue child from Big Sioux River

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police credit two fishermen with saving a child who fell into a river at a Sioux Falls park.

Authorities say several children were walking along the rocks near a pedestrian bridge in Falls Park Sunday night when one of them slipped and fell into the Big Sioux River.

Lt. Dave McIntire tells the Argus Leader a fisherman who spotted the child jumped into the water, but the two began struggling in the river, prompting a second fisherman to jump in and rescue both before first responders arrived.

The child, whose age was not given, was taken to the hospital to be checked out, while the fishermen declined medical treatment.

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

Malaysia conducts autopsy to find cause of death of UK teen

SEREMBAN, Malaysia (AP) — Malaysian doctors conducted an autopsy Wednesday to determine the cause of death of a 15-year-old London teen whose naked body was found nine days after she mysteriously disappeared from a nature resort.

Nora Anne Quoirin's body was discovered Tuesday beside a small stream about 2.5 kilometers (1.6 miles) from the Dusun eco-resort in southern Negeri Sembilan state, where she went missing on Aug. 4. The body was airlifted to a hospital, where she was positively identified by her parents.

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Her family on Wednesday thanked the rescue team of more than 350 people who helped search for the girl, who has learning and physical disabilities.

"Nóra is at the heart of our family. She is the truest, most precious girl and we love her infinitely. The cruelty of her being taken away is unbearable. Our hearts are broken," the family said in a brief statement issued by the Lucie Blackman Trust, a charity that helps families of Britons in crisis overseas.

"We will always love our Nóra," they said.

Police said a medical team including a senior pathologist from Kuala Lumpur conducted a post-mortem Wednesday to find out how she died. Local media reported that a forensic team also went back to the area where the body was found to comb for evidence. Police didn't say how long the body had been there or why rescuers apparently missed it earlier in the search operation.

Police from Ireland, France and the U.K. are in Malaysia 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.

The Paris prosecutor's office said Wednesday that it has opened a preliminary investigation into the girl's death, on potential charges of kidnapping and sequestration. The prosecutor's office wouldn't elaborate further. French authorities often open such investigations when French citizens are victims or otherwise involved in suspected crimes abroad.

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 climbed out through a window in the living room of the family's resort cottage. They listed her as a missing person but said the investigation included possible criminal aspects. The girl's family has said she isn't independent and wouldn't wander off alone, and was likely to have been abducted.

Sankara Nair, a Malaysian lawyer hired by the family, said Wednesday that the family hopes police will investigate possible foul play in her death. If the autopsy isn't able to determine how she died, he said the government could hold an inquest later on to identify the cause of death.

Trump official: Statue of Liberty poem is about Europeans

By ZEKE MILLER and ASHLEY THOMAS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A top Trump administration official says that the famous inscription on the Statue of Liberty welcoming immigrants into the country is about "people coming from Europe" and that America is looking to receive migrants "who can stand on their own two feet."

The comments on Tuesday from Ken Cuccinelli, the acting director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, came a day after the Trump administration announced it would seek to deny green cards to migrants who seek Medicaid, food stamps, housing vouchers or other forms of public assistance. The move, and Cuccinelli's defense, prompted an outcry from Democrats and immigration advocates who said the policy would favor wealthier immigrants and disadvantage those from poorer countries in Latin America and Africa.

"This administration finally admitted what we've known all along: They think the Statue of Liberty only applies to white people," tweeted former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke, a Democratic presidential candidate.

The administration's proposed policy shift comes as President Donald Trump is leaning more heavily into the restrictive immigration policies that have energized his core supporters and were central to his 2016 victory. He has also spoken disparagingly about immigration from majority black and Hispanic countries, including calling Mexican immigrants rapists and criminals when he launched his 2016 campaign. Last year, he privately branded Central American and African nations as "shithole" countries and he suggested the U.S. take in more immigrants from European countries like predominantly white Norway.

Cuccinelli said in an interview with CNN on Tuesday night that the Emma Lazarus poem emblazoned on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty referred to "people coming from Europe where they had class based societies where people were considered wretched if they weren't in the right class."

Lazarus' poem, written in 1883 to raise money to construct the Statue of Liberty's pedestal and cast in bronze beneath the monument in 1903, served as a beacon to millions of immigrants who crossed past

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as they first entered the U.S. in New York Harbor. It reads, "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore."

Cuccinelli was asked earlier Tuesday on NPR whether the words "give me your tired, your poor" were part of the American ethos. Cuccinelli responded: "They certainly are. Give me your tired and your poor who can stand on their own two feet and who will not become a public charge."

A hard-line conservative from Virginia, Cuccinelli was a failed Republican candidate for governor in 2013 after serving as the state's attorney general. He backed Republican Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas for president in 2016 and for a time was a harsh critic of Trump.

He is one of a slew of immigration hardliners brought in by Trump to implement the president's policies. He was appointed to the post in June in a temporary capacity, which doesn't require Senate confirmation.

Trump, asked Tuesday about Cuccinelli's comments on NPR, appeared to back him up.

"I don't think it's fair to have the American taxpayer paying for people to come into the United States," Trump told reporters before boarding Air Force One for Pennsylvania. "I think we're doing it right."

Immigrant rights groups strongly criticized the Trump administration's new rules for immigrants receiving public assistance, warning that the changes would scare immigrants away from asking for needed help. And they voiced concern that officials were being given too much authority to decide whether someone is likely to need public assistance in the future.

Another Democratic presidential candidate, Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, also condemned Cuccinelli's comments.

"Our values are etched in stone on the Statue of Liberty. They will not be replaced," she tweeted. "And I will fight for those values and for our immigrant communities."

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. FALLOUT FOR PLACIDO DOMINGO AFTER MISCONDUCT ACCUSATIONS

Two music companies cancel appearances by the opera legend and the Los Angeles Opera says it will launch a probe after the AP revealed years of sexual harassment allegations.

2. TRUMP OFFICIAL: STATUE OF LIBERTY POEM REFERS TO EUROPEANS

The acting director of Citizenship and Immigration Services says that the inscription on the Statue of Liberty welcoming immigrants to the U.S. is about "people coming from Europe."

3. TRUMP AMPLIFIES CONSPIRACY THEORIES

The U.S. president has a long history of spreading and publicly elevating lies, falsehoods and conspiracy theories.

4. FLIGHTS RESUME AT HONG KONG'S AIRPORT

Pro-democracy protesters are apologizing to the public after they disrupted flights for two consecutive days at one of the world's busiest airports — eruptions of violence between police and protesters were broadcast around the globe.

5. FLURRY OF SUITS EMERGE AS DOOR OPENS FOR OLD ABUSE CLAIMS

The Catholic Church, the Boy Scouts, public school districts and hospitals are among the targets as New York opens a window for civil molestation suits.

6. JORDAN STOPS FILM THAT REFERS TO HISTORICAL JEWISH PRESENCE

Amman orders halt to the filming of a fictional antiquities caper after uproar over Jewish history plot.

7. AMERICAN RAPPER TO LEARN FATE

A Swedish court will rule whether A\$AP Rocky is guilty of assault for his role in a June 30 street brawl in Stockholm.

8. ALLEGED MOSQUE SHOOTER SENDS LETTER POSTED ON 4CHAN

New Zealand officials admit they made a mistake by allowing Brenton Tarrant to send a hand-written letter from prison that was then posted on a website notorious for white supremacists' views.

9. WHICH SPECIES WOULD SUFFER WITHOUT PROTECTION

Monarch butterflies are among the struggling species that will be harder to protect as the Trump administration moves to weaken the Endangered Species Act.

10. WHO'S BACK IN THE NFL

Jon Kitna returns to the league as quarterbacks coach for one of his former teams in the Dallas Cowboys, with Dak Prescott as his prized pupil.

Flights restart at Hong Kong airport as protesters apologize

By VINCENT THIAN and YANAN WANG Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Flights resumed at Hong Kong's airport Wednesday after two days of disruptions marked by outbursts of violence that highlight the hardening positions of pro-democracy protesters and the authorities in the semi-autonomous Chinese city.

About three dozen protesters remained camped in the airport's arrivals area a day after a mass demonstration and frenzied mob violence forced more than 100 flight cancellations. Additional identification checks were in place, but check-in counters were open and flights appeared to be operating normally.

Protesters spread pamphlets and posters across the floor in a section of the terminal but were not impeding travelers. Online, they also circulated letters and promotional materials apologizing to travelers and the general public for inconveniences during the past five days of airport occupations.

"It is not our intention to cause delays to your travels and we do not want to cause inconvenience to you," said an emailed statement from a group of protesters. "We ask for your understanding and forgiveness as young people in Hong Kong continue to fight for freedom and democracy."

The airport's management said it had obtained "an interim injunction to restrain persons from unlawfully and willfully obstructing or interfering" with airport operations. It said an area of the airport had been set aside for demonstrations, but no protests would be allowed outside the designated area.

The airport had closed check-in for remaining flights late Tuesday afternoon as protesters swarmed the terminal and blocked access to immigration for departing passengers. Those cancellations were in addition to 200 flights canceled on Monday.

Hong Kong police said they arrested five people during clashes with pro-democracy protesters at the airport Tuesday night.

Assistant Commissioner of Police Operations Mak Chin-ho said the men, aged between 17 and 28, were arrested for illegal assembly. Two were also charged with assaulting a police officer and possessing offensive weapons as riot police sought to clear the terminal.

More than 700 protesters have been arrested in total since early June, mostly men in their 20s and 30s, but also including women, teenagers and septuagenarians.

Mak gave no further details, but said additional suspects were expected to be arrested, including those who assaulted an officer after stripping him of his baton and pepper spray, prompting him to draw his gun to fend them off.

Hong Kong law permits life imprisonment for those who commit violent acts or acts that might interfere with flight safety at an airport.

More than 7 million travelers pass through Hong Kong's airport each year, making it "not an appropriate place of protest," Mak said.

"Hong Kong police have always facilitated peaceful and orderly protests over the years, but the extremely radical and violent acts have certainly crossed the line and are to be most severely condemned," he said. "The police pledge to all citizens of Hong Kong that we will take steps to bring all culprits to justice."

Hong Kong airline Cathay Pacific said in a statement it had canceled 272 flights over the past two days, affecting more than 55,000 passengers, while 622 departures and arrivals went ahead.

The airport disruptions have escalated 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.

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While Hong Kong's crucial travel industry suffers major losses, the city's reputation as a well-regulated center for finance is also taking a hit. Some 21 countries and regions have issued travel safety alerts for their citizens traveling to Hong Kong, saying protests have become more violent and unpredictable.

The demonstrators are demanding Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam step down and scrap proposed legislation under which some suspects could be sent to mainland China, where critics say they could face torture and unfair or politically charged trials.

Lam has rejected calls for dialogue, saying Tuesday the protesters were threatening to push their home into an "abyss."

In a statement Wednesday, the Chinese Cabinet's liaison office in Hong Kong said the protesters had "entirely ruptured legal and moral bottom lines" and would face swift and severe repercussions under Hong Kong's legal system.

"Their behavior shows extreme contempt for the law, seriously damages Hong Kong's international image and deeply hurts the feelings of the broad masses of their mainland compatriots," the statement said.

Most of the protesters left the airport Tuesday after officers armed with pepper spray and swinging batons tried to enter the terminal, fighting with demonstrators who barricaded entrances with luggage carts. Riot police clashed briefly with the demonstrators, leading to several injuries and prompting at least one officer to draw a handgun on his assailants.

The burst of violence included protesters beating up at least two men they suspected of being undercover Chinese agents. Airport security appeared unable to control the crowd, and paramedics later took both men away. Police have acknowledged using "decoy" officers, and some protesters over the weekend were seen being arrested by men dressed like demonstrators — in black and wearing face masks.

Hu Xijin, editor-in-chief of the Global Times, identified one of the men as a journalist at the nationalistic Chinese tabloid.

"Fu Guohao, reporter of GT website is being seized by demonstrators at HK airport," Hu wrote on his Twitter account. "I affirm this man being tied in this video is the reporter himself. He has no other task except for reporting."

Protesters on Wednesday apologized that some of them had become "easily agitated and over-reacted." On posters, the demonstrators said they have been "riddled with paranoia and rage" after discovering undercover police officers in their ranks.

Earlier this week, the central government in Beijing issued an ominous characterization of the protest movement as something approaching "terrorism" — a label it routinely applies to nonviolent protests of government policies on the environment or in minority regions such as Xinjiang and Tibet.

President Donald Trump tweeted that U.S. intelligence believes that the Chinese government is moving troops to its border with Hong Kong and that, "Everyone should be calm and safe!"

While China has yet to threaten using the army — as it did against pro-democracy protesters in Beijing in 1989 — recent police exercises across Hong Kong's border with mainland China were a sign of its ability to crush the demonstrations, even at a cost to Hong Kong's reputation as a safe haven for business and international exchange.

Images on the internet showed armored personnel carriers belonging to the People's Armed Police driving in a convoy Monday toward the site of the exercises.

Associated Press video journalist Katie Tam contributed to this report.

Flurry of suits emerge as NY opens door to old abuse claims

By DAVID KLEPPER Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — It was the early 1950s and Peter Vajda was a little boy attending a Catholic boarding school in the Bronx when he says a religious brother molested him.

The brother is likely long dead, but the church survives. Just after midnight Wednesday morning, Vajda, now 75, filed a civil lawsuit naming the Archdiocese of New York as a defendant. Justice, he says, may

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have been delayed but he won't let it be denied.

"Now it's their turn. Now it's their time," he told The Associated Press Monday. "And I want them to get everything they deserve in the way of punishment."

Wednesday marked the start of a one-year litigation window in New York allowing people to file civil lawsuits that had previously been barred by the state's statute of limitations, which was one of the nation's most restrictive before lawmakers relaxed it this year.

Hundreds, likely thousands of lawsuits were expected to be filed on the first day. The Catholic Church, the Boy Scouts of America, public school districts and possibly even deceased financier Jeffrey Epstein are among the likely targets.

"This is a momentous time for courageous survivors who have waited so long for justice in New York," said Jeff Anderson, an attorney whose firm, New York-based Jeff Anderson & Associates, plans to file hundreds of civil molestation lawsuits Wednesday on behalf of clients.

Institutions that have long cared for children — such as the Catholic Church and the Boy Scouts, as well as private and public schools and hospitals — are girding for what could be a devastating financial blow. A similar law passed in 2002 in California resulted in Catholic dioceses there paying \$1.2 billion in legal settlements.

A compensation fund for sex abuse victims set up by the New York Archdiocese in 2016 has paid out \$65 million to 323 victims, the archdiocese says. Those victims have waived their right to file lawsuits. The archdiocese is also suing more than two dozen insurance companies in an effort to compel them to cover abuse claims, anticipating that insurers won't pay the numerous claims filed during the litigation window.

"We can't predict what the numbers might be. We have been preparing," said Joseph Zwilling, a spokesman for the archdiocese, which is the nation's second largest after Los Angeles.

The law creating the litigation window — the Child Victims Act — passed earlier this year following more than a decade of debate in Albany. The law also extends the statute of limitations for molestation going forward, giving new victims until age 55 to file lawsuits and until age 28 to seek criminal charges, compared to 23 under the old statute.

The one-year litigation window for past claims that was barred by the statute of limitations had been the sticking point to getting the legislation approved. Major institutions such as the Catholic Church argued against it, warning that it could cause catastrophic financial harm to any organization that cares for children.

The church dropped its opposition to the bill this year, after Democrats won control of the state Senate from Republican lawmakers who had been blocking the bill from receiving a vote. With Democrats in charge of the chamber, the bill passed unanimously.

Many of the lawsuits are likely to name individuals, or their estates. An attorney representing several women who say they were sexually abused by Epstein as young girls said they will file a lawsuit against Epstein's estate. The well-connected financier was pronounced dead of apparent suicide Saturday while awaiting trial in New York.

Advocates, mental health experts and victims themselves say it often takes years for people who were molested as children to speak out about their trauma, even to a loved one. Sometimes victims say they didn't think they'd be believed if they accused their priest, teacher, scoutmaster or another respected adult. Sometimes they say they felt some responsibility for the abuse, even though they were children at the time. Others say the shame, embarrassment and fear were simply too much to overcome.

"We only get one childhood, one adolescence," said Jack Traub, a 55-year-old Staten Island attorney who says he was molested by a doctor at Rockefeller University 45 years ago. He said that as a result of the trauma, he's had trouble forming and maintaining normal relationships all his life. "I can't go back. It is what it is."

Traub is one of 45 plaintiffs in the suit filed against Rockefeller University just minutes after the window opened by the Seattle-based firm of Pfau Cochran Vertetis Amala, which also filed cases against the Boy Scouts and the Catholic Church.

The doctor, Reginald Archibald, has been accused of molesting hundreds of child patients over a 30-year

period. He died in 2007. Rockefeller contacted former patients, offered free counseling and conducted an internal investigation that found Archibald "engaged in acts of sexual misconduct and sexual abuse toward many of his patients."

"Rockefeller University is committed to acting responsibly and working constructively with former patients of Dr. Archibald," the hospital said in a statement. "We profoundly apologize to his patients who experienced pain and suffering as a result of his reprehensible conduct."

LA Opera to investigate Placido Domingo over accusations

By JOCELYN GECKER Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Two music companies canceled appearances by Placido Domingo and the Los Angeles Opera said Tuesday it would launch an investigation in response to an Associated Press story in which numerous women accused the opera legend of sexual harassment and inappropriate behavior spanning decades.

Domingo has been general director of the LA Opera since 2003 and previously served as the company's artistic director, jobs that gave him the power to cast roles and — his accusers say — make, or break, careers.

Some of the women told the AP that Domingo used his power at the LA company and elsewhere to try to pressure them into sexual relationships, with several saying that he dangled jobs and then sometimes punished them professionally if they refused his advances.

On Tuesday, the Philadelphia Orchestra and San Francisco Opera announced they would cancel upcoming performances featuring the star, regarded as one of the greatest opera singers of all time.

New York's Metropolitan Opera said it would await the results of LA Opera's investigation "before making any final decisions about Mr. Domingo's future at the Met," where he is scheduled to appear next month.

The 78-year-old Domingo is one of the industry's most powerful figures and more than three dozen people in the opera world told the AP that his behavior has long been an open secret.

The accusers who spoke to the AP — all but one of whom requested anonymity — said they had feared speaking out previously would kill their careers due to his immense standing.

Domingo issued a statement to the AP calling the allegations "deeply troubling and, as presented inaccurate," adding "I believed that all of my interactions and relationships were always welcomed and consensual."

The LA Opera said it would hire outside counsel to investigate the "concerning allegations" against Domingo.

"Placido Domingo has been a dynamic creative force in the life of LA opera and the artistic culture of Los Angeles for more than three decades," the company said in a statement. "Nevertheless, we are committed to doing everything we can to foster a professional and collaborative environment where all our employees and artists feel equally comfortable, valued and respected."

Three women quoted in the story detailed encounters that they said occurred while working with Domingo at LA Opera, including one woman who told the AP that he stuck his hand down her skirt after urging her to come sing an aria for him at his apartment.

In canceling its invitation for Domingo to sing at its Sept. 18 opening gala, the Philadelphia Orchestra issued a statement saying: "We are committed to providing a safe, supportive, respectful, and appropriate environment for the orchestra and staff, for collaborating artists and composers, and for our audiences and communities."

The San Francisco Opera said it would scrub a sold-out Oct. 6 concert featuring Domingo, which had been to mark his 50th anniversary with the company. It was promoted as a "special one performance-only event" with "one of the most influential singing actors in the history of opera" and was one of several gala events this year to celebrate his legendary career.

The Met held a black-tie dinner in April for Domingo, where seats started at \$2,500. He is scheduled to play the lead of "Macbeth" in three Met shows in September and October.

"We take accusations of sexual harassment and abuse of power with extreme seriousness," the opera

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house said in a statement, noting that "Mr. Domingo has never been in a position to influence casting decisions for anyone other than himself" at the Met.

At the Salzburg Festival in Austria, where Domingo is scheduled to appear Aug. 31 — his next scheduled performance — festival president Helga Rabl-Stadler said organizers agreed he should appear as planned.

"I have known Placido Domingo for more than 25 years," Rabl-Stadler said in a statement. "In addition to his artistic competence, I was impressed from the very beginning by his appreciative treatment of all festival employees."

"I would find it factually wrong and morally irresponsible to make irreversible judgments at this point," she said.

Domingo served as artistic director for the Washington Opera from 1996-2003 and as the company's general director from 2003 to 2011, during which time its name was changed to Washington National Opera. In 2011, the company merged with the Kennedy Center.

In a joint statement to AP, the institutions said the allegations against Domingo predated the merger.

"The Kennedy Center did not receive any documented complaints about Mr. Domingo's behavior prior to WNO's affiliation with the Kennedy Center, and we have not received any since then," the statement said, adding that the company has "zero tolerance policies with regard to harassment, discrimination or abuse of any kind, and we take allegations of this nature very seriously."

Retired mezzo-soprano Patricia Wulf, the sole accuser to allow her name to be used, told the AP that Domingo behaved inappropriately with her when she worked at the Washington Opera.

Even after she repeatedly rebuffed his advances, she said, his persistence continued and he would often knock on her dressing room door, causing her to fear emerging if he was in the hallway.

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.

Too fearful to complain about Domingo at the time, Wulf said she spoke out now to end the culture of silence about abuse in the opera world.

"I'm stepping forward because I hope that it can help other women come forward, or be strong enough to say no," she said.

President-elect says Guatemala can't do migrant deal with US

By SONIA PEREZ D. Associated Press

GUATEMALA CITY (AP) — A Guatemalan immigration agreement signed with the Trump administration won't work because the Central American nation does not have the resources, the country's new president-elect says.

Alejandro Giammattei, a conservative who was chosen overwhelmingly by voters in a weekend runoff election, said in an interview with The Associated Press on Tuesday that Guatemala is too poor to tend to its own people, let alone those from other countries.

The agreement signed in July by the outgoing administration of President Jimmy Morales would require migrants from other countries who cross into Guatemala to apply for asylum here rather than in the U.S.

"In order to be a safe country, one has to be certified as such by an international body, and I do not think Guatemala fulfills the requirements to be a third safe country. That definition doesn't fit us," said Giammattei, a 63-year-old doctor.

"If we do not have the capacity for our own people, just imagine other people."

Guatemalans make up one of the largest groups emigrating from Central America because of poverty, unemployment and crime. Critics say it is hard to see how the country could offer a safe haven to migrants from other nations.

The agreement signed by the current Morales government is aimed at reducing the number of asylum seekers arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border. U.S. President Donald Trump's administration pressured Guatemala to sign the deal by threatening to punish Guatemala with taxes.

Giammattei, who takes office Jan. 14, said that annexes to the agreement are still being negotiated with

the United States and that he would ask Morales to include members of his transition team in those talks. The president-elect also noted that the agreement would have to be ratified by the congresses of both nations to go into force. There has been widespread criticism of the deal in Guatemala.

Giammattei pledged to recognize the importance of Guatemalan migrants living in the United States by creating a Washington-based Cabinet-level position to attend to migrant affairs.

"It is about time we had a government that cared for the people," he said. "It is these people (migrants) who are supporting us" with the remittance money they send back to relatives in Guatemala, he added.

"I do not think physical walls, or walls of weapons, can stop migration," Giammattei said. "I think what can stop migration are walls of opportunities."

On another matter, the incoming leader distanced himself from Morales' unpopular decision to not renew the mandate of the U.N.-sponsored anti-corruption commission that has played a key role in sending high-ranking politicians, including ex-presidents, to jail. But Giammattei also indicated he wouldn't work to bring back the commission, known as CICIG.

"The mandate has been terminated; the United Nations accepted that," he said.

He said he has no legal capacity or any other authority to ask Morales to renew the commission. "The CICIG is disappearing and history will judge whether Morales' decision was right or not," he said.

California officer likely unaware of killer's criminal past

By STEFANIE DAZIO Associated Press

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (AP) — The man who suddenly grabbed a rifle and opened fire during a traffic stop just off a Southern California freeway had a long and violent criminal history that the police officer he killed most likely knew nothing about as he filled out paperwork alongside the road.

California Highway Patrol Officer Andre Moye, Jr., was getting ready to impound Aaron Luther's pickup truck when Luther, who was outside the vehicle and not restrained, reached inside, pulled out a rifle and started shooting on an overpass to the 215 Freeway in Riverside.

Moye, 34, was fatally wounded but called for help and two responding officers were shot in the legs while frightened motorists ducked for cover from dozens of flying bullets.

Public records showing a person's criminal history aren't typically something an officer has access to during a traffic stop. CHP Inland Division Chief Bill Dance said it's not clear whether Moye asked a dispatcher to seek any additional information on Luther, 49, who was convicted of attempted murder in 1994 and also had convictions for assault, domestic violence, unlawful possession of a firearm and battery.

John Aresta, police chief in Malverne, New York, and a past president of the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police, said an officer would have almost no way of knowing a driver's criminal history during a traffic stop. When an officer runs a vehicle's license plate and a driver's license, the reports will usually come back listing the registered owner, if it's been reported stolen and if the license has been suspended or revoked. Active warrants may also be available, he said.

"It's not going to come up with a criminal history and it's not going to come with an asterisk saying 'bad guy,'" Aresta said.

Luther did have a bench warrant dating from 2017 after he failed to appear in court to answer a CHP misdemeanor for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Moye had been with the CHP for about three years and was a motorcycle officer for roughly a year.

"His mother told me this was his dream job and he loved going to work," Dance said. "It's what he always wanted to do."

Dance said Moye was an "outstanding" officer devoted to public service. He is survived by his wife, mother, father, stepfather, two brothers, two sisters and a large extended family, Dance said.

Gov. Gavin Newsom ordered flags at half-staff Tuesday at the state Capitol and called Moye's death devastating. Newsom, who took office in January, said he's already been to "too many" funerals of officers killed in the line of duty.

"It's just unacceptable and we need to push back against any notion that these folks are not the heroes

that they are," he said, adding that the death is another example of the "normalization of gun violence that we've long accepted in this country but no other country in the world would accept."

Luther's wife and father, meanwhile, were trying to make sense of his actions. They offered condolences to Moye's family.

"I'm so sorry for the officer," Luther's wife, McKenzie Luther, told the Southern California News Group. "I know his family is going through the same thing I am."

She said her husband called her after he was stopped Monday afternoon. He told her he was pulled over for driving alone in the carpool lane and had an expired license and no registration. He said his truck was being impounded and asked her to give him a ride.

She arrived at the scene during the shootout and a bullet pierced the windshield of the car she was driving in with her children.

She said he was depressed and suggested he might have wanted officers to kill him.

Luther was paroled from state prison in 2004 after serving about 10 years of a 12-year sentence for attempted second-degree murder with an enhancement for the use of a firearm, first-degree burglary and second-degree burglary, according to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Court records show Luther also was arrested in 2007 on felony assault charges and took a no-contest plea deal that sentenced him to 90 days in jail. He also was charged with multiple felonies in San Bernardino County and pleaded no contest in 2010 to assault with a deadly weapon, according to the Southern California News Group.

As a felon, Luther was not supposed to have a gun and his father, Dennis Luther, said he's not sure how his son came to possess one. He said his son had struggled with drugs, was depressed and in pain from knee injuries that left him unable to work his construction job.

Luther said his son was living off and on with his wife and three pre-teen children in Beaumont, near Riverside.

"I think he couldn't cope with his marital problems," Luther said. But the children "were everything to him."

Aaron Luther was a top skateboarder growing up but he began using drugs and "that's what ruined him," Dennis Luther said. "I'm devastated."

Associated Press reporters Christopher Weber and Robert Jablon in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

2 guards suspended and warden reassigned after Epstein death

By JIM MUSTIAN and MICHAEL R. SISAK and MICHAEL BALSAMO Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The warden at the federal jail where Jeffrey Epstein took his own life over the weekend was removed Tuesday and two guards who were supposed to be watching the financier were placed on leave while federal authorities investigate the death.

The move by the Justice Department came amid mounting evidence that the chronically understaffed Metropolitan Correctional Center may have bungled its responsibility to keep the 66-year-old Epstein from harming himself while he awaited trial on charges of sexually abusing teenage girls.

Epstein was taken off a suicide watch last month for reasons that have not been explained, and was supposed to have been checked on by a guard every 30 minutes. But investigators learned those checks weren't done for several hours before he was found Saturday morning, according to a person familiar with the case who was not authorized to discuss it and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Guards on the unit are now suspected of falsifying log entries to show they were making the checks, according to another person familiar with the probe.

In the past, guards at both federal and state prisons have faced criminal charges over false entries in duty logs that were discovered after something went wrong with a prisoner.

Surveillance video reviewed after the death showed guards never made some of the checks noted in the log, according to the person, who also wasn't authorized to disclose information and spoke to The Associated Press Tuesday on condition of anonymity.

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Attorney General William Barr ordered warden Lamine N'Diaye temporarily assigned to the Bureau of Prisons' regional office while the FBI and the Justice Department's inspector general investigate. The two guards were not identified.

While the exact manner of Epstein's death has not been officially announced, another person familiar with operations at the jail said the financier was discovered in his cell with a bedsheet around his neck. That person likewise spoke on condition of anonymity for the same reason.

Under the jail's protocol, Epstein would not have been given a bedsheet had he been on suicide watch. He was placed on suicide watch last month after he was found on the floor of his cell with bruises on his neck, but he was later returned to the jail's special housing unit for inmates needing close supervision.

The Bureau of Prisons sent a team of prison psychologists, known as a suicide reconstruction team, to the jail on Tuesday, a Justice Department official said. They are expected to reconstruct the scene, analyze why Epstein took his own life and look at how it happened, the official said. The official couldn't discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The official said Deputy Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen was being briefed by the FBI every three hours on the progress of their investigation.

On Monday, Barr said that he was "frankly angry to learn of the MCC's failure to adequately secure this prisoner," adding: "We will get to the bottom of what happened and there will be accountability."

The warden of an institution in upstate New York has been named the acting warden at the jail.

Eric Young, president of the union council that represents prison guards, said that such reassignments are routinely done to "protect the integrity of investigations until any formal action, if any, is warranted."

Jose Rojas, a union leader and teacher at a federal prison in Florida, said N'Diaye should be home without pay instead of being reassigned. He said it appears to him that the Bureau of Prisons is "protecting him and putting the blame on officers."

"I put this on the warden," he said. "If he would have had common sense and followed policy, we wouldn't be here discussing this."

More details began to emerge Tuesday about the guards who were supposed to be supervising Epstein and the conditions under which they were working.

The guards on Epstein's unit the night of his apparent suicide were working overtime shifts to make up for staffing shortages, two people familiar with the matter said. One of the guards, who had a different job in the jail and did not regularly perform correctional officer duties, was working a fifth straight day of overtime and the other guard was working mandatory overtime, the people said.

Although the one guard doesn't currently regularly work as a correctional officer, he had previously been one for seven years and specifically requested to work overtime shifts to make more money, one of the people said.

The prison has been pressing non-custodial staff into working as correctional officers because staffing levels are less than 70 percent of what they should be, union officials said.

The Bureau of Prisons considers all employees "correctional workers" and trains them in "basic correctional duties to secure the facility in the event of a disturbance and to provide inmate supervision," according to a 2012 Government Accountability Office report on overcrowding.

All new employees are sent to a training academy in Georgia for a three-week "Introduction to Correctional Techniques" course that covers firearms, self-defense, policies and procedures.

They must also pass a physical-abilities test that measures their "ability to perform the essential functions of a correctional worker," such as detecting movement, climbing ladders and using handcuffs.

Epstein was being held without bail on federal sex trafficking charges that could have brought 45 years in prison.

Federal prosecutors in New York are pursuing a parallel investigation into whether any of his associates will face charges for assisting him in what authorities say was his rampant sexual abuse of girls as young as 14.

According to police reports, FBI records and court documents, Epstein had a team of recruiters and other assistants who knew of his penchant for girls and lined up victims for him.

Associated Press Writer Michael Biesecker contributed to this report.

Trump amplifies conspiracy theories from perch of presidency

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and JILL COLVIN Associated Press

MORRISTOWN, N.J. (AP) — With a pair of weekend retweets, President Donald Trump amplified an unfounded conspiracy theory.

It was hardly the first time. His political career began the same way.

Trump has a long history of spreading falsehoods drawn from the conservative fringe. His unlikely rise to the White House was fueled in part by spreading the lie that President Barack Obama was not born in the U.S., and he has trafficked in numerous others to malign his opponents and advance his own views.

Now he has used the power of the presidency to promote a baseless claim about the death of disgraced financier Jeffrey Epstein, breaking another norm of the office and further sowing public confusion over the apparent suicide of one of the most high-profile inmates in the federal system. Epstein, who faced up to 45 years in prison on federal sex trafficking and conspiracy charges, was found dead in his cell in a Manhattan jail early Saturday.

Epstein had ties to prominent people around the globe, including Trump, who partied with him in the 2000s, and former President Bill Clinton. Within hours of Epstein's apparent suicide, Trump retweeted an accusation that tied both Bill and Hillary Clinton to the death, one of many conspiracies circulating on social media. Trump defeated Hillary Clinton in the 2016 election.

Trump defended the retweet on Tuesday, calling the original poster "a very respected conservative." He said he had "no idea" whether the Clintons were involved in the death, but continued to fan the theory, saying that the former president spent far more time on Epstein's private plane, and perhaps his private island, than known.

The Clintons have denied any wrongdoing. In a statement last month, Clinton spokesman Angel Ureña said the former president took four trips — one to Asia, one to Europe and two to Africa — on Epstein's airplane in 2002 and 2003. Staff and Secret Service detail traveled with Clinton on "every leg of every trip," Ureña said.

Ureña also said Clinton had never traveled to Epstein's private island.

Trump has made a similar accusation before: that the Clintons had a hand in a high-profile suicide. He previously tweeted about the 1993 death of White House aide Vince Foster, calling it "very fishy." But there is no evidence of foul play.

As he was privately considering his own run for the White House, Trump began to try to stoke doubts about Obama's legitimacy as president. He began to get notice among hard-line conservatives in 2011 when he claimed that Obama, the nation's first African American president, was not born in the United States. Even after Obama produced his long-form birth certificate that proved he was born in Hawaii, Trump repeatedly voiced the belief, only fully backing off in the final stages of the 2016 campaign.

While birtherism was Trump's most infamous conspiracy theory, it was far from his only one.

He has promoted dozens of outlandish claims, many of which are so blatantly untrue that they have not required even a cursory fact check to disprove.

Among his claims:

- That Sen. Ted Cruz's father may have had a hand in President John F. Kennedy's assassination.
- That Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia may have been murdered.
- That thousands of Muslims celebrated in U.S. cities after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks.
- That 3 million to 5 million votes were cast illegally in the 2016 election, none of them for Trump.
- That vaccines may cause autism.
- That global warming is a hoax perpetrated by the Chinese.
- That wind farms may cause cancer.

With the weight of the Oval Office behind these claims — some containing deliberate misinformation,

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others ignorance — the theories carry a degree of peril, according to presidential historian Julian Zelizer. “We expect some semblance of truth from the Oval Office and sending out conspiracy theories like this is a whole new level of danger,” Zelizer, a history professor at Princeton University. “People believe some of this, people can act on some of this. People can act violently, even, and part of that comes from a president dealing in untruths and conspiracies.”

For his part, Trump sometimes says that a mere retweet absolves him of any responsibility.

Repeatedly, he claimed he was just passing on information to his Twitter followers — now over 63 million — while not recognizing the significance carried by words, distributed in any fashion, by the president of the United States or leader of the Republican Party. During the 2016 campaign, in just one example, Trump retweeted false crime statistics that dramatically overstated the number of white people killed by black people.

“Bill, am I gonna check every statistic?” he told Fox News host Bill O’Reilly then. “All it was is a retweet. It wasn’t from me.”

Lemire reported from New York.

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

Farmers use tech to squeeze every drop from Colorado River

By DAN ELLIOTT Associated Press

GREELEY, Colo. (AP) — A drone soared over a blazing hot cornfield in northeastern Colorado on a recent morning, snapping images with an infrared camera to help researchers decide how much water they would give the crops the next day.

After a brief, snaking flight above the field, the drone landed and the researchers removed a handful of memory cards. Back at their computers, they analyzed the images for signs the corn was stressed from a lack of water.

This U.S. Department of Agriculture station outside Greeley and other sites across the Southwest are experimenting with drones, specialized cameras and other technology to squeeze the most out of every drop of water in the Colorado River — a vital but beleaguered waterway that serves an estimated 40 million people.

Remote sensors measure soil moisture and relay the readings by Wi-Fi. Cellphone apps collect data from agricultural weather stations and calculate how much water different crops are consuming. Researchers deliberately cut back on water for some crops, trying to get the best harvest with the least amount of moisture — a practice called deficit irrigation.

In the future, tiny needles attached to plants could directly measure how much water they contain and signal irrigation systems to automatically switch on or off.

“It’s like almost every month somebody’s coming up with something here and there,” said Don Ackley, water management supervisor for the Coachella Valley Water District in Southern California. “You almost can’t keep up with it.”

Researchers and farmers are running similar experiments in arid regions around the world. The need is especially pressing in seven U.S. states that rely on the Colorado River: Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

The river has plenty of water this summer after an unusually snowy winter in the mountains of the U.S. West. But climatologists warn the river’s long-term outlook is uncertain at best and dire at worst, and competition for water will only intensify as the population grows and the climate changes.

The World Resources Institute says the seven Colorado River states have some of the highest levels of water stress in the nation, based on the percentage of available supplies they use in a year. New Mexico was the only state in the nation under extremely high water stress.

The federal government will release a closely watched projection Thursday on whether the Colorado

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River system has enough water to meet all the demands of downstream states in future years.

The river supplies more than 7,000 square miles (18,000 square kilometers) of farmland and supports a \$5 billion-a-year agricultural industry, including a significant share of the nation's winter vegetables, according to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which manages most of the big dams and reservoirs in the Western states.

The Pacific Institute, an environmental group, says the river also irrigates about 700 square miles (1,820 square kilometers) in Mexico.

Agriculture uses 57% to 70% of the system's water in the U.S., researchers say. The problem facing policymakers is how to divert some of that to meet the needs of growing cities without drying up farms, ranches and the environment.

The researchers' goal is understanding crops, soil and weather so completely that farmers know exactly when and how much to irrigate.

"We call it precision agriculture, precision irrigation," said Huihui Zhang, a Department of Agriculture engineer who conducts experiments at the Greeley research farm. "Right amount at the right time at the right location."

The Palo Verde Irrigation District in Southern California is trying deficit irrigation on alfalfa, the most widely grown crop in the Colorado River Basin.

Alfalfa, which is harvested as hay to feed horses and cattle, can be cut and baled several times a year in some climates. The Palo Verde district is experimenting with reduced water for the midsummer crop, which requires more irrigation but produces lower yields.

Sensors placed over the test plots indirectly measure how much water the plants are using, and the harvested crop is weighed to determine the yield.

"The question then becomes, what's the economic value of the lost crop versus the economic value of the saved water?" said Bart Fisher, a third-generation farmer and a member of the irrigation district board.

Blaine Carian, who grows grapes, lemons and dates in Coachella, California, already uses deficit irrigation. He said withholding water at key times improves the flavor of his grapes by speeding up the production of sugar.

He also uses on-farm weather stations and soil moisture monitors, keeping track of the data on his cellphone. His drip and micro-spray irrigation systems deliver water directly to the base of a plant or its roots instead of saturating an entire field.

For Carian and many other farmers, the appeal of technology is as much about economics as saving water.

"The conservation's just a byproduct. We're getting better crops, and we are, in general, saving money," he said.

But researchers say water-saving technology could determine whether some farms can stay in business at all, especially in Arizona, which faces cuts in its portion of Colorado River water under a drought contingency plan the seven states hammered out this year.

Drone-mounted cameras and yield monitors — which measure the density of crops like corn and wheat as they pass through harvesting equipment — can show a farmer which land is productive and which is not, said Ed Martin, a professor and extension specialist at the University of Arizona.

"If we're going to take stuff out of production because we don't have enough water, I think these technologies could help identify which ones you should be taking out," Martin said.

Each technology has benefits and limits, said Kendall DeJonge, another Agriculture Department engineer who does research at the Greeley farm.

Soil moisture monitors measure a single point, but a farm has a range of conditions and soil types. Infrared images can spot thirsty crops, but only after they need water. Agricultural weather stations provide a wealth of data on the recent past, but they can't predict the future.

"All of these things are tools in the toolbox," DeJonge said. "None of them are a silver bullet."

Dreadful heat, humidity invade South as misery continues

By JEFF MARTIN and JAY REEVES Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Stifling heat smothered states from Texas to South Carolina on Tuesday with temperatures that felt like 120 degrees (49 Celsius), making it difficult to be outside for long, much less work or play.

As the entire Southeast baked amid heat warnings and advisories that reached from central Texas to coastal Georgia, construction workers toiled under a blazing sun in Louisiana. Alabama's largest city opened its auditorium as a refuge for anyone needing to cool down.

Some schools and coaches limited football practice for players getting ready for the upcoming season, and social media was dotted with photos showing automobile thermometers with triple-digit readings.

Forecasters said a cold front and storms could lead to a slight midweek cool down, but for the meantime it was just too hot.

The National Weather Service said the afternoon heat index, a combination of temperature and humidity, climbed to 120 degrees (48.8 Celsius) in Clarksdale, Mississippi, nearly hitting the 121 degrees (49.4 Celsius) it felt like Monday. Readings were nearly as high in cities including Dyersburg, Tennessee, and West Memphis, Arkansas.

In downtown Birmingham, Alabama, a piano-playing sidewalk evangelist sought refuge from the sun with two umbrellas — one over his head and the other on his sunny side.

Around the corner, artist Henry L. McShan sold his watercolor landscapes in a shady spot beside a park. Temperatures in Birmingham were already in the 90s Tuesday morning and topped 100 degrees later.

"I'm going to be here all day. I've got several bottles of water. I'm ready for it," said McShan, his face glistening with sweat.

It was just as sizzling along the Gulf Coast in south Alabama and along the Florida Panhandle. The heat index hit 117 (47 Celsius) before noon Tuesday in the Mobile, Alabama, area. Pensacola saw a heat index of 115, also before noon.

The heat index in the hottest areas should be 15 to 20 degrees cooler Wednesday, according to the weather service.

Heat exhaustion and heat stroke are prime threats during heat waves, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In Kansas, a 2-year-old boy died after he was found alone in a parked car in the afternoon heat Sunday. It appears heat played a role in the child's death, Lawrence Police Chief Gregory Burns Jr. said in a statement Monday. The heat index was 96 (36 Celsius) at the time, the weather service said.

In Texas, managers of the state's main electric grid declared an energy conservation emergency and asked its customers to dial back their thermostats between 3 and 7 p.m. Tuesday because of the extreme heat. The Electric Reliability Council of Texas took the action a day after it set an all-time peak demand record.

At the Dallas Zoo, where \$1 admission day was expected to draw large crowds, misting tents were set up for visitors to cool down. Elephants will be soaked with water cannons and offered frozen treats, said spokeswoman Chelsey Norris.

In Louisiana, road workers were urged to take precautions to protect themselves from the heat, said Erin Buchanan, a spokeswoman with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.

"Every summer, we know we're going to encounter some extreme heat," she said. "They know to take multiple breaks. They know to stay hydrated."

Heat alerts stretched as far east as the Upstate area of South Carolina.

In Spartanburg, South Carolina, the Carolina Panthers and Buffalo Bills practiced together before a pre-season NFL game in Charlotte, North Carolina. Over the weekend, Panthers coach Ron Rivera had some fun with Bills coach Sean McDermott, sending a screenshot of the heat index in Spartanburg, South Carolina. It showed 110 degrees (43 Celsius) along with an orange emoji face dripping with sweat.

"A psychological game," Rivera joked.

Reeves reported from Birmingham, Alabama. Associated Press writers Diana Heidgerd in Dallas; Rebecca

Santana in New Orleans; and Steve Reed in Spartanburg, South Carolina, contributed to this report.

'Chrisley Knows Best' stars charged with federal tax evasion

By KATE BRUMBACK Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — A federal grand jury in Atlanta on Tuesday indicted reality television stars Todd and Julie Chrisley on charges including tax evasion, alleging among other things that they tried to hide their income from "Chrisley Knows Best" from the IRS.

The 12-count indictment also accuses the pair of conspiracy, bank fraud and wire fraud.

"The allegations contained in the indictment are based on complete falsehoods. The Chrisleys are innocent of all charges," Chrisley attorneys Bruce H. Morris and Stephen Friedberg said in an emailed statement.

Accountant Peter Tarantino, 56, was charged in the indictment with conspiracy to defraud the United States and aiding the filing of a false tax return. A woman who answered the phone at his office outside Atlanta on Tuesday afternoon said he was with a client and would have no comment.

"Chrisley Knows Best" follows the tight-knit, boisterous family living in the Nashville area. Much of the series emphasizes Todd Chrisley's obsessive yet comedic efforts to keep tabs on three of his kids, two of whom are in their 20s, and his mother.

The series has aired on USA for seven seasons and recently premiered a spinoff called "Growing Up Chrisley," featuring his kids Chase and Savannah, who move to Los Angeles. Todd Chrisley also briefly hosted a talk show, "According to Chrisley," for the network. Todd, 51, and Julie Chrisley, 46, also have a podcast called "Chrisley Confessions."

A representative for NBCUniversal, which owns USA, declined to comment.

The family moved to Tennessee a few years ago, but the criminal charges stem from when they lived in Atlanta's northern suburbs, U.S. Attorney Byung J. BJay Pak said.

Todd Chrisley denied any wrongdoing in a lengthy Instagram post Monday. He said he was aware that he and his wife were going to be named in a federal indictment for tax evasion "and probably a bunch of other financial crimes as well."

In his post, Chrisley said the charges stem from a dispute with an unidentified former employee who he said was fired after the Chrisleys discovered in 2012 that he was stealing from them. The former employee then retaliated by bringing phony documents to the U.S. attorney's office and told prosecutors the Chrisleys had committed financial crimes, Chrisley wrote.

"I'm telling you all this now because we have nothing to hide and have done nothing to be ashamed of," he wrote. "Not only do we know we've done nothing wrong, but we've got a ton of hard evidence and a bunch of corroborating witnesses that proves it."

Pak said at a news conference Tuesday that he was aware of Chrisley's post and that the former employee is identified in the indictment as "Co-conspirator A." Pak said Chrisley "directed the falsifying or creation of false documents and directed Co-conspirator A to submit them" to banks.

The scheme, which lasted from 2007 to 2012, involved submitting fake bank and financial statements to financial institutions to get loans worth millions, "much of which they used for their own personal benefit," the indictment says.

The Chrisleys also sent a fabricated credit report and bank statements showing far more money than was actually in their accounts to a California property owner in July 2014 when they were trying to rent a home, the indictment says. They submitted documents that had been "physically cut and then glued or taped together."

They got the lease and began using the property but then refused to pay the October 2014 rent, prompting the property owner to threaten them with eviction, the indictment says.

"It's clear that Mr. and Mrs. Chrisley were starring in a TV show and they were compensated handsomely as a result," Pak said. "That money was hidden from the IRS."

The Chrisleys formed a company called 7C's Productions that received their money from the show, but that was not declared as income in federal tax returns, Pak said. They did not file or pay their federal

income taxes on time for multiple years, the indictment says.

Tarantino helped the Chrisleys hide income and lie about their tax returns, according to the indictment. In June 2017 alone, 7C's Productions received \$300,000, and the Chrisleys spent thousands of dollars that month on personal purchases, it says. But just three months earlier, Tarantino told the IRS that Todd Chrisley didn't have enough to pay outstanding tax debt from 2009, the indictment says.

"Just because you're rich and on a TV show doesn't mean that the law is not going to come get you when you commit a federal crime," Pak said, adding that his office intends to seek prison time for the Chrisleys.

The plight of the monarchs: Trump order weakens protections

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER Associated Press

GREENBELT, Md. (AP) — Hand-raising monarch butterflies in the midst of a global extinction crisis, Laura Moore and her neighbors gather round in her suburban Maryland yard to launch a butterfly newly emerged from its chrysalis. Eager to play his part, 3-year-old Thomas Powell flaps his arms and exclaims, "I'm flying! I'm flying!"

Moore moves to release the hours-old monarch onto the boy's outstretched finger, but the butterfly, its wings a vivid orange and black, has another idea. It banks away, beginning its new life up in the green shelter of a nearby tree.

Monarchs are in trouble, despite efforts by Moore and countless other volunteers and organizations across the United States to nurture the beloved butterfly. The Trump administration's new order weakening the Endangered Species Act could well make things worse for the monarch, one of more than 1 million species that are struggling around the globe.

Rapid development and climate change are escalating the rates of species loss, according to a May United Nations report. For monarchs, farming and other human development have eradicated state-size swaths of native milkweed habitat, cutting the butterfly's numbers by 90% over the past two decades.

With its count falling 99% to the low tens of thousands in the western United States last year, the monarch is now under government consideration for listing under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. But if the Trump administration's latest action survives threatened legal challenges, there will be sweeping changes to how the government provides protections, and which creatures receive them.

Administration officials say the changes, expected to go into effect next month, will reduce regulation while still protecting animals and plants. But conservation advocates and Democratic lawmakers say the overhaul will force more to extinction, delaying and denying protections.

The administration will for the first time reserve the option to estimate and publicize the financial cost of saving a species in advance of any decision on whether to do so. Monarchs compete for habitat with soybean and corn farmers, whose crops are valued in the low tens of billions of dollars annually. For mountain caribou, sage grouse, the Humboldt marten in California's old-growth redwoods and other creatures, it's logging, oil and gas development, ranching, and other industry driving struggling species out of their ranges.

Another coming change will end across-the-board protections for creatures newly listed as threatened. Conservation groups say that will leave them unprotected for months or years, as officials, conservationists and industries and landowners hash out each species' survival plan, case by case.

The rule also will limit consideration of threats facing a species to the "foreseeable" future, which conservation groups say allows the administration to ignore the growing harm of global warming. Along with farming, climate change is one of the main drivers of the monarch's threatened extinction, disrupting an annual 3,000-mile migration synched to springtime and the blossoming of wildflowers. In 2002, a single wet storm followed by a freeze killed an estimated 450 million monarchs in their winter home in Mexico, piling wings inches deep on a forest floor.

A decision on whether the monarch will be listed as threatened is expected by December 2020.

In the meantime, volunteers like Moore grow plants to feed and host the monarchs, nurture caterpillars,

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and tag and count monarchs on the insects' annual migrations up and down America.

For Moore, a tutor who has turned her 20-by-20-foot yard over to milkweed, fleabane and other butterfly nectar and host plants, the hope is that grass-roots efforts of thousands of volunteers loosely connected in wildlife organizations, schools, and Facebook groups will save the monarch, at least.

"People having an interest in it might reverse it. It's encouraging," said Moore, who also raises extra milkweed to give away. If the monarch can't be saved, she said, "it would be kind of sad. What it would say about what we're able to do."

Some animals — like a shy mountain caribou species that went extinct from the wild in the lower 48 states last winter, despite protection under the Endangered Species Act — struggle and disappear out of sight. Monarchs can serve as reminders of the others, says Karen Oberhauser, director of the University of Wisconsin Arboretum, and a conservation biologist who has studied monarchs since 1984. That was before a boom in soybeans, corn and herbicide wiped out milkweed in pastures converted to row crops.

"One of the reasons I think it's so important to focus on monarch conservation is monarchs connect people to nature," Oberhauser said. "They're beautiful, they're impressive, people have seen them since we were children."

"If the changes that humans are causing are leading to the decline of species that are as common as the monarchs, it's scary," Oberhauser said. "The environment is changing such a lot that monarchs are declining. And I think that doesn't bode well for humans."

The Interior Department did not provide comment for this article about the plight of the monarch despite repeated requests.

For corn and soybean farmer Wayne Fredericks in Osage, Iowa, the monarch's seemingly vulnerable life cycle is a mystery.

"Who would design a little creature that depends on one weed? Overwinters in one little spot?" Fredericks asks.

He takes part in federal government programs that pay farmers to seed islands of native wildflowers and grasses on their land. Coming through the corn rows on his 750 acres this spring, Fredericks is thrilled to see the full result: Orange and black wings fluttering among seeded prairie flowers.

"This year, it is just awesome," He says.

As farmers, however, "we've evolved to have clean fields," and have used tractors, potent weed killers, and weedkiller resistant crops to make them that way, Fredericks said. "And unfortunately it killed the milkweed."

Butterflies are pretty, he said, but persuading farmers to work around aggressively spreading milkweed will take money. "When it's made economical sense to do so, it happened right away," he said.

For farmer Nancy Kavazanjian, who includes solar panels and patches of pollinator-friendly wildflowers amid her corn, soybean and wheat in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, "If we're going to be sustainable, we have to pay the bills."

Should supporters win federal protections for monarchs and their milkweed habitat, "the devil is in the details, isn't it?" Kavazanjian said. "The wording and the enforcement and you know, I mean, again, if invasive species meets endangered species, then what happens?"

"We're trying to do what we can," said Richard Wilkins, a Delaware grower who shuns the federal farm habitat programs, but hopes that leaving what weeds and wildflowers survive in hard-to-mow areas helps the wildlife. "I think you'll find there's lots of farmers" who feel that way.

For Oberhauser, the Wisconsin biologist, "it's really important here we not blame farmers."

"What we need instead of pointing fingers is, we need to make up for that," as with the programs that pull unproductive lands out of farming and into set-aside patches for wildlife, she said.

In the U.S. West, where monarchs spend the winter rather than migrate to Mexico, their numbers have plummeted from 4.5 million in the 1980s to fewer than 30,000 last winter.

Tierra Curry, an Oregon-based senior scientist with the Center for Biological Diversity conservation advocacy group, said because the monarch was once so common, most people her age — early 40s — believe "there's no way monarchs can be endangered."

But for her 14-year-old son, it's already almost a post-monarch world. Despite the more than a dozen milkweed plants that the family plants in their yard, "we haven't seen one yet," she said.

Associated Press writers Carrie Antfinger in Beaver Dam, Wis., and Carolyn Kaster in Greenwood, Del., contributed to this report.

Trump delays tariffs on some Chinese goods until December

By PAUL WISEMAN and CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Responding to pressure from businesses and growing fears that a trade war is threatening the U.S. economy, the Trump administration is delaying most of the import taxes it planned to impose on Chinese goods and is dropping others altogether.

The announcement Tuesday from the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative was greeted with relief on Wall Street and by retailers who have grown fearful that the new tariffs would wreck holiday sales.

The administration says it still plans to proceed with 10% tariffs on about \$300 billion in Chinese imports — extending its import taxes to just about everything China ships to the United States in a dispute over Beijing's strong-arm trade policies.

But under pressure from retailers and other businesses, President Donald Trump's trade office said it would delay until Dec. 15 the tariffs on nearly 60% of the imports that had been set to absorb the new taxes starting Sept. 1. Among the products that will benefit from the 3½-month reprieve are such popular consumer goods as cellphones, laptops, video game consoles, some toys, computer monitors, shoes and clothing.

The administration is also removing other items from the tariff list entirely, based on what it called "health, safety, national security and other factors."

Separately, China's Ministry of Commerce reported that top Chinese negotiators had spoken by phone with their U.S. counterparts, Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, and planned to talk again in two weeks.

The news sent the Dow Jones Industrial Average soaring more than 400 points in mid-afternoon trading. Shares of Apple, Mattel and shoe brand Steve Madden, which stand to benefit from the delayed tariffs, led the rally.

Speaking to reporters in New Jersey, Trump confirmed that he had decided to delay the tariffs, which could force retailers to raise prices, to avoid the economic pain that could result during the holiday period.

"We're doing (it) just for Christmas season, just in case some of the tariffs could have an impact," the president said.

Trump has repeatedly argued that his tariffs are hurting China, not American consumers. But by delaying higher tariffs on consumer goods, Trump is tacitly acknowledging that his import taxes stand to squeeze American households, too. Tariffs are taxes paid by U.S. importers, not by China, and are often passed along to U.S. businesses and consumers through higher prices.

Jay Foreman, CEO of the toy company Basic Fun, said he's pleased that the 10% tariffs have been delayed for products like his until December. His company, based in Boca Raton, Florida, had already set prices for the holiday season and would have had to absorb the impact of the tariffs. Foreman said he is considering layoffs this fall to offset his higher costs and noted that despite Trump's reprieve, tariffs remain a severe threat.

"We were relieved," he said. "But does that stop the volatility and instability? No."

Together, the news of negotiations and tariff delays provided at least a respite after weeks of heightened U.S.-China trade tensions. The relief might prove only temporary, though, if the tariffs eventually take full effect and Beijing retaliates against U.S. exports.

The Trump administration is fighting the Chinese regime over allegations that Beijing steals trade secrets, forces foreign companies to hand over technology and unfairly subsidizes its own firms. Those tactics are part of Beijing's drive to become a world leader in such advanced technologies as artificial intelligence

and electric cars.

But 12 rounds of talks have failed produce any resolution. Frustrated with the lack of progress, Trump raised the tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese imports from 10% to 25% in May and said Aug. 1 that he'd impose 10% taxes on an additional \$300 billion on Sept. 1.

On Sunday, economists at Goldman Sachs downgraded their economic forecasts, citing the impending tariffs on consumer goods. And economists at Bank of America Merrill Lynch have raised their odds of a recession in the next year to roughly 33%, up from about 20%.

"We are worried," Michelle Meyer, head of economics at Bank of America Merrill Lynch, wrote Friday. "We now have a number of early indicators starting to signal heightened risk of recession."

Goldman said the tariffs on China have increased uncertainty for businesses, which will likely cause them to pull back on hiring and investing in new equipment or software. Trump's tariffs on Chinese goods have also weighed down stock prices lower, which could depress spending by wealthier Americans, Goldman found.

"It's pretty clear that the problem with (Trump's) tariff tactics is it's bad for the economy," said David Dollar, a China specialist at the Brookings Institution and a former official at the World Bank and U.S. Treasury. "You try to use the weapon but then you get blowback on your own people."

Despite the exchanges between the U.S. and Chinese negotiators, the prospects for negotiations remain dim. A substantive deal would require China to scale back its aspirations to become a tech superpower. And relations between the countries have been strained by mistrust.

The best possible outcome, Dollar said, likely would be a "mini-deal" in which China agrees to buy more American products and narrow the gaping U.S. trade deficit with China. In exchange, perhaps the United States would lift some sanctions on the Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei, which the U.S. sees as a national security risk.

So far, Trump's tariffs have failed to get President Xi Jinping to yield to the U.S. demands.

"I don't think we're any closer to a deal," said Scott Kennedy, who analyzes China's economy at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "I don't think there will be any deal during the Trump administration."

The decision to delay the tariffs "shows that the two economies are interdependent and that interdependence benefits many Americans" by providing affordable goods, Kennedy said. "It's not so easy to penalize China or disengage."

AP Retail Writer Anne D'Innocenzio and AP data journalist Larry Fenn in New York contributed to this report.

Trump claims credit for Shell plant announced under Obama

By JILL COLVIN and JOSH BOAK Associated Press

MONACA, Pa. (AP) — President Donald Trump sought to take credit Tuesday for a major manufacturing complex in western Pennsylvania in his latest effort to reinvigorate the Rust Belt support that sent him to the White House. He was cheered on by fluorescent-vest-clad workers who were paid to attend by Shell, their employer, which is building the facility.

Despite Trump's claims, Shell announced its plans to build the complex in 2012, midway through President Barack Obama's term in the White House.

The event was billed as an official White House event, but Trump turned much of it into a campaign-style rally, boasting of achievements he claims as president and assailing his would-be Democratic rivals for the 2020 election.

"I don't think they give a damn about Western Pennsylvania, do you?" he prodded the crowd.

Trump was visiting Shell's soon-to-be completed Pennsylvania Petrochemicals Complex, which will turn the area's vast natural gas deposits into plastics. The facility is being built in an area hungry for investment and employment, though critics claim it will become the largest air polluter in western Pennsylvania.

Trump contends that America's coal, oil and manufacturing are reviving and he deserves the credit. He's

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been focusing on his administration's efforts to increase the nation's dependence on fossil fuels in defiance of increasingly urgent warnings about climate change. And he's embracing plastic at a time when the world is sounding alarms over its impact.

"We don't need it from the Middle East anymore," Trump said of oil and natural gas, proclaiming the employees "the backbone of this country."

As for the new complex, he declared, "This would have never happened without me and us."

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 there 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, much of the area is still struggling to recover from the shutting of steel plants in the 1980s that sent unemployment to nearly 30%. Former mill towns like Aliquippa have seen their population shrink, though Pittsburgh has lured major tech companies like Google and Uber, fueling an economic renaissance in a city that reliably votes Democratic.

Trump claimed that his steel and aluminum foreign-trade tariffs have saved the industries and that they are now "thriving," exaggerating the recovery of the steel industry, particularly when it comes to jobs, which have largely followed pace with broader economic growth.

Trump took credit for the addition of 600,000 U.S. manufacturing jobs. Labor Department figures show that roughly 500,000 factory jobs have been added since his presidency started.

Manufacturing has also started to struggle anew this year as the administration has intensified its trade war with China and factory production has declined. Pennsylvania has lost 5,600 manufacturing jobs so far this year, according to the Labor Department.

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.

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 concern 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 been found in the bodies of birds, fish, whales and people, with the health impacts largely unknown.

"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.

Trump defended the investment in plastics, claiming pollution in the ocean is "not our plastic."

"It's plastics that's floating over in the ocean and the various oceans from other places," he told reporters before boarding Air Force One.

A spokesman for Shell, Ray Fisher, said the company 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.

The project currently has 5,000 construction workers. Once operational, however, the number of permanent employees at the site will shrink to 600.

The area still faces economic headwinds. The nearby Beaver Valley Power Station, a nuclear plant that has employed 850 people, has announced plans to close in 2021. And the Bruce Mansfield Power Plant, once the state's largest coal-powered plant, announced Friday that it would close this fall, 19 months earlier than expected, at a cost of at least 200 jobs.

Boak reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Mark Scoloro in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and Zeke Miller in Washington contributed to this report.

Did the Dayton gunman target his sister? Police can't agree

By DAN SEWELL and JOHN SEEWER Associated Press

One of the first victims struck by the Dayton shooter during his 32-second rampage that left nine people dead was his younger sister, but whether he intentionally killed her remains unknown more than a week later, the Ohio city's police chief said Tuesday.

Investigators have "radically different views" on whether Connor Betts targeted his 22-year-old sister, Megan, two hours after they arrived with a friend at a popular strip of nightclubs, Chief Richard Biehl said at a news conference.

Text messages show the 24-year-old gunman knew his sister and their friend were going to a taco stand minutes before he came down an alley and started shooting, Biehl said.

"There's a real question whether he could see who was on the other side," the police chief said, adding that its possible investigators may never come up with an answer.

"If we can't seem to make that call conclusively — that we're divided about how, whether that was intentional or not — I think it's inconclusive," Biehl said.

Authorities have interviewed witnesses, studied video and reviewed Betts' phone while trying to come up with a motive and other factors that led to the mass shooting Aug 4. So far, there is no evidence he had any help the night of the shooting, Biehl said.

While they don't know why Betts chose his location or what his motive was, investigators do know a lot about his mindset, including his obsession with and desire to commit a mass shooting, the police chief said.

A video of pieced-together surveillance from businesses showed Betts before the shooting with his sister and their friend, and again after he went to his car and changed into a black hoodie, put on body armor and retrieved an assault-style gun from the trunk.

The three had arrived together at the entertainment district and spent about an hour inside a bar before Betts left and went to another nightclub by himself, police said.

He then walked back to his car and spent about eight minutes changing and getting out his weapon, Biehl said.

Investigators think the friend who arrived with Betts didn't know what he had planned or that he had weapons stashed in the trunk, Biehl said.

Betts was very familiar with the area and its night spots and had been there the night before, the police chief said. It's clear he had a plan for the mass shooting, although why he chose that place at that time is still being investigated, the police chief said.

In all, he killed nine people and wounded at least 17 others in just over half a minute before officers who were patrolling the area fatally shot Betts, police said. Previously, police and hospital officials said at least 14 people suffered gunshots.

The coroner's report will determine whether anyone besides the shooter was hit by police, Biehl said.

Authorities said that a friend, Ethan Kollie, bought armor and a 100-round magazine for Betts, authorities said. But there was no evidence he knew what Betts planned, they said.

The governor's office said Wednesday that its attorneys weren't aware of any law that "would have necessarily prohibited" the magazine.

Kollie will appear Wednesday in federal court. His attorney said he has been cooperating with investigators. "He was as shocked and surprised as everyone else that Mr. Betts committed the massacre," attorney Nick Gounaris said Monday.

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

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

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

Ohio Republican Gov. Mike DeWine has 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.

Sewell reported from Cincinnati, and Seewer reported from Toledo. Associated Press writers Kantele Franko and Julie Carr Smyth in Columbus contributed.

Risk of clashes at rally mobilizes Portland, Oregon, police

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 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.

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 Seraw, 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

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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>

This version corrects the spelling of Mulugeta Seraw's last name.

2020 Democrats weigh how tough to hit Trump on racism

By ERRIN HAINES AP National Writer

Hillary Clinton took the stage in Reno, Nevada, with an urgent warning about the consequences of a Donald Trump administration: "He's taking hate groups mainstream and helping a radical fringe take over one of America's two major political parties. Trump is reinforcing harmful stereotypes and offering a dog whistle to his most hateful supporters. It's a disturbing preview of what kind of president he'd be."

Seventy-five days later, Trump would be president-elect.

As a new crop of Democrats competes for the chance to take on Trump in 2020, they are going even further than Clinton did, with some saying the president is a white supremacist. But Clinton's experience poses difficult questions for the White House hopefuls. Pointing out then-candidate Trump's racist actions wasn't enough to defeat him in 2016 — and may not help Democrats next year.

"Hillary Clinton took every sling and arrow imaginable when she called out Trump on his courtship of white supremacy in the 2016 race," said Democratic strategist Joel Payne, who worked on Clinton's campaign. "When our campaign named and shamed Trump's behavior, we were accused of playing the race card. Her predictions may have actually understated how much of an existential crisis the Trump presidency would be for minorities in America."

The issue has taken on greater urgency this month following a mass shooting in El Paso, Texas, that's believed to be motivated by racism. The shooting suspect echoed Trump's warnings of a Latino "invasion."

Trump insists he's not a racist and throws the label back at Democrats, accusing them of political correctness and recklessly wielding the term.

Still, Trump gained notoriety in the late 1980s for taking out a newspaper ad calling for the death penalty for five black and Hispanic teenagers who were wrongly convicted of rape. He launched his 2016 campaign with a speech that referred to Mexicans as "rapists" and a pledge to ban Muslims from entering the country. Weeks before the 2016 election, he denigrated cities with large black populations as poor and dangerous, asking black voters, "What the hell do you have to lose?"

In office, he has equated torch-bearing white nationalists in Charlottesville, Virginia, with peaceful protesters opposing their efforts to preserve a Confederate statue. He referred to African and Caribbean nations as "shithole" countries and told four American congresswomen of color to "go back" to countries "from which they came."

There's near unanimity among Democrats that candidates can't ignore Trump's racist actions. But there is debate over how far to go and whether to focus on more traditional issues like health care, prescription drugs, infrastructure and education.

Candidates including Elizabeth Warren, Beto O'Rourke and Pete Buttigieg have agreed that the white supremacist label is appropriate for Trump. Joe Biden accused Trump of "fanning the flames of white supremacy."

But some Democratic voters questioned whether such labeling might prove counterproductive. After all, Trump supporters wore Clinton's denunciation of them as "deplorables" as a badge of honor.

"If every candidate jumps on that same bandwagon, it just throws everybody into the same pot," said Erick McEnaney, 57, of Kansas City, Missouri. "I would refrain from even talking about him, actually. Talk about what's important to the American people."

As nearly two dozen candidates swung through Iowa recently, the issue was prominent. Democrats in the state that kicks off the presidential nomination process still take pride in Barack Obama's 2008 Iowa win. That victory proved that a black candidate could win in a state that's more than 90% white, sealing his status as a viable candidate.

Buttigieg, who has been outspoken on matters of race in the campaign, told a diverse gathering at a house party just outside Des Moines, Iowa, that a "big part of this conversation" regarding race "has to happen with white audiences."

"White nationalism is a white problem," said Buttigieg, who is white. "It has victims of color and is wrecking the whole country. But it is a problem among white people, which is why I think somebody who

has some of the benefits and advantages of my own profile needs to be out there as vocal as anybody talking about it.”

Karin Derry, a state representative who is white, watched Buttigieg speak from across the room. She questioned whether labeling the president a white supremacist is “particularly helpful,” but welcomed the conversation overall, saying it would resonate in Iowa.

“I want to see them talking about it because quite frankly the way President Trump talks, it’s unacceptable,” said Derry, who hasn’t endorsed a candidate. “I think candidates need to call him out on it.”

During his swing through Iowa, Biden stopped short of directly calling Trump a white supremacist. But he said the “distinction” isn’t as important as how Trump uses the megaphone of the presidency.

That approach was good enough for Vicky Beer, a retired schoolteacher.

“I certainly think you can call him a white supremacist because it might open somebody’s eyes to what he is,” said Beer, 62, who hasn’t yet committed to a candidate for February’s caucus. Still, Beer said she’s not necessarily caught up in how the candidates assail Trump, if they do so.

“It’s a given,” she said, that whichever Democrat emerges as the nominee will “have more authority than he does.”

Associated Press writers Bill Barrow, Alexandra Jaffe and Steven Sloan contributed to this report.

NFL teaming with Jay-Z on entertainment and social activism

By BARRY WILNER AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The NFL and Jay-Z’s entertainment and sports representation company are teaming up for events and social activism.

The league not only will use Jay-Z’s Roc Nation to consult on its entertainment presentations, including the Super Bowl halftime show, but will work with the rapper and entrepreneur’s company to “strengthen community through music and the NFL’s Inspire Change initiative.”

Inspire Change was created by the league after an agreement with a coalition of players who demonstrated during the national anthem to protest social and racial injustice in this country. Those demonstrations were sparked by former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick kneeling during the national anthem in 2016.

NFL owners agreed to contribute up to \$89 million over six years toward causes players were supporting. Commissioner Roger Goodell sees the partnership with Roc Nation as a significant step in several directions.

“Roc Nation is one of the most globally influential and impactful organizations in entertainment,” Goodell said. “The NFL and Roc Nation share a vision of inspiring meaningful social change across our country. We are thrilled to partner with Roc Nation and look forward to making a difference in our communities together.”

While the entertainment portion of the deal is important — Roc Nation’s stable includes Rihanna, Mariah Carey, Shakira and, of course, Jay-Z — much emphasis from both the league and the representation group is being placed on the social relations aspect of the agreement. For Inspire Change to succeed, it must have strong roots within the communities that are most affected by the issues the players want addressed: criminal justice reform; relationships with police; economic growth opportunities; and educational progress.

“With its global reach, the National Football League has the platform and opportunity to inspire change across the country,” said Jay-Z, whose real name is Shawn Carter. “Roc Nation has shown that entertainment and enacting change are not mutually exclusive ideas — instead, we unify them. This partnership is an opportunity to strengthen the fabric of communities across America.”

Jay-Z has been a strong supporter of Kaepernick, who has not played in the NFL the past two seasons and is not with a team now. He has turned down invitations to perform at the Super Bowl, as has Rihanna.

But now there is a working agreement between the league and Roc Nation, which also represents such NFL stars as Todd Gurley, Saquon Barkley and Ndamukong Suh. How that plays out on both the entertainment and social initiatives fronts figures to be newsworthy.

More AP NFL: <https://apnews.com/NFL> and https://twitter.com/AP_NFL

Asian shares rise on US plan to delay some China tariffs

By YURI KAGEYAMA AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares were mostly higher Wednesday after the U.S. said it would hold off on tariffs of Chinese imports of mobile phones, toys and several other items typically on holiday shopping lists.

Japan's Nikkei 225 added 1.2% in early trading to 20,691.10, while Australia's S&P/ASX 200 rose 0.5% to 6,598.50. South Korea's Kospi gained 1.3% to 1,951.33. Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 1.3% to 25,618.67. The Shanghai Composite edged up 0.9% to 2,822.30.

Also boosting investor sentiments were comments from China that the two sides held discussions on trade overnight and would talk again the next two weeks.

The benchmark S&P 500 snapped a two-day losing streak and rose 42.57 points, or 1.5%, to 2,926.32. It had been up as much as 2.1%. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 372.54 points, or 1.4%, to 26,279.91. The average briefly climbed 519 points. The Nasdaq composite jumped 152.95 points, or 1.9%, to 8,016.36. The Russell 2000 index of smaller company stocks rose 16.30 points, or 1.1%, to 1,510.58.

The markets have been in the spin cycle since President Donald Trump announced on Aug. 1 that he would impose 10% tariffs on about \$300 billion in Chinese imports, which would be on top of 25% tariffs already in place on \$250 billion of imports. The threat dashed hopes that a resolution may come soon in the trade war between the world's two largest economies, and investors have grown increasingly concerned that it may drag on through the U.S. elections in 2020.

On Tuesday, The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative said it would delay the tariffs on some products, including popular consumer goods, until Dec. 15. A few other products were removed altogether, including certain types of fish and baby seats.

But some analysts were cautious.

"Markets are responding with muted relief to the latest round in the trade saga - but nothing has really changed," said Robert Carnell, chief economist head of research, Asia-Pacific, at ING.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude fell 48 cents to \$56.62 a barrel. It rose \$2.17, or 4%, to \$57.10 per barrel Tuesday. Brent crude, the international standard, fell 37 cents to \$60.93.

CURRENCIES:

The dollar rose to 106.42 Japanese yen from 105.16 yen. The euro weakened to \$1.1176 from \$1.1217.

AP Business Writers Stan Choe and Alex Veiga contributed to this report.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 14, the 226th day of 2019. There are 139 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 14, 1945, President Harry S. Truman announced that Imperial Japan had surrendered unconditionally, ending World War II.

On this date:

In 1900, international forces, including U.S. Marines, entered Beijing to put down the Boxer Rebellion, which was aimed at purging China of foreign influence.

In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act into law.

In 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill issued the Atlantic Charter, a statement of principles that renounced aggression.

In 1948, the Summer Olympics in London ended; they were the first Olympic games held since 1936.

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In 1969, British troops went to Northern Ireland to intervene in sectarian violence between Protestants and Roman Catholics.

In 1973, U.S. bombing of Cambodia came to a halt.

In 1980, actress-model Dorothy Stratten, 20, was shot to death by her estranged husband and manager, Paul Snider, who then killed himself.

In 1992, the White House announced that the Pentagon would begin emergency airlifts of food to Somalia to alleviate mass deaths by starvation.

In 1997, an unrepentant Timothy McVeigh was formally sentenced to death for the Oklahoma City bombing.

In 2003, a huge blackout hit the northeastern United States and part of Canada; 50 million people lost power.

In 2008, President George W. Bush signed consumer-safety legislation that banned lead from children's toys, imposing the toughest standard in the world.

In 2017, under pressure from right and left, President Donald Trump condemned white supremacist groups by name, declaring them to be "repugnant to everything that we hold dear as Americans." The CEO of Merck, the nation's third-largest pharmaceutical company, resigned from a federal advisory council, citing Trump's failure to explicitly condemn white nationalists who marched in Charlottesville, Virginia. (Kenneth Frazier was one of the few African Americans to head a Fortune 500 company. The CEOs of Intel and Under Armour also resigned from the American Manufacturing Council later in the day.)

Ten years ago: Kicking off a four-state push for his health care overhaul plan, President Barack Obama denounced what he suggested was news media overemphasis on scenes of angry protesters at town-hall meetings, telling his own gathering in Belgrade, Montana, that "TV loves a ruckus." Charles Manson follower Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme, 60, convicted of trying to assassinate President Gerald Ford in 1975, was released from a Texas prison hospital after more than three decades behind bars.

Five years ago: Nouri al-Maliki, Iraq's prime minister for eight years, relinquished the post to his nominated successor, ending a political deadlock. Pope Francis called for renewed efforts to forge peace on the war-divided Korean Peninsula as he opened a five-day visit to South Korea. Rob Manfred was elected baseball's 10th commissioner, winning a three-man race to succeed Bud Selig. San Francisco said goodbye to Candlestick Park — the stadium where the city's beloved Giants and 49ers celebrated some of their greatest triumphs — with an evening concert by former Beatle Paul McCartney.

One year ago: A highway bridge collapsed in the Italian city of Genoa during a storm, sending vehicles plunging nearly 150 feet and leaving 43 people dead. Vermont Democrats chose the nation's first transgender gubernatorial nominee, Christine Hallquist. (Hallquist would get 40% of the vote in November against Republican Phil Scott, who won with 55%.) A state grand jury report concluded that some 300 Roman Catholic priests in Pennsylvania had molested more than 1,000 children since the 1940s and that church officials had covered up complaints. Puerto Rico officials announced that power was restored to the entire island for the first time since Hurricane Maria nearly 11 months earlier. Los Angeles transit officials said the city's subway system would become the first in the country to install body scanners to screen passengers for weapons and explosives.

Today's Birthdays: Broadway lyricist Lee Adams ("Bye Bye Birdie") is 95. College Football Hall of Famer John Brodie is 84. Singer Dash Crofts is 81. Rock singer David Crosby is 78. Country singer Connie Smith is 78. Comedian-actor Steve Martin is 74. Movie director Wim Wenders is 74. Actor Antonio Fargas is 73. Singer-musician Larry Graham is 73. Actress Susan Saint James is 73. Actor David Schramm is 73. Author Danielle Steel is 72. Rock singer-musician Terry Adams (NRBQ) is 71. "Far Side" cartoonist Gary Larson is 69. Actor Carl Lumbly is 68. Olympic gold medal swimmer Debbie Meyer is 67. Actress Jackee Harry is 63. Actress Marcia Gay Harden is 60. Basketball Hall of Famer Earvin "Magic" Johnson is 60. Singer Sarah Brightman is 59. Actress Susan Olsen is 58. Actress-turned-fashion/interior designer Cristi Conaway is 55. Rock musician Keith Howland (Chicago) is 55. Actress Halle Berry is 53. Actor Ben Bass is 51. Actress Catherine Bell is 51. Country musician Cody McCarver (Confederate Railroad) is 51. Rock musician Kevin

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Cadogan is 49. Actor Scott Michael Campbell is 48. Actress Lalanya Masters is 47. Actor Christopher Gorcham is 45. Actress Mila Kunis is 36. Actor Lamorne Morris is 36. TV personality Spencer Pratt is 36. NFL quarterback-turned-baseball player Tim Tebow is 32. Actress Marsai Martin is 15.

Thought for Today: "There is no safety in numbers, or in anything else." — James Thurber, American author and cartoonist (1894-1961).