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

Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

14 - Saturday

9 a.m.: Groton 5th-6th FB hosts Groton Jamboree

9 a.m.: Groton 4th FB hosts WVYF Gold

1 p.m.: Girls Soccer at SF Christian

3 p.m.: Boys Soccer at SF Christian

SEAS Catholic: Service, 4:30 p.m.

15 - Sunday

St. John's Bible Study, 8 a.m.; Worship with Communion, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10 a.m.

Emmanuel: worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday school, 10 a.m.; Nursing Home, 3 p.m.

SEAS Catholic: service, 9 a.m.

C&MA: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; Worship, 10:45 a.m.

UMC: Fellowship, 10 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.

Presbyterian: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.

16 MONDAY HOMECOMING WEEK

Dress-up Day: MS/HS: Retro; Elementary: Tie-Dye Day

2 p.m.: Cross Country at Webster

4 p.m.: JH FB at Sisseton (7/8 combined at 4 p.m., JV game at 5:15)

7:30 p.m.: HC Coronation

St. John's: Christian Literature Circle, 7:30 p.m.

Emmanuel: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

Breakfast: French Toast and Sausage

Lunch: Chicken Stir Fry, Egg Roll

Senior Menu: Beef tips in gravy over noodles, lettuce salad with dressing, peaches, whole wheat bread.

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Sisseton hands Groton second loss with 2 fourth quarter touchdowns

Sisseton would score two touchdowns in the fourth quarter to break a tied game to post a 20-12 win in football action played in Groton.

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM and the video is now archived at www.397news.com where GDI subscribers will have access. Game sponsors were Doug Abeln Seed Company, Aberdeen Chrysler Center, Allied Climate Professionals, Bahr Spray Foam, BaseKamp Lodge, DeHoet Trucking, Groton Auto Works, Hanlon Brothers, John Sieh Agency, Milbrandt Enterprises, Mike-N-Jo's Body-N-Glass,



Peyton Johnson (32) and Grady O'Neill (75) go after Sisseton's quarterback, Anthony Tchida, and get him for a loss. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Jonathan Doeden avoids the defense to get a first down. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Olson Development, Professional Management Services, Touchdown Sponsor: Patios Plus

Groton had the first offensive drive, but after one first down, the Tigers had to punt.

Sisseton started at its own 20 yard line and secured four first downs to make it first and goal at the Tiger five yard line. The Tiger defense had a goal-line stand. On fourth and two, Jonathan Doeden deflected the pass and the Tigers took over on their own two yard line.

Groton got two first downs on its next drive but then had to punt on fourth and seven.

Sisseton had the ball last in the first quarter, but ended up punting the ball on fourth and 10 early in the second quarter.

It was four plays for the Tigers, punting on fourth and seven.

The Redmen would start on their own 36 yard line and after securing a first down, Anthony Tchida would score on a 32 yard run with 10:49 left in the first half. The PAT pass was no good and Sisseton took a 6-0 lead.

Groton would answer on its next possession. Starting from their own 40 yard line, Doeden would run 53 yards for the touchdown on third and two. The PAT pass was no good and the game was tied at six.

The Redmen threatened to score again. Starting at their own 29 yard line, the Redmen would rack up three first downs. On fourth and four from the Tigers 19, Sisseton tried to punch it in, but the Tiger defense kept them at bay. Groton would have the ball on its own 18 yard line.

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Thomas Cranford makes a 30-yard catch to get the Tigers down to the Sisseton 15 yard line. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton got one first down and tried to covert on a fourth and one, but fell short. Sisseton had one play before the end of the first half and the game remained tied at six.

Sisseton had the first offensive drive to start out the third quarter, but had to punt after the fourt play on fourth and six.

Groton Area ended up punting and on Sisseton's next possession, the Redmen would fumble the ball on the Groton 31 yard line, recovered by Grady O'Neill.

Groton Area had three first downs before fumbling the ball deep in Sisseton territory. The Redmen would take over on their own 10 yard line. The Redmen would fumble on the next play and Brodyn DeHoet recovered the fumble on the Sisseton one yard line. Sisseton denied the Tigers the touchdown and the Redmen took over on downs on their own 15 yard line. Sisseton got a first down but ended up punting on fourth and eight.

Groton also got a first down on its next drive, but ended up punting on fourth and 20 as the third quarter ended. The punt actually happened during the first play of the fourth quarter.

The Redmen started out on the Groton 27 yard line and three plays later on second and 12, Anthony Tchida would score on a 32-yard run. The PAT pass was no good and Sisseton took a 12-6 lead.

Groton Area found itself going in the wrong directon on its next drive and had to punt on fourth and 17. Sisseton had good field position, starting at the Groton 22 yard line. After securing a first down, Tchida would score on a one-yard run This time the PAT pass was good and Sisseton took a 20-6 lead with 4:12 left in the game.

The Tigers started out on its own 20-yard line. DeHoet had two of the three first downs including a 45-yard catch to get the Tigers down to the three-yard line. Three plays later, Doeden would hit paydirt with a two-yard run. The PAT pass was no good and it was 20-12 with 2:10 left in the game.

Sisseton would take its time to run the clock out, denying Groton another touch of the football as the Redmen went on to win, 20-12.

Sisseton had more first downs, 17-12, and had just a few more yards on offense, 282-278. Groton Area had 56 yards on eight penalties and Sisseton was penalized five times for 25 yards.

Doeden had 133 yards rushing with two touchdowns and had nine tackles. Kaden Kurtz had 23 yards rushing and eight tackles. DeHoet had 77 yards receiving and one fumble recovery while Thomas Cranford had 35 yards on one catch and had eight tackles and Pierce Kettering had 13 yards on one catch. Alex Morris had 11 tackles and Grady O'Neill had one fumble recovery.

The Tigers, now 2-2 on the season, will host Milbank in a homecomng game on Friday.

- Paul Kosel

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	GROTON AREA		SISSETON
First Downs	12		17
Rushing	27-153		46-230
Jonathan Doeden	19-133, 2 TD	Anthony Tchida	14-111, 3 TD
Kaden Kurtz	8-23	Elijah Kowalzek	15-54
		Isiah Grimm	7-28
		Carter Schaunaman	10-27
Passing			
Kaden Kurtz	7-15-125	Anthony Tchida	1-10-52
Receivers			
Brodyn DeHoet	5-77	Elijah Kowalzek	2-40
Pierce Kettering	1-13	Dylan Goodhart	2-12
Thomas Cranford	1-35		
Fumbles	Had 2 lost 1		Had 2 lost 2
Penalties	8-56		5-25
Defense			
Alex Morris	11 tackles	Dusty Neilan	8 tackles
Jonathan Doeden	9 tackles	Carter Schaunaman	5 tackles
Kaden Kurtz	8 tackles	Ty Peterson	5 tackles
Thomas Cranford	8 tackles		
Record	2-2		3-1
Next Game	Friday hosts Milbank (HC)		Friday at Roncalli

Scoring

Second Quarter

9:42 Sisseton - Anthony Tchida, 6 yard run (PAT pass no good)

7:30 Groton - Jonathan Doeden, 53 yard run. (PAT kick no good)

Fourth Quarter

10:49 Sisseton - Anthony Tchida, 32 yard run (Pat pass no good)

4:12 Sisseton - Anthony Tchida, 1 yard run (Pat pass from Elijah Kowalzek to Ty Peterson)

2:10 Groton - Jonathan Doeden, 2 yard run (Pat pass no good)

West Central girls beat Groton Area

The Groton Area girls soccer team hosted West Cental on Friday. The Tigers dropped a 7-1 game to the Trojans. Kaylin Kucker was the goalie in the first half and Emma Schinkel was the goalie in the second half. Regan Leicht scored the goal for the Tigers.



It was senior recognition for the girls soccer team on Friday. Kaylin Kucker is the only senior on the team and she is pictured with her parents, Chris and Amy Kucker. (Photo by Marjae Schinkel)



Brooklyn Gilbert brings the ball up field for the Tigers. (Photo by Marjae Schinkel)

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Ani Davidson battles it out for the ball with this West Central player. (Photo by Marjae Schinkel)



Kaylin Kucker gives the ball a good kick out of the goal area. (Photo by Marjae Schinkel)

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Sydney Leicht bounces the ball off her knee in Groton's soccer game with West Central on Friday. (Photo by Marjae Schinkel)

Groton Class of '69 50th Year Reunion

Saturday, Sept 21st
Olive Grove Golf Course
The public is invited to attend after
6:30 to renew acquaintances
with OLD friends



2019 Groton Area Elementary Preschool Developmental Screening for 3 year olds September 24 and 25

Parents of children age 3 in the Groton Area School District are asked to contact Heidi Krueger at the Groton Area Elementary School during school hours at 397-2317 to either confirm their screening time or set up a time. Letters will be send out the week of September 16. If your child is already receiving services or enrolled at Groton Elementary School they will not need to be screened. If your child has already been screened but you have concerns please contact the elementary school. If you are new to the district and have a child under the age of 5, we also ask you to contact the elementary school.

The Developmental Screening will take place at Groton Area Elementary School.



(0911.0918)

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Photos from Boys Soccer Game With James Valley Christian

This is the game winning goal by Anthony Schinkel. (Photo by Marjae Schinkel)



The Groton Area boys hosted James Valley Christian. The area received nearly five inches of rain and it shows up on the soccer field on Thursday. Here Piet Solling is splashing up a lot of water on the field. (Photo by Marjae Schinkel)



Jacob Zak goes after the ball in Groton's soccer game with James Valley Christian. (Photo by Marjae Schinkel)

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The senior boys on the team are Grady O'Neill, Austin Jones, Anthony Schinkel, Hunter Schaller, Garret Schroeder and Cade Guthmiller. (Photo by Marjae Schinkel)

Langford Front Porch Help Wanted



Immediate opening for a FT General Manager at The Front Porch Bar & Grill, Langford SD. This person will ensure a profitable and efficiently run restaurant/bar operation through innovative menus, events, staff management and business operations. Wage DOE. Must be 21 years old. Contact Paula Jensen at (605) 228-5963 or email resume by September 30, 2019 to langfordfrontporch@venturecomm.net.

Roberts County Democratic Party

is hosting a

STEAK FRY DINNER

Friday, September 20, 2019 • 6:30 p.m.

Valley View Golf Course

Speaker will be Joel Heitkamp

KFGD morning show "News & Views"

TICKET PRICE: \$50

To purchase tickets call: Gary Hanson 268-0448

Jason Frerichs 605-949-2204, Dave Gleason 237-1923

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Brief Outage This Morning

There was a brief power outage early this morning that affected Groton and other area communities. The outage also caused one of the main pumps at the city's main lift station south of town to go out and the city crew had to replace that pump this morning.

There have been outages being reported in the southern part of the state. A small area on the west side of Aberdeen reported an outage at 1:45 p.m. today. Part of Chamberlain was without power and Mt. Vernon just reported (as of 1 p.m.) that they are without power. This was reported on the Mt. Vernon Facebook Page:

NorthWestern Energy is aware of the power outage. I have not received any information on what is causing it or how long it will be turning on and off.

If you have a generator you may want to consider running a cord to your sump pump on stand by, if it goes back out.

Mayor Frank

The following map shows an area west of Mitchell without power as of 1:45 p.m. today.



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*Tribute to 100
years of the
American Legion*



*Coffee and
Birthday
Cake*

THE AMERICAN LEGION

1919

2019

100
Years

*Please help us celebrate a Century
of the American Legion*

VETERANS STILL SERVING AMERICA

Friday, Sept 20, 2019 ~ 3:30 p.m., Groton Legion Post #39

1 free drink to any Veteran

Program to include

Legion history






Local performers singing songs from the following periods

WW I ~ WW II ~ Korea ~ Vietnam to present time










MILITARY RITES AT THE CONCLUSION IN HONOR OF OUR DECEASED COMRADES PERFORMED BY GROTON POST #39


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This Afternoon	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
				
Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 78 °F	Low: 53 °F	High: 83 °F	Low: 63 °F	High: 87 °F

Getting Warmer With Each Day Through Monday

Today			Today			Today		
83°	56°	0%	79°	53°	0%	78°	54°	0%
Mostly Sunny			Mostly Sunny			Mostly Sunny		
Sun	Mon	Tue	Sun	Mon	Tue	Sun	Mon	Tue
								
88°	92°	87°	84°	88°	86°	83°	86°	83°
63°	68°	59°	63°	68°	61°	64°	68°	62°
0%	5%	10%	5%	5%	10%	0%	5%	15%
Breezy			Breezy			Breezy		
Pierre, SD			Aberdeen, SD			Watertown, SD		


Aberdeen, SD
 National Weather Service Updated: 9/14/2019 5:45 AM Central

Published on: 09/14/2019 at 1:49AM

Predominantly dry for several days, the mercury will be steadily rising each of the next few days to well above normal for the middle of September.

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Today in Weather History

September 14, 1993: An early freeze and frost hit the state of South Dakota on the 14th and 15th. On the morning of the 14th, some low temperatures included 24 degrees at Rapid City, 19 degrees at Camp Crook and Porcupine, and 31 degrees at Pierre. The 24 degree low at Rapid City broke the old record for the date by 10 degrees and was the earliest in the season it has ever been that cold. The air mass had moderated some by the time it hit eastern South Dakota early on the 15th. Some low temperatures on the 15th included 28 degrees at Brookings, 30 degrees at Watertown, and 32 at Sioux Falls.

1928: A violent, estimated F4 tornado, with winds of 200 mph, tore across Rockford, Illinois. The tornado first touched down 8 miles south-southwest of Rockford and moved across the southeast part of the city. The tornado was on the ground for 25 miles with a width varying from 200 to 500 feet. A total of 14 people were killed, with around 100 injuries reported in Rockford alone. Two hundred buildings were damaged or destroyed.

2008: Hurricane Ike became extratropical on this day. The St. Louis Metropolitan Area experienced hurricane conditions, with Ike's remnants inflicting severe damage to homes. Several areas in Illinois and Indiana, already flooded by the frontal boundary to the north, saw significant additional rainfall. Due to flooding in Chicago, a state of emergency was declared for Cook County due to flooding of the Des Plaines River. Hurricane-force wind gusts were reported to the east of the center across parts of Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania with significant wind damage including structural damage to buildings and trees.

1937 - The mercury soared to 92 degrees at Seattle, WA, a record for September. (The Weather Channel)

1944 - A very destructive hurricane swept across Cape Hatteras and Chesapeake Bay, side swiped New Jersey and Long Island, and crossed southeastern Massachusetts. The hurricane killed more than four hundred persons, mainly at sea. The hurricane destroyed the Atlantic City NJ boardwalk. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1970 - The temperature at Fremont, OR, dipped to 2 above zero to equal the state record for September set on the 24th in 1926. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Barrow, AK, received 5.1 inches of snow, a record for September. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1987 - Thunderstorms developing along a cold front produced severe weather from Minnesota to Texas. Thunderstorms in Iowa produced baseball size hail at Laporte City, and 80 mph winds at Laurens. Hail caused more than ten million dollars damage to crops in Iowa. Thunderstorms in Missouri produced wind gusts to 75 mph at Missouri City and Kansas City. A thunderstorm in Texas deluged the town of Fairlie with two inches of rain in just two hours. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Hurricane Gilbert made the first of its two landfalls on Mexico, producing 170 mph winds at Cozumel. (The Weather Channel)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather over the Texas panhandle during the evening hours. One thunderstorm spawned a strong (F-2) tornado in the southwest part of Amarillo, and deluged the area with five inches of rain. The heavy rain left roads under as much as five feet of water, and left Lawrence Lake a mile out of its banks. Hurricane Gilbert lost some of its punch crossing the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico. Its maximum winds diminished to 120 mph. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Unseasonably cool weather prevailed across the south central U.S. Eight cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Raton NM with a reading of 30 degrees. The afternoon high of 59 degrees at Topeka KS marked their third straight record cool maximum temperature. Unseasonably warm weather continued in the Pacific Northwest. Seattle WA reported a record eight days in a row of 80 degree weather in September. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

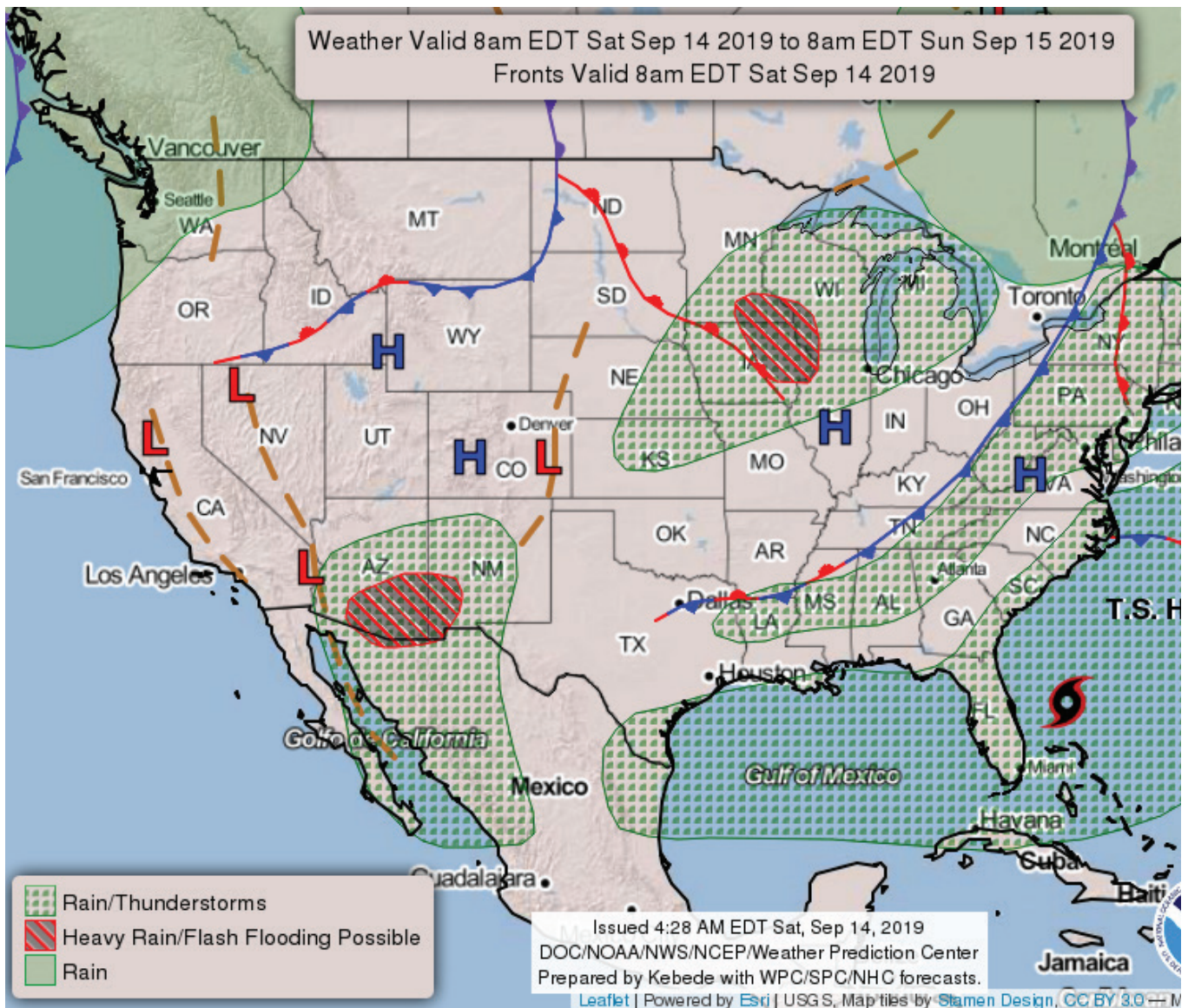
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 65 °F at 5:47 PM
Low Temp: 51 °F at 4:26 AM
Wind: 16 mph at 12:44 PM
Day Rain: 0.00

Record High: 102° in 1948
Record Low: 28° in 1949
Average High: 73°F
Average Low: 47°F
Average Precip in Sept.: 0.98
Precip to date in Sept.: 4.86
Average Precip to date: 17.27
Precip Year to Date: 24.62
Sunset Tonight: 7:47 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:12 a.m.



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IS YOUR LIGHT SHINING?

It was in the darkness of night that we called on a mechanic to fix a problem with our car. As he worked under the hood, his helper stood by holding a flashlight so he could see what he was doing.

After a short amount of time, the helper became bored, began to watch our dog and turned the light away from the problem the mechanic was repairing.

"Shine your light on the engine," demanded the mechanic. "That's why you're here."

Jesus said that His followers were like "a city on a mountain, glowing in the night, for all to see." What an interesting picture to consider.

If you have ever flown in an airplane at night and looked out of the window, you have no doubt been fascinated to see the lights of the cities below. If the night is clear, their light cannot be hidden. Their "glow" can be seen for miles in every direction.

What is true of the lights of those cities can be true of the Christian. We always have the opportunity to "glow" like those lights for Christ. As His witnesses in His world, we are to be known for the "light" we can provide to those looking through the darkness of this world for directions to Christ, our Savior. Our faith must be seen if we are to have any value to the lost who are looking for their way in the world. Jesus said, "Don't hide your light, let it shine!"

Prayer: Help us, Jesus, to be the light You planned us to be in Your world. May our light shine brightly so that our words and deeds will lead and guide others to You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Matthew 5:14 "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden."

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2019 Groton SD Community Events

- 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, 10 a.m. Sharp (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, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/25/2020 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services (Memorial Day)
- 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, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (1st Sat. after Labor Day)
- 10/10/2020 Pumpkin Fest
- 10/31/2020 Groton United Methodist Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
- 11/14/2020 Groton American Legion Post #39 Annual Turkey Party (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)

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News from the Associated Press

Lawyer accused of failing to pay taxes reaches plea deal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City lawyer and one-time public prosecutor accused of failing to pay federal income taxes has reached a plea deal.

The Rapid City Journal reports that former Pennington County State's Attorney's Office Chief Deputy Gregory Sperlich scheduled to plead guilty next week to two counts of failing to pay taxes. He faces up to one year in prison on each count.

Court records show Sperlich has agreed to pay \$227,799 in restitution to the Internal Revenue Service. Sperlich is accused of failing to pay income and self-employment taxes from 2013-2016.

Paul Winter, Sperlich's defense lawyer, says his client is still practicing law.

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

Friday's Scores By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Sioux County, Neb. def. Oelrichs, 25-21, 25-14, 25-13

PREP FOOTBALL

Beresford 21, Sioux Falls Christian 18

Bridgewater-Emery/Ethan 21, Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 16

Britton-Hecla 40, Hamlin 7

Brookings 28, Sturgis Brown 7

Canistota 22, Howard 0

Canton 50, Pine Ridge 0

Castlewood 24, Estelline/Hendricks 0

Centerville 58, Avon 32

Chamberlain 53, Bennett County 50

Colman-Egan 34, DeSmet 12

Crow Creek 50, Marty Indian 0

Dakota Valley 27, Milbank 14

Dell Rapids 14, Madison 13

Dell Rapids St. Mary 66, Alcester-Hudson 22

Deuel 51, Dakota Hills 30

Douglas, Wyo. 49, Belle Fourche 21

Faith 60, Dupree 6

Faulkton 54, Northwestern 14

Florence/Henry 22, Clark/Willow Lake 2

Gregory 27, Wolsey-Wessington 24

Hanson 44, Corsica/Stickney 0

Harding County 57, Bison 0

Huron 30, Douglas 0

Irene-Wakonda 40, Colome 20

Langford 26, Ipswich/Edmunds Central 20, OT

Lead-Deadwood 62, Hot Springs 55

Lennox 46, Custer 8

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Little Wound 44, Crazy Horse 0
Lower Brule 46, Flandreau Indian 18
Lyman 14, Kadoka Area 8
Mitchell 17, Spearfish 3
Mobridge-Pollock 38, Aberdeen Roncalli 0
Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 24, Elkton-Lake Benton 22, OT
Pierre 63, Yankton 0
Platte-Geddes 36, Gayville-Volin 6
Red Cloud 68, Takini 0
Scotland 32, Chester 19
Sioux Valley 58, Flandreau 6
Sisseton 20, Groton Area 12
St. Thomas More 62, Todd County 0
Sully Buttes 46, Herreid/Selby Area 8
Tea Area 21, West Central 0
Timber Lake 58, Newell 8
Tiospa Zina Tribal 61, St. Francis Indian 20
Tri-Valley 20, Vermillion 7
Tripp-Delmont/Armour/Andes Central/Dakota Christian 42, Sunshine Bible Academy 6
Viborg-Hurley 46, Baltic 12
Wall 42, Rapid City Christian 0
Warner 42, North Border 0
Watertown 21, Rapid City Central 14
Winner 52, Wagner 0
Woonsocket/Wessington Springs/Sanborn Central 20, Stanley County 7
POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS(equals)
McLaughlin vs. Standing Rock, N.D., ccd.

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

Newest judge ready to tackle challenges of the bench

By DANIELLE FERGUSON Sioux Falls Argus Leader

ST. LOUIS, S.D. (AP) — Hearing “all rise” as she stepped up to the bench for the first time was a bit odd for Rachel Rasmussen.

The newest Second Judicial Circuit Court judge knows it’s a sign of respect for her profession, but it took some getting used to.

Rasmussen, 39, was appointed by Gov. Kristi Noem recently to be Minnehaha and Lincoln counties’ 12th circuit court judge, a position added to the area after local judges and South Dakota Supreme Court Justice David Gilbertson called on lawmakers to respond to the “explosion” of drug-related court cases.

Rasmussen is already familiar with the problem of drugs in the community and expects to see more in her role as circuit court judge.

“Meth has grown so much,” Rasmussen told the Sioux Falls Argus Leader . “The trickle-down effect it has, from property crimes, things like that, has a lot bigger of a ripple effect than just the user themselves.”

The Canton native will return to serve in her hometown in late September as the sole full-time circuit court judge in Lincoln County, presiding with another judge.

She spent a few years early in her career as a prosecutor with the Lincoln County State’s Attorney’s Office, handling misdemeanor, felony and juvenile cases. For the last few years of her time in the private sector, she served as a defense attorney through her private firm that held a contract with Lincoln County, and she rotated in the county in her role as a magistrate judge last year.

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"I told them I keep showing up like a bad penny," Rasmussen joked recently in her soon-to-be-vacated Minnehaha County office.

Lincoln County is a large contributor to the growth of cases in the Second Circuit, with judges handling, on average, about 1,200 more cases than other South Dakota judges.

Since 2000, the Second Circuit Court's caseload in Lincoln County has increased by nearly 50 percent, making it the fourth-largest caseload in the state. From fiscal year 2009 to 2018, felony filings in that county have jumped by 154 percent.

Rasmussen's time as a magistrate judge for the last year in the Second Circuit opened her eyes to the amount of cases marching through the system. There are days where a judge can see upward of 80 defendants making their first appearances on new charges, she said, a number she didn't quite feel the gravity of until she sat behind the bench.

"The volume surprised me," Rasmussen said.

Rasmussen's appointment continues a trend of female judges in the Second Circuit, putting women in the majority of presiding judges in both counties. Judge Sandra Hoglund Hanson's appointment last year marked the first-ever female dominated assemblage of second circuit court judges.

Though grateful about expanding opportunities, Rasmussen said she is looking forward to the day where female accomplishments are recognized as part of the norm and not an outlier.

She serves as backup judge for the mental health court, another product of the 2019 legislative session, and is helping create a program with the South Dakota Network Against Family Violence and Sexual Assault that focuses on rehabilitation and compliance for misdemeanor domestic violence offenders.

She wants to use her new role to give assurance to the public that the process works.

"People care in court," she said. "We can't fix everything from the bench, but I'm proud to be part of a judicial system and criminal justice system like that."

Rasmussen is both excited and a tad nervous for her upcoming role. She's been in just about every type of court hearing, but is ready to look at higher level cases with a broad viewpoint she acquired in years as an attorney, research assistant, managing editor of a legal publication and her time with the legal-research service LexisNexis.

Rasmussen received her undergraduate degree from the University of South Dakota, then went to law school at the University of Minnesota. She spent time in the private sector, doing public criminal defense contracts, civil law, divorce, custody, land disputes, real estate transactions and tax law.

She enjoyed the variety.

"You never knew what was going to walk through the door," she said. "I could be learning about the American Quarter Horse Association this day and airplanes the next day."

She is looking forward to seeing it all again from a neutral third-party perspective as a judge, a goal she's had in the back of her mind for years.

Prior to her circuit court appointment, Rasmussen served as a magistrate judge for the Second Circuit for about one year, presiding over misdemeanor cases, evictions and civil and small cases up to \$12,000.

She was appointed by Presiding Judge Robin Houwman to the magistrate judgeship after former magistrate judge Crystal Johnson stepped down to return to prosecuting at the Minnehaha County State's Attorney's Office.

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

Music and Memory brings familiar back to dementia patients

By TANYA MANUS Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Monty Stensland recalls his first date with his wife, Betty. She taught him a song, "The Bear Went Over the Mountain." After 68 years of marriage and Betty's battle with dementia, that song remains a happy memory the couple can share.

Music is helping improve the quality of life for Betty Stensland and other residents at Avantara Saint

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Cloud's Alzheimer's facility in Rapid City. It is one of several nursing centers in South Dakota using the Music and Memory program to calm, comfort and improve communication skills for Alzheimer's and dementia patients, the Rapid City Journal reported.

A year ago, former administrator Laura Karlson launched the program at Avantara Saint Cloud. It partnered with the South Dakota Foundation for Medical Care to set it up, train staff and get the necessary equipment.

After becoming certified, Alzheimer's Care Director Shauna Gunnels and other staff members started formulating playlists for residents. If family members know the songs, singers or musicians a resident likes, Gunnels puts those in a playlist. Otherwise, Gunnels compiles about an hour's worth of music that was popular when residents were younger.

The Music and Memory program is used by about half the residents, she said.

"A vast majority of what they retain is from their early 20s and 30s. That seems to resonate the most," Gunnels said.

The facility stores playlists on MP3 players or iPods. Earphones and players are often kept in a resident's room so staff or family members can easily access the music. Gunnels sometimes takes walks in the halls with residents, listening to their music with them and adjusting playlists if a resident's facial expressions show the songs aren't to their liking.

Betty Stensland's playlist includes piano music and Glenn Miller tunes. She likes it so well that she sometimes asks for "her ears," Gunnels said.

Monty Stensland visits his wife daily and says the music helps her relax when she's feeling restless or having trouble sleeping.

"It has really made a difference with her. She can be crabby and you ask if she wants music in her ears and she says, 'oh yes,'" Monty said. "Sometimes her communication is just mumbling, but after she's rested, she can talk."

Gunnels has been the Alzheimer's Care director since February, and she readily admits to crying tears of joy sometimes when she sees the way music changes residents' lives.

Sharie Wolff, for instance, tended to have anxiety and a lot of crying spells. Mealtimes were difficult.

"We tried changing dining rooms, we tried about everything and she just couldn't stay there and stay focused. She would leave the dining room," Gunnels said. "We started putting Elvis music on her (MP3) and gave her finger foods so she could eat while she walked."

Listening to Elvis music for a few minutes before meals relaxes Sharie enough that she's now able to sit in the dining room and has fewer crying spells.

Music is effective therapy, Gunnels said, because Alzheimer's seems not to affect areas of the brain related to music.

"All those synapses get rearranged and for whatever reason the part of the brain that still recognizes and understands music is not disrupted during this disease, which is strange," she said. "Residents can't remember their spouse or children, but they can remember a song from 60 years ago."

According to researchers at the University of Utah, Alzheimer's disease impairs the salience network of the brain, which serves as a communications hub between its various regions. The resulting lapses in memory force patients to live in a chronically unfamiliar world and therefore, in a frequent state of anxiety.

The Utah team studied MRIs of patients listening to familiar music and researchers saw significant re-activation of the salience network. Language and visual memory pathways were partially restored, and the ability to process rewards, motivations and respond positively to their environment improved.

Gunnels said compiling a playlist is a smart addition to end-of-life planning. Along with a will, long-term care insurance and estate planning, individuals should add a list of their favorite songs or create playlists of music to use in case dementia care is needed someday.

Karlson said she believes the Music and Memory program contributed to Avantara Saint Cloud being named a national quality award recipient for 2019 by the American Health Care Association.

"We're proud of this prestigious designation, but even more so of the care we provide each day for our

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residents," Karlson said. "Over half the nursing centers in South Dakota have become certified in Music and Memory, with more being added to the list. In my time in long-term care, this is one of the most inspiring programs I've seen."

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

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

06-16-37-59-62, Mega Ball: 5, Megaplier: 2

(six, sixteen, thirty-seven, fifty-nine, sixty-two; Mega Ball: five; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$172 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$60 million

Rains change planned water releases into Missouri River

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The amount of water to be released into the lower Missouri River will change in the coming days to accommodate recent heavy rains in the Upper Plains.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said in a news release Friday that water releases from Gavins Point Dam on the Nebraska-South Dakota border will be reduced to 65,000 cubic feet per second on Saturday and down to 60,000 cubic feet per second on Sunday.

The Corps says that reduction will last no longer than three days before releases are incrementally increased by 5,000 cubic feet per second, per a day going up to 80,000 cubic feet per second.

The Corps says it hopes that briefly lowering releases may curtail possible flooding on the Missouri River between Sioux City, Iowa and Omaha.

Flooding closes schools, restricts travel in SE South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Flooding from torrential rain that's soaked much of southeastern South Dakota closed schools for a second day on Friday, submerged city streets and caused some to evacuate their homes.

The cities of Mitchell, Dell Rapids and Madison have been hit especially hard with the area receiving more than 7 inches (177.8 millimeters) of rain over two days. At least 20 school districts in the region, as well as Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell and Dakota State University in Madison, were closed Friday because of flooding.

In Brandon, northeast of Sioux Falls, the heavy rain turned the local golf course into a lake. Portions of the 18-hole course and an office at the clubhouse were flooded.

Davison County Emergency Manager Jeff Bathkeflood said several bridges have washed away in Mitchell. In Madison, approximately 30 people had to be rescued by boats and pay loaders Thursday. Floodwater inundated the community of about 7,300 people and quickly overtook bridges and submerged entire roads before flowing south.

Some parts of town saw anywhere between 2 feet (0.61 meters) to 3 feet (0.91 meters) of water, according to Mayor Marshall Dennert.

"There was really no way to prepare for this," Dennert told the Argus Leader .

The Big Sioux River near Dell Rapids surpassed March's record-breaking flooding of 1,489.5 feet (454 meters). Flood stage is 1,481 feet (451.41 meters).

Floodwaters closed Interstate 90 from Plankinton to Sioux Falls Thursday, but portions of the interstate reopened Friday, according to the South Dakota Department of Transportation. According to the National

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Weather Service, up to 11 inches (279.4 millimeters) of rain fell over two days in parts of South Dakota. Meanwhile, Xcel Energy said the number of customers still without power after three tornadoes struck Sioux Falls earlier this week was down to about 200 at noon Friday.

Billboards protest 'In God We Trust' law

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — An organization promoting the separation of church and state is putting up billboards in three South Dakota cities to protest the state's new law that requires all public schools to post the motto "In God We Trust" in a prominent location.

The billboards from the Freedom From Religion Foundation, of Madison, Wisconsin, show "In God We Trust" carved into Mount Rushmore and the four presidents saying "There goes the neighborhood." The drawing is from Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist Steve Benson.

The billboards will be up for a month in Sioux Falls, Rapid City and Pierre.

Foundation president Annie Gaylor says its members are concerned about the law which she says is misguided. Gaylor tells the Argus Leader the motto, adopted during the Cold War, is outdated and divisive.

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

Pilot suspected of drinking sues police over detention

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — An airline pilot suspected of drinking before he prepared to fly is suing two Rapid City police officers who arrested him.

Russell Duszak claims he has been unable to get a new job as a pilot after he was wrongly arrested in October 2016 at the Rapid City airport where he was a co-pilot for SkyWest.

A Transportation Safety Administration worker reported smelling alcohol on one of the pilots when they went through their screening and notified police. An officer interrogated Duszak and called for another officer who performed a breath test which showed a blood alcohol content of .04 percent, the limit set by the Federal Aviation Administration.

The Argus Leader says Duszak was detained for four hours and given a blood test which showed only a trace amount of alcohol. Duszak was not prosecuted because the breath test was inadmissible in court.

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

Still reeling from Dorian, Bahamas faces tropical storm

By DÁNICA COTO Associated Press

FREEPORT, Bahamas (AP) — Officials temporarily suspended aid efforts and closed a couple of small airports in the Bahamas on Saturday as Tropical Storm Humberto threatened to lash the archipelago's northwest region that was already hit by Hurricane Dorian two weeks ago.

Humberto's arrival coincides with a weekend visit to the Bahamas by U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres aimed at supporting humanitarian efforts in the wake of Dorian, which reached the islands as a Category-5 storm and left thousands in need of food, water and shelter. The list of missing stands at an alarming 1,300 people and the death toll at 50. But officials caution the list is preliminary and many people could just be unable to connect with loved ones.

Threatening to exacerbate islands' problems, winds and rains from Humberto could be expected in Grand Bahama and the nearby Abaco islands, said chief meteorologist Shavonne Moxey-Bonamy.

"I know it might be a bit of a disheartening situation since we just got out of Dorian," she said.

At 11 a.m. EDT, an almost stationary Humberto was located 30 miles (45 kilometers) east-northeast of Great Abaco island, according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center. It had maximum sustained winds of 50 mph (85 kph). There was a tropical storm warning in effect for the northwest Bahamas, except for Andros Island, and 2 to 4 inches of rain was expected, with isolated amounts of 6 inches.

"Rains are the biggest issue right now," parliament member Iram Lewis said by telephone. "People are

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still reeling from the first storm.”

Dexter Wilson, a 40-year-old maintenance man who was helping a friend put a blue tarp on a damaged roof in Grand Bahama under a bright sun, said he was worried about his brother in Abaco given the tropical storm.

“He’s still there. I don’t know why,” he said.

Humberto is forecast to become a hurricane by Sunday night but is expected to stay offshore of Florida’s eastern coast as it moves toward open waters. Portions of the coasts of Florida and Georgia will see 1 to 2 inches of rain.

The hurricane center said most of the heavy squalls were occurring north and east of the center of the storm, which was passing just east of Abaco. However, government officials in the Bahamas took no chances and urged people in damaged homes to seek shelter as they announced that aid efforts would be temporarily affected.

“The weather system will slow down logistics,” said Carl Smith, spokesman for the National Emergency Management Agency.

The distribution of meals in Grand Bahama was reduced ahead of the storm, and a spokesperson for the United Nations World Food Program said all flights into its logistics hub in Marsh Harbor in Abaco were suspended.

Later Saturday, WFO spokesperson Herve Verhoosel said the agency had resumed its activities in Marsh Harbor.

“Our team is back at work to support the population and relief organizations. Food and materials have been secured in newly erected prefabricated storage depots,” Verhoosel said in a statement.

Dave McGregor, president and COO of the Grand Bahama Power Company, said crews would resume restoring power as soon as possible.

“We are back in storm preparation mode again, unfortunately,” he said.

Guterres, who was in Abaco on Saturday, said earlier he hoped the weather would not impede his visit.

“In some areas, more than three-quarters of all buildings have been destroyed. Hospitals are either in ruins, or overwhelmed. Schools turned into rubble,” the U.N. secretary-general said in a prepared statement ahead of the visit.

He said thousands of people continue to need food, water and shelter, and U.N. humanitarian agencies are on the ground to help them.

“Our hearts go out to all the people of the Bahamas and the United Nations is right by their side,” he said.

In Freeport, 63-year-old construction worker Nathaniel Swann said he wasn’t worried about Humberto.

“Storms don’t bother me,” he said. “There’s nothing you can do about it.”

Solid gold toilet stolen from Winston Churchill’s birthplace

By GREGORY KATZ Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A unique solid gold toilet that was part of an art exhibit was stolen early Saturday from the magnificent home in England where British wartime leader Winston Churchill was born.

The toilet, valued at roughly 1 million pounds (\$1.25 million), was the work of Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan. It had been installed only two days earlier at Blenheim Palace, west of London, after previously being shown to appreciative audiences at the Guggenheim Museum in New York.

Police said the toilet was taken early Saturday by thieves who used at least two vehicles. Because it had been connected to the palace’s plumbing system, police said the toilet’s removal caused “significant damage and flooding” to the building, a UNESCO World Heritage site filled with valuable art and furniture.

A 66-year-old man was arrested in the case, but he has not been identified or charged.

Inspector Richard Nicholls from Thames Valley Police said police believe the thieves left the spacious property about 4:50 a.m. and that the toilet was the only item taken. Closed circuit TV footage is being studied in the investigation.

Prior to the theft, visitors to the Cattelan exhibition could book a three-minute appointment to use the

toilet. This had proved popular when the toilet was on display at the Guggenheim.

The artist intended the golden toilet to be a pointed satire about excessive wealth. Cattelan has previously said: "Whatever you eat, a \$200 lunch or a \$2 hot dog, the results are the same, toilet-wise."

The theft also comes after Edward Spencer-Churchill told The Times newspaper that the toilet would not be very easy to steal since it was connected to the palace's plumbing.

"So no, I don't plan to be guarding it," he said.

Thames Valley Police Detective Inspector Jess Milne said: "The artwork has not been recovered at this time but we are conducting a thorough investigation to find it and bring those responsible to justice."

Blenheim Palace said officials are "saddened" by the theft but "relieved no one was hurt."

"We knew there was huge interest in the Maurizio Cattelan contemporary art exhibition, with many set to come and enjoy the installations," the palace said in a tweet. "It's therefore a great shame an item so precious has been taken, but we still have so many fascinating treasures in the Palace and the remaining items of the exhibition to share."

The building was closed to the public Saturday but the palace said normal operations will resume Sunday.

The stately home in Oxfordshire, 65 miles (105 kilometers) west of London, is popular with visitors and is occasionally used for special events including fashion shows and art exhibits.

How a clean-cut Eagle Scout became a fentanyl drug lord

By **CLAIRE GALOFARO** and **LINDSAY WHITEHURST** Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The photo that flashed onto the courtroom screen showed a young man dead on his bedroom floor, bare feet poking from the cuffs of his rolled up jeans. Lurking on a trash can at the edge of the picture was what prosecutors said delivered this death: an ordinary, U.S. Postal Service envelope.

It had arrived with 10 round, blue pills inside, the markings of pharmaceutical-grade oxycodone stamped onto the surface. The young man took out two, crushed and snorted them. But the pills were poison, prosecutors said: counterfeits containing fatal grains of fentanyl, a potent synthetic opioid that has written a deadly new chapter in the American opioid epidemic.

The envelope was postmarked from the suburbs of Salt Lake City.

That's where a clean-cut, 29-year-old college dropout and Eagle Scout named Aaron Shamo made himself a millionaire by building a fentanyl trafficking empire with not much more than his computer and the help of a few friends.

This story was produced in partnership with the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting.

For three weeks this summer, those suburban millennials climbed onto the witness stand at his federal trial and offered an unprecedented window into how fentanyl bought and sold online has transformed the global drug trade. There was no testimony of underground tunnels or gangland murders or anything that a wall at the southern border might stop. Shamo called himself a "white-collar drug dealer," drew in co-workers from his time at eBay and peppered his messages to them with smiley-face emojis. His attorney called him a fool; his primary defense was that he isn't smart enough to be a kingpin.

How he and his friends managed to flood the country with a half-million fake oxycodone pills reveals the ease with which fentanyl now moves around the world, threatening to expand the epidemic beyond America's borders. It is so potent, so easy to transport, experts say, large-scale traffickers no longer require sophisticated networks to send it to any corner of the globe. All they need is a mailbox, internet access and people with an appetite for opioids. And consumption rates are rising from Asia to Europe to Latin America as pharmaceutical companies promote painkillers abroad.

The case against Shamo detailed how white powder up to 100 times stronger than morphine was bought online from a laboratory in China and arrived in Utah via international mail; it was shaped into perfect-looking replicas of oxycodone tablets in the press that thumped in Shamo's basement and resold on the internet's black markets. Then it was routed back into the postal system in thousands of packages ad-

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dressed to homes across this country awash with prescription painkiller addiction.

When Shamo took the stand to try to spare himself a lifetime in prison, he began with a nervous chuckle. He careened from one topic to the next in a monologue prosecutors would later describe as masterful manipulation to convince the jury he thought his drug-dealing was helping people. Customers wrote thank you notes because their doctors refused to prescribe more painkillers, he said. It felt like “a win-win situation” — he got rich and his customers got drugs.

One of them was a struggling 21-year-old named Ruslan Klyuev who died in his bedroom in Daly City, California, the envelope from Utah at his feet. Shamo was charged in connection to that overdose alone, but when investigators scoured the list of customers they said they counted dozens more dead.

The question before this jury is being debated all across America: Two decades into the opioid epidemic, is there such a thing as justice for 400,000 lost lives?

The largest civil litigation in history is testing how the pharmaceutical industry should be held accountable for inundating the country with billions of addictive pain pills. Purdue Pharma, seen by many as the primary villain for deceptively pushing the blockbuster drug OxyContin, reached a tentative \$12 billion settlement this week with about half the states and roughly 2,000 local governments. Attorneys general who didn't sign on say the figure is far too low. A trial of other pharmaceutical companies is scheduled for next month, in which communities will contend that their mass marketing of prescription painkillers sparked an epidemic.

This crisis began in the 1990s and has since spiraled into waves, each worse than the one before: Prescription opioids spread addiction, then a crackdown on prescribing paved the road to heroin, which led to fentanyl — a synthetic opioid made entirely in a laboratory. Traffickers added it to heroin to boost its potency and profitability. That transition happened slowly at first, then with extraordinary ferocity.

By 2017, deaths from synthetic opioids had increased more than 800 percent, to 28,466, dragging the United States' overall life expectancy down for a third consecutive year for the first time in a century. Fentanyl deaths have been reported abroad, in Canada, Sweden, Estonia, the United Kingdom. Countries with surging prescription opioid addiction, like Australia, fear they are on the brink.

“Fentanyl will be the bubonic plague,” said Mike Vigil, former chief of international operations for the Drug Enforcement Administration, warning that any country with a burgeoning prescription opioid problem could soon find itself following American footsteps. “It's just a matter of time.”

No one can say exactly how or why fentanyl, first synthesized in 1959 as a powerful painkiller, entered the modern illicit drug market, said Bryce Pardo, a researcher at the Rand Corporation. In 2013, people began overdosing on heroin laced with fentanyl in New England and Ohio, and it spread from there. Shabbir Safdar, the Partnership for Safe Medicines' executive director, said the first known death from a fentanyl-laced pill was in San Francisco in October 2015.

It was a frightening development: The DEA estimates 3.4 million Americans misuse prescription painkillers, compared to 475,000 heroin users — meaning the pool potentially exposed is 10 times bigger.

There are two sources of supply. Mexican cartels and packages shipped direct from China, where it is produced in a huge and under-regulated chemical sector. A Senate investigation last year found massive quantities of fentanyl pouring in from China through the Postal Service. The report largely blamed dated technology that left customs inspectors sifting through packages manually looking for “the proverbial needle in a haystack.” The Postal Service wrote in a statement to The Associated Press that it is working hard with its international counterparts to close those loopholes, and is improving its technology to intercept fentanyl shipments.

By the time a seized package heading from China to Utah led investigators to Shamo, he had already turned fentanyl into at least 458,946 potentially poisonous pills, the government said. There are many more like him, officials say, upstart traffickers pressing pure Chinese-made fentanyl into pills in their basements and kitchens with unsophisticated equipment. In a single batch, one pill might have no fentanyl and another enough to kill a person instantly. One agent at Shamo's trial compared it to making chocolate-chip

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cookies, only if too many chips ended up in a "cookie," whoever ate it dropped dead.

For traffickers, the profit margins are irresistible: The DEA estimates a kilogram of fentanyl synthesized for a few thousand dollars could make a dealer more than \$1 million.

"Any moron can basically become a major drug kingpin by dealing in fentanyl," said Vigil. "You can have somebody with an IQ minus 100 who becomes an overnight multimillionaire."

Aaron Shamo dreamed of entrepreneurial riches. He idolized Steve Jobs and Bill Gates, and studied self-improvement books like "Think and Grow Rich."

He and a longtime friend, Drew Crandall, worked at eBay after failed stints in college. But Crandall was fired and Shamo decided it was "unfair" that he still had to work, so he quit. They wanted easy money.

Shamo grew up in Phoenix with three older sisters. As a teenager, he started smoking pot and refusing to attend services with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. His parents sent him to boarding school in Utah, where he earned his Eagle Scout badge. He later met Crandall through their shared love of longboarding and they moved in together. Crandall was awkward and shy; Shamo was charismatic, and prided himself on helping his friend talk to girls.

The pair concocted a plan to sell their Adderall, prescribed for attention deficit disorder, on the dark web — a wild, unregulated layer of the internet reached through a special browser. There are underground marketplaces there that mimic Amazon or eBay, where guns and drugs and pirated software are traded. Money is exchanged anonymously through cryptocurrencies like bitcoin.

They learned what they needed on the web, searching with queries like "how to ship drugs." It was so easy. They expanded, ordering drugs in bulk, breaking them down and selling at a mark-up, all while barely having to leave the house.

They used the postal system like a drug mule, peddling the club drug MDMA, magic mushrooms, date rape drugs — they once bought a kilogram of cocaine from Peru. They recruited friends, offering them \$100 to have parcels mailed to their homes, no questions asked.

But the profit margins were slim and their ambitions were greater: They bought a pill press, ordered the sedative alprazolam online from India and watched YouTube videos to figure out how to turn it into fake Xanax, an anti-anxiety medication. Crandall, math minded, created the recipe. They mixed it up by shaking it in mason jars.

Then Crandall fell in love.

His new girlfriend grew suspicious when he would sneak away to package drugs. When she confronted him at a party, he tearfully confessed. She forgave him, if he promised to leave the business. They bought one-way tickets to New Zealand.

Then a local drug dealer made a suggestion to Shamo that would change the course of his life: There was a fortune to be made in producing fake oxycodone.

Shamo enlisted his gym buddy, Jonathan Luke Paz, to help him. Shamo ordered fentanyl online from China, set up the pill press in the basement and bought dyes and stamps to match popular pharmaceuticals. Then they handed them over to the local dealer, who tested them on his own customers. The first batches were weak or speckled in color, he told them, or didn't react like real oxycodone when users heated it on tinfoil to smoke it.

But they were getting better.

"Close to being money in the bank," the dealer messaged Shamo. "You did it, bro."

On the first day of 2016, Shamo wrote out his goals for the upcoming year: He would be rich. All the girls would want him.

"I will overachieve," he wrote. "I will overcome."

He went online with his products a month later. Some were specified as fentanyl, but some weren't, purporting instead to contain 30 milligrams of oxycodone. Shamo named this new store Pharma-Master.

As winter turned to summer, sales skyrocketed. Pharma-Master started selling thousands of pills a week, charging around \$10 each.

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On June 6, a relatively small order came in: 10 pills, to be shipped to an apartment house in Daly City, a working-class suburb of San Francisco.

Like every order, it was sent in an encrypted email to two former eBay co-workers in charge of distribution. Alexandria Tonge and Katherine Bustin counted out the pills in their suburban condo, packaged the shipments and dropped them in the mail.

The envelope arrived at the doorstep at 3 p.m. on June 11.

Under different circumstances, Shamo might have been friends with the 21-year-old man who lived there. Ruslan Klyuev, a Russian immigrant, was also an aspiring tech entrepreneur interested in the dark web. He had a baby face: rosy cheeks and curly hair. Klyuev loved to cook and would make extravagant meals for the house.

But his relationship ended, his web design business sputtered and he became estranged from his family, said Barry, a roommate who spoke on the condition that his last name not be published. His emotions toggled between sorrow and elation, and he struggled with substance abuse.

After drinking vodka, Klyuev crushed two of the pills with a battery and snorted the powder with a rolled-up sticky note, according to testimony. He started drifting in and out of sleep. He couldn't stand up.

He was found dead the next day, with fentanyl, alcohol and a substance associated with cocaine in his system.

His was the only death with which Shamo would be charged. His defense attorney, Greg Skordas, argued that neither his death nor any others can be definitely linked with Shamo's operation.

But in documents, prosecutors connected Shamo to a veritable slaughter:

A 24-year-old man in Seattle overdosed three weeks after he bought pills from Pharma-Master in March 2016.

Later that spring, 40 pills were shipped to a 21-year-old in Washington, D.C. He died in his dorm room 11 days later.

In Utah, a 29-year-old software analyst named Devin Meldrum had been searching since he was a teenager for a cure for cluster headaches that felt like knives stabbing his skull, said his father, Rod.

Doctors had prescribed opioids but limited the dosage, so he bought a backup supply from Pharma-Master. On Aug. 13, 2016, he ran out of pills days before his refill. As he got ready for bed, he texted his fiance and took a pill from his reserve for the first time, his father said.

He was dead before she arrived to say goodnight, blue on his bathroom floor.

His father isn't sure Shamo even now understands the magnitude of what happened: "Does he even comprehend how many families have had their hearts torn out?"

Online, Pharma-Master was getting rave reviews.

"These will make u a millionaire in under a year, guarantee," wrote one shopper who called himself "Trustworthy Money."

He was a dealer in Portland named Jared Gillespie. He bought 80,000 pills from Pharma-Master, according to documents filed against Gillespie in Oregon. He knew he was buying fentanyl pills, the Oregon prosecutors alleged, but the people buying from him had no way to know that. They are unknown and uncounted.

Shamo offered steep discounts for bulk buyers. Tonge, one of his distributors, testified that she began to question Shamo's claim that he was helping patients who couldn't get medication: Why would one person need 5,000 pills?

Her vacuum cleaner would become a critical piece of evidence. Its dust bin was filled with pills. The operation had grown so frantic, pumping out tens of thousands of tablets a month, that when they spilled onto the floor, they weren't worth saving.

Tonge and her partner complained that the orders were coming too quickly, so Shamo hired a "runner" named Sean Gygi to pick up the packages and drop them in the mail, dozens of them a day.

Drug manufacturing became routine: Shamo once wrote himself a to-do list, and included a reminder to "make blues," the street name for oxycodone, along with getting a haircut, washing his sheets, cleaning

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the kitchen. And Shamo planned to expand. He bought another press so big agents would later need a tow truck to drag it out of his garage.

The money was pouring in, and out.

Shamo hired a personal assistant; she did his shopping, had his car detailed. He stuffed a duffel bag with \$429,000 cash and asked his parents to hold it. He bragged to friends about VIP bottle service at clubs and gambling in Las Vegas. He shopped for real estate in Puerto Rico; took photos sipping champagne on a cruise ship; bought designer jeans, an 88-inch television, a boat and a BMW.

Crandall and his girlfriend posted photos on Instagram of trips to Laos, Thailand, Singapore, kayaking and partying. But he was running out of money and agreed to become a remote customer service representative. The list of people accepting packages from China ballooned to more than a dozen. Everyone was making easy money and getting text messages from Shamo dotted with "lol" and "awesome!"

Shamo penned another note: "I am Shamo. I am awesome. My friends love me. I created an empire."

But even as he cheered himself on, there were signs of danger.

One customer reported an overdose death. Shamo scanned obituaries, then declared it was a fake, Crandall said. Then a message said pills were making people sick.

Crandall forwarded it to Shamo with a dismissive question: Should he tell them to "suck it up?" Or send more pills to pacify them?

They didn't know it, but a suspicious customs agent at the Los Angeles International Airport had flagged a box from Shanghai, China, pulled it off the belt and looked inside. The agent found 98.7 grams of fentanyl powder — enough to make almost 100,000 pills. The box was destined for Utah.

Agents looked for more packages making their way from China to Utah, and eventually one arrived, said an agent with Homeland Security Investigations who spoke on condition of anonymity to protect ongoing investigations. On Nov. 8, 2016, postal inspectors seized a box en route from a port city in China known to law enforcement as a fentanyl-trafficking hub. It was addressed to Gygi, Shamo's "runner," so agents arrived at his house with a search warrant.

Gygi said he thought the hundreds of envelopes he'd put in the mail contained the party drugs he sometimes took himself. Told it was fentanyl, the agent recalled, Gygi drooped.

He agreed to wear a wire while he picked up the packages, like he did every day. But instead of dropping them in the mail, he delivered them to police.

This single day's shipment contained 34,828 fentanyl pills destined for homes in 26 states.

Four days later, on Nov. 22, 2016, agents stood on Shamo's stoop, shouted through a bullhorn, then broke the door down with a battering ram. They were dressed in neon-orange hazmat suits with clear bowls around their faces that made them look like astronauts.

Shamo came up the stairs in a T-shirt and shorts, a mask and gloves in his pocket. A pill press downstairs was running, in a room with powder caked on the walls and the furniture.

Others were raiding the stash at Bustin and Tonge's condo. Veteran vice officers would say they had never seen so many pills, even in international operations. In total, they packed up over 74,000 fentanyl pills awaiting distribution.

In Shamo's sock drawer, agents found stack after stack of cash. There was more money in a safe in the closet. Agents totaled up more than \$1.2 million, not including the money he had tied up in Bitcoin or bags he'd stashed with his family. Investigators eventually caught up with Paz, whom Shamo paid around a dollar per pill, and he surrendered \$800,000 more.

Crandall was in Laos, still traveling with his girlfriend, when he heard the news. He stored his drug-related data on a flash drive, threw it down a storm drain and sent an email to the dark web marketplace: "This account has been compromised." After a few months, he figured he was in the clear. He and his girlfriend planned their wedding and invited guests to meet them in Hawaii for the big day: May 12, 2017. They bought rings, and a dress.

Agents were waiting when they stepped onto American soil in Honolulu.

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When Crandall sat on the witness stand, he was slump-shouldered and shackled, clumsily trying to maneuver his handcuffs to pull a tissue out of the box to wipe his eyes. In the two years since his arrest, he has been imprisoned in a county jail and watched his fellow inmates suffer the brutal fallout of an opioid epidemic. They stole from their parents, cycled in and out of jail and shivered, sweated, sobbed through withdrawal.

He'd helped feed this, he realized. For money.

He and Shamo's other ex-partners and packagers pleaded guilty, agreed to testify against their friend and hoped for mercy.

The story they told convinced the jury to convict Shamo of 12 counts, including continuing criminal enterprise, the so-called "kingpin charge" that is typically reserved for drug lords like El Chapo and carries a mandatory life sentence. The jury deadlocked, though, on the 13th count: the death of Klyuev.

The bust was one of the largest operations in the country in 2016. But the fentanyl trade has only grown more sophisticated since. By comparison, Shamo now looks "small-time," said Safdar, with the Partnership for Safe Medicines. The most notorious Mexican drug cartels have transitioned to fentanyl, even as homegrown upstarts like Shamo's proliferate.

Seizure data in the United Nations World Drug Report shows trafficking quickly expanding worldwide. In 2013, four countries reported fentanyl seizures. By 2016: 12 countries. In 2017, 16 countries reported seizing fentanyl.

There is no reason to believe it will not spread further. In Africa and the Middle East, the synthetic opioid tramadol is widely abused, much of it illicitly manufactured in Asia. If that market transitions to fentanyl it would be catastrophic, said Scott Stewart, a former agent with the State Department. In Australia, prescription opioid consumption has quadrupled. Marianne Jauncey, medical director of a Sydney harm-reduction center, can't think of any reason fentanyl won't soon arrive — all they can do is prepare for the day that it does.

As Shamo was convicted, a single dark web marketplace still had 32,000 listings for drugs, thousands of them claiming to be oxycodone. There was no way to tell whether they originated in a pharmacy or somebody's basement.

One vendor even borrowed a version of Shamo's name. Pharmamaster peddles oxys online, sold in bulk at a discount. It has, it boasts, an "unlimited" supply.

"Pharma-grade A+," the listings promise. "24-hour shipping!"

Biden's 'record player' just one of his vintage references

By **THOMAS BEAUMONT** and **MICHELLE L. PRICE** Associated Press

Joe Biden's suggestion that parents leave a record player on to teach their babies better vocabulary was a head-scratching (needle-scratching?) moment in Thursday's debate.

But it was hardly the first time the 76-year-old Biden has busted out a vintage reference that reveals his age and leaves some in the audience in the dark.

Famous for his off-the-cuff storytelling, the former vice president regularly goes deep in the vault to pull out characters and events known primarily to a people of a certain age. Ever heard of Henry Carr? How about a Jerry can?

The debate about Biden's age has large focused so far on his capacity, but it may be that his cultural frames of reference pose an equally vexing issue. Aides dispute the idea, saying it's just Joe being Joe and hardly a sign that he can't connect with younger voters. One joked Friday that thanks to hipsters, some old things are new again. "You don't know about the vinyl vote?" adviser Symone Sanders told CNN.

Still, if you need some explanation of Biden's old-school riffs, keep reading.

RECORD PLAYER

BIDEN: "Play the radio, make sure the television — excuse me, make sure you have the record player

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on at night, the — the — make sure that kids hear words.”

CONTEXT:

This was part of Biden’s answer to a question about inequality in schools and what Americans can do to repair the legacy of slavery. He spoke about spending more money on the country’s poorest schools, giving teachers a raise and having social workers help parents.

He then suggested that parents “play the radio” and “have the record player on at night” so their child can hear words and learn, suggesting that a child from “a very poor background will hear 4 million words fewer spoken” by the time school has started.

Record players designed for listening to vinyl records largely fell out of popular use in the 1980s with the introduction of CDs. In the era of online music streaming, vinyl and record players have become a vintage specialty item.

Biden’s suggestion that families turn on their record player or radio appears to be a reference to what’s known as the “word gap,” the concept that well-off children hear far more words before starting school than poor kids. It’s based on a landmark but hotly debated 1995 study that found poor children hear a fraction of the words their wealthier peers do, adding up to about 30 million fewer words by age 3.

The research led to efforts to close the word gap, including one championed by the Obama administration. But even there Biden seems a bit off the mark. The aim was to encourage parents talk to their children more, not to encourage children to watch more televisions — or listen to record players.

HENRY CARR and a JERRY CAN

BIDEN: “I remember one time, a guy, a great athlete, an all-state athlete; anyway, I won’t get their names. They were great athletes. They went on to do great things in college too, including one named Spencer Henry, who actually beat Henry Carr, who used to hold the world record.”

CONTEXT:

In July, Biden was talking to a predominantly African American group of high school students in New Orleans, recalling his lifeguard days in Wilmington, Delaware, and the black teenagers he befriended. Among them was Spencer Henry, a Delaware state champion sprinter in the early 1960s. Biden dropped the reference to Spencer beating Carr as if the latter ought to be as familiar as Michael Jordan or Serena Williams.

Carr was an icon of the mid-60s. Nicknamed “The Gray Ghost,” he won two gold medals in the 1964 summer Olympics in Tokyo and went on to play in the NFL. His football career ended in 1969.

At the same event in New Orleans, Biden told the teenagers a story about a friend who wanted to borrow a “Jerry can.”

“You know,” Biden added, “a big five-gallon can.” The term was given to metal fuel cans, and named for the term allies gave to German soldiers in World War II, who commonly used the receptacles.

HAIGHT-ASHBURY and ALONG CAME JONES

BIDEN: “All of a sudden, ‘Along Came Jones,’ as that old song goes. Along came Trump,” Biden told a group of Democrats in Las Vegas in July.

“Just like what happened in my generation. My generation was dropping out. My generation, in the late ‘60s, when I was graduated from school, said ‘No, no. Go to Haight-Ashbury. Drop out. Trust no one over 30. Don’t be engaged.’”

CONTEXT:

In this salad of 50- and 60-year-old pop culture references, Biden was riffing on a late 1950s R&B tune and the counterculture a decade later.

“Along Came Jones,” was a 45 — a single — on the long-defunct ATCO label that barely charted after its release in 1959, when Biden was a sophomore in high school. He used it as a segue to the defining moment for voters today, the election of President Donald Trump.

But then Biden goes on with a litany of references to the counterculture movement of the late 1960s, when Biden was in college and law school.

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"Dropping out" was a reference to psychedelic therapy advocate Timothy Leary, the late University of California-Berkeley psychologist who urged the young in 1966 to "Turn on, tune in and drop out," chiefly with the help of LSD.

Haight-Ashbury was the symbolic center of the movement, a corner of a low-rent San Francisco neighborhood where thousands of aimless youth flocked for community, but often found instead poverty and drug addiction. It was the casual home of writer Ken Kesey, author of "The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Trip," and where an up-and-coming band, The Grateful Dead, was a regular act in neighborhood basements.

Though generations removed, Biden was connecting that time of distrust in the government fed by growing opposition to the Vietnam War and the often violent clashes of the civil right movement to today, with widespread doubt in Trump's truthfulness and increasing acts of race-motivated violence.

White House says bin Laden son killed in US operation

By ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House announced Saturday that Hamza bin Laden, the son of the late al-Qaida leader who had become an increasingly prominent figure in the terrorist organization, was killed in a U.S. counterterrorism operation in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region.

A statement issued in President Donald Trump's name gave no further details, such as when Hamza bin Laden was killed or how the United States had confirmed his death. Administration officials would provide no more information beyond the three-sentence statement from the White House. American officials have said there are indications that the CIA, not the U.S. military, conducted the strike.

The White House statement said Hamza bin Laden's death "not only deprives al-Qaida of important leadership skills and the symbolic connection to his father, but undermines important operational activities of the group." It said Osama bin Laden's son "was responsible for planning and dealing with various terrorist groups."

The U.S. officials had suspected this summer that Hamza bin Laden was dead, based on intelligence reports and the fact that he had not been heard from in some time. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence matters. Defense Secretary Mark Esper told Fox News Channel in a late August interview that it was "my understanding" that Hamza bin Laden was dead.

The younger bin Laden had been viewed as an eventual heir to the leadership of al-Qaida, and the group's leader, Ayman al-Zawahri, had praised him in a 2015 video that appeared on jihadi websites, calling him a "lion from the den of al-Qaida."

The U.S. government in February said it was offering \$1 million for help tracking down Hamza bin Laden as part of the State Department's Rewards for Justice program. The department's notice said he was married to a daughter of Abdullah Ahmed Abdullah, an al-Qaida leader and Egyptian charged for his role in the 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in East Africa. They were said to have two children, Osama and Khairiah, named after his parents.

He was named a "specially designated global terrorist" in January 2017, and he had released audio and video messages calling for attacks against the U.S. and its allies. To mark one 9/11 anniversary, al-Qaida superimposed a childhood photo of him over a photo of the World Trade Center.

Video released by the CIA in 2017 that was seized during the 2011 U.S. raid that killed Osama bin Laden showed Hamza bin Laden with a trimmed mustache but no beard at his wedding. Previous images have only shown him as a child.

Hamza bin Laden is believed to have been born in 1989, the year of the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, where his father became known among the mujahedeen fighters. His father returned to Saudi Arabia and later fled to Sudan after criticizing the kingdom for allowing U.S. troops to deploy in the country during the 1991 Gulf War. He later fled Sudan for Afghanistan in 1996, where he declared war against the U.S.

As al-Qaida's leader, Osama bin Laden oversaw attacks that included the 1998 bombings of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, as well as the bombing of the USS Cole off Yemen. He and others plotted and executed the 2001 attacks against the United States that led to the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan.

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U.S. Navy SEALs killed the elder bin Laden in a raid on a house in Abbottabad, Pakistan, in 2011.

This past March, Saudi Arabia announced that it had revoked the citizenship of Hamza bin Laden. The kingdom stripped Osama bin Laden's citizenship in 1994 while he was living in exile in Sudan when Hamza bin Laden was just a child. It was unclear where Hamza bin Laden was at the time of the Saudi action.

Hamza bin Laden began appearing in militant videos and recordings in 2015 as an al-Qaida spokesman. "If you think that your sinful crime that you committed in Abbottabad has passed without punishment, then you thought wrong," he said in his first audio recording.

After the Sept. 11 attacks, a U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan sought to topple the Taliban, an ally of al-Qaida, and seize the elder bin Laden. He escaped and split from his family as he crossed into Pakistan. Hamza was 12 when he saw his father for the last time — receiving a parting gift of prayer beads.

"It was as if we pulled out our livers and left them there," he wrote of the separation.

Hamza and his mother followed other al-Qaida members into Pakistan and then Iran, where other al-Qaida leaders hid them, according to experts and analysis of documents seized after U.S. raid that killed Osama bin Laden. Iran later put the al-Qaida members on its soil into custody. During this time, Hamza married.

In March 2010, Hamza and others left Iranian custody. He went to Pakistan's Waziristan province, where he asked for weapons training, according to a letter to the elder bin Laden. His mother left for Abbottabad, joining her husband in his hideout. On May 2, 2011, the Navy SEAL team raided Abbottabad, killing Osama bin Laden and his son Khalid, as well as others. Saber and other wives living in the house were imprisoned. Hamza again disappeared.

In August 2015, a video emerged on jihadi websites of al-Zawahri introducing "a lion from the den of al-Qaida" — Hamza bin Laden. Since then, Hamza had been featured in al-Qaida messages, delivering speeches on everything from the war in Syria to Donald Trump's visit to Saudi Arabia on his first foreign trip as president.

But he hadn't been heard from since a message in March 2018, in which he threatened the rulers of Saudi Arabia.

Associated Press writers Jon Gambrell in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and Lolita C. Baldor in Ljubljana, Slovenia, contributed to this report.

Warren has own plan for everything, though not health care

By STEVE PEOPLES AP National Political Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Elizabeth Warren has a plan for that. But on health care, she's with Bernie.

Warren, a Massachusetts senator and a leading liberal Democratic presidential candidate, has stood out in the 2020 race for her extraordinary focus on detailed plans to address the nation's most pressing issues. Her website lists specific policies for 43 topics, from gun violence and Social Security to the Electoral College and family farmers.

But on health care, an issue that matters the most to many voters, Warren is all in on her opponent Bernie Sanders' "Medicare for All" plan.

The seeming inconsistency was highlighted during this past week's presidential debate by Democratic front-runner Joe Biden as he defended his own plan to expand the health care overhaul put in place while Barack Obama was president.

"The senator says she's for Bernie," Biden quipped. "Well, I'm for Barack."

No issue has defined the early months of the nomination fight more than health care, which has emerged as a powerful proxy in the broader fight for the party's soul in the age of Trump.

The issue is a delicate one for Warren. She needs to unify the progressive wing behind her candidacy to overtake Biden in the primary, if she is to emerge as the nominee against President Donald Trump in the general election.

Medicare for All is Sanders' signature issue, and as such, she can ill afford any daylight on health care between her and Sanders, a self-described democratic socialist, if she ultimately hopes to win over his

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supporters.

On such a critical issue, Warren allies believe there's no incentive to complicate the debate with a new plan.

"Making clear that they're aligned on the North Star goal of Medicare for All is an important long-term investment in her relationship with Sanders' voters — as well as an important short-term investment in clarity for all voters," said Adam Green, co-founder of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee and a vocal Warren supporter.

Indeed, the internal battle over health care has two very clear factions.

Biden leads those who prefer to leave the private insurance market in place but give people the choice to join a government-backed "public option." Sanders leads the approach, which would replace the private insurance market altogether with a single-payer health care system requiring virtually no out-of-pocket costs.

From the beginning, Warren has been clearly aligned with Sanders' faction. Yet some of Sanders' supporters are not yet convinced that she's as committed to Medicare for All as the plan's author. Progressive critics noted, for example, that Warren indicated she supported "a lot of plans" when asked about health care in an interview after the debate.

"I support Medicare for All. I think it's a good plan. And look, I support a lot of plans — other things that people have come up with. When they're good plans, let's do it," Warren told CBS. "This isn't some kind of contest (where) I got to think of mine first. It's what's best for the American people."

A spokeswoman later clarified that Warren does not support any plans on health care and that the senator's reference to supporting "a lot of plans" applied only to other policies.

Nina Turner, who co-chairs Sanders' campaign, applauded Warren's consistent public embrace of Medicare for All.

"For Sen. Sanders, it's a beautiful thing to have a fellow progressive follow his lead on the signature issue of his campaign," Turner said.

But she suggested that only Sanders is invested enough in the plan to ensure it ultimately becomes law.

"He's the only one who will see it through all the way to the end," she said. "This is in his bones."

Katherine Brezler, who co-founded the group People for Bernie Sanders, said Warren's embrace of Sanders' health plan has helped maintain good relations between the two competitors and their supporters.

"I genuinely think that neither camp is really going to have that hard a time voting for the other," said Brezler, who helped raise money for Warren's first Senate bid.

Warren's campaign declined to comment for this story aside from pointing to the CBS interview.

During the debate, she repeatedly defended her support for the plan, but she let Sanders punch back at Biden when the former vice president raised questions about its cost.

Biden noted Medicare for All would cost taxpayers roughly \$30 trillion. A fiery Sanders said the current system would cost \$50 trillion while leaving more than 80 million American uninsured or underinsured.

Medicare for All, Sanders said, would cover everyone and eliminate all out-of-pocket expenses, deductibles and co-payments.

"I ... wrote the damn bill, if I may say so," Sanders said as Warren looked on.

Mine shutdowns in top US coal region bring new uncertainty

By MEAD GRUVER Associated Press

GILLETTE, Wyo. (AP) — At two of the world's biggest coal mines, the finances got so bad that their owner couldn't even get toilet paper on credit.

Warehouse technician Melissa Worden divvied up what remained of the last case, giving four rolls to each mine and two to the mine supply facility where she worked.

Days later, things got worse.

Mine owner Blackjewel LLC filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on July 1. Worden at first figured the accounts would get settled quickly and vendors of everything from copy paper to parts for house-sized dump trucks would soon be back to doing normal business with the mines.

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"The consensus was: In 30 days, we'll look back on this, and we made it through, and we'll be up and running, and it's a fresh start," Worden said.

What happened instead has shaken the top coal-producing region in the United States like a charge of mining explosive. Blackjewel furloughed most of its Wyoming employees and shut down Eagle Butte and Belle Ayr mines, the first idled by hardship since coal mining in the Powder River Basin exploded in the 1970s.

It's a big hit to the region straddling northeastern Wyoming and southeastern Montana, where coal has quietly supported the economies of both states for decades and fuels a shrinking number of power plants in 28 states.

Negotiations that could reopen the two Wyoming mines under new ownership — potentially previous owner Bristol, Tennessee-based Contura Energy — are stalled more than two months later. Some 600 employees remain off the job. They lost health insurance coverage in late August.

And doubts are growing about the long-term viability of the region's coal mines — particularly Eagle Butte and Belle Ayr, the fourth- and sixth-biggest in the U.S. by production, respectively.

"I don't think we'll ever be that naive again," said Worden, 44.

Blackjewel, based in Milton, West Virginia, told its Wyoming employees this week that the mines might be up and running soon and to let the company know if they wanted their jobs back.

Worden said she felt little reassurance. On a break at a part-time electrical contracting job in North Dakota, she wondered if she should accept any offer of full-time work or hold out for her old job.

She's not the only one questioning long-held assumptions about Powder River Basin coal mines, which produce cleaner-burning coal less expensively than mines in other parts of the U.S. and weren't widely thought of being at risk despite a push for renewable energy to combat climate change.

But with coal in long-term decline, how the basin might eventually scale down production to a sustainable level has become a big question, said Rob Godby, director of the Center for Energy Economics and Public Policy at the University of Wyoming.

"The irony here — and it's really a cruel irony — is everybody is focused on getting these miners back to work. But really the solution to creating a healthy industry is some mines close," Godby said.

For now, little appears changed in Gillette, a city of 30,000 people at the heart of the basin of rolling grasslands midway between the Black Hills and snowcapped Bighorn Mountains. Tattoo shops are abundant, and big, late-model pickup trucks still cruise the main drag.

This year, however, has been especially tumultuous. Three of the Powder River Basin's nine producers — Westmoreland Coal, Cloud Peak Energy and Blackjewel — have filed for bankruptcy since March. Two others, Arch Coal and Peabody, have announced they will merge assets in the region.

The turmoil comes as U.S. coal production is down over 30% since peaking in 2008. Utilities are retiring aging coal-fired power plants and switching to solar, wind and cheaper and cleaner-burning natural gas to generate electricity despite President Donald Trump's efforts to prop up the coal industry.

A decade ago, about half of U.S. electricity came from coal-fired power. Now it's below 30%, a shift that heavy equipment operator Rory Wallet saw as utilities became less willing to lock in multiyear contracts for Belle Ayr mine's coal.

"The market's changed," Wallet said. "The bankruptcies all tie into that."

Wallet, 40, followed his father, an equipment mechanic, into the Belle Ayr mine in 2008. He said the recent mine closures and loss of his \$80,000-a-year job took him by surprise.

He has four children, ages 11 to 16, and his wife's job at the Ruby Tuesday's restaurant in Gillette is their main income while they await news about the mines.

Blackjewel said Thursday that it was working on plans to restart the mines while pursuing their sale. There were no indications in federal bankruptcy court filings in West Virginia that the mines were set to reopen, however.

"This is a fast-moving and sometimes unpredictable process, and accordingly, we do not have answers to all of your questions at this time," the company's statement said.

Wallet is looking for a job and using his downtime to sell "We Will Rise Again" T-shirts to benefit families

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of out-of-work coal miners. He's also lobbying Wyoming lawmakers to fight harder to force Washington state to approve a port facility expansion that would allow more coal exports to Asia.

He questions the outlook from Godby of the Center for Energy Economics and Public Policy that some mines must close.

"I think, with Rob, it's the middle- to worst-case scenario," Wallet said. "The ports are going to be a big deal. Asia is going to be a big deal."

Wallet pointed out that the Powder River Basin still has a century or two of recoverable coal left. And just north of Gillette, the state has invested \$15 million in a facility to study how to capture climate-changing carbon dioxide from a working power plant and profitably use it in products ranging from concrete to biofuels.

Wallet is optimistic that technology could save coal. But carbon capture, if it happens at all, could arrive too late to do the coal industry much good amid global concern about climate change, Godby said.

"We will not see widespread adoption of carbon capture and storage for at least a decade," Godby said. "That's just the reality."

He also doubted that exports can save the region's coal industry. There's no direct rail line to the Pacific Northwest from most of the basin's mines, and the amount of coal that the proposed export terminal could handle would offset only a small fraction of the amount that production has declined, Godby said.

Powder River Basin mines employ about 5,000 miners — 20% fewer than eight years ago. But the impact is even wider because an additional 8,000 jobs, from teachers to car mechanics, have indirect ties to the broader economy around the coal industry.

Local unemployment rose to 5.7% in July, compared with 4.1% a year earlier.

Trump got 88% of the vote in Campbell County, the heart of the basin. Locals cheered when he lifted a federal moratorium on coal leases that former President Barack Obama imposed, but Worden and Wallet disagree about whether changing environmental regulations will do much good in the long run. Wallet thinks improvement could be just around the corner.

Both say coal should continue to have a place in the economy alongside renewable energy.

"It needs to be a group effort, not green is on one side and black is on the other," Worden said. "We don't want this community to die."

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Don't vote? The Trump campaign would like a word with you

By **ZEKE MILLER, SARA BURNETT and ALAN FRAM** Associated Press

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. (AP) — Ashley Arentz is a political unicorn.

The 28-year-old Marine from Jacksonville, North Carolina, didn't vote in 2016, and she wasn't even registered to vote in the state. But there she was on Monday, standing in line for hours in the 90-degree heat waiting to enter President Donald Trump's rally in Fayetteville. That made her a golden target for the volunteers in day-glow yellow T-shirts working to register new voters.

Arentz said she likes the president because he's "just being straightforward."

She filled out a registration form on the spot.

Less than 14 months before Election Day, the president's team is banking his reelection hopes on identifying and bringing to the polls hundreds of thousands of Trump supporters such as Arentz — people in closely contested states who didn't vote in 2016. The campaign is betting that it may be easier to make voters out of these electoral rarities than to win over millions of Trump skeptics in the center of the electorate.

It's a risky wager borne of political necessity, and helps explain Trump's provocative communications strategy, from his attacks on the media to his racially polarizing rhetoric. Trump, aides and allies say, knows he needs to fire up his supporters, and anger is a powerful motivator.

"People trying to persuade swing voters are probably wasting their time because nearly all voters have already put their jersey on," said GOP strategist Chris Wilson. "Trump needs to bring more of his fans

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onto the field.”

Tens of millions of Americans choose not to vote in federal races every two years. The president’s campaign is determined to turn out the Trump supporters among them. It views them as an untapped stash of Republican support that can help him overcome stubbornly low poll numbers and his difficulties in winning over voters in the shrinking political center.

“There’s a new math spurred by a new candidate at the top of his ticket,” Trump campaign senior political adviser Bill Stepien told reporters. “And I think we need to throw out the old way we look at how elections are won and lost.”

That’s not to say reaching them or getting them to vote for Trump will be easy.

The surest predictor for whether someone will vote in the future is whether that person has voted in the past. This political truism has long informed campaign strategies.

Still, attempting to shape the electorate is nothing new.

Barack Obama’s campaign in 2012 shocked Republican opponents when it attracted Democrats who didn’t vote in 2008. George W. Bush’s campaign relied on the same tactic in 2004. But both campaigns tried to expand their bases while also focusing on trying to claim more voters in the center.

“The strategy was never one of simply looking at identifying red Republicans and getting them out to vote,” said Karl Rove, Bush’s strategist. “It was also a campaign of addition and persuasion.”

Trump’s gamble comes in deemphasizing the persuasion game as it focuses on boosting turnout.

The Trump campaign and the Republican National Committee have held events geared at reversing an erosion of support for the GOP among women and Latinos. But the central message of the campaign — as delivered by Trump, its de facto chief strategist and spokesman — is targeted at those who already support him.

At campaign rallies such as the one in North Carolina, the Trump campaign, the RNC and an authorized super political action committee work the long lines outside to register voters.

At a February rally in El Paso, Texas, the Trump campaign says, two-thirds of registrants had voted in two or fewer of the previous four federal elections. Before a June rally in Orlando, a geo-targeted digital campaign by a Trump super PAC directed about 3,000 people to the state’s voter registration website.

“We know from data gathered from rallies that a significant percentage of rally registrants and attendees have voted infrequently in federal elections, but they are motivated to come out to see President Trump,” said Trump campaign communications director Tim Murtaugh.

The key for Trump is to find the right nonvoters — those who already support the president. Overall, those who don’t vote tend to be younger, nonwhite, less educated and more likely to vote for Democrats than those who regularly cast ballots. A Pew Research Center analysis of survey data found that the composition of registered voters who did not vote in 2016 skewed Democratic vs. Republican, 55% to 41%.

Trump’s campaign has vast sums at its disposal and the GOP’s trove of political and consumer data on all eligible voters in the country provides the pro-Trump effort a head start. The task is to identify likely Trump supporters in places such as Escambia County in Florida’s Panhandle, where more than 75,000 eligible voters didn’t cast ballots and those who did voted for Trump by a 3-to-2 margin. Trump won the state by 112,000 votes.

In Michigan, which Trump carried by 11,000 votes, there is opportunity in places such as the GOP stronghold of Ottawa County west of Grand Rapids. As many as 50,000 eligible voters didn’t cast ballots in 2016, according to an Associated Press analysis of voter data, and Trump won the county by a 2-to-1 margin.

But if Trump’s strategy is to pay off, his allies have a lot more work to do. Between 2016 and 2018, Michigan counties that backed Trump in 2016 added more than 44,000 people who were eligible to vote, but voter registrations increased by just 622 people.

Trump can’t turn out all the eligible voters, and there’s no guarantee that those they do reach will vote for Trump. But the president’s team is betting that bringing more voters in will pack more of a punch than converting the ballot-going faithful.

“You have a massive pool of people who are less participatory and the more of those people you can

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engage into the election, the better your chances of victory are," said Brian Walsh of the Trump super PAC America First Principles. "You're still going to try to move those swing voters, but how well you need to do is vastly different depending on how many people you bring in."

If all goes according to plan, Walsh said, Trump could lose the whole swing vote and still win the election.

The strategy makes some congressional Republicans wince. They fear the emphasis on nonvoters will further jeopardize Republican candidates, especially for the Senate, who need centrists to win their competitive races.

In Michigan's St. Joseph County, a heavily agricultural and reliably Republican region in southwest Michigan that Trump won in 2016, GOP Chairman Rodney Chupp is on the hunt for new recruits.

The 47-year-old insurance agent predicted Trump will win back the support of some of the Christian conservatives who sat out the race last time or who were among the roughly 1,000 people in the county to support a third party candidate.

"People in our county are warmer toward Trump, in a lot of ways, because they're starting to see results they like," Chupp said. "I think a message of 'Look at the results Trump is getting,' could motivate some folks."

The much tougher task will be turning out some of the 20,000 people who didn't make it to the polls in 2016 out of the county's nearly 45,000 eligible voters.

Is it possible to get even 1,000 of them to turn out for Trump next fall?

"I don't know," Chupp said. "I just don't know."

Miller reported from Washington and Burnett from Sturgis, Michigan.

Associated Press writers Josh Boak and Hannah Fingerhut in Washington contributed to this report.

AP FACT CHECK: Trump, Dems and their tale of 2 countries

By CALVIN WOODWARD and HOPE YEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The country described by the Democrats running for president is mired in child poverty, riven with economic unfairness and broken in its approach to health care, crime and guns. The country presented by President Donald Trump is roaring and ascendant — and, hey, how about those moderating prescription drug prices?

The reality, of course, is more complex than this tale of two nations.

After three turns on the debate stage by the Democratic candidates, it's become clear that for the most part they hew to actual statistics and other fundamentals more closely than does Trump, who routinely says false things and repeats them as if willing them into being.

That's not to say the Democrats are beacons of accuracy. Some will use older statistics when newer ones don't suit their argument or give a selective reading of history when that fits the story they want to tell. Sometimes what they don't say speaks loudly, as when they won't acknowledge the cost of their plans or the likely tax hit on average people.

All of that was seen in the past week of political rhetoric. A look:

GUNS

TRUMP: "Democrats want to confiscate guns from law-abiding Americans so they're totally defenseless when somebody walks into their house with a gun." — remarks Thursday to House Republicans in Baltimore.

THE FACTS: That's a vast overstatement. No Democratic candidates have proposed stripping all guns from Americans. One of the top 10 candidates, former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke, has proposed confiscating assault-type weapons such as the AK-47 through a mandatory buyback program.

MIGRANTS

JOE BIDEN, on the treatment of migrants in his time as Barack Obama's vice president: "We didn't lock people up in cages." — Democratic presidential debate Thursday.

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THE FACTS: Yes they did.

The “cages” — chain-link enclosures inside border facilities where migrants have been temporarily housed, separated by sex and age — were built and used by the Obama administration. The Trump administration has been using the same facilities.

Democrats routinely accuse Trump of using cages for migrant children without acknowledging the same enclosures were employed when Biden was vice president.

HEALTH CARE

BERNIE SANDERS: “Every study done shows that ‘Medicare for All’ is the most cost-effective approach to providing health care to every man, woman and child in this country.” — Democratic debate.

THE FACTS: No, not every study.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said in a report earlier this year that total spending under a single-payer system, such as the one proposed by Sanders, “might be higher or lower than under the current system depending on the key features of the new system.”

Those features involve details about payment rates for hospitals and doctors, which are not fully spelled out by Sanders, as well as the estimated cost of generous benefits that include long-term care services and no copays and deductibles for comprehensive medical care.

A report this year by the Rand think tank estimated that Medicare for All would modestly raise national health spending, the opposite of what the Vermont senator intends.

Rand modeled a hypothetical scenario in which a plan similar to legislation by the Vermont senator had taken effect this year. It found that total U.S. health care spending would be about \$3.9 trillion under Medicare for All in 2019, compared with about \$3.8 trillion under the status quo.

Part of the reason is that Medicare for All would offer generous benefits with no copays and deductibles, except limited cost-sharing for certain medications. Virtually free comprehensive medical care would lead to big increases in the demand for services.

TRUMP: “Our ambitious campaign to reduce the price of prescription drugs has produced the largest decline in drug prices in more than 51 years.” — remarks at North Carolina rally Monday night.

THE FACTS: He’s exaggerating his influence on drug prices, which haven’t fallen for brand-name drugs, the area that worries consumers the most.

Most of his administration’s “ambitious campaign” to reduce drug prices has yet to be completed. Major regulations are in the works and legislation has yet to be passed by Congress. A rule requiring drugmakers to disclose prices in TV ads has been blocked for now by the courts.

Harsh criticism of the industry — from Trump and lawmakers of both parties in Congress — may be having some effect, however.

The Commerce Department’s inflation index for prescription drug prices has declined in seven of the past eight months, which is highly unusual. That index includes lower-cost generic drugs, which account for 90% of prescriptions filled in the U.S. Prices for generics have been declining under pressure from big drug distributors.

For brand-name drugs, though, a recent analysis by The Associated Press shows that on average prices are still going up, but at a slower pace. The cost of brand-name drugs is what’s most concerning to consumers, with insured patients facing steep copays for some medications.

The AP analysis found that in the first seven months of 2019, drugmakers raised list prices for brand-name medicines by a median, or midpoint, of 5%.

That does reflect a slowing in price increases. They were going up 9% or 10% over those months the prior four years. But it’s not a decrease in actual prices. There were 37 price increases for every decrease in the first seven months of 2019. Pricing data for the AP analysis came from the health information firm Elsevier.

ELIZABETH WARREN, asked whether her health plan would mean higher middle-class taxes: “We pay

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for it, those at the very top, the richest individuals and the biggest corporations, are going to pay more. And middle-class families are going to pay less. That's how this is going to work. ... Look, what families have to deal with is cost, total cost."

THE FACTS: That's a dodge.

The senator from Massachusetts did not answer back-to-back questions about whether middle class taxes would go up from her version of Medicare for All.

It's a given that consumers will pay less for health care if the government picks up the bills. But Sanders is almost alone among the candidates who support Medicare for All in acknowledging that broadly higher taxes would be needed to pay for that universal coverage. He would consider, and probably not be able to avoid, a tax increase on the middle class in exchange for health care without copayments, deductibles and the like. "Yes, they will pay more in taxes but less in health care," he said in a June debate.

Some rivals, including Warren, have only spoken about taxing the wealthy and "Wall Street." Analysts say that's not going to cover the costs of government-financed universal care.

ECONOMY AND TRADE

TRUMP: "How do you impeach a President who has helped create perhaps the greatest economy in the history of our Country?" — tweet Friday.

THE FACTS: "Perhaps" is a rare bit of modesty in this frequent boast by Trump but he is still wrong in claiming the U.S. has its best economy ever.

In the late 1990s, growth topped 4% for four straight years, a level it has not reached on an annual basis under Trump. Growth reached 7.2% in 1984. The economy grew 2.9% in 2018 — the same pace it reached in 2015 under Obama — and hasn't hit historically high growth rates.

The unemployment rate is near a 50-year low of 3.7%, but the proportion of Americans with a job was higher in the 1990s. More Americans are now out of the workforce, taking care of children or relatives, or going to school, while others became discouraged about their job prospects and stopped looking. The government doesn't count people as unemployed unless they are actively searching for jobs. Wages were rising at a faster pace back then, too.

TRUMP, on China's economy. "By the way, China is having the worst year they've had now in 57 years, OK? Fifty-seven." — remarks Wednesday in meeting on e-cigarettes.

TRUMP: "They've had now the worst year in 57 years." — North Carolina rally on Monday.

THE FACTS: That's not true. China is far from the impoverished disaster of a half century ago, when it was reeling from the massive famine caused by Mao Zedong's radical economic policies and heading into the chaos of the Cultural Revolution of the 1960s.

China's economy is indeed slowing from Trump's taxes on Chinese imports, as well as its own campaign to constrain runaway debt. The International Monetary Fund expects the Chinese economy to grow 6.2% this year. That's the slowest growth for China in nearly 30 years. But it's still markedly faster than U.S. growth.

Since overhauling its economy in the late 1970s, China has lifted hundreds of millions of people out of poverty, established a growing middle class and surpassed Japan to become the world's second-biggest economy.

TRUMP: "Hundreds of billions of dollars have been and are coming into our country in the form of tariffs, and China is eating the cost." — North Carolina rally.

THE FACTS: Americans are also eating the cost.

As he escalates a trade war with China, Trump refuses to recognize that tariffs are mainly, if not entirely, paid by companies and consumers in the country that imposes them.

In a study in May, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, with Princeton and Columbia universities, estimated that tariffs from Trump's trade dispute with China were costing \$831 per U.S. household on an annual basis, before tariffs were recently escalated. Analysts also found that the burden of Trump's tariffs

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falls entirely on U.S. consumers and businesses that buy imported products.

A report last month by JPMorgan Chase estimated that tariffs would cost the average American household \$1,000 per year if tariffs on an additional \$300 billion of U.S. imports from China proceed in September and December. Trump has since bumped up the scheduled levies even higher, probably adding to the U.S. burden.

BERNIE SANDERS: "We have the highest child poverty rate of almost any country on Earth." — Democratic debate.

THE FACTS: This oft-repeated line by the Vermont senator is an exaggeration.

There are nearly 200 countries in the world, many with people living in extreme poverty that most Americans would struggle to fathom. Poverty is also a relative measure in which someone who is poor in one nation might look rather prosperous in another.

But the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development updated its child poverty report in 2018. The United States had an above average level of child poverty, but it was not at the bottom of the 42 nations listed in the report. The United States still fared better than Russia, Chile, Spain, India, Turkey, Israel, Costa Rica, Brazil, South Africa and China.

TRUMP: "We passed the largest package of tax cuts and reforms in American history." — North Carolina rally.

THE FACTS: His tax cuts are nowhere close to the biggest in U.S. history.

It's a \$1.5 trillion tax cut over 10 years. As a share of the total economy, a tax cut of that size ranks 12th, according to the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. President Ronald Reagan's 1981 cut is the biggest, followed by the 1945 rollback of taxes that financed World War II.

Post-Reagan tax cuts also stand among the historically significant: President George W. Bush's cuts in the early 2000s and Obama's renewal of them a decade later.

TRUMP: "More Americans are working today than ever before in the history of our country." — North Carolina rally.

THE FACTS: Yes but that's driven by population growth. A more relevant measure is the proportion of Americans with jobs, and that is still below record highs.

According to Labor Department data, 60.9% of people in the United States 16 years and older were working in August. That's below the all-time high of 64.7% in April 2000.

VETERANS

TRUMP: "We passed something they wanted to do for half a century: We passed VA Choice." — North Carolina rally.

THE FACTS: It was Obama who won passage of the 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.

EL PASO

BETO O'ROURKE, former U.S. representative from Texas, on last month's mass shooting in El Paso: "Everything that I've learned about resilience, I've learned from my hometown of El Paso, Texas, in the face of this act of terror, that was directed at our community, in large part by the president of United States. It killed 22 people, and injured many more, we were not defeated by that. Nor were we defined by that." — Democratic debate.

THE FACTS: Nobody has claimed that Trump "directed" the shooting. Earlier in the debate, O'Rourke had said the shooter was "inspired to kill by our president." It is hard to know for sure what led the gunman to open fire inside a Walmart in El Paso, killing 22 people. The suspect posted a manifesto online before the shooting that echoed Trump's comments on immigration. Yet the suspect said his own views "predate

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Trump and his campaign for president.”

The screed spoke of what the suspect called a “Hispanic invasion of Texas,” railed against immigrants and warned of an imminent attack. Nearly all of the victims had Latino last names.

The suspect purchased the gun legally, according to El Paso’s police chief.

RUSSIA INVESTIGATION

KAMALA HARRIS, on Trump: “The only reason he has not been indicted is because there was a memo in the Department of Justice that says a sitting president cannot be charged with a crime.” — Democratic debate.

THE FACTS: We don’t know that it’s the only reason. Former special counsel Robert Mueller didn’t go that far in his report on Russian intervention in the 2016 election and obstruction of justice.

Harris, a California senator, is referring to a Justice Department legal opinion that says sitting presidents are immune from indictment. Mueller has said his investigators were restrained by that rule, but he also said that they never reached a determination as to whether the president committed a crime.

In Mueller’s congressional testimony in July, he said his team never started the process of evaluating whether to charge Trump.

Associated Press writers Josh Boak, Christopher Rugaber, Colleen Long, Michael Balsamo, Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar and Mary Clare Jalonick in Washington and Amanda Seitz in Chicago contributed to this report.

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Thousands in Bahamas struggle to find work after Dorian

By DÁNICA COTO Associated Press

FREEPORT, Bahamas (AP) — Jobs are scarce, savings are running low and money is barely trickling in. As survivors of Hurricane Dorian enter week three of post-storm life, many in the northwestern Bahamas, known for its casinos, golf courses and mega yachts, worry they will be forced into deep poverty as they scramble to find work in the aftermath of the Category 5 storm that wreaked havoc on two islands.

“People say, ‘You’re going to be all right,’ but those are mere words,” said Edna Gelin, who was the manager of a natural hair store in Freeport on Grand Bahama island that has been closed since being badly damaged by the storm. “It’s going to be bad because a lot of businesses were destroyed.”

As the northwestern Bahamas struggles to recover from Dorian, residents braced for newly formed Tropical Storm Humberto, which was expected to hit two islands over the weekend that were already battered by Dorian. The U.S. National Hurricane Center said the storm was passing just east of Great Abaco island early Saturday and would bring heavy rains to the northwestern Bahamas.

In the months prior to the hurricane, the unemployment rate of the tourism-dependent Bahamas had decreased slightly, but stood at 10% on the archipelago of some 395,000 inhabitants. On Grand Bahama it was 11% and had increased to 9% on nearby Abaco before Dorian slammed both islands, with people now trying to find any type of work after thousands lost their jobs.

Carl Swann, an IT technician from Abaco, recently typed up his resume on his cellphone after hearing about several job leads in the capital, Nassau: assistant engineer, security guard and electronic salesman. However, he hasn’t secured any interviews yet and worries about his finances because he has nowhere to go and has been staying at a hotel for two weeks.

“I’m wasting my money,” he said.

It’s unclear how many Bahamians affected by the hurricane have sought and obtained unemployment benefits, but the government has pledged to make it easier for evacuees to access those benefits.

“That will be a big relief,” Labor Minister Dion Foulkes recently told reporters. “We’d like to stabilize as many families as we can as quick as possible.”

He also said the government would soon announce new measures to help the nearly 5,000 people who were evacuated to New Providence, the most populous island in the Bahamas, from Grand Bahama and the Abaco islands after Dorian.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said ahead of a weekend visit to the Bahamas that more than three-quarters of all buildings were destroyed by the hurricane.

"Hospitals are either in ruins, or overwhelmed. Schools turned into rubble," Guterres said in a statement. "Thousands of people will continue to need help with food, water and shelter. Many more facing of course the uncertainties future after losing everything."

The storm, however, has helped a handful of Bahamians. It has created job opportunities for workers such as carpenters, construction crews and people like Edley Edwards, a heavy machinery operator who was clearing debris on a recent afternoon at the eastern end of Grand Bahama, which was hit the hardest by Dorian.

"We'll be busy right straight through," he said. "Just a little pushin' to clear the road."

Before the storm hit, the Bahamas had 32,000 people who were self-employed. Among them was Dewitt Henfield, a baker who operated out of his home.

"I'm a bread man," he said as he stood in a line Friday outside an emergency operations center in Freeport seeking food, water, building supplies and other materials since the storm took everything he owned.

"I have no money. That's why we have to be in lines like these," he said. "We're wondering where our next meal is coming from."

Henfield and many others left unemployed by the storm said it has been hard to find a new job because they no longer have cars or clothes for interviews. The clients they once served are gone, too, added Melon Grant, a beautician who owned a business in Freeport called "Da Best of Da Best."

"Everybody lost their job, so nobody paying to get their hair done," she said as she shook her head. "There's no opportunity after the storm because everywhere is basically damaged. Right now it's just hopeless."

Teen Egyptian girl's case puts legal system under spotlight

By NOHA ELHENAWY Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — The prosecution of a 15-year-old girl who killed a bus driver after he allegedly tried to rape her has reignited debate over the treatment of women in Egypt's legal system, including the practice of virginity tests and blaming victims of sexual violence.

In July, the teenager made headlines after she confessed to police that she stabbed to death a bus driver who she alleged had kidnapped her in a deserted rural area near Cairo and sought to sexually assault her at knife point. The girl said she tricked her alleged assailant, took away his knife, and stabbed him several times before running away.

Shortly after her arrest, the teenager was required to undergo a virginity test, an invasive procedure that rights groups say in itself amounts to sexual assault.

Several women's rights groups have offered legal assistance, arguing for leniency for the teen because she defended herself against a sexual attack. They hope that a judge's ruling in her favor could set an important legal precedent and help challenge what they view as a deep-seated misogynistic culture of blaming female victims rather than male attackers.

"This case reveals the dualism in Egyptian society," said Intissar Saeed, president of the Cairo Foundation for Law and Development. "I myself have sympathized with her since day one. But when I wrote about her on my Facebook page some male lawyers attacked the girl on my page saying she was not a decent woman."

The teen's name was widely published in the Egyptian media. However, The Associated Press does not generally identify individuals who say they have been sexually assaulted or those under the age of 18 who are accused of crimes.

The case highlights the culture's obsession with female virginity. In conservative areas, relatives celebrate

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a new bride's loss of virginity by brandishing a bloody sheet in public, a practice they believe affirms the family's honor.

Unlawful virginity examinations garnered attention in 2011 when several women said they were detained by military personnel and forced to undergo virginity tests while protesting the interim military government that took over the country after the ouster of former President Hosni Mubarak.

During her interrogation, the girl said she was on a date with her boyfriend before riding the bus — a statement that could easily undermine her reputation and probably her credibility in conservative Egyptian society, where dating is frowned upon. Her boyfriend, along with a friend of his, are in custody pending investigations into any potential links to the crime.

After her detention, the girl was required to undergo a vaginal test which determined she was a virgin — which in the Egyptian context could be viewed as helpful to her case.

Saeed explains that this test is a routine legal procedure whenever a woman reports a rape or alleged rape. Yet, she finds it irrelevant in this case.

"She said (the bus driver) tried to rape her but did not so I believe there was no need for this examination," said Saeed, whose advocacy group is part of the teen's legal team.

Feminists have been campaigning for the girl's release and calling for her to face a lesser charge than murder. However, last month, the investigating judge upheld an appeal by the prosecutor against an earlier court decision to release her and ordered her detained for another 30 days.

"There is a frightening misogynistic sense of solidarity in the society," said Mozn Hassan, founder of Nazra for Feminist Studies, a group that has long provided legal and psychological support to women who had to undergo a virginity test. The test has become a tool to weigh the virtuousness of the victim in cases of sexual assault, added Hassan.

"If she is not divorced, married or widowed and turned out not to be a virgin, she gets automatically labeled as indecent and deserving what she had gone through."

"The man is always presumed innocent. Yet, it is very logical in a country where more than 95 percent of women are sexually harassed, that we should start off by believing what the woman is saying," she said.

Sexual harassment, mostly ranging from catcalls to occasional pinching or grabbing, is rampant in Egypt. Polls have found that most men and women in the conservative Muslim country believe it is justified if women dress "provocatively" in public.

Surveys indicate that a vast majority of Egyptian women feel insecure in the streets.

In 2014, Egypt's penal code was amended amid pressure from women's groups to include a broad definition of sexual harassment and tougher penalties. However, most women remain reluctant to file complaints for fear of stigmatization.

The teen's lawyers hope she will be charged with a so-called honor killing rather than murder. Honor killings traditionally are acts of vengeance committed by male family members against female family members deemed to have brought dishonor upon the family. But the girl's attorneys believe the concept could be applied in her case.

Under Egypt's penal code, men are more likely to receive lighter sentences if convicted of an honor killing, a discrimination that activists have been struggling to reverse for decades.

But there are no guarantees for the young female defendant, Hassan said.

"The law takes into consideration the emotional status of a man when he rises to defend his honor, which is very patriarchal," she said. "However, this (has not been) applicable to women. Honor only concerns men."

The investigating magistrate is still expected to receive a detailed forensic report of the crime before deciding on the charges.

"This is the first time we have a girl that goes as far as killing the man who tried to rape her. If the court rules in her favor, it will be a historic precedent for the Egyptian judicial system," said Saeed.

Coming for your AR-15? O'Rourke scrambles Dems' gun message

By **MATTHEW DALY** and **NICHOLAS RICCARDI** Associated Press

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WASHINGTON (AP) — Beto O'Rourke's "hell yes" moment at the Democrats' presidential debate is scrambling his party's message on guns.

The Democrats have long contended their support of gun control laws does not mean they want to take away law-abiding citizens' firearms. But on Friday, they struggled to square that message with their presidential contender's full-throated call on national TV for confiscating assault rifles.

"Hell, yes, we're going to take your AR-15, your AK-47, and we're not going to allow it to be used against your fellow Americans anymore," the former Texas congressman declared during Thursday night's debate.

O'Rourke's hometown of El Paso was the site of a mass shooting last month that killed 22 people, and he has put the issue of gun violence at the center of his campaign effort. On Friday, his campaign hawked T-shirts emblazoned with his debate vow.

However, some fellow Democrats chastised him and fretted that his remarks may have made things harder for gun control supporters as they negotiate with President Donald Trump on legislation to respond to this summer's mass shootings.

"I frankly think that that clip will be played for years at Second Amendment rallies with organizations that try to scare people by saying Democrats are coming for your guns," Sen. Chris Coons of Delaware told CNN Friday. "I don't think a majority of the Senate or the country is going to embrace mandatory buybacks. We need to focus on what we can get done."

His fears about new rages against gun control supporters seem sure to be borne out.

"This is what their goal is. We've always said it, now they're saying it," said Alan Gottlieb of the Second Amendment Foundation, based in Washington state. "Now they've said it and we're going to make them eat it."

Meanwhile, Coons is working with Republican Sen. Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania on a measure to require that law enforcement officials be notified when someone fails a gun-purchase background check. Toomey, who is also working with Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia on the firearms issue, agreed that O'Rourke's comments could backfire.

"This rhetoric undermines and hurts bipartisan efforts to actually make progress on commonsense gun safety efforts, like expanding background checks," he said.

O'Rourke was less provocative in his language but still determined Friday.

"Much respect to Sen. Coons for leading the fight on background checks," he tweeted. "But the time for letting status quo politics determine how far we can go is over. If we agree that having millions of weapons of war on the streets is a bad idea, we have to do something about it."

One worry among Democrats is that calling for outright confiscation plays into claims by Trump and other Republicans that Democrats are coming for people's firearms.

On Thursday night, just as O'Rourke made his call to take back the rifles, Trump warned at a Republican retreat in Baltimore, "Democrats want to confiscate guns from law-abiding Americans, so they are totally defenseless when somebody walks into their house."

Republicans, Trump promised, "will forever uphold the fundamental right to keep and bear arms." That line got huge applause at the GOP retreat, and again Friday when it was repeated there by Vice President Mike Pence.

By all accounts, Trump needs to run up the score in rural areas to win reelection next year. The 2020 outcome is expected to depend heavily on a trio of Rust Belt states — Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin — that have large numbers of rural voters, many of whom are gun-owners or sympathetic to owners on this issue. And Democrats' hope of winning control of the Senate rests on states with high rates of gun ownership, like Arizona and Texas.

Several gun control groups stressed Friday that they were not advocating confiscation, but they also didn't follow Coons' lead in condemning O'Rourke's declaration.

"I think it is very understandable that he is taking a policy position that the larger gun safety community hasn't taken and he's trying to push the envelope," said Robin Lloyd, managing director of Giffords, the gun control group named after Gabby Giffords, the Arizona congresswoman who survived a gunshot wound to

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the head in 2011. "If the American voter does not think this is an appropriate solution, they'll let us know."

Gun rights groups have seemed to be somewhat on their heels recently as the unabated series of mass shootings has increased pressure for new control measures. Even the staunchly conservative lieutenant governor of Texas, Dan Patrick, said he supports background checks for all gun purchases after the El Paso attack and a second mass shooting in the state. Infighting and investigations at the National Rifle Association and election wins by pro-gun-control Democrats last November have convinced some politicians that the winds have shifted on the gun issue.

Indeed, O'Rourke isn't alone. None of the other nine candidates on the debate stage contradicted him on his proposal to require owners of the two popular styles of assault rifles to sell them to the government. Two candidates — New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker and California Sen. Kamala Harris — have also called for mandatory buybacks of assault weapons. Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, asked if she agreed with O'Rourke Thursday night, allowed only that she preferred a voluntary buyback to a mandatory one.

All 10 of the Democrats onstage have called for an assault weapon sales ban, the latest sign of how the party has become emboldened on gun control.

"It's hard to overstate how much the politics of gun safety has changed — whereas candidates once avoided gun safety entirely, now they're jockeying to be the boldest," said Taylor Maxwell of Everytown, the gun control group founded by former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Proposals like background checks and so-called red flag laws, which allow authorities to confiscate guns from people who are deemed threats, are "urgent," she said. "Too many lives are on the line not to take these simple, broadly popular and bipartisan steps immediately."

But O'Rourke's remarks worry Democrats like Warren Varley, who lost a race for a state legislative seat in Iowa last year.

"The lines like, 'We're gonna come and take your AR-15,' just play into the fears that the NRA has been stoking, and a proposal like that is just going to make rural Iowa and I think probably rural areas elsewhere more red," Varley said. "I think that's just a bridge too far for most rural folks, and it conjures up images of the government coming in and invading your home and images of big government trampling over the rights of individuals."

Trump and White House aides have discussed a number of gun control measures with members of Congress, including steps to go after fraudulent buyers, notify state and local law enforcement when a potential buyer fails a background check, issue state-level emergency risk protection orders, boost mental health assistance and speed up executions for those found guilty of committing mass shootings.

A formal announcement on the president's plan is expected as soon as next week.

Riccardi reported from Denver. Associated Press writer Alexandra Jaffe in Des Moines, Iowa, contributed to this report.

Far from debate spotlight, Williamson keeps campaigning

By ASHRAF KHALIL Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Marianne Williamson's voice dropped to a near whisper, then soared preacher-style to the rafters.

"There are more lovers than haters in America. But those who hate, hate with conviction, and conviction is a force multiplier," she said. "That is why we need a politics of love because the politics of fear and injustice and mercilessness has us by THE THROAT."

The predominantly black crowd at the 1,500-seat Hillside International Truth Center in Atlanta broke into sustained applause. Later, they packed the hallways lining up to have copies of Williamson's books signed. It looked like a wildly successful political/spiritual campaign in high gear.

But when 10 presidential candidates shared the stage this week in Houston for the third Democratic debate, Williamson was in Beverly Hills, hosting her own debate-watching event.

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It was a disappointing result for the bestselling author who garnered attention during the second debate in August. Her description of institutionalized racism as “part of the dark underbelly of American society” resonated widely; she was the most Googled candidate following the debate, and her performance spawned a miniwave of think pieces pondering whether she should be taken seriously.

But that bump in attention failed to translate into measurable support. Williamson met the donation threshold to qualify for the third debate but fell well short of the polling threshold .

“Some of it is my own failure,” she told The Associated Press. “I have not had the money or the expertise with which to fully maximize the energy that we generated. But how I did in those polls is not the ultimate determiner of whether this campaign has value, meaning or purpose.”

As the televised primary machine rolls on without her, Williamson has kept barnstorming the country and trying to get back in the race. During a three-day campaign swing through South Carolina and Atlanta over Labor Day weekend, Williamson, 67, maintained a punishing schedule of appearances and speeches, seeking to build momentum and hopefully make the fourth scheduled debate in October in Ohio.

Williamson acknowledged that she has considered dropping out. Perhaps most frustrating for someone who has been a nationally known author and spiritual adviser for decades is the realization that she is not being taken seriously enough.

“I don’t enjoy the daily humiliation. It’s not fun to be derided, to be dismissed,” she said. “When people say it’s an ego trip, I laugh because what could be more ego-destroying than THIS?”

She speaks vaguely of a coordinated effort to discredit her that kicked in immediately after her second debate performance. Media reports and interviewers dug up what she called “sloppy” old statements and tweets to paint her as an anti-vaccine radical.

“That’s been hard to take — this image of me as some crazy lady,” she said.

On the campaign trail, and in contrast to her public perception among some, Williamson comes across as more angry and fed up with the state of the country than blissed out on the power of love. She still drops phrases like “vortex of moral certitude” into her comments but also speaks of an “amoral economic system” that has nearly destroyed the middle class and “hijacked America’s moral values.”

Williamson wears her spirituality on her sleeve, and some of her most enthusiastic crowds have come in houses of worship. On her Labor Day campaign swing, she addressed a packed house of about 250 people at a predominantly white church in Greenville, South Carolina. Two days later she received a rapturous welcome at the Hillside Center. But even among her supporters, her status as an extreme longshot hangs over the proceedings.

“I think she’s a wonderful person, and I think it’s a shame that somebody like her could never be elected president,” said Autumn Baskin, a 45-year-old graphic designer, as she left Williamson’s appearance at the Hillside church. “I would vote for her if I thought she had a chance.”

Williamson rarely speaks President Donald Trump’s name; she doesn’t avoid it, but she describes him as a mere symptom of a larger societal sickness that’s been building for decades.

“He is an opportunistic infection. If all we do is defeat him, those forces will be back in ‘22 and ‘24,” she said.

As with the second debate, Williamson speaks vividly about the tortured history of racism in America, calling it the country’s “original character defect.”

She talks in overtly religious terms of a countrywide need for confession, contrition and atonement. That’s at the heart of one of her signature proposals: that the U.S. government pay massive financial reparations to its black citizens as atonement for centuries of slavery and discrimination.

Williamson’s bona fides on the reparations issue are unassailable; she first advocated the step in 1997’s “The Healing of America.” She proposes that \$200 billion to \$500 billion be granted over a 20-year period to a Reparations Council. That council, composed of 30 to 50 black academic, cultural and business leaders, would then decide how and when to disperse the funds.

“Black America will decide,” she told a small roundtable of black religious leaders in Atlanta. “Will it go to historically black universities? Will it be black chambers of commerce? Will it be microloans for small

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businesses? Somebody like me should not be in the room where those decisions get made.”

The money itself is important, she says, but equally vital is the need for public contrition from white America. That’s something that affirmative action programs, minority scholarships or microloans for black-owned businesses don’t provide.

“That brings some economic justice, but it carries no moral force,” Williamson said. “First of all, it leaves open the question of whose fault it is, whereas reparations carry an inherent mea culpa.”

Williamson regards the Democratic National Committee and its polling requirements with suspicion, feeling that the DNC openly favors some candidates over others. She was a Bernie Sanders supporter in 2016 when his camp voiced the same suspicions about the DNC favoring Hillary Clinton.

Although she unsuccessfully ran for Congress as an independent in California in 2014, Williamson said an independent presidential run is out of the question. She regards Jill Stein’s 2016 independent run as one of several factors that led to Trump’s victory.

“Given the fact that Donald Trump is president, I think it would be a very unpatriotic thing to do — to risk taking even 10 votes away from a Democrat,” she said.

NY finds \$1B in hidden transfers by family behind OxyContin

By ADAM GELLER AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The family that owns OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma used Swiss and other hidden accounts to transfer \$1 billion to themselves, New York’s attorney general contends in court papers filed Friday.

New York — asking a judge to enforce subpoenas of companies, banks and advisers to Purdue and its owners, the Sackler family — said it has uncovered the previously unknown wire transfers among family members, entities they control and several financial institutions.

The transfers bolster allegations by New York and other states that the Sacklers worked to shield their wealth in recent years because of mounting worries about legal threats.

Scores of those transactions sent millions of dollars to Mortimer D.A. Sackler, a former member of Purdue’s board and a son of one of its founders, according to the filings.

They point to \$20 million shifted from a Purdue parent company to Sackler, who then redirected substantial amounts to shell companies that own family homes in Manhattan and the Hamptons. Another \$64 million in transfers to Sackler came from a previously unknown family trust, using a Swiss account, prosecutors said in their filing.

The filing, made in a New York court, follows decisions by that state and others to reject a tentative settlement with Stamford, Connecticut-based Purdue, announced this week, arguing it does not do enough to make amends for the company’s and family’s alleged roles in flooding U.S. communities with prescription painkillers.

A spokesperson for Mortimer D.A. Sackler called the attorney general’s contention an attempt to “torpedo a mutually beneficial settlement that is supported by so many other states and would result in billions of dollars going to communities and individuals across the country that need help.”

The transfers were “perfectly legal and appropriate in every respect,” the spokesperson said.

As part of the settlement, Purdue is likely to soon file for bankruptcy protection. But New York and other states have promised they will continue to pursue the Sacklers, alleging that family members drained more than \$4 billion from the company over the past dozen years. The family has used a complex chain of companies and trusts to control their holdings, some located in offshore tax havens.

The Sacklers had an estimated net worth of \$13 billion as of 2016, making them America’s 19th-richest family, according to Forbes magazine.

In its filing Friday, New York told a state judge that the only way it can determine the full extent of those transfers is if all those it has subpoenaed are forced to provide documents detailing their interactions with the Sackler family.

“While the Sacklers continue to lowball victims and skirt a responsible settlement, we refuse to allow

the family to misuse the courts in an effort to shield their financial misconduct. The limited number of documents provided to us so far underscore the necessity for compliance with every subpoena," New York Attorney General Letitia James said in a prepared statement.

Pats' Antonio Brown said to be eligible, but will he play?

By KYLE HIGHTOWER AP Sports Writer

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) — Antonio Brown is said to be eligible to play against Miami. Whether he actually does after just three practices with the Patriots is still not clear.

"We're determining that," coach Bill Belichick said Friday. "I'm not gonna hand out a copy of the game plan. We'll do what we think is best for the team."

The star wide receiver Brown was not placed on the commissioner's exempt list, two people with direct knowledge of the decision told The Associated Press on Friday. They spoke on condition of anonymity because the decision has not been announced.

Belichick, whose team faces the Dolphins on Sunday, would not confirm the move by the NFL before practice.

Brown has been accused of rape and sexual assault in a civil case in Florida and denies the allegations by his former trainer. He won't go on the exempt list this week because no criminal charges have been filed and because the NFL hasn't fully developed its investigation. Players on the list can't play in games or practice with a team but are still paid. A player can be placed on the exempt list at any point.

Brown signed with New England after requesting and receiving his release from the Oakland Raiders.

Since the lawsuit became public, the ordinarily flamboyant Brown has kept the lowest of profiles.

He arrived in Massachusetts on Monday in search of a fresh start following a trail of follies with the Raiders that included a bizarre foot injury, a dispute with the NFL over his helmet, missed practices, multiple fines and a run-in with Oakland general manager Mike Mayock.

Now Brown is trying to acclimate himself to perhaps the most regimented environment in the NFL.

He's been mostly insulated off the field by the team. The four-time All-Pro has yet to address reporters since joining New England. He has been seen only on the practice field. The stall to his locker has been closed whenever reporters had access to the room, suggesting he has left for the day. He has been trying to learn a new playbook and system and earn the trust of quarterback Tom Brady.

Belichick said there's no way to gauge how long it takes a new player to get comfortable enough in New England's system.

The most recent example of a receiver to join the Patriots on a timeline similar to Brown's was Josh Gordon last season. After wearing out his welcome in Cleveland following a four-year stint Gordon was traded by the Browns to the Patriots on Sept. 18 of last year.

Gordon practiced with the team for three days but was inactive that week when New England lost at Detroit. He debuted the following week, though he played only 18 of 81 offensive snaps, catching just two passes. He caught his first touchdown pass as a Patriot a week later.

Gordon said getting up to speed with the Patriots isn't something that happens overnight. He said the support in the Patriots' locker room helped him adjust as fast as he did.

"It can definitely be tough. I know it was for me," he said. "Everybody gets it differently. Sometimes faster, sometimes slower. It kind of just depends on how fast you can get rid of what you once knew to adopt a new everything: environment, offense, this way of life.

"I think as professionals a lot of these guys know it's part of the game and can embrace it and adjust quickly. That's how you adapt and survive in this league."

Gordon had 40 catches for 740 yards in just 11 games last year before being suspended for violating the NFL's drug policy.

With Brown joining Gordon and Super Bowl MVP Julian Edelman, the Patriots could have one of the league's most talented receiver corps.

Gordon called Brown "dedicated" and "one of the hardest working guys in the league."

"He's lived up to the great Antonio Brown name," Gordon said. "One of the best in the league. So we expect that to continue and I think he expects it of himself. It's a great addition. We're glad to have him."

Edelman said he likes what he sees so far from Brown and is looking forward to seeing how it translates to the field.

"The dude's an absolute stud," Edelman said. "He's a really good football player and I think he raises the level for everyone out there because of how good of a player he is and how hard he works."

AP Pro Football Writer Barry Wilner contributed to this report.

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'I was stupid': Huffman gets 14 days in college scam

By COLLIN BINKLEY AP Education Writer

BOSTON (AP) — "Desperate Housewives" star Felicity Huffman was sentenced Friday to 14 days in prison for paying \$15,000 to rig her daughter's SAT scores, tearfully apologizing to the teenager for not trusting her to get into college on her own.

"I was frightened, I was stupid, and I was so wrong," Huffman, 56, said as she became the first parent sentenced in a college admissions scandal that ensnared dozens of wealthy and well-connected mothers and fathers.

The scandal exposed the lengths to which parents will go to get their children into the "right" schools and reinforced suspicions that the college admissions process is slanted toward the rich.

In sentencing Huffman, U.S. District Judge Indira Talwani noted the outrage the case has generated, adding that it "isn't because people discovered that it isn't a true meritocracy out there." The outrage, she said, was because Huffman took steps "to get one more advantage" in a system "already so distorted by money and privilege."

Prosecutors had sought a month in prison for Huffman, while her lawyers said she should get probation.

A total of 51 people have been charged in the scheme, the biggest college admissions case ever prosecuted by the Justice Department. Prosecutors said parents schemed to manipulate test scores and bribed coaches to get their children into elite schools by having them labeled as recruited athletes for sports they didn't even play.

Huffman paid \$15,000 to boost her older daughter's SAT scores with the help of William "Rick" Singer, an admission consultant at the center of the scheme. Singer, who has pleaded guilty, allegedly bribed a test proctor to correct the teenager's answers. Huffman pleaded guilty in May to a single count of conspiracy and fraud as part of a deal with prosecutors.

The amount Huffman paid is relatively low compared with other bribes alleged in the scheme. Some parents are accused of paying up to \$500,000.

Huffman must report for her prison sentence in six weeks. She also must pay a \$30,000 fine and perform 250 hours of community service.

"I would like to apologize again to my daughter, my husband, my family and the educational community for my actions," Huffman said in an emailed statement after the sentencing hearing. "And I especially want to apologize to the students who work hard every day to get into college, and to their parents who make tremendous sacrifices supporting their children."

In arguing for incarceration, Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric Rosen told the judge that prosecutors had no reason to doubt the rationale Huffman offered — her fears and insecurities as a parent — for taking part in the scheme.

"But with all due respect to the defendant, welcome to parenthood," Rosen said. "Parenthood is terrifying, exhausting and stressful, but that's what every parent goes through. ... What parenthood does not do, it

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does not make you a felon, it does not make you cheat, in fact it makes you want to serve as a positive role model for your children.”

Huffman’s lawyer Martin Murphy argued that her crimes were less serious than those of her co-defendants and noted that she did not enlist her daughter in the scheme. The actress has said her daughter was unaware of the arrangement.

The case is seen as an indicator of what’s in store for other defendants. Over the next two months, nearly a dozen other parents are scheduled to be sentenced. Fifteen parents have pleaded guilty, while 19 are fighting the charges.

Among those contesting the charges are “Full House” actress Lori Loughlin and her fashion designer husband, Mossimo Giannulli, who are accused of paying to get their two daughters into the University of Southern California as fake athletes.

Former Stanford University sailing coach John Vandemoer is the only other person sentenced so far and received a day in prison. He admitted helping students get into Stanford as recruited athletes in exchange for \$270,000 for his sailing program.

Authorities said Huffman’s daughter Sophia got a bump of 400 points from her earlier score on the PSAT, a practice version of the SAT. Prosecutors have not said which colleges her daughter applied to with the fraudulent SAT score.

Huffman’s husband, actor William H. Macy, was not charged.

In a letter this month asking for leniency, Huffman said she turned to the scheme after her daughter’s dreams of going to college and pursuing an acting career were jeopardized by her low math score.

“I honestly didn’t and don’t care about my daughter going to a prestigious college,” Huffman wrote. “I just wanted to give her a shot at being considered for a program where her acting talent would be the deciding factor.”

Prosecutors countered that Huffman was driven by “a sense of entitlement, or at least moral cluelessness, facilitated by wealth and insularity.”

This story has been updated to correct the name of Huffman’s daughter to Sophia instead of Sofia in all references.

States split by party on accepting Purdue Pharma settlement

By STEVE KARNOWSKI and GEOFF MULVIHILL Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The opioid crisis has hit virtually every pocket of the U.S., from rural towns in deeply conservative states to big cities in liberal-leaning ones. But a curious divide has opened up.

The nation’s Republican state attorneys general have, for the most part, lined up in support of a tentative multibillion-dollar settlement with OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma, while their Democratic counterparts have mostly come out against it, decrying it as woefully inadequate.

Exactly why this is so is unclear, and some of those involved suggested it can’t necessarily be explained by the fact that the Republican Party is considered more friendly to big business.

Some of the attention has focused on the role played by Luther Strange, a Republican former Alabama attorney general who has been working for members of the Sackler family, which owns Purdue Pharma.

People familiar with the negotiations say he was at a meeting of the Republican Attorneys General Association over the summer, sounding out members about a settlement months before a tentative deal was struck this week.

Purdue has been generous in recent years to RAGA, contributing more than \$680,000 to its campaign operation from 2014 through 2018. The company also gave to the organization’s Democratic counterpart, the Democratic Attorneys General Association, over the same five-year period, but far less: about \$210,000.

Strange would not comment Friday.

The proposed settlement with the Stamford, Connecticut-based drugmaker could ultimately be worth up to \$12 billion, though critics doubt it will be close to that much.

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Nearly half the states and lawyers representing some 2,000 local governments have tentatively accepted the settlement deal, according to people familiar with the talks. Under the deal, the company would declare bankruptcy and remake itself as "public benefit trust," with its profits going toward the settlement. An Associated Press survey of attorney general offices shows 25 states and the District of Columbia have rejected the current offer.

Purdue is perhaps the highest-profile opioid maker, but governments are also suing other drugmakers, distributors and pharmacies to try to hold them accountable for a crisis that has claimed more than 400,000 lives in the U.S. since 2000, including deaths linked to illicit drugs such as heroin and fentanyl.

The first federal trial over the toll exacted by opioids is scheduled to start next month in Cleveland.

The only states with Democratic attorneys general to sign on are Mississippi and Michigan, which is one of the few states that haven't actually sued Purdue.

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel noted the partisan split in a statement this week.

"While I have tremendous respect for my Democratic colleagues who have elected to opt out of settlement discussions," she said, "ultimately each attorney general is obligated to pursue the course of action which is most beneficial to our respective states."

The Republican-led attorney general offices in Idaho and New Hampshire have publicly rejected the settlement. Several GOP-led states have not said where they stand, but people with knowledge of the negotiations say they are accepting the settlement.

The GOP attorneys general have generally contended that getting a settlement now is better than uncertainty and years of litigation, while the Democrats have mostly argued that the deal does not provide enough money and does not hold adequately accountable members of the Sackler family.

"The Sacklers have blood on their hands," said Delaware Attorney General Kathy Jennings, a Democrat.

The states that have refused to sign on are expected to object in bankruptcy court and to seek to continue lawsuits in state courts against Sackler family members, who have denied wrongdoing.

"I don't think you should read a whole lot into it," Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller, a Democrat, said of the partisan divide. "My view is it's a pretty close call to join or not. There are good arguments on both sides. All my colleagues who have made their decisions have made them in good faith."

Miller said he expects a bipartisan group of states to keep working together on possible settlements with other defendants in the opioid cases.

While Strange was part of negotiations with a bipartisan group of attorneys general, Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison, a Democrat, said he never spotted Strange at a gathering of the Democratic Attorneys General Association.

North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein, a Democrat, was one of the lead negotiators on the settlement and said that Strange played a big role.

"He was lawyer to the family, and so we had multiple discussions with the family in which I indicated that a supermajority of states could agree to a deal if the Sacklers would simply provide more certainty as to the payment," Stein said in an interview. "Almost all states would agree to the deal if the Sackler family would guarantee it 100%. Just make a payment. Those were discussions we had. The Sacklers rejected those offers and said it was take it or leave it, and I'm leaving it."

Paul Nolette, a Marquette University political scientist, said in an email that the GOP attorneys general and local governments "don't see this as a bad deal under the circumstances." But he said Democrats have been stung by a backlash over settlements over foreclosures years ago, and they "see political risks for not pushing for more."

Mulvihill reported from Cherry Hill, New Jersey.

Associated Press writers Kim Chandler in Montgomery, Alabama; Emery Dalesio in Raleigh, North Carolina; David Eggert in Lansing, Michigan; and Richard Lardner in Washington contributed to this report.

House committee subpoenas acting intelligence director

By MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chairman of the House intelligence committee has issued a subpoena to the acting Director of National Intelligence, saying Joseph Maguire is withholding a whistleblower complaint from Congress.

House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff said in a statement Friday evening that the committee will require that Maguire testify Thursday unless he complies with the subpoena. The chairman did not detail the subject of the whistleblower complaint, but said he was aware the intelligence community's inspector general had determined it to be credible and a matter of "urgent concern."

Schiff said Maguire is required to share the complaint with Congress but won't do so, and "this raises serious concerns about whether White House, Department of Justice or other executive branch officials are trying to prevent a legitimate whistleblower complaint from reaching its intended recipient, the Congress, in order to cover up serious misconduct."

He added that he was concerned that administration officials "are engaged in an unlawful effort to protect the president."

A senior intelligence official said the intelligence director's office had received the subpoena and was reviewing it, and said Maguire is committed to upholding whistleblower protections. The official was not authorized to speak publicly and declined to be named.

Schiff said the committee had learned about the complaint this week. He said Maguire told the committee in a letter that he was withholding the complaint from the committee "because, in part, it involves confidentially and potentially privileged communications by persons outside the intelligence community."

The intelligence panel is conducting a review of former special counsel Robert Mueller's report on Russian interference in the 2016 election and obstruction of justice by the White House. The committee is also investigating President Donald Trump finances.

University of Wyoming marks 1969 ouster of black players

By MEAD GRUVER Associated Press

LARAMIE, Wyo. (AP) — Fifty years after 14 black football players were kicked off the University of Wyoming football team for seeking to wear armbands to protest racism, eight of them returned to the Laramie campus to commemorate the anniversary as the school takes another step toward reconciliation.

University officials unveiled a plaque Friday at War Memorial Stadium commemorating the so-called Black 14. The marker joined an alleyway mural in downtown Laramie that was dedicated last year, and the ceremony capped five days of ceremonies and discussions about the infamous dismissal of all the university's black players in 1969.

They are now being recognized as leaders in the tradition of protest in sport. It's a pantheon that includes U.S. track and field athletes Tommie Smith and John Carlos, who raised their fists on a 1968 Olympics medal podium to protest racism and injustice.

More recently, former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick accused the NFL of blackballing him for kneeling during the national anthem before games to protest police violence against African Americans.

Protest is appropriate for athletes who want to use their fame and visibility to be heard, Black 14 member Tony Gibson said.

"You can judge them any way you want. But when they're saying things that matter or are trying to draw your attention to things that might need addressing, I think it's very important," Gibson said.

On Oct. 17, 1969, Wyoming head coach Lloyd Eaton summarily dismissed the players and revoked their scholarships after they met with him to propose wearing black armbands during an upcoming game against Brigham Young University.

The players wanted to protest racism some of them experienced in previous games against BYU and how the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at the time barred African Americans from the priest-

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hood. Eaton would have none of the idea — and was backed up by the university's board of trustees and Gov. Stan Hathaway.

They never got a chance to mention the armbands before Eaton lit into them about coming from fatherless families and saying they would only be accepted by traditionally black colleges if they weren't at the University of Wyoming, they said.

"Our side is coming out. All these years everybody thought we protested and stuff, and we never did," said Black 14 member Ted Williams.

The healing and reconciliation is not complete for some of the men who came back to campus this week. Some struggled for years after they were labeled as members of the Black 14.

Lionel Grimes said the episode repeatedly came up during job interviews, and he wondered how many job opportunities he missed because of it. The anger has taken years to overcome, he said.

"I was angry about the fact that I had to pay to go to school. I was angry at how the coach had insulted not only me, my fellow teammates, my ancestry," Grimes said.

Most of all, not being able to learn why Eaton acted as harshly as he did bothers Black 14 members. Eaton could have defused the situation simply by telling the players they couldn't wear the armbands, Grimes said.

"We would've just played football. He never gave us the opportunity to sit down and talk to him," Grimes said. "We were very respectful then."

Wyoming had won the Sugar Bowl the year before and was off to a 4-0 start before that day. The now all-white Cowboys went on to beat BYU and San Jose State but lost their last four games.

After Wyoming finished 1-9 in 1970, Eaton was demoted to assistant athletic director. He died in 2007, leaving the Black 14 without an apology or explanation.

"To me, the disappointment, my greatest disappointment, is I never had a clear understanding of his mindset. I never had a clear understanding of what compelled him to act against, as I understood years later, some of the wishes of his coaches," Black 14 member Guillermo Hysaw said.

Eight of the 14 were starters. Eaton's legacy isn't confined to the Black 14 episode, Black 14 member John Griffin said.

"He destroyed the Cowboys football team for a decade or so. He is the one who prevented blue-chip players from coming here," Griffin said. "That was on him, not us."

Griffin and some of the others have been back to campus over the decades, including for a 1993 event honoring the best players from each previous decade, but until the past several years reception for the Black 14 was lukewarm, Griffin said.

"Now it's (a) very sincere welcome back: 'We're glad to have you back and we're sorry,'" Griffin said.

This story has been corrected to show Kaepernick played for San Francisco 49ers, not Giants.

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Taliban visits Moscow days after Trump says talks 'dead'

By KATHY GANNON and JIM HEINTZ Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — A negotiating team from the Taliban arrived Friday in Russia, a representative told The Associated Press, just days after U.S. President Donald Trump declared dead a deal with the insurgent group in Afghanistan.

Russian state news agency Tass cited the Taliban's Qatar-based spokesman Suhail Shaheen as saying the delegation had held consultations with Zamir Kabulov, President Vladimir Putin's envoy for Afghanistan. The visit was confirmed to the AP by a Taliban official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to reporters.

The Interfax news agency cited an unidentified Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying the meeting in Russia underlined the necessity of renewing talks between the U.S. and the Taliban, and that the

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Taliban confirmed their readiness to continuing dialogue with Washington.

It was the Taliban's first international visit following the collapse of talks with Washington. The team was being led by Mullah Sher Mohammad Stanikzai.

"This is a notable development, as it suggests the Taliban wants to underscore its continued interest in dialogue, even after President Trump pulled the plug on the US-Taliban talks," said Michael Kugelman, deputy director of the Asia Program at the Washington-based Wilson Center. "And how striking that the insurgents have chosen to telegraph a message of conciliation by engaging with Moscow, a key U.S. rival that has made great efforts to deepen ties with the Taliban in recent months."

In a weekend tweet, Trump had called off negotiations and canceled a meeting he said he wanted to have with Afghan government leaders and the Taliban at the Camp David presidential retreat.

Shaheen told the Taliban's official website on Tuesday that the group was still communicating with U.S. negotiators, at least to find out what to do next.

The Taliban shura, or leadership council, opposed its negotiators going to Camp David and admonished those who had accepted U.S. peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad's invitation that was extended at the end of August.

Shaheen was quoted on the website as saying the Camp David visit was delayed, saying the Taliban wanted the agreement signed and witnessed by foreign ministers of several countries, including Russia. He said Taliban also wanted Qatar to announce the agreement before any Camp David meeting.

Moscow has been accused of aiding the Taliban as a safeguard against a burgeoning Islamic State affiliate that has close ties to the Islamic Movement of Afghanistan, a militant group in Central Asia. Russia has stepped up its defenses in Central Asia and has claimed thousands of IS fighters were in northern Afghanistan

Moscow has twice this year hosted meetings between the Taliban and prominent Afghan personalities.

While Washington has been seeking an exit to its longest war, the Taliban are at their strongest since their ouster in 2001 and hold sway over more than half the country, staging near-daily, deadly attacks across Afghanistan.

Khalilzad's year-long peace mission has been Washington's most dedicated push for peace, focusing not just on the Taliban, Afghanistan's government and prominent Afghan powerbrokers but also on Pakistan and Russia, as well as Iran, which has trained Afghan fighters known as the Fatimayoun Brigade that fought alongside Iran's Revolutionary Guard in Syria.

Khalilzad has focused his efforts on regional players almost as much as on the Taliban and Afghan government interlocutors. Earlier this year, the U.S. released a statement signed by the U.S., China and Russia supporting Khalilzad's peace efforts that called not just for an agreement on U.S. and NATO troop withdrawal and Taliban anti-terrorism guarantees but also a promise for intra-Afghan talks in which Afghans would decide the fate of their country as well as the terms of a cease-fire.

Gannon reported from Islamabad, Pakistan.

Zimbabwe's Grace Mugabe regains prominence for husband

By ANDREW MELDRUM Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — The controversy swirling around the burial of Zimbabwe's founding leader, Robert Mugabe, centers on his widow, Grace, who has remained dramatically cloaked behind a heavy black veil as she succeeded in getting the country's president to scrap his plans for the ex-leader to be buried in a simple plot alongside other national heroes and instead build a grand new mausoleum for her husband.

Known as a strong-willed woman with political ambitions, Grace Mugabe has made the most of her role as the grieving widow — and some in Zimbabwe think she is using the issue to reassert herself as a force to be reckoned with in the country.

When the 54-year-old Grace objected to the funeral plans for Mugabe, who died last week at 95, President Emmerson Mnangagwa came to her palatial 25-bedroom residence in Harare's posh Borrowdale suburb

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to consult her about how the interment should proceed. He departed saying he would respect her wishes and scrapped his funeral plans.

She and other family members said they had enlisted the support of Zimbabwe's traditional chiefs to determine how Mugabe would be buried. In a series of announcements throughout the week they divulged details of where, when and how Mugabe would be buried. The saga culminated Friday with the announcement that the funeral had been postponed for 30 days, until the elaborate new edifice could be built at the Heroes' Acre national monument.

"We are building a mausoleum for our founding father at the top of the hill at Heroes Acre," Mnangagwa said on state television of the plan to construct the imposing monument to Mugabe, a guerrilla leader who fought to end white-minority rule when the country was known as Rhodesia. "It won't be finished, so we will only bury him after we have completed construction."

The wrangle over the burial highlighted the lasting acrimony between Mugabe's widow and Mnangagwa, who helped oust Mugabe in 2017 after 37 years of often tumultuous rule as the country went from prosperity to economic decline, hyperinflation and widespread shortages.

It was also the latest achievement for Grace Mugabe, who rose from being one of the president's secretaries to become first lady. Mugabe and his first wife, Sally, had one son who died while Mugabe was jailed by the Rhodesian regime. When Sally was ailing with kidney failure, Mugabe struck up a relationship with Grace, 41 years his junior, and they had a daughter and two sons. Following Sally's death in 1992, Mugabe married Grace in 1996 in a lavish ceremony at his birthplace, Zvimba.

As Zimbabwe's first lady, Grace became known for shopping sprees in Europe and Asia, building huge residences, and staking claim to farms in the choice Mazowe area, outside Harare, as part of Mugabe's seizure of once white-owned properties. Grace also featured in a series of scandals and lawsuits, including one in which she sued a diamond dealer she said didn't deliver a 100-carat diamond she claimed to have paid for. In South Africa she was charged with assaulting a young woman who had been in her sons' hotel suite in Johannesburg.

She also became increasingly prominent politically, becoming the head of the Women's League of her husband's ruling ZANU-PF party. She launched a series of public attacks on then-Vice President Joice Mujuru that led to Mujuru being sacked in 2014. She then turned her sights on Mnangagwa, who was fired from the vice presidency in 2017 and appeared poised to take that position herself. Mnangagwa fled the country, saying he feared for his life.

The prospect of Grace Mugabe gaining so much power, especially as Mugabe was becoming visibly feeble, prompted the military to put the couple under house arrest. Mugabe was forced to resign in November 2017, and his wife was expelled from the ruling party.

With Mugabe's death and the protracted drama surrounding his burial, Grace has reasserted her national prominence — and her ascendancy over Mnangagwa.

"That stuff about traditional leaders making the decision is rubbish. Grace was determined to decide how Mugabe should be buried," said Zimbabwean analyst Ibbo Mandaza. Since Mugabe's ouster "Mnangagwa has not taken any action against her. Nothing has happened to the mansions, the properties, the state allowances."

"The whole narrative of the ruling class is the same. There is hypocrisy and looting. There is no honor or dignity," he said.

And Grace might just make a political comeback, he added. "Maybe in a year we will see Grace in bed with Mnangagwa, politically, if not literally," he said.

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PG&E reaches \$11B deal with California wildfire insurers

By OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ and JULIET WILLIAMS Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Pacific Gas & Electric has agreed to pay \$11 billion to a group of insurance companies representing claimants from deadly Northern California wildfires in 2017 and 2018 as the company tries to emerge from bankruptcy, the utility announced Friday.

The utility said in a statement the tentative agreement was reached with insurance companies holding 85% of the insurance claims from fires that included the November 2018 blaze that destroyed the town of Paradise, killing 86 people.

It does not include thousands of uninsured and underinsured fire victims who have filed their own claims against PG&E, including for wrongful deaths.

The insurers said in a separate statement the settlement is well below the \$20 billion the companies had sought in bankruptcy court, although it is more than PG&E offered as part of a filing in bankruptcy court earlier this week.

"While this proposed settlement does not fully satisfy the approximately \$20 billion in group members' unsecured claims, we hope that this compromise will pave the way for a plan of reorganization that allows PG&E to fairly compensate all victims and emerge from Chapter 11 by the June 2020 legislative deadline," the insurers said.

The deal removes some of the uncertainty hanging over PG&E as it tries to climb out of its financial pit. The company's stock rose nearly 11% Friday to close at \$11.18.

"Today's settlement is another step in doing what's right for the communities, businesses, and individuals affected by the devastating wildfires," PG&E CEO Bill Johnson said in a statement.

Two major outstanding questions still linger over the bankruptcy, said Michael Wara, a senior research scholar at Stanford University and a member of the state wildfire committee: How much PG&E will pay the outstanding fire victims, and whether a jury will find the utility liable for the 2017 wine country Tubbs fire that took 22 lives.

"It's really hard to know what the PG&E bankruptcy resolution will look like. Because you don't know how much money the company has to come up with," Wara said.

"We want to avoid having ratepayers get punished for this bankruptcy, but the company provides this essential service," he said. "How that gets resolved is going to be a very tricky process."

Gerald Singleton, an attorney representing more than 5,000 people whose homes were burned in Northern California wildfires started by the utility's equipment between 2015 and 2018, said the settlement with insurance companies was a step in the right direction.

"PG&E is looking for certainty and their investors want certainty and this certainly narrows the scope," Singleton said.

"Now we just have to get a fair amount for the individuals," he added.

The settlement still must be approved by a bankruptcy court. PG&E Corp. on Monday released a plan to offer nearly \$18 billion total to wildfire victims, insurance companies and cities and public entities in California that battled wildfires sparked by its electrical equipment.

That figure will now climb to nearly \$20.5 billion, including:

- \$11 billion for insurance companies as part of the tentative deal;
- \$8.4 billion to pay wildfire claims from uninsured victims, which attorneys representing them had rejected as too low;
- \$1 billion will go toward local governments affected by the wildfires.

While Friday's announcement was a step toward resolving the bankruptcy, "it's not necessarily a good outcome for shareholders," said Travis Miller, an analyst with Morningstar, Inc.

The utility had talked about payments to the insurance group "in the \$8 billion range. Instead they've agreed to \$11 billion."

The San Francisco-based company is under deadline pressure to emerge from bankruptcy by June 2020 to participate in a state wildfire fund to help California's major utilities pay out future claims as climate

change makes wildfires across the U.S. West more frequent and more destructive.

The utility sought bankruptcy protection in January because it said it could not afford an estimated \$30 billion in potential damages from lawsuits stemming from recent wildfires.

Snowden tells life story and why he leaked in new memoir

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden has written a memoir, telling his life story in detail for the first time and explaining why he chose to risk his freedom to become perhaps the most famous whistleblower of all time.

Snowden, who now lives in Russia to avoid prosecution in the U.S., says his seven years working for the NSA and CIA led him to conclude the U.S. intelligence community “hacked the Constitution” and put everyone’s liberty at risk and that he had no choice but to turn to journalists to reveal it to the world.

“I realized that I was crazy to have imagined that the Supreme Court, or Congress, or President Obama, seeking to distance his administration from President George W. Bush’s, would ever hold the IC legally responsible — for anything,” he writes.

The book, “Permanent Record,” is scheduled to be released Tuesday. It offers by far the most expansive and personal account of how Snowden came to reveal secret details about the government’s mass collection of Americans’ emails, phone calls and Internet activity in the name of national security.

His decision to turn from obscure IC work to whistleblower in 2013 set off a national debate about the extent of government surveillance by intelligence agencies desperate to avoid a repeat of the Sept. 11 attacks. Intelligence officials who conduct annual classified assessments of damage from Snowden’s disclosures say the documents will continue trickling out into the public domain for years to come.

Though the book comes six years after the disclosures, Snowden, who fled first to Hong Kong and then Russia, attempts in his memoir to place his concerns in a contemporary context. He sounds the alarm about what he sees as government efforts worldwide to delegitimize journalism, suppress human rights and support authoritarian movements.

“What is real is being purposely conflated with what is fake, through technologies that are capable of scaling that conflation into unprecedented global confusion,” he says.

The story traces Snowden’s evolution from childhood, from growing up in the 1980s in North Carolina and suburban Washington, where his mother worked as a clerk at the NSA and his father served in the Coast Guard.

He came of age as the Internet evolved from an obscure government computer network and describes how a youthful fascination with technology — as a child, he took apart and reassembled a Nintendo console and, as a teenager, hacked the Los Alamos nuclear laboratory network — eventually led him to a career as an NSA contractor, where he observed high-tech spy powers with increasing revulsion.

Analysts used the government’s collection powers to read the emails of current and former lovers and stalk them online, he writes.

One particular program the NSA called XKEYSCORE allowed the government to scour the recent Internet history of average Americans. He says he learned through that program that nearly everyone who’s been online has at least two things in common: They’ve all watched pornography at one time or another, and they’ve all stored videos and pictures of their family.

“This was true,” he writes, “for virtually everyone of every gender, ethnicity, race, and age — from the meanest terrorist to the nicest senior citizen, who might be the meanest terrorist’s grandparent, or parent, or cousin.”

He struggled to share his concerns with his girlfriend, who joined him in Russia and is now his wife.

“I couldn’t tell her that my former co-workers at the NSA could target her for surveillance and read the love poems she texted me. I couldn’t tell her that they could access all the photos she took — not just the public photos, but the intimate ones,” he writes. “I couldn’t tell her that her information was being collected, that everyone’s information was being collected, which was tantamount to a government threat:

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If you ever get out of line, we'll use your private life against you."

Before summoning a small group of journalists to Hong Kong to disclose classified secrets, knowing that a return to the U.S. was impossible, he says he prepared like a man about to die. He emptied his bank accounts, put cash into a steel ammo box for his girlfriend and erased and encrypted his old computers.

These days, the 36-year-old Snowden lives in Moscow, where he remains outside the reach of a U.S. Justice Department that brought Espionage Act charges just weeks after the disclosures. He spends many of his days behind a computer and participating in virtual meetings with fellow board members at the Freedom of the Press Foundation. "I beam myself onto stages around the world" to discuss civil liberties, he writes.

When he does go out, he tries to shake up his appearance, sometimes wearing different glasses. He keeps his head down when he walks past buildings equipped with closed-circuit television. Once, he says, he was recognized in a Moscow museum and consented to a selfie request from a teenage girl speaking German-accented English.

It's unclear when or even if Snowden will return to a country where his family has deep roots. He traces his lineage back to the Mayflower and ancestors who fought in the Revolutionary War.

He was shaken by the Sept. 11 attacks, but describes his "reflexive, unquestioning support" for the wars that followed as the greatest regret of his life.

"It was as if whatever institutional politics I'd developed had crashed — the anti-institutional hacker ethos instilled in me online, and the apolitical patriotism I'd inherited from my parents, both wiped from my system — and I'd been rebooted as a willing vehicle of vengeance."

Follow Eric Tucker on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/etuckerAP>

Fire at hospital in Brazil kills 11 people, many elderly

By ANNA JEAN KAISER and CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — A fire raced through a hospital in Rio de Janeiro, forcing staff to wheel patients into the streets on stretchers or in wheelchairs and killing at least 11 people, many of them elderly.

Four firefighters were hospitalized after battling the overnight blaze at Badim Hospital and about 90 patients were transferred to other hospitals, the fire department said. A rope made from bedsheets and used in an attempt to escape the fire still hung from an upper floor window of the hospital Friday.

Most victims died of asphyxiation as smoke filled the wards, and some died when life support equipment stopped working in the fire, said Gabriela Graça, director of the state Institute of Forensic Medicine.

Carlos Outerelo was visiting his sick mother when the fire started Thursday night. The 90-year-old woman, Berta Gonçalves Berreiros Sousa, was among the dead.

"They said to stay closed off in the rooms so the smoke couldn't get in, and that it was under control. But in reality, it wasn't under control," Outerelo said outside the morgue where his mother's body was taken.

"The smoke started coming from the air conditioning ducts and it turned black and became hard to see," he said. "It was horrible."

Daniel Freitas de Brito said his 83-year-old mother, Irene Freitas, also died in the fire.

"I lost my mom, which is awful," de Brito said at the morgue. "It's tragic. ... I wish she had had a natural death, not to die in this way."

When firefighters arrived, they evacuated people but it was more difficult to move patients who were hooked up to medical equipment, according to reports.

Camila Donato, a police spokeswoman, said police were cleared by firefighters to enter the hospital Friday morning and had begun investigating the case.

As the fire burned, medical workers in surgical masks rolled equipment in the road as smoke billowed from the building. Television images showed staff tending to patients sitting in wheelchairs with IV poles beside them in the street, some on sheets and mattresses.

A woman carried an oxygen tank. One patient was moved into the street in a regular hospital bed.

Intensive care patients were among those rescued.

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In the chaos, distraught relatives tried to track down patients, unsure of whether they had perished in the fire or had been transferred to another medical facility.

Authorities released a list of names of 10 of the dead, some in their 80s and 90s.

Marcelo Crivella, the mayor of Rio de Janeiro, said a total of 11 people died. He declared an official mourning period of three days.

A social worker and other Badim Hospital staff are assisting relatives of patients, the hospital said Friday.

The hospital is in a middle-income neighborhood and a short walk from Maracana stadium, which was used for World Cup soccer matches, the 2016 Rio Olympics and also Copa America soccer fixtures this year.

Badim Hospital is part of a chain of private hospitals in Brazil operated by the D*Or São Luiz network. Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro is currently in the care of the same group at another of its hospitals in Sao Paulo, where he is recovering from a surgery related to a stabbing last year.

The website of the Badim Hospital says its 2018 renovation includes "state-of-the-art infrastructure" and is geared to provide "luxury" treatment. The hospital "aims to guarantee the comfort and hospitality necessary in this delicate moment of the patient's life," the website says.

Yes, stocks are up again. No, recession worries aren't gone

By STAN CHOE AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. economy is sending some worrying signals about a possible recession, yet the stock market has gone on a what-me-worry ride toward record heights.

What gives?

Put simply, while the stock market watches the economy, the two don't always move in lockstep. If investors see that companies are still bringing in profits, and stocks don't appear too expensive, they'll risk an investment even if the economy hasn't gotten an all-clear on the recession watch.

This week, the S&P 500 and Dow Jones Industrial Average climbed back to within 1% of their record highs set in July. A big reason is the recent easing of tensions in the U.S.-China trade war ahead of talks scheduled for next month, potentially diminishing the threat to the profits of U.S. companies. In addition, the Federal Reserve is expected to again cut interest rates. Lower rates make bonds less attractive investments and can, in turn, make investors more willing to sink their money into stocks.

Encouraging data on shopping trends and the job market also buoyed investors' mood.

Still, there is plenty to be concerned about. Investors know tensions in the trade war can easily escalate up again with another presidential tweet storm, as they painfully saw last month when stocks tumbled nearly 6%. Manufacturing is still weak worldwide. And the bond market has sent a signal that has been a fairly good predictor of recessions in the past.

Wall Street isn't exactly ignoring those signals — there's a fierce debate among analysts over whether a recession is coming to end what's become the longest U.S. economic expansion on record.

But history shows that stocks can keep rising until a few months before a recession officially starts, as they did until October 2007, two months before the Great Recession swamped the economy — and the stock market.

"The recessionary signals are still flashing yellow at this point," said Emily Roland, co-chief investment strategist at John Hancock Investment Management. She pointed in particular to how three-month interest rates for Treasury bonds are still higher than for 10-year Treasuries, a relatively rare occurrence that has preceded past recessions.

Roland talks often with financial advisers who manage money for clients, and the advisers are generally still optimistic about markets going higher. Their clients, though, are typically much more negative.

S&P 500 index funds have returned more than 20% this year, and the largest bond mutual fund has returned nearly 8% — yet many of those clients think they've lost money this year, Roland said.

The clients can be forgiven for the confusion, given how volatile the market has been over the last year. After diving nearly 20% in late 2018, the S&P 500 charged out to its best start to a year in decades, only to jerk down, up, down and back up again since May as worries about the trade war intensified.

Economists generally are forecasting slower growth ahead, but few are calling for an outright recession, which would be the first since the 2007-09 Great Recession.

On the encouraging side for the economy is the continued growth in the job market. Employers continue to hire workers, though the pace has been slowing, and wages are rising. That means more shoppers have money to spend. The latest sign of that came from a report Friday that showed U.S. retail sales rose moderately last month, boosted by brisk sales of cars and SUVs.

But clouding the outlook is President Donald Trump's trade war. It has already helped cause the first monthly contraction in U.S. manufacturing in three years. The larger fear is that all the uncertainty about trade will push businesses and households to get more cautious and pull back on their spending.

That could lead to lower profits for companies, triggering a downward cycle where businesses pull back on hiring, which in turn causes yet more cutbacks in spending.

Boat fire wreckage taken to navy base for investigation

By STEFANIE DAZIO and BRIAN MELLEY Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Federal investigators identified a violation of Coast Guard regulations that could trigger criminal charges in the California dive boat disaster that killed 34 people.

The National Transportation Safety Board said Thursday that all crew members on the boat Conception were asleep when the pre-dawn fire broke out Sept. 2 off the coast of Santa Barbara. The boat was required to have a crew member on lookout duty, according to Coast Guard rules.

"A member of the vessel's crew shall be designated by the master as a roving patrol at all times, whether or not the vessel is underway, when the passenger's bunks are occupied," the boat's inspection certificate said as a condition of operation.

The Conception's burned-out wreckage was in Port Hueneme Friday morning, according to ship-tracking website marinetraffic.com, a naval base more than 60 miles (97 kilometers) northwest of Los Angeles.

Federal investigators are searching for the cause of fire and looking into possible criminal charges that would likely focus on an obscure federal law known as the seaman's manslaughter statute.

Under the pre-Civil War law that can bring penalties up to 10 years in prison, prosecutors only need to show negligence or that the captain or crew committed misconduct or neglected their duties.

Defense lawyers and law professors said that failure to appoint a night watchman or falling asleep on the job could be enough to bring charges.

"No watch? A boat that far offshore?" attorney Michael Turndorf said. "I think that fits the statute. I would be surprised, if those are the real circumstances, that somebody doesn't get charged."

The law was put in place to punish captains, engineers and pilots responsible for deadly steamboat accidents that killed thousands in the 19th century.

A lawyer for Conception captain Jerry Boylan said he didn't believe his client had spoken with the NTSB yet and declined to answer questions about what his client did the night of the tragedy.

"I would say that he's emotionally devastated," attorney Michael Lipman said.

Attorney James Mercante, who handles maritime law, said seaman's manslaughter law is dangerous for boat owners and officers, and it's often in their interest not to talk with investigators.

"You want to cooperate with authorities when there's a casualty. But you have to draw that fine line," Mercante said. "It comes down to a decision between cooperation and incrimination."

The captain and four crew members were asleep on the vessel's upper deck and survived. The sixth, a 26-year-old deckhand named Allie Kurtz, was sleeping below deck and perished with the boat's 33 passengers.

Kurtz's grandmother, Doris Lapporte, said she was too distraught to comment on the NTSB findings, issued days before the family planned to scatter her granddaughter's ashes at sea.

"I have nightmares every day about her going up in flames," Lapporte said, crying. "This isn't the time to talk about how angry I am or how I feel."

The victims on the Conception were a diverse collection, including a girl celebrating her 17th birthday with her parents and a friend, a marine biologist who was leading the three-day scuba diving excursion,

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an Indian-born dentist and her husband from Connecticut, an environmental scientist, and a professional photographer.

Douglas Schwartz, an attorney for the Conception's owner, Truth Aquatics Inc., attempted to cast doubt on the NTSB's conclusion that the crew was sleeping, saying in a released statement that a witness "seems to contradict" that notion.

A crew member was awake shortly before the fire started and checked the galley and surrounding area around 2:30 a.m., Schwartz said. The first mayday call from the captain was transmitted at 3:14 a.m.

Schwartz refused to answer follow-up questions, including whether that crew member was assigned to night watch and went back to sleep after inspecting the galley.

The parents of Charles McIlvain, 44, a visual effects designer who was onboard with his neighbor, said they were greatly disturbed to hear there was no roving watchman.

"Early detection may have made an incredible difference in outcome," Clark and Kathleen McIlvain said in a statement.

China to lift punitive tariffs on US soybeans, pork

By JOE McDONALD AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — China will lift punitive tariffs imposed on U.S. soybeans and pork in a trade war with Washington, a state news agency said Friday, adding to conciliatory gestures by the two sides ahead of negotiations.

China will suspend tariff hikes on soybeans, pork and some other farm goods, the Xinhua News Agency said, citing the Cabinet planning agency and the Commerce Ministry. Beijing "supports domestic companies in purchasing a certain amount of U.S. farm produce," it said, but it gave no details.

The move follows President Donald Trump's decision Wednesday to postpone a planned Oct. 1 tariff hike on Chinese imports to Oct. 15.

Hopes are growing that the two sides might defuse the prolonged dispute that is threatening global economic growth. But there has been no sign of progress on the main issues in their sprawling conflict over trade and technology.

Beijing's decision to restore access to low-cost U.S. soybeans also would help Chinese pig farmers who use soy as animal feed. They are reeling from an epidemic of African swine fever that has caused pork prices to soar.

Phone calls to the commerce and finance ministries weren't answered on Friday, a national holiday in China.

"China has a huge market, and the prospects for importing high-quality U.S. farm produce are broad," Xinhua said. "China hopes the United States will be true to its word, make progress on its commitments and create favorable conditions for bilateral agricultural cooperation."

Beijing imposed 25% tariffs on American farm goods last year in response to Trump's tariff hikes on Chinese goods. Importers were ordered to stop buying soybeans, the biggest U.S. export to China.

China targeted farm goods, hurting rural areas that supported Trump in the 2016 presidential election.

Secretary Steven Mnuchin called Wednesday's tariff delay by Trump a "goodwill gesture to the Chinese."

The Commerce Ministry said Thursday importers were asking American suppliers for prices of soybeans and pork. It gave no indication whether they planned to place orders.

Washington wants Beijing to roll back plans for state-led development of leaders in robotics and other technologies. The United States, Europe and other trading partners argue those violate China's free-trade commitments.

Some American officials worry they will erode U.S. industrial leadership.

Negotiations broke down in May over how to enforce any deal. Beijing says Trump's tariff hikes must be lifted as soon as an agreement takes effect. Washington wants to keep some in place to ensure Chinese compliance.

Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed in June to resume talks but the last round in Shanghai

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in July produced no progress.

Chinese negotiators are due to fly to Washington in early October to meet with Mnuchin and U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, according to the treasury secretary. He said mid-level U.S. and Chinese officials were due to meet next week or the following week to prepare.

By delaying his tariff hike, Trump allowed for the possibility the talks might make enough progress to avert the increase indefinitely. However, economists say a final agreement is unlikely this year.

Tariff hikes by both sides on billions of dollars of goods have disrupted business for farms and factories in both countries, weighing on global economic growth.

China's announcement Friday also fine-tunes trade penalties to reduce damage to its own economy at a time of slowing growth.

Loss of access to American soybeans pushed up costs for Chinese pig farmers after African swine fever caused the loss of more than 1 million pigs and disrupted supplies of China's staple meat, causing prices to soar.

Authorities have told soybean importers to find new sources but the United States is the biggest and lowest-cost exporter. Buyers are looking to Brazil and Argentina but their output cannot fill the whole gap and their prices are higher.

On Wednesday, Beijing announced exemptions from punitive duties for 16 categories of American products.

The Chinese exemptions apply to raw materials needed by farmers and factories and some medicines.

The Commerce Ministry said Thursday that exemptions were granted if no alternative suppliers could be found or the increase would hurt Chinese industry or the economy.

Eddie Money, 'Two Tickets to Paradise' singer, dies at 70

By KRISTIN M. HALL Associated Press

Eddie Money, who left behind a career as a New York police officer to become one of the top-selling rock stars of the 1970s and '80s, with hits like "Two Tickets to Paradise" and "Take Me Home Tonight," has died. He was 70.

Publicist Cindy Ronzoni provided a statement from the family and said Money died Friday morning in Los Angeles. Money had recently announced that he had advanced cancer.

In 1987, the husky-voiced, blue collar performer received a best rock vocal Grammy nomination for "Take Me Home Tonight," which featured a cameo from Ronnie Spector.

"It is with heavy hearts that we say goodbye to our loving husband and father," the statement said. "It's so hard to imagine our world without him, however he will live on forever through his music."

He announced his cancer diagnosis via a video last month from his AXS TV reality series "Real Money." In the video, Money says he discovered he had cancer after what he thought was a routine checkup. He said the disease had spread to his liver and lymph nodes.

Money said it hit him "really, really hard."

He had numerous health problems recently, including heart valve surgery earlier this year and pneumonia after the procedure, leading to his cancellation of a planned summer tour.

Bon Jovi guitarist Richie Sambora tweeted "God Bless Eddie Money," while Debbie Gibson called him a "true legend."

Comedian Kevin James posted on his Instagram account a picture of Money when he appeared on his TV series "King of Queens," and wrote, "Gonna miss you, pal. May God grant you peace. Thank you for your incredible talent and kind heart! You and your family remain in my prayers."

The New York City native was born Edward Joseph Mahoney. Money grew up in a family of police officers and served two years as a New York City police officer before he decided he'd rather be a singer, according to his website.

"I grew up with respect for the idea of preserving law and order, and then all of a sudden cops became pigs and it broke my heart," Money told Rolling Stone in 1978.

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"Two Tickets to Paradise" and "Baby Hold On" both reached the top 30 in the late 1970s and his self-titled debut album went platinum. In the "Take Me Home Tonight" cameo, Spector reprised one of her signature hits from the 1960s as she crooned "Be my little baby," which she first sang on the Ronettes' "Be My Baby." Money remembered calling Spector, still traumatized from her years with ex-husband-producer Phil Spector, and convincing her to sing on his record.

"I said, 'Ronnie, I got this song that's truly amazing and it's a tribute to you. It would be so great if you came out and did it with me,'" he told hippopress.com in 2015. "When she got there, she didn't even remember it; she had a mental block against (Phil) Spector. But then she came out and did the song."

Money's other hits included "Maybe I'm a Fool," "Walk On Water" and "Think I'm in Love." He had few successes after the 1980s, but he continued to tour and record, and for decades would open the summer concert season at DTE Energy Music Theatre in Clarkston, Michigan. Meanwhile, "Two Tickets to Paradise" became a favorite on classic rock radio stations and was heard everywhere from "The Simpsons" to "The Office." The song was also featured in a Geico commercial, with Money himself appearing in the ad as the hammy owner of a travel agency.

For years, he lived too much like a rock star. In 1980, he sustained nerve damage in his legs after overdosing on alcohol and barbiturates, a near-tragedy he wrote about on his hit 1982 album "No Control." He continued to struggle with alcohol addiction before joining a 12-step program in 2001. "I came to the realization that I didn't really need (alcohol) for my quick wit," he told CNN in 2003.

Money did manage the rare rock achievement of a long-term marriage, more than 30 years to Laurie Harris, who would say that at first she confused him with John Mellencamp. The Moneys had five children, Zachary, Jessica, Joseph, Desmond, and Julian.

A born troublemaker, he was thrown out of one high school for forging his report card. He later moved to Berkeley, California, changed his name to "Money" and had enough success in the Bay Area clubs, even performing for a time with Janis Joplin's former backing group, to attract the attention of famed rock promoter Bill Graham. Money was signed by Columbia Records and by the end of the decade was a big enough act to open for the Rolling Stones, although the job didn't last as long as expected.

"I had a hit with 'Two Tickets' and everybody loved me; I was getting too many encores," Money told hippopress.com. "We were supposed to have six dates (with the Stones), and we only worked four. The way I see it is this — if you're gonna get fired from a Rolling Stones tour, get fired for being too good."

A representative for AXS TV said the final five episodes of his series will air on Thursdays. The channel will also air a tribute to Money on Sunday, including a concert and an interview with Dan Rather on his show "The Big Interview."

AP National Writer Hillel Italie contributed to this story.

NOT REAL NEWS: A look at what didn't happen this week

By **ARIJETA LAJKA** and **AMANDA SEITZ** undefined

A roundup of some of the most popular but completely untrue stories and visuals of the week. None of these is legit, even though they were shared widely on social media. The Associated Press checked them out. Here are the real facts:

CLAIM: Photo shows former President Ronald Reagan meeting with Taliban leaders during his presidency.

THE FACTS: The photo, taken in 1983, shows Reagan meeting with leaders of the Afghan mujahedeen. The Taliban did not emerge until 1994. A Twitter user posted the photo on Sept. 7, with a caption implying that Reagan met with the Taliban: "NeverTrumpers: A President meeting with the Taliban, this is horrific!" The miscaptioned photo circulated prominently on Twitter and Facebook after it was revealed that President Donald Trump planned to meet with Taliban leaders and Afghan officials at the presidential retreat in Camp David, Maryland, just days before the 9/11 anniversary. The talks, aimed at ending America's longest war, were called off, each side blaming the other for the collapse. According to information with the photo on the Reagan library and museum website, the photo shows Reagan meeting in the Oval Office

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with Afghan mujahedeen fighters to discuss Soviet aggression in Afghanistan. During his presidency, the Islamic guerrillas were called "freedom fighters" in the U.S. due to their battle to free their country from Soviet occupation. The photo has circulated on social media before with erroneous captions that identify the men as Taliban.

CLAIM: Leprosy is making a comeback in Los Angeles and the city is at risk for an outbreak.

THE FACTS: The number of leprosy cases in Los Angeles County has stayed consistent over the last decade and the area is not at risk for an outbreak, according to the Los Angeles County Health Department. Multiple online reports falsely asserted this week that Los Angeles is at risk for a leprosy outbreak or has seen an increase in reported leprosy cases. The inaccurate articles cited a study released in August, which examined how leprosy cases in Los Angeles County were treated over the last 46 years. Dr. Maria Teresa Ochoa, a clinical professor at the Keck School of Medicine University of Southern California and co-author of the study, told the AP the reports are wrong and misrepresent her work. "I can't believe it, it's seriously frustrating," Ochoa said of articles claiming the study shows an increase in leprosy cases. Over the last decade, the county has averaged two reported cases of leprosy a year. No more than four cases of leprosy, also called Hansen's Disease, have been reported in any year during that time, according to a statement from the Los Angeles County Health Department. The health department has not identified any cases where the disease was transmitted to someone locally during that time. "Given the low number of cases and no evidence of local transmission, there is no risk for an outbreak," the health department said in an email to The Associated Press. Ochoa said the number of reported leprosy cases is on the decline in the county, with only one reported in 2019. That's down from 1998, when 13 leprosy cases were reported in the county. Some articles claimed former President Barack Obama dropped a requirement that immigrants be screened for leprosy before entering the country. No such change was made. Immigrants found to have the disease may be denied entry until treated, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Other articles pin a possible leprosy outbreak in Los Angeles on the area's growing homeless population. No leprosy cases have been identified in people experiencing homelessness, the county health department confirmed in an email.

CLAIM: Rep. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota said "My people did something," in reference to the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

THE FACTS: An image circulating on Facebook on Sept. 11 that shows the burning World Trade Center's twin towers with photos of Omar laughing, falsely puts a word in the Democratic congresswoman's mouth. Omar, the first Muslim refugee elected to Congress, has faced criticism for using the phrase "some people did something" in remarks about the attacks during a speech in March. She made the comments while speaking to the Council on American-Islamic Relations, stating that the group "was founded after 9/11 because they recognized that some people did something and that all of us were starting to lose access to our civil liberties." During the speech, Omar said that post-9/11, U.S. Muslims had lost civil liberties, essentially becoming "second-class citizens." The comments incensed many who thought she was minimizing the attacks, which killed nearly 3,000 people when four hijacked planes crashed into the trade center, the Pentagon and a Pennsylvania field 18 years ago. Responding to criticism over the remarks, Omar noted that President George W. Bush stood at ground zero days after the towers fell and vowed that "the people who knocked these buildings down" would "hear all of us soon." The Council on American-Islamic Relations was founded in 1994, not after the attacks, according to its website. Its membership skyrocketed after the 2001 attacks.

CLAIM: Video shows Nigerians being lined up for deportation from South Africa.

THE FACTS: The video, which shows dozens of men lying face down on the ground as a long line of men walks behind them, hands in the air, is falsely captioned. It actually shows police searching for suspects involved in the May 17, 2018, robbery of two armored cars in Boksburg, east of Johannesburg. A shootout followed the robbery, and the suspects fled with an undisclosed amount of money. Police chased and cor-

nered suspects at the George Goch hostel, arresting five men. In the video, police were separating hostel dwellers outside as they searched for the suspects. "The video is depicting police tactics in eliminating the suspects from the innocent victims," said Captain Ndivhuwo Mulamu, a spokeswoman for a special investigative police unit, known as the Hawks. "It has nothing to do with what had happened in South Africa recently during the riots." Foreign-owned shops have been targeted in recent attacks that have left 12 people dead in Johannesburg, according to AP reports. On Wednesday, hundreds of Nigerians boarded a free flight from Johannesburg back to Nigeria in response to the violent attacks.

This is part of The Associated Press' ongoing effort to fact-check misinformation that is shared widely online, including work with Facebook to identify and reduce the circulation of false stories on the platform. The video circulating widely on Facebook was captured earlier this year when a fire broke out in a four-story building in Surat, India, killing 19 students and injuring dozens more.

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NFL At 100: League is all in on the action of sports betting

By **TIM DAHLBERG** AP Sports Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — When Roxy Roxborough set the lines for the big Las Vegas sports books in the '80s and '90s, he was also working behind the scenes to help the head of the NFL's security team keep a close eye on point spreads that moved suddenly for suspicious reasons.

He remembers a few, like when Dan Marino was supposedly injured in a motorcycle accident the day before the Dolphins played the Bills. Or when some bettors thought they had the inside scoop that Cleveland quarterback Bernie Kosar would miss a game because it fell on a big Jewish holiday.

Turns out there was no motorcycle accident. And Kosar was not only playing but wasn't even Jewish.

The rumors were always plentiful — as they usually are in the insular world of sports betting — but also easy to debunk. One thing was constant, though, in Roxborough's two decades as a major figure in the Las Vegas sports betting scene.

There was never any evidence anyone was trying to fix NFL games.

"We never saw anything," Roxborough said. "Not only that but if you go back in time, I'd say this is least corrupted league in the history of American sports."

Indeed, the NFL has been remarkably free of betting scandals as it celebrates its 100th season, despite a few hiccups in earlier days. Whether through good fortune, extreme vigilance or even the help of legal bookies in Las Vegas, there hasn't been a legitimate documented attempt to fix an NFL game in the modern era.

That doesn't mean the league hasn't play scared over the years. The NFL was so petrified of being associated with gambling or sports betting that up until recently players were forbidden to go into casinos, and anything associated with Las Vegas was suspect.

Longtime CBS broadcaster Brent Musburger remembers having to have a sit down with then-commissioner Pete Rozelle in the mid-1970s just to get approval for oddsmaker Jimmy "The Greek" Snyder to appear on the network's pregame shows — with permission granted only after promising not to mention certain point spread numbers.

"Rozelle said, OK, but I'm going to ask you don't use threes, sevens and tens," Musburger recalled. "Because those were the key numbers on most spreads and how people measured the spread."

Hard to imagine now, but as recently as 15 years ago the NFL rejected Super Bowl advertising from Las Vegas tourism officials. As late as four years ago it forced organizers of a fantasy football convention in the gambling city to cancel their show because Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo was going to be a featured guest.

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The league also fought legalized sports betting in court, and commissioner Roger Goodell said in a 2012 deposition that gambling was "No. 1 on my list" when asked about threats to the NFL.

Contrast that to today when the league is partnering with Caesars Palace on sports betting marketing, and teams are working with other casinos for sponsorships. The Raiders will begin play in a new \$1.9 billion stadium just off the Las Vegas Strip next year, and anyone with an account and an app will be able to make a bet as they watch the game.

And just to show the new romance between bettors and the league is blossoming fully, the NFL will hold its draft in Las Vegas in May. Expect a Super Bowl to follow sometime in the future.

As sports betting spreads across the country, the NFL is all in on a business it long considered its biggest threat. And those in an industry that has long labored under a stigma are left wondering: What took so long?

"I believed when working with them that they really thought sports betting would corrupt their sport," Roxborough said. "A lot of people say they're hypocrites now but deep down I believe they thought wide-open gambling would be detrimental to the league."

Ironic, perhaps, because some of the league's early movers and shakers were involved in gambling in various ways. Among them was Tim Mara, an established bookmaker in New York when he purchased the Giants in 1925.

But the fear was always that the public wouldn't believe the games were legitimate if there was any hint of scandal. That's why Paul Hornung and Alex Karras were suspended for a year in 1963 for betting a few hundred dollars on games other teams were playing. It's why Joe Namath was forced to sell his New York nightclub in 1969 after NFL investigators determined illegal bookies were hanging out there.

Now, sports betting is legal and operating in 11 states, and NFL teams are not only welcoming deals with sports betting companies but promoting their own prediction contests that are based on sports betting principles but are offered — for now at least — for free.

All without even a tacit acknowledgement that point spreads — and sports betting — played a big part in making the league what it is today.

"This league would not be No. 1 without the point spread," Musburger said. "It helped fuel the league. Not just the spreads but the pools where people could pick winners only. People love to predict the future."

The future — at least when it comes to sports betting — may just fuel a second boom in the NFL's popularity. New Jersey has already surpassed Nevada in monthly betting totals, and \$1.8 billion of the \$5 billion wagered in Nevada last year was on football.

Just what the betting ceiling will be is hard to forecast. There seems to be massive pent-up demand in the wake of last year's Supreme Court decision allowing states to legalize sports betting, and a survey released by the American Gaming Association on the eve of the 2019 NFL season indicated 38 million people planned to place a wager on an NFL game this year.

There will be plenty of winners and losers, but the big winner is a league that had to be drawn kicking and screaming into the new world of sports betting. The NFL will profit not only from various deals with its new sports betting partners, but should also benefit from increased viewership.

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones believes that benefit will be huge. Jones told Yahoo Finance recently that people will not only watch longer but watch more often, something that will pay off as the league renews television contracts.

"Gaming is going to make a big difference," Jones said. "I dare say gaming will increase the value of television. I dare say it will go up 50 percent because of the gaming concentration."

It's a far cry from when Musburger would slip in a reference to the Super Bowl point spread after the NFC championship game each year, then wait for the repercussions.

"I always thought people wanted an actual number and I didn't screw around," Musburger said. "I knew I would get a call from the CBS front office complaining about it and I'd always say damn, I forgot. Then I'd do it all over again the next year."

No need for that today when entire shows are devoted to gambling lines and ESPN's SportsCenter is often led at night with bad beats. Musburger himself now is managing editor and lead host for the Vegas

Stats & Information network, which offers betting news and analytics and a full channel of sports betting talk on Sirius XM.

Roxborough, meanwhile, is on the other side of the counter watching the business evolve in a way that would have been head scratching to the bookies during the day.

A business once restricted to people traveling to Las Vegas and handing \$100 bills over the counter to a ticket writer is now available to millions and growing fast. With mobile apps people can bet from their living rooms, offices or the local sandwich shop. When the Raiders open play in Las Vegas next year, fans will be able to sit in the stands and bet on their phones.

"I always thought the big move in betting was around the corner and I was wrong," Roxborough said. "I didn't think it would take this long, but people with monopolies aren't visionaries and Nevada had a 50-year monopoly on sports betting that it doesn't have now. It's a whole new world."

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

Yemen's Houthi rebels launch drones on 2 big Saudi oil sites

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Yemen's Houthi rebels launched drone attacks on the world's largest oil processing facility in Saudi Arabia and a major oil field Saturday, sparking huge fires at a vulnerable chokepoint for global energy supplies.

It remained unclear hours later whether anyone was injured at the Abqaiq oil processing facility and the Khurais oil field or what effect the assault would have on oil production. Rising smoke from the fires at the sites could be seen by satellites.

The attack by the Iranian-backed Houthis in the war against a Saudi-led coalition comes after weeks of similar drone assaults on the kingdom's oil infrastructure, but none of the earlier strikes appeared to have caused the same amount of damage. The attack likely will heighten tensions further across the Persian Gulf amid an escalating crisis between the U.S. and Iran over its unraveling nuclear deal with world powers.

First word of the assault came in online videos of giant fires at the Abqaiq facility, some 330 kilometers (205 miles) northeast of the Saudi capital, Riyadh. Machine-gun fire could be heard in several clips alongside the day's first Muslim call to prayers, suggesting security forces tried to bring down the drones just before dawn.

In daylight, Saudi state television aired a segment with its local correspondent near a police checkpoint, a thick plume of smoke visible behind him.

The fires began after the sites were "targeted by drones," the Interior Ministry said in a statement carried by the state-run Saudi Press Agency. It said an investigation was underway.

Saudi Aramco, the state-owned oil giant, did not respond to questions from The Associated Press. The kingdom hopes soon to offer a sliver of the company in an initial public offering.

In a short address aired by the Houthi's Al-Masirah satellite news channel, military spokesman Yahia Sarie said the rebels launched 10 drones in their coordinated attack after receiving "intelligence" support from those inside the kingdom. He warned that attacks by the rebels would only get worse if the war continues.

"The only option for the Saudi government is to stop attacking us," Sarie said.

The rebels hold Yemen's capital, Sanaa, and other territory in the Arab world's poorest country. Since 2015, a Saudi-led coalition has fought to reinstate the internationally recognized Yemeni government.

The U.S. Embassy in Riyadh said it was unaware of any injuries to Americans. Saudi Aramco employs a number of U.S. citizens, some of whom live in guarded compounds near the site.

"These attacks against critical infrastructure endanger civilians, are unacceptable, and sooner or later will result in innocent lives being lost," U.S. Ambassador John Abizaid, a former Army general, said.

Saudi Aramco describes its Abqaiq oil processing facility in Buqyaq as "the largest crude oil stabilization plant in the world."

The facility processes sour crude oil into sweet crude, then transports it onto transshipment points on

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the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea or to refineries for local production. Estimates suggest it can process up to 7 million barrels of crude oil a day. By comparison, Saudi Arabia produced 9.65 million barrels of crude oil a day in July.

The plant has been targeted in the past by militants. Al-Qaida-claimed suicide bombers tried but failed to attack the oil complex in February 2006.

The Khurais oil field is believed to produce over 1 million barrels of crude oil a day. It has estimated reserves of over 20 billion barrels of oil, according to Aramco.

There was no immediate impact on global oil prices as markets were closed for the weekend. Benchmark Brent crude had been trading at just above \$60 a barrel.

While Saudi Arabia has taken steps to protect itself and its oil infrastructure, analysts had warned that Abqaiq remained vulnerable. The Rapidan Energy Group, a Washington-based advisory group, warned in May that "a successful attack could lead to a monthslong disruption of most Saudi production and nearly all spare production." It called Abqaiq, close to the eastern Saudi city of Dammam, "the most important oil facility in the world."

The Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies separately issued its own warning just last month.

"Though the Abqaiq facility is large, the stabilization process is concentrated in specific areas . including storage tanks and processing and compressor trains — which greatly increases the likelihood of a strike successfully disrupting or destroying its operations," the center said.

The war has become the world's worst humanitarian crisis. The violence has pushed Yemen to the brink of famine and killed more than 90,000 people since 2015, according to the U.S.-based Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project, or ACLED, which tracks the conflict.

Since the start of the Saudi-led war, Houthi rebels have been using drones in combat. The first appeared to be off-the-shelf, hobby-kit-style drones. Later, versions nearly identical to Iranian models turned up. Iran denies supplying the Houthis with weapons, although the U.N., the West and Gulf Arab nations say Tehran does.

The rebels have flown drones into the radar arrays of Saudi Arabia's Patriot missile batteries, according to Conflict Armament Research, disabling them and allowing the Houthis to fire ballistic missiles into the kingdom unchallenged. The Houthis launched drone attacks targeting Saudi Arabia's crucial East-West Pipeline in May. In August, Houthi drones struck Saudi Arabia's Shaybah oil field.

Associated Press writer Samy Magdy in Cairo contributed to this report.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Sept. 14, the 257th day of 2019. There are 108 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 14, 1814, Francis Scott Key was inspired to write the poem "Defence of Fort McHenry" (later "The Star-Spangled Banner") after witnessing the American flag flying over the Maryland fort following a night of British naval bombardment during the War of 1812.

On this date:

In 1812, Napoleon Bonaparte's troops entered Moscow following the Battle of Borodino to find the Russian city largely abandoned and parts set ablaze.

In 1847, during the Mexican-American War, U.S. forces under Gen. Winfield Scott took control of Mexico City.

In 1861, the first naval engagement of the Civil War took place as the USS Colorado attacked and sank the Confederate private schooner Judah off Pensacola, Florida.

In 1901, President William McKinley died in Buffalo, New York, of gunshot wounds inflicted by an assas-

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sin; Vice President Theodore Roosevelt succeeded him.

In 1927, modern dance pioneer Isadora Duncan died in Nice (nees), France, when her scarf became entangled in a wheel of the sports car she was riding in.

In 1954, the Soviet Union detonated a 40-kiloton atomic test weapon.

In 1963, Mary Ann Fischer of Aberdeen, S.D., gave birth to four girls and a boy, the first known surviving quintuplets in the United States.

In 1982, Princess Grace of Monaco, formerly actress Grace Kelly, died at age 52 of injuries from a car crash the day before; Lebanon's president-elect, Bashir Gemayel (bah-SHEER' jeh-MAY'-el), was killed by a bomb.

In 1991, the government of South Africa, the African National Congress and the Inkatha (in-KAH'-tah) Freedom Party signed a national peace pact.

In 1994, on the 34th day of a strike by players, Acting Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig announced the 1994 season was over.

In 2001, Americans packed churches and clogged public squares on a day of remembrance for the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks. President George W. Bush prayed with his Cabinet and attended services at Washington National Cathedral, then flew to New York, where he waded into the ruins of the World Trade Center and addressed rescue workers in a flag-waving, bullhorn-wielding show of resolve.

In 2012, fury over an anti-Muslim film ridiculing the Prophet Muhammad spread across the Muslim world, with deadly clashes near Western embassies in Tunisia and Sudan, an American fast-food restaurant set ablaze in Lebanon, and international peacekeepers attacked in the Sinai.

Ten years ago: Lecturing Wall Street on its own turf, President Barack Obama warned financial leaders not to use the recovering economy to race back into "reckless behavior" that could cause a new meltdown. Death claimed "Dirty Dancing" star Patrick Swayze at 57; former White House press secretary Jody Powell at age 65; and comic character actor Henry Gibson at age 73. Roger Federer let the U.S. Open championship slip from his grasp two points from victory as sixth-seeded Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina won his first Grand Slam title by upsetting the No. 1-seeded Federer 3-6, 7-6 (5), 4-6, 7-6 (4), 6-2.

Five years ago: North Korea's Supreme Court sentenced Matthew Miller, a 24-year-old American, to six years with labor for entering the country illegally and trying to commit an act of espionage. (Miller was released in November 2014 along with another detained American, Kenneth Bae.) South Korean teenager Hyo-Joo Kim beat Australian veteran Karrie Webb by one shot to win the Evian Championship and become the third youngest major winner at 19 years, 2 months. Miss New York Kira Kazantsev won the Miss America pageant in Atlantic City, New Jersey. (For her talent performance, Kazantsev sang Pharrell Williams' "Happy" while sitting cross-legged on the stage and banging a red plastic cup on the floor.)

One year ago: Hurricane Florence blew ashore with 90 mph winds, swamping entire communities along the Carolina coast. President Donald Trump's former campaign chairman Paul Manafort agreed to cooperate with the special counsel's investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election; Manafort pleaded guilty to two federal crimes and avoided a second trial. In a statement released by the White House, Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh denied an allegation of sexual misconduct from when he was in high school, saying, "I did not do this back in high school or at any time."

Today's Birthdays: Actress Zoe Caldwell is 86. Actor Walter Koenig (KAY'-nihg) is 83. Basketball Hall of Fame coach Larry Brown is 79. Singer-actress Joey Heatherton is 75. Actor Sam Neill is 72. Singer Jon "Bowzer" Bauman (Sha Na Na) is 72. Actor Robert Wisdom is 66. Rock musician Steve Berlin (Los Lobos) is 64. Country singer-songwriter Beth Nielsen Chapman is 63. Actress Mary Crosby is 60. Singer Morten Harket (a-ha) is 60. Country singer John Berry is 60. Actress Melissa Leo is 59. Actress Faith Ford is 55. Actor Jamie Kaler is 55. Actress Michelle Stafford is 54. Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev is 54. Rock musician Mike Cooley (Drive-By Truckers) is 53. Actor Dan Cortese is 52. Contemporary Christian singer Mark Hall is 50. Actor-writer-director-producer Tyler Perry is 50. Actor Ben Garant is 49. Rock musician Craig Montoya (Tri Polar) is 49. Actress Kimberly Williams-Paisley is 48. Actor Andrew Lincoln is 46. Rapper Nas is 46. Actor Austin Basis is 43. Country singer Danielle Peck is 41. Pop singer Ayo is 39. Chef/

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TV personality Katie Lee is 38. Actor Sebastian Sozzi is 37. Actor Adam Lamberg is 35. Singer Alex Clare is 34. Actor Chad Duell (TV: "General Hospital") is 32. Actress Jessica Brown Findlay is 32. Actor-singer Logan Henderson is 30. Actress Emma Kenney is 20.

Thought for Today: "What one has not experienced, one will never understand in print." — Isadora Duncan (1877-1927).

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