

# Groton Daily Independent

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

## Corrected Story

Yesterday's article did not include all of the funds.

## First reading give to 2020 \$6.1 million Budget

The Groton City Council gave first reading to the 2020 budget of \$6.14 million. That breaks down to \$462,954 for general government, \$411,504 for public safety, \$325,360 for public works, \$6,450 for health and welfare, \$212,410 for culture and recreation, \$14,470 for conservation and development, \$373,710 for debt service, \$1,710,269 for electric fund expenses and \$229,389 transfer out, \$2,327,280 in the water fund which includes a new water tower, \$196,145 in sewer fund expenses, \$98,100 in solid waste expenses and \$50 for liquor.

The September meeting dates have been moved to September 10 and September 24.

## Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

Aug. 22 ..... 1st Day of School

## New life being breathed into Groton nursing home facility

by Dorene Nelson

Groton's nursing home and rehabilitation center received good news with Legacy Healthcare taking control of the facility and its day-to-day operation.

On July 1, Legacy Healthcare took over the operation of sixteen nursing homes in South Dakota that had previously been placed in receivership. The receivership had originally been established to help financially stabilize several nursing homes in the state.

Legacy Healthcare, headquartered in Skokie, Illinois, oversees more than 45 facilities in 4 states. The names of these nursing homes have been changed to Avantara.

Legacy Healthcare is addressing the most crucial needs first. For example, if the infrastructure such as new roofs, boilers, and other building improvements or updates are needed, those will be the first changes made. These items should be taken care of in the next six months.

The care of the residents in these nursing homes has not been a problem due to the great employees who kept doing their job throughout the whole process. The staffs have maintained constant vigilance and care of the patients.

Replacing roofs and installing new boilers are easy jobs. Getting dedicated hard workers is the most difficult part, and for the 16 nursing homes that had been in receivership, that has not been a problem.

Joshua Pete, the new administrator at Avantara Groton Nursing Home, is originally from Dallas, TX. He currently lives in Redfield where he worked prior to coming to Groton.

"I have a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Health Science and am a licensed nursing home administrator," Pete explained. "I am currently working on my Master's Degree in Business through online courses at the University of South Dakota."

"I decided to become a nursing home administrator for several reasons," he said. "My work as the Maintenance Director in the nursing home as well as being a supervisor for two years at South Dakota Developmental Center, both located in Redfield, helped me make the decision to pursue my advanced degrees."

"I personally saw myself as a natural fit for this type of work," Pete stated. "My work experience helped me make this decision since I became aware of things that needed to change and improve. I want the residents here to have the best quality of life that is possible."

"I'm really excited to be here in Groton," Pete admitted. "It is a good place to work with lots of good workers and a supportive community. Outside of my work, I enjoy spending time with my two elementary age children and am a fan of both football and hockey."

Another change at Avantara Groton is the hiring of Mandy Livingston as the new activities director. She has many new and exciting plans for the residents.



**Joshua Pete (right) is the new administrator of Avantara of Groton. Mandy Livingston (left) is the new activities director.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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"I have already changed the bingo-every-day activity to once a week," Livingston stated. "People of all ages prefer change in their daily routine so this was an easy fix."

"A new activity that started on August 6th was pet therapy," Livingston explained. "A lady with her Akita dogs visited here with these specially trained animals."

"Trained therapy dogs have been proven to cause positive changes in nursing home residents, hospitals, schools, etc." Livingston smiled. "These dogs work with people of all ages to help them and improve their lives."

"In addition to pet therapy, I have also planned several other new activities such as having a gorgeous grandma contest, an adopt a grandparent day, and other unique things," Livingston listed.

"One new event is a guys' luncheon," she stated, "with only the male residents. They enjoy each other's company and love to tell stories about their younger days."

"It is fun to watch residents here perk up and take more interest in what is happening around them when something different is being offered," Livingston admitted. "I really enjoy my job here and am willing to try other new ideas and suggestions too."



**School board members Marty Wiesmantel, Tigh Flihs, Deb Gengerke and Kara Pharis do the serving at the school open house held Tuesday.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Board President Steve Smith was slaving over a hot grill with hamburgers while board member Grant Rix would take the burgers inside to be served.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

## We need our farmers.

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

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

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

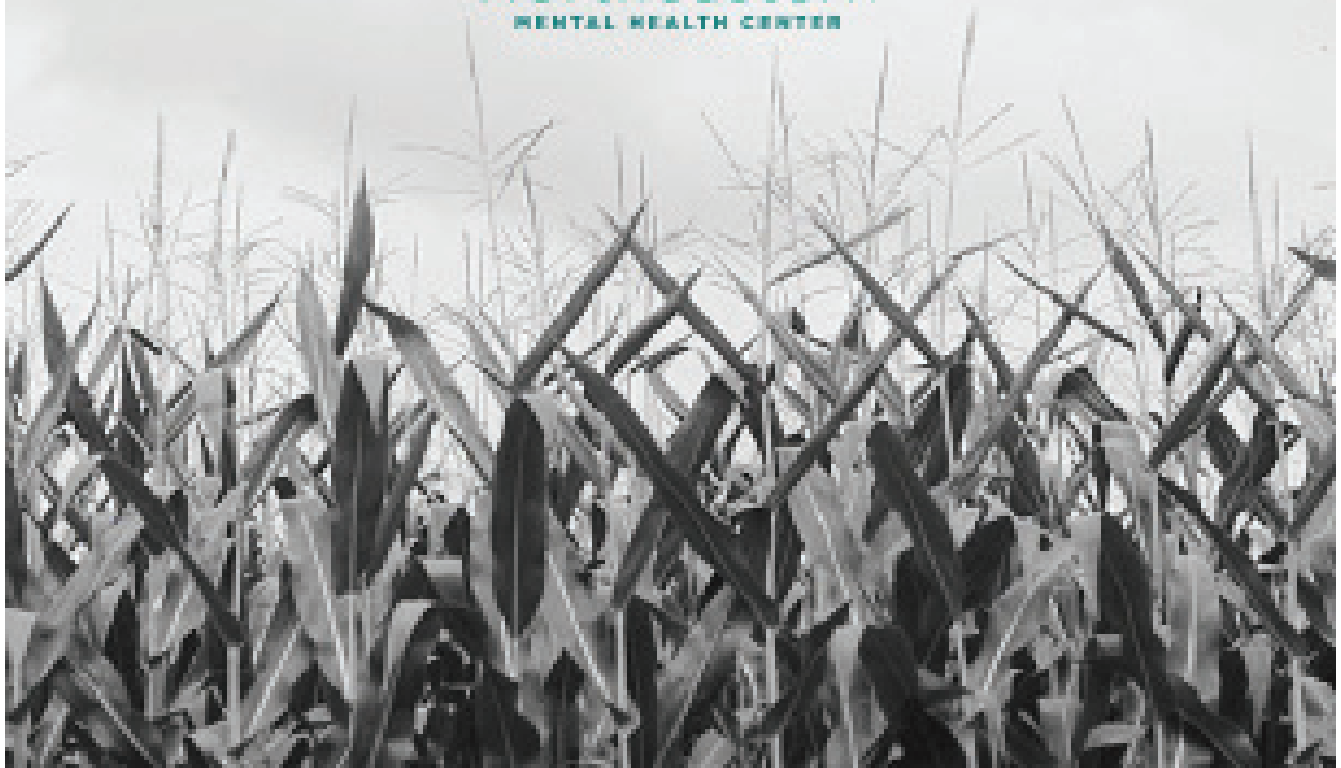
We're here to help.

Call 605-225-1010 for more information.

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



Northeastern  
MENTAL HEALTH CENTER



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## Groton School Aug. 12, 2019 Meeting Minutes

UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD OF EDUCATION

GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-6

REGULAR MEETING

August 12, 2019

Vice-President Weismantel called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Conference Room. Members present: Flihs, Gengerke, Harder, Pharis, Rix and Weismantel. Absent: Smith. Others present were Supt. J. Schwan, Principals Sombke and B. Schwan, and Business Manager Weber.

Moved by Pharis, second Gengerke to approve the agenda with two amendments under New Business Item #6 – acknowledge public school exemption and under New Business Item #7 – approve open enrollment. Motion carried.

Weber read the Oath of Office to install Travis Harder for three-year term as school board member.

Pursuant to SDCL 23-3, there was no potential conflict disclosure reported.

Moved by Rix, second Flihs to approve the following consent agenda items as presented: District minutes of July 8, 2019, bills, financial reports, agency reports and investments, Public School Exemptions #20-01, #20-02, #20-03, #20-04, #20-05 and #20-06, Open Enrollment Applications #20-05, #20-06, #20-08 and #20-10, Transportation Requests from Langford Area and Webster in accordance with SDCL 13-29-4. Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND: Net Salary – 72,125.99; FIT – 7,232.68; Medicare – 2,680.38; FICA – 11,460.74; Washington National – 0.00; SD Retirement – 8,815.48; Waddell & Reed – 625.00; Horace Mann – 250.00; AFLAC – 792.24; Delta Dental – 1,000.04; SD Supplemental Retirement – 402.29; Wellmark – 15,278.00; Reliastar Life – 193.71; Avesis Vision – 79.70; Advance Auto Parts – parts, 313.61; AED Superstore – supplies, 70.39; Agency Fund – advanced pays, 122,552.47; Agtegra – cornerstone, 80.10; Amazon – supplies, 312.23; American Solutions for Business – supplies, 213.64; Automatic Building Controls – fire alarm fees, 480.00; BE Publishing – workbooks, 568.81; Carson-Dellosa publishing – supplies, 176.78; Cengage Learning – workbooks, 600.00; Coach & Athletic Director – subscription, 19.95; Cole Papers – paper, 5,605.32; Brooke Compton – travel expense, 162.12; Dakota Brush – supplies, 36.00; Dakota Electronics – repairs, 167.50; Dakota Supply Group – supplies, 224.18; Decker Equipment – locker parts, 28.95; Dependable Sanitation – services, 1,238.00; Didax – supplies, 28.07; East River Plumbing – repairs, 557.00; Eric Armin – supplies, 105.80; Farnams Genuine Parts – repairs, 249.44; Flinn Scientific – supplies, 154.15; Groton Chiropractic Clinic – bus physical, 95.00; Groton Daily Independent – legals, 682.21; Hauff Mid-America Sports – supplies, 2,403.30; Hillyard – supplies, 14,205.89; House of Glass – keys, 33.98; Interstate – battery, 38.56; Jeff's District & Drain – repairs, 416.00; Maximum Promotions – banner upgrades, 97.12; Mike-N-Jos – body work, 861.00; Nardini Fire Equipment – services, 269.50; Nasco – supplies, 232.35; Northside Implement – repairs, 1,850.89; Northwestern Energy – utilities, 16.07; OTC Brands – supplies, 271.16; Prorate Services – testing, 65.00; Ramada Inn – lodging, 315.18; Really Good Stuff – supplies, 62.93; Scholastic Inc – supplies, 3,803.41; Scholastic – supplies, 25.45; School Nurse Supply – supplies, 1,025.29; School Specialty – supplies, 2,443.48; SD Teacher Placement Center – fee, 435.00; SDSTE – dues, 30.00; Stamp Fulfillment Services – envelopes, 6,151.00; Supreme School Supply – supplies, 722.66; Swank Movie Licensing – service, 519.00; Teacher Created Resources – supplies, 121.35; Teacher Direct – supplies, 884.70; Training Room – supplies, 1,015.24. Total General Fund - \$293,973.48.

CAPITAL OUTLAY: A&B Business – lease, 925.73; Agency Funds – advanced pays, 29,235.01; Amazon – classroom equipment, 1,302.50; American Solutions for Business – equipment, 2,241.03; Amplify Education – software, 5,610.00; Apple – iPads, equipment, 54,085.40; Brainpop – software, 2,550.00; Dakota Supply Group – equipment, 239.18; Eric Armin – textbooks, 382.25; Gopher – equipment, 205.69; Goverlan – service contract, 220.00; Hauff Mid-America Sports – equipment, jerseys, 4,722.30; Hillyard – scrubber part, 262.77; Houghton Mifflin Harcourt – textbooks, 22,045.50; IXL Learning – site license, 1,800.00; JLG Architects – services, 588.00; Kaplan Early Learning – equipment, 569.87; Lampo Group – textbooks, 1,237.01; My Binding – equipment, 2,891.54; Mystery Science – subscription, 99.00; NASCO – equipment,

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564.31; NCS Pearson – software, 3,050.00; Obermiller Nelson Engineering – services, 446.25; Palos Sports – equipment, 178.50; Pearson Education – books, 720.81; Really Good Stuff – equipment, 186.10; Renaissance – software, 11,458.80; Scholastic – readers, 184.19; Scholastic- books, 4,283.37; School Specialty – boombox, 33.71; Teacher Created Resources – textbooks, 48.96; Teacher Direct – equipment, 486.42; Toledo Physical Ed – equipment, 135.50; US Toy – equipment, 316.10.

Total Capital Outlay - \$153,305.80.

SPECIAL ED: Net Salary – 1,469.97; FIT – 88.66; Medicare – 52.34; FICA – 223.84; SD Retirement – 216.62; Agency Fund – advanced pays, 309.88; Amazon – supplies, 128.01; Avera St Luke's – services, 5,208.00; Dollar General – supplies, 104.04; Rebecca Erickson – grant services, 940.00; Janelle Publications – supplies, 130.90; NCS – supplies, 137.50; OTC Brands – supplies, 53.12; School Health Corp – supplies, 17.36; School Specialty – gloves, 5.18; Super Duper Publications – supplies, 101.86; Teacher Created Resources – supplies, 62.94; Sydney Wilkinson – grant services, 840.00; Judy or Gene Williamson – mileage, 137.76. Total Special Ed - \$10,227.98.

ENTERPRISE: Food Service: Net Salary – 1,845.70; FIT – 235.70; Medicare – 70.10; FICA – 299.78; SD Retirement – 302.32; AFLAC – 82.81; Wellmark – 763.00; Reliastar Life – 1.92; Avesis Vision – 19.06; Ace Refrigeration – repairs, 781.32; American Solutions for Business – chair, 139.99; Reinhart Foodservice – food, 641.85. Total Fund 51 - \$5,183.55. OST: Net Salary – 8,055.94; FIT – 357.31; Medicare – 274.36; FICA – 1,173.20; SD Retirement – 648.52; Agency Fund – advanced pays, 680.64; Bahr's Jungle – pizza, 147.30; Groton Area – mileage refund, 2,392.74. Total Fund 53 - \$13,730.01.

Total Enterprise Funds - \$18,913.56.

AGENCY FUND: Total - \$184,243.55.

RECEIPTS: Local Sources, Taxes – 601,396.09; Other Local Sources – 12,482.00; County Sources – 2,709.02; State Sources – 0.00; Federal Sources – 8,394.08. Total Receipts – \$624,981.19.

Members of the public were allowed five minutes to address the board on any topic of their choice. With no public members present to speak, the board proceeded with their remaining agenda items.

The following topics were discussed in administrative reports: back to school information, summer custodial work, boiler replacement, elementary tuckpointing, unpacked standards workshop, South Dakota Comprehensive Needs Assessment grant, playground update, grade 6 orientation, comfort closet, graduation requirements, class change day August 19th, dual credit/E-Learning classes, ICU program, first day of school August 22nd, annual report progress, Small Rural School Achievement award, utility valuations and tax levy.

Elementary Principal Brett Schwan presented a proposal for amended start time for Junior Kindergarten class from 12:30 to 12:15 pm. An extra 15 minutes of class time per day amounts to 14 additional half-days of student contact time over the course of the year. Moved by Gengerke, second Harder to approve the change as presented. Motion carried.

Superintendent Joe Schwan presented a proposal from Avera Performance Center for athletic training services for the 2019-20 school year. Moved by Harder, second Rix to approve the service increase as presented. Motion carried 5-0 with Gengerke abstaining.

Moved by Rix, second Fliehs to reassign Melissa Ulmer to MS/HS Administrative Assistant for the 2019-20 school year. Motion carried.

Moved by Gengerke, second Pharis to hire Tasha Dunker as Elementary Librarian for the 2019-20 school year for \$11.85/hour. Motion carried.

Moved by Gengerke, second Fliehs to approve Craig Sternhagen as volunteer boys' soccer coach and Sarah Schuster as volunteer girls' volleyball coach. Motion carried.

The board acknowledged receipt of Notification of Public-School Exemption #20-07

Moved by Rix, second Harder to approve Open Enrollment #20-09. Motion carried.

Moved by Rix, second Pharis to adjourn at 7:55 pm. Motion carried.

M. J. Weber, Business Manager

Steven R. Smith, President

The addition of signatures to this page verifies these minutes as official.

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## Groton City Aug. 20, 2019 Meeting Minutes

August 20, 2019

The Groton City Council met on the above date at 7:00pm at the Community Center for their second monthly meeting with the following members present: Blackmun, Peterson, Wells, McGannon, Glover via telephone and Mayor Hanlon presiding. Also present were: Attorney Drew Johnson, Finance Officer Hope Block, Paul Kosel, Kathy Sundermeyer, and Officer Justin Cleveland.

Public comments were welcomed pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1, but none were received.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved on a motion by Glover and seconded by Peterson. All members voted aye.

Moved by McGannon and seconded by Glover to authorize the following bills for payment. All members voted aye.

Payroll, \$33,452.89, Employee salaries; Administrative, \$3,179.68, ; Public Safety, \$8,466.29, ; Public Works, \$8,908.98, ; Culture & Recreation, \$12,897.94, ; First State Bank, \$9,630.80, SS and WH ; First State Bank, \$499.98, HSA contributions; Dakotaland FCU, \$950.00, Employee savings; SD State Treasurer, \$9,135.24, Sales and excise 7/18; City of Groton, \$483.20, Utility deposit refunds and transit utilities; Dennis Kinser, \$201.67, Utility deposit refund ; USPS, \$198.94, Utility billing postage; Jacobs & Son Construction, \$153,668.75, Payment #2 Street project; Lien Transportation, \$691.98, Hot mix; Michael Todd & Co, \$264.42, Bolt on sweeper broom; Farmers Union, \$1,646.24, Fuel; Dairy Queen, \$16.00, BB concession resale; James Valley, \$585.57, Phone and internet; Angerhofer Concrete, \$17.50, Pool brick engraving; Kens, \$1,581.73, Gas, BB concession resale; HydroKlean, \$27,513.00, 4 manhole rehabilitation; SD Association of Rural Water, \$625.00, Smoke testing for sewers; Heartland Consumer Power, \$62,544.48, Power; WAPA, \$18,629.05, Power; MJ's Sinclair, \$1,425.35, Gas ; Nelson Sales & Service, \$507.74, Snapper mower repairs; Railroad Management Co, \$470.77, Water pipeline crossing rent.

The July finance report was approved on a motion by Glover and seconded by Wells. All members voted aye.

September meeting dates were moved to September 10th and 24th on a motion by Wells and seconded by Glover. All members voted aye.

The first reading of the 2020 Appropriation Ordinance #728 was approved on a motion by Peterson and seconded by Wells. All members voted aye.

Moved by McGannon and seconded by Peterson to adjourn into executive session for personnel and legal items 1-25-2 (1) & (3) at 7:30pm. All members voted aye. Council reconvened into regular session at 8:06pm.

Moved by Wells and seconded by Peterson to adjourn the meeting at 8:06pm. All members voted aye.

Scott Hanlon, Mayor

Hope Block, Finance Officer



*Adults and Students . . . come  
learn what social issues are  
involving our youth  
in our community.*

# **Solutions** **to** **Social Issues**

**SPONSORED BY LOCAL CHURCHES**

Youth Groups Welcome ~ Large Groups please RSVP 605/377-0709

Seminars are:

**September 11 at United Methodist Church:**

**Drugs & Alcohol**

**October 9 at Groton Christian & Missionary Alliance Church:**

**Sex Trafficking and Date Violence**

**November 6 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church:**

**Suicide and Bullying**

**Light Meal at 5:45 p.m. ~ Seminar begins at 6:30 p.m.**



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Today



Sunny

High: 78 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: 58 °F

Friday



Sunny then  
Slight Chance  
T-storms

High: 78 °F

Friday  
Night



Slight Chance  
T-storms

Low: 64 °F

Saturday





Chance  
T-storms

High: 77 °F

*Tonight: Mostly Clear, Lows 50 to 58°*

*Thursday: Mostly Sunny, breezy in the west. Highs 72 to 80°*

National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD

Updated: 8/21/2019 3:04 PM Central

Published on: 08/21/2019 at 11:10AM

Dry conditions are expected to persist overnight through Thursday as high pressure remains in control of our weather. Clear skies, light winds and a drier air mass will allow for temps to fall into the 50s overnight. Expect another day of sunshine on Thursday as temps climb back into the 70s. An increasing southeasterly breeze will be possible in the afternoon across the Missouri Valley.

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## Today in Weather History

August 22, 1985: Intense thunderstorms moved from near Shadehill Reservoir in northwest South Dakota late in the evening of the 21st, to northern Brown County after sunrise on the 22nd. These thunderstorms produced high winds, large hail, rain, and lightning. Considerable crop and property damage were caused mainly by the strong winds and hail. Winds gusts ranged from 55 mph at Mobridge to 60 mph in and around Akaska. Winds of 70 mph were reported at Onaka and Faulkton. The strongest wind gust was reported in Hoven with a peak gust of 72 mph. Widespread damage was reported throughout the area. Many mobile homes, storage sheds, silos, and roofs were damaged or destroyed. Nine miles south and four miles west of Keldron, over two inches in diameter hail fell for 40 minutes, breaking windows and piling in ditches to a depth of four feet. These intense thunderstorms also produced brief heavy rainfall ranging from three-quarters of an inch to over four inches.

August 21, 2011: The Missouri River at Pierre, Fort Pierre, and Chamberlain/Oacoma fell throughout August as releases on the Oahe Dam were slowly decreased. The Missouri River at Chamberlain/Oacoma fell below flood stage on August 22nd. The extensive damage to homes and roads began to surface as the water receded. The river continued to fall into September.

1893: Four hurricanes are observed in the Atlantic Ocean at the same time. Over a century would pass, 1998 before four hurricanes would again rage together in the Atlantic.

1994: Hurricane John, about 345 miles south of Hilo, Hawaii had winds of 175 mph and pressure at 920 millibars or 27.17 inches of mercury, making it one of the strongest hurricanes ever in the Central Pacific. The 31-day existence made John the longest-lasting tropical cyclone recorded in both the Pacific Ocean and worldwide, surpassing both Hurricane Tina's previous record in the Pacific of 24 days in the 1992 season and the 1899 San Ciriaco hurricane's previous world record of 28 days in the 1899 Atlantic season. John was also the farthest-traveling tropical cyclone in both Pacific Ocean and worldwide, with distance traveled of 7,165 miles, out-distancing previous record holders Hurricane Fico in the Pacific of 4,700 miles in the 1978 season and Hurricane Faith worldwide of 6,850 miles in the 1966 Atlantic season.

2003: The Okanagan Mountain fire reaches its destructive peak, destroying 250 homes. Nearly 40,000 residents have been evacuated or are on evacuation alert. The Okanagan Mountain Park Fire is estimated to be 17,000 hectares and continues to grow.

1816 - The growing season for corn was cut short as damaging frosts were reported from North Carolina to interior New England. (David Ludlum)

1923 - The temperature at Anchorage, AK, reached 82 degrees, a record for August for the location which was later tied on the 2nd in 1978. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A cold front lowered temperatures 20 to 40 degrees across the north central U.S., and produced severe thunderstorms in Ohio and Lower Michigan. An early morning thunderstorm near Sydney MI produced high winds which spun a car around 180 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Afternoon highs of 88 degrees at Astoria, OR, and 104 degrees at Medford, OR, were records for the date, and the number of daily record highs across the nation since the first of June topped the 2000 mark. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Evening thunderstorms in the central U.S. produced golf ball size hail at May City IA, and wind gusts to 66 mph at Balltown IA. Lightning struck a barn in Fayette County IA killing 750 hogs. Evening thunderstorms in Montana produced wind gusts to 70 mph at Havre. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1992 - Hurricane Andrew makes landfall in Southern Florida as a Category 5 storm with wind gusts estimated in excess of 175 m.p.h. Estimated damages exceeded \$20 billion, more than 60 people were killed and approximately 2 million people were evacuated from their homes. (University of Illinois WW2010)

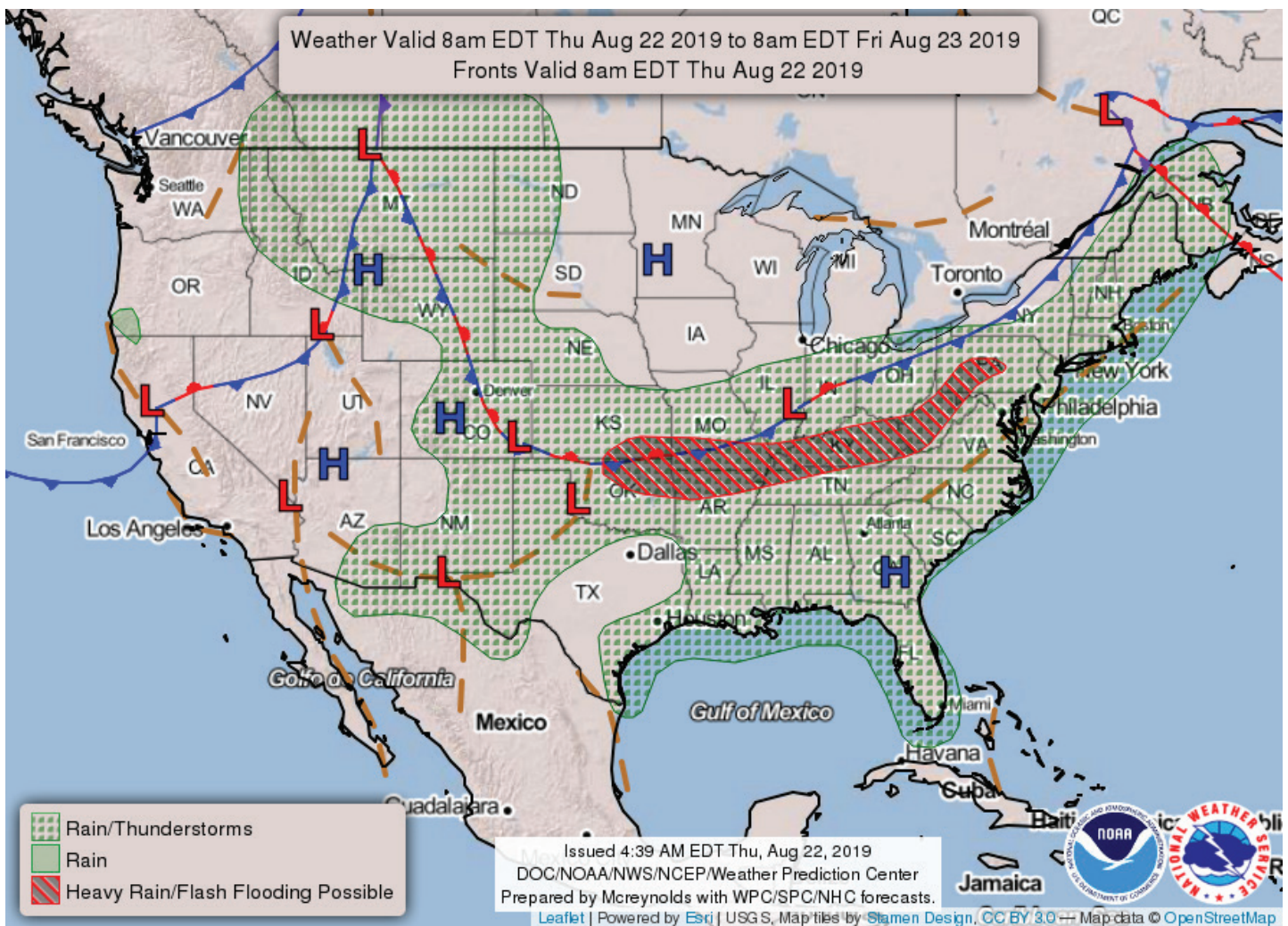
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp:** 77 °F at 5:30 PM  
**Low Temp:** 64 °F at 10:28 PM  
**Wind:** 10 mph at 1:38 PM  
**Day Rain:** 0.00

**Record High:** 105° in 1971  
**Record Low:** 36° in 1904  
**Average High:** 81°F  
**Average Low:** 55°F  
**Average Precip in Aug.:** 1.64  
**Precip to date in Aug.:** 2.98  
**Average Precip to date:** 15.50  
**Precip Year to Date:** 19.57  
**Sunset Tonight:** 8:30 p.m.  
**Sunrise Tomorrow:** 6:44 a.m.



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## UNQUESTIONED CONFIDENCE

Character breeds confidence. When we cannot have complete confidence in others, doubts arise and questions surface. We worry and wonder, watch and wait for things to go wrong. We sense an uneasiness and do not know what to expect. Perhaps that is why Solomon wrote, Her husband has full confidence in her (this wife of noble character) and lacks nothing of value.

Full confidence is a broad, sweeping term and covers all of the activities in a home. It includes raising children, managing the family's finances and the reputation of the family - whatever is included in developing the image of the family in the community. Everything is included in the term full confidence.

Full confidence is a remarkable term because it is the same term that is used or applied to the term confidence in the Lord. Throughout the entire Old Testament, it is only used twice in reference to having confidence in another person.

This value of having such confidence in one's wife is important because it frees up the husband to become involved in occupational, civic, and religious duties. The husband of a wife of noble character can commit himself to what God has called him to do because his household is in good, competent and safe hands.

Notice, too, that the husband lacks nothing of value. The home is in good hands and the resources, - financial, reputation or character - will increase because of God's blessings!

Prayer: Lord, there is a great need in Kingdom work for wives to know You, love You and serve You faithfully. Bless them for their service and the sacrifices they make. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 31:11 Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value.

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## 2019 Groton SD Community Events

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

## 2020 Groton SD Community Events

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

## News from the Associated Press

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) \_ These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Wednesday:

Dakota Cash

12-16-23-27-31

(twelve, sixteen, twenty-three, twenty-seven, thirty-one)

Estimated jackpot: \$79,000

Lotto America

09-25-31-34-37, Star Ball: 9, ASB: 3

(nine, twenty-five, thirty-one, thirty-four, thirty-seven; Star Ball: nine; ASB: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$2.55 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$90 million

Powerball

12-21-22-29-32, Powerball: 21, Power Play: 2

(twelve, twenty-one, twenty-two, twenty-nine, thirty-two; Powerball: twenty-one; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$40 million

### Audit: State Democratic Party understated disbursements

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Draft audit findings show the South Dakota Democratic Party understated disbursements by \$2.5 million, received \$67,182 worth of contributions from unregistered organizations and failed to disclose \$46,097 worth of debts and obligations.

The Rapid City Journal reports that the newly revealed findings for the years 2015-2016 are from an audit performed by the Audit Division of the Federal Election Commission. The commission is set to review a memorandum about the audit Thursday.

Ann Tornberg was South Dakota Democratic Party chairwoman during the years that the audit covers but no longer holds the position. She said Wednesday that “we’ll do whatever we need to do in order to correct the situation.”

The party’s current executive director, Stacey Burnette, said in a statement Wednesday she looks forward “to resolving any outstanding issues with past FEC reports.”

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

### Wagner woman charged with murder in death of daughter, 3

WAGNER, S.D. (AP) — A Wagner woman has been charged with murder in the death of her 3-year-old daughter, whose body was covered in bruises when police found her unresponsive last week.

Amanda Rose Hernandez, 23, was arrested Friday, two days after her daughter, Aayana Hernandez, was found dead at the home where they were staying. Hernandez was charged with second-degree murder.

According to court documents, Hernandez told police that Aayana fell from a top bunk bed days earlier, but she didn’t seek medical attention because the girl appeared to be acting normally. But an autopsy found Aayana died from internal bleeding and a traumatic head injury. She also had a broken femur. The injuries were found to be consistent with abuse, and the medical examiner ruled that her death was a homicide.

Police say Hernandez denied causing the injuries that killed her daughter.

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According to a police affidavit, Hernandez told police she and a friend were out drinking Tuesday night and returned at about midnight and fell asleep. But Hernandez's friend told police they didn't return until 9 a.m. Wednesday. He said they fell asleep on the couch, but Hernandez got up because Aayana was fussing. He heard Hernandez yelling but couldn't recall hearing the girl crying.

Aayana was found dead hours later.

Hernandez made her first court appearance Monday and bail was set at \$100,000. A preliminary hearing is set for Aug. 30 at the Charles Mix County Courthouse.

## 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. WHO'S REELING AFTER QUITTING FEDERAL PROGRAM

Clinics are charging new fees and warning of more unintended pregnancies and STDs in the wake of Planned Parenthood's decision to opt out in a dispute with the Trump administration over abortion.

### 2. PRESIDENT FLIP-FLOPS ON ECONOMY

A day after considering cutting taxes to promote economic growth, Donald Trump abandons the idea because the nation already has "a strong economy."

### 3. DANES ESCALATE WAR OF WORDS WITH TRUMP

Denmark's former prime minister lashes out at the U.S. president for his tweet about military spending, saying defense willingness is not just about money as the Greenland diplomatic spat rumbles on.

### 4. DUO TO PUSH OPIOID SETTLEMENT TOWARD HOSPITALS

West Virginia University's president and former Ohio Gov. John Kasich are creating a nonprofit that will fight to steer cash away from local and state governments, AP learns.

### 5. HICKENLOOPER SHIFTS POLITICAL FOCUS

The former presidential candidate says he will run for a U.S. Senate seat in Colorado, becoming the immediate front-runner in a crowded Democratic field.

### 6. INSLEE BOWS OUT OF CAMPAIGN

The Washington governor, who made fighting climate change the central theme of his candidacy, ends his bid for the 2020 Democratic nomination.

### 7. SOUTH KOREA CANCELS JAPAN INTELLIGENCE DEAL AMID TRADE DISPUTE

The decision is expected to further aggravate tensions between Seoul and Tokyo and set back U.S. efforts to bolster trilateral security cooperation.

### 8. SANDERS EYEING CRUCIAL 'FIRST FIVE'

The Vermont senator ranks strong showings in California, Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina as the key to being the dominant presidential candidate by early March.

### 9. KILLINGS BY POLICE DIVIDE CRIME-WEARY RIO

Brazilian human rights and victims' groups raise alarms about the record levels of deaths at police hands, with 1,075 slain so far this year, according to official figures.

### 10. INDIA'S 'PATRIOTISM POP' SONGS URGE HINDUS TO CLAIM KASHMIR

Music videos deliver a message to India's 250 million YouTube users about moving to the Muslim-majority region, buying land there and marrying Kashmiri women.

## Report shows US deficit to exceed \$1 trillion next year

By KEVIN FREKING Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The federal budget deficit is expected to balloon to more than \$1 trillion in the next fiscal year under the first projections taking into account the big budget deal that President Donald Trump and Congress reached this summer, the Congressional Budget Office reported.

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The return of \$1 trillion annual deficits comes despite Trump's vow when running for office that he would not just balance the budget but pay down the entire national debt.

"The nation's fiscal outlook is challenging," said Phillip Swagel, director of the nonpartisan CBO. "Federal debt, which is already high by historical standards, is on an unsustainable course."

The office on Wednesday upped this year's deficit projection by \$63 billion and the cumulative deficit projection for the next decade by \$809 billion. The higher deficit projections come even as the CBO reduced its estimate for interest rates, which lowers borrowing costs, and as it raised projections for economic growth in the near term.

The number crunchers at CBO projected that the deficit for the current fiscal year will come to \$960 billion. In the next fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1, it will exceed \$1 trillion.

The CBO said the budget deal signed into law earlier this month, which took away the prospect of a government shutdown in October and the threat of deep automatic spending cuts, would boost deficits by \$1.7 trillion over the coming decade. Increased spending on disaster relief and border security would add \$255 billion. Downward revisions to the forecast for interest rates will help the picture, trimming \$1.4 trillion.

Swagel said the federal debt will rise even higher after the coming decade because of the nation's aging population and higher spending on health care.

To put the country on sustainable footing, Swagel said, lawmakers will have to increase taxes, cut spending or combine the two approaches.

The CBO projects that the economy will expand more slowly, from 2.3% this year to 1.8% on average in the next four years. The assumption reflects slower growth in consumer spending and government purchases, as well as the effect of trade policies on business investment.

It also projects the unemployment rate will remain close to its current level of 3.7% through the end of 2020 and then rises to 4.6% by the end of 2023.

The CBO's estimate is the first to reflect the hard-won budget and debt deal signed into law earlier this month.

"The recent budget deal was a budget buster, and now we have further proof. Both parties took an already unsustainable situation and made it much worse," said Maya MacGuineas, president of the private Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget.

MacGuineas said lawmakers should ensure the legislation they enact is paid for and redouble efforts to control the growth in health care costs and restore the solvency of the Social Security program. Her organization is focused on educating the public on issues with significant fiscal policy impact.

Senior White House adviser Kellyanne Conway pivoted to the president's desire to fund the military and other programs when asked about the report.

"We're always concerned about the deficit," Conway said. "We also need to fund a lot of the projects and programs that are important to this country."

## Trump flip-flops on tax cuts, saying US has 'strong economy'

By KEVIN FREKING, JOSH BOAK and JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A day after considering cutting taxes to promote economic growth, President Donald Trump changed course and said he would abandon the idea because the nation already had "a strong economy."

Trump's flip-flop on Wednesday came after recent market volatility and economic uncertainty, and amid a debate about whether the United States was heading for a slowdown that would imperil his reelection chances. Trump earlier this week acknowledged, for the first time, that his China trade policies may mean economic pain for Americans, though he insisted the tariffs are needed for more important long-term benefits.

But his consideration of cutting payroll taxes appeared short-lived.

"I'm not looking at a tax cut now," he told reporters at the White House. "We don't need it. We have a



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strong economy.”

Trump also knocked down the idea of indexing to the capital gains tax, which applies when investors sell assets, to inflation. He said he feared “it will be perceived, if I do it, as somewhat elitist.”

Analysts have warned that a slowdown, if not full-blown recession, could hit before next year’s election. Trump, however, has largely praised the economy’s performance and his handling of it. He has often blamed the Federal Reserve (and Chairman Jerome Powell) and the global slowdown for creating dark clouds at home.

“Jay Powell and the Federal Reserve have totally missed the call. I was right and just about everybody admits that,” Trump said Wednesday. “He raised interest rates too fast, too furious, and we have a normalized rate. And now we have to go the other direction.”

Some White House advisers fear Trump has undercut Powell’s credibility. They worry that the president’s calls for rate cuts and his discussion of indexing or a payroll tax cut could spook, rather than reassure markets.

Trump indicated he had no choice but to impose the trade penalties that have been a drag on U.S. manufacturers, financial markets and, by some measures, American consumers.

“Somebody had to do it. I am the chosen one,” Trump said on the White House lawn, looking skyward. “Somebody had to do it. So, I’m taking on China. I’m taking on China on trade.”

China, though, said trade with the U.S. has been “mutually beneficial” and appealed to Washington to “get along with us.” A foreign ministry spokesman, Geng Shuang, expressed hope Washington can “meet China halfway” in settling disagreements.

The U.S. economy appears to be showing vulnerabilities after more than 10 years of growth. Factory output has fallen and consumer confidence has waned as he has ramped up his trade fight with China.

Trump rattled the stock and bond markets this month when he announced plans to put a 10% tax on \$300 billion worth of Chinese imports. The market reaction suggested a recession might be on the horizon and led Trump to delay some of the tariffs that were scheduled to begin in September, though 25% tariffs are already in place for \$250 million in other Chinese goods.

The president has long maintained that the burden of the tariffs is falling solely on China, yet that message was undermined by his statements to reporters Tuesday. “My life would be a lot easier if I didn’t take China on,” Trump said. “But I like doing it because I have to do it.”

The world economy has been slowing in recent months, and recent stock market swings have added to concerns that the U.S. economy is not immune. A survey Monday showed a big majority of economists expect a downturn to hit by 2021.

Addressing that possibility, Trump focused anew on pressuring the Fed to cut interest rates. Presidents have generally avoided criticizing the central bank publicly. Trump, however, has shown no inclination to follow that lead, positioning Powell to take the fall if the economy swoons.

“I think that we actually are set for a tremendous surge of growth, if the Fed would do its job,” Trump said. “That’s a big if.” Trump recommended a minimum cut of a full percentage point in the coming months.

## Planned Parenthood sees swift fallout from quitting program

By **LINDSAY WHITEHURST** and **DAVID CRARY** Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Planned Parenthood clinics in several states are charging new fees, tapping into financial reserves, intensifying fundraising and warning of more unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases in the wake of its decision to quit a \$260 million federal family planning program in a dispute with the Trump administration over abortion.

The fallout is especially intense in Utah, where Planned Parenthood has been the only provider participating in the nearly 50-year-old Title X program, and will now lose about \$2 million yearly in federal funds that helped serve 39,000 mostly low-income, uninsured people. It intends to maintain its services — which include contraception, STD testing and cancer screening — but is considering charging a small copay for

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patients who used to get care for free.

Planned Parenthood in Minnesota is in a similar situation, serving about 90% of the state's Title X patients, and plans to start charging fees due to the loss of \$2.6 million in annual funding.

The organization is concerned about the spread of unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases.

"We believe there will be a public health crisis created by this denial of care," said Sarah Stoesz, the Minnesota-based president of Planned Parenthood North Central States. "It's a very sad day for the country."

Planned Parenthood and several other providers withdrew from the program earlier this week rather than comply with a newly implemented rule prohibiting participating clinics from referring women for abortions. Anti-abortion activists who form a key part of President Donald Trump's base have been campaigning to "defund Planned Parenthood" because — among its varied services — it is a major abortion provider, and they viewed the grants as an indirect subsidy.

About 4 million women are served nationwide by the Title X program, which makes up a much bigger portion of Planned Parenthood's patients than abortion. But the organization said it could not abide by the abortion-referral rules because it says they would make it impossible for doctors to do their jobs.

Mindy Dotson, a single mother in Utah, is among the women who use the family planning program. She started going to Planned Parenthood as doctors' bills for treating recurring yeast infections mounted. The services became even more important when she gave up her employer-sponsored health insurance because she couldn't afford the \$500 monthly bill.

She is unsure what she'd do if the services stopped.

"It would put me in a very dangerous position," said Dotson, who works as an executive assistant for an accounting and consulting firm. "It covers so many things: STD testing, emergency contraception, birth control, lifesaving cancer screenings ... you name it, they have treated me for it."

Planned Parenthood says it's dedicated to maintaining its current services in Utah, but CEO Karrie Galloway acknowledged it won't be easy and could cause some "pain on all sides."

She said the organization plans to lean heavily on donors to make up the funding gap while staff members assess how they'll cope. Among the possibilities are instituting copays of \$10-\$15 per visit, shortening hours and trimming spending. She doesn't plan to lay off staff, but said she may not be able to fill jobs when people leave or retire.

Minnesota is planning fees as well.

"We'll continue to offer all services, and keep clinic doors open, but we'll be charging patients on a sliding scale who we didn't charge before," Stoesz said. "Vulnerable people who previously were able to access birth control and STD testing for free will no longer be able to do so."

Elsewhere, the impact of Planned Parenthood's withdrawal will vary from state to state.

Governments in some states, including Hawaii, Illinois, New York and Vermont, say they will try to replace at least some of the lost federal funding. In the Deep South there will be little impact because Planned Parenthood did not provide Title X services in most of the region's states.

The chief operating officer for Planned Parenthood of the Greater Northwest and Hawaiian Islands, Rebecca Gibron, said Southern Idaho could be hit hard by the changes, with other health care providers in the area saying they can't fill the gap if the roughly 1,000 low-income women served by Planned Parenthood in Twin Falls are no longer able to receive care.

"This was not money that can simply be made up by raising dollars from donors," Gibron said. "We have rent to pay, we have staff salaries ... there are limits to what we are able to do in terms of providing free care without the Title X program."

Gibron said Planned Parenthood is working with Washington state officials in hopes of securing "bridge funding" to keep operating more than 20 Title X clinics serving roughly 90,000 people.

"We're going to do everything we can to provide care for patients in the same way, but we know that it's not sustainable and we're looking at all of our options," she said.

Among other providers withdrawing from Title X is Maine Family Planning, which oversees a network that

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serves about 23,000 patients per year and will be losing \$1.8 million in annual funding. Its CEO, George Hill, said the organization will rely on reserves and intensify fundraising efforts to bridge the gap while seeking more aid from the state.

In anticipation of the changes, Democrats in neighboring New Hampshire added about \$3.2 million in the state budget they passed earlier this year to make up for the federal funding. But that's on hold after Republican Gov. Chris Sununu vetoed the budget in June for other reasons.

Crary reported from New York. Associated Press writers Brady McCombs in Salt Lake City; Patrick Whittle in Portland, Maine; Holly Ramer in Concord, New Hampshire; and Rebecca Boone in Boise, Idaho, contributed to this report.

## **APNewsBreak: Duo to push opioid settlement toward hospitals**

**By JULIE CARR SMYTH The Associated Press**

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — West Virginia University President Gordon Gee and former Ohio Gov. John Kasich are creating a nonprofit that will fight to steer cash from any national opioid settlement to hospitals, rather than to local and state governments already sparring for control of the dollars.

Gee and Kasich say Citizens for Effective Opioid Treatment, a 501(c)4 organization to be announced Thursday, will educate policymakers and the public about the negative impact the opioid epidemic has had on health care infrastructure and advance health-related research solutions to the crisis.

"It's an educational effort," Gee said. "We want to help people understand that this is a crisis and that the caregivers — the hospitals, in particular — are really leading the charge in order to be able to both give care and solve the problem."

The duo's plan is the latest move in a tug-of-war over what to do with the potential billions that could flow from a national opioid settlement with drugmakers and distributors, if one is reached. Some individual settlements with counties and states have already been reached and larger pharmaceutical companies could yet cut deals as the clock ticks toward the first trial, which is set for October.

Local governments are asking the Cleveland-based federal judge who is overseeing the majority of more than 2,000 lawsuits over the toll of opioids to let them distribute money among themselves. They say being able to negotiate as a group on behalf of all or most local governments would make it possible to reach a deal with the industry. They argue the crisis has hit local governments especially hard as they've needed to spend more on police, jails and other programs.

Most state attorneys general oppose that plan, saying the states would be in the best position to dole out money to local governments and to create larger scale prevention and treatment programs.

Both Gee and Kasich said their nonprofit isn't intended as an attack on local governments. But Kasich, who was criticized as governor for cuts to the state's local government fund, said large sums of undedicated money can tend to migrate.

"I'm not here to kind of tell the attorney generals what to do. If they can get a settlement and these communities can be reimbursed, good for them," he said. "But I don't want the money to go to fill potholes or to fill a budget gap or something like that. I want the money to go to the people who are on the front lines, because they are right up against the wall."

Gee and Kasich developed a relationship when Kasich was Ohio's governor, beginning in 2011, and Gee was president of Ohio State University.

Gee — himself a prolific fundraiser — said he enlisted Kasich's help with the nonprofit for his political acumen. Gee called Kasich "a rainmaker and a door opener" who "knows everyone."

Under IRS rules, the new tax-exempt nonprofit — which can raise unlimited amounts and not disclose its donors to the public — must "primarily" engage in social welfare and helping the community, meaning at least half its budget has to go to activities such as education rather than to political lobbying. Gee said a companion entity is planned whose collections can be spent more freely.

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Hospitals in West Virginia, including one system separately chaired by Gee, sued some of the largest makers of the powerful painkillers in April, seeking monetary damages to cover the costs of the crisis. The epidemic has spread to include street drugs, such as heroin and illegal fentanyl.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says opioids were involved in more than 47,000 deaths in both 2017 and 2018.

Gee said hospitals have had to cope with front-line health care costs, the space requirements of patients unable to go home, the associated medical needs of children and newborns and added workload and security costs.

He said the nonprofit will solicit private donations to spread its message. Kasich said he will speak out publicly, write op-eds and appear in videos.

The idea of having a private foundation handle at least some of any money from an opioid settlement isn't new. A group of public health groups including the Public Health Advocacy Institute at Boston's Northeastern University filed papers in court in May calling for such an entity. The group said one of the successes from a 1998 national tobacco settlement was the \$1.7 billion that went to such a group and helped reduce youth smoking.

But this approach makes some people bristle. Earlier this year, OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma and members of the Sackler family, which owns it, agreed to a \$270 million settlement with the state of Oklahoma. Much of that money went to a research and treatment center at Oklahoma State University. Some lawmakers complained that they, rather than the state attorney general, should have gotten to decide what to do with the settlement.

In July, a group of state lawmakers in West Virginia asked their state's attorney general for control of a \$37 million opioid settlement with the drug distributor McKesson, arguing they were the ones best suited to assure the money went to treatment programs rather than administrative costs. Attorney General Patrick Morrisey responded in a statement that it's important to "attack the drug epidemic holistically."

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Associated Press Writer Geoff Mulvihill contributed to this report from Cherry Hill, New Jersey.

## Epstein may have gamed the system from beyond the grave

By CURT ANDERSON AP Legal Affairs Writer

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — The will that Jeffrey Epstein signed just two days before his jailhouse suicide puts more than \$577 million in assets into a trust fund that could make it more difficult for his dozens of accusers to collect damages.

Estate lawyers and other experts say prying open the trust and dividing up the financier's riches is not going to be easy and could take years.

"This is the last act of Epstein's manipulation of the system, even in death," said attorney Jennifer Freeman, who represents child sex abuse victims.

Epstein, 66, killed himself Aug. 10 in New York while awaiting trial on federal sex trafficking charges. The discovery of the will with its newly created 1953 Trust, named after the year of his birth, instantly raised suspicions he did it to hide money from the many women who say he sexually abused them when they were teenagers.

By putting his fortune in a trust, he shrouded from public view the identities of the beneficiaries, whether they be individuals, organizations or other entities. For the women trying to collect from his estate, the first order of business will be persuading a judge to pierce that veil and release the details.

From there, the women will have to follow the course they would have had to pursue even if Epstein had not created a trust: convince the judge that they are entitled to compensation as victims of sex crimes. The judge would have to decide how much they should get and whether to reduce the amounts given to Epstein's named beneficiaries, who would also be given their say in court.

"Wealthy people typically attempt to hide assets in trusts or other legal schemes. I believe the court and

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his administrators will want to do right by Epstein's victims, and if not, we will fight for the justice that is long overdue to them," attorney Lisa Bloom, who represents several Epstein accusers, said in an email.

She said attorneys for the women will go after Epstein's estate in the U.S. Virgin Islands, where the will was filed and where he owned two islands.

Bloom said it was "gross negligence" on the part of Epstein's lawyers and jail personnel to allow him to sign a new will, given that he had apparently attempted suicide a short time before. Bloom called a will "a classic sign of impending suicide for a prisoner."

The lawyers who handled the will have not returned calls for comment.

The assets listed in the 20-page document include more than \$56 million in cash; properties in New York, Florida, Paris, New Mexico and the Virgin Islands; \$18.5 million in vehicles, aircraft and boats; and art and collectibles that will have to be appraised.

Typically in any case, trust or not, there is a pecking order of entities that line up to get a share of an estate, said Stephen K. Urice, a law professor at the University of Miami. First in line would be the government — in Epstein's case, several governments — which will collect any taxes owed on his properties and on his estate itself.

Next would be any other creditor to whom Epstein owed money, such as a bank or mortgage company.

Lawsuits against the estate by victims would come into play somewhere after that.

Epstein's only known relative is a brother, Mark Epstein, who has not responded to requests for comment. It is unclear whether he was named a beneficiary.

One other possibility is that the U.S. government will seek civil forfeiture of Epstein's properties or other assets on the grounds that they were used for criminal purposes. Government lawyers would have to produce strong evidence of that at a trial-like proceeding.

If they prevailed, they would be able to seize the properties, sell them and distribute the proceeds to victims.

"The fact that there is a will should not stop them," said Cheryl Bader, a professor at the Fordham University School of Law.

Federal prosecutors declined to comment on the possibility of a forfeiture action.

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Associated Press writer Jim Mustian in New York contributed to this story.

## Washington Gov. Jay Inslee to announce run for 3rd term

By RACHEL LA CORTE Associated Press

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) — Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, who has ended his climate change-focused 2020 presidential bid, is set to announce Thursday that he'll seek a third term as governor.

Two people close to Inslee told The Associated Press that Inslee planned to make the announcement in an email to supporters. The two spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the announcement publicly.

Inslee, who made fighting climate change the central theme of his presidential campaign, announced Wednesday night that he was ending his campaign after nearly six months.

Inslee said that he was confident that Democrats would select a nominee who would champion climate change issues but that it had become clear that he wouldn't be the person selected. Inslee said he was not endorsing anyone but would support whoever is the nominee.

"I believe we're going to have a candidate to fight this battle," he said on MSNBC. "I'm inspired by the people I've met across the country. I'm not going to carry the ball but we're going to make sure somebody is."

Inslee, who had previously been scheduled to visit New Hampshire on Thursday, will now be back in Washington state for a morning news conference at Planned Parenthood in Seattle regarding the Title X family planning program.

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While the filing deadline for the state's 2020 elections isn't until next May, three Democrats had already signaled they would run for governor, but only if Inslee didn't: Attorney General Bob Ferguson, Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz and King County Executive Dow Constantine. The political dominos continued with Democratic candidates lining up to run for attorney general and lands commissioner if Ferguson and Franz end up not seeking reelection to their posts.

Franz said Wednesday night that she's not disappointed that she won't be entering the governor's race, saying that she loved her current job and has "a lot of work to do."

State Republican Party Chairman Caleb Heimlich said that he thinks Inslee could be vulnerable in a reelection bid.

"Getting elected to a third term is a tough task," he said. "And doing so on the heels of a failed presidential campaign where you sent a message to voters that you want a different job, that doesn't sit very well."

A few Republicans have already announced plans to run for governor, including Phil Fortunato, a state senator, and Loren Culp, the police chief of Republic, in eastern Washington. A Republican has not occupied the governor's office in more than three decades.

Governors in Washington state aren't subject to term limits, though most haven't served more than two terms. The last three-term governor in Washington was Republican Gov. Dan Evans, who served from 1965 until 1977.

Inslee, 68, became the third Democrat to end his presidential bid after U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell of California pulled out of the primary last month, followed by former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper last week.

While Inslee had qualified for the first two presidential debates this summer, he struggled to gain traction in the crowded Democratic field and was falling short of the requirements needed to appear on two high-profile stages next month: the third DNC debate in Houston and a CNN town hall focused on climate change, Inslee's key issue.

He had recently hit one of the markers — 130,000 unique donors. But he had yet to reach 2% in any poll and would have needed to hit that level of support in four qualifying polls.

Inslee is a former congressman and served as Democratic Governors Association chairman in 2018, when the party flipped seven Republican-held gubernatorial seats. He kicked off his campaign in March in Seattle, standing in front of a blue-and-green campaign logo with an arc of the Earth, declaring climate change the nation's most pressing issue.

Inslee was a champion for the clean energy industry in Congress and wrote a book on the topic. And he's pushed for state policies to curb greenhouse gas emissions blamed for global warming. On the day he announced his presidential bid, the state Senate passed a key piece of his legislative climate agenda, a measure that seeks to eliminate fossil fuels like natural gas and coal from the state's electricity supply by 2045. The measure was later passed by the House and signed by Inslee in May.

In addition to pushing for a dedicated debate on climate change, Inslee's campaign has been rolling out climate proposals, including calling for the nation's entire electrical grid and all new vehicles and buildings to be carbon pollution free by 2030. He's also proposed a clean break between the federal government and the fossil fuel industry, ending tax breaks for oil companies and banning all drilling and extraction on federal lands and beneath federal waters.

Inslee released his sixth and final climate proposal, a plan focused on agriculture and farmers, hours before he announced he was dropping out of the race.

In a video released Tuesday on Twitter, Inslee thanked supporters for helping him pass the 130,000 individual donor mark.

"Together we have put the climate crisis front and center in the 2020 race," he said. "And thanks to you, every candidate knows they have to have a robust plan to defeat the climate crisis."

## Rohingya still fear safety in Myanmar, repatriation unlikely

By TOFAYEL AHMAD and JULHAS ALAM Associated Press

COX'S BAZAR, Bangladesh (AP) — The repatriation of hundreds of Rohingya Muslims appeared unlikely to proceed as planned Thursday after those who were eligible told the U.N. refugee agency and the Bangladesh government they didn't want to return to Myanmar unless their citizenship and safety were ensured.

"We have not found anybody yet who has agreed to go back, but all our preparations are in place," said Khaled Hossain, a senior official with the Refugee, Relief and Rehabilitation commissioner's office.

Members of at least 221 Rohingya Muslim families were interviewed Wednesday and Tuesday ahead of the repatriation that was scheduled to start Thursday. Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said her government will not force the refugees to return and the repatriation will only happen if they are willing.

Myanmar has certified 3,450 refugees from 1,056 families as eligible for repatriation from Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar district, where about 1 million Rohingya refugees are sheltered.

Myanmar's military began a harsh counterinsurgency campaign against Rohingya Muslims in August 2017 in response to an insurgent attack. More than 700,000 Rohingya fled what has been called an ethnic cleansing campaign involving mass rapes, killings and burning of thousands of their homes.

The U.N. refugee agency "is working with concerned governments to help create conditions conducive to return, to assess whether or not these people are going back voluntarily," U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in New York.

"The voluntary nature of repatriation is really a bedrock of our position," he said.

Dujarric said Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, a former U.N. refugee chief, has stressed that it's important for refugees to have the information they need to decide whether or not to return.

An earlier repatriation attempt last November was suspended because no one was willing to go back. Thousands of refugees protested and chanted "We won't go back" and "We want justice," forcing authorities to halt the process.

This time, the camps have been quiet with no reports of major protests ahead of Thursday's plan.

Bangladesh refugee commissioner Abul Kalam was happy with that.

"This is a good sign and I think this is a good progress. Last year they fled their camp homes as the day neared, but this time they are coming forward and facing interviews and talking freely," Kalam said Wednesday. "They have confidence in us."

Kalim Ullah, a refugee on the repatriation list, said his family wants to go back but Myanmar must ensure that they would be given citizenship and safety.

Many said they want to go back under direct U.N. supervision, not under the Myanmar government.

"We want to go back home. Bangladesh is not our country. But we still do not have any guarantee that we will not be tortured or killed," Ullah said as he left the interview room.

Myanmar has long not recognized Rohingya as citizens, rendering them stateless, and they face other forms of state-sanctioned discrimination.

A U.N.-established investigation last year recommended the prosecution of Myanmar's top military commanders on charges of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity for the crackdown on the Rohingya. Myanmar has rejected the report and any suggestion its forces did anything wrong.

Alam wrote from Dhaka, Bangladesh.

## Asian stocks mixed after Wall Street rebound

By JOE McDONALD AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Asian stock markets are mixed Thursday following Wall Street's rebound as investors looked ahead to a speech by the U.S. Federal Reserve chairman for clues about possible interest rate cuts.

Investor reaction was muted following Wednesday's release of notes from the latest Fed meeting showing conflicting opinions about rates.

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Benchmarks in Shanghai and Hong Kong fell, while Tokyo and Sydney climbed.

Investors are looking to Chairman Jerome Powell's speech Friday for guidance about whether the Fed might cut rates at its next meeting in September. The Fed cut its key policy rate on July 31 for the first time in more than a decade, citing President Donald Trump's tariff battle with Beijing and other possible threats to economic growth.

Markets have a "high degree of policy uncertainty" ahead of Powell's speech and U.S.-China trade talks in September, said Stephen Innes of Oanda in a report.

Mixed views rates among Fed leaders are "well documented," but the notes are a "reminder of how challenging it could be for Chair Powell to meet the market's exceedingly dovish expectations," said Innes.

The Shanghai Composite Index dropped 0.2% to 2,876.08 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 0.7% to 26,095.95.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 edged up 0.1 % to 20,647.87 and Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 rose 0.3% to 6,505.90.

Seoul's Kospi was 0.6% lower at 1,953.39. New Zealand was up while Taiwan and Southeast Asian markets declined.

On Wall Street, the Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 0.8% to 2,924.43. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 0.9% to 26,202.73. The Nasdaq added 0.9% to 8,020.21.

Traders say strong quarterly results from retailers as a sign of health among consumers who account for 70% of U.S. economic growth.

Target notched its biggest-ever gain, while Lowe's had its best day in more than a year, leading a broad rally in companies that rely on consumer spending. Nordstrom, Kohl's, Gap and other retailers closed higher.

Technology companies accounted for a big share of the gains. Financial stocks rose as bond prices fell, pushing yields higher. Real estate and materials stocks lagged the rest of the market.

The Trump administration has imposed a 25% tariff on \$250 billion in Chinese imports. A pending 10% tariff on another \$300 billion in goods would hit everything from toys to clothing and shoes that China ships to the United States. But 60% of the new tariffs wouldn't go into effect until mid-December, and others were taken off the table altogether.

**ENERGY:** Benchmark U.S. crude gained 2 cents to \$55.70 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract lost 45 cents on Wednesday to close at \$55.68. Brent crude, used to price international oils, declined 4 cents to \$60.26 in London. It gained 27 cents the previous session to \$60.30.

**CURRENCY:** The dollar dropped to 106.40 yen from Wednesday's 106.62 yen. The euro rose to \$1.1089 from \$1.1086.

## Sanders, Harris set for showdown in delegate-rich California

By **MICHAEL R. BLOOD** and **KATHLEEN RONAYNE** Associated Press

SOUTH PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — Bernie Sanders has promised to win the California presidential primary in March, but home-state Sen. Kamala Harris is defending her turf — putting the two on a collision course in a state both see as a critical steppingstone to the White House.

Sanders' campaign advisers rank California among what they call the crucial "first five" contests. By making a strong showing in those states — Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada, South Carolina and California — they believe Sanders can establish himself as the dominant candidate in the crowded Democratic field by early March. He plans to roll out a major plank of his campaign — a proposal to combat climate change — in Northern California on Thursday.

Harris, meanwhile, has locked down endorsements from most of the state's Democratic elected officials and recently announced having 10 paid staffers in California. Both candidates are in the state this week to address Democratic Party leaders in San Francisco.

But investing in California, the biggest prize in the presidential sweepstakes with 495 delegates, remains a gamble for both. It's far from clear that the effort will be money well spent if the candidates don't place



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near the top in the earlier states and if their campaigns are flagging by the time Californians start voting. (Mail-in ballots start going out Feb. 3 for the March 3 primary.) And in a state where most campaigning happens on the airwaves, having a grassroots network in San Francisco or Los Angeles may not save a candidate who is already sinking.

At this point, no other Democrats are betting on California like Harris and Sanders. Former Vice President Joe Biden has five staff members in the state, with several focused on fundraising. Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren has no paid staff but is building a robust volunteer corps. Sanders, a Vermont senator, has 11 staffers on his payroll.

The problem for candidates: "How do you budget for a California primary when you don't know how you've done in the first four states?" asked longtime Democratic strategist Bill Carrick, who is based in Los Angeles.

"The first four states are incredibly consequential to who actually ends up a contender" in California, he said.

Still, Sanders' campaign could spend \$25 million or more chasing votes, a sign of his campaign's commitment to the strategy. To manage the campaign in sprawling California, Sanders' campaign has broken up the state into five regions and started to build organizations in those areas. The idea is to target places like the Los Angeles region and the San Francisco Bay Area as states within a state, honing in on local concerns. On a recent swing, he discussed immigration in San Diego, homelessness in Los Angeles and housing in San Francisco, where a typical one-bedroom apartment rents for \$3,500.

In each area "we look at it like it's Iowa, like it's New Hampshire," said campaign spokesman Joe Calvello.

Harris' campaign is relying on lawmakers backing her candidacy to amplify her message in their home districts. They're also helping raise money for her — she sent out a plea for donations Tuesday, warning that Sanders has raised \$45 million this year and has a large grassroots organization returning from his 2016 presidential campaign.

Harris also benefits from a campaign team with a long winning record in California. The consulting firm running her campaign, SCRB Strategies, is led by longtime San Francisco political hand Ace Smith, who is well versed in the state's diverse geographic areas and complicated delegate rules and has worked for Hillary Clinton and former California Gov. Jerry Brown.

Being California's home-state senator is a benefit and a liability, said Brian Brokaw, a longtime Harris adviser who does not have a formal role with the campaign.

"It's an opportunity in that it's a state where she's poised to do very well and has a strong base of support — and needs to do well," Brokaw said. "But at the same time, we live in a world of finite resources and having to spend money in your home state typically isn't at the top of any candidate's priority list."

Sanders and Harris present generational, gender and racial contrasts for voters. Sanders, 77, is white; Harris, 54, is the daughter of immigrants from India and Jamaica.

But they aren't necessarily chasing the same voters. Sanders is firmly anchored in the party's liberal wing. But the shape of Harris' coalition remains largely unknown, said Carrick.

"Is she going to try to take votes from Biden or Bernie or Warren?" he asked.

Sanders turned in a noteworthy second-place finish in California to eventual nominee Clinton in 2016, taking 46% of the vote and carrying 27 of 58 counties. For his army of veteran volunteers, the job has changed. They spent the last election introducing the self-described democratic socialist to voters.

The fight this time is for indecisive voters who are also giving a strong look to Harris, Warren and other candidates who share similar ideas.

In 2016, "People were like, 'It's Hillary. Who is Bernie?'" said volunteer Sanders organizer Melissa Michelson. But this time, she finds voters a bit confused with the array of choices.

In making a pitch to Democrats, "the response I get a lot is, 'Waiting and seeing,'" Michelson said.

Despite residing in Los Angeles, Harris has held few public events in California since launching her campaign in Oakland. Instead, most of her visits have been for closed-door fundraisers.

But her campaign has been mobilizing volunteers through "Camp Kamala" training events in San Diego

and Los Angeles.

Most of the volunteer events listed on Harris' website are aimed at other states, like an organizing rally in North Carolina and phone banks in Nevada and South Carolina. Sanders' website lists about 20 upcoming volunteer events in the Los Angeles area alone.

With intense competition in a large field, Sanders appears to be aiming at a broader range of voters this time: He recently did a video interview with Grammy-winning rapper Cardi B.

Ronayne reported from Sacramento, Calif.

## Killings by police divide Brazilian city weary of crime

By MARCELO SILVA DE SOUSA Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — It happens, on average, more than five times a day in Rio de Janeiro: Police open fire and someone dies.

Brazilian human rights and victims' groups are raising alarms about the record levels of deaths at police hands in the state of 17.2 million people, with 1,075 slain in the first seven months of the year, according to official figures. And far-right Rio state Gov. Wilson Witzel and President Jair Bolsonaro are pushing to give police a still-freer hand.

Witzel said in July that police should lose their "fear of killing." Bolsonaro said this month that with a new law he backs, criminals "are going to die in the street like cockroaches."

That echoes the radical anti-crime stance that helped Bolsonaro win the presidency last year — ending a four-election string of leftist victories — and many Brazilians see the police-caused deaths as a regrettable but acceptable price for cracking down on rampant crime.

"Unfortunately, the police today need to be very hard," said Isaque Samora, an Uber driver who lives in Duque de Caxias, a municipality in the state with high rates of crime.

He said he drives only during the day, to lessen chances of falling victim to criminals. Even so, two months ago, he drove a passenger into a Rio slum and only a few yards (meters) into the shantytown he was intercepted by robbers armed with pistols and rifles.

"Security would only improve quickly if all citizens were policeman," added Samora, who said he voted for Bolsonaro because of his promise to be inflexible with criminals.

So far, crime is down amid the rising quantity of blood shed by official forces.

Police-involved shootings in Rio have jumped 25%, with 1,144 in the first six months, according to the non-government violence monitor Crossfire. The 194 such deaths reported by officials for July was the most killings involving police in a single month since at least 1998. It's not clear how many were involved in firefights with police, how many were unarmed suspects and how many were bystanders hit by stray shots.

Meanwhile, official reports show a 23% drop in homicides, a 22% fall in auto thefts and a 9% jump in drug seizures.

Brazil as a whole saw 65,602 homicides in 2017, while preliminary calculations for 2018 showed more than 51,500 killings last year, according to the independent Brazilian Forum on Public Security. Battles between criminal gangs have become common.

"People are fed up with the advance of criminality," said Ricardo Ismael, a political scientist at the Pontifical Catholic University in Rio de Janeiro. "The harshest repressive measures meet the wishes of a population that can't stand living with such high indices of criminality."

In a sort of state-of-the-city speech after six months in office, Witzel boasted that "the police have recovered their respect."

The number of police killings has reached the highest levels since records began being kept in 2003. According to Crossfire, a growing number of people are hit, often killed, each year by stray bullets — some fired by criminals, some by police. It said there were 225 deaths by stray bullets last year and more than 100 so far this year.

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"The governor's men are going out to shoot at innocent people," said Jocely do Rozário Junior, who blames the May 16 death of his 11-year-old son on police gunfire.

He said the boy, Kauã Rozario, who spoke of one day becoming a preacher, was riding his bicycle in the Rio de Janeiro slum of Vila Alianca when he happened across a police pursuit of drug suspects and was hit by a stray bullet. Five days later, he died.

Police haven't acknowledged shooting the boy, saying the case is under investigation. But Rozário Junior said witnesses told him the boy was hit by police gunfire.

"My son wasn't an adult or a trafficker. He wasn't anything like that, but he lived with fear every time he saw the police," Rozário Junior said. "I can't be quiet because if so, Kauã would be just one more statistic."

Citizens groups have sprung up in the slums to combat police violence.

"We aren't warriors here, we are survivors. We have to speak, denounce, complain about what is happening," said Bárbara Nascimento, a coordinator of the group Stop Killing Us, which emerged in the Vidigal favela.

The group cites as an example a February police operation in the Fallet Fogueteiro slum in which 15 suspected gang members were killed. Neighbors and relatives say the suspects were tortured and killed.

The mother of one of those killed, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals, told The Associated Press her son was cut across the throat and stabbed in his belly with a knife by police.

Bolsonaro and Witzel want to give police an ever freer hand. They back a bill in Congress that would forgive actions by police who can show they were motivated by fear, surprise or "violent emotion."

The hard line doesn't bother people such as Sonia Manzano, a member of a far-right group that advocates a stronger military role in Brazilian life.

"It's impossible to end criminality without fatal victims," she said. "There is no confrontation in history in which everyone comes out unscathed."

But the rise in violence involving police led Renata Souza, head of the Human Rights Commission for Rio state, to present a complaint against the governor to the U.N. special investigator on extrajudicial killings in May.

"The governor himself acknowledges that he is not going to respect human rights and is going to deal with violence with more violence," Souza said.

Witzel's policies include frequent flights over slums with helicopters manned by police snipers and few places have echoed with the sound of the choppers as much as Mare, a slum complex in the city's north.

There, musician David Vicente said he is part of a different way to reduce crime. He's part of a favela orchestra meant to give youths an alternative to the gangs.

"My part today is to save children, just as I was saved by the orchestra," he said.

"I was a boy with a lot of free time, wandering in the street, and today half my friends are tied up in trafficking," said the 20-year-old. "We should show children that they have another path than the obvious one, which is drug traffic."

Vicente said most of his neighbors are less fearful of the police than of being caught in crossfire or hit by shots from a helicopter. "You're not safe even inside your house because a shot can enter through the roof," he said.

He said that instead of shooting more, officials should focus on programs that give options to becoming a gang member, based on education and culture.

"I'm probably not a trafficker today because I had access to that."

## Shooter at large after LA deputy shot at sheriff's station

By CHRISTOPHER WEBER Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Investigators believe a gunshot that wounded a deputy outside a Los Angeles County sheriff's station on Wednesday was fired from a nearby building complex that provides housing to people with mental health issues, authorities said.

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Deputy Angel Reinosa, 21, was hit while heading to his car in the employee parking lot of the Lancaster station shortly before 3 p.m., Capt. Todd Weber said.

"He is doing great, thankfully," Weber said. "The wound was minor and he's been treated and he's doing well, in high spirits." No surgery was needed, he added.

Mayor R. Rex Parris said the deputy was wearing a ballistic vest that deflected the bullet into his shoulder. Deputies searched for the sniper inside the block-long, four-story structure with many windows that overlook the sheriff's facility in downtown Lancaster, a desert city of about 160,000 people north of Los Angeles.

Tactical teams were working their way through the building Wednesday night, evacuating some people and having others shelter in place, Weber said.

They had no description of the shooter but believed they could narrow down the area of the building where the attacker might be, Weber said.

Reinosa has been with the Sheriff's Department for about a year and joined the Lancaster station in May for patrol training, Weber said.

The mayor said it appeared that the shooting was a random act.

"It was not targeted on this specific deputy," he said. "It was, 'any deputy would do.'"

The apartment building is adjacent to and partners with a nonprofit that provides housing, counseling and other services to people with mental health issues, according to the website for Mental Health America, Antelope Valley Enrichment Services.

The nonprofit said several housing units are "designated specifically for individuals with disabilities ... who are ready for independent living."

But the mayor said the building "caters to, is designed for and allows mentally ill people to live there. That's all that lives there, is mentally ill people."

A perimeter was set up as deputies used binoculars to determine where the gunfire came from after the shooting.

Deputies cleared other nearby buildings, including a library. Authorities urged residents to avoid the neighborhood.

MetroLink train service was halted in the area.

The sheriff's station is surrounded by shops and restaurants in a downtown area of the city in the Mojave Desert about 60 miles (100 kilometers) north of downtown Los Angeles.

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Associated Press writer Robert Jablon in Los Angeles contributed.

## Must West Virginia governor live in capital? Suit continues

By ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — Can a governor be forced to live in the state capital? A lawsuit seeking to do just that with West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice was back in court Wednesday.

The Republican billionaire has drawn frequent criticism from members of both major parties for being absent from the Charleston statehouse as his business empire of more than 100 companies bogs down in litigation. But perhaps the most forceful condemnation has come from a Democratic lawmaker whose lawsuits have accused Justice of violating a passage of the state Constitution stating the governor "shall reside at the seat of government."

The result has been a legal back and forth over the definition of the word "reside." There are also issues on the authority — and even the ability — of the courts to chaperone the whereabouts of the state's chief executive.

Wednesday's hearing rehashed those questions, including some previously posed by the governor's lawyers: "Is he 'residing' in Charleston if he sleeps there but departs in the morning and spends his waking hours elsewhere? Conversely, is he 'residing' in Charleston if he spends some portion of his waking hours

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there but sleeps elsewhere?"

After a brief discussion, a circuit court judge extended the case by requesting more documents from Justice's legal team and Del. Isaac Sponaugle, who filed the suit.

Justice, whose estimated net worth totals about \$1.5 billion, has called the case "a total waste of time." His general counsel, Brian Abraham, agreed Wednesday.

"This lawsuit is a frivolous political stunt designed to distract from the important work that needs to be done for the state," Abraham said in a statement.

The housing issue is only the latest legal drama enveloping a governor whose diverse business portfolio of coal and agricultural interests have prompted multiple lawsuits over unpaid debts and safety fines. He has said he's handed off management of his businesses to family members, but hasn't put all his companies in blind trusts.

The lawsuits have led to fractures within his own party, with one ranking Senate Republican calling for Justice to resign in a newspaper piece titled "Jim Justice is Neither Democrat nor Republican - He's a Narcissistic Opportunist."

When the governor finally released his daily schedule to The Associated Press in compliance with the state's open records law, it showed he's rarely been at the statehouse, almost never meets with his Cabinet and was largely missing at a critical juncture in this year's legislative session. He and his general counsel said the calendar doesn't accurately reflect his work as governor.

Whatever the merits of this case, records obtained by The AP show it has cost the state about \$20,000 for a private law firm to represent Justice. The governor also beefed up his legal team, recently hiring George Terwilliger, a U.S. Department of Justice veteran who previously served as acting attorney general and now leads a "crisis management" team at a Washington, D.C., firm.

Justice has acknowledged he lives in Lewisburg, a city about 100 miles (160 kilometers) from the governor's mansion in Charleston but not far from The Greenbrier, the lavish resort he owns. It hosts a PGA tour tournament and has been the site of an annual congressional getaway. His official state website also says he lives in Lewisburg.

"You can have more than one residence, and he resides in the capital and he resides wherever he chooses on a nightly basis. But the fact remains he continues to perform the duties as governor in his discretion, and he resides as the Constitution requires in Charleston," Justice attorney Michael Carey said after the hearing.

The governor's mansion in Charleston is a three-story Georgian Colonial of red brick, with Corinthian columns, a ballroom, library and private quarters for the governor. It is beside the state Capitol building and across from the Kanawha River. Justice's modest four-bedroom personal home sits on less than an acre of land off a tiny two-lane road in rural Lewisburg, according to state real estate records valuing the property at \$334,500.

Justice won office as a Democrat in 2016 but switched parties at a Trump rally the following year. He's since clung tightly to the president during policy debates, proclaiming he'd always have Trump's backing since he and the president are "bound at the hip." Current and former Trump aides are leading Justice's reelection campaign.

Sponaugle said the governor should have to comply with the state Constitution and live in the capital. He also wants the governor to turn over documents such as tax returns, security logs, expenses and other records that would provide details on Justice's location. His two previous attempts at the suit were thrown out.

"All I'm asking for the man to do is follow the Constitution and he has the inability to do that," he said.

## Ties to China shape cautious reaction to Hong Kong protests

By LORI HINNANT Associated Press

For Canada and the European Union, they are a "situation." For President Donald Trump, a potential stumbling block in ongoing trade disputes. And for South Korea, an issue to be monitored.

With the notable exception of Taiwan, cautious comments from the few governments willing to speak out on the ongoing protests in Hong Kong fall far short of support for the demonstrators. They are so mild that even the word "protest" itself was left out of the joint EU-Canada statement that was the most recent to infuriate the Chinese government. And the vast majority of countries are unwilling to risk that fury at all.

China's weapon is also its greatest lure: a population of nearly 1.4 billion. Otherwise known as the world's largest market, to be opened or closed at will. China has also become a major builder of roads, ports, power plants and other infrastructure in developing countries.

"It's really an anodyne statement," Theresa Fallon, a researcher on EU-Asia relations, said of the one released by the EU and Canada. "Of course the Chinese knew that these statements would be made, but they cracked down right away. They have zero tolerance for that. ... Everyone is afraid to be punished by China."

### UNITED STATES, CANADA and EUROPE

In the early days of the protests, Trump described them as an internal matter. Then he suggested that Chinese President Xi Jinping could resolve the situation by meeting with protest leaders.

On Sunday, he went a step further and said the use of Chinese troops to quell the demonstrations would worsen the current U.S.-China trade dispute, referring to the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown.

"I mean if it's another Tiananmen Square, I think it's a very hard thing to do if there is violence," Trump told reporters in New Jersey.

He and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau spoke about the protests last week, according to Trudeau's office. The Canadian leader has been among the most outspoken on the protest movement. He said the 300,000 Canadians in Hong Kong represent the region's largest contingent of foreigners.

"We are going to continue to call upon the Chinese government to respect the 'one country, two systems' agreement that they have long abided by," he said earlier this week.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang avoided commenting on Trump's remarks directly, but referred to the president's previous statements on the protests.

"We have noticed that President Trump has previously stated that Hong Kong is part of China, and that they must solve it themselves and do not need advice. We hope that the U.S. side can match its acts to its words," Geng told reporters.

The European Union joined with Canada in a statement Saturday.

"It is crucial that restraint be exercised, violence rejected and urgent steps taken to de-escalate the situation. Engagement in a process of broad-based and inclusive dialogue, involving all key stakeholders, is essential."

### KOREAS: NORTH vs. SOUTH

South Korea has avoided criticizing China, its largest trading partner and a country believed to have significant leverage over rival North Korea.

"Our government is monitoring the latest moves in Hong Kong with interest and we hope this issue will be settled smoothly," the Foreign Ministry said in response to a question from The Associated Press.

South Korea is currently preoccupied with stalled negotiations on how to rid North Korea of its nuclear weapons and trade disputes with Japan, and that could make Seoul even more reticent.

Choi Kang, vice president of Seoul's Asan Institute for Policy Studies, said even if there's a Chinese crackdown in Hong Kong, South Korea would likely end up expressing little more than "regrets" or "hopes for an early, peaceful resolution."

As for North Korea, the country's propaganda outlets have accused the United States and other Western

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countries of using the Hong Kong case as a chance to slander China and interfere in its domestic affairs. "To take measure for internal affairs belongs to the sovereignty of relevant country," the North's main Rodong Sinmun newspaper said in a commentary last week. "But the Western forces are obtrusively interfering in China's internal affair to add fuel to the reckless moves of the dishonest elements, saying this or that."

It didn't directly refer to the United States but an earlier Rodong Sinmun commentary said that "the Western countries including the U.S. are using (the Hong Kong issue) as a golden opportunity to defame China while raising the level of threat and blackmail against China."

North Korea has long bristled at any outside criticism of its own human rights conditions as a U.S.-led attempt to bring down its political system.

A Foreign Ministry statement on Aug. 11 said that "we fully support the stand and measures of the Chinese party and government for defending the sovereignty, security and reunification of the country and safeguarding the prosperity and stability of Hong Kong."

## SOUTHEAST ASIA

Southeast Asian countries generally have little need or desire to take a public stand on the Hong Kong protests.

Many try to strike a balance between Beijing and Washington, moving toward the Chinese end of the scale in recent years as China has projected its influence more vigorously. The poorer members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations — Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar — have become reliant on Beijing's economic largesse, and virtually all have embraced China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative to help expand their infrastructure, though often with reservations and in the case of the more developed nations, with some hard bargaining.

At the same time, several nations have publicly complained of China's efforts at expanding its influence, especially its ambitious territorial claims over the South China Sea at the expense of Beijing's smaller neighbors.

## AUSTRALIA and NEW ZEALAND

The leaders of both Australia and New Zealand have been measured in their comments.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison disagreed last week that the protests were beginning to show the "sprouts of terrorism," as a Chinese official said, but he didn't criticize the statement directly.

"My view is one to seek to de-escalate things, to encourage the chief executive of Hong Kong to be listening carefully to what people are saying in Hong Kong and work toward a peaceful and calm resolution of what is a very serious issue," he said.

Australia warned China against interfering in related demonstrations in Australia after a Chinese diplomat praised Chinese students who clashed with supporters of the protests in Brisbane.

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern denied she was constrained in what she could say about China, and said her country's stand on the protest movement has been consistent. China is a key export market for New Zealand and has overtaken Australia as New Zealand's largest trading partner. The agricultural-driven economy of New Zealand relies on selling billions of dollars' worth of milk powder to China, which is used in infant formula.

"De-escalation, peaceful dialogue on all sides, and, of course, a restoration of the 'One China but two systems' philosophy that has been in place for a significant period."

## BRITAIN

Britain handed Hong Kong over to Chinese rule in 1997, but 156 years as a colony left a mark.

Its last governor, Chris Patten, called for the government to be "outspoken" in defending the city's freedom.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who has previously described Britain as open for business from China and is now embroiled in Brexit, has been uncharacteristically silent on the protests. But his foreign secretary, Dominic Raab, "condemned violent acts by all sides but emphasized the right to peaceful protest, noting

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that hundreds of thousands of Hong Kong people had chosen this route to express their views.”

China said Wednesday a staffer at the British Consulate in Hong Kong, who was earlier reported missing while on a trip to the mainland, has been given 15 days of administrative detention in the city of Shenzhen for violating a law on public order. The British Foreign Office has said it is “extremely concerned” about his situation.

## TAIWAN

In Taiwan, support for the protests has been widespread, including among young Hong Kongers studying in the self-ruling democracy that China claims as its own territory.

On Saturday, a student group called “Hong Kong Outlanders” organized flash mobs, street film screenings and sit-ins in more than half a dozen cities, including in front of Taipei’s famous Taipei 101 skyscraper that is a frequent destination for Chinese visitors. Support groups have also collected hardhats and set up public outdoor galleries of protest art known as Lennon Walls.

“We understand that the leaders cannot speak up for Hong Kong because of the financial situation. It’s politics and money,” said Dora, a Hong Kong native living in Taiwan, who only gave her first name for fear of reprisal. “But we’re still reaching out for support and help from people of different countries to do whatever they can to help us.”

Public opinion surveys show generally strong but not overwhelming public support for the government’s backing of the protests, perhaps reflecting a general unwillingness for Taiwan to be identified with Hong Kong’s situation.

Though Taiwan was a Japanese colony for 50 years until 1945, Taiwanese are swift to point out that they have been a de-facto independent state since Chiang Kai-shek relocated his Nationalist government there in 1949, rather than a British colony or a special administrative region governed by Beijing.

Perhaps more than anything, Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen says and many believe the protests show China’s “one country, two systems” framework that Beijing also proposes imposing on Taiwan simply cannot work.

Tsai has expressed her personal support for the protests and said the island would consider taking in Hong Kong residents seeking asylum, something that drew an angry rebuke from Beijing on Monday. Ma Xiaoguang, spokesman for the Chinese Cabinet’s Taiwan Affairs Office, said Taiwan’s offer would “cover up the crimes of a small group of violent militants” and encourage their “audacity in harming Hong Kong and turn Taiwan into a “heaven for ducking the law.”

Ma demanded that Taiwan’s government “cease undermining the rule of law” in Hong Kong, cease interfering in its affairs and not “condone criminals.”

Associated Press writers Jim Gomez and Kiko Rosario in Manila, Philippines, Eileen Ng in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Rod McGuirk in Canberra, Australia, Hyung-jin Kim in Seoul, South Korea, Christopher Bodeen in Beijing, Nick Perry in Wellington, New Zealand, and Danica Kirka in London contributed to this report.

## Where Garner died, changes in policing win little applause

By VERENA DOBNIK and MICHAEL R. SISAK Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A police cruiser constantly sits a few feet from a small floral memorial to Eric Garner on the Staten Island sidewalk where he spent his dying moments five years ago.

Tompkinsville Park, which police were targeting for patrols when they encountered Garner selling loose, untaxed cigarettes, remains a gathering place for desperate people.

Expletives flew on a recent hot afternoon as park regulars discussed everything from drugs and mental illness to jail conditions and the bail paid so they could sit on a park bench.

It was the day after Police Commissioner James O’Neill announced his decision to fire the white officer who put Garner in a chokehold, hastening his death and making the man’s dying words, “I can’t breathe,”



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a rallying cry for the Black Lives Matter movement.

On Wednesday, the police department said it had resolved a disciplinary case against a supervisor who responded to the chaotic scene.

"If the police are here, they just move to the other side of the park and do their business there," said longtime resident Lisa Soto, taking a long drag from a cigarette. "They sell everything here. Nothing has changed."

That may be, some residents say, because police officers are now much more careful about how they interact with people — more cautious when dealing with suspects and less likely to bother with the kind of nuisance enforcement that was a priority five years ago.

"When you give a lot of leeway like that, the place becomes lawless," said resident Doug Brinson. "It's been lawless for five years. Five years people do what they want to do on this block. Five years straight."

Bert Bernan, a former construction worker on disability, said respect for the police has plummeted and he sees crime as having risen in the neighborhood where he grew up in the 1960s.

"I remember, me and my friends, if we were goofing off on the corner and the cop waved a nightstick at you, you knew, get the hell off the corner and don't give him any lip," Bernan said. "Back then, you didn't have hoodlums hanging out on street corners; what we have here is a disgrace."

Police statistics show crime is down in the precinct where the neighborhood is located. Through second week of August last year, for example, there were 186 reported robberies or burglaries and 199 felony assaults. This year there have been 97 robberies or burglaries and 178 assaults.

Garner's death five summers ago was an inflection point for the New York Police Department. Caught on video, the fatal encounter between Garner, a black man, and Officer Daniel Pantaleo led the nation's largest police force to train officers to de-escalate confrontations and to reassess how they interact with the public.

A bystander's cellphone video showed Pantaleo wrapping his arm around Garner's neck and taking him to the ground with a banned chokehold near where the Staten Island Ferry takes commuters and tourists to and from Manhattan.

After Garner's death, the police department required all 36,000 officers to undergo three days of training, including classes focused on de-escalation. Last year, it began training officers on fair and impartial policing, teaching them to recognize biases and rely on facts, not racial stereotypes.

In March, it finished outfitting all patrol officers with body cameras. And the department now requires officers to detail the actions they took each time they used force — not just when they fired their gun.

Following a court ruling and a policy shift, the city dramatically reduced officers' use of stop and frisk, a practice in which officers stop people on the streets and search them for weapons. In 2011, the NYPD reported 685,724 such stops. Last year, there were about 11,000.

"That has led to hundreds of thousands of fewer police-civilian encounters, each of which has the potential to escalate into something like what happened to Eric Garner," said Christopher Dunn, a lawyer with the New York Civil Liberties Union.

Mayor Bill de Blasio said his priority for the department is to ensure something like Garner's death never happens again.

"The NYPD of today is a different institution than it was just a few years ago," de Blasio said Monday after the department fired Pantaleo.

"I know the NYPD has changed profoundly. I know that members of the NYPD learned the lessons of this tragedy. They acted on it, they did something about it. It is a beginning, but we have a lot more to do, and the change has to get deeper and deeper. And that is not a top-down enterprise — that is for all of us to do."

In his reaction to Pantaleo's firing, the head of the city's main police union noted a retreat some Staten Island residents say they're already seeing.

"Right now, nothing's really getting enforced," said Pat Lynch, the head of the Police Benevolent Association. "What's happening is, the public calls 911 and we respond. Quality-of-life issues are not being

enforced. If it is enforced, the district attorneys' offices are throwing them out and downgrading them. The message is clear: Don't go out and do your job."

In the years since Garner's death, use-of-force complaints against the NYPD have fallen sharply, according to data compiled by the city's Civilian Complaint Review Board. In 2014, there were 2,412. In 2018, there were 1,752, marking a 27% drop.

A study released in February showed the NYPD had been sued for misconduct 10,656 times in the last five years and paid \$361.5 million in settlements. The city paid Garner's family \$5.9 million in 2015 to settle a wrongful death claim.

O'Neill, who ascended to the post in 2016, led the department's shift from the "broken windows" theory of policing, embraced by his predecessor Bill Bratton, that viewed low-level offenses such as selling loose cigarettes and jumping subway turnstiles as a gateway to bigger crimes.

O'Neill, who was the department's chief of patrol at the time of Garner's death, implemented a neighborhood policing model as commissioner that is designed to give patrol officers more time to walk around and interact with people in the communities they police rather than staying in their cars and responding only to 911 calls.

But critics say that "broken windows" theory hasn't gone away, and that officers are finding new low-level targets, such as immigrant delivery people who get around on electric bikes. And while the use of stop and frisk has dropped significantly, statistics show the same racial disparities exist.

Since Garner's death, the police department has also gotten cagier about officer discipline and hasn't always provided the public with the names of officers involved in shootings, critics say.

"They've gone backward, and we would argue that in some cases especially around police transparency they've gone backward by decades," said Joo-Hyun Kang, the director of Communities United for Police Reform.

The NYPD has retreated in recent years from disclosing punishment details in most disciplinary cases, citing a state law that keeps personnel records secret. O'Neill has said he supports changing the law. The union opposes changes.

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Associated Press video journalist David R. Martin contributed to this report.

## **Pentagon cancels billion-dollar missile defense project**

**By ROBERT BURNS AP National Security Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon is pulling the plug on a billion-dollar, technically troubled project to build a better weapon that would destroy incoming missiles. The move is aimed in part at considering new approaches to missile defense at a time of rapid technological change.

The announced reason for canceling the Boeing contract, effective Thursday, was that the project's design problems were so significant as to be either insurmountable or too costly to correct.

Beyond those immediate concerns, the Pentagon is considering whether it needs to start over with designing a defense against intercontinental-range ballistic missiles, such as those North Korea aspires to build, as well as newly emerging types of missiles.

One indication of that broader concern is the Pentagon's statement that it will now invite industry competition to develop a "new, next-generation interceptor" — potentially a weapon that could take on hypersonic missiles being developed by China and Russia.

The Pentagon currently has 44 missile interceptors based mostly in Alaska. Each is designed to be launched from an underground silo, soar beyond the Earth's atmosphere and release a "kill vehicle" — a device that steers into its target and destroys it by force of collision.

These weapons have been tested but never used in actual combat.

It is that "kill vehicle" device that the Pentagon had asked Boeing to redesign so that it could be more reliable against the kind of long-range missiles that North Korea has said it is building to target the U.S.

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The Pentagon had spent nearly \$1.2 billion on the project when Michael Griffin, the undersecretary of defense for research and engineering, decided last week to end it. In May he had ordered Boeing to stop its work, pending a decision on a way forward.

"Ending the program was the responsible thing to do," Griffin said in a statement Wednesday. "Development programs sometimes encounter problems. After exercising due diligence, we decided the path we're going down wouldn't be fruitful, so we're not going down that path anymore."

Mark Wright, a spokesman for the Pentagon's Missile Defense Agency, said details about the technical problems that led to the project's termination would not be released "due to the classified nature of the program."

Boeing said in a statement that it accepts the decision and supports the competition for a new missile interceptor. Michael Doble, a spokesman for Raytheon Co., which is a subcontractor, said the Pentagon is "updating its requirements in the face of an increasingly complex threat environment." He said Raytheon backs the decision to end the contract.

By saying it will now pursue a "next-generation interceptor," the Pentagon revealed that it sees a requirement not only for a better "kill vehicle" but also an improved booster rocket. In other words, it may be aiming for a weapon that can defend against a wider array of missile threats.

The cancellation raises questions about the Pentagon's continued reliance on the existing "kill vehicle" on its interceptor fleet in Alaska.

The Pentagon has been authorized by Congress to increase the current fleet of 44 interceptors to 64. The additional 20 were to be equipped by 2023 with the redesigned "kill vehicle" under the Boeing contract. Now that the contract is being canceled, it seems likely that those additional 20 interceptors will not be fielded on time.

Officials said the contract is being canceled "for convenience, not for cause," meaning it was at the Pentagon's discretion and not because Boeing was unable to fulfill the contract.

"We will take lessons learned from the terminated program and apply them during the new competition," Griffin said.

## Pilot says he had to bring down plane while cameras rolled

By STEFANIE DAZIO Associated Press

A pilot and self-professed thrill seeker said Wednesday he was forced to bring his new plane down into the ocean off Northern California as it lost power, recording dramatic videos as he and his passenger treaded water in the chilly ocean awaiting rescue.

Pilot David Lesh, a 34-year-old globe-trotting skier and the founder of Colorado-based outerwear company Virtika, had embarked on the flight Tuesday over Half Moon Bay, south of San Francisco.

His plan was for friends in a second plane to photograph the first real trip of his single-engine Beechcraft Bonanza propeller plane with views of the coastline and Golden Gate Bridge to complement photos on his Instagram account showing him flying, skiing and snowmobiling worldwide. He had purchased the plane less than three months ago.

The plan was scrapped when the plane lost power while flying at 3,000 feet (915 meters).

"I just did everything I could to get the motor going again," Lesh said. "Nothing was working."

He reached out to Owen Leipelt, the pilot of the second plane carrying the photographer.

"David radioes to me that he's lost engine power," Leipelt said. "When you hear that, you think, 'Whoa, whoa, whoa, what did I just hear, say that again.'"

Lesh said his plane "skipped along the water" for a few hundred feet without much of an impact. He and his passenger grabbed window shades and seat cushions to help them float in the water teeming with jellyfish as whales breached the surface nearby.

Leipelt, 20, of San Jose called air traffic control for help and circled over the two people in the water.

The Coast Guard dispatched two aircraft, a cutter and a patrol boat. Videos show a helicopter hoisting

the soaked Lesh and his passenger out of the water about 20 minutes after the plane went down.

While in the water, Lesh filmed himself and his friend with his water-resistant cellphone as the plane sank in under a minute.

"There she goes!" he says in one video as the tail bobs in the water.

In the clip, Lesh speculates about its fuel. On Wednesday, he blamed bad gasoline for the malfunction, saying he had siphoned particulate matter out of the gas but thinks he didn't get all of it.

The Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board are investigating.

Lesh said he bought the plane for more than \$200,000 and spent about \$40,000 for upgrades. He said he took a loan out to pay for the plane.

Addressing online speculation that he had staged the water landing, Lesh said anyone who believed he would spend so much money on a plane only to sink it must have "lost their mind."

Asked for specifics about insurance, Lesh said he had "airplane insurance" and quickly hung up.

Lt. Cmdr. Joshua Murphy said the quick reporting of the incident by Leipelt "greatly aided the Coast Guard's prompt response and ability to save two lives."

Luck also helped, Leipelt said.

"The seas were very calm, it was daytime," he said.

Lesh said he plans to leave Friday on a cross-country flight to deliver his other plane to a buyer on the East Coast. He said he's not worried about the trip.

"I'll always fly," he said.

## Trump moves to end limits on detention of migrant children

By COLLEEN LONG and AMY TAXIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is moving to end an agreement limiting how long migrant children can be kept in detention, the president's latest effort to curb immigration at the Mexican border.

A court fight is almost certain to follow, challenging the attempt to hold migrant families until asylum cases are decided.

A current settlement overseen by the federal courts now requires the government to keep children in the least restrictive setting and to release them as quickly as possible, generally after 20 days in detention.

Homeland Security officials say they are adopting their own regulations that reflect the "Flores agreement," which has been in effect since 1997. They say there is no longer a need for the court involvement, which was only meant to be temporary. But the new rules would allow the government to hold families in detention much longer than 20 days.

Tightening immigration is a signature issue for President Donald Trump, aimed at restricting the movement of asylum seekers in the country and deterring more migrants from crossing the border.

The move by the administration immediately generated fresh outrage, following reports of dire conditions in detention facilities, and it is questionable whether courts will let the administration move forward with the policy.

Trump defended it, saying, "I'm the one that kept the families together."

The Mexican government expressed concern over the prospect of prolonged detention of migrant children in the U.S. In a statement from the Foreign Relations Department, Mexico said it would monitor conditions at U.S. detention centers and continue to offer consular services to any Mexican families that may be held under the new conditions. It also said that it would keep an eye on possible court challenges and that "the appropriate legal alternatives will be evaluated."

In the U.S., immigrant advocates and Democrats decried the new regulations, saying prolonged detention would traumatize immigrant children.

"The administration is seeking to codify child abuse, plain and simple," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said in a statement.

Peter Schey, a lawyer for the immigrant children in the Flores case and president of the Center for Hu-

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man Rights and Constitutional Law, said if the regulations don't match the settlement in that case, "they would be in immediate material breach, if not contempt of court."

"I think all these things are now part of the 2020 campaign," Schey said.

Acting Homeland Security Secretary Kevin McAleenan said Wednesday the regulations create higher standards to govern family detention facilities. The facilities will be regularly audited, and the audits made public.

The regulations are expected to be formally published Friday and go into effect in 60 days absent legal challenges.

Holly Cooper, co-director of the immigration law clinic at University of California, Davis and a lawyer in the Flores case, said attorneys haven't seen the final rule and will have a week to brief a federal judge, who will weigh whether they are consistent with the settlement.

The government's proposed rule, she said, wouldn't have let lawyers monitor conditions in border facilities and would have dramatically changed how long children could be detained and the standards for their care.

"We're going to have a world that looks a lot like the internment of families and children, where we have basically regularized prison as a default for families seeking political asylum in this country," she told reporters.

The rule follows moves last week to broaden the definition of a "public charge" to include immigrants on public assistance, potentially denying green cards to more immigrants. There was also a recent effort to effectively end asylum altogether at the southern border.

There has been a drastic increase in the number of families crossing the border — about 475,000 so far this budget year, nearly three times the previous full-year record for families. Most are released into the U.S. while their asylum requests wind through the courts — a practice Trump has derided as "catch-and-release."

The Flores agreement has been in effect since 1997 but mostly was applied to children who came to the country alone. In 2015, U.S. District Court Judge Dolly Gee ruled the requirements were applicable to children who crossed the border with families, after the Obama administration built family detention centers and started detaining families until their cases were completed.

Homeland Security did not say how long it expects families to be kept, but McAleenan said under the previous administration it was about 50 days.

He said, "The intent is for a fair and expeditious proceeding."

Asylum cases involving detained families move much more quickly than cases for families released, taking months instead of years to resolve, in part because there are none of the delays that result when immigrants fail to show up for hearings.

The government operates three family detention centers that can hold a total of about 3,000 people. One is being used for single adults, and the other two are at capacity.

McAleenan said he didn't expect to need more bed space because, together with other efforts to restrict the flow of migrants, he expects fewer people to be coming.

Immigrant advocates, in contrast, said they believed the change would put many more immigrants into detained court proceedings, slowing the process and keeping children locked up for longer.

"This is unnecessarily cruel and frankly evil," Jess Morales Rocketto, chair of Families Belong Together, told reporters. "The idea that this administration and its agencies can be trusted to do self-regulation and follow the rules is completely ridiculous."

The massive influx of Central American families to the U.S.-Mexico border has greatly strained the system and foiled Trump's tough talk on immigration, though agreements by Mexico to clamp down on migrants and a new agreement with Guatemala forcing migrants to claim asylum there instead of heading north are expected to reduce the flow.

Trump administration officials have also forced more than 30,000 people to wait out their asylum cases in Mexico. It's not clear how this change would affect that policy.

The Flores agreement sets standards of care for children who cross the border alone as well as with families. Lawyers in the case recently spoke out about what they said were deplorable, filthy conditions

for children held at border facilities not meant to hold large groups of people for very long.

A report this week by the independent monitor overseeing claims of government noncompliance with Flores rules detailed the extreme overcrowding and poor conditions that immigrant youths faced in detention.

For example, a Border Patrol station in in Clint, Texas, an El Paso suburb, had a stated capacity for 105 children. On June 1, there were 676. Lawyers who visited in June described squalid conditions. Children cared for toddlers, the lawyers said, with inadequate food, water and sanitation.

A federal appeals panel found last week that detained children should get edible food, clean water, soap and toothpaste under the agreement, after a bid to limit what must be provided.

Taxin reported from Santa Ana, California. Associated Press writers Astrid Galvan in Phoenix and Jill Colvin in Washington contributed to this report.

## Film on factory is first Netflix project endorsed by Obamas

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A documentary about an Ohio auto glass factory that is run by a Chinese investor debuted Wednesday on Netflix as the streaming service's first project backed by Michelle and Barack Obama's new production company.

Filmmakers Steven Bognar and Julia Reichert said they learned of the Obamas' interest after "American Factory" was shown at the Sundance film festival and they were pitching the film to Netflix. They were told the Obamas had screened it days earlier.

They're ecstatic about the support, and in an interview Wednesday were quick to dissuade anyone from the idea that the film is delivering a message either for or against any politician.

"They got what we were trying to do, which is to tell a story that sort of transcends the year-to-year politics," Bognar said.

Bognar and Julia Reichert, who live in the Dayton, Ohio, area where Fuyao Glass replaced an abandoned General Motors plant, said they were initially interested in exploring a culture clash, but the film deepened into a story about the rights of workers, globalization and automation.

The Fuyao plant, bought by Chinese industrialist Cao Dewang, employs some 2,200 American and 200 Chinese workers. The film gives a close-up look at how the cultures adjust to one another. At one point, a Chinese worker explains that Americans are slow because they have fat fingers. Many Chinese at the plant consider the Americans lazy. The Americans at the plant question what they see as Chinese workers unquestioned devotion to a company that robs them of time to enjoy life.

At the factory's opening ceremony, Dave Burrows, the vice president of the American factory, privately curses out Ohio Sen. Sherrod Brown for suggesting that the Chinese owner be open to running a union shop. Two years later, after he's been fired, Burrows drives by the factory and bitterly notes that you can't spell Fuyao without an "f" and "u."

Tensions rise when the factory doesn't initially meet production goals, culminating in a bitter fight over the right to unionize.

In one of the last scenes, an employee gives Cao a tour of the factory floor and boasts about how automation provides Fuyao with the opportunity to fire workers.

The name of the Obamas' company, Higher Ground, flashes by in the opening credits, but the Obamas themselves aren't mentioned anywhere. Neither is President Donald Trump.

Netflix worked in partnership with Higher Ground to acquire the film from Participant Media earlier this year, and gave no details about the financing. Netflix released a brief clip Wednesday of the Obamas discussing their interest in the project with the filmmakers.

"One of the many things I love about this film ... is that you let people tell their own story," the former first lady said. "American Factory" doesn't come in with a perspective. It's not an editorial. I mean, you

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truly let people speak for themselves, and that is a powerful thing that you don't always see happen."

Former President Obama said that they want people to look outside of their own experiences to understand the lives of others.

That "is what a good story does," he said. "It helps all of us feel some solidarity with each other."

Reichert said she's seen some commentary that the Obamas were interested in the film as a criticism of Trump, and said that was stupid.

"It has zero to do with Trump or Obama, or the political scene at all," she said. "It's about the lives of average working people in the heartland. It's really a close up and intimate look at what globalization looks like."

One of the American workers is shown bonding with Chinese colleagues, inviting several to a Thanksgiving dinner and to drive his motorcycle. Later, the worker is fired because it took him too long to use a computer.

Reichter said she and Bognar were grateful to Cao for allowing them access to the factory. The company chairman mostly comes off as a cold-blooded capitalist, but one arresting scene toward the end shows him wrestling with his legacy.

"We hope that people realize that without empathy for people who are different from you, you're not going to solve the political divide," Bognar said. "We're not going to solve gaping problems in this world. You have to put yourself in someone else's shoes to help see and feel other people's points of view."

## **AP Analysis: Trump's 'disloyal' jab may boost base, not Jews**

**By JILL COLVIN and ELANA SCHOR Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's branding of American Jews who vote for Democrats as "disloyal" to their religion and Israel prompted alarms of anti-Semitism. But his ultimate aim appears to be dividing Democrats, peeling off Jewish support and shoring up his white evangelical Christian base.

Digging in Wednesday despite widespread criticism, Trump repeated his controversial assertion about Jews who support the Democratic Party.

"In my opinion, if you vote for a Democrat, you're being very disloyal to Jewish people and you're being very disloyal to Israel," he told reporters. "And only weak people would say anything other than that."

The comment — which appeared to traffic in anti-Semitic tropes about Jews' supposed loyalty to Israel — added a sharper edge to Trump's appeals to another largely Democratic constituency: black voters, whom he challenged to support him in 2016 by asking: "What do you have to lose?" This time, Trump and his allies are trying to lure Jewish voters who they think could be turned off by liberal Democrats' growing willingness to criticize the Israeli government. In a razor-close election, picking up a few thousand votes in key counties in states such as Florida and Pennsylvania could make a difference, they argue.

Trump has focused on four first-term Democratic congresswomen of color who have voiced misgivings about U.S. policy toward Israel, trying to brand them the "face" of their party. It's part of a larger effort by Trump and his team to try to paint Democrats as radical and outside the mainstream, a scarier alternative for undecided voters who may be turned off by Trump's rhetoric.

"Democrats continue to embrace and defend the most vitriolic anti-Semites in their midst, who sympathize and side with terrorist organizations who want to wipe Israel from the map," Trump campaign strategist Michael Glassner said in a statement. "As a Jew myself, I strongly believe that President Trump is right to highlight that there is only one party — the Democrats — excusing and permitting such anti-Jewish venom to be spewed so freely."

But Trump's admonitions are unlikely to sway Jewish voters, who have overwhelmingly voted Democratic for decades. In 2018, AP VoteCast, a survey of the electorate, found that 72% of Jewish voters supported Democratic House candidates. And 74% said they disapproved of how Trump was handling his job.

"There is no evidence whatsoever that American Jews are going to be more inclined to vote for Donald Trump and the Republican Party because of these attacks," said Logan Bayroff, a spokesman for the

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progressive American Jewish group J Street.

Furthermore, Bayroff predicted that Trump would have little success swaying swing voters. "All he's doing is making himself toxic to American Jews and many other Americans who are more and more horrified by what he's doing," he said.

Indeed, even some Trump allies concede that the president's attempt to paint himself as more pro-Israel than Democrats is more likely to resonate with evangelical voters, who polls show are more supportive of Trump's brand of pro-Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu-aligned policies than American Jews are.

A Pew Research Center poll conducted in April, for instance, found 42% of Jewish Americans said Trump's policies favored the Israelis too much, versus just 26% of Christians who expressed that view. Among evangelical Protestants, who have proved to be among Trump's most steadfast supporters, that number dropped to just 15%

That could explain Trump's Wednesday tweet quoting conservative radio host and conspiracy theory-pusher Wayne Allyn Root saying that Israeli Jews "love" Trump "like he's the King of Israel" and "the second coming of God" when American Jews "don't know him or like him. They don't even know what they're doing or saying anymore. It makes no sense!"

Jews don't believe in a second coming of God. Evangelicals, however, do.

Trump on Tuesday announced in the Oval Office that he thinks that any Jewish person casting a ballot for a Democrat "shows either a total lack of knowledge or great disloyalty." On Wednesday, he doubled down, insisting that, "No president has ever done anywhere close to what I've done" for Israel, and blasting the congresswomen of color as "against Israel."

He insisted that his own language was in no way anti-Semitic, telling a reporter: "It's only anti-Semitic in your head."

Neil Strauss, a spokesman for the Republican Jewish Coalition, defended the president's comments and said Trump's critics were trying to distract from the Democratic congresswomen — two of whom, Minnesota Rep. Ilhan Omar and Michigan Rep. Rashida Tlaib — last week were denied entry to Israel by Netanyahu's government in a move endorsed by Trump.

Trump's comments come "from a place of genuine support and admiration as evidenced by the fact that he's the most pro-Israel president in history," said Matt Brooks, the group's executive director. "I'm very pleased with this contrast heading into 2020."

Still, the GOP Jewish group was forced to backtrack one day after suggesting that Trump was referring to the "personal loyalty" of Democratic-leaning American Jews after the president clarified that he had indeed meant those voters' loyalty to Israel.

At the same time, prominent Jewish Democrats pushed back at language they warned would stoke anti-Semitism at a perilous time.

The Anti-Defamation League's Jonathan Greenblatt said he was "staggered to have to deal with this kind of statement, particularly in a moment where anti-Semitism is on the rise." The group's annual audit of anti-Semitic incidents yielded its third-highest tally last year since the group began tracking such episodes in the 1970s.

"When he uses a trope that's been used against the Jewish people for centuries with dire consequences, he is encouraging — wittingly or unwittingly — anti-Semites throughout the country and world," Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., tweeted about Trump.

One of the Democrats seeking to challenge Trump next year, former Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julian Castro, told reporters while campaigning in Iowa on Wednesday that Trump "has fostered anti-Semitism in this country."

But other Democratic presidential hopefuls stopped short of that judgment. New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker, citing his own study of Jewish theology, said only that Trump was not acting in line with Jewish ideals. Sen. Bernie Sanders, who would be the nation's first major-party Jewish presidential nominee if he wins the party's primary, declared himself "a proud Jewish person" who has "no concerns about voting Democratic."



AP Polling Editor Emily Swanson and AP Television News senior producer Tracy Brown in Washington, AP Washington Bureau Chief Julie Pace in Des Moines, Iowa, and AP National Political Writer Steve Peoples in New York contributed to this report.

## Reported illness among vapers reaches 150 possible cases

By MIKE STOBBE AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The number of breathing illnesses reported among people who vape is growing. Health officials are now looking into more than 150 possible cases in 16 states.

Officials on Wednesday said the Food and Drug Administration has joined the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and states investigating reports from the last two months.

All the illnesses were in teens or adults who had used an electronic cigarette or some other kind of vaping device. Doctors say the illnesses resemble an inhalation injury, with the lungs apparently reacting to a caustic substance. So far infectious diseases have been ruled out.

No single vaping product or compound has been linked to all of the cases, and officials said it's not clear if there's a common cause.

No deaths have been reported.

## Outside money flows into race for Susan Collins' Senate seat

By DAVID SHARP and BRIAN SLODYSKO Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Democrats vowed last year to make Republican Sen. Susan Collins pay for her vote confirming Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court. Republicans declared they would have her back. Neither has forgotten its promises.

Money is pouring into Maine's high-profile Senate race, threatening to upend the state's reputation for genteel politics and giving way to a new era of partisanship.

Observers predict the race will set a spending record in the state, with tens of millions of dollars going into the state, even though Collins has yet to officially announce that she's seeking reelection.

Advertising data shows Democrats plan to spend at least \$1.2 million on ads through December, including a spot that aired for the first time this month that accuses Collins of failing to protect Medicare. A newly formed GOP group, meanwhile, has \$800,000 already in the bank, thanks to a small group of wealthy financiers. They've highlighted Collins' bipartisan credentials while calling her a "strong voice to the concerns of women across Maine and the nation."

The spending underscores how loud, polarized politics are changing campaigns far from battleground states and threatening the political culture that allowed centrists like Collins to thrive.

But it's unclear how Maine voters will respond to refighting her contentious vote for Kavanaugh or to the flood of outside money.

The race represents one of a handful of opportunities for Democrats to pick up seats in the Senate in the pursuit of seizing control of the chamber from the GOP.

Collins, who was first elected in 1996, has practiced a measured, moderate brand of politics that aligned with the ethos of a state where most voters don't identify with either party. But the political climate in the state has recently developed more bite, as evidenced by former GOP Gov. Paul LePage's bare-knuckle style. New England Republicans, meanwhile, have become an endangered species in Congress, with Collins the last one.

The Kavanaugh controversy presented an opening for Democrats. The senator lost standing with many women when she voted for Kavanaugh after questions swirled about whether he would uphold *Roe v. Wade* and after Christine Blasey Ford came forward to say he had sexually assaulted her decades ago, when both were teens. Kavanaugh vigorously denied assaulting her.

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Critics sent coat hangers to Collins' office, and an envelope containing white powder was sent to her home in Maine, both signs of how ugly the situation had become.

Roger Katz, a moderate Republican, attorney and former state senator in Augusta, acknowledged that vote hurt Collins. But he brushed off pundits' suggestions that she's become vulnerable. "Most people will look at her body of work over 24 years, not just a single issue," he said.

Collins has at least two Democratic challengers: House Speaker Sara Gideon and 2018 gubernatorial candidate Betsy Sweet .

Gideon, who quickly received the backing of the national Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, touted her homegrown fundraising success. But both parties are expected to draw from outside Maine, the poorest state in New England.

The most expensive race in the state's history was last year's 2nd District congressional race, in which total spending topped \$20 million. In the Senate race alone, spending could reach \$60 million, said David Farmer, a Democratic operative in the state.

The last time Collins was on the ballot, in 2014, she spent a comparatively paltry \$5.2 million and coasted to reelection with over 68% of the vote.

Democratic activists incensed by the Kavanaugh vote already raised \$4 million for whoever becomes the Democratic nominee, an online effort that brought in money from across the U.S.

A new super PAC supporting Collins, meanwhile, showed how quickly money can be raised. In a snap, 1820 PAC, a reference to the year Maine gained statehood, raised nearly \$800,000 from a small group of wealthy Republican donors. That includes \$500,000 contributed by Stephen Schwarzman, the CEO of the Wall Street investment firm Blackstone and a Republican megadonor who has contributed millions to GOP causes, Federal Election Commission records show.

Maine Momentum, the group running the new anti-Collins ad, plans to spend at least \$716,000 on ads geared toward the Senate race from now until the end of December, records show. Maine Momentum is a nonprofit "dark money" group that can raise unlimited sums and does not have to reveal its donors. And because it was recently founded, it won't have to report how much it raised until next year.

Maine Momentum spokesman Chris Glynn, Gideon's former communications director, said the group is focused on Collins' record on "health care, taxes and the money she has been taking from special interests in Washington."

But Collins' campaign said it's ironic that Democrats are embracing such tactics, noting how they have often lamented the loosened campaign finance rules that have led to a proliferation of dark money spending.

"This has more to do with (Democratic Senate leader) Chuck Schumer's political ambitions and absolutely nothing to do with doing what's right for the people of Maine and our country," said Kevin Kelley, her campaign spokesman.

Slodysko reported from Washington.

## Greenland fallout: Trump scolds Denmark over rejection

By JAN M. OLSEN and LAURIE KELLMAN Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — Escalating an international spat , President Donald Trump said Wednesday he scrapped his trip to Denmark because the prime minister made a "nasty" statement when she rejected his idea to buy Greenland as an absurdity.

"You don't talk to the United States that way, at least under me," Trump told reporters in Washington. "I thought it was not a nice statement, the way she blew me off."

Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen called the whole thing "an absurd discussion" and said she was "disappointed and surprised" that Trump had canceled his visit.

Trump said Frederiksen's comment labeling his idea as absurd "was nasty. I thought it was an inappropriate statement. All she had to say was say, 'No, we wouldn't be interested.'"

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Greenland is a semi-autonomous territory of the U.S. ally, and Frederiksen said the U.S. remains one of Denmark's close allies.

The political brouhaha over the world's largest island comes from its strategic location in the Arctic. Global warming is making Greenland more accessible to potential oil and mineral resources. Russia, China, the U.S., Canada and other countries are racing to stake as strong a claim as they can to Arctic lands, hoping they will yield future riches.

Trump was scheduled to visit Denmark on Sept. 2-3 as part of a European tour. But early Wednesday, he tweeted his decision to indefinitely postpone the trip. The move stunned Danes and blindsided the Danish royal palace. Spokeswoman Lene Balleby told The Associated Press that it came as "a surprise" to the royal household, which had formally invited Trump.

The U.S. State Department said Secretary of State Mike Pompeo spoke Wednesday with his Danish counterpart and "expressed appreciation for Denmark's cooperation as one of the United States' allies and Denmark's contributions to address shared global security priorities."

Spokesperson Morgan Ortagus said Pompeo and Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs Jeppe Kofod "also discussed strengthening cooperation with the Kingdom of Denmark - including Greenland - in the Arctic."

On Tuesday, Trump tweeted, "Denmark is a very special country with incredible people, but based on Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen's comments, that she would have no interest in discussing the purchase of Greenland, I will be postponing our meeting scheduled in two weeks for another time."

The vast island of Greenland sits between the Atlantic and Arctic oceans, has a population of 56,000 and has 80% of its land mass covered by a 1.7 million-square-kilometer (660,000 square-mile) ice sheet.

For all of Greenland's appeal, scientists consider it the canary in the coal mine for climate change and say its massive ice sheet has seen one of its biggest melts on record this summer, contributing to a global rise in sea levels.

Frederiksen said she is standing behind the government of Greenland.

"A discussion about a potential sale of Greenland has been put forward. It has been rejected by Greenland Premier Kim Kielsen and I fully stand behind that rejection," she told reporters in Copenhagen.

Frederiksen, who took office two months ago in a minority Social Democratic government, went on to say that diplomatic relations between Copenhagen and Washington "are not in any crisis in my opinion" despite Trump's canceled plans.

"The invitation for a stronger strategic cooperation with the Americans in the Arctic is still open," Frederiksen said, adding "the United States is one of our closest allies."

Others in Denmark were not as gracious.

Martin Lidegaard, a former Danish foreign minister, told broadcaster TV2 that it was "a diplomatic farce" and Trump's behavior was "grotesque."

Trump's cancellation was "deeply insulting to the people of Greenland and Denmark," former Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt wrote on Twitter.

Claus Oxfeldt, chairman of Denmark's main police union, told Danish media that authorities had been busy planning the third visit by a sitting U.S. president to the Scandinavian NATO member. "It has created great frustrations to have spent so much time preparing for a visit that is canceled," Oxfeldt was quoted as saying.

Ordinary Danes shook their heads at the news, with many calling Trump immature.

"He thinks he can just buy Greenland. He acts like an elephant in a china shop," said Pernille Iversen, a 41-year-old shopkeeper in Copenhagen.

"This is an insult to (Queen) Margrethe, to Denmark," said Steen Gade, a 55-year-old road worker.

In Greenland, Johannes Kyed, an employee with a mine company, told Denmark's TV2 channel that wanting to buy a country and its people is a relic of the past.

"This is not the way the world works today," Kyed said.

The U.S. ambassador to Denmark, Carla Sands, was apparently not informed of Trump's decision ahead of time.

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Shortly before Trump canceled the trip on Twitter, she sent a tweet saying "Denmark is ready for POTUS," using an acronym for "President of the United States" along with Trump's Twitter handle and a photo from Copenhagen's City Hall square, where a Dane had paid for two pro-Trump ads on giant electronic screens.

Trump said Sunday he was interested in buying Greenland for strategic purposes, but said a purchase was not a priority for his government at this time. Both Frederiksen and Greenland leader Kielsen responded that Greenland is not for sale.

"The Prime Minister was able to save a great deal of expense and effort for both the United States and Denmark by being so direct," Trump said in the tweet Wednesday. "I thank her for that and look forward to rescheduling sometime in the future!"

Trump is still expected to visit nearby Poland beginning Aug. 31.

Retreating ice could uncover potential oil and mineral resources in Greenland which, if successfully tapped, could dramatically change the island's fortunes. However, no oil has yet been found in Greenlandic waters and the thickness of the ice means exploration is only possible in coastal regions.

Even then, conditions are far from ideal, due to Greenland's long winters with frozen ports, 24-hour darkness and temperatures that regularly drop below minus 30 degrees Celsius (minus 22 Fahrenheit) in the island's northern regions.

American leaders have tried to buy Greenland before. In 1946, the U.S. proposed paying Denmark \$100 million to buy Greenland after flirting with the idea of swapping land in Alaska for strategic parts of the Arctic island.

Under a 1951 deal, Denmark allowed the U.S. to build bases and radar stations on Greenland.

The U.S. Air Force currently maintains one base in northern Greenland, Thule Air Force Base, 1,200 kilometers (745 miles) south of the North Pole. Former military airfields in Narsarsuaq, Kulusuk and Kangerlussuaq have become civilian airports.

The Thule base, constructed in 1952, was originally designed as a refueling base for long-range bombing missions. Since 1961, it has been a ballistic missile early warning and space surveillance site.

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Associated Press writer Darlene Superville in Washington contributed to this report.

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Find AP stories on Greenland at [www.apnews.com/Greenland](http://www.apnews.com/Greenland)

## What makes Greenland so appealing that Trump would want it?

By The Associated Press

U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to cancel a visit to Denmark next month after his offer to buy Greenland was rejected has thrust this ice-covered semi-autonomous Danish territory into the spotlight. Here's a look at what makes it special.

### WHERE IS GREENLAND?

The world's largest island sits between the Atlantic and Arctic oceans. A 1.7-million-square-kilometer (660,000-square-mile) ice sheet covers 80 percent of the Arctic territory. Greenland's 56,000 residents are mainly Inuits, the indigenous people. They are concentrated on the west coast in small towns and hamlets or remote coastal settlements where life revolves around fishing and the hunting of seals and whales.

### HOW IS IT GOVERNED?

Greenland is part of the Danish realm along with the Faeroe Islands and has its own government and parliament, the 31-seat Inatsisartut. In 1979, Greenland gained home rule from Denmark. Its premier is Kim Kielsen of the left-leaning Siumut party. A police officer-turned politician, Kielsen has been in office since 2014.

### THE ECONOMY

Greenland's economy depends of fisheries and related industries, as well as annual subsidies of 4.5 billion kroner (\$670 million) from Denmark, which handles its foreign affairs and defense matters.

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## CLIMATE CHANGE

The effects of climate change have been particularly dramatic for Greenland, which has seen one of its biggest ice melts on record this summer, contributing to a global rise in sea levels.

Due to global warming, it is believed that oil and other mineral wealth could become more accessible in the Arctic — and Greenland. Nations including Russia, China, the U.S., and Canada are racing to stake as strong a claim as they can to Arctic lands, hoping they will yield future riches.

If these resources are successfully tapped, they could dramatically change the island's fortunes. However, no oil has yet been found in Greenlandic waters and the thickness of the ice means exploration is only possible in coastal regions.

## OTHER RESOURCES

In 2013, the sparsely populated island removed a 25-year-old ban on uranium mining since the element is often found mixed with other rare earth metals used for smartphones and weapons systems. A southern Greenland mine could be the largest rare-earth metals deposit outside China, which currently accounts for more than 90 percent of global production.

However, conditions are far from ideal and searches for minerals have stalled. Chiefly because of poor infrastructure, lack of sufficient manpower and long winters with frozen ports, 24-hour darkness and temperatures often below minus 30 Celsius (minus 20 Fahrenheit) in the northern parts.

## A PRECEDENT

The United States also tried to buy the world's largest island in 1946. Washington offered Denmark \$100 million for Greenland after flirting with the idea of swapping land in Alaska for strategic parts of the Arctic island. Denmark turned the offer down then as well.

## U.S. MILITARY OUTPOST

Under a 1951 deal, Denmark allowed the U.S. to build rent-free bases and radar stations on Greenland.

The U.S. Air Force currently maintains only one base in northern Greenland, Thule Air Force Base, 1,200 kilometers (745 miles) south of the North Pole. Former military airfields in Narsarsuaq, Kulusuk and Kangerlussuaq have become civilian airports.

The Thule base, constructed in 1952, was originally designed as a refueling base for long-range bombing missions. It has been a ballistic missile early warning and space surveillance site since 1961.

## Retailers' results show sharp divide between losers, winners

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The divide between retail winners and losers is widening.

That became even more evident Wednesday with the latest batch of earnings reports: Big-box stores and off-price retailers have been responding faster to shoppers' increasing shift online with expanded deliveries and better merchandise. But many mall-based clothing chains and department stores continue to suffer weak sales as they struggle to lure in shoppers.

"There is an increasing polarization in retail," said Neil Saunders, managing director at GlobalData Retail. "It's a vicious cycle, and it's difficult to pull out of the tail spin."

In fact, for the first two fiscal quarters of this year, earnings at off-mall retailers rose 3%, compared with a drop of 29% for mall-based retailers, according to Retail Metrics, a retail research firm, which analyzed results at 105 retailers.

On Wednesday, Target raised its annual earnings guidance after reporting strong sales and traffic. It was helped by its same-day delivery services, as well as a strong lineup of homegrown brands. Lowe's, the nation's second largest home improvement retailer behind Home Depot, blew past Wall Street's second-quarter earnings expectations, buoyed by strong demand for spring goods and sales to contractors.

Both companies' stocks soared.

Earlier this week, Home Depot handily beat second-quarter profit expectations, while Walmart raised its outlook for the year last week and off price chains like T.J. Maxx are also faring well, resonating with

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shoppers who love to treasure hunt.

But many clothing chains and department stores haven't differentiated their merchandise enough, and now discounters are further squeezing them by pushing into more affordable trendy fashions, retail industry analysts say.

Last week, Macy's lowered its annual earnings guidance after its earnings suffered in the second quarter as it slashed prices on unsold merchandise. J.C. Penney's is in worst shape. It posted another quarter of sales declines. Kohl's shares, meanwhile, fell Tuesday after posting a sales decline though business improved later in the quarter.

Upscale department store Nordstrom trimmed its earnings and sales outlook for the current fiscal year late Wednesday after it reported profit and sales declines in the second quarter. Sales at its full-priced stores dropped 6.5%. The results show that it hasn't been able to escape the woes of traditional malls, even as it has been testing small stores that don't stock any clothes and expanding its online services.

Saunders and other analysts say that they started to see a clear divide between retail's winners and losers four or five years ago, but that gap has gotten more pronounced because of a combination of factors. For several years, a strong economy provided tail winds to retailers of all stripes, and last year's tax cuts gave merchants a nice sugar high. But as the economy starts developing some cracks, vulnerable retailers will become even more exposed.

Analysts also say that the shift to online shopping keeps accelerating, giving a big advantage to retailers like Target and Walmart who've been able to invest billions of dollars in online deliveries and in their stores. Some mall-based retailers are now looking at other ways to bring in shoppers, including subscription rental services and carving out areas to sell second-hand clothes.

But for some, it may be a case of too little, too late.

"In a world where consumers have more choices than ever, inferior brick-and-mortar experiences will go away," said John Mulligan, Target's chief operating officer Wednesday.

Target's comparable store sales, which include online sales, rose 3.4 % as customer traffic jumped 2.4%. Online sales soared 34%. The Minneapolis company raised profit expectations for the year, sending its shares up \$17.47, or 20.4%, to close at \$103.

Shares in Lowe's Co., which is based in Mooresville, North Carolina, ended up \$10.13, or 10.4%, at \$108. Still, it is an uncertain time for even surging retailers like Target.

The Trump administration has imposed a 25% tariff on \$250 billion in Chinese imports. A pending 10% tariff on another \$300 billion in goods would hit everything from toys to clothing and shoes that China ships to the United States.

And it appears the retailers that have been winning all along will be the ones to better navigate the tariff storms.

Target's CEO Brian Cornell told analysts that while the trade wars present an additional layer of uncertainty and complexity, he pointed to the company's diverse assortment, deep expertise in global sourcing and sophisticated set of manufacturing partners around the world.

Meanwhile, Macy's said last week that its shoppers don't have an appetite for higher prices in a ballooning U.S. trade war with China. The department store was forced to raise prices on some luggage, housewares and furniture to offset the costs of a 25% tariff implemented in May. Macy's vowed not to increase prices as a result of the 10% tariff, but CEO Jeff Gennette said the company will be speaking with vendors about ways to offset rising costs if the trade war escalates.

Follow Anne D'Innocenzio on Twitter .

This story has been updated to correctly identify the Target executive quoted in reference to brick-and-mortar stores. It is Chief Operating Officer John Mulligan, not CEO Brian Cornell.

## Germany's Merkel dangles possibility of negotiated Brexit

By FRANK JORDANS Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — German Chancellor Angela Merkel raised the possibility that a negotiated departure for Britain from the European Union might still be possible even as the clock is ticking on a deal that would satisfy both sides.

Speaking Wednesday alongside U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson before the two leaders held bilateral talks in Berlin, Merkel indicated that a solution for the contentious Irish border issue might yet be reached before the Brexit date of Oct. 31.

"(We) might be able to find it in the next 30 days, why not?" Merkel told reporters.

Her comments marked a departure from the pessimism that's prevailed on both sides of the English Channel in recent months. The EU has ruled out renegotiating the Brexit agreement hammered out with Britain last year. Johnson, for his part, says he will take Britain out of the bloc at the end of October without a deal unless the EU scraps the contentious backstop clause designed to prevent customs checkpoints along the Irish border.

Johnson, on his first visit to Germany since becoming prime minister last month, welcomed the "blistering timetable of 30 days" Merkel suggested, but appeared to acknowledge that the ball is now in Britain's court to avert an economically devastating no-deal Brexit by proposing a viable solution to the Irish border issue.

"There are abundant solutions which are proffered, which have already been discussed," Johnson said, without elaborating. "I don't think, to be fair, they have so far been very actively proposed over the last three years by the British government."

"You rightly say the onus is on us to produce those solutions, those ideas, to show how we can address the issue of the Northern Irish border and that is what we want to do," he said.

Johnson had insisted Monday that the Irish border backstop clause must be scrapped and replaced with "alternative arrangements" to regulate cross-border trade.

The EU says the backstop is merely an insurance policy meant to avoid checkpoints between Ireland and Northern Ireland, which were a flashpoint for sectarian violence in the past, and won't be needed if other solutions are found for goods moving across the border.

The backstop was part of the withdrawal agreement former British Prime Minister Theresa May negotiated with the EU, but it was rejected by the U.K. Parliament three times.

Johnson's stance, that Britain will leave the EU with or without a deal, has alienated many in Europe.

The EU's agriculture chief warned that if Britain crashes out without a deal on Oct. 31, it would create a "foul atmosphere" that would spill over into any negotiations on a future trade deal between the two sides.

Speaking in his native Ireland, EU Farm Commission Phil Hogan said the remaining 27 countries would "hold the line" and had made "detailed contingency plans for every outcome," echoing the view of many on the continent that a no-deal Brexit is now the most likely outcome.

"Contrary to what the UK government may wish, the EU will not buckle," he insisted.

German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier went so far Wednesday as to question whether Johnson was serious about seeking new Brexit talks or whether he was planning to blame the EU if they failed.

Yet Johnson appeared emboldened Wednesday as he and Merkel faced reporters before holding talks over dinner — where tuna tartare, saddle of venison and chocolate tarte were on the menu.

"We seek a deal. And I believe that we can get one," he said, before quoting one of Merkel's trademark phrases — "we can do it" — which the German chancellor repeatedly used when insisting that her country could cope with the migrant influx of 2015-2016.

After meeting with Merkel, Johnson goes to Paris on Thursday for talks with French President Emmanuel Macron, then on to a three-day summit of G-7 leaders, including U.S. President Donald Trump, which begins Saturday in Biarritz, France.

The withdrawal agreement is just the first step in Britain's exit from the EU and will be followed by negotiations on future relations likely lasting years.

Merkel on Wednesday cited the need for a new air traffic agreement between the EU and Britain as one

example of the kind of deal that still needs to be agreed, noting that as a third country, the U.K. can't expect to enjoy the same benefits as an EU member state.

Danica Kirka in London, Sylvie Corbet in Paris and Kirsten Grieshaber in Berlin contributed to this report.

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## As Trump questions loyalty of US Jews, Israeli PM is quiet

By JOSEF FEDERMAN Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's prime minister on Wednesday steered clear of Donald Trump's comments questioning the loyalty of American Jews who support the Democratic Party, in sharp contrast to the tide of condemnation from Jewish critics who accused him of trafficking in anti-Semitic stereotypes.

Benjamin Netanyahu's decision to keep quiet on the controversy reflected the importance of his close alliance with Trump — a relationship that has dented the bipartisan support Israel has traditionally enjoyed in Washington as well as Israel's equally important ties with the American Jewish community.

With an eye on re-election, Trump has attempted to use his close ties with Netanyahu to win over Jewish voters, who overwhelmingly vote for Democrats. Critics say it is part of a broader strategy that has also targeted minorities and immigrants with sometimes racist rhetoric in an attempt to shore up his base of white, working-class voters.

Most recently, Trump has focused these efforts on trying to paint Democratic congresswomen Ilhan Omar of Minnesota and Rashida Tlaib as the face of the Democratic Party.

Last week, Netanyahu barred the two women, who are both Muslim and outspoken critics of Israel, from visiting his country after a public appeal by Trump. Democratic leaders, who only days earlier had visited Israel in a show of bipartisan support, criticized the Israeli decision.

"Where has the Democratic Party gone? Where have they gone where they are defending these two people over the state of Israel?" Trump told reporters in the Oval Office on Tuesday. "I think any Jewish people that vote for a Democrat, I think it shows either a total lack of knowledge or great disloyalty."

The comments triggered an outpouring of condemnations from Jewish American groups and Democratic lawmakers, who accused Trump of invoking anti-Semitic stereotypes by implying American Jews have dual loyalty to the United States and Israel. At a time of rising anti-Semitism in the U.S., some expressed fear that Trump's words could invite new violence against Jewish targets.

But Netanyahu remained silent about the latest uproar. His office declined comment, while Yuval Steinitz, a Cabinet minister in Netanyahu's Likud party who is close to the prime minister, dismissed it as internal U.S. politics.

"We mustn't intervene in the elections and the political disagreements in the United States," Steinitz told Israel Radio. "We have close supporters and friends in both parties, Democrats and Republicans, both Jews and non-Jews, and we embrace everyone and want everyone's support and friendship."

Israeli President Reuven Rivlin spoke to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Wednesday, stopping short of directly criticizing Trump's remarks but emphasizing the importance of U.S.-Israel ties.

"We must keep the State of Israel above political disputes and make every effort to ensure that support for Israel does not become a political issue," Rivlin, whose role is largely ceremonial, told Pelosi, according to a statement.

This is not the first time Trump has been accused of making comments seen by some as anti-Semitic.

On the campaign trail, he told Jewish Republicans in 2015 that "you're not going to support me because I don't want your money." Following a march by neo-Nazis and White supremacists in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 2017, he said there were "very fine people on both sides" after clashes between protesters and counter-protesters. On international Holocaust Day in 2017, Trump condemned the "horror inflicted on innocent people by Nazi terror," without mentioning anti-Semitism or the 6 million Jews killed by the



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Nazis and their sympathizers.

Netanyahu's low profile contrasted with his criticism of Omar this year when she suggested Israel's supporters were motivated by money and not ideology. Omar, accused by Democrats and Republicans of repeating anti-Semitic tropes, later apologized.

For decades, Israel has maintained staunch bipartisan support in Washington, saying that warm relations with both parties is the bedrock of the relationship with its closest ally.

Those ties have frayed under Netanyahu, whose conservative worldview largely mirrors the Republican platform. Netanyahu appeared to side with Mitt Romney in his race against Barack Obama in 2012. And in 2015, Netanyahu famously delivered a speech to Congress attacking Obama's nuclear deal with Iran, infuriating the then-president and souring what was already a strained relationship. Netanyahu's ambassador to Washington, U.S.-born Ron Dermer, is a former Republican Party operative.

The alliance with Trump, who is popular with the Israeli public, has paid great dividends for Netanyahu. Over staunch objections from the Palestinians, Trump has recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital and moved the U.S. Embassy to the contested city. With strong Israeli encouragement, he withdrew from the U.S.-led international nuclear deal with Iran, and more recently recognized Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights, captured from Syria in the 1967 Mideast war. Trump, guided by a team of advisers with close ties to Netanyahu, has cut hundreds of millions of dollars in aid to the Palestinians and closed the Palestinian diplomatic offices in Washington.

But these gains have come at a price. The attention given to Omar and Tlaib has raised their profile at a time when Israel wants to isolate them within the Democratic Party. In addition, Jewish voters continue to overwhelmingly oppose Trump and appear to be linking Netanyahu to the president.

A series of decisions by Netanyahu, ranging from incendiary comments about Israel's Arab minority seen as racist, along with the cancellation of a mixed-prayer area at Jerusalem's Western Wall, have further alienated American Jews. Opinion polls in recent years have shown sharp differences in support for Israel among American Jews, with Republicans far more supportive than the Democratic majority.

Columnist Chemi Shalev, writing in the daily Haaretz, said Netanyahu was taking a risky path.

"In the eyes of many if not most U.S. Jews, Trump has now evolved from a suspect accused of anti-Semitism into a felon convicted beyond any reasonable doubt," Shalev wrote. "Their anger and frustration are compounded by the widespread perception that in their hour of need, the prime minister of Israel is siding with their defamer."

Shmuel Rosner, a senior fellow at the nonpartisan Jewish People Policy Institute in Israel, said he expected Netanyahu to keep a low profile because the relationship with Trump is too valuable.

"He believes that keeping his relations with Donald Trump is essential for Israel's well-being and safety," Rosner said. "I don't think Israel is going to distance itself from a president whose policies and expression of views are favorable to Israel."

Rosner said Netanyahu will likely try to assure Democrats that he values their support and reach out to American Jews, even though he said many Israeli leaders quietly believe that support from the Jewish American community is not what it should be.

"There's a complicated situation here for Israel to navigate," he said. "Maybe the only way to fix this thing is to wait for a new president or a new prime minister or a new atmosphere."

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Associated Press writers Joseph Krauss and Tia Goldenberg in Jerusalem contributed to this report.

## Trump: Again open to strengthening gun background checks

By JILL COLVIN and LAURIE KELLMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Wednesday once again backed tighter background checks for gun purchases, but said he wants to be careful that closing what he calls "loopholes" doesn't clear the way for more gun control.

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Speaking to reporters as he departed the White House for Kentucky, the president said he considers gun violence a public health issue and is considering ways to make background checks more strict. But he also said, "You're on that slope and all of a sudden nobody has any legal protection," adding, "Our Second Amendment will remain strong."

Told the "slippery slope" argument is a National Rifle Association talking point, Trump said, "It's a Trump talking point."

The rhetorical whiplash came after gunmen opened fire in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio, leaving more than 30 people dead. In the days following the mass shootings early this month, Trump said he was eager to implement "very meaningful background checks" and told reporters there was "tremendous support" for action. He dismissed that very same "slippery slope" thinking, which he attributed to the NRA, saying, "I don't agree with that."

But he also has acknowledged that his core supporters support gun rights, highlighting the challenge of balancing the politics of gun control ahead of the 2020 elections.

On Tuesday, Trump signaled he was backing away from supporting changes to the system. Speaking to reporters, he noted that "a lot of the people that put me where I am are strong believers in the Second Amendment," and he suggested he worries about blurring the contrast between Republicans and Democrats on the issue.

"We have to be very careful about that," he said.

It was a change in tone. He said Tuesday that while the current system has "sort of missing areas and areas that don't complete the whole circle," it is overall "very, very strong" — even though federal law only requires background checks for guns sold through licensed firearm dealers.

The waffling drew anger from Democrats, including Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, who said if Trump is serious about action he should call on Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to put a House-passed bill on background checks up for a vote.

"These retreats are heartbreaking, particularly for the families of the victims of gun violence," Schumer tweeted.

Republicans have refused to take up several Democratic-backed gun control bills that passed the House, and historically they have opposed many efforts to strengthen the nation's gun laws.

Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., who spoke with Trump last week, said the president expressed support then for working across the aisle "to come up with a background checks bill that can pass the Senate and save lives." While he said he would wait to hear from Trump again directly, he compared the episode to Trump's flip-flop on background checks following the Parkland, Florida, school shooting after intervention from the NRA.

"It's time for Republicans and President Trump to decide whose side they're on," Murphy said in a statement. "Are they going to stand with the 90% of Americans who want universal background checks, or are they going to once again kowtow to the desires of the gun lobby?"

Trump, who has reversed course on gun issues throughout his adult life, had insisted when pressed by skeptical reporters earlier this month that this time would be different because the composition of the House and Senate had changed.

But a senior White House official pushed back on the notion that Trump was backing away from support for legislative changes, noting that Trump has repeatedly voiced a desire to get something done.

The person, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations, said the White House's policy and legislative affairs teams have been discussing potential options, in addition to ongoing conversations with members of Congress led by Eric Ueland, the director of legislative affairs.

They also said "meaningful background checks" remain on the table, even after Trump spoke again by phone Tuesday with NRA chief executive Wayne LaPierre.

LaPierre tweeted the two had discussed "the best ways to prevent these types of tragedies," and called Trump "a strong #2A President."

While two Democrats on the Hill described talks with the White House as largely stalled, others said White House officials have been engaged in continued conversations with Democratic and Republican

lawmakers. That includes staff-level conversations with Murphy's office since he spoke with Trump last Sunday, according to one Senate staffer.

"The White House has been very responsive to our office," said Steve Kelly, a spokesman for Republican Sen. Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania, who has long pushed a bipartisan expanded background check bill with Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia. "We've had ongoing conversations, at the staff level, with the White House regarding background checks both last week and this week."

Republicans have been trying to build support for more modest measures, including so-called red-flag bills from Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., and Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., that would allow friends and family to petition authorities to keep guns away from some people. But those efforts are also running into trouble from conservatives, who worry about due process and infringing on gun owners' rights.

Meanwhile, NRA spokeswoman Amy Hunter said the group "has always supported efforts to keep firearms out of the hands of criminals and the dangerously mentally ill" and "appreciates the president's desire to find logical ways of accomplishing that goal."

"However, even the most ardent anti-gun advocates would concede expanded background checks would not have stopped any of the recent high-profile shootings," she said. "In order to reduce gun deaths, we must address the root causes of crime."

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Associated Press writer Kevin Freking contributed to this report.

## 'Stranger Things' fans bring cameras, wallets to Georgia

By ANDREA SMITH Associated Press

PALMETTO, Ga. (AP) — Soon after Netflix released "Stranger Things," fans of all ages came into Bradley's Big Buy grocery store in Palmetto, Georgia, dressed like characters from the show, and wandered toward the Eggo waffles aisle, cameras in hand.

They sought out the exact spot where "Stranger Things" star Millie Bobby Brown filmed a scene as the character Eleven, and they're still coming three years later, even after the store changed its name and became part of the Piggly Wiggly franchise.

Palmetto is a town of barely 5,000 people about 25 miles (40 kilometers) southwest of Atlanta where the grocery store cashiers greet customers by name. But after "Stranger Things" premiered in 2016, it became routine for employees to also welcome fans from around the globe. Fans have visited daily since the store reappeared in the third season on July 4, said Piggly Wiggly manager David Johnston. About 50 fans showed up on one particularly busy Saturday in mid-July, he said.

"You can spot them in the crowd when they come in here," Johnston said. "The girl the other day was dressed like Eleven, all the way to the blood running down her nose."

Eleven is a main character of the series known for her mysterious mind powers and the subtle nosebleed she gets after activating those powers.

The nostalgic '80s sci-fi series broke Netflix records with its third season. Within four days of release, 40.7 million accounts had started watching it and 18.2 million had already finished it entirely, Netflix announced on Twitter.

Creators Matt and Ross Duffer set the series in fictional Hawkins, Indiana, but filmed in Georgia, which offers tax breaks and other incentives to moviemakers and whose economy in return reaps \$9.5 billion annually from the film industry, according to a 2018 Georgia Department of Economic Development report.

A building on Emory University's Briarcliff Campus in Atlanta served as the show's Hawkins Laboratory, where all sorts of suspicious activity occur. In Duluth, crew transformed a vacant wing and food court in Gwinnett Place Mall into Starcourt Mall, a bustling hangout where much of the third season takes place.

The mall remains open to shoppers but has disappointed fans who visit for a "Stranger Things" experience: A guard posted outside the wing used in filming shoos away anyone who attempts to enter or take a photo. Fans can take photos of the exterior, which looks similar to the building that appears in the show.

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Johnston said he's happy to give quick tours of Piggly Wiggly and explain where fictional events took place. He'll point out the path Eleven took through the store when she stole a few boxes of Eggo waffles and recall how she strutted away from the refrigerator aisle, ignoring the employee chasing after her.

Fans like to re-create this scene onsite, and some ask Johnston to play the baffled employee and chase them out of the store, he said. He usually obliges.

"We've had a ball with it overall," Johnston said. "Everybody here goes out of their way to accommodate them."

Employees started encouraging fans to write about their experience in a notebook they keep at the store.

"Loved coming here to get some Eggos and Coke," said one note signed by Julia, Mike and Danielle from New York.

Johnston said the store's Eggo waffles sales have tripled. Employees don't require visitors to make a purchase, but most buy something anyway, including themed T-shirts with the phrase, "The strangest things happen at Bradley's Big Buy."

Businesses in Jackson are also benefiting from new customers in town. Throughout the series, downtown Jackson was portrayed as the town of Hawkins, where key characters played by Winona Ryder and Sean Astin worked.

Lucy Lu's Coffee Cafe opened downtown in 2017, about a year after the first season's release. Within months, the cafe had created a "Stranger Drinks" menu. Popular beverages include the Sheriff Hopper, a hazelnut and vanilla coffee drink, and the Demogorgon, a frappe with blood-red food coloring named after the monster that rampages through Hawkins.

Head barista Jayci Fitzmayer said the menu has been a hit with visiting fans and locals.

"A lot of our regulars get the Stranger Drinks too," Fitzmayer said. "They love that they can be a part of that too because, just like us, they didn't think that our town was anything special until this came out."

Lucy Lu's had one of its best days a couple weeks after the third season came out, Fitzmayer said. The shop brought in \$1,200 in net sales July 19, doubling its daily average.

"It's always hard to tell when anybody starts a business if it'll do good or not, but I think this has definitely helped us out," Fitzmayer said.

Employees said they plan to update the show-themed menu to reflect the novelties of the latest season.

## Sheriff in conservative county defends free press

By ANDREW SELSKY Associated Press

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — Journalists are defending a small newspaper after a county attorney asked the sheriff to investigate whether a reporter broke the law by trying repeatedly to get comments from an official for a story.

Staffers at the Malheur Enterprise, a weekly newspaper in the remote town of Vale, said they were just doing their job. "We're not going to be bullied," said editor Les Zaitz.

Brian Wolfe, the sheriff of deeply conservative Malheur County, said Wednesday an inquiry determined no laws had been broken.

"As an elected sheriff, we will always respect the constitutional rights of anybody and everybody. We do believe in freedom of the press and free speech that we believe are our rights given by the Constitution of the United States," Wolfe said.

The newspaper had been investigating why a car wash did not receive a five-year exemption from local property taxes that was allegedly promised. Bluebird Express Car Wash built a \$4.5 million installation in the town of Ontario after it understood it received the exemption, representing about \$335,000, the newspaper reported.

Greg Smith, the director for economic development for Malheur County -- a stretch of high desert almost twice the size of Connecticut -- is responsible for determining and negotiating property tax exemptions. Malheur Enterprise reporter Pat Caldwell sought several times to get comment from Smith, who is also a

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Republican member of the state Legislature.

"This is an effort to get accurate information," said Zaitz, a former investigative reporter with the Oregonian newspaper and a two-time Pulitzer Prize finalist. "The public is entitled to that information -- not only entitled to that information, it deserves it."

Smith responded only after the story was published on Aug. 14 with the headline "Malheur County lured company to Ontario with tax break promise, then doesn't deliver."

In a statement that the newspaper published online, Smith said no "pre-application" for a property tax exemption had been approved or signed.

"Over the last six months, me and my staff have been subjected to endless phone calls, hostile emails at all hours of the day and unwelcome office visits," Smith asserted.

Zaitz said Caldwell sent two emails to Smith during business hours seeking comment. Zaitz said he felt it was his duty to email Smith on Saturday to provide every opportunity to comment before the newspaper went to press. Located in a small Old West-style building, the weekly publishes 1,400 copies, with additional paid online subscribers. The county has 31,000 residents, with almost 10 times as many cattle, and is heavily Republican.

County Counsel Stephanie Williams asked the sheriff to determine if emails and calls to county economic development officials constituted a crime.

"We looked at harassment, telephonic harassment -- really neither one comes close in this situation," Wolfe said.

The reactions to the investigation request varied widely.

One person told Wolfe that if he jailed the journalists, he would deserve to be voted out of office. Another person left a voicemail saying the press reports fake news and the sheriff should do whatever he wants with the journalists.

The Oregon chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists issued a statement rebuking county officials for asking the sheriff to investigate.

"Journalists doggedly pursue the stories they're working on to inform the public and their readership of what is important to their communities," said Amanda Waldroupe, president of Oregon SPJ.

Journalists from elsewhere voiced their support.

"The Fort Bragg Advocate-News and Mendocino Beacon here in California stand with you, Malheur Enterprise. Your public servants ought to grow a hide and get used to those weekend emails," the newspapers tweeted.

Follow Andrew Selsky on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/andrewselsky>

## US OPEN '19: Williams-Osaka reverberations felt, year later

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

As the start of the 2019 U.S. Open approaches, the indelible image from last year's tournament does not involve a particularly remarkable shot or a champion holding a trophy.

Instead, it is, and likely forever will remain, Serena Williams pointing her index finger at chair umpire Carlos Ramos while insisting that he owed her an apology after they clashed during the women's final.

The tenor of that match between Williams — who then was, and currently is, seeking a 24th Grand Slam singles trophy — and Naomi Osaka — whose terrific performance during a 6-2, 6-4 victory largely was ignored amid the chaos that enveloped Arthur Ashe Stadium that day — shifted after Ramos warned Williams for receiving a coaching signal from the stands and devolved from there. She eventually was docked a point and, later, a game — and afterward, was fined \$17,000.

Almost a full 12 months later, with first-round play beginning Monday at Flushing Meadows, the ramifications of that 1-hour, 19-minute contest still reverberate, including this: Ramos will not officiate matches involving Serena Williams or her older sister, Venus.

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"We've decided that there are over 900 other matches and Carlos, for 2019, will not be in the chair for a Williams sisters match," U.S. Tennis Association executive Stacey Allaster said in a telephone interview. "We want the attention of the competition to be on the athletes."

Among the key story lines that carry over: Serena Williams, also the runner-up at Wimbledon each of the past two years, is trying to equal Margaret Court's mark for most major singles championships. Osaka, who added her second Slam title at the Australian Open in January, returns to New York ranked No. 1 — and dealing with knee discomfort that forced her withdrawal from a tuneup tournament last week.

What's more, the tennis world is filled with ongoing discussions and debates about such matters as the proper role of chair umpires, the way the code of conduct is constructed and, maybe above all, whether in-match coaching should be permitted everywhere.

On that last subject, there are those who would like to see it, such as the USTA itself — which lobbied, to no avail so far, the folks who run the other majors to approve coaching — or Williams' coach, Patrick Mouratoglou, who acknowledged right after last year's final that he was attempting to communicate with his player and also noted, correctly, that surreptitious coaching happens all the time and goes unpunished.

Says Allaster: "I understand it's polarizing, but ultimately, we have to look at how tennis competes and is relevant. ... Access is a key part of it; engagement with fans that want to hear from the players and coaches."

Says Mouratoglou: "I have never understood why tennis is just about the only sport in which coaching during matches is not allowed."

There are others, such as Roger Federer or the person in charge of Wimbledon, who think it goes against the very fabric of the game.

Says Federer: "I'm of the opinion that we shouldn't have coaching in tennis. ... It's what actually makes our sport unique."

Says All England Club executive chairman Richard Lewis: "Most of the men have said they're against it. A lot of coaches have said they're against it. There's a lot of people — Wimbledon, as much as anybody — who feel that tennis is very special because it is a gladiatorial contest. ... You're on your own."

It's a topic that hangs over the season's last major, even if there are plenty of results-related questions for the hard-court tournament's two weeks:

How healthy is Williams, who withdrew two events because of back spasms? Can Osaka make another deep run? Will Wimbledon champion Simona Halep get past the semifinals at the only Slam where she hasn't? How will 15-year-old Coco Gauff follow up her run at Wimbledon? Can Federer, defending champ Novak Djokovic or Rafael Nadal make it 12 major titles in a row for the Big Three? Might a 20-something man finally break through?

None of that, though, is fraught with the greater significance of a possible rule change. As things stand, there is nothing consistent about coaching, a reflection of the each-week-is-different situation in a sport without a commissioner or a single rulebook.

"I wish (men and women) had coaching," said Sam Querrey, a Wimbledon semifinalist in 2017, "and you could talk to your coach whenever you want."

Grand Slam tournaments do not allow coaching, for male or female players, in main-draw matches, although the U.S. Open began trying it for qualifying and juniors in 2017.

The International Tennis Federation does allow it for Davis Cup and Fed Cup matches, even letting coaches sit courtside.

The ATP doesn't allow it for tournaments on the men's professional circuit.

Yet the WTA does let coaches come down out of the stands to talk to players during changeovers, something that was ushered in more than a decade ago — when Allaster was the CEO of the women's tour.

"Either have it everywhere or nowhere," 2016 U.S. Open runner-up Karolina Pliskova said, "but I prefer nowhere."

More AP Tennis: <https://www.apnews.com/apf-Tennis> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Sports](https://twitter.com/AP_Sports)

## **Powell may signal future rate cuts, but would they matter?**

**By MARTIN CRUTSINGER AP Economics Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The economy is slowing, the trade war is raging and the president is repeatedly attacking.

Under the glare of a spotlight, Chairman Jerome Powell may signal Friday what the Federal Reserve will do — or can do — to strengthen the economy and restore confidence at a time of nagging uncertainties and global weaknesses.

Powell will give the keynote speech to an annual gathering of global central bankers in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. It comes at a time of concern that the risk of a recession over the next year or two is rising, in part because of Trump's aggressive use of tariffs against China and other key trading partners. The financial markets will be hoping for a clear sign of forthcoming Fed interest rate cuts.

Investors have already baked in the expectation that the Fed will cut its benchmark short-term rate next month for the second time this year. The intent would be to encourage borrowing and spending by consumers and businesses.

The big question, though, is this: Would a Fed rate cut — or even multiple rate cuts over the next several months — really matter? Borrowing rates are already historically low. Few analysts think that reducing them a bit further would do much to revive the economy's areas of weakness — from sluggish factories to a tepid housing market to anxious consumers to uncertainty among companies about how to respond to Trump's mercurial trade policies.

On top of all that, the global economy may be edging toward recession, and some economists fear an eventual spillover into the United States. Even though the Fed might not be equipped to energize U.S. growth at this point, most economists see few alternative solutions at a time when Congress seems disinclined to take any action.

At its meeting last month, the Fed cut its key rate by a modest quarter-point for the first time in a decade to try to counter Trump's trade wars, chronically low inflation and global weakness. It left open the possibility of future rate cuts, though perhaps not as many as Wall Street had hoped for. At a news conference, Powell characterized the move as a "mid-course correction" and struggled to articulate the Fed's strategy and what might prompt future rate cuts.

Will Powell offer a clearer message Friday? Few are confident that he will, in part because the chairman lacks unanimity within the Fed's policymaking committee that rate cuts are needed now. Last month, two committee members dissented from the decision to cut rates.

"I am expecting he will cautiously hint at another quarter point cut, but he doesn't have everyone on board," said Diane Swonk, chief economist at the accounting firm Grant Thornton.

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, suggested that if Powell were to signal the likelihood of multiple rate cuts, he might actually weaken consumer and business confidence because fears could spread that the economy could be on the brink of recession.

"But at this point, I think he will want to err on the side of arguing that more rate cuts seem likely, just because the economy is slowing, and he doesn't want to tip the economy over into a recession," Zandi said.

The CME Group, which tracks investor bets on central bank policy, is projecting a strong likelihood that the Fed will cut rates by a quarter-point next month and then twice more this year.

Multiple rate cuts are exactly what Trump has demanded of Powell's Fed, publicly and vociferously, for months. The president has blamed the Fed's four rate hikes in 2018 as a major reason why the U.S. economy is slowing. This week, Trump told reporters that the Fed should cut rates by at least a full percentage point in coming months.

"If the Fed would do its job, you would see a burst of growth like you have never seen before," he told

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reporters Tuesday. And on Wednesday, Trump complained that "if Powell were smart" he would lower rates.

Trump's incessant criticism of the Powell Fed has raised concern that he will undermine confidence in the central bank's political independence, which is seen as vital to its role in the economy.

Sung Won Sohn, business economist at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, said he wouldn't be surprised if Powell offers no hints Friday about further rate cuts, preferring to send a message that the Fed "will not be pushed around by the White House."

Another reason for Powell to avoid going too far to signal further cuts is that with rates already low, the Fed has to take care not to disarm itself of ammunition it would need if the economy did appear to be sliding into recession.

"It would be almost dangerous for him to signal more rate cuts are coming, given the fact that he has precious little ammunition left," Sohn said.

The more prudent approach, Sohn suggested, would be for the Fed to hold off on further rate cuts in case the trade war with China worsens, Britain's planned exit from the European Union goes badly or U.S. economic growth stalls.

Still, whatever signal Powell sends or doesn't send, most Fed watchers foresee further rate cuts.

"Powell is operating under the belief that the fundamentals of the economy are still in good shape, with unemployment at record lows and consumer spending still strong," said David Jones, an economist and author of several books on the Fed. "But given the volatility we have seen in financial markets, the Fed needs to be providing insurance policies in the form of further rate cuts."

Brian Bethune, an economics lecturer at Tufts University, said a key factor weighing on the Fed will be global economic weakness, with China slowing and growth in Germany, Europe's biggest economy, turning negative.

With other central banks cutting rates and considering other forms of stimulus, Bethune said the Fed needs to be concerned that comparatively high U.S. rates could cause the dollar's value to rise and thereby hurt American exporters.

"The Fed can't afford to be complacent," Bethune said.. "There are too many problems in other parts of the world."

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Aug. 22, the 234th day of 2019. There are 131 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 22, 1851, the schooner America outraced more than a dozen British vessels off the English coast to win a trophy that came to be known as the America's Cup.

On this date:

In 1787, inventor John Fitch demonstrated his steamboat on the Delaware River to delegates from the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia.

In 1910, Japan annexed Korea, which remained under Japanese control until the end of World War II.

In 1932, the British Broadcasting Corp. conducted its first experimental television broadcast, using a 30-line mechanical system.

In 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Vice President Richard Nixon were nominated for second terms in office by the Republican National Convention in San Francisco.

In 1972, President Richard Nixon was nominated for a second term of office by the Republican National Convention in Miami Beach.

In 1978, President Jomo Kenyatta, a leading figure in Kenya's struggle for independence, died; Vice President Daniel arap Moi was sworn in as acting president.

In 1986, Kerr-McGee Corp. agreed to pay the estate of the late Karen Silkwood \$1.38 million, settling



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a 10-year-old nuclear contamination lawsuit. The Rob Reiner coming-of-age film "Stand By Me" was put into wide release by Columbia Pictures.

In 1989, Black Panthers co-founder Huey P. Newton was shot to death in Oakland, California. (Gunman Tyrone Robinson was later sentenced to 32 years to life in prison.)

In 1992, on the second day of the Ruby Ridge siege in Idaho, an FBI sharpshooter killed Vicki Weaver, the wife of white separatist Randy Weaver (the sharpshooter later said he was targeting the couple's friend Kevin Harris, and didn't see Vicki Weaver).

In 1996, President Bill Clinton signed welfare legislation ending guaranteed cash payments to the poor and demanding work from recipients.

In 2003, Alabama's chief justice, Roy Moore, was suspended for his refusal to obey a federal court order to remove his Ten Commandments monument from the rotunda of his courthouse. Texas Gov. Rick Perry pardoned 35 people arrested in the 1999 Tulia drug busts and convicted on the testimony of a lone undercover agent. (The agent, Tom Coleman, was later found guilty of aggravated perjury and sentenced to 10 years' probation.)

In 2004, as shocked spectators watched, armed thieves stole one of four versions of the Edvard Munch masterpiece "The Scream" and a second Munch painting, "Madonna," from the Munch museum in Oslo, Norway. (The paintings, visibly damaged, were recovered in Aug. 2006; three men were convicted in connection with the theft and sentenced to prison.)

Ten years ago: Dozens of wildfires broke out across Greece, torching olive groves, cutting off villages and sending residents fleeing as one of the largest blazes swept perilously close to the capital's northern suburbs.

Five years ago: Tensions between Russia and Ukraine escalated sharply as Moscow sent more than 130 trucks rolling across the border in what it said was a mission to deliver humanitarian aid. The United Nations reported the death toll from three years of Syria's civil war had risen to more than 191,000 people. Gunmen attacked a Sunni mosque in Iraq during Friday prayers and killed at least 64 people.

One year ago: The bull market in U.S. stocks became the longest one on record; it had been 3,453 days since the S&P 500 index had seen a drop of 20 percent or more. Ohio State suspended football coach Urban Meyer for three games; investigators found that Meyer had protected an assistant coach for years through domestic violence allegations, a drug problem and poor job performance. President Donald Trump accused his former lawyer, Michael Cohen, of making up stories in order to get a deal from federal prosecutors. A Democratic Party official said an attempt to break into the party's massive voter database had been thwarted.

Today's Birthdays: Broadcast journalist Morton Dean is 84. Author Annie Proulx is 84. Baseball Hall of Famer Carl Yastrzemski is 80. Actress Valerie Harper is 80. Pro Football Hall of Fame coach Bill Parcells is 78. Writer-producer David Chase is 74. CBS newsman Steve Kroft is 74. Actress Cindy Williams is 72. Pop musician David Marks is 71. International Swimming Hall of Famer Diana Nyad (NY'-ad) is 70. Baseball Hall of Famer Paul Molitor is 63. Rock musician Vernon Reid is 61. Country singer Ricky Lynn Gregg is 60. Country singer Collin Raye is 59. Actress Regina Taylor is 59. Rock singer Roland Orzabal (Tears For Fears) is 58. Rock musician Debbi Peterson (The Bangles) is 58. Rock musician Gary Lee Conner (Screaming Trees) is 57. Singer Tori Amos is 56. Country singer Mila Mason is 56. Rhythm-and-blues musician James DeBarge is 56. International Tennis Hall of Famer Mats Wilander is 55. Actress Brooke Dillman is 53. Rap-er GZA/The Genius is 53. Actor Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje is 52. Actor Ty Burrell is 52. Celebrity chef Giada DeLaurentiis is 49. Actress Melinda Page Hamilton is 48. Actor Rick Yune is 48. Rock musician Paul Doucette (Matchbox Twenty) is 47. Rap-reggae singer Beenie Man is 46. Singer Howie Dorough (Backstreet Boys) is 46. Comedian-actress Kristen Wiig is 46. Actress Jenna Leigh Green is 45. Rock musician Bo Koster is 45. Rock musician Dean Back (Theory of a Deadman) is 44. Talk show host James Corden is 41. Rock musician Jeff Stinco (Simple Plan) is 41. Actor Brandon Adams is 40. Actress Aya Sumika is 39. Actor Ari Stidham is 27.

Thought for Today: "There are mighty few people who think what they think they think." — Robert Henri, American artist (1865-1929).