

Groton Daily Independent

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Earth's future is being written in fast-melting Greenland Page 12



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

Football Game Cancelled

Joe Schwan
Tuesday, August 20, 2019

- Aug. 20 Faculty Inservice
- Aug. 20 Open House / Picnic (5-7:30)
- Aug. 21 Faculty Inservice
- Aug. 22 1st Day of School

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the McLaughlin Mustangs have had to forfeit the varsity football game scheduled for Friday, August 23 at Doney Field.

We are uncertain if there will be an opportunity to play against a different opponent later in the season to have an eighth game.

The Tigers will take on Ellendale/Edgeley-Kulm on Friday, August 30 at 7:00 PM in Ellendale.

Ways to Save Money at the State Fair

HURON, S.D. - The South Dakota State Fair offers several simple ways to save money during the fair.

Save on gate admission by purchasing your grandstand tickets on or before Wednesday, Aug. 28. Tickets purchased by then include gate admission. Grandstand tickets can be purchased by calling 866.605.3247, online at www.sdstatefair.com or at the grandstand ticket office.

On Thursday, Aug. 29, all veterans and active military members receive free gate admission. Additionally, on Aug. 29, 4-H youth also receive free gate admission by showing their 4-H card, which can be obtained from county 4-H offices.

Coupons for \$1 off gate admission on Friday, Aug. 30 are available at Prostrollo Motors on east Highway 14 in Huron. The Prostrollo's Rockin' Rollback coupons are valid on Friday, Aug. 30, only.

Monday, Sept. 2, is Kid's Day, as well as Pay it Forward Day. Kids can dress up in their favorite future occupation uniform and be eligible for \$1 off admission into the fair. The fair is also teaming up with businesses and organizations that are generously sponsoring gate admission passes for those in need. Passes will also be randomly handed out at the gate entrances. Fairgoers can pay it forward to the food pantry by bringing a non-perishable food item for the 'Drive to End Hunger' between the hours of 7 a.m. and 11 a.m. and receive \$2 off gate admission.

There are also plenty of ways to save money at the carnival throughout the week. All rides on Wednesday, Aug. 28, are only a dollar! The Weekly Passport to Fun pass offers a carnival ride pass for all five days of the fair. Advanced passes can be purchased at Prostrollo Motors through Aug. 31 for \$52. Big Jim 93.3 and Dairy Queen in Huron are offering a \$3 off coupon for weekday ride wristbands. Coupons can be picked up at Dairy Queen in Huron.

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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Guthmiller wins Sioux Valley Golf Meet

Cade Guthmiller had a two-shoot lead in the first nine holes and it was enough to keep him in first place at the Sioux Valley Boys Golf Tournament held Monday in Volga. He shot a 38 in the first nine holes and a 42 in the second round to finish with an 80. He won the meet one shot over Blake Nielsen of Sisseton. Also participating from Groton were Tristan Traphagen, shooting a 47 and a 49 for a total score of 96, and Hunter Kassube with a 53 and a 44 for a total score of 97.

Sioux Valley won the tournament with 357 points followed by Roncalli with 358, Dell Rapids 359, Sisseton 366, Groton Area 380, Redfield 397, Brookings JV 416, Flandreau 417 and Milbank 448.

The boys next meet will be Monday, Aug. 26 at Moccasin Creek in Aberdeen for the Aberdeen Roncalli Invitational that will start at 10 a.m.

A New Statewide Grant Supports Family Engagement

What is Family Engagement? It is when schools, community partners, and families work together so that all children succeed. South Dakota is one of thirteen states that received a multi-million dollar five-year Statewide Family Engagement Center grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The grantees, a partnership between West River Foundation, educational cooperative BHSSC, SD Dept. of Education, and SD Parent Connection have established the new SD Statewide Family Engagement Center (SD SFEC) which focuses on "cradle-to-career" supports for students, parents, families, and community-based organizations. The goal is to improve student development and academic achievement -- especially for economically disadvantaged, minority, and English Language Learner students. BHSSC's Morgan VonHaden is a co-director of the effort and says, "We are so excited about this statewide partnership to help more students and families succeed."

The SD SFEC quarterly newsletter starting this month will offer "how to" tips and evidence-based practices on topics such as "Welcoming Environment," "Attendance," "STEAM activities," "Mental Health," "English Learners," and "Trauma-Informed Practices." In September SD SFEC will deliver Napoleon Dynamite Producer Sean Covey's new children's book Porter the Hoarder to South Dakota first graders, along with organized readings by the author in several locations across the state.

Learn more about this exciting new opportunity for South Dakota schools at sdsfec.org and follow on facebook at SFEC South Dakota.

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Groton City Council Meeting Agenda
August 20, 2019 – 7:00pm
Groton Community Center

1. Public Comments - pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1
(Public Comments will offer the opportunity for anyone not listed on the agenda to speak to the council. Speaking time will be limited to 3 minutes. No action will be taken on questions or items not on the agenda.)
2. Minutes
3. Bills
4. July Finance Report
5. September meeting dates
6. First reading of Ordinance #728 – 2020 Appropriation Ordinance
7. Executive session personnel & legal 1-25-2 (1) & (3)
8. Adjournment

Service Notice: Leonard Broman

Services for Leonard Broman, 97, of Groton will be 11:00 a.m., Thursday, August 22nd at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Groton. Rev. Charlie Bunk will officiate. Burial will follow in Union Cemetery, Groton under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Visitation will be held for one hour prior to services.

Leonard passed away August 18, 2019 at Dougherty Hospice House in Sioux Falls.

Death Notice: Julius Kolb

Julius Kolb, 94, of Groton passed away August 18, 2019 at Bethesda Home in Webster. Services are pending for Saturday with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

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 Wakarusa.



Northeastern
MENTAL HEALTH CENTER



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SDFBCA Pre-Season Coaches Poll

11AAA

- #1 Brandon Valley
- #2 SF Roosevelt
- #3 SF Washington
- #4 O'Gorman
- #5 Harrisburg

11AA

- #1 Pierre
- #2 Yankton
- #3 Brookings
- #4 Mitchell
- #5 Huron

11A

- #1 Tea Area
- #2 Madison
- #3 Canton
- #4 SF Christian
- #5 Dakota Valley

11B

- #1 Bridgewater-Emery/Ethan
- #2 Winner
- #3 St. Thomas More
- #4 Sioux Valley
- #5 Mt. Vernon/Plankinton

9AA

- #1 Bon Homme
- #2 Arlington/Lake Preston
- #3 Hamlin
- #4 Viborg-Hurley
- #5 Clark/Willow Lake

9A

- #1 Canistota/Freeman
- #2 Sully Buttes
- #3 Britton-Heccla
- #4 Howard
- #5 Gregory

9B

- #1 Wolsey-Wessington
- #2 Colome
- #3 Colman-Egan
- #4 Faulkton Area
- #5 Harding County

Broton Daily Independent

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Today



Sunny

High: 79 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: 54 °F

Wednesday



Mostly Sunny

High: 76 °F

Wednesday
Night



Mostly Clear

Low: 54 °F

Thursday



Mostly Sunny

High: 76 °F

WATCH FOR DENSE FOG EARLY THIS MORNING



Slow Down, and plan extra time to get to your destination!

TODAY
77 to 86°



Early morning fog.

WEDNESDAY
73 to 79°



A few early morning showers & thunderstorms over south central SD

THURSDAY
71 to 79°



A few early morning showers & thunderstorms over south central SD

FRIDAY
73 to 80°



showers & thunderstorms



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

8/20/2019 5:39 AM

weather.gov/abr

Published on: 08/20/2019 at 1:43AM

Watch for Dense Fog early this morning. Slow down, and plan extra time to get to your destination. Be extra cautious around schools, as this is the first week of school for many across our region. Mainly dry high pressure will sink across eastern South Dakota through Wednesday evening. Expect off and on showers and thunderstorms to return Thursday night through the weekend.

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Today in Weather History

August 20, 1904: A destructive, estimated F4 tornado moved ESE from 7 miles WNW of Willow Lake, through the town, and on into Bryant in Hamlin County, South Dakota. Most of the damaged occurred in those two towns. All buildings on at least three farms were blown away. One woman died in Bryant as the tornado swept across the residential west side of town. Another man was killed just west of Willow Lake, as his farm house was scattered for miles.

1886: The 1886 Indianola Hurricane destroyed the town of Indianola, Texas and as such had a significant impact on the history and economic development of Texas. The storm ended the rivalry between Galveston and Indianola as the chief port of Texas. With the abandonment of Indianola and the unwillingness of the former residents to rebuild close to shore, Galveston became the essential Texan port until the 1900 Galveston Hurricane led to the rise of Houston as a major port. It was the fifth hurricane of the 1886 Atlantic hurricane season and one of the most intense hurricanes ever to hit the United States.

1910: The Great Fire of 1910 finally came to an end in Idaho. A record dry August fueled 1736 fires that burned three million acres destroying six billion board feet of timber. The fires claimed the lives of 85 persons, 78 of which were firefighters, and consumed the entire town of Wallace. The smoke spread a third of the way around the world producing some dark days in the U.S. and Canada. The forest fires prompted federal fire protection laws.

1928: A tornado estimated at F4 intensity initially touched down in Winnebago County, Iowa, moved to Freeborn County, Minnesota, and hit the south side of Austin, MN. Five of the six deaths were in Austin with 60 injuries.

1987 - Half a dozen cities in the Central Plains Region reported record high temperatures for the date, including Pueblo CO with a reading of 102 degrees, and Goodland KS with a high of 104 degrees. Hill City KS reached 106 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Sheridan, WY, reported a record hot temperature reading of 100 degrees. Evening thunderstorms produced golf ball size hail near Fortuna ND, and wind gusts to 70 mph near Webster SD. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Early morning thunderstorms produced heavy rain in southeast Kansas and northeastern Oklahoma, with up to six inches reported around Tulsa OK. Some roads in the Tulsa area were closed by water 10 to 12 feet deep. Evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in northern Oklahoma and southern Kansas. Thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 75 mph in Major County OK, and hail two inches in diameter at Jennings KS. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

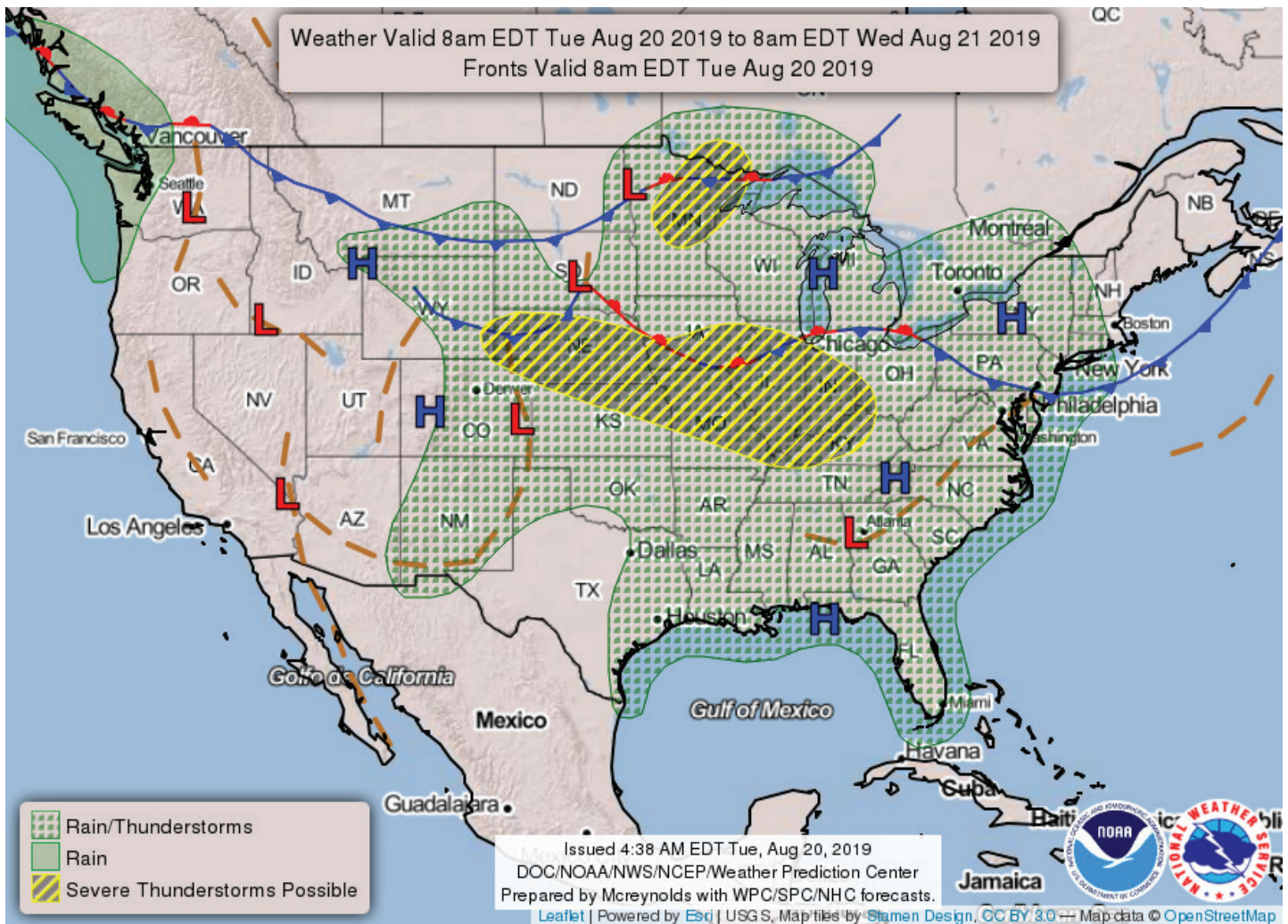
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 84 °F at 5:07 PM
Low Temp: 56 °F at 4:23 AM
Wind: 16 mph at 4:04 PM
Day Rain: 0.00

Record High: 103° in 1976
Record Low: 33° in 1950
Average High: 81°F
Average Low: 56°F
Average Precip in Aug.: 1.48
Precip to date in Aug.: 2.98
Average Precip to date: 15.34
Precip Year to Date: 19.57
Sunset Tonight: 8:33 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:42 a.m.





MISPLACED TRUST

We all inherit the same sinful nature at birth. It is very evident in the way we think and act. We have an inbred dependence on our subjective, self-focused, self-centered, or perhaps might we be more honest and say sinful selves. We tend to rely on our God-given gifts as something we have accomplished on our own apart from Him. It is as though we took a lump of clay from the ground and fashioned a person, endowed him with skills and abilities and said, Now, lets do something that we can be proud of!

He who trusts in himself is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom is kept safe. This statement reminds us of the wisdom contained in another proverb: Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. Once again in his wisdom and our lack of it, Solomon took time to remind us of how we easily turn to ourselves rather than God. Trusting in ourselves is normal and natural but not without proving to ourselves, others and God that we are fools.

Notice this: A greedy man stirs up dissension, but he who trusts in the Lord will prosper. This theme, flowing throughout Proverbs, is so very important when we relate it to our sinful nature. To trust in is difficult because it signals to the world that what we do is not of ourselves but is a gift from God and to God be the glory for that gift!

Greed is who we are. Its not a word that we want to be identified by. It is something most of us try to deny. The solution? Give credit to God for who we are and what we have!

Prayer: Lord, thank You for seeing who we can be in spite of who we think we are. Make us willing to be willing to let go and let God get the glory, honor, and praise! In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 28:26 He who trusts in himself is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom is kept safe.

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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 **AP** Associated Press

Earth's future is being written in fast-melting Greenland

By **SETH BORENSTEIN** AP Science Writer

HELHEIM GLACIER, Greenland (AP) — This is where Earth's refrigerator door is left open, where glaciers dwindle and seas begin to rise.

New York University air and ocean scientist David Holland, who is tracking what's happening in Greenland from both above and below, calls it "the end of the planet." He is referring to geography more than the future. Yet in many ways this place is where the planet's warmer and watery future is being written.

It is so warm here, just inside the Arctic Circle, that on an August day, coats are left on the ground and Holland and colleagues work on the watery melting ice without gloves. In one of the closest towns, Kulusuk, the morning temperature reached a shirtsleeve 52 degrees Fahrenheit (10.7 degrees Celsius).

The ice Holland is standing on is thousands of years old. It will be gone within a year or two, adding yet more water to rising seas worldwide.

Summer this year is hitting Greenland hard with record-shattering heat and extreme melt. By the end of the summer, about 440 billion tons (400 billion metric tons) of ice — maybe more — will have melted or calved off Greenland's giant ice sheet, scientists estimate.

In just the five days from July 31 to Aug. 3, more than 58 billion tons (53 billion metric tons) melted from the surface. That's over 40 billion tons more than the average for this time of year. And that 58 billion tons doesn't even count the huge calving events or the warm water eating away at the glaciers from below, which may be a huge factor.

And one of the places hit hardest this hot Greenland summer is here on the southeastern edge of the giant frozen island: Helheim, one of Greenland's fastest-retreating glaciers, has shrunk about 6 miles (10 kilometers) since scientists came here in 2005.

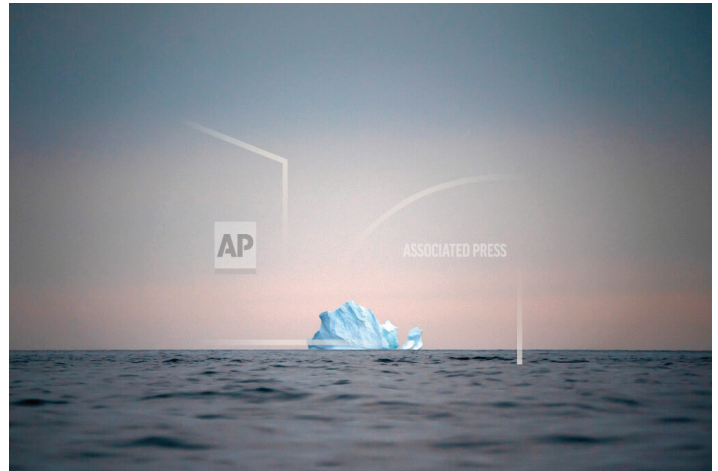
Several scientists, such as NASA oceanographer Josh Willis, who is also in Greenland, studying melting ice from above, said what's happening is a combination of man-made climate change and natural but weird weather patterns. Glaciers here do shrink in the summer and grow in the winter, but nothing like this year.

Summit Station, a research camp nearly 2 miles high (3,200 meters) and far north, warmed to above freezing twice this year for a record total of 16.5 hours. Before this year, that station was above zero for only 6.5 hours in 2012, once in 1889 and also in the Middle Ages.

This year is coming near but not quite passing the extreme summer of 2012 — Greenland's worst year in modern history for melting, scientists report.

"If you look at climate model projections, we can expect to see larger areas of the ice sheet experiencing melt for longer durations of the year and greater mass loss going forward," said University of Georgia ice scientist Tom Mote. "There's every reason to believe that years that look like this will become more common."

A NASA satellite found that Greenland's ice sheet lost about 255 billion metric tons of ice a year between



In this Aug. 15, 2019, photo, a large Iceberg floats away as the sun sets near Kulusuk, Greenland. Greenland is where Earth's refrigerator door is left open, where glaciers dwindle and seas begin to rise. Scientists are hard at work there, trying to understand the alarmingly rapid melting of the ice. For Greenland is where the planet's future is being written. (AP Photo/Felipe Dana)

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2003 and 2016, with the loss rate generally getting worse over that period. Nearly all of the 28 Greenland glaciers that Danish climate scientist Ruth Mottram measured are retreating, especially Helheim.

At Helheim, the ice, snow and water seem to go on and on, sandwiched by bare dirt mountains that now show no signs of ice but get covered in the winter. The only thing that gives a sense of scale is the helicopter carrying Holland and his team. It's dwarfed by the landscape, an almost imperceptible red speck against the ice cliffs where Helheim stops and its remnants begin.

Those ice cliffs are somewhere between 225 feet (70 meters) and 328 feet (100 meters) high. Just next to them are Helheim's remnants — sea ice, snow and icebergs — forming a mostly white expanse, with a mishmash of shapes and textures. Frequently water pools amid that white, glimmering a near-fluorescent blue that resembles windshield wiper fluid or Kool-Aid.

As pilot Martin Norregaard tries to land his helicopter on the broken-up part of what used to be glacier — a mush called a melange — he looks for ice specked with dirt, a sign that it's firm enough for the chopper to set down on. Pure white ice could conceal a deep crevasse that leads to a cold and deadly plunge.

Holland and team climb out to install radar and GPS to track the ice movement and help explain why salty, warm, once-tropical water attacking the glacier's "underbelly" has been bubbling to the surface

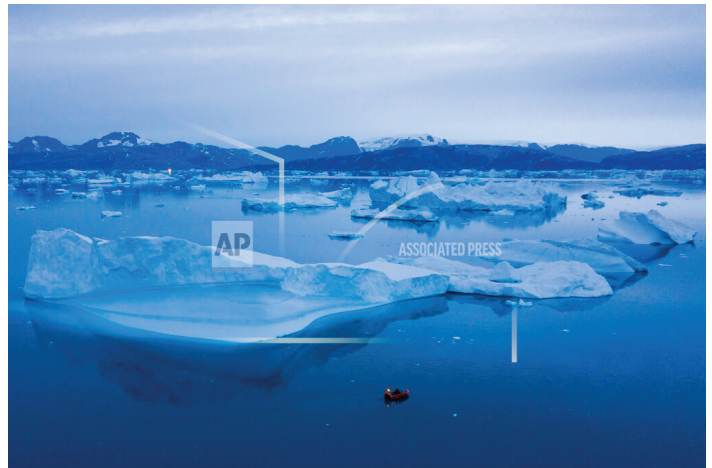
"It takes a really long time to grow an ice sheet, thousands and thousands of years, but they can be broken up or destroyed quite rapidly," Holland said.

Holland, like NASA's Willis, suspects that warm, salty water that comes in part from the Gulf Stream in North America is playing a bigger role than previously thought in melting Greenland's ice. And if that's the case, that's probably bad news for the planet, because it means faster and more melting and higher sea level rise. Willis said that by the year 2100, Greenland alone could cause 3 or 4 feet (more than 1 meter) of sea level rise.

So it's crucial to know how much of a role the air above and the water below play.

"What we want for this is an ice sheet forecast," Holland said.

In this remote landscape, sound travels easily for miles. Every several minutes there's a faint rumbling that sounds like thunder, but it's not. It's ice cracking.



In this Aug. 15, 2019, photo, a boat navigates at night next to large icebergs near the town of Kulusuk, in eastern Greenland. Greenland's ice has been melting for more than 20 years, but in 2019, it's as if Earth's refrigerator door has been left open, and it means a potentially large rise in the world's sea levels. (AP Photo/Felipe Dana)



In this Aug. 16, 2019, photo, New York University air and ocean scientist David Holland, left, and field safety officer Brian Rougeux, right, are helped by pilot Martin Norregaard as they carry antennas out of a helicopter to be installed at the Helheim glacier, in Greenland. Holland and his NYU team are tracking what's happening in Greenland from both above and below. He calls it "the end of the planet" referring to geography more than the future. Yet in many ways Greenland is where the planet's warmer and watery future is being written. (AP Photo/Felipe Dana)

In tiny Kulusuk, about a 40-minute helicopter ride away, Mugu Utuaq says the winter that used to last as much as 10 months when he was a boy can now be as short as five months. That matters to him because as the fourth-ranked dogsledder in Greenland, he has 23 dogs and needs to race them.

They can't race in the summer, but they still have to eat. So Utuaq and friends go whale hunting with rifles in small boats. If they succeed, which this day they didn't, the dogs can eat whale.

"People are getting rid of their dogs because there's no season," said Yewlin, who goes by one name. He used to run a sled dog team for tourists at a hotel in neighboring Tasiilaq, but they no longer can do that.

Yes, the melting glaciers, less ice and warmer weather are noticeable and much different from his childhood, said Kulusuk Mayor Justus Paulsen, 58. Sure, it means more fuel is needed for boats to get around, but that's OK, he said.

"We like it because we like to have a summer," Paulsen said.

But Holland looks out at Helheim glacier from his base camp and sees the bigger picture. And it's not good, he said. Not for here. Not for Earth as a whole.

"It's kind of nice to have a planet with glaciers around," Holland said.



In this Aug. 16, 2019, photo, NYU student researchers sit on top of a rock overlooking the Helheim glacier in Greenland. Summer 2019 is hitting the island hard with record-shattering heat and extreme melt. Scientists estimate that by the end of the summer, about 440 billion tons of ice, maybe more, will have melted or calved off Greenland's giant ice sheet. Helheim glacier has shrunk about 6 miles (10 kilometers) since scientists visited in 2005. (AP Photo/Felipe Dana)

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

South Dakota lawmakers push forward on allowing hemp

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota lawmakers heard from officials in neighboring North Dakota and Montana about how the legalization of industrial hemp has affected their states, despite Republican Gov. Kristi Noem's opposition to allowing the crop.

During the meeting Monday in Pierre, the North Dakota and Montana officials said they didn't face roadblocks to legalizing the crop in their states, but Noem sent members of her administration to the meeting to oppose legalization in South Dakota.

The administration's common theme was that too many questions remain, KELO reported. Public Safety Secretary Craig Price said he thinks legalizing industrial hemp would invite new attempts to legalize marijuana.

Minority Whip Oren Lesmeister, who has been meeting with officials from states where industrial hemp is grown and processed, disagreed.

"We are seeing that these states have strict rules in place, but we also see that the fear industrial hemp is a backway to produce the drug, marijuana, is unwarranted," Lesmeister, a Parade rancher, said in a statement. "We have also learned farmers can make money from this."

The Legislature passed a bill to legalize industrial hemp last session, but Noem vetoed it. House Majority Leader Lee Qualm, a Republican who chairs the Industrial Hemp Summer Study, said the committee is working to come up with legislation that would make everyone comfortable.

Qualm said in a statement that the hardy crop can be grown in nearly every region of the state.

"Industrial hemp is the first new crop that has come along in decades," said Qualm.

Noem said she gave 315 questions to committee members prior to their first meeting last month.

"When it comes to industrial hemp, we still have more questions than we have answers," Noem said in a statement. "Other states are struggling to implement their industrial hemp laws. As leaders, we must have answers to how any new law will be implemented effectively and how it will impact our state."

Monday's session included testimony from North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring, Montana hemp program coordinator Andy Gray and Montana Agriculture Department Director Ben Thomas. Industrial hemp production has been allowed in North Dakota for several years, while Montana is setting up its processor licensing system.

South Dakota Farmers Union President Doug Sombke said members of his organization are watching the process closely.

"Legalizing the growing of industrial hemp has been part of our policy since 2018, because our family farmers and ranchers need new opportunities. And industrial hemp is a new, potentially high-value opportunity," he said in a statement.

South Dakota cities to lose millions in internet service tax

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City is expected to lose more than \$2 million in state funding over the next two years following the congressional repeal of South Dakota's tax on internet service.

The 2016 Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act, which required South Dakota to stop taxing internet services by mid-2020, is projected to lead to a \$700,000 loss in state funding next year and \$1.4 million the following year for Rapid City. The South Dakota Municipal League estimates that it will result in a total revenue dip of \$7 to \$10 million for all of the state's municipalities by 2021.

"There's no way for anybody to make that up," said Yvonne Taylor, the league's executive director. The group opposed the mandate.

South Dakota began to collect sales tax from some out-of-state internet retailers and from sales platforms such as eBay in November 2018. The tax applies to retailers that conduct more than \$100,000 worth of business in South Dakota annually or more than 200 transactions a year. The tax is expected to be phased out in South Dakota by June of 2020.

The league projects the state government could potentially lose between \$10 million to \$15 million in internet service tax revenue the first full year the repeal takes effect, the Rapid City Journal reported.

Because the repeal will take effect partway through fiscal year 2020, Rapid City will receive approximately half the normal amount of revenue from the tax. But the tax will not be collected at all in 2021, leading Rapid City to an expected loss of approximately \$1.4 million, according to city Finance Director Pauline Sumption.

In the meantime, sales tax revenue growth should be able to sufficiently offset the loss, Sumption said. According to budget projections for next year, Rapid City will collect \$29,427,111 in sales tax revenue, up about 1% from 2019.

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

Services held for deputy who died after on-duty crash

ROCK RAPIDS, Iowa (AP) — Services were held for a northwest Iowa sheriff's deputy who died after her patrol vehicle crashed.

A Mass was held Monday morning in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, for Deputy Stephanie Schreurs, who died Tuesday. She was injured Aug. 9 when her vehicle ran off a road while entering a sharp curve in Lyon County. She was flown to a Sioux Falls hospital.

Vehicles from numerous law enforcement agencies joined in burial procession through Sioux Falls and to a cemetery in Alford, Iowa. Many of the emergency vehicles activated their lights and sirens during the procession.

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Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds has ordered all state flags lowered to half-staff in honor of Schreurs, a 24-year veteran of the Lyon County Sheriff's Department.

South Dakota Volleyball Polls By The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) - Here is the South Dakota Media preseason volleyball poll for the 2019 season. Teams are listed with first place votes in parenthesis, points, and final 2018 ranking.<

CLASS AA

Pts;;Pvs

1. S.F. Washington (6);55;3
2. R.C. Stevens (4);49;1
3. O'Gorman (3);44;2
4. Watertown (1);37;4
5. Mitchell;7;5

ALSO RECEIVING VOTES: Brandon Valley 5, Huron 4, Harrisburg 3, S.F. Roosevelt 3, Brookings 2, Aberdeen Central 1

CLASS A

1. S.F. Christian (12);68;1
2. Miller (1);50;2
3. McCook Central-Montrose (1);34;3
4. Elk Point-Jefferson;13;NR
5. Parker;10;NR

ALSO RECEIVING VOTES: St. Thomas More 6, Winner 6, Aberdeen Roncalli 4, Dakota Valley 4, Wagner 4, Madison 3, Mount Vernon-Plankinton 2, R.C. Christian 2, Tea Area 2, Clark-Willow Lake 1, Mobridge-Pollock 1

CLASS B

1. Northwestern (6);62;1
2. Warner (8);59;2
3. Chester Area;35;3
4. Faulkton Area;20;NR
5. Faith;14;4

ALSO RECEIVING VOTES: Ethan 10, Burke 6, Kimball-White Lake 2, Sully Buttes 1

South Dakota Prep Polls By The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Prep Media preseason football polls for the week of August 19 are listed below, ranking the top-five teams in each class. First-place votes received are indicated in parentheses.

Class 11AAA

1. Brandon Valley (22) 110
2. SF O'Gorman 70
3. SF Roosevelt 62
4. SF Washington 61
5. SF Lincoln 15

Receiving votes: Watertown 8, Harrisburg 2, RC Central 1, Aberdeen Central 1.

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Class 11AA

1. Pierre (22) 110
2. Yankton 74
3. Brookings 67
4. Huron 38
5. Mitchell 32

Receiving votes: Sturgis 6.

Class 11A

1. Tea Area (21) 107
2. Dakota Valley 63
3. Madison (1) 47
4. SF Christian 42
5. West Central 31

Receiving votes: Dell Rapids 25, Canton 15.

Class 11B

1. Bridgewater-Emery1Ethan (14)93
2. St. Thomas More (6) 84
3. Winner (2) 70
4. Mt. Vernon-Plankinton 52
5. Sioux Valley 22

Receiving votes: Groton Area 5, Garretson 4, Webster Area 2, Beresford 1, Hot Springs 1.

Class 9AA

1. Bon Homme (15) 97
2. Arlington2Lake Preston 47
3. Hamlin 42
4. Clark-Willow Lake (6) 41
5. Viborg-Hurley (1) 39

Receiving votes: Baltic 28, Deuel 16, Hanson 15, Platte-Geddes 1.

Class 9A

1. Sully Buttes (10) 79
2. Canistota2Freeman (10) 69
3. Britton-Hecla (2)45
4. Warner 31
5. Kimball-White Lake 30

Receiving votes: Howard 28, Castlewood 15, Timber Lake 15, De Smet 10, Gregory 7, Wall 1.

Class 9B

1. Harding County (1) 64
2. Colome (3) 52
3. Faulkton Area (3) 49
4. Corsica-Stickney (7) 45
5. Colman-Egan (4) 39

Receiving votes: Wolsey-Wessington 37, Dell Rapids St. Mary (4) 35, Faith 9.

Percentage of inmates convicted of drug crimes has increased

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The percentage of inmates who are serving time for drug crimes in South Dakota has increased in the last five years.

According to statistics from the Department of Corrections, the percentage of men in South Dakota prisons for drug crimes has increased from 21% in 2014 to 28% in 2019.

Among female inmates, 44% were in prison for drugs in 2014 compared with 64 percent now. The increase happened despite passage of a 2013 criminal justice reform bill that was meant to reduce prison population. The Public Safety Improvement Act included reforms such as issuing sentences of probation instead of prison for most low-level, non-violent felonies including certain drug crimes.

The Rapid City Journal reports that nationally, 14% of male inmates and 25% of female inmates are serving time for drug crimes.

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

Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press undefined

Argus Leader, Sioux Falls, Aug. 18

Leadership needed to address gun violence

A rapid-fire string of mass shootings in late July and early August sparked sorrow and outrage throughout our country — again. The incidents also led to now-familiar questions.

Why is the United States, alone among the most developed nations on the planet, cursed to suffer these repeated tragedies? Why are other countries, exposed to the same make-believe violence in video games and movies, not condemned to the same seemingly endless cycle of bullets, blood and grief?

After every mass shooting, this editorial board maintains hope that our leaders will shake off bullheaded ideology long enough to make meaningful strides toward reducing gun violence. That's the only possible good that can come out of so much unnecessary suffering: that those who make the laws maintaining the balance between order and freedom will make change that matters.

We submit, again, that it's time to offer not just thoughts and prayers but engage in frank conversations that result in effective, multi-pronged solutions.

Three mass shootings within the span of a midsummer week: Gilroy, El Paso and Dayton, the last two separated by fewer than 24 hours. In the senseless wake of 34 dead Americans and nearly 60 more wounded, our elected representatives suggested that mental health concerns should be a focus once they have all returned to Washington. "If we do not prioritize the mental health crisis in our country, innocent people will continue to die," said Rep. Dusty Johnson.

According to Sen. Mike Rounds, addressing mental illness to identify warning signs and provide effective, timely treatment is a large piece of the solution to the gun violence puzzle. Second-ranking Senate Republican John Thune said that he believes Congress can find common ground on "red flag" laws, which allow family members to request temporary restrictions to firearm access should the person in question pose an imminent threat to themselves or others.

Enter 26 current and former South Dakota state legislators in zealous thrall to their favored interpretation of the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. They issued a joint letter demanding that our Congressional delegation and President Trump oppose red flag laws and enact "the repeal of 'gun-free zones.'" In a nutshell, to refuse to even participate in any conversation that doesn't follow their gospel of more and more guns, in all possible hands and all possible places.

We are not alone in suggesting that adding more weaponry to America's gun violence epidemic is a wrongheaded remedy. Law enforcement professionals do not generally endorse having more guns in inexperienced hands during active shooter situations.

Likewise, the free market speaks volumes regarding "school sentinel" programs, such as those enabled

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by a 2013 South Dakota state law passed in the aftermath of the Sandy Hook tragedy. Districts considering training and arming teachers have discovered that insurance companies aren't keen to cover schools that arm their teachers and staff.

Most importantly, what do the American people think? According to a Fox News poll conducted among Republican, Democratic and independent voters this week, nearly four times as many respondents believe that a mass shooting by an American citizen is a bigger threat than an attack by Islamic terrorists, and they're ready for their leaders to do something about it.

The poll found that 90 percent of respondents favor requiring background checks on gun buyers, including at gun shows and in private sales, while 81 percent favor red flag laws and 67 percent would support an assault weapons ban.

Members of Congress should muster the courage to take a step back from lockstep lobbyist loyalty — underscored by a fear of enraging the National Rifle Association — and contemplate a wider view. Sometimes the boldest leadership stems from flexibility and a sense of independence.

If those in power can summon the willingness to represent all of us rather than merely a fanatic few, tangible steps can be taken to try to address the carnage. Will these legislative efforts solve the problem and eliminate all mass shootings? Of course not.

But running out the clock until the next cycle of tragedy and soul-searching is not a strategy. It's a disturbing absence of responsible leadership.

Rapid City Journal, Aug. 18

Denard search in capable hands

It's been 196 days since 9-year-old state ward Serenity Dennard dashed into a snowy, subzero and mountainous forest without a parka to seemingly vanish. The tragic mystery of her disappearance persists despite the coordinated efforts of more than 1,000 volunteer and official searchers.

Anyone with even limited experience of a South Dakota cold snap knows the tiny girl would have perished quickly unless she happened almost immediately upon a place of warmth or winter clothing. Possibly Dennard sought protection in a well-hidden hollow or crevice whose location continues to elude searchers. It's possible.

It's not that searchers haven't looked hard for it. They have collectively logged more 4,300 miles in search of anything connected to the missing girl. The searchers have included 91 dogs, their handlers and seven aircraft. And still nothing. With each additional search, it gets more difficult to find ground that hasn't already been double or triple checked, and still they look.

There always was the possibility that somebody waiting outside collected Dennard as she ran away from the Black Hills Children's Home south of Rockerville. Perhaps her flight was pre-arranged. While conducting searches, officials have concurrently pursued that prospect, also to no avail.

The Pennington County Sheriff's Department has chased 195 leads in 15 states, conducted 440 interviews or contacts, and executed six search warrants. Information has been shared with news outlets of all kinds, on social media and with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, potentially reaching millions.

More than 30 stories about Dennard's case have been printed in the Rapid City Journal alone — an average of one story every seven days since her disappearance on Feb. 3. Altogether, these articles have generated enough text to fill at least five newsprint pages — and that's just one newspaper. Stories have been picked up by The Associated Press to be published or broadcast in towns stretching from here to Great Britain. Articles continue to be written and shared. And still, nothing substantial has been uncovered.

Meanwhile, a Facebook page called "Lynne Seeks Truth," created and maintained by state Sen. Lynne DiSanto, R-Box Elder, has featured a lot of uninformed speculation critical of sheriff's department efforts. Some commenters have even alleged official collusion in Dennard's disappearance.

On Aug. 3, for example, a commenter wrote: "They seem to have every excuse imaginable as to why they are unable to look for Serenity, first its too cold, then too hot, then the terrain and tall grass now it's

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the rally/bikers, LE (law enforcement) in that area is a complete joke!"

Nobody should question DiSanto's well-meaning intent in setting up her page. Nobody should doubt her sincerity in wanting to help find Dennard. But it seems unlikely that fostering groundless speculation and conspiracy theories can serve any purpose other than to distract from serious efforts to solve this mystery. If Dennard is ever found, it will result because trained and qualified personnel with access to varied resources did their jobs. It won't be because of a legislator's amateur blog or because uninformed people posted critical comments.

The FBI currently has about 30,000 active missing person records for juveniles under age 18. It's highly unlikely the vast majority of those cases resulted in searches anywhere close to what has been expended locally for Dennard.

Should the search for Dennard end? We have no idea. The sheriff's department has that responsibility. It also has the experience and the information to best make that call. It's what we pay them to do.

What we do know: Local officials, especially the sheriff's department, have gone above and beyond in their efforts to find the missing girl. We applaud them. We support them. We are grateful. And we trust they will continue to do their best.

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Aug. 13

Noem, tribe must get on same page

Gov. Kristi Noem saw for herself last month just what the people in and around Lake Andes are enduring with the flooding in the wake of the spring storms.

Now, it may be time for her to make a return visit.

Noem was one notable target in a press release fired off Monday by the Yankton Sioux Tribe (Inhanktonwan Nation). The release was filled with anger and frustration over flood assistance (or, from the tribe's standpoint, the lack thereof) since the storms.

Those storms nearly doubled Lake Andes lake — from about 6,500 surface acres to an estimated 11,000 surface acres — and the high water has cut off roads and hit some tribal housing developments hard. People have been displaced while their homes are sitting in water and filling with mold.

But that was the situation in June. Two months later, little has apparently changed, despite assurances of help.

"The Inhanktonwan Nation has been waiting six months for the State to stop the flooding at Lake Andes and fix the blocked culvert," the press release said. "Our community is literally drowning due to State negligence and indifference to the health and well-being of our people."

The tribe is also displeased with the Department of Game, Fish and Parks for its alleged failure to address the flooding issues.

"This has developed into slow-motion tragedy for our people — one that was avoidable," the press release said. "The flooding at Lake Andes is caused by the negligence of the state Game, Fish and Parks to maintain a key culvert that replaced the natural waterway from Lake Andes into the Missouri (River)."

The tribe claims that the "state has not responded" to its calls for evidence that the culvert in question shouldn't be replaced and to hear what the long-term plan is.

Meanwhile, a spokeswoman for Noem told the Press & Dakotan that the state plans to raise the grade of Highway 50/281 and to raise the grade on the secondary road running between the currently waterlogged tribal housing development and the highway.

The tribe, as well as all residents in and around Lake Andes, has been hearing promises and advice all summer from state and federal officials. Meanwhile, we've been hearing steady rumblings of frustration from the Andes area since spring.

What these people need to see is action, because right now, from their vantage point, they aren't seeing it.

And that's why it may be a good idea for Noem to return to Charles Mix County and see firsthand what has and/or hasn't been done, to hear the grievances and to offer details of the state's plans for the area.

More than that, it's time for these two sides to get on the same page, which they apparently do not share at the present time.

Overall, the recovery efforts that have been seen throughout the region have been very good, as federal, state and local officials have grappled with the chaos left by the March bomb cyclone and the recurring storms thereafter to at least get life moving again.

But the Lake Andes area seems like an island in more ways than one. The flood waters linger, the damage remains and the hardships are apparently not receding.

Something's not working there.

The governor should revisit this place and assess the situation for herself. And perhaps then, the path forward for the Lake Andes area will be clear to everyone with a stake in this mess.

Clemson QB Lawrence leads AP preseason All-America team

By RALPH D. RUSSO AP College Football Writer

Clemson quarterback Trevor Lawrence headlines The Associated Press preseason All-America team, and he has two teammates from the top-ranked Tigers with him on the first team.

Lawrence, the first freshman to quarterback to lead a team to a national championship in more than 30 years, was joined on the first-team offense by Clemson running back Travis Etienne in the list released Tuesday and presented by Regions Bank. Clemson linebacker Isaiah Simmons was a first-team selection on defense. Clemson and No. 2 Alabama tied for the most first-team selections with three.

Wide receiver Jerry Jeudy, an All-American last season, was selected to the preseason first team, along with defensive lineman Raekwon Davis and linebacker Dylan Moses.

Alabama quarterback Tua Tagovailoa, the Heisman Trophy runner-up, was selected to the second team.

Led by Alabama, the Southeastern Conference placed eight players on the first team, one more than the Big Ten.

The AP All-America team is sponsored by Regions Bank this season, the first time the venerable player honor roll that dates to 1925 has ever had a presenting sponsor.

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

Quarterback — Trevor Lawrence, sophomore, Clemson.

Running back — Jonathan Taylor, junior, Wisconsin; Travis Etienne, junior, Clemson.

Tackles — Andrew Thomas, junior, Georgia; Walker Little, junior, Stanford.

Guards — Shane Lemieux, senior, Oregon; Ben Bredeson, senior, Michigan.

Center — Tyler Biadasz, junior, Wisconsin.

Tight end — Albert Okwuegbunam, junior, Missouri.

Wide receivers — Jerry Jeudy, junior, Alabama; Tylan Wallace, junior, Oklahoma State.

All-purpose player — Rondale Moore, sophomore, Purdue.

Kicker — Andre Szmyt, sophomore, Syracuse.

DEFENSE

Ends — Chase Young, junior, Ohio State; A.J. Epenesa, junior, Iowa.

Tackles — Derrick Brown, senior, Auburn; Raekwon Davis, senior, Alabama.

Linebackers — Dylan Moses, junior, Alabama; Isaiah Simmons, junior, Clemson; Joe Bachie, senior, Michigan State.

Cornerbacks — Bryce Hall, senior, Virginia; Paulson Adebo, junior, Stanford.

Safeties — Grant Delpit, junior, LSU; Andre Cisco, sophomore, Syracuse.

Punter — Braden Mann, senior, Texas A&M.

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

Quarterback — Tua Tagovailoa, junior, Alabama.

Running backs — D'Andre Swift, junior, Georgia; Eno Benjamin, junior, Arizona State.

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Tackles — Trey Adams, senior, Washington; Calvin Throckmorton, senior, Oregon.

Guards — Tommy Kraemer, senior, Notre Dame; John Simpson, senior, Clemson.

Center — Nick Harris, senior, Washington.

Tight end — Jared Pinkney, senior, Vanderbilt.

Wide receivers — Laviska Shenault Jr., junior, Colorado; Justyn Ross, sophomore, Clemson.

All-purpose player — CeeDee Lamb, junior, Oklahoma.

Kicker — Rodrigo Blankenship, senior, Georgia.

DEFENSE

Ends — Kenny Willekes, senior, Michigan State; Julian Okwara, senior, Notre Dame.

Tackles — Leki Fotu, senior, Utah; Marvin Wilson, junior, Florida State.

Linebackers — Paddy Fisher, junior, Northwestern; Evan Weaver, senior, California; Shaquille Quarterman, senior, Miami.

Cornerbacks — Kristian Fulton, senior, LSU; CJ Henderson, junior, Florida.

Safeties — Alohi Gillman, junior, Notre Dame; Jordan Fuller, senior, Ohio State.

Punter — James Smith, junior, Cincinnati.

Follow Ralph D. Russo at <https://twitter.com/ralphDrussoAP> and listen at <https://podcastone.com/AP-Top-25-College-Football-Podcast>

More AP college football: <https://apnews.com/Collegefootball> and https://twitter.com/AP_Top25

Hong Kong's evolving protests: Voices from the front lines

By YANAN WANG Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — On a recent sweltering Saturday, a day now reserved for protest in Hong Kong, a demonstrator named Wayne stepped past a row of plastic barricades, lifted a pair of binoculars and squinted.

Four hundred meters away, a line of riot police stood with full-length shields, batons and tear gas launchers.

It was a familiar sight for Wayne after more than two months on the front lines of Hong Kong's turbulent pro-democracy demonstrations. Along with hard hats and homemade shields, face-offs with police have become part of the 33-year-old philosophy professor's new normal.

The stories of Wayne and three other self-described "front line" protesters interviewed by The Associated Press provide insights into how what started as a largely peaceful movement against proposed changes to the city's extradition law has morphed into a summer of tear gas and rubber bullets. They spoke on condition they be identified only by partial names because they feared arrest.

The movement has reached a moment of reckoning after protesters occupying Hong Kong's airport last week held two mainland Chinese men captive, beating them because they believed the men were infiltrating their movement.

In the aftermath, pro-democracy lawmakers and fellow demonstrators — who have stood by the hard-liners even as they took more extreme steps — questioned whether the operation had gone too far.

It was the first crack in what has been astonishing unity across a wide range of protesters that has kept the movement going. It gave pause to the front-liners, who eased off the violence this past weekend, though they still believe their more disruptive tactics are necessary to get the government to answer the broader movement's demands.

The demands grew from opposing legislation that would have allowed Hong Kong residents to be extradited for trials in mainland China's murky judicial system to pressing for democratic elections, Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam's resignation and an investigation into allegations of police brutality at the demonstrations.

The protesters on the front lines are the ones who throw bricks at police and put traffic cones over active tear gas canisters to contain the fumes. They have broken into and trashed the legislature's chambers, blocked a major tunnel under Hong Kong's harbor, besieged and pelted police headquarters with eggs

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and halted rush-hour subways by blocking the train doors from closing.

To Lam, these are "violent rioters" bent on destroying the city's economy. To China's ruling Communist Party, their actions are "the first signs of terrorism."

To these most die-hard protesters, there's no turning back.

"The situation has evolved into a war in Hong Kong society," said Tin, a 23-year-old front-line demonstrator. "It's the protesters versus the police."

When Hong Kong's youth banded together for this summer's protests, they established a few rules: They would not have clear leaders, protecting individuals from becoming symbols or scapegoats. And they would stick together, no matter their methods.

The peaceful protesters would not disavow the more extreme, sometimes violent tactics of the front-liners, who would distract the police long enough for others to escape arrest.

These were lessons learned from 2014, when the Occupy Central pro-democracy movement fizzled after more than two months without winning any concessions. Many involved feel internal divisions partly led to defeat.

Chong, a 24-year-old front-liner, said everyone's opinion is heard and considered, and they decide on the right path together. But no decision is absolute: The demonstrators have pledged to not impede actions they may disagree with.

Two massive marches roused Chong and others who had given up on political change after the failure of Occupy Central, also dubbed the Umbrella Revolution.

On consecutive weekends in June, hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets to oppose the extradition bill. It struck at fears that China is eroding civil rights that Hong Kong residents enjoy under the "one country, two systems" framework.

"I didn't think I would ever do this again," said Chong, who quit his job as an environmental consultant to devote himself to the protests. "But this time, society is waking up."

On June 12, three days after the first march, protesters blocked the legislature and took over nearby streets, preventing the resumption of debate on the extradition bill. Police responded with tear gas and rubber bullets.

Lam suspended the bill indefinitely the day before the second march, but it didn't mollify the protesters, who turned out in even greater numbers.

As their demands expanded, Lam offered dialogue but showed no signs of giving ground.

That's when hard-liners like Chong and Wayne became convinced that peaceful protest might not be enough.

They blocked roads with makeshift barricades and besieged the Chinese government's Liaison Office in Hong Kong, defacing the national seal over its entrance. Week after week, they clashed with police, who became an object of their anger. Every round of tear gas only seemed to deepen their conviction that the government did not care.

"We've had numerous peaceful protests that garnered no response whatsoever from the government," said J.C., a 27-year-old hairstylist who quit his job in July. "Escalating our actions is both natural and necessary."

Then came the "white shirt" attack. On July 21, dozens of men beat people indiscriminately with wooden poles and steel rods in a commuter rail station as protesters returned home, injuring 44. They wore white clothing in contrast to the protesters' trademark black.

A slow police response led to accusations they colluded with the thugs. Police Commissioner Stephen Lo said resources were stretched because of the protests.

Many saw the attack as proof police prioritized catching demonstrators — around 700 have been arrested so far — over more violent criminals. That view has been reinforced by other images, including police firing tear gas at close range and a woman who reportedly lost vision in one eye after being hit by a beanbag round shot by police.

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Each accusation of police brutality emboldens the hard-core protesters to use greater violence. Gasoline bombs and other flaming objects have become their projectiles of choice, and police stations are now their main target.

In this cauldron of growing rage, the protesters set their sights on Hong Kong's airport.

Hundreds of flights were canceled over two consecutive nights last week as protesters packed the main terminal, blocking access to check-in counters and immigration.

While the major disruption of one of the world's busiest airports got global attention, it was the vigilante attacks on two Chinese men that troubled the movement.

In a written apology the following day, a group of unidentified protesters said recent events had fueled a "paranoia and rage" that put them on a "hair trigger." During the prior weekend's demonstrations, people dressed like protesters had been caught on video making arrests, and police acknowledged use of decoy officers.

At the airport, the protesters were looking for undercover agents in their ranks. Twice they thought they found them.

The first man ran away from protesters who asked why he was taking photos of them. Protesters descended on him, bound his wrists with plastic ties and interrogated him for at least two hours. His ordeal ended only when medics wrested him away on a stretcher.

The second man was wearing a yellow "press" vest used by Hong Kong journalists but refused to show his credentials. In his backpack, protesters found a blue "Safeguard HK" T-shirt worn at rallies to support police.

A small group of protesters repeatedly beat him, poured water on his head and called him "mainland trash." He turned out to be a reporter for China's state-owned Global Times newspaper.

Footage of the mob violence inflamed anti-protester sentiment in China, where the reporter became a martyr. In Hong Kong, pro-democracy lawmakers said it was something that "will not and should not happen again."

Within the movement, some apologized for becoming easily agitated and overreacting. Others questioned whether provocateurs had incited the violence.

Through it all, the front liners called for unity. They pointed to the injuries sustained on their side and the rioting charges that could lock them up for 10 years.

On the night of the airport beating, Wayne couldn't get through the crowd to see what was happening, but he understood how the attackers felt.

"I would have done the same thing," he said. "It's not rational, but I would have kicked him or punched him at least once or twice."

This story has been corrected to show that Chong is 24 years old, not 27.

US stocks edge lower, shed some gains from 3-day rally

By ALEX VEIGA AP Business Writer

Stocks edged lower in midday trading Tuesday, weighed down by a mixed batch of company earnings and another decline in bond yields.

Financial sector stocks accounted for much of the selling as investors reacted to the decline in yields. The 10-year Treasury note slipped to 1.55% from 1.59% late Monday. When bond yields fall, it pulls down the interest rates that banks pocket on mortgages and other consumer loans. Bank of America slid 1%.

Household goods makers and communication services stocks were among the decliners. Energy stocks fell along with the price of crude oil.

Technology stocks, which like banks have tended to lead the market's gains recently, moved higher, having bounced back from the early slide. Apple rose 1.4% and Broadcom gained 2%.

Despite the overall increase in technology stocks, chipmakers were among the biggest decliners a day

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after climbing on news that the U.S. gave Chinese telecom giant an extension to buy more supplies from U.S. companies. Advanced Micro Devices fell 1.9% and Nvidia dropped 1.3%.

Home Depot climbed after the home improvement retailer reported earnings that topped Wall Street's forecasts. But two other big retailers didn't fare as well. Investors sent Kohl's and TJX lower after their latest quarterly report cards fell short of analysts' expectations.

The market was coming off a three-day winning streak, the latest twist for the market, which has been caught in the grips of volatile trading all month.

KEEPING SCORE: The S&P 500 was down 0.3% as of noon Eastern Time. The Dow Jones Industrial Average slid 57 points, or 0.2%, to 26,079. The Nasdaq, which is heavily weighted with technology stocks, dropped 0.2%.

LET'S REMODEL: Home Depot jumped 4.4% after the home improvement retailer reported earnings that topped Wall Street's forecasts. The company also cut its sales expectations for the year as lumber prices slid and the company braces for the potential impact of tariffs on its customers.

TURNOUT TROUBLES: Kohl's fell 4.9% after the department store reported a sharper than expected decline in sales at established locations during the second quarter.

MIXED RESULTS: Shares in TJX Cos., slid 1.4% after the operator of the T.J. Maxx, Marshalls, and HomeGoods retail chains said comparable sales growth fell short of analysts' forecasts. The company also issued a third quarter earnings outlook that came in below analysts' expectations.

FEELING HEALTHY: Medtronic gained 4% after the medical device maker jumped past Wall Street's fiscal first quarter financial expectations and raised its profit forecast for the year.

EYE ON THE ECONOMY: Investors are trying to parse conflicting signals on the U.S. economy and determine whether a recession is looming. A key concern is that the escalating and costly trade conflict between the world's two biggest economies will hamper growth around the globe.

Earlier this month, President Donald Trump announced plans to extend tariffs across virtually all Chinese imports, many of them consumer products that were exempt from earlier rounds of tariffs.

Although many of the tariffs have been delayed, the founder of Chinese tech giant Huawei said Tuesday he expects no relief from U.S. export curbs due to the political climate in Washington. He expressed confidence the company will thrive because it develops its own technology.

White House insists fundamentals of US economy 'very strong'

By **ZEKE MILLER** and **JOSH BOAK** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The "fundamentals" of the U.S. economy are solid, the White House asserted, invoking an ill-fated political declaration of a decade ago amid mounting concern that a recession could imperil President Donald Trump's reelection.

Exhibiting no such concern, senior adviser Kellyanne Conway declared to reporters on Monday, "The fact is, the fundamentals of our economy are very strong."

It's a phrase with a history. Republican John McCain was accused of being out of touch when he made a similar declaration during the 2008 presidential campaign just hours before investment bank Lehman Brothers filed for bankruptcy, setting off a stock market crash and global financial decline.

A case can be made for the White House position. The U.S. job market is setting records for low unemployment, and the economy has continued uninterrupted growth since Trump took office. But growth is slowing, stock markets have swung wildly in recent weeks on recession fears, and indicators in the housing and manufacturing sectors have given economists pause. A new survey Monday showed a big majority of economists expecting a downturn to hit by 2021 at the latest, according to a report from the National Association of Business Economics.

Trump begs to disagree.

"We're doing tremendously well. Our consumers are rich. I gave a tremendous tax cut and they're loaded up with money," Trump said on Sunday. "I don't think we're having a recession."

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Still, the Republican president took to Twitter on Monday to urge the Federal Reserve to stimulate the economy by cutting interest rates and returning to "quantitative easing" of its monetary policy, an indication of deep anxiety beneath his administration's bravado. And he backtracked last week on taking the next step in escalating in his trade war with China, concerned that new tariffs on consumer goods could hamper the critical holiday shopping season.

White House aides and campaign advisers have been monitoring the recent turbulence in the financial markets and troubling indicators at home and around the world with concern for Trump's 2020 chances.

Any administration has to walk a fine line between reflecting the realities of the global financial situation and adopting its historical role as a cheerleader for the American economy. For Trump, striking that balance may be even more difficult than for most.

For decades, economic performance has proven to be a critical component of presidential job approval, and no American leader so much as Trump has tied his political fortunes to it. The celebrity businessman was elected in 2016 promising to reduce unemployment — a task at which he has succeeded — and to bring about historic GDP growth, where he has had less success.

The situation today isn't nearly as dire as in September 2008, when the U.S. and the world were heading into the Great Recession. There are no waves of home foreclosures, no spike in layoffs, no market meltdowns and no government rescues to save powerful banks and financial companies in order to contain the damage. What does exist is a heightened sense of risk about the economy's path amid slowing global growth and the volatility caused by the trade dispute between the United States and China.

There are other reasons as well for the administration's rosy pronouncements, said Tony Fratto, a former Treasury Department spokesman in the Bush administration during the onset of the financial crisis. He said he sympathized with the Trump administration for having to choose between answering "honestly or responsibly" or otherwise about the state of the economy, noting that any hint of concern "could be self-fulfilling."

"So much of the story of the economy is how people feel about it," said Lanhee Chen, a Hoover Institution fellow and former economic adviser to 2012 GOP nominee Mitt Romney. "And that's an inherently a difficult thing to measure."

Highlighting a disconnect between the nation's broad economic indicators and the "personal economies" of voters in swing states is a priority for Democratic candidates and outside groups heading into 2020.

Trump's advisers acknowledge there are few tools at his disposal to avert a slowdown or recession if one materializes: Internal concerns over a ballooning federal deficit, in part due to the president's 2017 tax law, are stifling talk of stimulus spending, and skepticism abounds over the chances of passing anything through a polarized Congress ahead of the election. But that hasn't stopped the White House from exploring ways to make the political cost less painful.

Seeking to get ahead of a potential slowdown, Trump has been casting blame on the Federal Reserve, China and now Democrats, claiming political foes are "trying to 'will' the Economy to be bad for purposes of the 2020 Election."

If the Federal Reserve would reduce rates and loosen its grip on the money supply "over a fairly short period of time," he tweeted, "our Economy would be even better, and the World Economy would be greatly and quickly enhanced - good for everyone!"

Those actions he's talking about are the sort a central bank would traditionally take to deal with or try to stave off a slowdown or full-blown recession.

Strong fundamentals? A lot depends on which ones the administration highlights or ignores in public comments.

Conway and other Trump aides have accurately described the rising retail sales and the solid labor market with its 3.7% unemployment rate as sources of strength.

Yet factory output and home sales are declining, while business investment has been restricted because of uncertainties from Trump ratcheting up the China trade tension.

Even if the economy avoids a recession, economists still expect growth to weaken.

Federal Reserve officials estimate that the gross domestic product will slow to roughly 2% this year, down from 2.5% last year. During his presidential campaign, Trump had boasted he would achieve long-term growth of 4 percent, 5 percent or more.

AP Business Writer Marcy Gordon contributed.

Kashmir police say thousands detained in status-change sweep

By AIJAZ HUSSAIN Associated Press

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — Thousands of people, mostly young male protesters, have been arrested and detained in Indian-administered Kashmir during an ongoing communications blackout and security lockdown imposed more than two weeks ago in an attempt to curtail unrest after a change to Kashmir's decades-old special status, according to high-ranking Kashmir police officials and police arrest statistics reviewed by The Associated Press.

At least 2,300 people have been detained in the Himalayan valley, the statistics show. Those arrested include anti-India protesters as well as pro-India Kashmiri leaders who have been held in jails and other makeshift holding facilities, according to the police officials, who have access to all police records but spoke on the condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to talk to reporters and feared reprisals from their superiors.

The latest crackdown began just before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist-led government stripped Jammu and Kashmir of its semi-autonomy and its statehood, creating two federal territories. Thousands of additional troops have flooded into the Kashmir Valley, already one of the world's most militarized regions, to man steel- and barbed-wire checkpoints. Telephone communications, cellphone coverage, broadband internet and cable TV were cut, but have been gradually restored in some places.

Despite the clampdown, Kashmiris have staged near-daily protests since the Aug. 5 order revoking Kashmir's special status, which was instituted shortly after India achieved independence from Britain in 1947. The three police officials said about 300 protests and clashes against India's tighter control over Kashmir have taken place in recent weeks.

One of the officers said most of the arrests have been in Srinagar, Kashmir's main city and the urban heart of a 30-year-old movement to oust Hindu-majority India from Muslim-majority Kashmir so that it can exist independently or be merged with Pakistan.

The official spokesman, Rohit Kansal, has repeatedly refused to divulge any details about arrests and detentions, saying only that they have been made to prevent anti-India protests and clashes in the region.

Nearly 100 people have been arrested under the Public Safety Act, the arrest statistics showed. The law permits detaining people for up to two years without trial.

At least 70 civilians and 20 police and soldiers have been treated for injuries sustained in the clashes at three hospitals in Srinagar, the officers said.

Moses Dhinakaran, a spokesman for the Central Reserve Police Force which now holds jurisdiction in Kashmir, said he didn't know how many people had been detained because his agency has "no direct role in detention."

Families crowded outside police stations waiting for a turn to appeal for the release of their sons, husbands and other relatives on Tuesday.

At least three dozen men and women along with their children sat on the street outside a police station in Srinagar waiting to hear about some 22 young men and teenage boys who they said had been detained by police and paramilitary soldiers in a nocturnal raid in one neighborhood.

Ali Mohammed Rah said police and soldiers burst into his home and dragged his two teenage sons, age 14 and 16, from their beds.

"They forced their entry, trained their guns at us while ordering us not to raise any alarm," Rah said.

"My heart patient wife pleaded with them to let our boys go but they whisked them away. My wife col-

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lapsed and is now in a hospital," he said.

A young woman, Ulfat, still recovering from her first childbirth, said her husband was arrested at their home around 2 a.m. "Who will provide our family with food and medicine? Where should I go with my baby?" she said with her newborn daughter in her lap.

Raj Begum said her 24-year-old son was taken away barefoot and in shorts.

"Soldiers hit me with a wooden plank as I tried to resist my son's arrest," she said.

Her husband, Abdul Aziz, opened a bag containing shoes and clothes for their son.

"Can they at least take these clothes?" he said.

Kansal declined questions about specific cases of arrest and detention.

Local residents say police and soldiers carry out nocturnal raids in neighborhoods to suppress dissent.

In the Soura area of Srinagar, residents have barricaded the neighborhood by digging trenches, laying barbed wire, and erecting steel poles and corrugated tin sheets to stop raids by police and soldiers. The residents, carrying axes and sticks, take turns on night patrol. They have also distributed stones at street corners for residents to use to defend against raids.

The neighborhood has seen some of the biggest protests and clashes in the last two weeks.

Ali Mohammed, 52, said troops had made two unsuccessful attempts to raid the neighborhood.

"They'll definitely try to come again, but we're ready," he said.

In Washington, a senior State Department official, who was not authorized to discuss diplomatic discussions publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity, told reporters that the U.S. wants to see India restore human rights and basic freedoms for all Kashmiris, including the release of detainees, and then looks forward to a return to political normalcy.

Kashmir has been under lockdown and seen mass arrests before.

The problems in the region stem from its partition, which left India in control of most of Kashmir, and Pakistan and China in charge of other parts of the territory. The Indian government has often tried to suppress uprisings, including a bloody armed rebellion in 1989. About 70,000 people have been killed since that uprising and a subsequent Indian military crackdown.

Associated Press writers Emily Schmall in New Delhi and Matthew Lee in Washington, DC, contributed to this report.

Follow Aijaz Hussain on Twitter at twitter.com/hussain_ajaz

With rivals heading to California, Biden eyes New Hampshire

By **BILL BARROW** Associated Press

Joe Biden won't be among the parade of White House hopefuls in California this week, as he's skipping the Democratic National Committee's summer meeting to campaign in New Hampshire instead.

The former vice president wants the nation's first primary state mostly to himself as his closest competitors jockey for attention from hundreds of Democratic officials gathered in San Francisco for the party's last national meeting before presidential voting begins in February.

Biden's choice is partly a reflection of Democrats' new rules that strip DNC members of their presidential nominating votes on the first 2020 convention ballot. But it's just as much an indication of Biden's deliberate front-runner strategy as he continues to lead national and state primary polls: The 76-year-old candidate is choosing carefully when to appear alongside the candidates who are trying to upend him, and he's keeping a distance, at least publicly, from the party machinery that ultimately proved an albatross to Hillary Clinton in her 2016 loss to Donald Trump.

"He has a real commitment to be in the early states," said Biden's campaign chairman, Cedric Richmond, pointing to Biden's recent four-day swing through Iowa, the first caucus state, along with upcoming trips to South Carolina and Nevada and a return to Iowa. "I wouldn't make any more of the scheduling deci-

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sion than that.”

Indeed, Biden has joined multicandidate “cattle calls” in Iowa; Nevada, the first Western state in the nominating process; and South Carolina, which hosts the South’s first primary. He’s buttressing the early state focus this week with the first television ad of his campaign, a 60-second spot airing in Iowa and repeating his core message that 2020 is first and foremost about ousting Trump.

The Biden campaign also isn’t ignoring the DNC: Campaign manager Greg Schultz will be in San Francisco on his boss’s behalf. Yet the absence of the candidate himself at the national Democratic gathering is notable, given Biden’s deep connections across the party as a two-term vice president and six-term senator who’s run for president twice before; and Biden aides have noted quietly that they are keenly aware of the criticism Clinton absorbed in 2016 as progressive activists who backed Bernie Sanders accused the DNC of favoritism. Biden’s team doesn’t want a repeat if he’s the nominee.

With Biden away, DNC members will hear from, among others, Sanders and his fellow senators Elizabeth Warren and Kamala Harris, the hometown favorite who served previously as a local prosecutor and California attorney general. Several candidates have scheduled their own events in California beyond the DNC sessions.

Mayor Pete Buttigieg of South Bend, Indiana, also will be in New Hampshire along with Biden. Buttigieg already has established relationships with many DNC members from his 2017 campaign for party chairman, and, like Biden, he’s made campaign and fundraising swings through California already.

California will be critical to the nomination after moving up its primary to join a Southern-heavy Super Tuesday lineup next March. The state will have 400 pledged delegates at stake, the largest of any state and about a fifth of the total necessary to win the nomination.

Democrats in California criticized Biden’s absence in the spring, but prominent DNC member and Californian Christine Pelosi said it makes sense this time around given the audience.

“We’re not a room of 400 superdelegates anymore,” said Pelosi, a daughter of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. “We’re just a room full of activists. ... And everyone knows Vice President Biden. This is far more important for candidates who aren’t as well known.”

That said, Pelosi noted that party events in California can sometimes draw boisterous crowds of progressives, like the one at the state party convention that jeered as some party moderates warned against veering too far left. And while Biden certainly wouldn’t face a hostile crowd of DNC delegates, there’s plenty of potential for activists or protesters to make their presence known.

“Some people can crash and scream,” said Pelosi, who says she will not publicly back a candidate during the nomination process. “That might make for good TV, but it’s not really advancing the cause” or ideal for Biden.

There’s also another variable for Biden — and his fellow candidates — to consider: the big money that it takes to compete in California. In New Hampshire and Iowa, voters expect aggressive retail politics and close contact with would-be presidents. That doesn’t work in a state of 40 million residents, with candidates instead forced to spend heavily on traditional television advertising and digital ads to reach voters.

“He will be back to California again,” Richmond said. “And we will have the resources to compete there.”

Follow Bill Barrow on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/BillBarrowAP> .

Italian PM Conte to resign after League party pulls backing

By FRANCES D’EMILIO Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte announced his resignation Tuesday, blaming his decision to end his 14-month-old populist government on his rebellious and politically ambitious deputy prime minister, Matteo Salvini.

Conte told the Senate that the surprise move earlier this month by Salvini’s right-wing League party to seek a no-confidence vote against the coalition was forcing him to “interrupt” what he contended was a

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productive government. He said that government reflected the results of Italy's 2018 election and aimed to "interpret the desires of citizens who in their vote expressed a desire for change."

The coalition included two rivals, the anti-establishment 5-Star Movement and Salvini's euroskeptic, anti-migrant right-wing League party.

Conte said he will go later Tuesday to tender his resignation to President Sergio Mattarella. As head of state, Mattarella could ask Conte to stay on and find an alternative majority in Parliament. That is considered an unlikely scenario, however, given the long-festering acrimony among the coalition's partners and the deep divisions in the opposition Democrats, who would be a potential partner.

Or, after sounding out party chiefs in consultations expected to start as soon as Wednesday, Mattarella could come to the conclusion that another political leader or a non-partisan figure could cobble together a viable government. That government's pressing task would be to lead the country at least for the next few months, when Italy must make painful budget cuts to keep in line with European Union financial regulations.

Failing that, Mattarella could immediately dissolve Parliament, 3½ years ahead of schedule, as Salvini has been clamoring for. Pulling the plug on Parliament sets the stage for a general election as early as late October, right smack in the middle of delicate budget maneuvers that will be closely monitored in Brussels.

Conte, a lawyer with no political experience, is nominally non-partisan, although he was the clear choice of the 5-Stars when the government was formed.

The premier scathingly quoted Salvini's own recent demands for an early election so he could gain "full powers" by grabbing the premiership. Conte blasted Salvini for showing "grave contempt for Parliament" and putting Italy at risk for a "dizzying spiral of political and financial instability" in the months ahead by creating an unnecessary crisis that collapses a working government.

Salvini, who sat next to Conte, smirking at times as the premier spoke, began the Senate debate by saying, defiantly, "I'd do it all again."

Pressing for a new election as soon as possible, Salvini, who as interior minister has led a crackdown on migrants, said: "I don't fear Italians' judgment."

In the European Parliament election three months ago in Italy, as well as in current opinion polls, Salvini's League party has soared in popularity to be the No. 1 political force among Italians.

Huawei expects no relief from US sanctions but is confident

By JOE McDONALD AP Business Writer

SHENZHEN, China (AP) — The founder of Chinese tech giant Huawei said Tuesday he expects no relief from U.S. export curbs because of the political climate in Washington but expressed confidence the company will thrive because it is developing its own technology.

Ren Zhengfei also said he doesn't want relief from U.S. sanctions if it requires China to make concessions in a tariff war, even if that means his daughter, who is under house arrest in Canada on U.S. criminal charges, faces a longer legal struggle.

In an interview with The Associated Press at Huawei's sprawling, leafy headquarters campus in the southern city of Shenzhen, the 74-year-old Ren said Huawei expects U.S. curbs on most technology sales to go ahead despite Monday's announcement of a second 90-day delay. He said no one in Washington would risk standing up for the company.

The biggest impact will be on American vendors that sell chips and other components to Huawei, the biggest maker of network gear for phone companies, he said.

Washington has placed Huawei on an "entity list" of foreign companies that require official permission to buy American technology.

"Whether the 'entity list' is extended or not, that will not have a substantial impact on Huawei's business," said Ren. "We can do well without relying on American companies."

Huawei Technologies Ltd., China's first global tech brand, is at the center of a battle over trade and technology that threatens to tip the global economy into recession. American officials accuse the company,

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also the No. 2 global smartphone brand, of stealing technology and facilitating Chinese spying. Huawei denies those accusations.

Huawei's chief financial officer, who is also Ren's daughter, is fighting extradition from Canada to face U.S. charges related to possible violations of trade sanctions on Iran. Beijing arrested two Canadians in a possible attempt to force her release.

Ren looked relaxed and confident throughout the two-hour interview at a palatial new building in neoclassical European style where Huawei entertains customers. The atmosphere was a striking contrast from a June 17 news conference at which Ren compared the company to a "badly damaged airplane" and warned U.S. sanctions would cut Huawei's projected smartphone sales by \$30 billion over the next two years.

President Donald Trump has suggested controls on Huawei might be lifted if Beijing agrees to a deal on trade and technology disputes that led to U.S. tariff hikes on Chinese imports.

Ren rejected that. He said Huawei couldn't ask for favors that might hurt the interests of China's poor majority.

"I couldn't take it if those poor people sacrificed their own interests for the benefit of Huawei," said Ren. "Maybe my daughter will suffer more. But I would rather do that instead having the poorer people in China sacrifice for Huawei's survival and development."

The May announcement of export curbs prompted warnings that sales of Huawei smartphones and other products that use U.S. chips and other technology could be devastated. The curbs also mean a loss of billions of dollars in potential annual sales for American vendors.

Even before the announcement, Huawei was working on developing its own chips, software and other technology that might reduce reliance on American vendors. The company spent \$15 billion last year on research and development, more than Apple Inc. or Microsoft Corp.

Huawei reported sales in the six months through June rose 23.2% over a year earlier. Its chairman, Liang Hua, said in July that Huawei was reviewing its core products to make sure they all could be delivered to customers without American components.

"At a strategic level, the U.S. entity list is helpful to Huawei," said Ren. He said the company has responded by eliminating "marginal, unimportant businesses or products" and focusing resources on "major products."

"The whole company can focus more on our most competitive products," he said.

This month, Huawei unveiled its own smartphone operating system it said can replace the popular Android system from Alphabet Inc.'s Google. Huawei's phones still use Android but Google is blocked from supporting maps, music and other services.

Earlier this year, Huawei released its own chip for next-generation smartphones and the first phone based on that chip.

Ren rarely appeared in public or talked to reporters before his daughter's December arrest. Since then, however, he has given a flurry of interviews to foreign reporters in an effort to repair the company's reputation.

"I think it's working," he said.

Asked about ongoing pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong, which borders Shenzhen, Ren said the violence was "not good for society and the people" but doesn't affect Huawei.

"There is no impact at all on Huawei's business," he said. "We are still focused on our own production. We still focus on fixing the holes in our bullet-riddled airplane."

Ren, who has called himself a fan of the United States and publicly praised Trump as a leader, said Huawei wants to retain technology collaboration with Google, Microsoft and other American developers.

Ren said a strong market position for Huawei will help U.S. companies because Huawei's products use American technology.

If Huawei is blocked from using Android and is forced to develop alternative systems, "it wouldn't be in the best interests of the United States," Ren said.

He said even if Huawei develops its own alternatives, it is willing to buy American components to support industry development.

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"We hope we can and we will continue to be able to buy American components," he said. "Even though we may have the ability to turn out our own components or products, we would choose to reduce our own capacity so as to use more American components in order to contribute together to share the prosperity of society."

Ren said Huawei is planning as if the U.S. export restrictions will remain in place.

"It isn't possible that someone in the United States will step up to revoke the entity list designation," he said. "Right now, attacking Huawei in the United States is politically correct, while helping Huawei even once would put them under significant pressure. So to us, the entity list will be there for quite some time."

Democrats spending millions to try to take back statehouses

By **BRIAN SLODYSKO** and **PAUL J. WEBER** Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Democrats still shaken by the 2010 tea party wave that netted Republicans six governors' offices, flipped 21 statehouse chambers and drove nearly 700 Democratic state legislators from office are mounting a comeback, pouring millions of dollars into state level races.

In a longtime Republican district covering a wealthy enclave of Dallas, Democratic challenger Shawn Terry has raised \$235,000, an eye-popping amount for a statehouse race that's more than a year away. In Virginia, where the GOP holds a slim majority, Democrats have outraised Republicans for the first time in years. Democrats are even putting some money in deeply Republican Louisiana.

The cash deluge shows how the consequences of next year's elections run far deeper than President Donald Trump's political fate. The party that controls state legislatures will take a leading role in the once-in-a-decade redistricting process that redraws congressional maps. Newly empowered Republicans used that process to their favor following the tea party victories, and Democrats want to use the same playbook.

"There is, especially for this cycle, a very strong focus on redistricting," Terry said.

The stakes are particularly high following a recent Supreme Court ruling that decided federal courts have no business policing political boundary disputes in many cases. The ruling doesn't apply to districts gerrymandered along racial lines but otherwise gives states wide latitude to draw maps with little concern for an eventual judicial rebuke.

"Everybody knows everything is at stake," said Stephanie Schriock, president of the group EMILY's List, which recruits and trains women to run for office and plans to spend \$20 million on legislative races. "We just have to go in and win chambers."

Organizations like EMILY's List, the Democratic Governors Association and the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee have seen a sharp increase in donations, nearing parity with Republicans who almost always outraise and outspend them, according to an analysis of IRS data by The Associated Press.

And Democratic donors who gave little to nothing to down-ballot races in the past are cutting large checks to groups focused on state races, the AP's analysis shows. Among them are billionaire George Soros (at least \$5.4 million), hedge fund billionaire Donald Sussman (at least \$4.8 million) and billionaire investor and entrepreneur Fred Eychaner (at least \$4.2 million).

The numbers don't take into account the activities of nonprofit "dark money" groups that both Republicans and Democrats operate. They won't have to disclose their finances until next year at the earliest.

But already the money is filtering out to the states.

Priorities USA, the largest Democratic outside group, and EMILY's List recently announced they would spend \$600,000 on voter mobilization for Virginia's fall elections. For the first time, the Democratic opposition research group American Bridge is digging into the pasts of Republican statehouse candidates.

And the DLCC, which is spearheading efforts in Virginia, says it has collected \$9 million since the 2018 midterm elections, an off-year record, and is on pace to reach its \$50 million fundraising goal for the cycle.

New groups that are focused on state races have sprung up, including the National Democratic Redistricting Committee, which is led by former Attorney General Eric Holder and endorsed by former President Barack Obama.

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It all stems from what Democrats describe as a nearly traumatizing experience in 2010 when, reveling in the early days of the Obama administration, they failed to organize at the state level. Democratic strategist Jessica Post remembers being outside a bar in Pennsylvania's capital city of Harrisburg when she got word of just how thoroughly her party was rejected.

"After curling up on the sidewalk, I walked back into the bar, popped open a Budweiser and said to myself, 'If I have anything to do with this, we will not get outclassed in 2020 by the Republicans,'" said Post, who now leads the DLCC and is tasked with reclaiming lost ground.

The new attention Democrats are paying to down-ballot races is a break from the past, when the White House and Congress were the primary focus. Former Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe said a breakthrough came in 2016 when he, then-House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and other party officials gathered top Democratic donors in a Philadelphia hotel ballroom to forcefully make the case and unveil a new state level fundraising initiative.

"People finally understand that you just can't play every four years in the presidential, you have to play in these state races," said McAuliffe, a top Democratic fundraiser. "You could have a great wave in Congress, but if you have all these gerrymandered districts, I don't care how much money you have."

Next year's elections will still play out under the maps that Republicans drew after the 2010 campaign. But Democrats are hoping that the money they're investing in state races, higher turnout in a presidential election year and frustration with Trump, particularly in the suburbs, could give them the lift they need.

In Texas, for instance, Democrats are nine seats away from flipping the House, which would give them a sliver of power after nearly a quarter-century of political irrelevance. A Democratic majority in the House would deny the GOP the chance to write congressional maps on their own.

The Minnesota Senate is two seats away from flipping from red to blue, while the Michigan House is four seats away, according to figures from the National Conference of State Legislatures. Pennsylvania Democrats need nine seats to control the House and four to take the Senate. In Florida, Democrats are four seats from power in the Senate, while control of the Wisconsin Senate hangs by three. In North Carolina, Democrats could take the Senate by winning five seats, while the House would require them to flip six.

Republicans are taking the threat seriously. Citing multiple studies, they say the outcomes of 50 legislative races across the U.S. could be the difference between a 36-seat Republican congressional majority and a massive 110-seat Democratic edge.

Austin Chambers, president of the Republican State Leadership Committee, said his organization will need to raise more than it ever has, though he declined to state a fundraising goal. His group was narrowly edged by DLCC in the first half of 2019, though Chambers said he expects they will ultimately outraise Democrats.

"It is serious as a heart attack, and we've got to do everything we can to prepare for it," he said.

Slodysko reported from Washington.

This story has been corrected to show that the Minnesota Senate is two seats away, not one, from flipping from red to blue and that Pennsylvania Democrats need to take four seats, not five, to win the Senate.

10 Things to Know for Today By The Associated Press undefined

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

1. WITH EYES ON 2020, WHITE HOUSE INSISTS ECONOMY IS STRONG

Despite record low unemployment and a growing economy, that growth is slowing and stock markets have swung wildly in recent weeks on fears of recession.

2. EMBATTLED HUAWEI CONFIDENT IN OWN TECHNOLOGY

Founder Ren Zhengfei tells AP he doesn't want relief from U.S. sanctions if it requires China to make

concessions in a tariff war.

3. 'PROTESTERS VS. POLICE': DIE-HARDS IN HONG KONG DEFEND STANCE

Demonstrators explain how largely peaceful marches against proposed changes to the city's extradition law morphed into a summer of tear gas and rubber bullets.

4. 'THEY DESTROYED THEIR OWN HISTORY'

Museum workers in Afghanistan's capital work to put back together pieces of artifacts that the Taliban had smashed during a 2001 rampage on art they deemed to be against Islam.

5. BIDEN SKIPPING DNC GATHERING

The former vice president will campaign in New Hampshire as his rivals jockey for attention from hundreds of Democratic officials gathering in San Francisco.

6. DEMOCRATS FOCUS ON STATE LEGISLATURES

Democrats are trying to gain ground in state legislatures ahead of a once-in-a-decade redistricting process that redraws congressional maps.

7. FREEWAY CROSSING TO GIVE WILDLIFE ROOM TO ROAM

Hoping to fend off the extinction of mountain lions and other species, California is building a mostly privately funded wildlife crossing over a major highway.

8. URGENCY FOR VACCINE GROWS AS VIRUS RAVAGES CHINA'S PIGS

Scientists are working to develop a vaccine to help guard the world's pork supply as a deadly virus ravages Asia's pig herds.

9. PLANNED PARENTHOOD LEAVES FEDERAL FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM

The organization decided not to abide by a new Trump administration rule prohibiting program participants from referring patients for abortions.

10. RETAILERS TO SHOWCASE THRIFTY SIDE

Department stores that have watched some of their customers flock to secondhand stores are trying to bring them back by partnering with online resale sites.

Militants leave key rebel town as Syrian troops push in

By **BASSEM MROUE** Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — The main insurgent group in the Syrian province of Idlib pulled out of a key rebel town as government forces advanced in the area on Tuesday amid intense bombardment and airstrikes, a militant group and opposition activists said.

As the militants withdrew, government troops moved into northern and western neighborhoods of Khan Sheikhoun, marking a significant gain for President Bashar Assad's forces as they try to chip away at territory controlled by the opposition in Idlib. The northwestern province, dominated by an al-Qaida-linked faction, is the last major rebel-held bastion in Syria.

Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, Syria's main al-Qaida-linked faction, said in a statement that its fighters carried out "a re-deployment," withdrawing to areas south of the town of Khan Sheikhoun. From there, they would continue to defend the territory, it said.

Syrian state TV said government troops have expanded their presence in the Khan Sheikhoun area, without giving further details.

"The victories that were achieved show the determination of the people and the army to strike terrorists, until all parts of Syria are liberated," Assad said, according to comments released by his office.

The withdrawal is a blow to the opposition. Syrian government forces have been on the offensive in Idlib and northern parts of Hama province since April 30, forcing nearly half a million people to flee to safer areas further north. The fighting also killed more than 2,000 people, including hundreds of civilians.

After months of intense bombardment, the insurgents' defenses appear to be crumbling as they are now losing ground at a much faster pace compared with the first three months of the government push.

In the long-running Syrian civil war, now in its ninth year, the northwestern region — where Turkish,

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Russian, U.S. and Iranian interests are at stake — has taken center stage in the conflict.

The latest government gains come as NATO allies Turkey and the U.S. are discussing setting up a buffer inside Syria — one that Ankara wants to push Syrian Kurdish fighters it considers terrorists further to the east.

There has been speculation, meanwhile, that Russia and Turkey, which back rival sides in Syria's conflict, have reached an agreement that would allow the Syrian army to retake parts of Idlib and reopen a highway that links the capital, Damascus, with the northern city of Aleppo, Syria's largest.

Khan Sheikhoun, which had been held by militants since 2014, sits on that highway.

After the capture of Khan Sheikhoun, Syrian troops are likely now to move north toward Maaret al-Numan, another town on the highway that has been subjected to intense airstrikes over the past days. Opposition activists also reported intense bombardment on the rebel-held town of Jisr al-Shughour on the southwestern edge of Idlib on Tuesday.

Backed by Russian air power, Syrian troops were able to enter parts of Khan Sheikhoun overnight, according to opposition activists, and are now clearing the area abandoned by militants of explosives and booby traps.

"After fierce bombardment by the criminal enemy that avoids direct confrontation with holy warriors by implementing a scorched earth policy, our fighters have redeployed south of Khan Sheihoun," the statement said.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition war monitor, said the al-Qaida-linked Hayat Tahrir al-Sham and other insurgent groups withdrew from Khan Sheikhoun as well as the towns and villages south of the town.

According to the Observatory, Khan Sheikhoun was home to about 1 million people, nearly 700,000 of them displaced by fighting in other parts of the country, before the government offensive began in April. In recent days hundreds of civilians remained in the town according to the group that tracks Syria's war, now in its ninth year.

The Syrian Response Coordination Group, a relief group active in northwestern Syria, called on Tuesday for a "humanitarian truce" to allow civilians who are stuck in the areas of fighting to leave. The group said in a statement the Russia and Syrian governments "are practicing terrorism against civilians" in violation of international laws.

Khan Sheikhoun was a stronghold of the al-Qaida-linked militant faction, the most powerful group in rebel-held areas in Syria. The town was also the scene of a chemical attack on April 4, 2017 that killed 89 people.

At the time, the United States, Britain and France pointed a finger at the Syrian government, saying their experts had found that nerve agents were used in the attack. Days later, the U.S. fired 59 U.S. Tomahawk missiles at the Shayrat Air Base in central Syria, saying the attack on Khan Sheikhoun was launched from the base.

The Syrian government and its Russian allies denied there was a chemical attack.

Also Tuesday, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu warned the Syrian government against "playing with fire," a day after an airstrike targeted a Turkish army convoy near Khan Sheikoun, killing 3 civilians.

Cavusoglu said the convoy was on its way to provide "security" to a Turkish observation post in Idlib. Syria said the convoy was carrying ammunition to rebels.

"We will do what is necessary for the security of our soldiers ... but we are working to avoid reaching that point," he said.

California freeway crossing to give wildlife room to roam

By CHRISTOPHER WEBER Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Like many urban singles, the mountain lion P-22 lives a solitary life in a too-small habitat. And he has a hard time finding a mate in the big city.

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Famous for traveling across two freeways and making a huge Los Angeles park his home, the lonesome big cat has become a symbol of the shrinking genetic diversity of wild animals that must remain all but trapped by sprawling development or risk becoming roadkill.

Hoping to fend off the extinction of mountain lions and other species that require room to roam, transportation officials and conservationists will build a mostly privately funded wildlife crossing over a major Southern California highway. It will give big cats, coyotes, deer, lizards, snakes and other creatures a safe route to open space and better access to food and potential mates.

The span along U.S. 101 will only be the second animal overpass in a state where tunnels are more common. Officials say it will be the first of its kind near a major metropolis and the largest in the world, stretching 200 feet (61 meters) above 10 lanes of busy highway and a feeder road just 35 miles (56 kilometers) northwest of downtown LA.

"When the freeway went in, it cut off an ecosystem. We're just now seeing impacts of that," Beth Pratt of the National Wildlife Federation told The Associated Press.

Scientists tracking mountain lions fitted with GPS collars found that roadways are largely trapping animals in the Santa Monica Mountains, which run along the Malibu coast and across the middle of Los Angeles to Griffith Park, where P-22 settled.

"They can't get out of here to get dates, and cats can't get in to get dates. ... For those of us in LA, having a romance prospect quashed by traffic is something we can all relate to," Pratt said.

The result of that isolation, researchers say, is imminent genetic collapse for mountain lions. Habitat loss has driven the populations to inbreeding that could lead to extinction within 15 years unless the big cats regularly connect with other populations to increase their diversity, according to a study published this year by the University of California, Los Angeles; University of California, Davis; and the National Park Service.

The \$87 million bridge last month entered its final design phase. It's on track for groundbreaking within two years and completion by 2023, according to engineer Sheik Moinuddin, project manager with the California Department of Transportation. Construction will take place mostly at night and won't require any lengthy shutdowns of the 101 freeway, officials said.

Moinuddin said Caltrans considers it a "special" project that the agency hopes will inspire others like it across the state.

One of the reasons it's special is that 80% of the money to build it will come from private sources, Pratt said. She's in charge of fundraising and is using P-22 — "the Brad Pitt of the cougar world" — as the poster cat for the campaign.

"He is world famous, handsome, everybody loves him," she said about the cougar that's been photographed in his park home with the Hollywood sign as a backdrop.

Despite being the face of the project, P-22 is unlikely to use the bridge because he's confined to the park many miles away. But many of his relatives could benefit, Pratt said.

More than \$13.5 million in private funding has already been raised, Pratt said. Officials are considering offering naming rights to the bridge if an entity or individual — perhaps a Hollywood studio or star — ponies up a significant donation, she said.

The remaining 20% will come from public funds already allocated toward conservation projects, officials said.

Some 300,000 cars a day travel that stretch of the 101 in Agoura Hills, a small city surrounded by a patchwork of protected wildland that the new crossing will connect. Residents regularly spot tarantulas, coyotes and bobcats in their yards and enjoy a short walk to hiking and biking trails that offer sweeping views of the Pacific Ocean.

Drivers on the busy freeway in the Liberty Canyon area might do a double-take as they speed under a bridge 165 feet (50 meters) wide with brush and trees growing on top, seamlessly joining hillsides on both sides of the lanes.

"And who knows, you might see an animal peeking over as it's crossing," Pratt said.

From the perspective of that animal meandering to or from the Santa Monica Mountains, the topography will hopefully be indistinguishable from the scenery on either side, said architect Clark Stevens. His design

will total about 8 acres of landscape — of which the bridge top occupies about an acre.

He's working with biologists and engineers to design berms and hollows with high edges that will block sound and light from the lanes below.

"Ideally the animals will never know they're on a bridge," said Stevens, with the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains. "It's landscape flowing over a freeway. It's putting back a piece of the ecosystem that was lost."

Wildlife crossings — bridges and tunnels — are common in western Europe and Canada. A famous one in Banff National Park in Alberta spans the Trans-Canada Highway and is frequently used by bears, moose and elk. The first one in California opened with little fanfare last October near Temecula, about 60 miles (97 kilometers) north of San Diego.

The Los Angeles-area bridge has enjoyed nearly universal support, unusual for a public works project. The draft environmental impact document received nearly 9,000 comments — with only 15 opposed, according to the NWF.

Agoura Hills resident Fran Pavley, a retired state senator, said one of her neighbors was initially concerned about cost.

"He came on board after learning it would be funded privately," she said.

Stevens said he's encouraged by Caltrans' devotion to the project and its promise to consider more like it. "Every hole in the freeway ought to be exploited. It's a game of odds," he said. "The more options animals have, the better off they'll be."

Follow Weber at <https://twitter.com/WeberCM>

Twitter shuts Chinese accounts targeting Hong Kong protests

By TAMI ABDOLLAH Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Twitter said it has suspended more than 200,000 accounts that it believes were part of a Chinese government influence campaign targeting the protest movement in Hong Kong.

The company also said Monday it will ban ads from state-backed media companies, expanding a prohibition it first applied in 2017 to two Russian entities.

Both measures are part of what a senior company official portrayed in an interview as a broader effort to curb malicious political activity on a popular platform that has been criticized for enabling election interference around the world and for accepting money for ads that amount to propaganda by state-run media organizations.

The accounts were suspended for violating the social networking platform's terms of service and "because we think this is not how people can come to Twitter to get informed," the official said in an interview with The Associated Press.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of security concerns, said the Chinese activity was reported to the FBI, which investigated Russian efforts to interfere in the 2016 U.S. presidential election through social media.

After being notified by Twitter and conducting its own investigation, Facebook said Monday that it has also removed seven pages, three groups and five accounts, including some portraying protesters as cockroaches and terrorists.

The Chinese government said Tuesday it wasn't aware of the allegations.

Facebook, which is more widely used in Hong Kong, does not release data on such state-backed influence operations. Neither does it ban ads from state-owned media companies.

"We continue to look at our policies as they relate to state-owned media," a Facebook spokesperson said in a statement to the AP. "We're also taking a closer look at ads that have been raised to us to determine if they violate our policies."

Twitter traced the Hong Kong campaign to two fake Chinese and English Twitter accounts that pretended

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to be news organizations based in Hong Kong, where pro-democracy demonstrators have taken to the streets since early June calling for full democracy and an inquiry into what they say is police violence against protesters.

The Chinese language account, @HKpoliticalnew, and the English account, @ctcc507, pushed tweets depicting protesters as violent criminals in a campaign aimed at influencing public opinion around the world. One of those accounts was tied to a suspended Facebook account that went by the same moniker: HKpoliticalnew.

An additional 936 core accounts Twitter believes originated from within China attempted to sow political discord in Hong Kong by undermining the protest movement's legitimacy and political positions.

About 200,000 more automated Twitter accounts amplified the messages, engaging with the core accounts in the network. Few tweeted more than once, the official said, mostly because Twitter quickly caught many of them.

The Twitter official said the investigation remains ongoing and there could be further disclosures.

Though Twitter, Facebook and most other foreign social media platforms are banned in China, they're available in semiautonomous Hong Kong.

At a daily briefing Tuesday, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said he was "not aware" of the allegations of fake accounts, but added that Chinese people had the right to "express their opinions about" the situation in Hong Kong.

The free speech organization PEN America welcomed the tech companies' actions and urged them to do more.

"China's government has denied its citizens access to global outlets for communication. That they now turn around and stealthily unleash a campaign of disinformation on the very same platforms represents a new height of hypocrisy," chief executive Suzanne Nossel said in a statement.

The Twitter campaign reflects that the Chinese government has studied the role of social media in mass movements and fears the Hong Kong protests could spark wider unrest, said James Lewis at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"This is standard Chinese practice domestically, and we know that after 2016 they studied what the Russians did in the U.S. carefully," Lewis said. "So it sounds like this is the first time they're deploying their new toy."

Twitter has sought to more aggressively monitor its network for malicious political activity since the 2016 presidential election and to be more transparent about its investigations, publicly releasing data about state-backed influence operations since October so others can evaluate it, the official said.

"We're not only telling the public this happened, we're also putting the data out there so people can study it for themselves," the official said.

As for state-backed media organizations, they are still allowed to use Twitter, but are no longer allowed to pay for ads, which show up regardless of whether you have elected to follow the group's tweet.

Twitter declined to provide a list of what it considers state-backed media organizations, but a representative said it may consider doing so in the future. In 2017, Twitter specifically announced it would ban Russia-based RT and Sputnik from advertising on its platform.

Follow Tami Abdollah on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/latams>

Associated Press writer Chris Bodeen in Beijing contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to attribute PEN America statement to the chief executive, not the spokesman.

Afghans restore art shattered by Taliban as peace deal nears

By CARA ANNA Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The Taliban fighters arrived with hammers and hatred. What they left behind is laid out on tables at the National Museum of Afghanistan, 18 years later: shattered pieces of ancient Buddha figurines, smashed because they were judged to be against Islam.

Museum workers in Kabul have been trying to fit them together again as a nervous country waits for the Taliban and the U.S. to reach a deal on ending America's longest war. The agreement is expected to lead to intra-Afghan talks in which the extremist group would play a role in shaping Afghanistan's future.

As the workers pick with gloved hands through hundreds of neatly arranged shards labeled "ears," "hands," "foreheads" and "eyes," that future feels especially fragile.

Few details have emerged from several rounds of U.S.-Taliban negotiations held over the past year, and no one knows what a Taliban return to the capital, Kabul, might look like. The country still sees near-daily attacks not only by the long-established Taliban, who now control about half of Afghanistan, but also from a brutal local affiliate of the Islamic State group.

The Taliban's five-year rule imposed a harsh form of Islamic law, denying girls education, banning music and banishing women to their homes. It ended shortly after the U.S.-led invasion following the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks to rout the Taliban, who had harbored al-Qaida and its leader Osama bin Laden.

Sherazuddin Saifi remembers the day the Taliban arrived at the national museum in 2001, a period of cultural rampage in which the world's largest standing Buddha statues in Bamyán province were dynamited, to global horror.

For several days, the Taliban set upon the Kabul museum's trove of artifacts from Afghanistan's millennia-old history as a crossroads of cultures: Greek, Persian, Chinese and other. They selected offending items that showed human forms, even early Islamic ones, shattered them with hammers or smashed them against the floor.

"We could not prevent them. They were breaking all the locks, entering each room and smashing all items into pieces," said Saifi, who is part of the restoration team. "It was heartbreaking and horrific ... they destroyed their own history."

More than 2,500 statues were shattered, parts of them ground into powder. Restoration work could take a decade, Saifi said, but "we really feel happy after we put these pieces together again" and revive their meaning.

Among the objects destroyed were the Hadda figurines, a notable collection of Buddhist sculptures discovered decades ago in eastern Afghanistan, near the present-day city of Jalalabad. Photographs that remain of the intact figurines, and the shards themselves, hint at delicate curls of hair or lip.

The Taliban smashed them into thousands of pieces, many the size of fists or even a coin. Now some of the shattered heads are held together with rubber bands in the workshop, part of a sprawling puzzle that can take days of patient effort to join a single piece to another.

The Hadda figurines are the museum's most visible sign these days of the years-long recovery from the turmoil in Afghanistan that began even before the Taliban, when warlords fought over Kabul in the wake of a Soviet retreat.

Much of the museum's holdings, thousands of pieces, were looted and the building was shelled, though some treasures were hidden in the presidential palace in Kabul and elsewhere. The roof of the room where the Hadda figurines are now being pieced together was destroyed.

The museum's recovery began in earnest in 2004, during the period when the defeated Taliban quietly began to regroup. A few hundred objects have been restored in recent years. Now the museum and the University of Chicago's Oriental Institute are compiling as complete an inventory as possible in the hope of tracking down missing artifacts — and saving a digital record of the collection in case of further threat.

That database is more than 99% complete, with more than 135,000 surviving pieces, the Oriental Institute says. For the missing artifacts it hopes to create digital "wanted" posters with their images to post online, "so that these objects can be spotted, and ideally recovered and repatriated."

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Experts and advocates of Afghanistan's rich history have expressed dismay that cultural preservation apparently has not been on the agenda in the U.S.-Taliban negotiations, which have been focused on a U.S. troop withdrawal and Taliban guarantees that the country will not be used as a launching pad for global terror attacks.

"If it has been discussed, we are unaware of it, and this is something we have been following closely," said Adam Tiffen, deputy director of the Virginia-based Alliance for the Restoration of Cultural Heritage. The U.S. envoy leading the talks with the Taliban, Zalmay Khalilzad, is the organization's director emeritus.

"If we do not learn from our past we are a fool, I would say," said museum director Mohammad Fahim Rahimi, who is very concerned about the potential Taliban return and is making plans to protect the museum's holdings. "I hope they have learned that this is not against the (law) of Islam, nobody is worshipping these objects, everybody is considering these objects as showing our history."

He urged the Taliban to go to museums in Doha, Qatar, where the group has a political office, and see the artifacts that are preserved there.

"We have achieved a lot in 18 years" since the Taliban were defeated, Rahimi said. "If they are here in power and there is no change in their mentality, it means we are definitely back where we started and whatever we achieved will be gone."

Not all the Hadda artifacts were destroyed. A short walk down the hushed corridor from the workshop that reflects so much Taliban carnage, a complete figure of a seated Buddha is on display, dating from the third or fourth century.

"His face suggests gentle meditation," the placard says.

Records: Epstein signed will 2 days before jailhouse suicide

By **JIM MUSTIAN and CURT ANDERSON** Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Jeffrey Epstein signed a will just two days before he killed himself in jail, new court records show, opening a new legal front in what could be a long battle over the financier's fortune.

Court papers filed last week in the U.S. Virgin Islands list no details of beneficiaries but valued the estate at more than \$577 million, including more than \$56 million in cash.

The existence of the will, first reported by the New York Post, raised new questions about Epstein's final days inside the Metropolitan Correctional Center, where he was awaiting trial on federal sex trafficking and conspiracy charges.

Epstein signed the document Aug. 8. Less than 48 hours later, he was found dead in his cell, prompting an investigation that has cast a harsh light on staffing shortages at the Manhattan detention center.

Prosecutors on Monday moved to dismiss the indictment against Epstein but have said they are considering charging others with facilitating his alleged abuse of dozens of girls.

The filing of the will, meanwhile, had been closely followed by lawyers representing women who claim they were sexually abused by Epstein when they were teenagers and recruited into his residences to provide him massages.

Several attorneys vowed to go after his assets even if the will had named beneficiaries, as Epstein's death means there will be no trial on the criminal charges against him. One woman filed suit against the estate last week, claiming Epstein repeatedly raped her when she was a teenager.

"Give his entire estate to his victims. It is the only justice they can get," one of those lawyers, Lisa Bloom, wrote in an email. "And they deserve it. And on behalf of the Epstein victims I represent, I intend to fight for it."

Former federal prosecutor David S. Weinstein, who is now in private practice in Miami but not involved in the Epstein case, said states and U.S. territories have certain timeframes within which to make a claim against someone's estate.

"There are certainly going to be a lot of lawyers involved," Weinstein said. "It's not going to be over any time soon."

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A hedge fund manager who hobnobbed with the rich and famous, Epstein owned a Caribbean island, homes in Paris and New York City, a New Mexico ranch and a fleet of high-price cars.

Epstein had more than \$112 million worth of equities, according to the will, and nearly \$200 million in "hedge funds & private equity investments." Among the properties that will be subject to appraisal and valuation are his collection of fine arts, antiques and other collectibles.

As part of his 2008 plea deal to Florida state charges, Epstein made undisclosed financial settlements with dozens of his victims. It's unclear how those settlements might affect any claims made on his estate.

William Blum, an attorney for Epstein's estate, said in a statement to The Associated Press that any debts or claims against the estate will be "fairly administered." He said the document was Epstein's original last will.

Curt Anderson reported from Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Hong Kong's leader vows to narrow rifts, but no specifics

By KELVIN CHAN Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Facing pressure to end months of antigovernment protests, Hong Kong's leader pledged Tuesday to open up dialogue with city residents in an effort to narrow differences.

However, Chief Executive Carrie Lam offered no concessions to the protest movement and a key organizer of the mass rallies dismissed her plan to immediately set up a "communication platform," underlining the challenge in resolving the semiautonomous Chinese city's political crisis.

The movement held a massive but peaceful rally on Sunday after earlier protests had been marked by violence. The government has conditioned dialogue on the leaderless protest movement remaining peaceful.

Lam didn't say that the communication platform will be used to specifically contact protesters. It will be used for "open and direct" dialogue with people from all walks of life, including people who have attended peaceful rallies, she told reporters, while giving few specifics on how it would work.

"Our goal is to work hard to resolve differences and conflicts, to understand each other through communication and to walk out of this social deadlock together," Lam said.

Her comments fell short of the protesters' five demands, which include genuine democracy and an independent inquiry into alleged police brutality.

The protesters complain that police have contributed to the violence by responding to their aggressive tactics with tear gas and rubber bullets.

Members of the Civil Human Rights Front rejected her plan, calling it a trap that's aimed at wasting time.

The group's vice-convenor, Wong Yik-mo, said Lam is "not responding at all" to the protest movement's demands.

"We do not trust Carrie Lam, we do not trust her lies," he said, pointing out that the movement's decentralized structure would make it hard to conduct dialogue anyway.

"She is fully aware there is no leader, this is a leaderless movement. What does she suggest?" he said.

Jimmy Sham, another member, suggested that "if Lam wants dialogue, she should come to a protest."

The Civil Human Rights Front has organized several mass anti-government rallies that have attracted huge crowds in recent months and it plans another at the end of the month. But many other groups have organized their own events.

Lam dismissed the protesters' demand for an independent inquiry, saying the city's police complaints council is capable of looking into police misconduct. The council is carrying out a fact-finding study of the protests and related incidents as it looks into 174 complaints about police behavior, she said.

Protesters say that the complaints council has limited power to scrutinize the police.

Mo and Sham said the council has no credibility and its main function is merely to look into complaints.

"It has no mandate to investigate and no power to summon policeman (to give evidence), especially when top brass are involved," Mo said.

Separately, Twitter said late Monday that it has suspended nearly 1,000 accounts it believes were behind a Chinese government influence campaign targeting the protest movement.

The social media company blocked about 200,000 more automated accounts that amplified the messages, engaging with the core accounts in the network

The accounts were attempting to sow political discord in Hong Kong by undermining the protest movement's legitimacy and political positions.

Facebook took similar action, but on a smaller scale. The social network removed seven pages, three groups and five accounts, including some portraying protesters as cockroaches and terrorists, after being tipped off by Twitter and conducting its own investigation.

This story has been corrected to say the protest movement is not calling for Lam's resignation.

Associated Press writer Tami Abdollah in Washington contributed to this report.

Omar: Go to Israel, see 'cruel reality of the occupation'

By STEVE KARNOWSKI Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Democratic Reps. Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib sharply criticized Israel on Monday for denying them entry to the country and called on fellow members of Congress to visit while they cannot.

Omar, of Minnesota, suggested President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu were suppressing the lawmakers' ability to carry out their oversight role.

"I would encourage my colleagues to visit, meet with the people we were going to meet with, see the things we were going to see, hear the stories we were going to hear," Omar said at a news conference. "We cannot let Trump and Netanyahu succeed in hiding the cruel reality of the occupation from us."

At Trump's urging, Israel denied entry to the first two Muslim women elected to Congress over their support for a Palestinian-led Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions global movement. Tlaib and Omar, who had planned to visit Jerusalem and the Israeli-occupied West Bank on a tour organized by a Palestinian group, are outspoken critics of Israel's treatment of the Palestinians.

Tlaib, a U.S.-born Palestinian-American from Michigan, had also planned to visit her aging grandmother in the West Bank. Israeli officials later relented and said she could visit her grandmother after all.

But Tlaib got emotional as she told how her "Sitty" — an Arabic term of endearment for one's grandmother that's spelled different ways in English — urged her during a tearful late-night family phone call not to come under what they considered such humiliating circumstances.

"She said I'm her dream manifested. I'm her free bird," Tlaib recalled. "So why would I come back and be caged and bow down when my election rose her head up high, gave her dignity for the first time?"

Tlaib and Omar were joined Monday by Minnesota residents who said they had been directly affected by travel restrictions in the past. They included Lana Barkawi, a Palestinian-American, who lamented that she has never been able to visit her parents' homeland.

Barkawi said she had a chance to visit her father's village in the West Bank near Nablus during a family visit to Jordan about 25 years ago, but her parents decided not to risk crossing the border.

"My father could not put himself to be in a position where an Israeli soldier is the person with control over his entry into his homeland," Barkawi said. "This is an enduring trauma that he and my mother live."

Before Israel's decision, Trump tweeted it would be a "show of weakness" to allow the two representatives in. Israel controls entry and exit to the West Bank, which it seized in the 1967 Mideast war along with east Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip, territories the Palestinians want for a future state.

White House spokesman Hogan Gidley kept up the administration's criticism of the two lawmakers.

"Congresswomen Rashida Tlaib and Ilhan Omar have a well-documented history of anti-Semitic comments, anti-Semitic social media posts and anti-Semitic relationships," he said in a statement. "Israel has

the right to prevent people who want to destroy it from entering the country — and Democrats' pointless Congressional inquiries here in America cannot change the laws Israel has passed to protect itself."

Supporters say the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement is a nonviolent way of protesting Israel's military rule over Palestinians, but Israel says it aims to delegitimize the state and eventually wipe it off the map.

The two congresswomen are part of the "squad" of four liberal House newcomers — all women of color — whom Trump has labeled as the face of the Democratic Party as he runs for reelection. The Republican president subjected them to a series of racist tweets last month in which he called on them to "go back" to their "broken" countries. They are U.S. citizens — Tlaib was born in the U.S. and Omar became a citizen after moving to the U.S. as a refugee from war-torn Somalia.

"There is no way that we are ever, ever going to allow people to tear us down, to see us cry out of pain, to ever make us feel like our (citizenship) certificate is less than theirs," Omar said. "So we are going to hold our head up high. And we are going to fight this administration and the oppressive Netanyahu administration until we take our last breath."

Planned Parenthood leaves federal family planning program

By DAVID CRARY and RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Planned Parenthood said Monday it's pulling out of the federal family planning program rather than abide by a new Trump administration rule prohibiting clinics from referring women for abortions.

Alexis McGill Johnson, Planned Parenthood's acting president and CEO, said the organization's nationwide network of health centers would remain open and strive to make up for the loss of federal money. But she predicted that many low-income women who rely on Planned Parenthood services would "delay or go without" care.

"We will not be bullied into withholding abortion information from our patients," said McGill Johnson. "Our patients deserve to make their own health care decisions, not to be forced to have Donald Trump or Mike Pence make those decisions for them."

Enforcement of the new Title X rule marks a major victory for a key part of President Donald Trump's political base — religious conservatives opposed to abortion. They have been campaigning relentlessly to "defund Planned Parenthood" because — among its varied services — it is the largest abortion provider in the United States, and they viewed the Title X grants as an indirect subsidy.

About 4 million women are served nationwide under the Title X program, which distributes \$260 million in family planning grants to clinics. Planned Parenthood says it has served about 40% of patients, many of them African American and Hispanic. Family planning funds cannot be used to pay for abortions.

In a statement, the federal Department of Health and Human Services said Planned Parenthood knew months ago about the new restrictions and suggested that the group could have chosen at that point to exit the program.

"Some grantees are now blaming the government for their own actions — having chosen to accept the grant while failing to comply with the regulations that accompany it — and they are abandoning their obligations to serve patients under the program," the department said.

It said it would strive to make sure patients are served.

Planned Parenthood was not the only organization dropping out. Maine Family Planning, which is unaffiliated with Planned Parenthood, also released its letter of withdrawal Monday. The National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association, an umbrella group for family planning clinics, is suing to overturn the regulations.

A federal appeals court in San Francisco is weighing a lawsuit to overturn the rules, but so far the court has allowed the administration to go ahead with enforcement. Oral arguments are scheduled the week of Sept. 23. Several states and the American Medical Association have joined the suit as plaintiffs.

Abortion rights activists are also pressing Congress to overturn the rule, though it seems unlikely that the Republican-controlled Senate would take that step.

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Monday was the deadline set by the government for program participants to submit statements that they intended to comply with the new rules, along with a plan. Enforcement will start Sept. 18.

In addition to the ban on abortion referrals by clinics, the rule's requirements include financial separation from facilities that provide abortions, designating abortion counseling as optional instead of standard practice, and limiting which staff members can discuss abortion with patients. Clinics would have until next March to separate their office space and examination rooms from the physical facilities of providers that offer abortions.

The Trump administration has also made it possible for faith-based organizations opposed to abortion to receive Title X grants.

Among the recipients of grants this year was Obria Medical Clinics, which runs a network of facilities in California. It promotes abstinence-based sex education and "natural family planning," and does not prescribe birth control.

The impact of Planned Parenthood's withdrawal will vary from state to state. Some states, including Illinois and Vermont, have said they would step in to replace lost federal funding.

"We will make sure that access to these services remains available, because in Illinois we trust women," said Gov. J.B. Pritzker, who joined Planned Parenthood's news conference on Monday. He said Planned Parenthood serves about 70,000 people in Illinois.

Elsewhere, the impact could be substantial. In Utah, Planned Parenthood is the only Title X grantee; in Minnesota, it serves 90% of patients.

"It will simply be impossible for other health centers to fill the gap," said McGill Johnson. "Wait times for appointments will skyrocket."

HHS said in its statement that it's grateful for the many grant recipients that are remaining with the program. State and local health departments account for a significant share of service providers. "We will work to ensure all patients continue to be served," the agency said.

Planned Parenthood has called the ban on abortion referrals a "gag rule," while the administration insists that's not the case.

Maine Family Planning CEO George Hill said in a letter to HHS that his organization is withdrawing "more in sorrow than in anger" after 47 years of participating in the program.

He said the Trump administration regulation "would fundamentally compromise the relationship our patients have with us as trusted providers of this most personal and private health care. It is simply wrong to deny patients accurate information about and access to abortion care."

Alonso-Zaldivar reported from Washington.

Warren apologizes for heritage claim, woos Native Americans

By ELANA SCHOR and JOSH FUNK Associated Press

SIoux CITY, Iowa (AP) — Democratic presidential candidate Elizabeth Warren offered a public apology Monday to Native Americans over her past claim to tribal heritage, directly tackling an area that's proved to be a big political liability.

"Like anyone who has been honest with themselves, I know I have made mistakes," the Massachusetts senator said at a forum on Native American issues in this pivotal early voting state. "I am sorry for the harm I have caused."

Monday's remarks were an effort to move past the fallout from her past claims of tribal ancestry, which culminated in a widely criticized release of a DNA analysis last year. The issue nearly derailed her campaign in the early days as President Donald Trump began derisively referring to her as "Pocahontas."

Now that Warren is gaining in most polls, she's trying to prove to voters that the controversy won't doom her in a general election matchup against Trump. The detailed policy agenda to help Native Americans that she released last week helped her secure a warm reception from attendees at the tribal forum.

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After drawing a standing ovation, Warren said "I have listened and I have learned a lot" from conversations with Native Americans in recent months, describing herself as "grateful" for the dialogue. She fielded questions about her proposals, which include a legislative change for a Supreme Court ruling that impedes tribal governments' ability to prosecute crimes committed on tribal lands by those who don't belong to a tribe.

She did not receive any questions about her own background.

Warren's DNA analysis — part of a broader pushback against Trump's disparaging nickname — showed evidence of a tribal ancestor as far as 10 generations back, but the Cherokee Nation joined some other Native Americans in rebuking the senator for attributing tribal membership to genetics. Warren later apologized privately to the Cherokee and had addressed her regret before Monday's appearance.

As of Monday, her campaign website's page containing a video and other materials Warren had released on the DNA analysis was no longer active.

The Native American forum this week is expected to draw 10 of her White House rivals.

New Mexico Rep. Deb Haaland, who last year became one of the first two Native American women elected to Congress, introduced Warren on Monday after endorsing her presidential campaign last month and aligning with her for new legislation aimed at helping tribal communities. Haaland lamented that Warren's ancestry has attracted outsized attention when Trump faces his own charges of racism.

Those who "ask about Elizabeth's family instead of issues of vital importance to Indian Country," Haaland told the forum audience, "feed the president's racism."

Warren's remarks were well-received by attendees at the Native American forum.

Manny Iron Hawk, 62, who lives on the Cheyenne River Sioux reservation in South Dakota, said Warren "did excellent" in her Monday appearance and has done a good job of addressing her past mistakes. "I think she did. A person has to admit their mistakes and move on."

Iron Hawk said he had hoped to talk to Warren about tribal governance issues, but she left too quickly for him to catch her.

Snuffy Main, 64, who traveled to the conference from Montana, said he doesn't think Warren needs to continue apologizing for claiming Native American heritage.

"I don't understand why she is constantly apologetic for making a mistake," said Main, who is a member of the Gros Ventre Tribe of Montana. He said he liked what Warren had to say about making sure the country honors its promises and treaties with tribes.

"If she can do even a fraction of what she promised, that would be beneficial," he said.

Gary Funmaker, 72, of Black River Falls, Wisconsin, said Warren had "good energy to her" and he didn't see much need for further apology.

"That's accepted. That's old news," said Funmaker, a Republican who used to work for the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Later Monday, Warren campaigned in Minnesota, a state Trump hopes to take out of Democrats' column next year. The senator drew her largest crowd yet — 12,000 people, according to her campaign — to an outdoor rally at Macalester College, a private liberal arts school in St. Paul.

"I don't want a government that works for giant multinational corporations. I want one that works for our families," she told the crowd.

Schor reported from Washington. Associated Press writer Kathleen Hennessey contributed to this report from St. Paul, Minn.

Dolphins' Stills objects to comments by Jay-Z about NFL deal

By STEVEN WINE AP Sports Writer

DAVIE, Fla. (AP) — Miami Dolphins receiver Kenny Stills objected Monday to recent comments from rapper Jay-Z about social activism by current and former NFL players, including Colin Kaepernick.

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Jay-Z and the league last week announced a partnership he characterized as a progressive step to carry on the campaign that Kaepernick began by kneeling during the national anthem to bring attention to police brutality and racial division.

Stills said he isn't so sure the Jay-Z partnership represents progress.

"I felt like he really discredited Colin and myself and the work that's being done," Stills said. "I'm going to try and give this man the benefit of the doubt for now, but it doesn't sit right with me. It's not something that I agree with. It's not something that I respect."

While Kaepernick is out of the NFL, Stills continues to kneel during the anthem to protest social injustice. Last week Jay-Z said kneeling has served its purpose.

"I think everyone knows what the issue is — we're done with that," Jay-Z said. "We all know the issue now. OK, next."

Stills said Jay-Z could have reached out to him or to Kaepernick before announcing the partnership.

"He's talking about, 'We're moving past kneeling,' like he ever protested," Stills said. "He's not an NFL player. He's never been on a knee. ... To say that we're moving past something, it didn't seem very informed."

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

Follow Steven Wine on Twitter: http://twitter.com/Steve_Wine.

Another first for Clemson: No. 1 in AP preseason Top 25

By RALPH D. RUSSO AP College Football Writer

Cross off another milestone for Clemson, college football's newest superpower.

For the first time, the defending national champion Tigers are No. 1 in The Associated Press preseason Top 25 presented by Regions Bank. The Tigers won the program's second national title in three seasons behind freshman quarterback Trevor Lawrence in January. Clemson now can claim equal standing with Alabama at the top of the sport.

The Crimson Tide, coming off a 44-16 loss to Clemson in the College Football Playoff championship, is No. 2. Clemson received 52 first-place votes and Alabama received the other 10 from the media. Clemson snaps a record-tying string of three straight years in which Alabama was preseason No. 1.

Georgia, Alabama's Southeastern Conference rival, is No. 3, followed by No. 4 Oklahoma and No. 5 Ohio State.

Clemson's rise under coach Dabo Swinney has been uncommon in college football. The school won the national championship in 1981, but mostly it had resided on a tier well below the traditional national powers. Clemson football was usually good and sometimes excellent, but never this.

Last season's championship made Clemson just the 12th school with at least three AP titles since the poll started in 1936.

Clemson's latest accomplishment is not much of an accomplishment at all to Swinney.

"It just doesn't matter," he said Monday after practice about being preseason No. 1. "Unless they bring us a trophy."

The Tigers enter 2019 with a 15-game winning streak and eight straight double-digit victory seasons. Since 2015, when they lost the national championship game to Alabama, the Tigers are 55-4.

Nick Saban's Alabama dynasty, with five national titles in a 10-year span, has finally met its match. The Tide is also 55-4 in the last four seasons.

Clemson and Alabama have split the last four national championships, played in the last four playoffs and are poised to make it five straight. This will be the third time since 2016 the Tigers and Tide have started the season Nos. 1 and 2 in the Top 25. Beginning with 2015, when Alabama and Clemson occupied the top two spots in the last four AP polls of the season, the Tide and Tigers have been Nos. 1 and 2 in some order 22 times.

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Last year's Clemson team was highlighted by a defensive line that had three starters selected in the first round of the NFL draft, and a fourth taken in round four.

The Tigers have some rebuilding to do on that side of the ball, but recent history suggests reinforcements are ready. This year Lawrence and the offense will be the headliners. The first freshman quarterback in more than three decades to lead a team to a national championship, Lawrence will be joined by star receivers Tee Higgins (12 touchdowns) and Justyn Ross (nine touchdowns) and game-breaking running back Travis Etienne (8.1 yards per carry).

Alabama returns quarterback Tua Tagovailoa, the Heisman Trophy runner-up, and an array of weapons, too. As a new season starts, college football fans best be prepared for Tide vs. Tigers V.

The Top 25 is sponsored by Regions Bank this season, the first time the poll has ever had a presenting sponsor.

POLL POINTS

We're No. 1!

Clemson is the 23rd team to be preseason No. 1 and the first first-timer since Georgia in 2008. The Tigers will try to become the 12th team to start No. 1 and finish No. 1 since the preseason poll started in 1950. The last to do it was Alabama in 2017. Only two teams have gone wire-to-wire as No. 1: Florida State in 1999 and Southern California in 2004. Alabama has now been No. 2 to start the season nine times, matching Oklahoma for the most in AP poll history. Just as many teams (11) have started No. 2 and won the title as No. 1.

Consistent Buckeyes

Ohio State is ranked in the preseason for the 31st consecutive season (1989-2019), the third best all-time streak behind only Penn State (34 years, 1968-2002) and Nebraska (33 years, 1970-2002). The Buckeyes have been ranked in 66 of 70 preseason polls, most of any school. The Buckeyes were unranked in 1966-67, 1979 and 1988.

Tough draw

No. 12 Texas A&M and South Carolina will each play the preseason top three. Only three times previously has a team had the entire preseason top three on its schedule:

— In 1968, Northwestern faced Purdue, USC and Notre Dame and went 0-3.

— In 1972, Minnesota faced Nebraska, Colorado and Ohio State and went 0-3.

— In 1975, Missouri faced Oklahoma, Alabama and Michigan and went 1-2, beating No. 2 Alabama to open the season.

Been a while

— No. 14 Utah has been a regular in the rankings for most of the last five seasons, but the Utes have not been ranked in the preseason since 2011 when they started No. 19. That was the season after coach Kyle Whittingham's team went unbeaten. In 2014, '15, and '16, the Utes finished the season ranked after starting unranked.

— No. 21 Iowa State is making its second appearance in the preseason poll. The Cyclones were No. 20 in 1978.

— No. 22 Syracuse is in the preseason Top 25 for the first time since 1998 when the Orange were No. 17.

— No. 24 Nebraska has not been ranked in the preseason since 2014, the program's longest drought since 1955-59. The ranking also ends a string of 32 straight polls in which Nebraska has not been ranked, dating back to the final one of the 2016 season. That is also the longest run of unranked teams the Huskers have had since the late '50s.

Conference call

Big Ten — 7

SEC — 6

Pac 12 — 5

Big 12 — 3

ACC — 2

American — 1

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Independent — 1

Ranked vs. Ranked

The first week of the season with a full schedule of games is lacking marquee matchups.

No. 16 Auburn faces No. 11 Oregon at the home of the Dallas Cowboys in Arlington, Texas. It's the only Week 1 game with two ranked teams. The first regular-season Top 25 will be released Sept. 3, the Tuesday after Labor Day. The rest of the regular-season rankings will be released on Sundays.

Follow Ralph D. Russo at <https://twitter.com/ralphDrussoAP> and listen at <https://podcastone.com/AP-Top-25-College-Football-Podcast>

To see this week's voter ballots go to: <https://collegefootball.ap.org/ap/poll>

More AP college football: <https://apnews.com/Collegefootball> and https://twitter.com/AP_Top25

NYPD fires officer 5 years after Garner's chokehold death

By **JIM MUSTIAN, MICHAEL R. SISAK and TOM HAYS** Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — After five years of investigations and protests, the New York City Police Department on Monday fired an officer involved in the 2014 chokehold death of Eric Garner, the black man whose dying gasps of "I can't breathe" gave voice to a national debate over race and police use of force.

Police Commissioner James O'Neill said he fired Daniel Pantaleo, who is white, based on a recent recommendation of a department disciplinary judge.

O'Neill said he thought Pantaleo's use of the banned chokehold as he wrestled with Garner was a mistake that could have been made by any officer in the heat of an arrest. But it was clear Pantaleo had broken department rules and "can no longer effectively serve as a New York City police officer."

"None of us can take back our decisions," O'Neill said, "especially when they lead to the death of another human being."

The decision was welcomed by activists and Garner's family, but condemned by the head of the city's largest police union, who declared that it would undermine morale and cause officers to hesitate to use force for fear they could be fired.

"The job is dead!" Patrolman's Benevolent Association President Patrick Lynch said at a news conference, standing in front of a police department flag hung upside down.

His voice cracking with anger, Lynch called Pantaleo an "exemplary" officer and called for union members to participate in a no-confidence vote on the mayor and commissioner.

"It's absolutely essential that the world know that the New York City Police Department is rudderless and frozen," he said. "The leadership has abandoned ship and left our police officers on the street alone, without backing."

Pantaleo's lawyer, Stuart London, said he would use legal appeals to try to get the officer reinstated. He has insisted the officer used a reasonable amount of force and did not mean to hurt Garner.

Mayor Bill De Blasio, speaking at City Hall, said he hoped the decision would let the city, the department and Garner's family move forward.

"Today, we are finally seeing justice done," the Democrat said. "Today will not bring Eric Garner back, but I hope it brings some small measure of closure to the Garner family."

Garner's death came at a time of a growing public outcry over police killings of unarmed black men, which sparked the national Black Lives Matter movement.

Video of the confrontation between Garner and the officers trying to arrest him for selling untaxed cigarettes drew outrage and was viewed millions of times online.

The footage showed Garner, 43, and Pantaleo lurching against a glass storefront window and then falling to the pavement. Quickly, Garner, who weighed about 400 pounds (180 kilograms), appeared distressed gasping, "I can't breathe," at least 11 times before he fell unconscious.

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Weeks later, protests erupted in Ferguson, Missouri, over the fatal shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown. Throughout the fall of 2014, demonstrators chanted "I can't breathe" as they marched against police brutality in multiple U.S. cities.

When a state grand jury on Staten Island declined to indict Pantaleo in December of that year, protesters poured into the streets by the thousands, venting frustration that criminal charges against officers using deadly force remained rare, even with video evidence.

Then, a few days before Christmas, a man upset about the Garner and Brown cases fatally shot two New York City police officers as they sat in their cruiser in Brooklyn.

Those killings, in turn, gave fire to the Blue Lives Matter counter-movement, with police union officials arguing that the heated rhetoric against officers was making them unsafe. Some officers began turning their backs on de Blasio at funerals.

Federal authorities kept a civil rights investigation open for five years before announcing last month they would not bring charges.

City officials had long insisted that they could not take action until criminal investigations were complete.

In announcing his decision, O'Neill said Pantaleo's initial use of a chokehold as the two men grappled was forgivable, given the struggle. But he said the officer should have relaxed his grip once Garner was on the ground.

"Had I been in Officer Pantaleo's situation, I may have made similar mistakes," O'Neill said. "And had I made those mistakes, I would have wished I had used the arrival of backup officers to give the situation more time to make the arrest."

The Rev. Al Sharpton said Garner's family was "relieved but not celebratory."

"Pantaleo will go home a terminated man, but this family had to go to a funeral," Sharpton said at a news conference.

Garner's daughter, Emerald Snipes Garner, thanked O'Neill "for doing the right thing." She said she is urging lawmakers to make it a crime for any police officer to use a chokehold.

"I should not be here standing with my brother, fatherless," she said.

De Blasio had never said whether he believed Pantaleo should lose his job but promised "justice" to the slain man's family, leading union officials to say the disciplinary process appeared rigged.

Asked whether the mayor forced his hand, O'Neill said the dismissal was his choice. He called Garner's death an "irreversible tragedy" that "must have a consequence."

Questions about the handling of the case have dogged de Blasio during his longshot run for president, with some protesters at the recent debate in Detroit chanting, "Fire Pantaleo."

Asked whether he was worried the police union might start encouraging officers to drag their feet when making arrests, De Blasio said he was certain officers would "do their job."

Lynch, however, called on officers to "proceed with the utmost caution in this new reality."

Officers "will uphold our oath," he said, "but we cannot and will not do so by needlessly jeopardizing our careers or personal safety."

Associated Press Writer Larry Neumeister contributed to this report.

AP Exclusive: US talks secretly to Venezuela socialist boss

By JOSHUA GOODMAN Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — The U.S. has opened up secret communications with Venezuela's socialist party boss as members of President Nicolás Maduro's inner circle seek guarantees they won't face retribution if they cede to growing demands to remove him, a senior U.S. administration official has told The Associated Press.

Diosdado Cabello, who is considered the most-powerful man in Venezuela after Maduro, met last month in Caracas with someone who is in close contact with the Trump administration, said the official. A second

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meeting is in the works but has not yet taken place.

The AP is withholding the intermediary's name and details of the encounter with Cabello out of concern the person could suffer reprisals. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity because they aren't authorized to discuss the talks, which are still preliminary. It's not clear whether the talks have Maduro's approval or not.

Cabello, 56, is a major power broker inside Venezuela, who has seen his influence in the government and security forces expand as Maduro's grip on power has weakened. But he's also been accused by U.S. officials of being behind massive corruption, drug trafficking and even death threats against a sitting U.S. senator.

The administration official said that under no circumstances is the U.S. looking to prop up Cabello or pave the way for him to substitute Maduro. Instead, the goal of the outreach is to ratchet up pressure on the regime by contributing to the knife fight the U.S. believes is taking place behind the scenes among competing circles of power within the ruling party.

Similar contacts exist with other top Venezuelan insiders, the official said, and the U.S. is in a listening mode to hear what it would take for them to betray Maduro and support a transition plan.

At a press conference Monday, Cabello shied away from discussing any details of the meeting, at one point likening it to "a lie, a manipulation." But he also said he has long stood welcome to talk to anyone, so long as any discussions take place with Maduro's approval.

He added that he'd only meet with "the owners of the circus" — an apparent reference to the U.S.

"Whatever happens, Nicolás Maduro and I will be in the same row, defending the homeland," he said.

An aide said the U.S. has been increasingly knocking on Cabello's door, desperately looking to establish contact. The aide rejected the notion Cabello was somehow betraying Maduro, saying that Cabello would only meet with Americans if it contributes to lifting sanctions he blames for crippling the oil-dependent economy. The aide spoke on the condition of anonymity because he isn't authorized to discuss political affairs publicly.

A person familiar with the July encounter said Cabello appeared savvy and arrived to the meeting with the U.S.-backed envoy well prepared, with a clear understanding of Venezuela's political problems. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because they aren't authorized to discuss the matter.

As Venezuela's crisis grinds on, a predictable pattern has emerged where Juan Guaidó, who the U.S. and dozens of other countries recognize as Venezuela's rightful leader, has been unable to woo the military and take power but Maduro lacks enough strength to apprehend his rival or rescue the collapsed economy amid ever-tightening U.S. sanctions. This month, the U.S. slapped a new round of sanctions that seizes all of the Maduro government's assets in the U.S. and threatens to punish companies from third countries that continue to do business with him.

Talks sponsored by Norway between the opposition and government have been slow-going and were suspended this month by Maduro, who accused Guaidó of celebrating the U.S.' "brutal blockade." Neither Cabello, the Venezuelan military or U.S. government are a party to those talks.

To break the stalemate, some conspirators are looking to the U.S. to devise a plan to protect government insiders who turn against Maduro from future prosecution. The U.S. has repeatedly said it would offer top socialists relief from sanctions if they take "concrete and meaningful actions" to end Maduro's rule. In May, it quickly lifted sanctions against Maduro's former spy chief, Gen. Manuel Cristopher Figuera, after he defected during a failed military uprising.

As head of the constitutional assembly, Cabello has the power to remove Maduro, a position that could come in handy in any negotiated transition. But to date he's run the institution, which the U.S. considers illegitimate, as a rubber-stamping foil to the opposition-controlled congress, showing no signs of possible deception.

It's not clear who initiated the contact with Cabello. But the U.S. official said Cabello was talking behind the back of the embattled socialist despite his almost daily displays of loyalty and frequent harangues against President Donald Trump.

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An opposition politician briefed on the outreach said Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino and Interior Minister Néstor Reverol are among those in indirect contact with the Americans, underscoring the degree to which Maduro is surrounded by conspirators even after an opposition-led military uprising in April was easily quashed. The politician spoke on the condition of anonymity because they aren't authorized to discuss the talks. The AP was unable to verify the opposition politician's account.

Cabello has long been seen as a rival to Maduro, someone who has more pragmatic economic views and is less ideologically aligned with communist Cuba. He sat to the right of Hugo Chávez when the late socialist designated Maduro, to his left, to be his successor in his last public appearance before dying of cancer in 2013.

By all accounts Cabello was not among the high-placed officials who were in on a plot to remove Maduro in April, when Guaidó and his mentor Leopoldo López appeared on a bridge in eastern Caracas surrounded by a small contingent of armed troops. Since the uprising's failure, the retired army lieutenant has seen his influence in the government and security forces expand, with the appointment of close allies to head the army and the feared SEBIN intelligence police.

He also remains popular with the Chavista base, having crisscrossed the country the past five years with a much-watched program on state TV that is a vehicle for pounding the opposition and U.S.

"A fraternal salute, brother President," Cabello said in the most-recent program, where Maduro called in as a special guest. "We have no secrets, no lies here. Every time we do something we will inform the people, so that with a clear conscience they can take informed decisions and fix positions."

The U.S. has tried to negotiate with Cabello before. In 2015, Thomas Shannon, who was then counsellor to Secretary of State John Kerry, met with Cabello in Haiti to pave the way for legislative elections that the opposition won by a landslide.

But until now, the Trump administration has shown deep scorn for Cabello, hitting him with sanctions last year for allegedly organizing drug shipments and running a major graft network that embezzled state funds and invested the stolen proceeds in Florida real estate. The U.S. also believes he discussed a plot to kill Florida Republican Sen. Marco Rubio, who has called him "Venezuela's Pablo Escobar."

"Cabello is one of the worst of the worst inside of Venezuela," said Fernando Cutz, a former senior national security adviser on Latin America to both President Barack Obama and Trump. "If the strategy is to try to negotiate with the mafia boss, he's your guy. But that's a strategy that carries some heavy risks."

Follow Goodman on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/APjoshgoodman>

Associated Press writer Christopher Torchia contributed to this report.

US prisons chief removed from position after Epstein's death

By MICHAEL BALSAMO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General William Barr removed the acting director of the Bureau of Prisons from his position Monday, more than a week after millionaire financier Jeffrey Epstein took his own life while in federal custody.

Hugh Hurwitz's reassignment comes amid mounting evidence that guards at the chronically understaffed Metropolitan Correctional Center in New York abdicated their responsibility to keep the 66-year-old Epstein from killing himself while he awaited trial on charges of sexually abusing teenage girls. The FBI and the Justice Department's inspector general are investigating his death.

Barr named Kathleen Hawk Sawyer, the prison agency's director from 1992 until 2003, to replace Hurwitz. Hurwitz is moving to a role as an assistant director in charge of the bureau's reentry programs, where he will work with Barr on putting in place the First Step Act, a criminal justice overhaul.

The bureau has come under intense scrutiny since Epstein's death, with lawmakers and Barr demanding answers about how Epstein was left unsupervised and able to take his own life on Aug. 10 while held at

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one of the most secure federal jails in America.

A statement from Barr gave no specific reason for the reassignment. But Barr said last week that officials had uncovered "serious irregularities" and was angry that staff members at the jail had failed to "adequately secure this prisoner."

He ordered the bureau last Tuesday to temporarily reassign the warden, Lamine N'Diaye, to a regional office and the two guards who were supposed to be watching Epstein were placed on administrative leave.

"This is a good start, but it's not the end," Sen. Ben Sasse, a Republican from Nebraska who serves on the Senate Judiciary Committee, said in a statement. "Attorney General Barr did the right thing by removing the head of the Federal Bureau of Prisons and he ought to make every effort to prosecute every one of Epstein's co-conspirators to the fullest extent of the law."

The guards on Epstein's unit failed to check on him every half hour, as required, and are suspected of falsifying log entries to show they had, according to several people familiar with the matter. Both guards were working overtime because of staffing shortages, the people said.

Multiple people familiar with operations at the jail say Epstein was taken off suicide watch about a week after he was found on his cell floor July 23 with bruises around his neck, and put back in a high-security housing unit where he was less closely monitored but still supposed to be checked on every 30 minutes.

They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss the investigation.

Hurwitz is a longtime bureaucrat who joined the bureau in 1998. He had also served in the Education Department and the Food and Drug Administration and worked for NASA's office of inspector general. He returned to the prison agency in 2015 and was appointed acting director by then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions in 2018.

He also weathered through the death of Boston mobster James "Whitey" Bulger, who was killed in a federal prison in West Virginia in October, just after he was transferred there. Lawmakers, advocates and even prison guards had been sounding the alarm about dangerous conditions there for years, but there has been no public indication that federal prison officials took any action to address the safety concerns. Bulger's killing was the third at the facility within six months.

As director of the bureau, Hurwitz was responsible for overseeing 122 facilities, 37,000 staff members and about 184,000 inmates.

Hawk Sawyer was the first woman to lead the agency and held a number of jobs during nearly 27 years there. She worked as a psychologist at a federal correctional facility in West Virginia, served as an associate warden and then a warden at other facilities, and ultimately was nominated to lead the agency during Barr's first stint as attorney general in the early 1990s.

"Under Dr. Hawk Sawyer's previous tenure at the Bureau, she led the agency with excellence, innovation, and efficiency, receiving numerous awards for her outstanding leadership," Barr said in a statement.

Barr also named Thomas Kane, a longtime bureau employee who has held a variety of leadership roles, as the deputy director. Kane worked at the agency from 1977 to 2018, under four attorneys general, and has previously served as the bureau's acting director, chief of staff, assistant director and deputy director.

"During this critical juncture, I am confident Dr. Hawk Sawyer and Dr. Kane will lead BOP with the competence, skill, and resourcefulness they have embodied throughout their government careers," Barr said.

Associated Press writer Michael R. Sisak in New York contributed to this report.

Q&A: Recession jitters are rising. Is there reason to worry?

By JOSH BOAK AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nerves are being frayed by a global economy that increasingly looks breakable. Growth is stalling. Factory output is down. Oil demand is off. U.S. tariffs on China have slowed trade. Investors have crowded into government bonds and sent interest rates sliding in a way that has often

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preceded a recession.

So is a recession near?

Hard to tell.

What's clear is that many of the world's most powerful countries have skidded into a moment of uncertainty that has left consumers, businesses, markets and much of the political world feeling gloomier. President Donald Trump has asserted that the U.S. economy is strong. Yet on Monday, Trump called for the Federal Reserve to slash interest rates with the kind of aggressiveness the Fed normally uses to combat a recession.

Things have grown muddled.

BOTTOM LINE: SO IS THE U.S. ECONOMY HEADED FOR A RECESSION?

Lots of economists think so.

A new survey shows that a clear majority of economists expect a downturn to hit by 2021 at the latest, according to a report Monday from the National Association of Business Economics. Some of that pessimism is a natural byproduct of the duration of the U.S. expansion: The economy has been growing for more than a decade — the longest expansion on record — and a recession at some point is inevitable.

Of course, the old joke is that economists have predicted nine of the past two recessions. Adding to the challenge is that recessions often go unrecognized until they are well underway.

The Great Recession, for example, began in December 2007. Yet not until 11 months later, by which time it was obvious, did the official arbiter, the National Bureau of Economic Research, declare a recession. At that point, layoffs were spiking, home foreclosures were mounting and a financial panic had set the economy hurtling toward a devastating meltdown.

OK, BUT HOW REALISTIC ARE THOSE RECESSION FEARS?

Parts of the economy remain sturdy. Retail sales surged last month, for example, and the bulk of U.S. economic activity depends on consumer spending. Also, the unemployment rate is near a 50-year low at 3.7%.

Administration officials cite these kinds of figures to argue, as Trump counselor Kellyanne Conway did Monday on Fox News Channel, that the economy's fundamentals are "very strong."

What's more, Fed Chairman Jerome Powell has committed himself to prolonging the expansion. After cutting their benchmark interest rate in July for the first time in a decade, Fed officials might do so several more times if the data worsens.

Yet at the same time, as the Fed reported, factory output has dropped for the past 12 months. Home sales have tumbled. Trump's tariffs against China have hindered business investment. And while Trump has asserted that additional Fed rate cuts would turbocharge the economy, the central bank's July cut actually caused a drop in consumer confidence, according to a University of Michigan survey.

The fears built last week when an economic barometer called the yield curve briefly "inverted." This occurs when the interest rate on a 10-year U.S. Treasury note falls below the rate on a two-year Treasury note. In theory, a short-term Treasury should carry the lower rate. When it doesn't, it's regarded as a possible recession warning.

As analysts at the bank UBS said, a recession on average has started 21 months after this kind of inversion. But rates are already so low that it's possible that the inversion signals only that growth will remain persistently weak, not that the economy will succumb to a recession.

IS EUROPE DRIVING THE JITTERS?

Very possibly. The world is more interconnected than ever. Germany's economy shrank last quarter, and analysts expect it to decline again, which could put Germany in a technical recession. Recessions are usually linked to two straight quarters of economic shrinkage.

Germany's downturn resulted from a decline in industrial production. Much of that decline reflected spillover effects from Trump's escalation of his trade war with China and Britain's plans to withdraw from the European Union later this year. The damage to Germany's economy could flow into the financial markets and harm the U.S. economy.

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Trade tensions between Japan and South Korea are also rising. And OPEC has whittled down its forecast for global oil demand this year by 40,000 barrels a day to 1.10 million barrels. Falling oil prices could result in fewer U.S. manufacturing and drilling jobs.

HOW CONCERNED IS THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION?

The president has repeatedly declared that America's economy remains the strongest in the world. The White House has deployed an array of top advisers — including Larry Kudlow, Peter Navarro and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross — to drive home the message that the economy is flourishing and that any data-driven concerns are being distorted by the news media.

Yet as The Associated Press and other news organizations have reported, the president is privately fearful that a slumping economy will dim his re-election chances. He has also taken the unusual step of publicly attacking the politically independent Fed for not cutting rates more to try to juice growth.

On Monday, Trump tweeted that the Fed's benchmark rate should be slashed by at least a full percentage point — a step that has usually signaled a major economic emergency — and that Powell, Trump's own choice to lead the Fed, has a "horrendous lack of vision."

Trump added: "Democrats are trying to 'will' the Economy to be bad for purposes of the 2020 Election."

WHAT REPORTS SHOULD BE WATCHED FOR EARLY SIGNS OF A RECESSION?

Major clues could come from reports on job growth, the gross domestic product, retail sales, construction spending and auto sales, among others.

It isn't just the headline numbers but often the details of these reports that matter. Which sectors of the economy, for example, are improving or weakening? How fast are wages rising? Are people spending more money at restaurants? Or are they spending more at grocery stores in a sign they might be cutting back?

74% of economists in survey see US recession by end of 2021

By **MARCY GORDON AP Business Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — A strong majority, 74%, of U.S. business economists appear sufficiently concerned about the risks of some of President Donald Trump's economic policies that they expect a recession in the U.S. by the end of 2021.

The economists surveyed by the National Association for Business Economics, in a report released Monday, mostly didn't share Trump's optimistic outlook for the economy, though they generally saw recession coming later than they did in a survey taken in February. Thirty-four percent of the economists surveyed said they believe a slowing economy will tip into recession in 2021. That's up from 25% in the February survey.

An additional 38% of those polled predicted that recession will occur next year, down slightly from 42% in February. Another 2% of those polled expect a recession to begin this year.

In February, 77% of the economists expected a recession either this year, next year or in 2021.

A strong economy is key to the Republican president's 2020 re-election prospects. Consumer confidence has dropped 6.4% since July.

Trump has dismissed concerns about a recession, offering an optimistic outlook for the economy after last week's steep drop in the financial markets. He said Sunday, "I don't think we're having a recession. We're doing tremendously well. Our consumers are rich. I gave a tremendous tax cut and they're loaded up with money."

Still, Trump on Monday called on the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates by at least a full percentage point "over a fairly short period of time," saying that would make the U.S. economy even better and would quickly boost the flagging global economy.

In two tweets, Trump kept up his pressure on the politically independent Fed and its chairman Jerome Powell, whom he chose to lead the Fed, asserting the U.S. economy was strong "despite the horrendous lack of vision by Jay Powell and the Fed."

While the economists in the NABE survey generally saw recession coming later than they had in February,

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the latest survey was taken between July 14 and Aug. 1 — before the financial markets last week signaled the possibility of a U.S. recession, sending the Dow Jones Industrial Average into its biggest one-day drop of the year. Stock markets around the world shuddered as the White House announced 10% tariffs on an additional \$300 billion of Chinese imports, the Chinese currency dipped below the seven-yuan-to-\$1 level for the first time in 11 years and the Trump administration formally labeled China a currency manipulator.

The 226 economists responding work mainly for corporations and trade associations.

The economists have previously expressed concern that Trump's tariffs and higher budget deficits could eventually dampen the economy.

The Trump administration has imposed tariffs on goods from many key U.S. trading partners, from China and Europe to Mexico and Canada. Officials maintain that the tariffs, which are taxes on imports, will help the administration gain more favorable terms of trade. But U.S. trading partners have simply retaliated with tariffs of their own.

Trade between the U.S. and China, the two biggest global economies, has plunged. Trump decided last Wednesday to postpone until Dec. 15 tariffs on about 60% of an additional \$300 billion of Chinese imports, granting a reprieve from a planned move that would have extended duties to nearly everything the U.S. buys from China.

The economists surveyed by the NABE were skeptical about prospects for success of the latest round of U.S.-China trade negotiations. Only 5% predicted that a comprehensive trade deal would result, 64% suggested a superficial agreement was possible and nearly 25% expected nothing to be agreed upon by the two countries.

As a whole, the business economists' recent responses have represented a rebuke of the Trump administration's overall approach to the economy.

Still, for now, most economic signs appear solid. Employers are adding jobs at a steady pace, the unemployment rate remains near a 50-year low and consumers are optimistic. U.S. retail sales figures out last Thursday showed that they jumped in July by the most in four months.

The survey showed a steep decline in the percentage of economists who found the \$1.5 trillion in tax cuts over the next decade "too stimulative" and likely to produce higher budget deficits that should be reduced, to 51% currently from 71% in August 2018.

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US extends limited reprieve on tech sales to China's Huawei

By **FRANK BAJAK** Associated Press

The Trump administration has extended a limited reprieve on U.S. technology sales to Huawei, even as questions remain over how much of an effect broader sanctions are having on the Chinese technology giant.

Huawei has become enmeshed in the trade war between Washington and Beijing, with President Donald Trump showing a willingness to use the sanctions as a bargaining chip. The U.S. government blacklisted Huawei in May, deeming it a national security risk, meaning U.S. firms aren't allowed to sell the company technology without government approval.

At the time, the U.S. exempted a narrow list of products and services. That exemption would have expired Monday, but the Commerce Department extended it for another 90 days, as expected.

Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said the main aim of Monday's announcement is to give smaller U.S. internet and wireless companies that rely on Huawei more time to transition away from reliance on its products.

"Some of the rural companies are dependent on Huawei, so we're giving them a little more time to wean themselves off," Ross said in an interview with Fox Business Network.

Other exports to Huawei officially remain restricted, though it's not clear how much is in practice. Those sanctions, for instance, don't bar U.S. telecom companies from buying Huawei equipment. And U.S. semiconductor companies that supply Huawei have determined that the export sanctions don't apply to

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a significant portion of their sales.

"Most of the ongoing shipments of U.S. semiconductors to China are not covered," said Paul Triolo, an analyst with the Eurasia Group global risk assessment firm.

The greater effect appears to be on Google's Android mobile operating system, which Huawei can no longer use in its smartphones. Huawei has developed its own operating system as a replacement, though executives say they still hope to be able to keep using Android.

Huawei released a statement saying Monday's extension "does not change the fact that Huawei has been treated unjustly." The company said the extension "won't have a substantial impact on Huawei's business either way."

Huawei is China's biggest phone maker, and sales to the company account for a significant portion of revenues for some U.S. suppliers.

The extended limited reprieve applies to technology sales and transfers necessary for "the continued operations of existing networks and to support existing mobile services, including cybersecurity research," Commerce said in an updated order Monday.

Shares of U.S. computer chipmakers Intel, Qualcomm and Micron — all of which sell to Huawei — rose after Monday's announcement.

While U.S. companies are allowed to request approval to sell technology beyond what's covered in the limited reprieve, Ross said the government has yet to grant any such licenses.

The Commerce Department is also adding 46 Huawei affiliates to the list of 69 already affected by sanctions. Huawei called that decision "politically motivated" and in violation of "basic principles of free market competition." Half of the newly listed affiliates are based outside China.

Adam Segal, director of cyberspace policy at the Council on Foreign Relations, said that probably reflected additional research to identify the full scope of Huawei purchasing globally.

Triolo said the sanctions have had only limited effect mostly because there is no consensus in the Trump administration on Huawei policy.

Its China hawks want Huawei banned not just from U.S. government networks but from all U.S. telecommunications and have been trying to persuade U.S. allies to impose blanket bans. But others in the administration seem inclined to use Huawei sanctions as a lever in ongoing trade negotiations.

Trump himself has sent mixed signals. The extension was announced a day after he told reporters the U.S. shouldn't be doing business with Huawei. In May, Trump issued an executive order in May under which the Federal Communications Commission is studying whether to institute a ban on Huawei equipment in U.S. telecom networks.

Segal said "mixed messaging and inconsistencies" on Huawei by Trump administration officials are apt to reinforce concerns in Beijing about the credibility of any trade deal that might be reached with Washington.

Triolo said the one thing is sure in all the confusion generated by the White House: "Huawei is doubling down on finding alternative suppliers, and U.S. companies going forward will be viewed as unreliable partners by greater numbers of Chinese firms."

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 20, the 232nd day of 2019. There are 133 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 20, 1986, postal employee Patrick Henry Sherrill went on a deadly rampage at a post office in Edmond, Okla., shooting 14 fellow workers to death before killing himself.

On this date:

In 1862, the New York Tribune published an open letter by editor Horace Greeley calling on President Abraham Lincoln to take more aggressive measures to free the slaves and end the South's rebellion.

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In 1866, President Andrew Johnson formally declared the Civil War over, months after fighting had stopped.

In 1910, a series of forest fires swept through parts of Idaho, Montana and Washington, killing at least 85 people and burning some 3 million acres.

In 1953, the Soviet Union publicly acknowledged it had tested a hydrogen bomb.

In 1955, hundreds of people were killed in anti-French rioting in Morocco and Algeria.

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Economic Opportunity Act, a nearly \$1 billion anti-poverty measure.

In 1968, the Soviet Union and other Warsaw Pact nations began invading Czechoslovakia to crush the "Prague Spring" liberalization drive.

In 1988, a cease-fire in the war between Iraq and Iran went into effect.

In 1989, entertainment executive Jose Menendez and his wife, Kitty, were shot to death in their Beverly Hills mansion by their sons, Lyle and Erik. Fifty-one people died when a pleasure boat sank in the River Thames in London after colliding with a dredger.

In 2005, Northwest Airlines mechanics went on strike rather than accept pay cuts and layoffs; Northwest ended up hiring replacement workers. San Francisco 49ers offensive lineman Thomas Herrion, 23, died of a heart attack shortly after a preseason game against the Denver Broncos.

In 2008, a Spanish jetliner crashed during takeoff from Madrid, killing 154 people; 18 survived.

In 2017, actor, comic and longtime telethon host Jerry Lewis died of heart disease in Las Vegas at the age of 91.

Ten years ago: The only man convicted in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 returned home to Libya after his release on compassionate grounds from a Scottish prison. (Abdel Baset al-Megrahi, said to have only months to live because of prostate cancer, died nearly three years later.) Ryan Alexander Jenkins, a contestant on the VH1 reality show "Megan Wants a Millionaire," was charged with murdering his wife, Jasmine Fiore, whose body was found in Buena Park, California. (Jenkins was found dead three days later, an apparent suicide.) One-time Super Bowl star Plaxico Burress accepted a plea bargain with a two-year prison sentence for accidentally shooting himself in the thigh at a Manhattan nightclub.

Five years ago: The United States launched a new barrage of airstrikes against Islamic State extremists and weighed sending more troops to Iraq as President Barack Obama vowed to be relentless in pursuit of a terrorist group that beheaded American journalist James Foley. U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder arrived in Ferguson, Missouri, to meet with federal investigators and reassure residents of the community torn by several nights of racial unrest since the fatal shooting of a black 18-year-old by a white police officer.

One year ago: In a letter to Catholics worldwide, Pope Francis vowed that "no effort must be spared" to root out sex abuse by priests and cover-ups by the Catholic Church. Afghan forces rescued nearly 150 people, hours after the Taliban ambushed a convoy of buses and abducted them; the militants escaped with 21 captives. The Recording Industry of America said The Eagles' greatest hits album had surpassed Michael Jackson's "Thriller" to become the best-selling album of all time in the U.S.

Today's Birthdays: Writer-producer-director Walter Bernstein is 100. Boxing promoter Don King is 88. Former Sen. George Mitchell, D-Maine, is 86. Former U.S. Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas, is 84. Former MLB All-Star Graig Nettles is 75. Broadcast journalist Connie Chung is 73. Musician Jimmy Pankow (Chicago) is 72. Actor Ray Wise is 72. Actor John Noble is 71. Rock singer Robert Plant (Led Zeppelin) is 71. Country singer Rudy Gatlin is 67. Singer-songwriter John Hiatt is 67. Actor-director Peter Horton is 66. TV weatherman Al Roker is 65. Actor Jay Acovone is 64. Actress Joan Allen is 63. Movie director David O. Russell is 61. TV personality Asha Blake is 58. Actor James Marsters is 57. Rapper KRS-One is 54. Actor Colin Cunningham is 53. Actor Billy Gardell is 50. Rock singer Fred Durst (Limp Bizkit) is 49. Actor Jonathan Ke Quan is 49. Rock musician Brad Avery is 48. Actor Misha Collins is 45. Rock singer Monique Powell (Save Ferris) is 44. Jazz/pop singer-pianist Jamie Cullum is 40. Actor Ben Barnes is 38. Actress Meghan Ory is 37. Actor Andrew Garfield is 36. Actor Brant Daugherty is 34. Actress-singer Demi Lovato is 27. Actor Christopher Paul Richards is 16.

Thought for Today: "Justice is conscience, not a personal conscience but the conscience of the whole of humanity." — Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Russian author (1918-2008).