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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.



Superintendent Joe Schwan runs the scoreboard at the soccer games on Friday in Groton. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

Soccer: Girls Varsity Game vs St. Thomas More (Home)

Aug 24 at 11:00 AM

Groton Area High School , Groton Soccer Complex

Soccer: Boys Varsity Game vs St. Thomas More (Home)

Aug 24 at 1:00 PM

Groton Area High School , Groton Soccer Complex

Golf: Boys Varsity Meet vs Aberdeen Roncalli (Away)

Aug 26 at 10:00 AM

Aberdeen Roncalli High School

Type: nonconference Opponent: Aberdeen Roncalli

Comments: Moccasin Creek Country Club

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The Winning Score!

It almost looks like Piet Solling is pointing for the ball to go in the net. It was the play in the right photo that led to a penalty and Solling had the shot for the penalty kick. He made the shot and it was the the only goal scored in the game as Groton defeated Belle Fourche, 1-0. The penalty kick happened with about 15 minutes left in the game. The Tigers played an aggressive hard fought game with great defense and teamwork! Grady O'Neill had some great saves at Goal. The win propels Groton to a 2-0 record and will host St. Thomas More at 1 p.m. today. (Photos by Paul Kosel)



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Jackson Cogley



Dragr Monson



Grady O'Neill

Soccer Photos by Paul Kosel

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Garret Schroeder



Anthony Schinkel



Cade Guthmiller

Soccer Photos by Paul Kosel

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Kenzie McInerney



Trista Keith



#13 Allyssa Locke #23 Brooklyn Gilbert



Laila Roberts

Soccer Photos by Paul Kosel

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Kaylin Kucker



Coach Chris Kucker and Carly Guthmiller

Belle Fourche wins girls game

Belle Fourche won the girls soccer game Friday in Groton, 2-1. Carly Guthmiller drew a penalty in the box which resulted in Kenzie McInerney scoring Groton's lone goal on a penalty kick. The Tigers had about 16 opportunities to score.

Soccer Photos by Paul Kosel



Regan Leicht

After the fire the world saved Notre Dame -- what about the Amazon?

By Kathleen Rogers, President of Earth Day Network

It's another year marked by fire. In April, billions of hearts broke as flames engulfed one of the world's most awe-inspiring churches, Paris's Notre Dame Cathedral.

Like all great tragedies, what gave the cathedral so much majesty was also what fueled its downfall. More than 5,000 old-growth oak trees make up the beams, trusses and reinforcements of the 850-year old French Gothic cathedral. The cathedral comprises so much timber that its frame was given a romantic name over the centuries: "la forêt," or the forest.

Long before the fire was extinguished, people and organizations from around the world rushed to donate. In the day and a half following the fire, more than \$1 billion dollars was pledged to restore Notre Dame to its former glory.

Today, we face the devastation of another forest: The Amazon. The Amazon rainforest is on fire, and the devastation can be seen from space. Brazil's space research center has detected more than 72,000 fires alone so far this year — an 83% increase over the same period in 2018, and nearly 10,000 new forest fires since last week.

The Amazon is home to half of the world's tropic forests and more than two million animal and plant species. As the world's largest land carbon sink, the Amazon is one of the world's most powerful tools in fighting climate change. But when trees burn, they release their stored carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, turning them from a major carbon sink to a major carbon source.

In other words, if fires like this one continue, the Amazon won't slow global warming — it will contribute to it.

Many of these fires can be attributed to one source: illegal land clearing for cattle ranching, the leading cause of deforestation in the Amazon. Climate change exasperates the problem, creating drier, warmer environments for trees to catch fire. Meanwhile, illegal infrastructure projects across the rainforest are accommodating other illegal activities like mining, logging and agriculture. And Brazil's government, which has often turned a blind eye to illegal fires and development, now brazenly proclaims these activities, legal or not, to be in the best interests of Brazil.

No one can deny the history and significance of Notre Dame, a testament to human ingenuity and creativity. Why then have we been slow to act with the same fervor and emotion when our Earth's largest, most diverse rainforest is engulfed in flames?

The Brazilian government's response may have set the tone. Brazil has rejected foreign assistance to fight these fires, and Jair Bolsonaro, Brazil's development-at-any-cost president, has declared the Amazon open for business. Within a few short months of his election, deforestation jumped 400 percent.

Exporting cattle is only expected to increase for Brazil, especially after it's cleared to send beef to the U.S. Exports of soy, minerals and oil, much of which come from the Amazon, are also increasing. Economically, it seems Bolsonaro has nothing to worry about.

So what can be done, then, in the face of inaction or even national acquiescence?

In short, the Amazon needs a united response to pressure action, as unified and urgent as the one seen for Notre Dame.

It starts with global leadership in response to Bolsonaro's administration. So far, that response has come from Pope Francis, who in October will host the Synod of Bishops, a gathering of religious leaders, to discuss the Amazon's biodiversity and threats. Pressure from Brazil's 120 million Catholics, more than any



Kathleen Rogers

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other country in the world, could be a powerful political tool in compelling change.

In addition to the Pope's efforts, major donor countries, such as Norway, Germany and others, should demand more accountability from Bolonsaro in exchange for their millions in conservation and development funding.

We need funding and international support and protection for indigenous and local communities, along with on-the-ground civil society organizations all of which are under serious physical threat every day by criminals who appropriate land and murder activists. Playing a critical role is consumers' demand to know where their food is sourced, as outlined in arecent U.N. climate report.

But above all, we need united multilateral pressure to drive action. Only with international cooperation and strong government action can we create the mechanisms to protect the rainforests and the communities that sustain them.

The world united to save la forêt. Now, we must act boldly to save our rainforest.

In the face of these fires, the world can't afford anything else.

**AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
BROWN COUNTY COMMISSION
COMMISSIONER'S CHAMBERS, COURTHOUSE ANNEX
25 MARKET STREET, ABERDEEN SD**

**TUESDAY
AUGUST 27, 2019**

8:45a.m. - 8:50a.m. – Race Track Bid Award

8:50a.m – 8:55a.m. – Patricia Kendall, DPM Director – 2020 Budget

8:55a.m. – 9:10a.m. – Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent – R-O-W for Northern Valley (2), Northern Electric (1), East River Electric (1); Discuss Volkswagen Grant; Project Update; Set Time & Date for 5 year plan

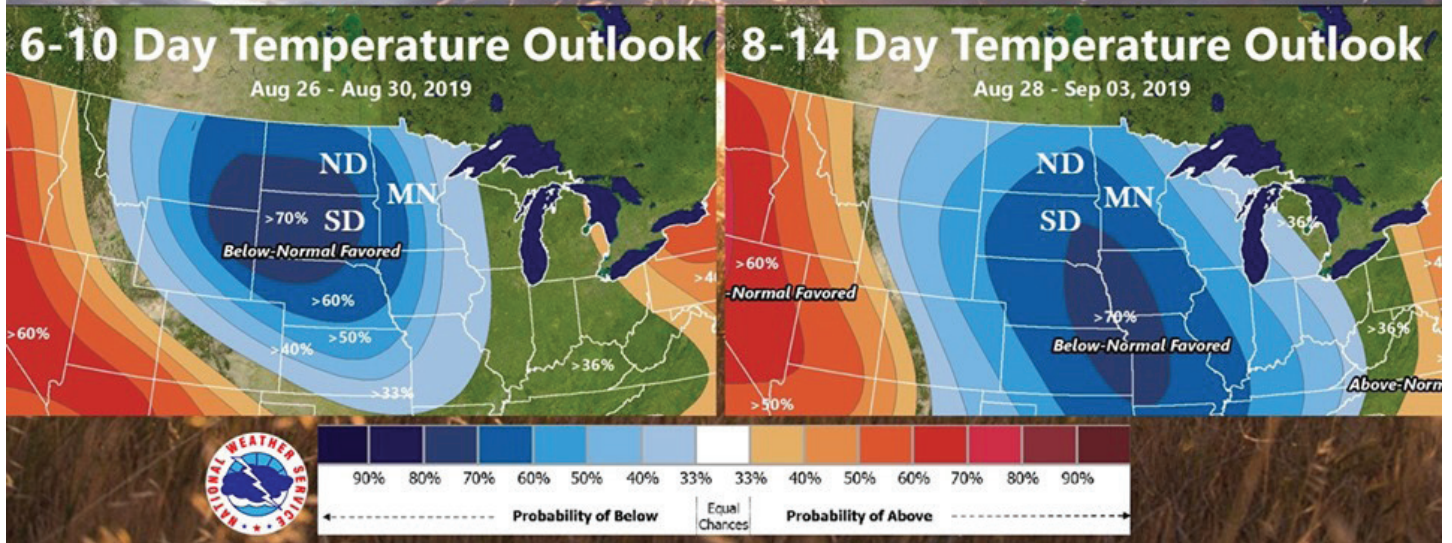
9:10a.m. – 9:15a.m. - Judy Dosch, Building Superintendent – Annex Basement Project and DPM LED Lighting Upgrade

- Approve General Meeting Minutes from August 20, 2019.
- Claims
- HR Report
- Fair Contracts
- Auditor's Report of Accounts
- Leases
- Claim Assignment
- Set public hearing and authorize advertising for Special Revenue Fund for JDAI Grant
- Set hearing date and authorize advertising Rezone Ordinances 145, 146 and 147
- Plats
- Disinterment Permit

Any other matters to come before the Commission for discussion

Below average temps likely to continue...

...on a whole through the rest of the month and into September across the Northern Plains. Perhaps even through mid-September. Meanwhile, no large signal for above or below average precipitation exists at this time. Find your latest outlooks from the Climate Prediction Center at www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov



Phase 2B Work To Begin on Highway 212 in Watertown

WATERTOWN, S.D. – Reede Construction will move into phase 2B of the Highway 212 project in Watertown on or before Wednesday, Aug. 28.

Traffic will be re-routed to the newly constructed eastbound lanes in order to begin work on the westbound lanes of Highway 212.

Highway 212 will remain closed on the Phase 1 portion of the project, which includes work on the new structure over the Big Sioux River. The signed car detour will remain in place along Broadway and 4th Avenue south. The signed truck detour will remain in place along the south connector between Highway 20 and 29th Street east.

The \$10.3 million project will reconstruct one mile of Highway 212 from Highway 20 to Highway 81 and includes utility work, grading, storm sewer, curb and gutter, sidewalk, structure, concrete paving, lighting and signal upgrades.

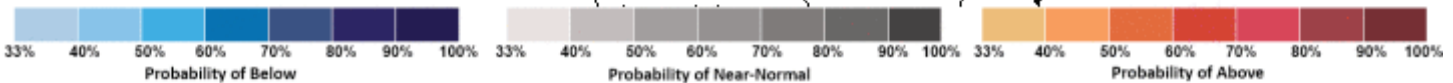
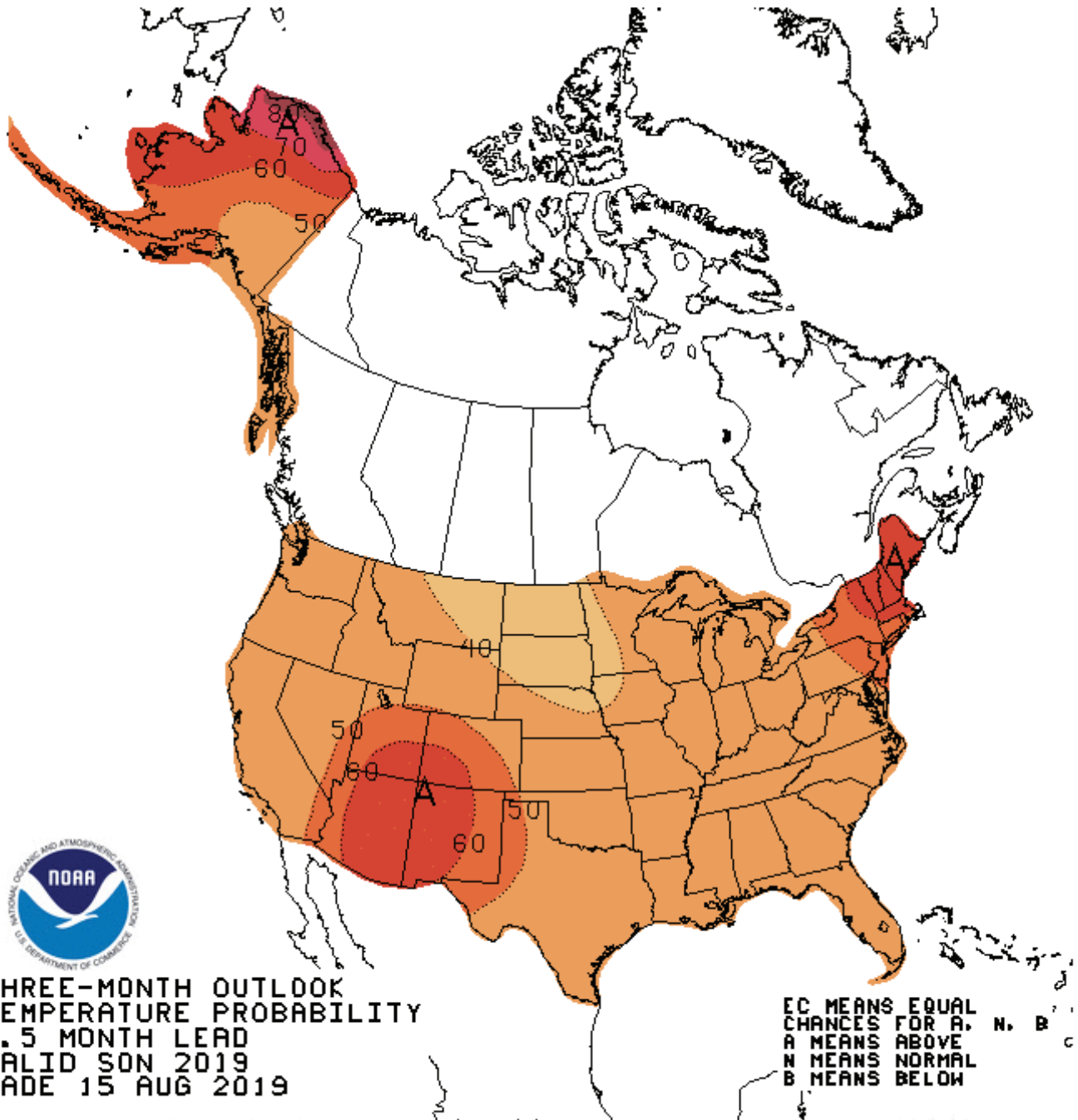
Public meetings for the project continue to be held Thursdays at 10 a.m. at the Watertown Police Department located on North Maple Street in Watertown. These meetings will help the public to stay up-to-date on project timing and answer questions.

Thru truck traffic is being advised to take an alternate route due to anticipated traffic volumes, narrowed lanes, and the detour on city streets. All local traffic should make sure to slow down, be prepared to stop and watch for turning vehicles.

The overall completion date for the project is set for Oct. 25, 2019.

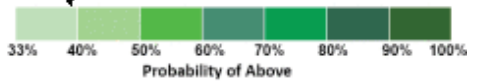
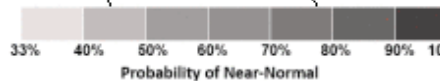
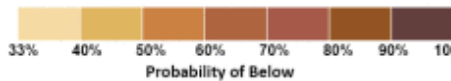
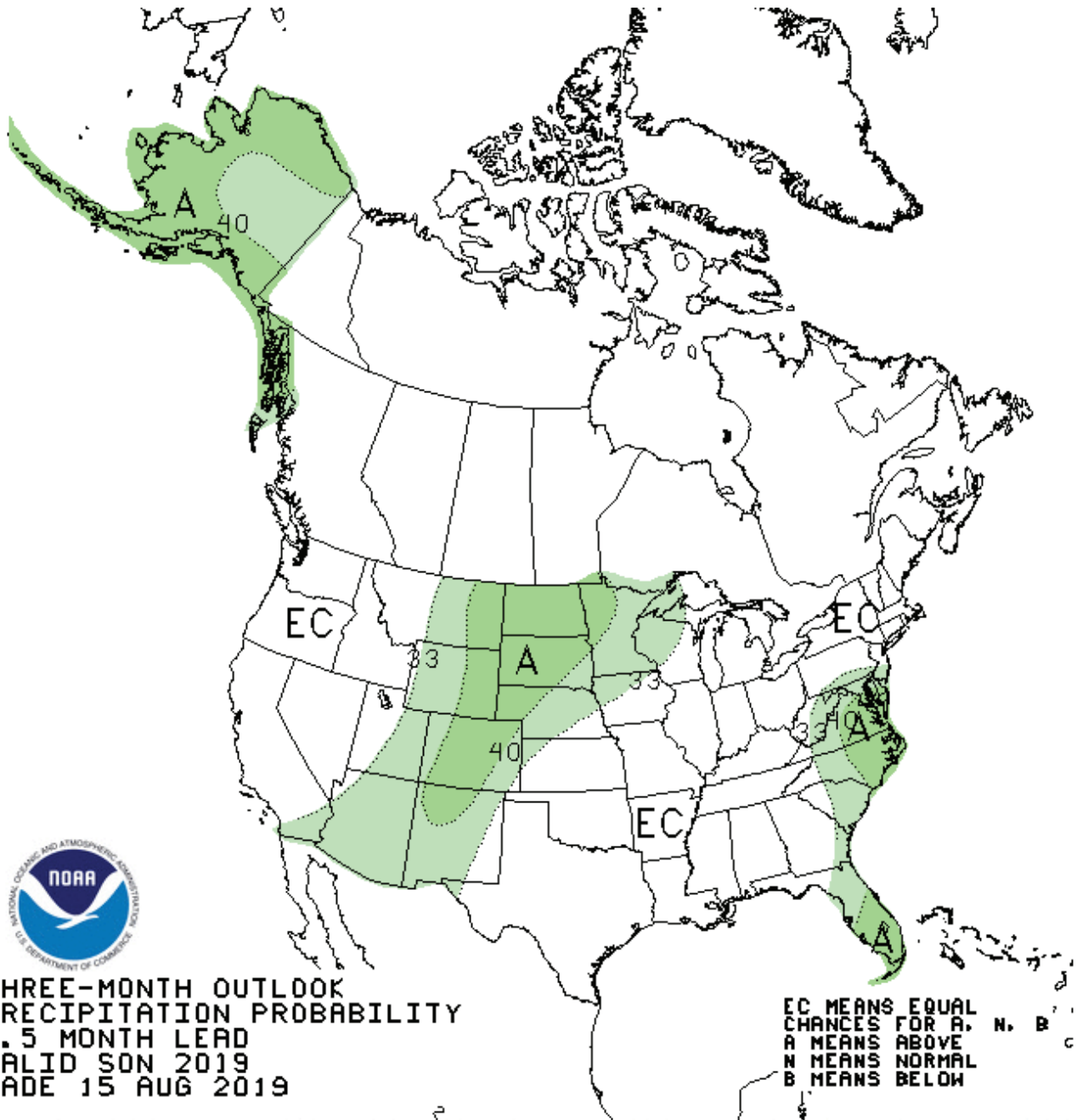
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We need our farmers.

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

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

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

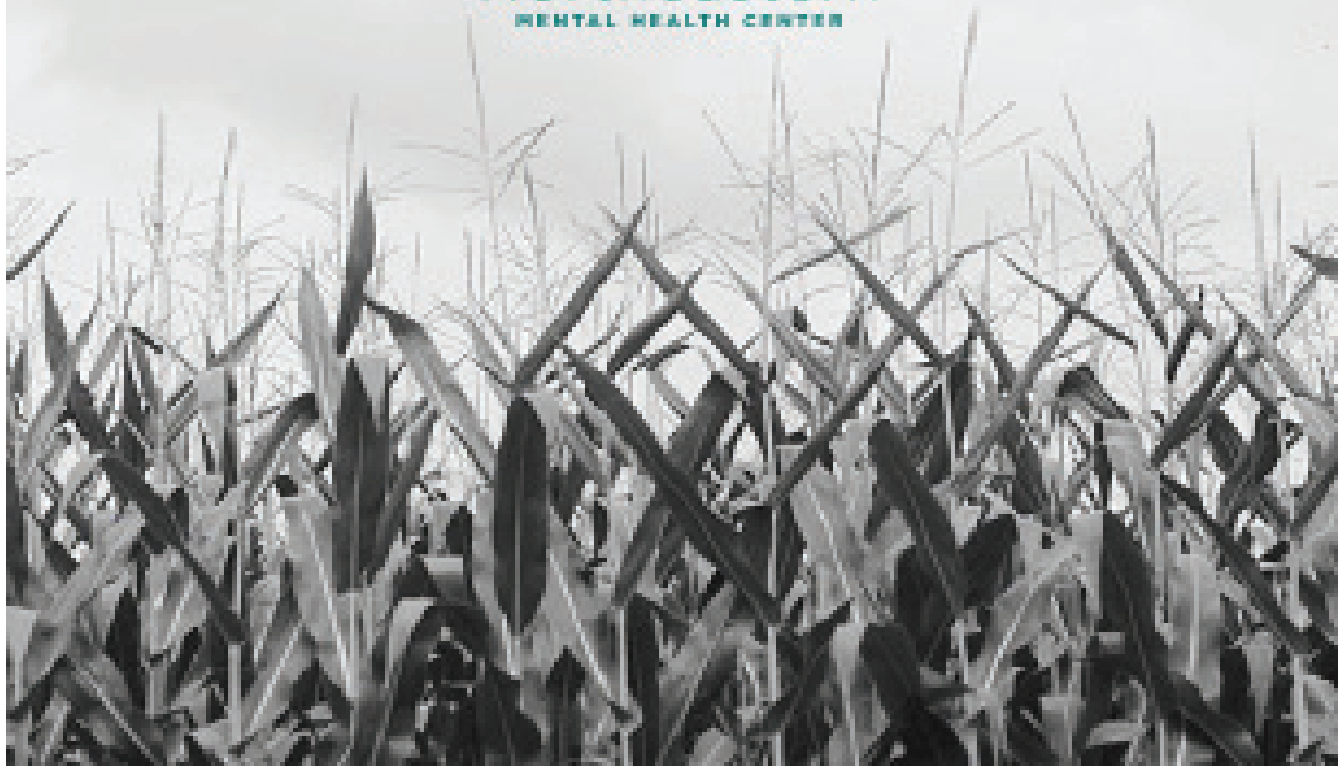
We're here to help.

Call 605-225-1010 for more information.

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



Northeastern
MENTAL HEALTH CENTER





*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



Partly Sunny
and Breezy

High: 79 °F

Tonight



Mostly Cloudy
and Breezy
then Chance
T-storms

Low: 64 °F

Sunday



Chance
T-storms

High: 77 °F

Sunday
Night



T-storms



Low: 61 °F


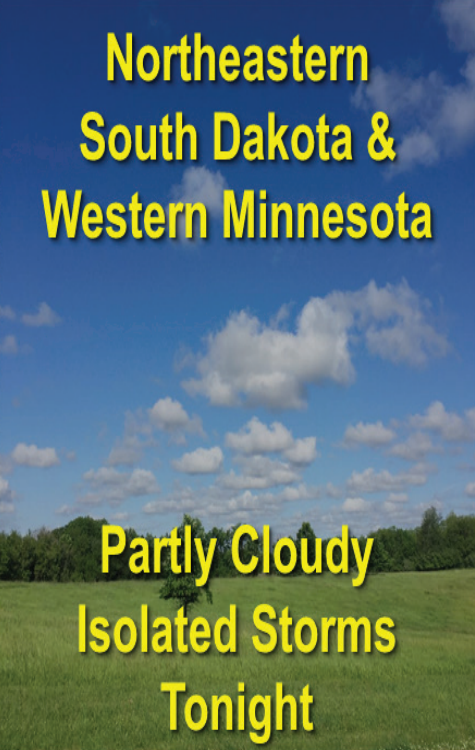
Monday





Mostly Sunny

High: 73 °F

 **Breezy – Warm – Humid Today** 

<p>Central South Dakota</p>  <p>Mostly Cloudy With Isolated Thunderstorms</p>	<p>Northeastern South Dakota & Western Minnesota</p>  <p>Partly Cloudy Isolated Storms Tonight</p>
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 National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD 

Published on: 08/24/2019 at 1:16AM

A slow moving system will keep us breezy warm and humid today. Weak, isolated storms are possible across western and central South Dakota, with more scattered weak storms possible tonight - but across eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota. The risk for severe weather and heavy rain has shifted to late Sunday into early Monday morning. Temps today will top out in the 70s and low 80s.

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Today in Weather History

August 24, 1960: A man was injured when a barn was blown over by an F2 tornado that touched down near Hayes, in Stanley County. Hail, up to golf ball size accompanied the storm as well as about three inches of rain, causing some damage to crops and a farmhouse. The sky color in a westerly direction shortly before the tornado hit was described as a distinct shade of green. Evidence suggests that the tornado may have touched down again in northeast Sully County, destroying a barn, a chicken coop, and haystacks on two farms. Also, precipitation more than 3 inches and locally 6 to 8 inches was accompanied by severe hail, causing damage to buildings and crops. Hail damage was most substantial in Stanly County. The wind carried away an estimated 400 tons of baled hay in Haakon County. A measured rainfall amount of 5.1 inches in less than six hours occurred in Onida, causing extensive flooding of basements, streets, and cropland. Additional rainfall amounts include 5.58 inches 4 NW of Onida, 4.50 inches 23 N of Highmore, 3.05 inches 2N of Onaka, 3.42 inches in Clear Lake, 3.11 inches in Miller, 3.02 inches in Eureka, 2.55 inches 1 NW of Faulkton, 2.40 inches in Gettysburg, 2.22 inches in Blunt, 2.20 inches at Oahe Dam, and 2.16 inches in Clark.

August 24, 1998: A line of severe thunderstorms raced southeast across Sully, Hyde, and Hand counties during the morning hours, producing destructive winds up to 100 mph and hail up to the size of baseballs. The winds and hail damaged or destroyed a wide swath of sunflowers and corn. Four power poles south of Highmore on Highway 47 were snapped off. The school in Highmore had twenty screens shredded by the hail and the winds. On a farm northeast of Onida, a grain bin was blown over a distance of 200 yards.

August 24, 2006: Up to 4.25" diameter hail and 9 tornadoes developed across central and northeastern South Dakota between 4:30 pm and 8:00 pm, two of which were rated as F3 intensity. The first of these F3 tornadoes developed in McPherson County west of Hillsview at 5:03 pm, and tracked 24.5 miles southeast to just north of Hosmer before lifting at 5:30 pm. Numerous livestock and deer were killed. Devastating damage was observed to farm equipment, homes, barns, grain bins, and vehicles. A well-anchored mobile home was completely destroyed. Debris from each site was observed up to 3 miles away. One person received minor scrapes and bruises. The second F3 tornado of the event was spawned by a long-track supercell, and this supercell produced the other 7 tornadoes of the day (two F2, an F1, and four F0 roughly from Onida to De Smet). It touched down just south of Wessington in Beadle County at 6:37 pm, and tracked 19.5 miles southeast to just southwest of Huron before lifting at 7:18 pm. This tornado destroyed 8 houses and numerous farm buildings and damaged at least 7 other houses. Five large high-voltage transmission towers were blown down about 3 miles southeast of Wessington. A woman was cut on the neck at a farm southwest of Wolsey where the house and all other buildings were destroyed (non-life threatening). One other injury occurred southeast of Wolsey.

79: Stratovolcano, Mount Vesuvius erupted on this day, burying the Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the History Channel.

1456: Machiavelli wrote, "On the 24th of August, about an hour before day-break there arose from the Adriatic near Ancona, a whirlwind, which crossing Italy from east to west, again reached the sea near Pisa, accompanied by thick clouds, and the most intense and impenetrable darkness." Click [HERE](#) to read this book.

1992: Hurricane Andrew made landfall in southern Florida at 4:30 AM on this day. The high winds caused catastrophic damage in Florida, with Miami-Dade County cities of Florida City, Homestead, and Cutler Ridge receiving the brunt of the storm. About 63,000 homes were destroyed, and over 101,000 others were damaged. This storm left roughly 175,000 people homeless. As many as 1.4 million people were left without electricity at the height of the storm. In the Everglades, 70,000 acres (280 km²) of trees were knocked down. Additionally, rainfall in Florida was substantial, peaking at 13.98 in (355 mm) in western Miami-Dade County. About \$25 billion in damage and 44 fatalities were reported in Florida.

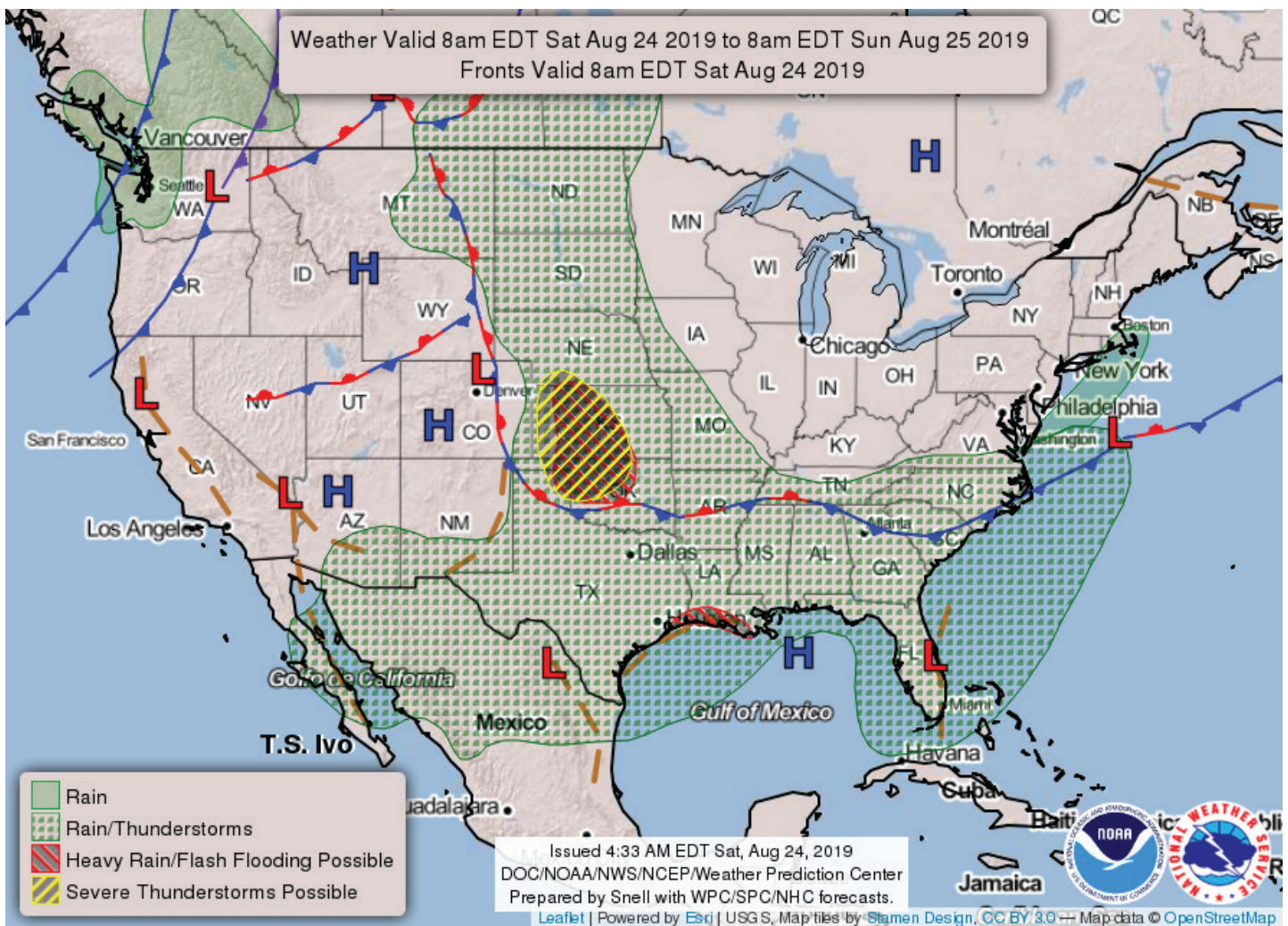
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 78 °F at 4:54 PM
Low Temp: 59 °F at 6:43 AM
Wind: 20 mph at 10:41 AM
Day Rain: 0.00

Record High: 103° in 1929
Record Low: 38° in 1934
Average High: 81°F
Average Low: 55°F
Average Precip in Aug.: 1.80
Precip to date in Aug.: 2.98
Average Precip to date: 15.66
Precip Year to Date: 19.57
Sunset Tonight: 8:26 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:46 a.m.



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UNSELFISH SERVICE

Where do service and charity end? Certainly, not in the home. Selfish homes produce selfish children and Gods Kingdom and Gods world suffers. What can be done to change this condition?

She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.

There is an obvious route that travels from the head to the heart to the hands. Gods Word enters our lives through our head. We hear the Word preached and taught, and read and meditate on the Word each day. But it must not stop there. It must reach into our hearts - the very center of our lives, and then move outward through our hands in service and charity to others. Its the head, heart, hands conception and connection.

What is in our hearts always comes out in our lives. Nobel character is of little good if character is an end in itself. In fact, the sign of our character is seen in what we do in our homes first and then Gods world. One pastor said, A saving faith is always seen in serving others. If we are saved, we will serve.

There can be little doubt that our love for God is always seen in our attitude and actions toward those in need. Proverbs contain many warnings about those who refuse to be charitable, and in fact, reminds us that giving to the poor is the same as lending to God.

Open arms and extended hands, however, is much more than giving things. It is surrendering ones self to serve. It includes time, talents and teaching Gods way to others.

Prayer: Father, we owe so much to others because of what You have given us. May we all serve sacrificially by following the example of Your Son, our Savior! In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 31:20 She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.

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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

Wisconsin leads nation in family farm bankruptcies

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Wisconsin continues to top the nation in family farm bankruptcies.

The American Farm Bureau Federation says that July 2018 through June 2019, Wisconsin farmers filed 45 Chapter 12 bankruptcies. Data show the total was five fewer than the previous 12-month period but still No. 1 in the nation.

In Minnesota, bankruptcy filings increased by 11, to 31.

North Dakota had nine filings, up one from the previous period. South Dakota increased by 12, to 13.

The Journal Sentinel reports that with depressed milk prices besetting Wisconsin's thousands of dairy operations, the state has led the country in farm bankruptcies in recent years.

Ronald Wirtz, regional outreach director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, also has pointed to Wisconsin's smaller average farm size as a factor.

, according to the Farm Bureau, which used U.S. Courts data to compile the report.

From July 2018 through June 2019, Wisconsin farmers filed 45 bankruptcies under Chapter 12, a section of the U.S. bankruptcy code that provides financially troubled family farmers with a streamlined path to repay all or part of their debts.

The Wisconsin total was five fewer than the previous 12-month period, according to the Farm Bureau, which used U.S. Courts data to compile the report.

Kansas, meanwhile, saw Chapter 12 filings increase by 13, to 39. In Minnesota, filings increased by 11, to 31.

With depressed milk prices besetting Wisconsin's thousands of dairy operations, the state has led the country in farm bankruptcies in recent years. Ronald Wirtz, regional outreach director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, also has pointed to Wisconsin's smaller average farm size as a factor.

Wisconsin also has lots of farms — the 11th highest total in the nation, data from the 2017 U.S. Census of Agriculture shows. Even accounting for the relatively large number of farms here, however, Wisconsin's farm bankruptcy rate is among the highest in the country.

Information from: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, <http://www.jsonline.com>

Mining genealogical gems in South Dakota city

By JACI CONRAD PEARSON *Black Hills Pioneer*

DEADWOOD, S.D. (AP) — Soon, people from around the world will be able to access some of Deadwood's most telling genealogical gems.

The city commission recently granted permission to allow the city archives to enter into contract with Ferber Engineering Smart Software Solutions, Inc., to develop an online search engine on the city of Deadwood's website in the amount of \$12,800 for phase one of the project, to be paid from the city archives budget.

Historic Preservation Officer Kevin Kuchenbecker said city officials hope to have the database fully operational and available to the public in the next six to nine months, the *Black Hills Pioneer* reported.

"The city of Deadwood's preservation office and city archives, for more than a decade, have been indexing and digitizing the ledgers that we have in our collection, which date from the 1870s to the 1970s," Kuchenbecker said. "From that, we've developed a database of over 100,000 surnames. However, at this time, they are not available to the general public. This first phase of the project will allow our researchers, or anyone interested in genealogic or Deadwood to search surnames, which will expedite staff's time in pulling that information and making it available. In the future, we will hopefully not only be able to only do online search for surnames but also be able pull the document itself at any computer, tablet, or phone and

download it, but at this point, we will make the 23 tables combined into one searchable database online.” The search engine will consist of 23 tables that originated from the city’s collection of Lawrence County ledgers.

“In the early 1990s, the Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission received 254 Lawrence County ledgers dating from the 1870s to the 1970s. In the 2000s, city archival staff hired an independent contractor (Donald Toms) to transcribe the contents of these ledgers and enter them into a Microsoft Access database,” Kuchenbecker said. “To date, there are 23 Microsoft Access tables that contain approximately 100,000 surnames. The city archives would like to make these records available to the public.”

City officials involved in the development of the database envision the ability for users to go to a webpage, search by name, and get a list of all the places that name shows up in the ledger database. The primary seekers of this data tend to be genealogists and historians performing historical research. Currently, the city receives several requests for this information and must manually search them out.

The database will provide a place that users can get a summary list of the documents available, thereby saving a significant amount of staff time.

Initially, the list of ledgers the name appears in will be emailed to city staff who will then pull the information. At some point down the road and depending on cost, the historic preservation office would also like to build capability into the system so the user can look at the list, pay, and download documents of interest in digital form.

“It just adds to the ability for individuals to access Deadwood’s history from around the world on the Internet. Through our online GIS, individuals are currently able to pull up Sanborn Fire Insurance maps and research those specific eight from 1885-1948. This is just a continuation of digitization and making that available for the public.”

The Sanborn Fire Insurance maps can be accessed by going to GIS.cityofdeadwood.com/portal/home.

Information from: Black Hills Pioneer, <http://www.bhpioneer.com>

Girl Scout restores wagon at Centennial Village

By KATHERINE GRANDSTRAND Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Bored is not a word you’re going to hear from Jessalyn Fischer.

The incoming Simmons Middle School eighth-grader is a dancer, a BMX racer and an active Girl Scout.

Those who visit Centennial Village can notice her handiwork as a scout. She restored one of the wagons at the east of the grounds for her Silver Project last year as a Cadet.

“We had to figure out something that we were passionate about and find a problem,” Jessalyn said. “I figured out that this wagon and the two over there were not safe, and I had seen someone climb on them so I decided that I should try to figure out a way for them to be safer.”

The wood on the old luggage cart was rotting, she said.

The project started with a measuring tape — Jessalyn said she needed to know the size of her replacement boards — and then ripping out all of the old wood. Measurements in hand, a trip to Menards was in order.

“She did it all by herself,” said Heidi Fischer, Jessalyn’s mom. “I did not help her at Menards or anything. I made her do it.”

An associate at Menards helped her pick out green treated wood, so it will last longer than the boards she tore off, Jessalyn said.

“We just went to Menards, went up to that counter thing and were like, ‘Yo, what do we get, because I don’t know what I’m doing,’” she said. “And then they were really helpful figuring out what I needed.”

They picked a teal and red-orange for stain and paint on the wagon, so it stands out among the weathered buildings at Centennial Village, which is in the southeast corner of the fairgrounds.

The whole project was completed on site, Jessalyn said.

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"And then our power tools died, so then we did everything by hand," she said. "It was fun. I enjoy doing things by hand."

Outside of scouts, Jessalyn said she does a lot of volunteering at Centennial Village. She was helping clean up before the fair. She has plans to restore a similar, smaller wagon at the village yet this year.

"I learned so much doing this," Jessalyn said.

When she's not busy with scouting endeavors, Jessalyn said she's dancing and riding BMX. She'll be on the high school dance team this year, and she's ranked No. 1 in the state in BMX in her age group right now. She's also involved in theater and track and field at Simmons.

She's been involved with Girl Scouts since kindergarten, Aberdeen American News reported.

"It's helped me with a lot of stuff," Jessalyn said. "Money management, I can start a fire, I've met a lot of great people and cookies — cookies are awesome."

There are three levels of projects a Girl Scout can complete — bronze, which is a service project done as a troupe; silver, which has to solve a problem and can be done in a small group; and gold, which has to be done alone and be sustainable, meaning someone else could take it over, Jessalyn said.

"I'm going to go for my gold award," she said. "I can get that when I'm a (high school) freshman."

She enjoys pastimes like woodworking that are traditionally thought of as masculine.

"If I can do it, anyone else can do it," Jessalyn said.



In an August 13, 2019 photo, Jessalyn Fischer talks about how she refurbished a wagon on display at Centennial Village on the Brown County Fairgrounds in Aberdeen. Fischer took on the project for her Girl Scout Silver Award. (John Davis/

Aberdeen American News via AP)

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

Friday's Scores By The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL

Aberdeen Roncalli 26, Miller/Highmore-Harrold 0

Alcester-Hudson 44, Avon 0

Baltic 40, Elkton-Lake Benton 6

Bon Homme 18, Platte-Geddes 8

Bridgewater-Emery 49, Wagner 0

Burke 46, Lyman 8

Canistota 44, Chester 0

Chamberlain 26, Woonsocket/Wessington Springs/Sanborn Central 6

Colman-Egan 55, Centerville 0

Colome 22, Corsica/Stickney 18

DeSmet 34, Clark/Willow Lake 0

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Dell Rapids St. Mary 60, Estelline/Hendricks 18
Faith 50, Newell 0
Gregory 50, Gayville-Volin 0
Hamlin 44, Dakota Hills 16
Hanson 24, Menno/Marion 14
Howard 36, Castlewood 0
Ipswich/Edmunds Central 52, Potter County 28
Irene-Wakonda 39, Scotland 22
Kadoka Area 38, Rapid City Christian 0
Kimball/White Lake 44, Tripp-Delmont/Armour/Andes Central/Dakota Christian 6
Lead-Deadwood 39, Bennett County 0
Lemmon/McIntosh 52, Mott-Regent, N.D. 14
McCook Central/Montrose 39, Beresford 32
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 20, Elk Point-Jefferson 14
Northwestern 24, Sunshine Bible Academy 18
Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 32, Deubrook 14
Parker 28, Arlington 26
Parker 28, Arlington/Lake Preston 26
Philip 64, Bison 14
Sioux Valley 52, Redfield/Doland 36
Sisseton 34, Milbank 20
St. Thomas More 51, Hot Springs 0
Sully Buttes 42, Warner 14
Timber Lake 54, Dupree 0
Wall 29, Harding County 26
Webster 20, Garretson 0
White Lake 44, Tripp-Delmont/Armour 6
Winner 44, Stanley County 6
Wolsey-Wessington 62, Parkston 36

Some high school football scores provided by Scorestream.com, <https://scorestream.com/>

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

11-15-37-54-68, Mega Ball: 21

(eleven, fifteen, thirty-seven, fifty-four, sixty-eight; Mega Ball: twenty-one)

Estimated jackpot: \$90 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$50 million

2 South Dakota state prison inmates placed on escape status

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say two South Dakota state prison inmates are being sought after they left their community service job site in Pierre.

Prison officials say Tahnasha Stricker and Christy First In Trouble took a silver or gray Dodge Dakota pickup from the site. They have been placed on escape status.

The 31-year-old Stricker is serving a one-year sentence from Hughes County for unauthorized ingestion

of a controlled substance and a more than six-year sentence from Minnehaha County for possession of a controlled substance.

The 33-year-old First in Trouble is serving a two-year sentence for possession of a controlled substance and a two-year sentence for failure to appear, both from Pennington County. She also received a two-year sentence out of Mellette County for unauthorized ingestion of a controlled substance.

2 sex abuse charges added against former Pine Ridge doctor

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota authorities have filed additional child sexual abuse charges against a former Indian Health Services pediatrician.

Stanley Patrick Weber is awaiting trial in Rapid City on several charges alleging he sexually abused Native American children while a doctor on the Pine Ridge reservation.

A new indictment this week accuses Weber of improperly touching a child between 12 and 15 sometime between September 1998 and June 2005. A second count alleges a similar act between June 2003 and June 2004.

Weber was sentenced in January to 18 years in prison for similar crimes against two boys on the Black-foot Indian Reservation in Montana.

The Indian Health Service this year contracted for an independent review of how it addressed accusations against Weber. Two other inquiries are underway.

Western states oppose plan to charge for US reservoir water

By JAMES MacPHERSON Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Attorneys general from a dozen western states want the Trump administration to halt a proposal by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that they say usurps states' authority over their own water.

North Dakota Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem said the Water Supply Rule proposed in the waning days of the Obama administration could allow the Corps to charge for water drawn from reservoirs it manages.

Stenehjem and attorneys general from Idaho, Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming sent a letter Thursday to the Trump administration asking to withdraw the proposal, which has lingered for nearly three years.

Stenehjem said Friday he thought the proposal had languished but attorneys general recently learned that it was still being reviewed.

"They have continued with it stubbornly and we are worried these rules could be implemented," said Stenehjem, who is heading the effort. "The use and management of water that flows through states always has belonged to states. The Corps is clearly wrong and they need to take it back and undo it."

The Corps did not immediately respond Friday to telephone calls seeking comment.

The agency, in its request for comments on the proposal in December 2016, said the intent "is to enhance (the Corps') ability to cooperate with interested parties by facilitating water supply uses of reservoirs in a manner that is consistent with the authorized purposes of those reservoirs, and does not interfere with lawful uses of water under state law or other federal Law."

Stenehjem said the proposed rule has "implications for all states" but it would especially be harmful to the six reservoirs of the Upper Missouri River, including South Dakota's Lake Oahe and North Dakota's Lake Sakakawea, the biggest along the 2,341-mile river.

The Corps' proposal, he said, could require "municipal, industrial and domestic users" of water from the reservoirs to "sign a water supply contract and pay the Corps for the water."

In North Dakota, it would mean 75% of the Missouri River water could be subjected to "unlawful" fees, Stenehjem said.

Nebraska court upholds state's approval of pipeline path

By GRANT SCHULTE and MARGERY A. BECK Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska's highest court lifted one of the last major hurdles for the Keystone XL pipeline in the state on Friday when it rejected another attempt to derail the project by opponents who wanted to force the developer to reapply for state approval.

The Nebraska Supreme Court upheld the decision of regulators who voted in November 2017 to greenlight a route through the state. The court's decision was a victory for the \$8 billion project, which has been mired in lawsuits and regulatory hearings since it was proposed in 2008.

Despite the victory for Canada-based TC Energy, opponents vowed Friday that the legal fight to block construction was far from over, noting several pending federal lawsuits.

"The risky pipeline project's fate is still very much in doubt, as three separate federal lawsuits continue to proceed that challenge the controversial project's permits," leading pipeline opposition group Bold Alliance said in a statement.

Friday's ruling stemmed from the Nebraska Public Service Commission 3-2 vote nearly two years ago in favor of an "alternative route" for the project instead of developer TC Energy's preferred pathway. Opponents filed a lawsuit arguing the company didn't follow all the required procedures for the alternative route, in violation of state law.

Attorneys for the opponents argued that TC Energy's application with the commission was valid only for its preferred route, and the company formerly known as TransCanada could seek approval only for one route at a time. Nebraska state attorneys disputed that claim, saying that the commission's decision complied with the law and was in the public's interest.

The high court on Friday sided with the state, saying the Public Service Commission is the agency responsible for determining which pipeline route is in the public interest, and that it did so after months of consideration.

"We find there is sufficient evidence to support the PSC's determination that the (alternative route) is in the public interest," Justice Jeffrey Funke wrote for the court.

An attorney for the opponents said they were weighing their legal options, including a possible federal lawsuit challenging the route Nebraska's Public Service Commission approved.

"Now that the Supreme Court has gone ahead and affirmed approval of a route that was never applied for, that should trigger an analysis of these new 83 miles for which no evidence was adduced and no federal or state studies have ever been conducted," Omaha attorney Brian Jorde said.

Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts, a Republican and longtime supporter of the project, issued a statement



In this March 11, 2013, file photo is a sign reading "Stop the Transcanada Pipeline" placed in a field near Bradshaw, Neb. Nebraska's highest court lifted one of the last major hurdles for the Keystone XL pipeline on Friday, Aug. 23, 2019 when it rejected another attempt to derail the project by opponents who wanted to force the developer to reapply for state approval. (AP Photo/Nati Harnik, File)

saying it's "time to build the pipeline" and that doing so would bring jobs and tax revenue to the state — an assertion opponents repudiate.

If completed, the pipeline would carry oil from Canada through Montana, South Dakota and Nebraska, where it would connect to an existing pump station in Steele City, Nebraska. From there it would continue through Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas until it reaches Gulf Coast refineries. Business groups and some unions support the project as a way to create jobs and reduce the risk of shipping oil by trains that can derail.

The pipeline faces intense resistance from environmental groups, Native American tribes and some landowners along the route who worry about its long-term impact on their groundwater and property rights. But in Nebraska, many affected landowners have accepted the project and are eager to collect payments from the company.

President Barack Obama's administration studied the project for years before finally rejecting it in 2015 because of concerns about carbon pollution. President Donald Trump reversed that decision in March 2017. Federal approval was required because the route crosses an international border.

Bold Alliance President Jane Kleeb called on the Nebraska Legislature to intervene, saying the property rights of farmers and sovereign rights of Native American tribes "should trump Big Oil's land grab."

The chairman of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, Larry Wright Jr., said the ruling disregarded the potential destruction of the tribe's cultural resources.

TC Energy issued a news release describing the ruling as an "important step as we advance" toward building the pipeline, but spokeswoman Robynn Tysver could not immediately say whether the ruling would promptly open up the project to construction.

Beck reported from Omaha, Nebraska.

Man convicted over threats to wife's cancer doctor

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota man faces up to 50 years in prison after a jury convicted him in a case involving alleged threats to his wife's cancer doctor.

The Rapid City Journal reports William Thoman of Rapid City shook his head at the jury's verdict Thursday afternoon. The 63-year-old man was found guilty of criminal solicitation for asking an acquaintance to help him kill Dr. Mustafa Sahin last September.

The jury found that Thoman had asked for help getting a gun and silencer.

Thoman still faces a second trial for allegedly asking jail inmates to help him kill the judge originally assigned to the case and a friend who reported the threats.

Katherine Thoman died in 2018. Prosecutors said Sahin left his hospital job and moved away from Rapid City due to trauma from Thoman's threats.

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

Minnehaha County prosecutor out on undisclosed medical issue

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Minnehaha County's top prosecutor is confirming that he is on leave for several medical issues.

Aaron McGowan told the Sioux Falls Argus Leader that he's in daily contact with top deputies and staff and continues to fulfill his responsibilities. He said he would return as soon as possible, but didn't tell the newspaper what his issues were or when he would return.

The Argus Leader first reported on McGowan's absence Thursday, saying he had been out since at least mid-July.

The 45-year-old McGowan was first elected in 2008. Minnehaha is South Dakota's most populous county.

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

Domingo to return to the stage amid harassment allegations

By COLLEEN BARRY Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — Placido Domingo returns to the stage at the Salzburg Festival this weekend to perform for the first time since multiple women accused the opera legend of sexual harassment in allegations brought to light by The Associated Press.

Two opera houses in the United States have canceled performances, but no European opera house has taken Domingo off the bill. Instead, some colleagues and venues there have come to his defense, resisting what they see as a rush to judgment.

The 78-year-old Domingo has received the full support from Salzburg Festival management and his co-stars ahead of Sunday's performance of Verdi's "Luisa Miller," in which the famous tenor will sing the baritone title role.

Festival President Helga Rabl-Stadler said in a statement confirming the engagement that, "I would find it wrong and morally reprehensible to make irreversible judgments at this point, and to base decisions on such judgments."

She also cited Domingo's famous amiability, observed over 25 years, adding "had the accusations against him been voiced inside the Festspielhaus in Salzburg, I am sure I would have heard of it."

Most of the 21 performances planned in Europe through November 2020 have been confirmed — including a gala concert to mark his 50th anniversary at Milan's La Scala on Dec. 15 — although the singer's interactions with journalists and the public may be curtailed. A Domingo news conference planned for Monday and press rehearsals have been canceled ahead of a performance in the southern Hungarian city of Szeged on Aug. 18. No reason was given.

Most opera houses cited the presumption of innocence. In some cases, venues said they would monitor the outcome of an Los Angeles investigation before coming to a conclusion, while the Royal Opera House in London expressed a "zero tolerance policy towards harassment of any kind." Significantly, the Vienna Staatsoper, where Domingo will sing four times in the coming months, has not yet commented but promised to do so after returning from holiday next week.

The AP story published last week detailed extensive allegations of sexual harassment by nine women against Domingo that spanned decades. The women accused Domingo of using his power at the LA Opera, where he has been the longtime general director, and elsewhere to try to pressure them into sexual relationships. Several of the woman said he dangled jobs and then sometimes punished them professionally if they refused his advances. Allegations included repeated phone calls, invitations to hotel rooms and his apartment, and unwanted touching and kisses.

In a statement to AP, Domingo called allegations "deeply troubling and, as presented inaccurate" and said he believed his interactions with the women to be consensual. He has not spoken publicly about the allegations since the article was published.



In this Jan. 22, 2004, file photo, Placido Domingo sings during his performance at the National Theater in Santiago, Dominican Republic. Domingo is scheduled to appear onstage at the Salzburg Festival Aug. 25, 2019, to perform for the first time since multiple women have accused the opera legend of sexual harassment in allegations brought to light by The Associated Press. (AP Photo/Miguel Gomez, File)

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Skeptics of the #MeToo movement welcomed the support for Domingo as a necessary cooling of a movement that some see as quick to judgment as it unmasked long-concealed sexual harassment across an array of fields. But feminist activists caution that the decision by theaters and many colleagues to rally around Domingo without assurances that they take such allegations seriously could have a chilling effect on other victims.

"Usually when these things come out, it is because they have been bubbling under the surface," said Giulia Blasi, a journalist who launched the Italian version of #MeToo, #QuellaVoltaChe, three days before the English version made its global trajectory. "The opera houses say they have no choice. They do have a choice. They can choose to protect their singers, and they can choose not to invite someone back who has been abusing their power."

In recent months in Europe, famous men accused of sexual harassment have made public appearances that would be more difficult, if not impossible, to stage in the United States.

Woody Allen, who faces decades-old accusations of sexual misconduct by his adoptive daughter, was warmly welcomed at La Scala for a staging of a one-act opera. Meanwhile, Hollywood stars in his most recent film have donated their compensation to victims' groups as a sign of solidarity for abuse victims. Louis C.K. played a small club in Milan last month, after two engagements in Britain were canceled by protests, and Kevin Spacey appeared in public at a Rome museum where he gave a dramatic reading of a poem about a dejected boxer.

The Italian poet Gabriele Tinti, who organized the reading of his work by Spacey, told The Associated Press in an email that he was well aware of the allegations when he engaged Spacey, whom he called "simply one of the best actors in the world." He added: "I have always taken the side of the scapegoat."

"I believe that #MeToo is becoming a violent witch hunt. Spacey, like others, has the right to the presumption of innocence and I cannot in any way support the preventative exclusion and annihilation of a man, woman or work," Tinti said.

In a similar vein, Spanish journalist David Gistau complained in the mainstream El Mundo that two Domingo U.S. performances were canceled "by all those who prefer to hand over for public destruction an actor or tenor they work with rather than stand up to, even for a moment, the feminist leviathan." He equated the people who do that with "lynchers."

"In this way, #MeToo, which could have helped put right abuses by people in powerful positions and thereby change many years of pernicious social relationships that nobody called into question in a cultural sense, has ended up becoming a laser gun in The War of the Sexes, seeking to consecrate the notion that man is woman's natural predator," he said.

The apparent backlash is not surprising to feminists at the forefront of a global movement that sought to call-out mistreatment by primarily men in power.

"The patriarchy will always sound reasonable," said the Italian activist, Blasi. "I have to say that the only people who have paid for what happened after #MeToo were the women."

Caterina Bolognese, the head of the gender equality division at the Council of European Council, said the #MeToo movement helped speed work on guidelines that defined sexism, including sexual harassment, and underlined that it leads to sexual violence. The guidelines were adopted by the 47-member Council of Europe last spring.

"The #MeToo movement makes it impossible for member states to ignore sexism," she said. But she acknowledged that it is often difficult for the public to accept accusations lodged against people they admire.

Speaking of Domingo, she said that "if he did these things, the way he would be great would be to allow himself to apologize properly and bear the consequences of his actions."

"Especially people who have such standing in their field should realize how what they say and do affects attitudes and they themselves could be leaders in recognizing that they made mistakes. And apologize for them," Bolognese said.

Associated Press writers Pablo Gorondi in Budapest and Barry Hatten in Lisbon contributed.

Economic storm clouds hovering over Trump and global leaders

By ZEKE MILLER, DARLENE SUPERVILLE and JILL COLVIN Associated Press

BIARRITZ, France (AP) — Under the threatening clouds of a global economic slowdown, President Donald Trump is confronting the consequences of his preference to go it alone, with low expectations that the leaders of the richest democracies can make substantive progress on an array of issues at their summit in France.

The meeting of the Group of Seven nations — Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the U.S. — in the beach resort town of Biarritz comes at one of the most unpredictable moments in Trump's presidency, when his public comments and decision-making increasingly have seemed erratic and acerbic of late.

Trump, who arrived Saturday, and his counterparts are facing mounting anxiety over the state of the world economy and new tension on trade, Iran and Russia. Trump, growing more isolated in Washington, might find a tepid reception at the summit as calls increase for cooperation and a collective response to address the financial downturn. He did engineer a late change to the summit agenda, requesting a working session on economic issues.

The economic warning signs, along with Chinese's aggressive use of tariffs on U.S. goods, are raising the pressure on Trump and his reelection effort. He intends to push allies at the summit to act to promote growth.

But Trump's credibility as a cheerleader for multilateralism is in doubt, given that he has spent the first 2½ years in office promoting an "America First" foreign policy that relying on protectionist measures. Traditional American allies have come to expect the unexpected from this White House; increasingly they are looking elsewhere for leadership.

Only hours before his arrival in Biarritz, Trump had threatened anew to place tariffs on French wine imports to the U.S. in a spat over France's digital services tax; the European Union promised to retaliate. That was the backdrop for a late addition to his summit schedule — lunch with French President Emmanuel Macron outside the opulent Hotel du Palais.

The summit host said the two men were discussing "a lot of crisis" around the world, including Libya, Iran and Russia, as well as trade policy and climate change. But he also echoed Trump's calls for Europe to do more to address the global slowdown, including by cutting taxes. "When I look at Europe, especially, we need some new tools to relaunch our economy," Macron said.

Trump insisted that despite tensions, he and Macron "actually have a lot in common" and a "special relationship." In a later tweet, he said: "Big weekend with other world leaders!"

Trade was clearly on Trump's mind when he left for France. Trump declared that U.S. businesses with dealings in China are "hereby ordered" to begin moving home. There was no immediate explanation of



U.S. President Donald Trump sits for lunch with French President Emmanuel Macron, right, at the Hotel du Palais in Biarritz, south-west France, Saturday Aug. 24, 2019. Efforts to salvage consensus among the Group of Seven rich democracies on the economy, trade and environment were fraying around the edges even as leaders were arriving before their three-day summit in southern France.

(AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

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what he expected or what authority he had to make that happen. He also imposed higher tariffs on Chinese imports.

Earlier, he had made light of a sharp drop in the financial markets in reaction to his latest trade moves. His tongue-in-cheek tweet speculated that the Dow's plunge could be tied to the departure of a lower-tier candidate in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination.

In recent days, Trump has sent mixed signals on a number of policy fronts. At one point, he moved to simmer the trade conflict with China in order to ease the impact on American consumers during the holiday shopping season. At another, he flip-flopped on the need for tax cuts to stimulate an economy that Trump publicly insists is rocketing.

Feeding Trump's anxiety, aides say, is his realization that the economy — the one sturdy pillar undergirding his bid for a second term — is undeniably wobbly.

Trump planned to press leaders about what can be done to spur growth in the U.S. and abroad, as well as to open European, Japanese and Canadian markets to American manufacturers and producers. Trump has imposed or threatened to impose tariffs on all three markets in his pursuit of free, fair and reciprocal trade.

Trump arrived on Air Force One after changing airplanes in Bordeaux, on account of the shorter runway in Biarritz. His motorcade passed through barricaded streets on his way to the heavily secured summit site. Some residents looked on from windows overhead.

The annual G-7 summit has historically been used to highlight common ground among the world's leading democracies. But in a bid to work around Trump's impulsiveness, Macron has eschewed plans for a formal joint statement from this gathering.

Last year's summit, hosted by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, ended in acrimony when Trump felt he had been slighted by Trudeau after the president left the meeting.

Trump tweeted insults at Trudeau from aboard Air Force One as he flew to a summit with North Korea's Kim Jong Un. Trump withdrew his signature from the statement of principles that all seven nations had agreed to.

At his first G-7 summit in 2017, Trump's strong feelings against climate change roiled the gathering in Italy.

Trump has made his "America first" priorities clear at every turn.

At a recent campaign rally in New Hampshire, the crowd roared with approval when Trump said: "I'm the president of the United States of America. I'm not the president of the world."

Addressing the global slowdown isn't the only pressing challenge that Trump has discovered requires joint action.

For more than a year, his administration has struggled with persuading European leaders to repatriate captured fighters from the Islamic State group. So far his entreaties have fallen on deaf ears.

Many of the summit proceedings will take place behind closed doors, in intimate settings designed for the leaders to develop personal relationships with one another.

Trump, White House aides said, was looking forward to meeting with new British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, the brash pro-Brexit leader whose election he'd backed. The two spoke by phone on Friday.

Trump has scheduled individual meetings with several of his counterparts, including Macron, Trudeau, Merkel, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Other topics on the agenda will be the clashes between police and pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong; Iran's renewed nuclear enrichment and interference with shipping in the Strait of Hormuz; and the Islamic State prisoners currently imprisoned by American-backed Kurdish forces in Syria.

Colvin reported from Washington.

Follow Miller on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/ZekeJMiller> and Superville at <http://www.twitter.com/dsupervilleap>

Hong Kong police and protesters clash, ending violence lull

By KELVIN CHAN Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong protesters threw bricks and gasoline bombs at police, who responded with tear gas, as chaotic scenes returned to the summer-long anti-government protests on Saturday for the first time in nearly two weeks.

Hundreds of black-clad protesters armed with bamboo poles and baseball bats fought with police officers wielding batons on a main road following a march against “smart lampposts” that was sparked by surveillance fears.

The chaotic scenes unfolded outside a police station and a nearby shopping mall as officers in riot gear faced off with protesters who set up makeshift street barricades.

The violence interrupted nearly two weeks of calm in Hong Kong, which has been gripped by a turbulent pro-democracy movement since June.

Police fired tear gas to disperse the crowd after repeated warnings “went futile,” the government said in a statement. By early evening, most of the protesters had dispersed, though clashes flared up in other neighborhoods.

Earlier in the day, some protesters used an electric saw to slice through the bottom of a smart lamp-post, while others pulled ropes tied around it to send it toppling and cheered as it crashed to the ground.

The protest march started peacefully as supporters took to the streets to demand the removal of the lampposts over worries that they could contain high-tech cameras and facial recognition software used for surveillance by Chinese authorities.

The government in Hong Kong said smart lampposts only collect data on traffic, weather and air quality.

The protesters chanted slogans calling for the government to answer the movement’s demands. The protests began in June with calls to drop a now-suspended extradition bill that would have allowed Hong Kong residents to be sent to China to stand trial, then widened to include free elections for the city’s top leader and an independent inquiry into alleged police brutality.

“Hong Kong people’s private information is already being extradited to China. We have to be very concerned,” organizer Ventus Lau said ahead of the procession.

The semiautonomous Chinese territory has said it plans to install about 400 of the smart lampposts in four urban districts, starting with 50 this summer in the Kwun Tong and Kowloon Bay districts that were the scene of Saturday’s protest march.

Hong Kong’s government-owned subway system operator, MTR Corp., shut down stations and suspended train service near the protest route, after attacks by Chinese state media accusing it of helping protesters flee in previous protests.

MTR said Friday that it may close stations near protests under high risk or emergency situations. The



Police and demonstrators clash during a protest in Hong Kong, Saturday, Aug. 24, 2019. Chinese police said Saturday they released an employee at the British Consulate in Hong Kong as the city’s pro-democracy protesters took to the streets again, this time to call for the removal of “smart lampposts” that raised fears of stepped-up surveillance.

(AP Photo/Vincent Yu)

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company has until now kept stations open and trains running even when there have been chaotic skirmishes between protesters and police.

Lau said MTR was working with the government to "suppress freedom of expression."

Also Saturday, Chinese police said they released an employee at the British Consulate in Hong Kong as scheduled after 15 days of administrative detention.

Simon Cheng Man-kit was detained for violating mainland Chinese law and "confessed to his illegal acts," the public security bureau in Luohu, Shenzhen, said on its Weibo microblog account, without providing further details.

The Chinese government has said that Cheng, who went missing after traveling by train to mainland China for a business trip, was held for violating public order regulations in Shenzhen, in a case that further stoked tensions in Hong Kong, a former British colony.

The British government confirmed his release.

"We welcome the release of Simon Cheng and are delighted that he can be reunited with his family," the Foreign and Commonwealth Office said in a statement, adding that Cheng and his family had requested privacy.

Cheng, a Scottish government trade and investment officer, was a local employee without a diplomatic passport.

The Global Times, a Communist Party-owned nationalistic tabloid, said Thursday that he was detained for "soliciting prostitutes." China often uses public order charges against political targets and has sometimes used the accusation of soliciting prostitution.

Associated Press news assistant Henry Hou in Beijing contributed to this report.

G-7 summit in France a test of unity among world leaders

By LORI HINNANT, DAVID McHUGH and SYLVIE CORBET Associated Press

BIARRITZ, France (AP) — Efforts to salvage consensus among the G-7 rich democracies frayed Saturday in the face of U.S. President Donald Trump's unpredictable America-first approach even before the official start of the summit in southern France.

European Council President Donald Tusk said the three-day summit in the seaside resort of Biarritz would be "a difficult test of the unity and solidarity of the free world and its leaders" and that "this may be the last moment to restore our political community."

Even as Tusk, who presides over the council of leaders of the 28-member European Union, said the last thing the bloc wanted was a trade dispute with the United States and called for "an end to trade wars," he promised to retaliate against U.S. products if Trump carries through on a threat to impose tariffs on French wine.

Trump made the threat in response to a proposed French tax on internet companies.

French President Emmanuel Macron, who is hosting the summit beginning later Saturday, has made clear that he has little expectation that Trump will join any statement on fighting climate change even as the issue shot to the top of the agenda with the widespread fires in the Amazon. He already rejected Trump's request to let Russia rejoin the group five years after being expelled over its seizure of Crimea. And he is trying to hold together the European line on the Iran nuclear deal over U.S. objections.

The two were meeting Saturday for lunch. In a nationally televised speech timed for the moment Trump touched down in Biarritz, Macron repeatedly used the word "disagreements" to describe the expected atmosphere. Later, as the two faced each other across a dining table, he used the softer word "divergences" regarding climate change.

Macron described Trump as a "very special guest" and Trump fondly recalled the dinner they shared at the Eiffel Tower.

But Macron was firm that leaders owed it to the world to come up with solutions.

"We have disagreements, and at times there are caricatures. But I think that the great challenges that

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we have: Climate, biodiversity, the technological transformation, the fight against inequality, this global insecurity, we will only resolve them by acting together, by reconciling," he said.

Macron threatened to block an EU trade deal with several South American states, including Brazil. Ireland joined in the threat. German Chancellor Angela Merkel disagreed, with her office saying Saturday that blocking the Mercosur deal won't reduce the destruction of rainforest in Brazil, although she backed Macron's proposal to discuss the fires at the summit.

At last year's summit in Charlevoix, Canada, Trump left early and repudiated the final statement in a tweet from Air Force One. This year, Macron said, there will be no final statement.

Instead, diplomats say Macron could issue his own summary of the discussions.

Lowered expectations are nothing new for the G-7, but this year's intent seems to be just to avoid diplomatic catastrophe, salvage the possible, and show voters that their leaders have a role on the world stage. One force that could push leaders together is their joint vulnerability to an economic slowdown, especially the ones who, like Trump, are facing elections in the next year or two.

Disputes on trade have unsettled the global economy because businesses don't know where tariffs will be imposed or what the trading system will look like in a world that has become dependent on supplies of materials, parts and goods flowing through intricate cross-border supply chains.

Given lowered expectations the most important summit outcome would be "to do no harm," said Holger Schmieding, chief economist at Berenberg Bank in London. "Have a discussion without a bust-up, no repeat of Charlevoix, please."

A "dream result" would be the EU, U.S. and Japan agreeing to jointly tackle their trade issues with China, but "with America-First Trump that seems too much to hope for," he said.

All eyes will be on the dynamic between Trump and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, two figures who relish the unpredictability they have sown. Johnson is under intense pressure to pull Britain out of the EU and many see his relationship with the United States as key.

"My message to G7 leaders this week is this: the Britain I lead will be an international, outward-looking, self-confident nation," he said.

Merkel is in her last term of office. Canadian leader Justin Trudeau, up for re-election this fall, is at the center of a political scandal. Macron himself is deeply unpopular at home, and the yellow vest protesters who have plagued him since last year have followed him to Biarritz.

Even this beautiful resort town was in a subdued mood after being locked down during the final week



French President Emmanuel Macron, right right, flanked by President of the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region Alain Rousset, center, samples local produce and wine, as he tours the exhibition hall above the international press center on the opening day of the G7 summit, in Anglet, southwestern France, Saturday Aug.24, 2019. U.S. President Donald Trump and the six other leaders of the Group of Seven nations will begin meeting Saturday for three days in the southwestern French resort town of Biarritz. France holds the 2019 presidency of the G-7, which also includes Britain, Canada, Germany, Italy and Japan. Biarritz. (Ian

Langsdon, Pool via AP)

of the summer break for most of France. The appropriately named Bellevue congress center where the leaders will gather Saturday night overlooks the carefully raked sandy beach beloved by surfers and swimmers alike. It was empty.

Geir Moulson in Berlin and Danica Kirka in London contributed.

AP FACT CHECK: Trump's swerves on economy, guns and migrants

By HOPE YEN and JOSH BOAK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump can't seem to get his facts straight when it comes to Barack Obama.

From the economy to veterans and immigration, Trump routinely claims achievements of the former president as fully his own or distorts the truth to undermine the Democrat's legacy. On problems uniquely his own, Trump deflects.

This past week was no different.

Fresh off vacation in Bedminster, New Jersey, and mindful of the 2020 campaign, Trump insisted that economists don't believe his trade disputes with China could spur recession even though most analysts believe a downturn could start in the next two years. He also claimed progress on veterans' health care under his watch that didn't happen and blamed Obama for a policy of separating migrant children from their parents that he himself started.

Trump repeatedly pointed to mental illness, not access to guns, as a main culprit behind the recent mass shootings in Texas and Ohio. That's oversimplifying the issue.

A recap, also covering fuel economy standards and judges:

ECONOMY

TRUMP: "I don't think we're having a recession. We're doing tremendously well ... And most economists actually say that we're not going to have a recession." — remarks Sunday to reporters in Morristown, New Jersey.

THE FACTS: Actually, most economists — about 74% — do expect a recession in the U.S. by the end of 2021.

The economists surveyed by the National Association for Business Economics mostly didn't share Trump's optimistic outlook for the economy. Thirty-four percent of the economists said they believe a slowing economy will tip into recession in 2021. That's compares with 25% in the February survey.

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

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

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



In this Aug. 21, 2019, photo, President Donald Trump speaks with reporters before departing on Marine One on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington. (AP

Photo/Alex Brandon)

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

TRUMP: "The Economy is doing really well. The Federal Reserve can easily make it Record Setting! The question is being asked, why are we paying much more in interest than Germany and certain other countries?" — tweet Thursday.

TRUMP: "Germany sells 30 year bonds offering negative yields. Germany competes with the USA. Our Federal Reserve does not allow us to do what we must do. They put us at a disadvantage against our competition." — tweet Thursday.

THE FACTS: Trump misrepresents the impact of Federal Reserve policies and is mistaken about Germany's economy, suggesting that it enjoys some kind of advantage. In fact, the negative yields are a sign of that economy's weakness.

The German economy shrank in the previous quarter and there are expectations from investment banks that Germany soon could fall into a recession. Nor is the phenomenon isolated to Germany. Japan and much of Europe are also struggling with interest rates on government debt that are negative or close to negative.

Investors are betting that stimulus efforts by the European Central Bank will keep rates persistently low. But the negative interest rates on German bonds also reflect that government's aversion to issuing debt, even though the borrowing would allow it to spend more on roads and bridges to spur stronger economic growth.

By having even slightly positive interest rates compared to the rest of the world, the United States is in a better position to attract global investment.

TRUMP: "My administration has worked aggressively to boost veterans employment, and we're setting records. ... Veterans unemployment has reached the lowest level ever recorded." — remarks Wednesday at AMVETS convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

THE FACTS: It's true that the unemployment rate for veterans fell to 2.3% in April, matching the low set in May 2000 under President Bill Clinton. But this figure is volatile on a monthly basis, not adjusted for seasonal changes, and has since risen. The figure stood at 3.4% in July, according to the Labor Department.

Veterans' unemployment has fallen mostly for the same reasons that joblessness has dropped generally: strong hiring and steady economic growth over the past decade dating to the Obama administration.

MIGRANTS

TRUMP: "President Obama had separation. I'm the one that brought them together. This new rule will do even more to bring them together. But it was President Obama that had the separation." — remarks Wednesday to reporters.

THE FACTS: Trump is distorting the truth. The separation of thousands of migrant children from their parents resulted from his "zero tolerance" policy. Obama had no such policy. After a public outcry and a court order, Trump generally ceased the practice and largely reunited families his policy had driven apart.

Zero tolerance meant that U.S. authorities would criminally prosecute all adults caught crossing into the U.S. illegally. Doing so meant detention for adults and the removal of their children while their parents were in custody. During the Obama administration, such family separations were the exception. They became the practice under Trump's policy, which he suspended a year ago.

His administration is now moving to end an agreement limiting how long migrant children can be kept in detention. The new rules being adopted by the Homeland Security Department seek to keep families together by holding children in detention longer than the generally held limit of 20 days set by a federal court settlement.

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Before Trump's zero-tolerance policy, migrant families caught illegally entering the U.S. were usually referred for civil deportation proceedings, not requiring separation, unless they were known to have a criminal record. Then and now, immigration officials may take a child from a parent in certain cases, such as serious criminal charges against a parent, concerns over the health and welfare of a child or medical concerns.

GUN VIOLENCE

TRUMP, on prospects for gun control after mass shootings in Texas and Ohio: "We have very, very strong background checks right now. ... And we're looking at different things. And I have to tell you that it is a mental problem. And I've said it a hundred times: It's not the gun that pulls the trigger; it's the person that pulls the trigger." — remarks Tuesday with Romania's president.

TRUMP: "I don't want people to forget that this is a mental health problem. ... Just remember this: Big mental problem, and we do have a lot of background checks right now." — remarks Sunday to reporters in Morristown, New Jersey.

THE FACTS: He's oversimplifying the role of mental illness in public mass shootings and playing down the ease with which Americans can get firearms.

Most people with mental illness are not violent and they are far more likely to be victims of violent crime than perpetrators, according to mental health experts. They say that access to firearms actually is a big part of the problem.

Arthur Evans, chief executive officer of the American Psychological Association, said that red flag laws urged by Trump, which are also known as extreme risk protection orders, are a worthwhile step. Seventeen states and the District of Columbia have such laws, according to the nonprofit Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence; some have used the laws to temporarily disarm people who have threatened violence.

But Evans and others said assigning too much blame to those with mental illness adds to stigma that keeps people from getting treatment.

A country's rate of gun ownership is a far better predictor of public mass shootings than indicators of mental illness, said Adam Lankford, a University of Alabama criminologist who published a 2016 analysis of data from 171 countries.

"The key of what's going on here is access to guns for people who are dangerous or disturbed," Lankford said. Red flag laws make it easier to disarm people believed to be a danger to themselves or others, "but sometimes there are not clear warning signs or those signs are not reported to the authorities until after an attack," he said.

Last month, the U.S. Secret Service released a report on mass public attacks in 2018, finding that "no single profile" can be used "to predict who will engage in targeted violence" and "mental illness, alone, is not a risk factor."

AUTOS

TRUMP: "The Legendary Henry Ford and Alfred P. Sloan, the Founders of Ford Motor Company and General Motors, are 'rolling over' at the weakness of current car company executives." — tweet Wednesday.

THE FACTS: He's wrong that Sloan is the founder of General Motors.

William Durant started GM in 1908, combining several companies that produced Buick, Oldsmobile, Cadillac and other vehicles. Sloan was a longtime president, CEO and chairman of GM, leading the company from the 1920s to the 1950s.

TRUMP: "My proposal to the politically correct Automobile Companies would lower the average price of a car to consumers by more than \$3000, while at the same time making the cars substantially safer. Engines would run smoother. Very little impact on the environment! Foolish executives!" — tweet Wednesday.

THE FACTS: Trump is inflating the projected savings to consumers under his plan to freeze Obama-era fuel economy requirements at 2021 levels. He's also minimizing the potential environmental harm and may be exaggerating the safety benefits.

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His administration, in documents proposing to freeze the standards, puts the cost of meeting the Obama-era requirements at around \$2,700 per vehicle. It claims buyers would save that much by 2025, over standards in place in 2016. But that number is disputed by environmental groups and is more than double the estimates from the Obama administration.

Trump's tweet also is ignoring money that consumers would save at the gas pump if cars get better mileage. A study released Aug. 7 by Consumer Reports found that the owner of a 2026 vehicle will pay over \$3,300 more for gasoline during the life of a vehicle if the standards are frozen at 2021 levels. The administration's proposed freeze would hold the average fuel economy for the new-vehicle fleet at 29.1 mpg in real-world driving, while the Obama-era standards would raise it to 37.5 mpg by 2026, according to Consumer Reports.

Trump claims his proposal would cause little environmental harm, but documents from his administration say that U.S. fuel consumption would increase by about 500,000 barrels per day, a 2% to 3% increase. Environmental groups predict even more fuel consumed, resulting in higher pollution.

Trump's statement that cars would be substantially safer also is in dispute. His administration argues that lower-cost vehicles would allow more people to buy new ones that are safer, cutting roadway deaths by 12,700 lives through the 2029 model year. But Consumer Reports says any safety impact from changes in gas mileage standards are small and won't vary much from zero.

And there's little basis for Trump's claim that engines would run more smoothly. Early versions of cars with more fuel-efficient transmissions, turbochargers and technology that stops engines at red lights were rough, but those have been refined. "The automakers have figured out how to use this technology and make the cars smoother driving, too," said Jake Fisher, Consumer Reports director of auto testing.

VETERANS

TRUMP: "We are modernizing your medical records to begin a seamless transition from the Department of Defense into the VA — something that they just said they couldn't do. You know that, right? They said, 'We can't do it. It's just too complicated.' We did it." — AMVETS convention.

THE FACTS: No, it's not done. The Department of Veterans Affairs last year signed a \$10 billion contract with Cerner Corp., the same company that is overhauling the Pentagon's electronic health records; some \$6 billion more will be needed for IT upgrades and program staff. But a full rollout of the new VA health records is expected to take 10 years.

The aim of the new system is to provide veterans easy access to their health records upon leaving active-duty service and when they receive medical treatment at a VA facility or a private doctor referred under the VA's Choice private-sector program.

The contract, one of the largest in VA's history, has drawn concern from lawmakers that it could be plagued with problems and ultimately prove ineffective.

TRUMP: "The VA is now providing same-day emergency mental health care and mental health screenings to every patient that walks through the door." — AMVETS convention.

THE FACTS: Same-day mental health service started at VA before Trump took office in January 2017.

VA's effort to provide same-day primary and mental-health care when medically necessary at every VA medical center was publicized in April 2016, during the Obama administration. By late 2016, the department's blog announced that goal would be achieved by year's end.

A Dec. 23, 2016, article in the Harvard Business Review cites new same-day services at all VA hospitals as evidence of notable progress at the department. Former VA Secretary David Shulkin told Congress in late January 2017 the services already were fully in place.

TRUMP: "Veterans Choice, as you've been trying to get that for 44 years, they say — 44 years. I guess it's longer than that; probably earlier than that. But for 44 years, at least, that we know of. And you got it." — AMVETS convention.

THE FACTS: You wouldn't know from Trump's boasting that it was Obama who won passage of the

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Veterans Choice program, which gives veterans the option to see private doctors outside the VA medical system at government expense. Congress approved the program in 2014, and Obama signed it into law. Trump expanded it. Its ultimate scope remains uncertain, in part because of questions of money.

JUDGES

TRUMP: "We will have, within another 90 days, 179 federal judges. And I say, 'Thank you very much, President Obama.' Because he was unable to get them filled. I don't know what happened to him, but he was unable. So, President Obama did not do his job." — remarks Sunday to reporters in Morristown, New Jersey.

TRUMP: "Within about two months, we'll be at 179 federal judges and two Supreme Court judges." — AMVETS convention on Wednesday.

THE FACTS: Trump does have a stronger record than Obama so far in picking federal judges, but it isn't due to complacency from the Obama administration. Instead, unprecedented lack of action by the Republican-controlled Senate on Obama's judicial nominees in his last two years in office left Trump more vacancies to fill.

Of the 71 people whom Obama nominated to the district courts and courts of appeals in 2015 and 2016, only 20 were voted on and confirmed, said Russell Wheeler, an expert on judicial nominees at the Brookings Institution. Trump entered office in January 2017 with more than 100 vacancies on the federal bench, about double the number Obama had in 2009. Trump has since been aided by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., who has pushed through Trump's nominations of appeals court judges in particular.

Wheeler said Trump has had 146 judges confirmed and seated — a pace that is solid but not extraordinary. At least four other presidents — Clinton, John Kennedy and Richard Nixon in modern times as well as George Washington — surpassed him at comparable points in their terms in the number of appointees as a percentage of "authorized judgeships," or the total judicial seats created by Congress.

Wheeler doesn't put much stock in Trump's claim of reaching 179 federal judges within two months. Twenty-five nominees have had their Senate hearings and may be ready to be voted on soon, but that doesn't mean it will happen. "It's a moving target," he said.

Associated Press writers Colleen Long in Washington, Tom Krisher in Detroit and Carla K. Johnson in Seattle contributed to this report.

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Buttigieg making faith-based appeal to voters in 2020 bid

By THOMAS BEAUMONT Associated Press

KEOKUK, Iowa (AP) — The question was about climate change. The answer soon turned to the Bible. And Pete Buttigieg knew the verses.

"There's a lot about the stewardship of creation that is in Scripture that I don't see being honored by the administration right now, not to mention the stuff about loving your neighbor and taking care of the least among us and feeding the poor," the South Bend, Indiana, mayor said. The crowd of about 250 at a Mississippi River park in southeastern Iowa this month erupted with cheers.

Republicans for a half century have built a loyal following among white evangelical Christians. But Buttigieg, like no other Democrat seeking the 2020 presidential nomination, is trying to demonstrate that there's a strong religiosity among Democrats, too.

President Donald Trump's reelection fortunes are rooted deeply in the unshakable support among religious conservatives. But Buttigieg's regular references to his own Christian faith offer a counterweight that could be an influential asset in Iowa and beyond as Democrats parry the secular labels that Republicans have tried to apply to them.

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"What Pete said about welcoming the stranger, visiting those in prison, that's what Jesus calls on us to do," said the Rev. Elizabeth Bell, a Methodist pastor in Burlington who attended a mid-August event for Buttigieg in that city.

During a two-day trip through eastern Iowa counties that Trump won in 2016 but that Democrat Barack Obama carried in 2008, Buttigieg was invited to discuss his faith in backyards, riverside parks, vintage hotels and town squares.

Not since Bill Clinton has a Democratic presidential candidate leaned so heavily on religious references in everyday campaign events, though Buttigieg says he's wary of coming off as overly pious.

"My goal is for people of faith who believe that it has some implications for how they participate in politics to be aware that they have choices," Buttigieg told The Associated Press. "I want people to know that when I say I'm guided by some of these ideas, it's not something I seek to impose on anybody else. But I do want people to know that's part of my formation, part of how I come at the world."

During his trip, Buttigieg was asked, unprompted, at almost every stop about how his religion informs his public policy.

Jim Thicksten, a DeWitt car dealer, asked if he planned to try to peel off voters from the Christian right.

Buttigieg said the opportunity is greater than ever, given the dissonance between Trump's record and Christian teachings, to show all voters that Republicans are snubbing the Bible's teachings on caring for the poor. "It's an offense to not only our values but their own," Buttigieg told Thicksten.

Thicksten would know. He backed former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee's 2008 winning Republican Iowa presidential caucus campaign only to change his party affiliation to Democrat after a bitter school book banning debate that deeply hurt some of his gay friends.

"I've heard him on numerous occasions be able to explain the left-leaning notions of faith and put them into terms I feel like people on the right might understand," Thicksten said of Buttigieg.

Buttigieg says there's room to invite conservative Christians disappointed by Trump into his caucus campaign, but he is more focused on drawing Christians who may feel abandoned by Democrats' who avoid religion in a political context.

Faith is an important cultural signal to voters, especially Democrats who have deep doubts about Trump's character. Buttigieg's own nontraditional route to his religious home followed a path nearly as unexpected as the 37-year-old gay married mayor's leap into the 2020 Democratic top tier.

Raised by a former Roman Catholic-priest father and a religious but skeptical mother, Buttigieg attended a Catholic high school in South Bend. Attending services irregularly at Harvard, he was drawn to the Church of England as a Rhodes scholar, first for the intellectual appeal, then as a spiritual refuge "for the humbling that goes on when you wind up at a place like Oxford," he said.

The Episcopal Church, the Anglican Church's U.S. counterpart, fit when he returned to the states and



In this Aug. 15, 2019, file photo, Democratic presidential candidate South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg speaks at a campaign event in Fairfield, Iowa. Buttigieg is making a faith-based appeal to Democratic voters as he tries to demonstrate his party's religiosity. (AP Photo/John Locher)

joined St. James in South Bend, where he married his husband, Chasten, last year.

It's that progressive Christian element Buttigieg hopes to capture in a crowded Iowa candidate field, where a niche advantage can make a vital difference.

His campaign recently hired the Rev. Shawna Foster to be his faith outreach coordinator, the first such hire of any 2020 Democratic campaign. Among Foster's duties will be reaching LGBTQ-friendly churches, an untapped potential resource.

And for Buttigieg, who in South Carolina is registering scant support among the African American voters who form a majority of that early primary's electorate, his ease with Scripture could help him open the door, especially among churchgoing women.

A Pew Research Center survey conducted in late July and early August found 15% of white mainline Protestant Democrats said they preferred Buttigieg in the primary contest in an open-ended question. That's compared with 0% of black Protestants.

"There's no question that a very important part of engaging many black audiences is through faith because the church is such an important structure holding black communities and families up," Buttigieg said. "It does mean that there's a way to reach people and find some common ground."

With just over five months until the caucuses, there is time.

"I feel like he actually lives the words that he says," said volunteer Robin Gingrich, a retired test administrator from West Branch. "I think when he says he's a Christian and he loves God, he proves it every day by the way he lives his life. I feel like he's a therapist for America. He gives us hope."

Follow Tom Beaumont on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/TomBeaumont>

Supreme Court: Ginsburg treated for tumor on pancreas

By JESSICA GRESKO and MARILYNN MARCHIONE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has completed radiation therapy for a cancerous tumor on her pancreas and there is no evidence of the disease remaining, according to the Supreme Court.

It is the fourth time that the 86-year-old justice has announced that she has been treated for cancer over the last two decades and follows lung cancer surgery in December that kept her away from the court for weeks. December's surgery was her first illness-related absence from the court since being appointed by President Bill Clinton in 1993 and prompted even closer attention to her health.

As the court's oldest member, Ginsburg has been asked questions for years about her health and retirement plans. She has also in recent years attracted particularly enthusiastic fans as the leader of the liberal wing of the court, which includes four members appointed by Democratic presidents and five by Republicans. Both liberals and conservatives watch her health closely because it's understood the court would shift right for decades if President Donald Trump were to get the ability to nominate someone to replace her.

Asked late Friday about Ginsburg, Trump said: "I'm hoping she's going to be fine. She's been through a lot. She's strong. She's very tough. But we wish her well. Very well."

The court kept Ginsburg's latest cancer secret for three weeks, until she finished radiation treatment. Yet there is no obligation for justices to disclose details about their health, and Ginsburg has generally made more information available than some of her colleagues. Retired Justice Anthony Kennedy, for example, had a stent inserted to open a blocked artery in 2005 but the public only learned about it 10 months later when he returned to the hospital to have it replaced.

The Supreme Court said in a statement Friday that a routine blood test led to the detection of Ginsburg's tumor. A biopsy performed July 31 confirmed a "localized malignant tumor," and Ginsburg started outpatient radiation therapy Aug. 5. Ginsburg underwent three weeks of radiation therapy and as part of her treatment had a bile duct stent placed, the court said. Ginsburg "tolerated treatment well" and does not need any additional treatment but will continue to have periodic blood tests and scans, the statement said.

The tumor was "treated definitively and there is no evidence of disease elsewhere in the body," the

court said.

The statement did not say if the new tumor is a recurrence of the pancreatic cancer Ginsburg was diagnosed with in 2009, or a new cancer that arose. She was also treated for colorectal cancer in 1999.

"It's certainly not unheard of for the cancer to come back," but it's a more dire situation if it's that rather than a new tumor that was found early enough for effective treatment, said Dr. Michael Pishvaian, a pancreatic specialist at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center who had no firsthand knowledge of Ginsburg's care.

Pancreatic tumors are usually treated with surgery, but she or her doctors may have chosen not to do that for various reasons, and radiation is a standard treatment if surgery is not done, Pishvaian said.

Dr. Alan Venook, a University of California, San Francisco, pancreatic cancer specialist who also has no direct knowledge of Ginsburg's case, said it's not possible to know much about her outlook without details from her doctors.

If it is a recurrence that took a decade to form, "that tells me it's not a very aggressive cancer," he said. If the cancer is truly limited to the pancreas, "it could have been managed perfectly well with radiation," he said.

The court said Ginsburg canceled an annual summer visit to Santa Fe but otherwise maintained an active schedule during treatment. She is scheduled to speak in Buffalo next week and at the Library of Congress National Book Festival in Washington at the end of the month.

Before Friday's announcement, Ginsburg's most recent known health scare was in December, when she had surgery for lung cancer. The cancerous growths were found when Ginsburg underwent medical tests after she fell in her court office and broke three ribs in November. Ginsburg was absent from the court in January as she recovered from surgery and missed six days on which the court heard a total of 11 arguments. But she returned to the bench in February, and participated in the court's work during her absence.

Chief Medical Writer Marilyn Marchione reported from Milwaukee.



In this Aug. 19, 2016, file photo U.S. Supreme Court Justice, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, is introduced during the keynote address for the State Bar of New Mexico's Annual Meeting in Pojoaque. The Supreme Court announced Aug. 23, 2019, that Ginsburg has been treated for a malignant tumor. (AP

Photo/Craig Fritz, File)

Town devastated by wildfire savors high school football win

By ADAM BEAM Associated Press

PARADISE, Calif. (AP) — It's hard to recognize Paradise.

It is heaps of melted metal. It is scorched pine trees. It is a place where things used to be, before a fire destroyed nearly 19,000 structures and killed 86 people in November 2018.

But on Friday night, Paradise looked like home again. Thousands of people filled the stands at Om Wraith Field at Paradise High School — which was spared from the flames — to watch the football team missing more than a third of its players play its first game since losing everything.

Girls wore ribbons in their hair and glitter on their faces. Boys wore jerseys with the sleeves rolled up.

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People stood in line to order hot dogs at the concession stand, only to be given a paper plate with a bun and told to walk around the corner and pick one off the grill.

"I recognize this," 43-year-old Shannon Stoneman said as she looked around faces she had not seen in nearly 10 months.

Stoneman lost her home, her grocery store, her gas station, her favorite restaurant, and everything else she knew in the fire. She had to move more than 130 miles (210 kilometers) away, putting her two teenage daughters into another school. But when she heard about the Paradise High School football team playing again, she took the day off from work and came back to watch.

"Our hearts are here, even if our homes aren't," she said.

Senior running back Lukas Hartley could feel the pressure. In the first quarter, shortly after the team had entered the field through the home stands while Johnny Cash's "God's Gonna Cut You Down" played on the speakers, he threw up on the field as his emotions got the best of him. He sat out two plays, before returning and running over a defender to score a touchdown.

Paradise was up 7-0 when they lined up for their second possession of the game. Senior wide receiver Mason Cowan lined up to the right side of the field and noticed the other team was not looking at him. He signaled to quarterback Danny Bettencourt. Sixty-four yards and an extra point later, it was 14-0 and the rout was on. Paradise would win the game 42-0.

"Everyone felt like, in a way that, we had the town on our back," Hartley said. "We had the responsibility of winning tonight, so that's what we went out here and did."

For people to come back to Paradise, they have to have something to come back to. Local officials have worked hard to make that happen, and the school system has been a key part of that strategy. Paradise High School met all of the previous semester in an office building by an airport, but school officials worked hard to make sure the senior class graduated on the football field in May just like all the other classes before them.

Pam Beauchamp-Rioux, 51, moved away after losing her home but is still president of the Paradise Little League. Keison McMurray, 34, is living in a friend's trailer but still coaches a youth football team.

"I think this (game) is going to show people that (Paradise) is not gone," said 38-year-old Jennifer Siemens, who came to the field hours early to reserve a seat, hiding from the sun beneath a pink and blue umbrella. "So many people have donated and helped us from all over the country. Now they can see why, you know?"

Jamie Travis was one of the few who did not lose her home. She said the fire stopped about two blocks from her house. She stood near the south end zone on Friday night, a snow cone in her hand, watching



Paradise running back Lucas Hartley, center right, celebrates with teammate Kasten Ortiz after scoring the first touchdown of the year for the team in their high school football game against Williams, in Paradise, Calif., Friday Aug. 23, 2019. This is the first game for the school since a wildfire in November killed multiple people and destroyed nearly 19,000 buildings, including the homes of most of the Paradise players. (AP Photo/Rich Pedroncelli)

friends return to the place she never left.

"It was just hard knowing all your friends and family lost everything and you didn't," she said. "Everybody is here again."

After the game, the players huddled near the north end zone to celebrate. Coaches praised the players for winning, but said they had so many things to fix when practice resumes Monday. But that could wait.

"Here's what I pray for you tonight, that you started a healing that's going to continue for the rest of the season," Assistant Coach Andy Hopper said.

The team stood up and lifted their helmets in the air as they yelled as one: "Brothers to the bone!"

Is Trump's economic team up for a trade war?

By JOSH BOAK, JONATHAN LEMIRE and JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Facing a trade war against China that has shaken the global economy, President Donald Trump gathered his most trusted economic aides in the Oval Office.

The assembled brain trust for Friday's urgent consultations included an economics chief best known for his stint as a cable TV commentator; a trade adviser whose pro-tariff views are outside the economic mainstream; and a treasury secretary (joining by phone on his way back from vacation) who made millions off the housing crisis and then turned to financing Hollywood movies.

Where past presidents have relied on top academics, business leaders and officials with experience in prior administrations, Trump has gone a different route, building a crew of economic advisers known more for their allegiance to him than their policy chops.

Now, facing a test caused largely by Trump's determination to force China to provide the U.S. with better trade terms, questions are mounting about whether the team is up to the challenges that lie ahead — and whether Trump would listen to them anyway.

The key for any president in a moment of economic uncertainty is to have a talented team of advisers he can listen to and trust, said Austan Goolsbee, a University of Chicago economist who was a top aide to President Barack Obama.

"The tougher the situation, the more important it is to have good advisers," Goolsbee said. "But President Trump does not show any sign of listening to economists, so it probably doesn't matter who is on the econ team. But, boy, is that a scary idea if we are going through a serious downturn."

As Trump's concern over the economy has grown, so has the pool of voices from which he seeks advice.

He has called prominent friends like New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft and Fox Business Network host Lou Dobbs. He praises surrogates' appearances on television after they praise his handling of



In this Aug. 6, 2019, file photo, White House chief economic adviser Larry Kudlow talks with reporters outside the White House in Washington. Where past presidents have relied on top academics, business leaders and officials with experience in prior administrations, Trump has gone a different route. He's built crew of camera-ready economic advisers, rather than one known for its policy chops. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci, File)

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the economy. And he grouses about the quality of the advice he is receiving from aides, according to two Republicans close to the White House who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about private conversations.

A big focus of Trump's team has been messaging — convincing the public there is no reason for alarm, despite a decline in factory output, the volatile stock market and the recent drop in consumer confidence.

The aides point to consumer spending and the low 3.7% unemployment rate born out of the decade-plus expansion as reasons why a downturn is unlikely, yet their devotion to the president's desire to project strength has at times strained their own credibility.

Larry Kudlow, the president's top economic adviser and a former CNBC commentator, said on CNBC that 2017's \$1.5 trillion worth of tax cuts had "virtually paid" for themselves through stronger growth — even though the budget deficit has jumped more than 20% this year.

Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin told reporters ahead of the 2018 elections that a separate middle-class tax cut was being developed, but it never materialized as promised.

Trade adviser Peter Navarro, a cheerleader for tariffs, told CNN this month that the tariffs are "not hurting anybody here" — even though Home Depot, Macy's and other companies have warned about the damage to corporate profits and academic research has quantified a cost being borne by U.S. consumers.

Trump, for his part, has tried to put the blame for the recent turbulence on Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell, whose credibility and political independence is deemed crucial for calming financial markets worldwide. Trump remains frustrated with Mnuchin for recommending Powell — one reason some think acting chief of staff Mick Mulvaney has taken on an increasingly active role.

Trump's team has its fans.

Stephen Moore, a longtime Trump economic adviser whose nomination to a seat on the Federal Reserve board was pulled, praised Kudlow as "spectacular" and said Mulvaney's role advising Trump on the economy has been underappreciated. He called Mulvaney probably the second most important economic voice in the administration.

"Everybody's concerned about the fact the economy's slowed down," said Moore, who thinks the problem has been overstated. "I think people are going to look foolish a couple of months from now."

Trump originally chose Gary Cohn, a former Goldman Sachs president, to run the National Economic Council and Kevin Hassett, a Ph.D. economist with a respected track record, to oversee the Council of Economic Advisers. But both have left since White House.

The risk for Trump isn't necessarily a recession, but a slowdown in growth that undermines his promise to voters that the economy has been renovated for the better under his watch.

Trump pledged consistent growth of more than 3% annually, yet the Congressional Budget Office forecast Wednesday that it will be closer to 2% in 2020 and drifting further downward in the years to come.

An organic slowdown in growth — not even a recession — would be tough on Trump's reelection chances and he knows it, which is why he has aides talking up the economy on TV as he repeatedly hammers the Fed, said a former senior White House official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations.

The surest relief Trump could offer on the economy would be backing off the trade wars with China. But for the moment, the president is headed in the opposite direction, announcing increased levels of tariffs on Chinese goods Friday.

The Trump White House appears to be conducting its economic policy on a more improvised basis than past administrations, said Douglas Holtz-Eakin, former director of the Congressional Budget Office and president of the center-right American Action Forum.

He added that the president is getting a real-time lesson that a market economy seldom follows orders.

"They are learning the painful truth, which is the White House doesn't run the economy," Holtz-Eakin said. "This is the United States and the economy is a large, multifaceted animal that runs on its own."

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Trump raises tariffs on Chinese goods as trade war escalates

By PAUL WISEMAN, JILL COLVIN and JOE McDONALD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Escalating his trade fight with China, President Donald Trump has raised retaliatory tariffs and ordered American companies to consider alternatives to doing business there.

He also blamed his appointed head of the U.S. central bank, Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell, for the state of the domestic economy and wondered who was a “bigger enemy” of the U.S. — Powell or Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Even by the turbulent standards of the Trump presidency, his actions Friday, all via Twitter, were notable. They sent markets sharply lower and added to a sense of uncertainty during his visit to France for a meeting of global economic powers.

Trump’s move came after Beijing announced it had raised taxes on U.S. products.

The president attacked the Fed for not lowering rates at an informal gathering in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, where no such action was under consideration. Powell, speaking to central bankers, gave vague assurances that the Fed would act to sustain the nation’s economic expansion, but noted that Fed had limited tools to deal with damage from the trade dispute.

Trump said he would be raising planned tariffs on \$300 billion in Chinese goods from 10% to 15%. The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative also said existing tariffs on another \$250 billion in Chinese imports would go from 25% to 30% on Oct. 1 after receiving feedback from the public.

Late Friday, Trump told reporters at the White House: “I have no choice. We’re not going to lose close to a trillion dollars a year to China.” He insisted that “tariffs are working out very well for us. People don’t understand that yet.”

The Chinese government, in a statement posted on the Commerce Ministry’s website Saturday, railed against “this kind of unilateral, bullying trade protectionism” urged the Trump administration to “immediately stop its mistaken course of action, or else the U.S. will have to bear all the consequences.”

The impact of higher tariffs could be sweeping for consumers.

Trump’s latest escalation will impose a burden on many American households. Even before he announced an increase, J.P. Morgan had estimated that Trump’s tariffs would cost the average household roughly \$1,000 a year if he proceeded with his threats.

Trump appeared caught off-guard by China’s tariff increase, and was angry when he gathered with his trade team in the Oval Office before departing for France, according to two people familiar with the meeting who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to disclose closed-door conversations.



In this June 29, 2019, file photo, President Donald Trump, left, meets with Chinese President Xi Jinping during a meeting on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Osaka, Japan. China has announced it will raise tariffs on \$75 billion of U.S. products in retaliation for President Donald Trump’s planned Sept. 1 duty increase in a war over trade and technology policy. (AP Photo/Susan Walsh, File)

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Earlier, the president said he "hereby ordered" U.S. companies to seek alternatives to doing business in China. The White House did not cite what authority the president could use to force private businesses to change their practices.

Businesses large and small joined in a chorus of opposition to the intensifying hostilities.

"It's impossible for businesses to plan for the future in this type of environment," said David French, senior vice president of government relations at the National Retail Federation. "The administration's approach clearly isn't working, and the answer isn't more taxes on American businesses and consumers. Where does this end?"

If Trump goes ahead with all the tariffs he's announced, they would cover just about everything China ships to the United States.

China imposed new tariffs of 5% and 10% on \$75 billion of U.S. products in retaliation. Like Trump's, the Chinese tariffs will be imposed in two batches — first on Sept. 1 and then on Dec. 15.

China will also go ahead with previously postponed import duties on U.S.-made autos and auto parts, the Finance Ministry announced.

Trump tweets Friday included one declaring, "Our great American companies are hereby ordered to immediately start looking for an alternative to China, including bringing ... your companies HOME and making your products in the USA."

French, at the National Retail Federation, said it was "unrealistic for American retailers to move out of the world's second largest economy. ... Our presence in China allows us to reach Chinese customers and develop overseas markets."

Jay Foreman, CEO of Basic Fun!, a Florida toy company that imports from China, said Trump's demand to American companies was outrageous.

It was an "unprecedented statement for a president to make to private business when there is no national security issue involved," he said.

The 13-monthlong feud between the U.S. and China has been rattling financial markets, disrupting international trade and weakening prospects for worldwide economic growth.

Washington accuses China of using predatory tactics - including outright theft of U.S. trade secrets - in an aggressive drive to turn itself into a world leader in cutting-edge technologies such as artificial intelligence and electric cars.

Twelve rounds of talks have failed to break the impasse, though more negotiations are expected next month. Chinese leaders have offered to alter details of their policies but are resisting any deal that would require them to give up their aspirations to become a technological powerhouse.

The two countries are also deadlocked over how to enforce any agreement.

Tariff increases on Sept. 1 apply to 1,700 items ranging from frozen sweet corn, dried beef and pork liver to marble, other building materials and bicycle tires, according to the Chinese Finance Ministry.

Penalties that take effect Dec. 15 cover 3,300 items including coffee, cinnamon, industrial chemicals and scissors, the ministry said.

The Chinese said tariffs of 25% and 5% would be imposed on U.S.-made autos and auto parts on Dec. 15. Beijing had planned those tariff increases last year but temporarily dropped them to keep the talks going. BMW, Tesla, Ford and Mercedes-Benz are likely to be the hardest hit by the Chinese auto tariffs.

McDonald reported from Beijing. Associated Press writers Tom Krisher in Detroit, Anne D'Innocenzio in New York and Kevin Freking and Deb Riechmann in Washington contributed to this report.

'Our bigger enemy': Trump escalates attack on Fed chief

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump launched a furious and highly personal Twitter attack Friday against the Federal Reserve and Chairman Jerome Powell, fuming that the Fed once more “did NOTHING!” and wondering who is “our bigger enemy” — Powell or China’s leader.

The outburst came after Powell, speaking to central bankers in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, gave vague assurances that the Fed “will act as appropriate” to sustain the nation’s economic expansion. While the phrasing was widely seen as meaning interest rate cuts, he offered no hint of whether or how many reductions might be coming the rest of the year.

Powell had barely finished speaking before Trump escalated his criticism of the Fed, which he has repeatedly accused of keeping rates too high. For months, the president has ridiculed Powell, the man he picked to lead the Fed.

“As usual, the Fed did NOTHING!” Trump tweeted, adding, “We have a very strong dollar and a very weak Fed.” He went further by saying: “My only question is, who is our bigger enemy, Jay Powel (sic) or Chairman Xi?” — a reference to China’s President Xi Jinping. Trump later corrected the name spelling.

Asked by reporters late Friday if he wanted Powell to resign, Trump responded, “Let me put it this way: If he did I wouldn’t stop him.”

Powell has said he has no intention of resigning before his four-year term is up.

While the “enemy” remark appeared to elevate Trump’s attacks on the Fed to a new level, Fed officials meeting in Jackson Hole sought to play down the comment.

Fed Vice Chairman Richard Clarida said he had been too busy attending the conference to even look at Trump’s tweets. He said the Fed planned to keep doing its job of pursuing low unemployment and stable prices in spite of Trump’s criticism.

“This is an institution created by the Congress more than 100 years ago,” Clarida said in a CNBC interview. “We have a very clear assignment from the Congress. ... We are just focusing on doing our job.”

Many private economists have expressed growing alarm about Trump’s criticism of the Fed as an intrusion on its independence and a threat to its credibility.

David Jones, a leading historian of the Federal Reserve, said the “enemy” remark set an unfortunate precedent.

“This challenges something that has been sacred in the history of the world’s most successful central bank,” said Jones, an economist and author of four books on the Fed. “The central banks that have been successful are those which are independent of political pressures and were free to make the appropriate monetary policy.”

Powell’s speech came on a day of fast-moving events in the financial world and a sharp escalation in the



Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell, left, and Bank of England Governor Mark Carney, right, pause in front of Mt. Moran after Powell’s speech at the Jackson Hole Economic Policy Symposium on Friday, Aug. 23, 2019, in Jackson Hole, Wyo. (AP Photo/Amber Baesler)

trade dispute with China that threatens to tip a weakening global economy into recession.

China announced a new round of tariffs on U.S. products earlier in the day, and Trump responded with higher duties on certain Chinese goods.

He also declared on Twitter that he had “hereby ordered” American companies with operations in China “to immediately start looking for” other places in which to do business.

“Our Country has lost, stupidly, Trillions of Dollars with China over many years,” he said. “They have stolen our Intellectual Property at a rate of Hundreds of Billions of Dollars a year, & they want to continue. I won’t let that happen!”

Markets in the U.S., Asia and Europe tumbled, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average dropping 623 points. In his speech in Jackson Hole, Powell said Trump’s trade wars have complicated the Fed’s ability to set interest rates and have contributed to a global economic slowdown.

Last month, the Fed cut rates for the first time in a decade, and financial markets appear to be expecting more such steps this year. Trump has argued for a full percentage-point reduction in the coming months — a step most economists consider excessive.

The president contends that lower rates in other countries have caused the dollar to rise in value and thereby hurt U.S. export sales. Earlier in the week, he told reporters, “If the Fed would do its job, you would see a burst of growth like you have never seen before.”

Powell has said that the White House criticism has had no effect on the Fed’s deliberations over interest rate policy.

Trump has insisted in the past that he could fire Powell if he wanted to, an assertion that most experts regard as dubious at best. No Fed chairman has ever been fired by a president, although in 1979, then-President Jimmy Carter wanted to make a change at the Fed — so he offered Fed Chairman G. William Miller the job of Treasury secretary so he could nominate Paul Volcker as his new Fed chairman.

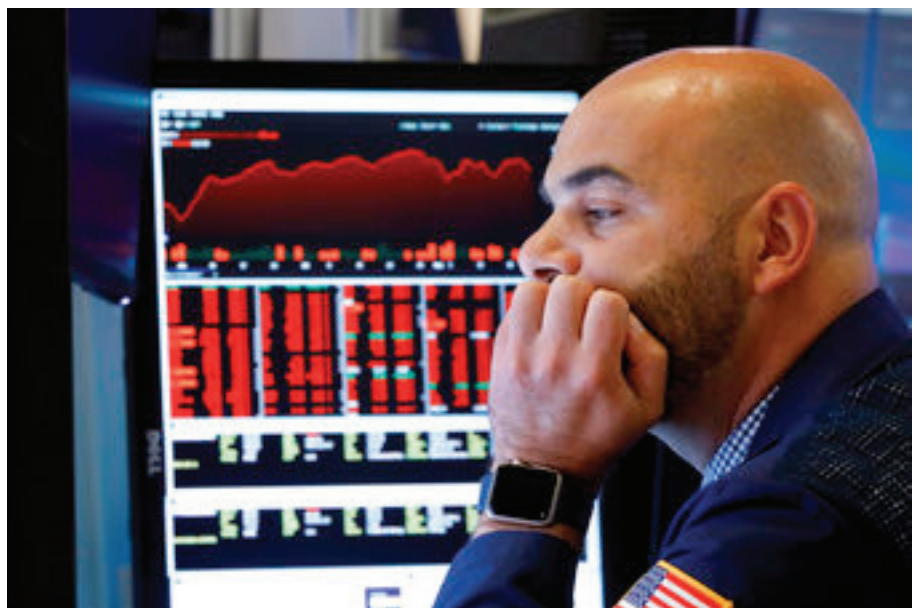
The law creating the Fed says its officials and those of other independent agencies can be “removed for cause” by a president. While that issue has never arisen in regard to a Fed official, the courts ruled decades ago that “for cause” means more than a policy disagreement with a president.

US stocks tumble as US-China trade war rattles investors

By ALEX VEIGA AP Business Writer

The Dow Jones Industrial Average plunged more than 600 points Friday after the latest escalation in the trade war between the U.S. and China rattled investors. The broad sell-off sent the S&P 500 to its fourth straight weekly loss.

Stocks tumbled after President Donald Trump responded angrily on Twitter following China’s announcement of new tariffs on \$75 billion in U.S. goods. In one of his tweets he “hereby ordered” U.S. companies with operations in China to consider moving them to other countries — including the U.S.



Trader Fred DeMarco works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Friday, Aug. 23, 2019. Stocks tumbled on Wall Street after President Donald Trump said he “hereby ordered” U.S. companies to consider alternatives to doing business in China. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

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Trump also said he'd respond directly to the tariffs — and after the market closed he delivered, announcing that the U.S. would increase existing tariffs on \$250 billion in Chinese goods to 30% from 25%, and that new tariffs on another \$300 billion of imports would be 15% instead of 10%. Those announcements are likely to influence stock markets in Asia when trading opens there Monday.

Friday's developments mark the latest escalation of an ongoing trade dispute between Washington and Beijing that has given investors whiplash as they try to assess its potential impact on the global economy. The tweets from Trump around 11 a.m. ignited a wave of selling as investors fled stocks in favor of U.S. government bonds, pushing yields higher. The price of gold also rose.

"The market is spooked by the escalation in the trade war," said Janet Johnston, portfolio manager at TrimTabs Asset Management. "Investors are looking for an endgame and we haven't seen it yet."

The S&P 500 fell 75.84 points, or 2.6%, to 2,847.11. The index is now down 4.5% for the month. It's still up 13.6% for the year.

The Dow lost 623.34 points, or 2.4%, to 25,628.90. The average briefly dropped 745 points. The Dow has had five declines of 2% or more this year, with three of them coming this month.

The Nasdaq gave up 239.62 points, or 3%, to 7,751.77. The Russell 2000 index of smaller company stocks skidded 46.52 points, or 3.1%, to 1,459.49.

Trump also said Friday morning that he was "ordering" UPS, Federal Express and Amazon to block any deliveries from China of the powerful opioid drug fentanyl. The stocks of all three companies fell as traders tried to assess the possible implications.

Matt Arnold, an analyst who covers FedEx and UPS for Edward Jones, said it could be difficult for the companies to comply should the administration draft detailed guidelines for rooting out fentanyl.

"It's difficult to picture a scenario where UPS and FedEx are all that well-equipped to detect something like this," he said.

The trade scuffle nearly overshadowed a speech by Jerome Powell in which the chairman of the Federal Reserve indicated the central bank was prepared to cut interest rates but gave no clear signal on when and by how much.

Speaking at a Fed policy conference in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, Powell noted that there's growing evidence of a global economic slowdown and suggested that uncertainty over Trump's trade wars have complicated the central bank's ability to set interest rate policy. Powell said the Fed "will act as appropriate to sustain the expansion."

Some economists saw Powell's speech as setting the stage for further interest rate cuts this year. A quarter-point rate cut reduction in September is considered all but certain. Some think the Fed will cut rates again in December.

Trump responded by again criticizing the Fed for being too slow to cut interest rates.

Technology companies, which have much to lose in the trade battle, bore the brunt of the sell-off. Apple slid 4.6% and Microsoft gave up 3.2%. Chipmaker Nvidia dropped 5.3%.

Companies that rely on consumer spending also took losses. Retailer L Brands plunged 9.3%.

Energy stocks headed lower along with crude oil prices. The price of benchmark crude sank \$1.18, or 2.1% to settle at \$54.17 a barrel as traders worried that the latest escalation in the trade battle could sap global demand for energy.

U.S. bond prices rose sharply as investors sought safety, sending yields lower. The yield on the 10-year Treasury fell to 1.53% from 1.61%, a large move. Banks fell because lower yields can translate to a decline in the interest rate that lenders charge for mortgages and other consumer loans. JPMorgan Chase lost 2.5% and Citigroup dropped 3.1%.

The price of gold, another safe haven for investors during times of market turbulence and economic weakness, rose \$29.30 to \$1,526.60 per ounce.

In other commodities trading Friday, Brent crude oil, the international standard, fell 58 cents to close at \$59.34 a barrel. Wholesale gasoline fell 3 cents to \$1.64 per gallon. Heating oil declined 2 cents to \$1.82 per gallon. Natural gas fell 1 cent to \$1.15 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Silver fell 39 cents to \$17.40 per ounce and copper fell 2 cents to \$2.53 per pound. The dollar fell to 105.31 Japanese yen from 106.41 yen on Thursday. The euro strengthened to \$1.1145 from \$1.1085.

AP Business Writer David Koenig contributed.

Bolsonaro to send army to fight huge fires in the Amazon

By VICTOR CAIVANO Associated Press

PORT VELHO, Brazil (AP) — Under international pressure to contain fires sweeping parts of Brazil's Amazon, President Jair Bolsonaro on Friday authorized use of the military to battle the huge blazes while thousands took to the streets to protest his environmental policies.

Brazilian forces will deploy starting Saturday to border areas, indigenous territories and other affected regions in the Amazon to assist in putting out fires for a month, according to a presidential decree authorizing use of the army.

The military will "act strongly" to control the wildfires, Bolsonaro promised as he signed the decree.

The armed forces will collaborate with public security and environmental protection agencies, the decree says.

"The protection of the forest is our duty," the president said. "We are aware of that and will act to combat deforestation and criminal activities that put people at risk in the Amazon.

We are a government of zero tolerance for crime, and in the environmental field it will not be different."

Bolsonaro has previously described rainforest protections as an obstacle to Brazil's economic development, sparring with critics who note that the Amazon produces vast amounts of oxygen and is considered crucial for efforts to contain climate change.

As the president spoke, thousands of Brazilians demonstrated in Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo and the capital of Brasilia demanding the government announce concrete actions to curb the fires. People also banged pots from their homes, a traditional mode of protest in South America.

An Associated Press journalist who traveled to the Amazon region Friday saw many already deforested areas that had been burned.

Charred trees and fallen branches were seen around Porto Velho, the capital of Rondonia state, which borders Bolivia. In some instances, the burned fields were adjacent to intact livestock ranches and other farms, suggesting the fires had been managed as part of a land-clearing policy.

A large column of smoke billowed from one fire, and smoke rose from a couple of nearby wooded areas. Life appeared normal in Porto Velho. However, visibility from the windows of an arriving airplane was poor



Wildfires consume an area near Porto Velho, Brazil, Friday, Aug. 23, 2019. Brazilian state experts have reported a record of nearly 77,000 wildfires across the country so far this year, up 85% over the same period in 2018. Brazil contains about 60% of the Amazon rainforest, whose degradation could have severe consequences for global climate and rainfall. (AP Photo/Victor R. Caivano)

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because of smog enveloping the region.

Small numbers of demonstrators gathered outside Brazilian diplomatic missions in Paris, London, Geneva and Bogota, Colombia, to urge Brazil to do more to fight the fires. Larger protests were held in Uruguay and Argentina. Hundreds also protested in Chile, Ecuador and Peru.

Neighboring Bolivia and Paraguay have also struggled to contain fires that swept through woods and fields, in many cases set to clear land for farming. About 7,500 square kilometers (2,900 square miles) of land has been affected in Bolivia, Defense Minister Javier Zavaleta said.

A B747-400 SuperTanker arrived in Bolivia and began flying over devastated areas to help put out the fires and protect forests. The U.S.-based aircraft can carry nearly 76,000 liters (20,000 gallons) of retardant, a substance used to stop fires.

Some 370 square kilometers (140 square miles) have burned in northern Paraguay, near the borders with Brazil and Bolivia, said Joaquín Roa, a Paraguayan state emergency official. He said the situation had stabilized.

Close to 20% of the Amazon has already been deforested, said Thomas Lovejoy, a George Mason University environmental scientist.

"I worry that the current deforestation will push past the tipping point leading to massive loss of forest and biodiversity," Lovejoy wrote in an email to The Associated Press. He said Brazil is "turning its back" on past environmental achievements, including the 1992 Earth Summit, and has proposed infrastructure projects that will accelerate the challenge of climate change.

"Fires are directly burning into the Amazon rainforest and that releases the carbon stored in those trees," said Doug Morton, a NASA scientist. "The carbon then enters the atmosphere as carbon dioxide or methane, where it contributes to the greenhouse gases that are causing climate change, bringing us a warmer and a drier planet."

Morton said there is now "an uptick in the pressure against the remaining Amazon forest, to expand agriculture production in areas that are the leading edge in the deforestation frontier."

Fires are common in Brazil in the annual dry season, but they are much more widespread this year. Brazilian state experts reported nearly 77,000 wildfires across the country so far this year, up 85% over the same period in 2018.

Just over half of those fires have occurred in the Amazon region. Brazil contains about 60% of the Amazon rainforest.

U.S. President Donald Trump said Friday that he spoke with Bolsonaro.

"Our future Trade prospects are very exciting and our relationship is strong, perhaps stronger than ever before," Trump tweeted. "I told him if the United States can help with the Amazon Rainforest fires, we stand ready to assist!"

In escalating tension over the fires, France accused Bolsonaro of having lied to French leader Emmanuel Macron and threatened to block a European Union trade deal with several South American states, including Brazil. Ireland joined in the threat.

The specter of possible economic repercussions for Brazil and its South American neighbors show how the Amazon is becoming a battleground between Bolsonaro and Western governments alarmed that vast swaths of the region are going up in smoke on his watch.

Ahead of a Group of Seven summit in France this weekend, Macron's office questioned Bolsonaro's trustworthiness.

Brazilian statements and decisions indicate Bolsonaro "has decided to not respect his commitments on the climate, nor to involve himself on the issue of biodiversity," Macron's office said.

It added that France now opposes the EU's trade deal "in its current state" with the Mercosur bloc of South American nations that includes Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay.

In Germany, Chancellor Angela Merkel views the fires as "shocking and threatening," government spokesman Steffen Seibert said.

Argentina, which is struggling with rising poverty and austerity measures, has offered to send emergency

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workers to Brazil and Bolivia to help battle the fires. Chile also offered aid.

The Brazilian government has said European countries are exaggerating Brazil's environmental problems in order to disrupt its commercial interests. Bolsonaro, who has said he wants to convert land for cattle pastures and soybean farms, said it was difficult to curb increasing deforestation with limited resources.

"It's not easy to fight deforestation, our Amazon area is bigger than all of Europe," he said. "We'll do what we can to fight this crime."

Associated Press journalists John Leicester in Paris; Science Writer Seth Borenstein in Washington; Marcelo Silva de Sousa in Rio de Janeiro; Juan Karita in Santa Cruz, Bolivia; Pedro Servin in Asunción, Paraguay; and Christopher Torchia in Caracas, Venezuela, contributed to this report.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Aug. 24, the 236th day of 2019. There are 129 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 24, 1814, during the War of 1812, British forces invaded Washington, D.C., setting fire to the Capitol (which was still under construction) and the White House, as well as other public buildings.

On this date:

In A.D. 79, long-dormant Mount Vesuvius erupted, burying the Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum in volcanic ash; an estimated 20,000 people died.

In 1857, the New York branch of the Ohio Life Insurance and Trust Company failed, sparking the Panic of 1857.

In 1932, Amelia Earhart embarked on a 19-hour flight from Los Angeles to Newark, New Jersey, making her the first woman to fly solo, non-stop, from coast to coast.

In 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty came into force.

In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Communist Control Act, outlawing the Communist Party in the United States.

In 1959, three days after Hawaiian statehood, Hiram L. Fong was sworn in as the first Chinese-American U.S. Senator while Daniel K. Inouye was sworn in as the first Japanese-American U.S. Representative.

In 1968, France became the world's fifth thermonuclear power as it exploded a hydrogen bomb in the South Pacific.

In 1981, Mark David Chapman was sentenced in New York to 20 years to life in prison for murdering John Lennon. (Chapman remains imprisoned.)

In 1989, the Voyager 2 space probe flew by Neptune, sending back striking photographs.

In 2003, the Justice Department reported the U.S. crime rate in 2002 was the lowest since studies began in 1973.

In 2006, the International Astronomical Union declared that Pluto was no longer a full-fledged planet, demoting it to the status of a "dwarf planet."

In 2007, the NFL indefinitely suspended Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick without pay after he acknowledged in court papers that he had, indeed, bankrolled gambling on dogfighting and helped kill some dogs not worthy of the pit.

Ten years ago: All sales under the government's Cash for Clunkers program came to an end, although car dealers were given more time to submit pending claims for reimbursement. Scotland's justice minister, Kenny MacAskill, defended his much-criticized decision to free Abdel Baset al-Megrahi, convicted of being the Lockerbie bomber, on compassionate grounds.

Five years ago: A magnitude 6.0 earthquake struck Northern California, causing extensive damage in Napa and the surrounding area. Peter Theo Curtis, an American freelance journalist kidnapped and held hostage for nearly two years by an al-Qaida-linked group in Syria, was released less than a week after

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the horrific execution of American journalist James Foley by Islamic militants. South Korea won the Little League World Series championship game, defeating Chicago 8-4 in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania. At the MTV Video Music Awards, Miley Cyrus won Video of the Year for "Wrecking Ball."

One year ago: The family of Arizona Sen. John McCain announced that he had discontinued medical treatment for an aggressive form of brain cancer; McCain died the following day. Robin Leach, host of the 1980s TV show "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous," died in Las Vegas at the age of 76. The S&P 500 index finished at an all-time high of 2,874.69, just two days after the bull market in U.S. stocks became the longest in history.

Today's Birthdays: Composer-musician Mason Williams is 81. Rhythm-and-blues singer Marshall Thompson (The Chi-Lites) is 77. Rock musician Ken Hensley is 74. Actress Anne Archer is 72. Actor Joe Regalbuto is 70. Actor Kevin Dunn is 64. Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee is 64. Actor-writer Stephen Fry is 62. Actor Steve Guttenberg is 61. Baseball Hall of Famer Cal Ripken Jr. is 59. Actor Jared Harris is 58. Talk show host Craig Kilborn is 57. CBS News correspondent Major Garrett is 57. Rock singer John Bush is 56. Actress Marlee Matlin is 54. Basketball Hall of Famer Reggie Miller is 54. Broadcast journalist David Gregory is 49. Country singer Kristyn Osborn (SHeDaisy) is 49. Movie director Ava DuVernay is 47. Actor-comedian Dave Chappelle is 46. Actor James D'Arcy is 46. Actor Carmine Giovinazzo is 46. Actor Alex O'Loughlin is 43. Actress Beth Riesgraf is 41. Actor Chad Michael Murray is 38. Christian rock musician Jeffrey Gilbert (Kutless) is 36. Singer Mika is 36. Actor Blake Berris is 35. Actor Rupert Grint ("Harry Potter" films) is 31.

Thought for Today: "Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage." — Lao Tzu, Chinese philosopher (born and died in the 6th century, B.C.E.).