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Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

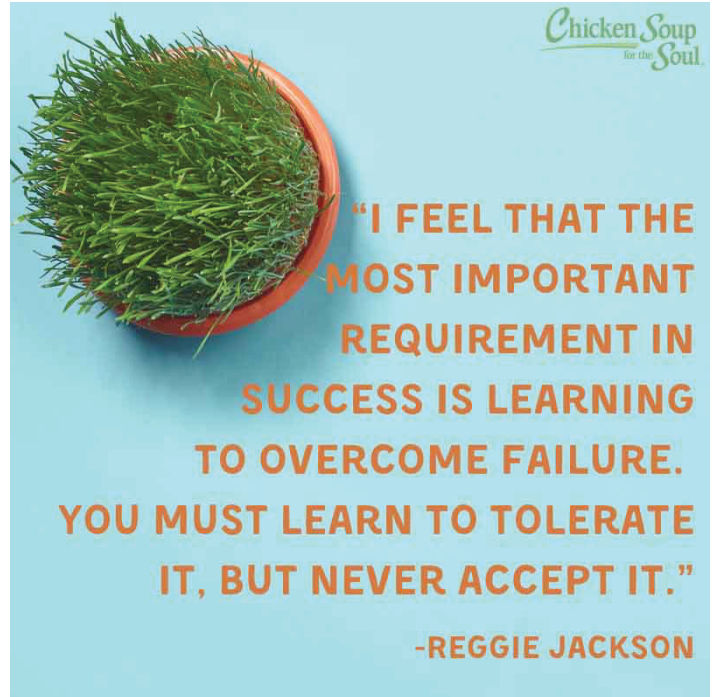
21 - Saturday

- 1 p.m.: Girls Soccer at Garretson
- 3 p.m.: Boys Soccer at Freeman Academy
- Emmanuel worship at Rosewood Court, 10 a.m.
- SEAS Service, 4:30 p.m.

22 - Sunday

- St. John's: Bible Study, 8 a.m.; Worship, 9 a.m.;
- Sunday school, 10 a.m.
- Emmanuel: worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday school, 10 a.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.

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



23 - AUTUMN (Monday)

- 4 p.m.: Cross Country at Clear Lake
- 7 p.m.: School Board Meeting
- Emmanuel: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.
- UMC: PEO, 7:30 p.m.
- Breakfast: Cheese Omelet
- Lunch: Nachos
- Senior Menu: Creamed chicken, buttermilk biscuit, peas, Mandarin oranges, cookie.

24 - Tuesday

- 6:30 p.m.: Volleyball at Warner (7/C at 5:15, 8/JV at 6:30)
- 4 p.m.: JH FB at Milbank (1 combined game or 2 separate games, depending on Groton's numbers)
- 7 p.m.: City Council Meeting at Groton Community Center
- UMC: Bible Study, 10 a.m.
- Breakfast: Biscuits and Jelly
- Lunch: Hamburgers, Fries
- Senior Menu: Hamburger cabbage roll hotdish, mixed vegetable, pears, muffin.

Milbank spoils GHS Homecoming



Kaden Kurtz intercepts the ball on Milbank's first drive. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

a big play put the Bulldogs at the Tiger 10 yard line. Kaden Krause would connect with Max McCulloch for a 10-yard touchdown pass with 7:46 left in the first quarter. Carlos Ramirez kicked the PAT and Milbank took a 7-0 lead.

Both teams would end up punting on fourth down and five. The Tigers had no success on its next drive, punting at fourth and 20.

Milbank would then start on Groton's 45 yard line. The Bulldogs would get three first downs and on fourth and nine, Milbank's Carlos Ramirez would kick a 25-yard field goal with 8:36 left in the first half and Milbank took a 10-0 lead.

Groton ARea would start its next drive on its own 27 yard line. The Tigers would have four first downs and the ball at the Milbank four-yard line. But on second and four, the Tigers would fumble and lose the ball and Milbank would take over on its own

Groton Area had several scoring opportunities, but was unable to capitalize on them as Milbank posted a 17-0 win over GHS Homecoming.

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by the 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, Olson Development, Professional Management Services. The game is archived at 397news.com where GDI subscribers will have access.

Milbank's first drive was thwarted when Kaden Kurtz intercepted the ball at the Milbank 36. The Tigers ended up punting on fourth and nine.

The Bulldogs would start from their own 20 yard line and



This play was messed up by Milbank's Max McCulloch as Austin Jones nearly made the catch. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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five-yard line.

Milbank would end up punting on fourth and third and the Tigers had the ball with 1:55 left in the half. The Tigers ended up third and 19 before the first half ended with Milbank leading, 10-0.

Groton Area would receive the kick-off to start the second half and had a strong drive going, getting five first downs and the ball down to the Milbank five-yard line. On fourth and goal from the two-yard line, the Milbank defensive line prevented Groton Area



Brodyn DeHoet was soooo close to snatching the ball near the Milbank goal line. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Jonathan Doeden gets ready to plow through some Milbank Bulldogs. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

from scoring and the Bulldogs took over on downs at their own three-yard line.

Milbank would get two first downs before punting on fourth and two at its own 43 yard line. The punt was blocked and the loose ball on the field was recovered by Austin Jones. The Tigers started their drive at the Milbank 34 yard line.

The Tigers would get down inside the 20-yard line, but ended up turning the ball over on downs and Milbank had the ball at its own 20 yard line. Milbank would punt the ball and the Tigers had the ball at their own 39 yard line, but a Milbank penalty forced a re-kick and this time, the Tigers started the drive at the Milbank 34 yard line.

The Tigers were fourth and one at the Milbank 27-yard line, but ended up turning the ball over on downs.

Milbank would then get a 73-yard pass play and the Andrew Marzahn would make the tackle at the two-yard line. On the next play, Max McCulloch would score on a two-yard run and Carlos Ramirez would kick the extra point and it was 17-0 with 7:11 left in the game.

Groton had four plays and had to punt on

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Brodyn DeHoet would make a nice catch on the far side of the field to get the Tigers down to the Milbank four yard line. (Photo

by Paul Kosel)

10 tackles. Jonathan Doeden had 44 yards rushing, eight yards receiving and eight tackles.

The Tigers are 2-3 on the season and will travel to Redfield on Friday. Milbank is also 2-3 and will host Webster Area.

fourth and 11. Milbank had one play at first and 19 before Austin Jones would recover a fumble with 4:20 to go in the game. The Tigers were at the Milbank 25 yard line. But the offensive line went the wrong way. The Tigers went for it on fourth and 24 at the Milbank 39 yard line, but the pass was incomplete and Milbank had the ball for the remaining two minutes of the games.

Groton had more first downs, 11-9, Milbank had more yards rushing, 125-99, and more yards passing, 125-68. Both teams had six penalties with Milbank having 10 more yards penalized than Groton Area.

Kaden Kurtz had 46 yards rushing, 38 yard passing and

- Paul Kosel



Win or lose, the Groton Area student body always welcomes the team after the games.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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	GROTON AREA		MILBANK
First Downs	11		9
Rushing	38-99		20-125
Jonathan Doeden	24-44	Dillon Schneck	8-71
Kaden Kurtz	12-46	JD Lusk	7-25
Thomas Cranford	2-9	Michael Karges	6-24
Passing			
Kaden Kurtz	5-11-38	Kaden Krause	6-13-125
Jonathan Doeden	1-3-30		

Receivers	GROTON AREA	MILBANK
Brodyn DeHoet	1-30	Nick Ruhr 1-73
Austin Jones	1-17	Max McCulloch 2-22
Andrew Marzahn	2-16	Michael Karges 2-15
Jonathan Doeden	1-8	Will Cummins 1-15
Thomas Cranford	1-6	

Fumbles Had 4 lost 1 Had 2 lost 1

Penalties 6-45 6-55

Kickoff Return
 Andrew Marzahn 3-39

Punting: Jackson Cogley: Had 4 punts, averaging 39 yards a punt, longest was 56 yards.
Kickoff: Jackson Cogley had 1 for 56 yards.

Defense			
Kaden Kurtz	10 tackles, 1 interception	Nick Ruhr	14 tackles
Jonathan Doeden	8 tackles	Brodie Holtquist	10 tackles
Brodyn DeHoet	7 tackles	Max McCulloch	9 tackles
Grady O'Neill	2 sacks		
Austin Jones	Fumble Recovery		

Record 2-3 2-3
Next Game Friday at Redfield Friday, host Webster

Scoring
First Quarter
7:46 Milbank - Michael Karges, 10 yard pass from Kaden Krause (PAT kick by Carlos Ramirez)
Second Quarter
8:37 Milbank - Carlos Ramirez, 25 yard field goal.
Fourth Quarter
7:11 Milbank - Max McCulloch, 2 yard run (PAT kick by Carlos Ramirez)

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Groton Post #39 celebrates American Legion 100th Birthday



Special performers at the 100th Birthday Celebration of the American Legion were Ashley Flihs, singing, "Working in a coal mine"; Cody Swanson, singing, "I've got the world on a string"; Bob Wegner, singing the Bugler's song; Stephanie Hanson, singing, "I only have eyes for you"; and Erin Sternhagen, singing "Free." The event was held at the Legion Post #39 home in downtown Groton. (Photo from Deb Schuelke's Facebook Page) (Photos below lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



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Doug Hamilton with the bugle. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



The masters of ceremony were Bob Wegner and Deb Schuelke. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



A 21-gun salute was held after the ceremony. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



Groton Post #39 celebrated the American Legion's 100th birthday. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Marge Overacker cuts the cake. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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GDI Living Heart Fitness
is a
Proud Partner with:

NIHCA

National Independent Health Club Association

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota

Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota

PreferredOne

Sanford Health Plan

Avera

Medica

Get Started Today
with Fitness Incentives

GDI Living Heart Fitness
13 North Main Street
Groton SD 57445

Call/Text Paul: 605/397-7460

NIHCA

National Independent Health Club Association

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

**TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 24, 2019**

8:45a.m. - 8:50a.m. – Adoption of 2020 Budget
8:50a.m. – 8:53a.m. – Rezone Ordinance 145, 146, 147 – First Reading
8:53a.m. – 8:55a.m. – Public Hearing on Special Revenue Fund
8:55a.m. - 9:00a.m. – Millim Building Bid Opening
9:00a.m. - 9:05a.m. – Brown County Racetrack Contract
9:05a.m. - 9:10a.m. – Tanya Mitchener, Jail Nurse, Discuss Employee Flu Vaccine
9:10a.m. - 9:15a.m. – Gary Vetter, Discuss right of way for Midco & Northern Valley
9:15a.m. – 9:20a.m. – Judy Dosch, Building Superintendent & Chris Hemen, Weed Supervisor – Water at Weed shop.

- Approve General Meeting Minutes from September 10, 2019.
- Claims/Payroll
- HR Report
- Authorize advertising and set hearing date for Planning & Zonine Comprehensive Plan
- Authorize advertising and set hearing date for Ordinance 148 & 149
- Plats
- Auditors Report of Accounts
- Leases
- Claim Assignment

Any other matters to come before the Commission for discussion

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Today



Partly Sunny
then Mostly
Sunny and
Breezy

High: 76 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear
and Breezy
then Mostly
Clear

Low: 49 °F

Sunday



Sunny

High: 70 °F

Sunday
Night



Mostly Clear

Low: 48 °F

Monday



Sunny

High: 76 °F

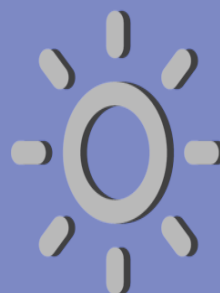
Today



Rain diminishing by mid morning.
Becoming Isolated Showers.
Breezy winds 15 to 25 mph.

HIGHS: 70s

Sunday



HIGHS: near 70°

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD



weather.gov/abr

9/21/2019 3:25 AM

Published on: 09/20/2019 at 11:28PM

For the rest of today, expect breezy conditions as temperatures top out in the 70s. Rain will diminish to isolated showers. A ridge of dry high pressure overhead on Sunday will bring a sunny sky on Sunday, with highs near 70 degrees.

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Today in Weather History

September 21, 1960: In the morning hours of September 21st, lightning struck and caused structural damage to a home in Clear Lake, Deuel County. Lightning also hit a home in Clark in Clark County, and two telephone poles near Milbank in Grant County. Power was also interrupted for a short time by lightning near Britton.

1894: A late season severe weather outbreak occurred across northwest Iowa, south central Minnesota and southwestern Wisconsin during the late evening hours. Several communities were impacted by this outbreak with an estimated 55 to 65 deaths, and in additional 300 injuries. The strongest tornado was an estimated F5, which tore through the counties of Kossuth, Hancock, Winnebago in Iowa, and Faribault in Minnesota.

1924: A couple of tornadoes, one rated F4 and the other F5, tore paths of devastation through Eau Claire, Clark, and Taylor Counties in Wisconsin. The death toll was 18 and 50 people were injured.

1938: On this day, one of the most destructive and powerful hurricanes in recorded history struck Long Island and Southern New England. This Category 3 Hurricane was traveling at 47 mph when it made landfall near Bellport, New York. This storm caused at least 600 deaths and left approximately 63,000 homeless.

1989: Hurricane Hugo made landfall on Isle of Palms, South Carolina as a Category 4 hurricane. This storm brought strong winds to many areas of South Carolina. In Downtown Charleston, sustained winds of 87 mph were reported; along with gusts of 108 mph. Total damage from this hurricane is estimated at \$10 billion, including \$5.2 billion in the United States. The National Weather Service office in Charleston, SC has a page dedicated to Hurricane Hugo.

1926 - A hurricane came inland near Daytona Beach, FL. The hurricane caused 2.5 million dollars damage in eastern Florida, including the Jacksonville area. (David Ludlum)

1939 - The temperature at Lewiston, ID, hit 117 degrees to establish an all-time record high for that location. (The Weather Channel)

1943 - On a whim, and flying a single engine AT-6, Lieutenant Ralph O'Hair and Colonel Duckworth were the first to fly into a hurricane. It started regular Air Force flights into hurricanes. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms in Minnesota spawned a tornado which moved in a southwesterly direction for a distance of thirty miles across Rice County and Goodhue County. Trees were uprooted and tossed about like toys, and a horse lifted by the tornado was observed sailing horizontally through the air. Thunderstorms drenched La Crosse, WI, with 5.26 inches of rain, their second highest 24 hour total of record. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Hot weather prevailed in the north central U.S. Williston, ND, reported a record high of 108 degrees. Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the eastern U.S., and in southeastern Texas. Richland County, SC, was soaked with up to 5.5 inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced locally heavy rains in the southwestern U.S. Yuma, AZ, experienced their most severe thunderstorm of record. Strong thunderstorm winds, with unofficial gusts as high as 95 mph, reduced visibilities to near zero in blowing dust and sand. Yuma got nearly as much rain in one hour as is normally received in an entire year. The storm total of 2.55 inches of rain was a record 24 hour total for July. Property damage due to flash flooding and high winds was in the millions. (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from Wisconsin and northern Illinois to New England, with 103 reports of large hail and damaging winds through the day. Thunderstorms in Wisconsin produced hail three inches in diameter near Oshkosh, and wind gusts to 65 mph at Germantown. (The National Weather Summary)

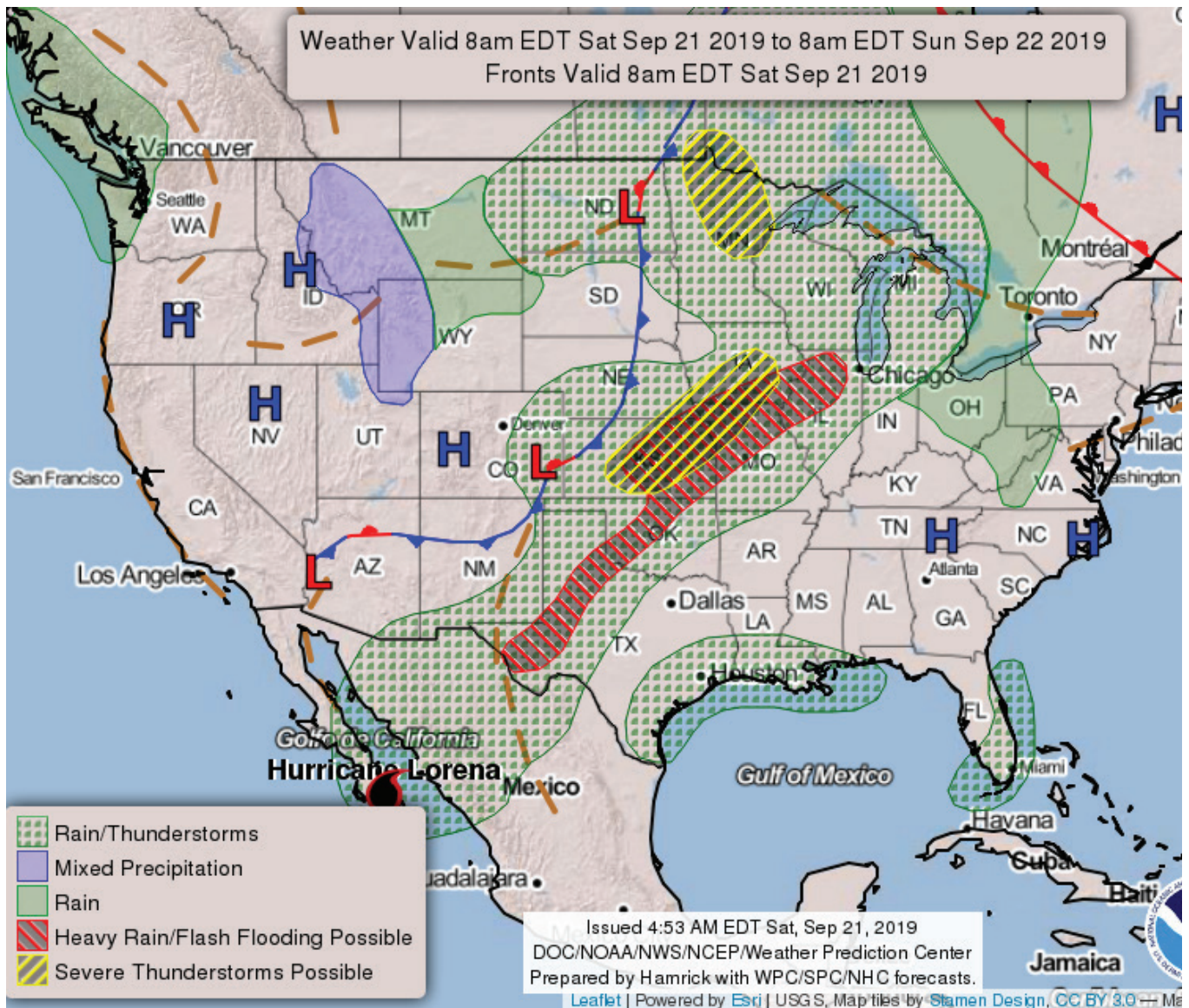
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 86 °F at 2:28 PM
Low Temp: 69 °F at 12:00 AM
Wind: 30 mph at 2:40 PM
Day Rain: 0.04

Record High: 97° in 1937, 1936
Record Low: 22° in 1893
Average High: 70°F
Average Low: 43°F
Average Precip in Sept.: 1.48
Precip to date in Sept.: 5.18
Average Precip to date: 17.77
Precip Year to Date: 24.90
Sunset Tonight: 7:34 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:20 a.m.



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STRENGTH FOR THE RACE

Few people have ever heard of the runner, John Baker. His name is not known the world over. But once, while running a race, he studied the runners who were ahead of him. He began to wonder, "Am I doing my best?" He was not sure, so he decided to try harder.

First he focused on the runner in front of him. After a few strides, he realized that he could run harder and pass him. When he did, he immediately set another goal and passed the next runner, then the next. Finally, he was in first place, won the race and set a record.

What a great lesson for all of us. If we only focus on where we are and what we are doing, we may never achieve the potential that God has invested in us. If we "accept what is" we may well end up "as is." A self-satisfied life never becomes a God-glorifying life.

Paul says that we "can do everything with the help of Christ who strengthens us." Not anything, but everything that God has planned for us to do, He will empower us to do. The power we receive from our relationship with Christ will strengthen us to overcome any obstacle that would keep us from doing His will, His way, in His world. He will never give us a superhuman power to accomplish goals for our own purposes. If He asks us to do something in His name, for His sake that will glorify Him, there are no pressures or problems, trials or troubles that will be able to keep us from winning the race He has set before us.

Prayer: Give us Your strength and will, power and determination, Lord, to do our best to run and win the race You have set before us. All things through You, for You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Philippians 4:13 I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.

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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

Deadwood gives nod to Wild West past with brothel museum

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The Old West city of Deadwood is planning to acknowledge its past by opening a brothel museum.

Nonprofit Deadwood History Inc. is working with a local property owner to renovate one of the former bordellos.

The Argus Leader reports that the group is finishing up construction, displaying exhibits and training employees with hopes of launching the museum next spring.

Dakota History's executive director Carolyn Weber says support for the museum is widespread. She says staffers have spent much time researching the details to ensure it accurately portrays life at the brothels.

Federal authorities executed the final brothel raid in 1980. Sixteen women were arrested and charged with practicing prostitution.

Deadwood never officially permitted prostitution, but it had been embraced since the city's founding 100 year earlier.

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

Friday's Scores By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Rapid City Quadrangular

Sioux Falls Lincoln def. Rapid City Central, 25-21, 25-19, 25-20

Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. Rapid City Central, 25-19, 25-14, 25-20

Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. Rapid City Stevens, 25-21, 25-23, 17-25, 26-28, 15-11

PREP FOOTBALL

Alcester-Hudson 26, Gayville-Volin 8

Baltic 54, Menno/Marion 20

Bon Homme 36, Hanson 0

Brandon Valley 48, Rapid City Central 6

Bridgewater-Emery 57, McCook Central/Montrose 35

Britton-Hecla 34, Florence/Henry 0

Brookings 22, Madison 9

Burke 54, Colome 14

Canistota 48, Irene-Wakonda 16

Canton 21, Huron 0

Custer 16, Belle Fourche 14

Dakota Hills 45, Great Plains Lutheran 7

Dakota Valley 31, Sioux Falls Christian 9

Dell Rapids 7, Mitchell 6

Dell Rapids St. Mary 56, Avon 0

Deuel 47, Clark/Willow Lake 12

Edgemont 54, Bison 22

Hamlin 48, Elkton-Lake Benton 8

Harding County 38, Hill City 6

Harrisburg 40, Aberdeen Central 22

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Hitchcock-Tulare 28, Waverly-South Shore 21
Howard 50, Chester 0
Kimball/White Lake 36, Platte-Geddes 8
Langford 52, Northwestern 0
Lemmon/McIntosh 36, Faith 14
Lennox 50, Todd County 0
Little Wound 78, Takini 6
Lower Brule 52, Tiospa Zina Tribal 0
Lyman 58, Rapid City Christian 3
Marty Indian 26, St. Francis Indian 14
Milbank 17, Groton Area 0
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 56, Chamberlain 21
New Underwood 34, Jones County/White River 18
Oelrichs 18, Crazy Horse 8
Parkston 45, Tripp-Delmont/Armour/Andes Central/Dakota Christian 6
Pierre 52, Tea Area 27
Red Cloud 58, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 6
Scotland 16, Centerville 6
Sioux Falls Lincoln 48, Sioux Falls O'Gorman 23
Sioux Falls Roosevelt 37, Rapid City Stevens 12
Sioux Falls Washington 27, Watertown 16
Sioux Valley 28, Elk Point-Jefferson 21
Sisseton 34, Aberdeen Roncalli 30
St. Thomas More 46, Spearfish 0
Stanley County 48, Miller/Highmore-Harold 0
Timber Lake 55, Potter County 0
Viborg-Hurley 56, Corsica/Stickney 6
Wagner 20, Woonsocket/Wessington Springs/Sanborn Central 0
Wall 35, Kadoka Area 14
Warner 42, Ipswich/Edmunds Central 8
Webster 42, Redfield/Doland 6
West Central 27, Tri-Valley 8
Winner 54, Valentine, Neb. 14
Yankton 29, Vermillion 0
POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS(equals)
Gordon/Rushville, Neb. vs. Bennett County, ppd. to Sep 21st.
Sturgis Brown vs. Douglas, ppd. to Sep 21st.

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

WWII veteran from family of Marines recalls battles

By MARK ANDERSEN Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Haunting images float unexpectedly into Loyd Brandt's personal, matter-of-fact chronology of World War II.

Fear of the unknown might be worse. Brandt paddled toward Japanese soldiers — both real and imaginary — waiting on 55 blackened beaches. Shadowy glimpses of dark jungle behind the sand shown atop the rolling midnight surf.

Wartime reunions or near-reunions with Loyd's many Brandt brothers provide a kind of mortar for these martial tales, juxtaposing family with war. Six of seven Brandt brothers from South Dakota served with

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the Marines in the South Pacific — five after Pearl Harbor. One died there. Another survived his severe wounds to reach old age.

For Loyd, 93, pride in his life-saving recon missions sometimes washes into remembrances like those of touching sand-covered dead on Iwo Jima. Some nights, those memories still sail uninvited across the intervening decades.

Wartime photographs of Loyd show a man — almost a boy — smiling among shirtless comrades. He came home at war's end to marry his childhood girlfriend and eventually became the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology electrician. The couple live today at Alps Park Apartments in Rapid City, near the gap. Loyd wants his neighbors to know what he accomplished as a young man.

Brandt's youthful face was one of the first 18 former combatants to appear on the veterans memorial banners that have annually decorated downtown Rapid City in autumn since 2017. An additional 72 combat veterans' faces joined them last year, and at least 144 faces will soon stand guard over city streets until Veteran's Day on Nov. 11, said William "Bill" Casper of the Veteran's Honor Banner Project.

"There's lots of great stories on the banners," Casper said.

Few stories could exemplify military courage and sacrifice better than Brandt's, who landed on 55 islands, fought in five major battles and spent 22 days on Iwo Jima.

Loyd and his twin brother, Lester — the tail ends of 11 farm siblings from tiny Hamill, near Winner — joined the Marines together at age 17. Flu separated Loyd from his twin following infantry training. After Lester shipped out for Samoa with the 22nd Marines, Loyd, a mortar man, joined some friends in answering a bulletin board notice seeking Marines with special weapons skills for amphibious reconnaissance.

"We didn't know what we were getting into," Loyd told the Rapid City Journal.

His 100-man company would slip into 10-man rubber boats on the eve of battle to assess terrain, water conditions and enemy strength. Operations began in blackness and amid uncertainty. A landing craft towed the rubber boats, lashed together, to within 1,000 yards of a beach. Several Marines who couldn't hold on in high surf were lost.

Sometimes only a few Japanese were waiting onshore. Sometimes more.

Between recon missions, the company hooked up with other Marines who were killing and dying in jungles and on beaches, moving ever closer toward Japan.

Loyd took every opportunity to connect with his brothers between 1943 and 1945. Loyd barely missed hooking up with Lester when his company linked with the 22nd Marines on Eniwetok Atoll.

"Does anybody know Lester Brandt," he'd asked in the rear area during a break from fighting.

"I know Les," said somebody, but the war resumed before a meeting occurred.

Older brother Herbert was badly wounded in the shoulder on Kwajalein Atoll. Loyd and Herbert met up in Pearl Harbor during liberty some months later to share "zombies" at a bar. Herbert's shoulder was still draining then.

Herb was more than a brother. Their father had years earlier separated from their mother, and the family was dirt poor, even by Great Depression standards. The kids would leave as they grew old enough. Loyd and his mother were living off the county when Herbert sent them money to join him in California.

Herbert was more of a surrogate father, Loyd said.

Loyd was on Saipan a few months after his farewell drink with Herbert when he learned the 4th and 2nd Marines were nearby.

Loyd sought leave to visit Herbert after he was pulled off the line.

"Sorry," said a member of Herb's platoon after Loyd identified himself. "Herb was killed several days ago on July 4."

When Herbert died, Loyd said, "I lost quite a bit."

He doesn't dwell on the details.

On Susan Shima, a small island defending the main approach to Okinawa, Loyd's company ran into its biggest recon surprise of the war.

Resistance included a couple of Japanese machine gun positions, which killed two military dogs and their

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handlers. Two more dog-handler pairs died from mortar fire.

"It was mortars at will," Loyd recalled, or fire them anywhere. It was chaos. "They killed quite a few of us."

The company managed to capture a Japanese soldier, who informed them they were outnumbered 25 to one. Returning to the boats, the survivors found three of them destroyed. They left their dead and distributed the wounded among the remaining boats.

Iwo Jima could have been the worst recon mission, but the task was cancelled when submarine photos revealed many bad things awaited Marines there.

Loyd's company remained offshore for the first couple days, watching shells clobber decoy ships — towed to reveal the location of enemy cannons. A good friend aboard a nearby ship died when a Japanese Betty let loose two 500-pound bombs.

Loyd landed on the beach during the third night of the invasion, spending an uncomfortable night in a sand foxhole. Near morning, trying to make himself comfortable, his hand brushed against a Marine uniform beneath the sand. Pushing away more sand away, he found the Marine who had worn the uniform beneath him.

Loyd's twin brother Lester took a round in the midsection on Okinawa. The bullet hit the ammunition clip on Lester's BAR — Browning Automatic Rifle — pushing its bullets into his spleen and kidney. Lester survived and lived until age 90.

The recon of Tinian was the proudest achievement for Loyd's company. The island's only apparent landing beach was overlooked by heights commanded by Japanese artillery. Loyd's company commander spied an alternative, assessed it and overcame resistance from the admiralty to make it the landing site. The Marines landed unopposed.

"At least 500 lives were saved by that op," Loyd said. "But you never hear anything about it."

More and more, Casper noted, there are fewer and fewer around who can tell the stories.

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

Children's book used to promote literacy

By JACI CONRAD Black Hills Pioneer

DEADWOOD, S.D. (AP) — "Should she keep the 10 snotty handkerchiefs?"

That's the question posed to readers of "Porter the Hoarder and the Ransacked Room," the first in a children's book series penned by "Napoleon Dynamite" movie producer Sean Covel, who recently added large-scale literacy promotion to his growing list of accomplishments, as his recently penned and published children's book about a one-of-a-kind girl named Porter the Hoarder being distributed statewide.

Assisted by Statewide Family Engagement Center and United Way Black Hills Reads, many schools across South Dakota will distribute free books to first graders.

"I'm excited to announce that we are working with schools and organizations across the state to get Porter into the hands and homes of literally thousands of elementary school students this year," Covel told the Black Hills Pioneer. "Porter is more than a book. It's a whole bunch of cool stuff that's dedicated to getting "Bigs" to read with "Littles" at home and cause family engagement around reading."

The first book in the series, Porter the Hoarder and the Ransacked Room, is a "look and find" picture book that has big people, referred to as "Bigs," reading with little people, referred to as "Littles," aged 3-10.

In each book, Bigs help Littles find Porter's collections of strange stuff, such as chewed up bubble gum, and then help her decide what stays and what goes.

A statewide book launch befits the team that created Porter the Hoarder, as all three hail from South Dakota; Covel, from Edgemont, who also maintains a residence in Deadwood; illustrator Rebecca Swift, also a famed make-up artist, hails from Yankton; graphic artist Laurel Antonmarchi, hails from Armour.

"As South Dakotans, we are deeply proud that all of this began in our home state," Covel said.

Covel said that while Porter's quirks and motivations and general "Porter-ness" are all made up, the premise of the story is based on a real person.

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"Rebecca Swift has two awesome daughters, Quinn and Logan. Logan has always been a super clean kid, but one day when Logan was around 6, Rebecca opened a drawer of her nightstand to find it totally packed with candy," Covell explained. "This was candy from Halloween, Christmas, Easter, and beyond. Some of it was getting pretty nasty. Rebecca thought 'my daughter is hoarding candy!'"

And the idea for Porter the Hoarder was born.

"Rebecca drew a version of the character, and actually made one from felt just for fun. When I heard the name 'Porter the Hoarder' and saw the character design, everything clicked for me," Covell said. "I could hear the quirky things Porter would say, and see her over-the-top reactions, and the idea of writing her was so exciting, I had to take a crack at it."

When asked why he, a movie producer, would decide to launch a children's book series, Covell said that to him, making a movie and writing a children's book are not different things.

"Movies are about exploring unique characters in unique worlds with unique desires and motivations. Porter the Hoarder does exactly the same thing," Covell said. "She's a snotty little girl who lives in a self-designed world full of her favorite treasures, like snotty handkerchiefs and lightning-fried lizards, who wants to keep getting more stuff - and absolutely does not want to clean her room. But if she does, she'll get a gold coin worth three dump-truck loads of candy, which she uses to fill her room right back up to the top."

The reader helps her decide what can stay and what she should throw away.

"The difference between Porter the Hoarder and any movie I've made, or seen for that matter, is that movies are designed to be passively watched by an audience, and Porter is designed to actively engage not just one reader, but two," Covell said. "And have them work together toward the same goal."

The literacy model Covell created will be introduced at school, but goes one step further, to encourage families to do just that.

"The program will be accompanied by a package and that package will include one copy of the book for every student in the classroom, as well as a copy for the classroom and the library, as well," Covell said. "We're also including a digital copy of the book that can be projected on the Smart Board, so the class can read it together. Also, we're including a copy of the Parent's Porter Explanation Thing. This is essentially parent homework. It talks about what the book is and how the book works and encourages the parent and the child to work together. It has the no distraction box in the corner for the cell phone."

After reading the book together as a class in digital format, each student is sent home with their very own copy of Porter the Hoarder and given the parent homework by the teacher who explains.

"Listen, you're the experts at reading Porter the Hoarder," Covell said. "You need to make sure you teach your parents how to do it."

Covell cites four issues getting in the way of families reading together: time, finding a book that kids are excited to read, knowing how to read with a child, and cost.

By eliminating costs, with a free, fun, and easy-to-read, complimentary copy of Porter the Hoarder, Covell and his partners hope more families read with their children at home.

"I realize that Porter the Hoarder can address each of these issues," Covell said. "Porter reads in under 10 minutes, so it fits into anyone's schedule. The book is exciting to read because we make sure the book is exciting to read. In terms of how to read for the parents, well, we've passed that responsibility on to the kid. When you get those roadblocks out of the way, you find an opportunity to not only increase reading skill, but cause family engagement."

Covell said that only after the book was created did he learn about the huge issues schools face with early grade reading proficiency and the need for creating family engagement habits around reading.

"Kayla Klien and Jamie Toennies, from Black Hills Reads and The United Way of the Black Hills, really helped me understand the scope of the issue and the long-term ramifications of missing both," Covell said. "It just so happened that Porter addressed those issues. Entirely by coincidence. The book is a game and the game is a book that Bigs and Littles read and play together."

Once it became apparent how those issues could be addressed with the Porter the Hoarder series, the Porter the Hoarder Reading and Family Engagement Project took shape.

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Covel said that writing the Porter books has been every bit as satisfying as making movies.

"Even more satisfying, actually," he said. "When we do readings for kids, it's fun to see them go crazy about all the weird stuff in Porter's room. And it's great to see pictures that people send us of siblings reading together, and parents and kids focused on the books while also having fun."

Then there are stories from teachers, which he found absolutely astounding.

"One first-grade teacher was touched because a student ran up to her and said, 'I finally get to have a book in my house!'" he recalled. "Another talked about a student who didn't want to take the book home and asked if he could keep it in the classroom. She let the student know that it was OK for him to take the book, that it was his to keep. He said that he wasn't sure what shelter he and his mom were going to stay at that night, and he wanted to keep his book safe. We've encountered those sorts of stories everywhere we've been. Talk about snot-bubble crying — wow. Those will get ya."

After the release of the books in the Black Hills in January, creators held a book signing at BAM in Rapid City.

"We hoped for 100 people to show up. Over 1,000 did," Covel said. "Parents told us a consistent story of the day the book came home. Their child demanded to read it right when they walked through the door."

In January, 2,400 books were given to first-graders in schools such as: Whitewood, Sturgis, Belle Fourche, Spearfish, Lead-Deadwood, Red Owl, Rapid City, Piedmont Valley, Wilson, Knollwood, Meadowbrook, Zion Lutheran, Douglas, Pinedale, Valley View, Canyon Lake, South Park, Robbinsdale, Hermosa, Custer, Hill City, Edgemont, Hot Springs and others.

In November, these schools, as well as others in the Black Hills will participate again.

"We are honored to be working with you and your educators toward the goal of family engagement around building reading skills at home," Covel said. "We are excited to have worked with child psychologists and elementary school professionals to create something that's more than a book. It's a tool. And we are so proud to put Porter into the hands and homes of literally thousands of elementary school students this year and that couldn't happen without you."

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

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

23-24-42-48-53, Mega Ball: 22, Megaplier: 2

(twenty-three, twenty-four, forty-two, forty-eight, fifty-three; Mega Ball: twenty-two; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$211 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$80 million

Triplett leads Sanford International in windy Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Kirk Triplett birdied two of his last three holes for a 4-under 66 in strong gusts Friday to take a one-shot lead after one round of the Sanford International on the PGA Tour Champions.

Triplett, who won in March and leads the circuit with four runner-up finishes this year, was among only four players to have just one bogey on their cards.

Scoring at Minnehaha Country Club was so low last year that it was the third-easiest course on the PGA Tour Champions. That wasn't the case on Friday in warm temperatures with gusts out of the south up to 30 mph.

The average score was just over 2 over (72.12). Except for the majors, only the Mitsubishi Electric Classic on the Big Island in Hawaii had a higher scoring average for the opening round. Only 12 players in the 78-man field broke par at Minnehaha.

"It's windy, but if you played a practice round on Tuesday, it's the exact same conditions we had on

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Tuesday except the course is a touch firmer," Triplett said. "Some really hard holes, but some other holes are playing easier as well."

Paul Broadhurst and Tom Gillis each shot 67, with Broadhurst holing out for eagle with a gap wedge on the par-5 fifth hole. Gillis posted his 14th consecutive round of par or better on the PGA Tour Champions as he seeks his first win on the 50-and-over tour. Gillis said he played conservatively because of the wind.

"I tried not to take any chances really. I just tried to drive it in the fairway," he said. "It was just too tough to chase pins and try to get the exact numbers. Basically the yardage book, you could throw it out because it was feel, it was all feel. I think the last hole I had like 118 (yards) to the front, I was in the right rough and I just chipped a 7-iron. It went about 70 yards and rolled all the way to the back, to the hole. It was just that kind of day where you had to actually just use some creativity."

Woody Austin was another shot behind. Among those at 69 was former British Open champion Darren Clarke, who got into the field when Olin Browne withdrew.

Scott McCarron, assured of keeping his lead in the Charles Schwab Cup, didn't make a birdie until his 12th hole and wound up with a 70, tied with Jerry Kelly, who won last week at the Ally Challenge to close the gap in the Schwab Cup standings with two events left in the regular season.

Also at 70 was former PGA champion Jeff Sluman, who made his 1,000th career start in PGA Tour-sanctioned events — 300 on the PGA Tour Champions, and 700 on the PGA Tour.

More AP golf: <https://apnews.com/apf-Golf> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

South Dakota marijuana backers push 2 ballot measures

By DAVE KOLPACK Associated Press

Supporters of legalizing marijuana in South Dakota have been thwarted at nearly every turn, including an effort to become the 48th state to approve industrial hemp. But backers are doubling down on this year's election.

Volunteers are gathering signatures for two initiated ballot measures. One asks voters to approve medical marijuana and the other seeks to legalize recreational marijuana. Supporters tried the same approach to get on the 2018 ballot and failed to garner enough signatures.

Melissa Mentele, head of New Approach South Dakota, a volunteer group sponsoring the medical measure, said attitudes have changed about benefits for patients. She said organizers this time around have financial support from Marijuana Policy Project, one of two national nonprofits working on the measure. The other is New Approach PAC.

"Historically our organization has not done large amounts of fundraising," Mentele said. "We've always been very small and done a lot of grassroots work."

Republican Gov. Kristi Noem supports South Dakota's strict cannabis laws and has said that legalizing industrial hemp is legalizing marijuana by default. Hemp is related to cannabis but does not contain enough THC to make someone high.

Brendan Johnson, a Democrat and former federal prosecutor representing South Dakotans For Better Marijuana Laws, the sponsor of the recreational initiative, said his group does not believe it's a partisan issue.

"I don't want to have a political fight with the governor," Johnson said. "President Trump said it is an issue for states to decide and that is what we want South Dakotans to do."

Marijuana Policy Project deputy director Matthew Schweich says internal polling shows that both measures have enough support to pass. If successful with the petition drives this year, Schweich said, it would be the first occasion that any state would have both medical and adult-use marijuana questions on the ballot at the same time.

Kristin Wileman, Noem's press secretary, told The Associated Press in a statement that the governor doesn't take public positions on specific ballot initiatives but cites Center for Disease Control statistics showing that marijuana use directly affects brain health and impacts memory, decision-making abilities,

and reaction time.

"Gov. Noem believes that the experiments many states are taking with legalized marijuana will end badly," Wileman said. "It's her goal to make South Dakota an example to the nation of a state that's tough on drugs."

Supporters counter that legalizing recreational marijuana will save taxpayers from wasting money on sending people to prison, allow pot to be regulated and taxed to add revenue to state coffers, and reduce opioid deaths, among other things.

The medical cannabis initiative would allow people suffering from a debilitating medical condition to obtain marijuana from a licensed dispensary and possess up to 3 ounces of cannabis and three plants. A similar measure passed overwhelmingly three years ago in neighboring North Dakota.

Among those pushing for medical cannabis is George Hendrickson. He points to son Elijah Hendrickson, a 7-year-old with floppy hair whom his father calls "a total heartbreaker." The first five years of Elijah's life included myriad visits to doctors who tried to figure out why he had trouble breathing, why his arms and legs would spasm uncontrollably, why he would have clusters of seizures and why, as his father put it, he was a "drooling, bumbling mess of a child" who would spend all day playing with a spinner toy. Elijah was eventually diagnosed with Dravet syndrome, a rare form of epilepsy.

Running out of options, Hendrickson and his son packed up and moved from Sioux Falls to Colorado, where medical marijuana is legal. They found a life-changing treatment in two derivatives of the cannabis plant. A seminal moment was when Elijah stopped spinning the toy and acknowledged for the first time that his dad was in the room.

"He brought his toy over and he wanted me to play with him," Hendrickson said, fighting back tears.

Mom accused of trying to kill herself and baby pleads guilty

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls woman accused of trying to kill herself and her baby by deliberately crashing her car may avoid any time in jail under the terms of her plea agreement with prosecutors.

Julia Alzoubaidi, 35, pleaded guilty Thursday to felony abuse or cruelty to a minor, which is punishable by up to 15 years in prison and a \$30,000 fine. Alzoubaidi had been charged with attempted murder but was allowed to plead guilty to the lesser charge under a deal in which prosecutors agreed to recommend a sentence of probation and suspended prison time.

Alzoubaidi will learn during her sentencing in November whether the judge will go along with terms of the agreement. Defense attorney Michael Butler filed a motion in July stating that Alzoubaidi's intended to plead not guilty by reason of insanity and offer expert testimony before her trial, but Alzoubaidi instead agreed to the plea deal.

Butler said Thursday that he intends to file with the court an expert's evaluation of Alzoubaidi's mental health which says she was "psychotically depressed" when she thought she had to take the life of her then-6-month-old child and kill herself. She suffered from a mental condition that "deprived her of reason" but she has since recovered, Butler said.

According to court documents, Alzoubaidi, a psychologist, thought the child had a detachment disorder and that she was an unfit mother, according to the Argus Leader .

Alzoubaidi was charged in October 2018 after South Dakota Highway Patrol troopers responded to a crash near the Big Sioux River along Interstate 229. They found Alzoubaidi face down in the water and her baby near the bank. Both survived and were taken to Avera McKennan Hospital for treatment.

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

Death of Watertown woman in crash investigated as homicide

WATERTOWN, S.D. (AP) — Police say the death of a Watertown woman who was killed in a crash is being investigated as a homicide.

Authorities say a 16-year-old Moorhead, Minnesota boy was going more than 100 mph when he crashed

into the woman's vehicle in Watertown Tuesday in an attempted suicide.

Forty-three-year-old Dawn Meyer died at the scene. The boy was taken to Prairie Lakes Hospital where he remains in serious condition. Police say Meyer was driving slower than 35 mph when the teen crossed into the opposite lane and struck her.

No charges have been filed.

Trump says he had 'perfectly fine' call with Ukraine leader

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, MICHAEL BALSAMO and LISA MASCARO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump urged the new leader of Ukraine this summer to investigate the son of former Vice President Joe Biden, a person familiar with the matter said. Democrats condemned what they saw as a clear effort to damage a political rival, now at the center of an explosive whistleblower complaint against Trump.

It was the latest revelation in an escalating controversy that has created a showdown between congressional Democrats and the Trump administration, which has refused to turn over the formal complaint by a national security official or even describe its contents.

Trump is defending himself against the intelligence official's complaint, asserting that it comes from a "partisan whistleblower," though the president also says he doesn't know who had made it. The complaint was based on a series of events, one of which was a July 25 call between Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, according to a two people familiar with the matter. The people were not authorized to discuss the issue by name and were granted anonymity.

In a tweet Saturday, Trump referred to "a perfectly fine and routine conversation I had" with Ukraine's leader. "Nothing was said that was in any way wrong."

According to one of the people, who was briefed on the call, Trump urged Zelenskiy to probe the activities of potential Democratic rival Biden's son Hunter, who worked for a Ukrainian gas company. Trump did not raise the issue of U.S. aid to Ukraine, indicating there was not an explicit quid pro quo, according to the person.

In an interview with Ukrainian outlet Hromadske, the foreign minister said his country was not interested in taking sides in U.S. politics, but that Zelenskiy had the right to keep secret the contents of his conversation with Trump.

"I know what the conversation was about and I do not think there was any pressure" from Trump, Vadym Prystaiko was quoted as saying. "There was a conversation, different conversation, leaders have the right to discuss any existing issues. This was a long and friendly conversation that touched on a lot of issues, sometimes requiring serious answers."

Biden said if the reports are true, "then there is truly no bottom to President Trump's willingness to abuse his power and abase our country." He said Trump should release the telephone transcript "so that the American people can judge for themselves."

The U.S. government's intelligence inspector general has described the whistleblower's Aug. 12 complaint as "serious" and "urgent." Trump insisted "it's nothing" and "just another political hack job."

The president said he has conversations with many leaders. "It's always appropriate. Always appropriate," Trump said. "At the highest level always appropriate. And anything I do, I fight for this country."

Trump was asked whether he knew if the whistleblower's complaint centered on the July 25 call with Zelenskiy. "I really don't know," Trump said.

When questioned whether he had brought up Biden in the call, Trump said, "It doesn't matter what I discussed." But then Trump urged the media "to look into" Biden's background with Ukraine.

There has yet to be any evidence of any wrongdoing by Biden or his son regarding Ukraine.

Trump and Zelenskiy plan to meet on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly this coming week. The Wall Street Journal first reported that Trump pressed Zelenskiy about Biden.

The standoff with Congress raises more questions about the extent to which Trump's appointees are

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protecting the Republican president from oversight and, specifically, whether his new acting director of national intelligence, Joseph Maguire, is working with the Justice Department to shield the president.

Democrats say the administration is legally required to give Congress access to the whistleblower's complaint. The chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., has said he will go to court in an effort to get it if necessary.

The intelligence inspector general said the matter involves the "most significant" responsibilities of intelligence leadership.

House Democrats also are fighting the administration for access to witnesses and documents in impeachment probes.

In the whistleblower case, lawmakers are looking into whether Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani traveled to Ukraine to pressure the government to aid Trump's reelection effort by investigating the activities of Biden's son.

Democrats have contended that Trump, in the aftermath of special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation, may have asked for foreign assistance in his upcoming reelection bid.

During an interview Thursday on CNN, Giuliani was asked whether he had asked Ukraine to look into Biden. He initially said, "No, actually I didn't," but seconds later he said, "Of course I did."

As the Muller inquiry wound down, Giuliani spent months trying to drum up media interest in Biden's time in Ukraine. Giuliani planned to make his own visit over the summer. Though he canceled that trip after consulting with Trump, the pressure on Ukraine was such that Zelenskiy connected a top aide, Andriy Yermak, with Giuliani.

They spoke in July, before the Trump-Zelenskiy call. A short time later, Giuliani met with Yermak in Spain to press again for the investigations and to discuss the status of a prospective Trump-Zelenskiy meeting, which Ukraine sought as a show of support against Russia.

Giuliani said he briefed the State Department on his meeting. The White House did not immediately commit to a summit with Ukraine's leader. In late August, American military assistance to Ukraine was delayed because, as Vice President Mike Pence later explained after meeting with Zelenskiy, the administration has "great concerns about issues of corruption."

Schiff said Trump's attack on the whistleblower was disturbing and raised concerns that it would have a chilling effect on other potential exposers of wrongdoing. He also said it was "deeply disturbing" that the White House appeared to know more about the complaint than its intended recipient — Congress.

Among the materials Democrats have sought is a transcript of the July 25 call. It took place one day after Mueller's faltering testimony to Congress effectively ended the threat his probe posed to the White House. A readout of the call released from the Ukrainian government said Trump believed Kyiv could complete corruptions investigations that have hampered relations between the two nations but did not get into specifics.

Letters to Congress from the inspector general make clear that Maguire, the national intelligence director, consulted with the Justice Department in deciding not to transmit the complaint to Congress in a further departure from standard procedure. It's unclear whether the White House was involved, Schiff said.

Maguire has refused to discuss details of the whistleblower complaint, but he has been subpoenaed by Schiff's committee and is expected to testify publicly next Thursday. Maguire and the inspector general, Michael Atkinson, also are expected next week at the Senate Intelligence Committee.

Atkinson wrote in letters that Schiff released that he and Maguire had hit an "impasse" over the acting director's decision not to share the complaint with Congress. Atkinson said he was told by the legal counsel for the intelligence director that the complaint did not actually meet the definition of an "urgent concern." And he said the Justice Department said it did not fall under the director's jurisdiction because it did not involve an intelligence professional.

Atkinson said he disagreed with that Justice Department view. The complaint "not only falls under DNI's jurisdiction," Atkinson wrote, "but relates to one of the most significant and important of DNI's responsibilities to the American people."

Associated Press writers Deb Riechmann, Eric Tucker, Alan Fram and Mary Clare Jalonick in Washington, and Matthew Bodner in Moscow contributed to this report.

Big rise in US mass shooting tips poses challenge for police

By **LISA MARIE PANE** and **STEFANIE DAZIO** Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It had all the makings of a massacre. Six guns, including a Colt AR-15 rifle. About 1,000 rounds of ammunition. A bulletproof vest. And an angry Southern California man who threatened to kill his co-workers at a hotel and its guests.

But a concerned colleague intervened, alerting authorities who arrested 37-year-old Rodolfo Montoya, a cook at the Long Beach Marriott hotel, the next day and discovered the arsenal where he lived in a rundown motor home parked near industrial buildings.

In the weeks since three high-profile shootings in three states took the lives of more than two dozen people in just one week in August, law enforcement authorities nationwide reported a spike in tips they are from concerned relatives, friends and co-workers about people who appear bent on carrying out the next mass shooting.

Some of those would-be shooters sent text messages to friends or posted on social media that they hoped to one-up previous mass shootings by killing more people.

Law enforcement authorities and experts say the reasons for the increase in tips and heightened awareness of thwarted mass shootings vary.

In some cases, it's the so-called "contagion effect" in which intense media coverage of mass shootings leads to more people seeking to become copycat killers. In other cases, it's a reflection of the general public being more aware of warning signs when a friend or relative or co-worker is in an emotional crisis — and more willing to tip off police.

On average, the Federal Bureau of Investigation receives about 22,000 tips about potential threats of violence weekly.

Following the high-profile shootings during the first week of August in Gilroy, California; El Paso, Texas; and Dayton, Ohio that killed 34 people and wounded nearly 70, the volume of calls to federal authorities increased by about 15,000 each week.

Mass shootings tend to plant the idea of carrying out a rampage or at least encourage the idea in potential mass shooters, each seeking notoriety or striving to "out-do" others with higher death tolls, said sociologist James Densley, a criminal justice professor at Metropolitan State University in St. Paul, Minnesota, who studies mass shootings and the people who perpetrate them.

And the general public in turn becomes more aware of the possibility of mass shootings, heightening people's willingness to speak out if a friend, relative or co-worker appears to be in the midst of a crisis and plotting carnage, Densley said. In addition, the media focuses not only on the actual shootings, but also on those that are foiled.

But identifying and predicting who the next shooter will be is challenging for authorities, he said.

The reason? Mass shootings remain rare events and there's no one basic profile for the gunmen. The demographics of school shooters and their motivations are vastly different from someone who carries out carnage in a place of worship. The same holds true for those who carry out workplace shootings.

"When it comes to thinking about the profile of a mass shooter what our research is starting to uncover is there's not really one profile of a mass shooter," Densley said.

But the one common thread is that there are usually warning signs in the days and weeks leading up to the shootings, with many shooters taking to social media to vent outrage at whatever is troubling them.

Greg Shaffer, a retired FBI agent who now a private security consultant specializing in active shooters and terrorism, said in an interview that the challenge for law enforcement is the juggling act of trying to balance the public's safety while not trampling on Americans' constitutional rights. For example, at what point does a troubling social media post constitute an illegal threat versus simple venting that's protected by the First Amendment?

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"The real rub is where do you draw the line between First, Second and Fourth Amendment rights?" he said. "We allow hate speech. It's freedom of speech. Where do you decide that it's no longer posturing and now it's a threat? ... At what point do you crash his pad and take away his guns? You can't be the thought police."

Shaffer added: "That's the hard part in law enforcement. You don't want to trample those ... rights because it's vital to our institution."

The other challenge is more practical, said Houston Police Chief Hubert Acevedo. It's impossible for law enforcement in real time to pore over social media posts and quickly isolate those showing that someone poses a real threat.

"There's just so much traffic on social media, in cyberspace, that it's like looking for a needle in a haystack," said Acevedo, the president of the Major Cities Chiefs Association representing police chiefs and sheriffs for the largest U.S. and Canadian cities.

The public's cooperation — and their willingness to risk angering a friend, relative or co-worker by informing on them — is key to stopping mass shootings ahead of time, he said.

In Long Beach, California, where police disrupted the possible plans to carry out the hotel attack, Police Chief Robert Luna thanked hotel staff for warning investigators.

"Instead of us visiting each other in hospitals or making funeral plans," Luna said, "we can talk about the courage you showed."

Luna said in an interview that his department often handles threats of mass shootings but the Marriott case was unusual because Montoya, a cook upset over human resources issues, had the guns and ammunition to carry out his plans plus equipment authorities believe could be used to make ammunition.

"All the ingredients were there for a catastrophe," Luna said.

Montoya has been jailed for lack of \$500,000 bail and has pleaded not guilty to charges of criminal threats, dissuading a witness by force or threat and possession of an assault weapon. He faces more than five years in prison if convicted.

Luna said after the 2018 school shooting in Parkland, Florida, that left 17 people dead, authorities investigated an increase in threats to Long Beach schools. Officials decided to send detectives immediately to schools — an expensive move the chief said was "absolutely worth it."

Nothing happened at the Long Beach schools, but Luna said he didn't want to risk ignoring the threats.

Luna welcomes the increase in tips to authorities about potential mass shooters, saying Long Beach residents have followed the "see something, say something" guidelines and report suspicious behavior to police.

"There are people, thank God, that are speaking up," he said. "It's not only 'see something' but if you hear something, if you read something, you absolutely have to say something."

Pane reported from Boise, Idaho.

GM electric car push could mean fewer and lower paying jobs

By TOM KRISHER AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — If U.S. consumers ever ditch fuel burners for electric vehicles, then the United Auto Workers union is in trouble.

Gone would be thousands of jobs at engine and transmission plants across the industrial Midwest, replaced by smaller workforces at squeaky-clean mostly automated factories that mix up chemicals to make batteries.

The union is keenly aware of this possibility as it negotiates for the future as much as the present in contract talks with General Motors. Meanwhile, more than 49,000 union workers are on strike against the company and have shut down its factories for the past six days.

GM CEO Mary Barra has promised an "all-electric future," with the company going through a painful

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restructuring to raise cash in part to develop 20 electric models that it plans to sell worldwide by 2023.

In the contract talks, GM has offered to build an electric vehicle battery factory in Lordstown, Ohio, where the company is closing an assembly plant. The automaker, according to a person briefed on the offer, wants the plant to be run by a joint venture or a battery company. It would be staffed by far fewer union workers who would be paid less than the \$30 per hour that UAW members make on the assembly lines, said the person, who didn't want to be identified because contract details are confidential.

For the union, getting the top pay at Lordstown is crucial because battery jobs could one day supplant many of those at GM's 10 U.S. powertrain factories that now employ more than 10,500 hourly workers. Also at stake is the future of the union, which has lost high-paying auto jobs over the past 30 years, said Sam Abuelsamid, an analyst for Navigant Research who follows the auto industry.

"I can see why the UAW would reject such a deal," Abuelsamid said. "To accept a lower wage tier for employees at Lordstown or any other plant where GM wants to do something similar, I think that would be foolish for them."

For the company, however, the lower wages are needed to keep costs competitive with other automakers who will contract out battery cell and pack manufacturing to nonunion factories that pay less than the UAW wage, Abuelsamid said. GM also must reign in expenses as it tries to sell more electric vehicles, which now are more expensive than those powered by gas, he said.

The company won't give details about how many workers would be employed at the Lordstown battery plant or how much they'll be paid. But the number won't be anywhere near the \$30 an hour top wage at the assembly plant, which two years ago employed 4,500 people making the Chevrolet Cruze compact car.

The only GM plant comparable to what's being proposed in Lordstown now sits in Brownstown Township, Michigan. About 100 UAW workers there took battery cells made by LG Chem in Western Michigan and combined them into packs for the Chevrolet Volt rechargeable gas-electric car. The Volt was canceled last spring, and now 22 remaining workers make hybrid battery packs and assemble autonomous vehicle equipment.

In 2009, the UAW agreed to a lower wage of \$15 to \$17 per hour at Brownstown to help get the Volt started.

While there is potential for growth if electric car sales take off and more batteries are needed, no one is sure when or if that will happen in the U.S. Few are predicting that Barra's "all electric future" is coming soon and the Trump administration has proposed rolling back fuel economy requirements.

Fully electric vehicles currently make up about 1.5% of U.S. new vehicle sales, and LMC Automotive forecasts it will rise to only 7.5% by 2030. The forecasting firm doesn't see EV sales hitting 50% of the market until at least 2049.

Globally it's a different story. Navigant sees growth from just over 1 million sales last year to 6.5 million by 2025. The surge is expected because of government incentives and fuel economy regulations in China.

Currently, GM loses thousands on each Chevy Bolt electric car it sells, and it hasn't been able to mass produce enough of them to bring the cost down. Without large-volume production, it's tough to cut the price. Paying full union wages at Lordstown would push costs up.

"You can't be at a cost disadvantage in a market that's in its infancy," said Jeff Schuster, senior vice president for LMC.

Even if the union is successful at getting higher wages at battery plants, engine and transmission jobs will someday start to disappear, Abuelsamid said. He estimates that it will take only 25% to 50% of the current engine and transmission workforce to build battery cells, packs and electric motors. GM and others also could keep outsourcing battery cells and packs to nonunion plants as GM does now for the Bolt.

Whether the union will make a stand on electric vehicles in this round of contract talks remains to be seen. It may decide that it doesn't want to set a lower-wage precedent that could spread to Fiat Chrysler or Ford. But if it can preserve health insurance and get pay raises, job guarantees, more profit-sharing and a path for temporary workers to go full-time, it may punt the issue to future contract talks, says Schuster.

"The ultimate path (to electric vehicles), in our opinion, is so far down the road that I'm not sure it has to

be dealt with right now," he said. "I don't know if it has to be the thing that holds up a deal at this stage."

Workers at the powertrain plants know their future is in the balance, said Tim O'Hara, president of the UAW local in Lordstown. He expects the union to try to protect as many higher-paying jobs as it can.

"It's been on a lot of people's minds about the electric future," O'Hara said. "The goal is always to have the same kind of jobs with benefits and wages as you start out with."

Trial to start for Georgia cop who shot naked, unarmed man

By KATE BRUMBACK Associated Press

DECATUR, Ga. (AP) — A police officer responding to a call of a naked man behaving erratically at an Atlanta-area apartment complex arrived on the scene, exited his vehicle and shot the man almost immediately.

Now a jury must decide if he's guilty of murder.

Robert "Chip" Olsen, then a DeKalb County officer, fatally shot 27-year-old Anthony Hill on March 9, 2015.

Olsen, 57, and his attorneys have said he was being attacked, feared for his safety and acted in self-defense. But prosecutors have said he used excessive force against Hill, a naked and unarmed U.S. Air Force veteran with mental health problems.

A grand jury indicted Olsen nearly a year later on charges of felony murder, aggravated assault, violation of oath of office and making a false statement. Olsen resigned following the indictment.

Jury selection in his trial is set to start Monday.

A felony murder charge doesn't mean prosecutors believe Olsen acted with malice but rather that he killed someone while committing another felony, in this case aggravated assault or violation of his oath.

Olsen is white and Hill was black. Against a national backdrop of officers not facing charges after shooting black men, the indictment itself is noteworthy.

Gerald Griggs, a leader in the Atlanta NAACP chapter, said supporters of Hill's family plan to pack the courtroom. He said he's optimistic about a conviction but acknowledged that Olsen has some of the best defense attorneys in the state.

"We're expecting the eyes of the community to be watching this very carefully, and we're hopeful that whoever the 12 that are seated as a jury will listen to the evidence and return a verdict that speaks the truth, and that's guilty on all counts," Griggs said, predicting protests if Olsen is exonerated.

Hill had been medically discharged from the Air Force and was being treated for bipolar disorder but had stopped taking his medication because he didn't like the side effects, his girlfriend, Bridget Anderson, said right after he died.

Being shot by a police officer was especially tragic, she said. When no indictment was issued for officers in the death of Eric Garner, an unarmed black Staten Island man who died after a confrontation with white officers, she was angry, she said. But she recalled Hill saying most police are good people.

Olsen, who'd been a police officer for seven years, had no significant disciplinary problems prior to the shooting, according to personnel records. In annual evaluations, he consistently received an overall rating of "exceeds standards" and was commended for his productivity, willingness to take on extra responsibilities and being a team player.

During a May 2018 pretrial hearing on a request by Olsen's attorneys to dismiss the charges because Olsen had acted appropriately, the apartment complex maintenance supervisor said he saw Hill outside the leasing office in shorts and a T-shirt saying strange things, like, "The devil is coming," and asking for help. He got Hill to go to his apartment, but Hill reemerged without clothes. Leasing office staff called 911.

Olsen was responding to that call, told by dispatch there was a naked man who was "possibly demented." Hill was squatting in a roadway when Olsen arrived but jumped up and ran toward the patrol car, Olsen testified.

Olsen drew his gun as he exited his car and yelled, "Stop! Stop!" Hill didn't stop, and Olsen shot him "maybe a second" after giving the order, he testified.

The second officer to arrive testified that Olsen said Hill ran at him and "started pounding on him." Olsen

testified that he didn't remember that conversation.

A successful self-defense claim requires evidence that it was reasonable for Olsen to believe Hill was about to kill or gravely injure him or another person. But there was no evidence that Olsen believed Hill was going to kill him, a judge ruled, declining to dismiss the charges. The judge also cited concerns about the former officer's credibility and conflicting testimony.

The hearing last year provided a preview of likely trial testimony and there are compelling facts on both sides, said Georgia State University law professor Nirej Sekhon.

The fact that Hill was naked and unarmed is a major challenge for the defense, which will also have to explain why Olsen didn't use less-than-lethal force, like a stun gun or pepper spray, he said.

Jurors may wonder why Olsen immediately got out of his car, though Sekhon noted that people do often expect police officers to engage with threats when responding to a call.

Ultimately, Sekhon said, jurors will have to imagine themselves in Olsen's position and decide whether he acted reasonably.

Sekhon said he expects to see Olsen take the stand, that no one else can effectively convey his belief that he was being attacked and was in danger of great bodily harm.

Steak, beer and politics: 2020 Democrats descend on Iowa

By ALEXANDRA JAFFE and THOMAS BEAUMONT ASSOCIATED PRESS

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — When Barack Obama marched into the 2007 Iowa steak fry flanked by 1,000 supporters, skeptical Iowans were put on notice that he could win the caucus. A dozen years later, a new generation of Democratic White House hopefuls is looking to pull off a repeat performance to turbocharge their campaigns.

Saturday's steak fry is part parade, part organizing show of force — and quintessentially Iowa. It began as a fundraiser for Tom Harkin's first congressional bid, where the 53 attendees could buy a steak and a foil-wrapped baked potato for \$2.

Harkin is out of politics now, but the steak fry lives on as a fundraiser for the Polk County Democratic Party. This year, 11,000 people are expected to join in addition to 19 presidential candidates. Attendees can listen to bands, munch on 10,500 steaks or get food from food trucks, a vegan grill or a craft beer tent.

There are even camping grounds, where supporters of former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke spent Friday night.

The festival vibe has some Iowa activists calling the steak fry the "Coachella of the Caucuses," referring to the weekend-long music festival in California. Polk County Democratic Party Chairman Sean Bagniewski said the event purposely has a "modern twist."

"That's the future of the party — it's gonna be more women in positions of leadership, it's gonna be more people of color, and it's going to be more young people," he said.

But what hasn't changed is the significance of the event for the presidential candidates. The steak fry comes as a number of candidates are reconfiguring their Iowa approach.

California Sen. Kamala Harris this week announced she would focus more heavily on Iowa in hopes of finishing in the top three. Meanwhile flagging campaigns like that of O'Rourke and Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar are campaigning beyond Iowa in an effort to broaden their national appeal.

Bagniewski said that, like 2007, Democrats are looking for someone who can show they've got the organizational strength to win.

"Everyone wants to beat Donald Trump," he said. "Everyone has a top 5, but when you actually see that your candidate of choice has 1,000 people supporting them at the Steak Fry, it gives you more liberty to make that decision."

Over four decades, the event has seen plenty of rock-star moments.

In 2014, the final year Harkin hosted the event, Hillary Clinton returned to Iowa for the first time since Obama beat her in the 2008 caucuses. She was welcomed by a jubilant crowd chanting "Hillary, Hillary," as speculation about a second presidential campaign swirled. With a cheeky smile, she stretched her arms

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out to the audience of thousands, saying "Well, hello Iowa. I'm back!"

This year, a number of the candidates will kick off the festivities by hosting celebrations for their supporters beforehand, featuring everything from live bands to carnival-style games.

Many are planning an Obama-esque march into the event — amping up the pressure on their teams to turn up big numbers to the event, as any flagging campaigns will be painfully obvious. Campaigns are bussing and flying supporters in from out of state to boost their numbers, and the Polk County Democratic Party says they've sold tickets to attendees from 48 states. Former Vice President Joe Biden is widely believed to have sold the most tickets to the event, with South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg not far behind him.

Biden will host what his team is calling "Bidenfest" beforehand, featuring a bouncy castle, an ice cream truck and bands, and he'll be marching in with a fire truck and a marching band from a Waterloo-area Baptist church.

California Sen. Kamala Harris will march into the event with striking McDonald's workers demanding a \$15 an hour wage, as well as the Isiserettes, a local Des Moines drumline that appeared regularly at Obama events, including the 2007 steak fry and later his inauguration.

But Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren are skipping the march into the event. Warren has come under growing criticism from some of her rivals and her staff has said she's looking at the steak fry as more of an opportunity to connect with potential new supporters, rather than organize those she has already won.

Bus with Chinese tourists crashes in Utah; 4 dead

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST and MORGAN SMITH Associated Press

PANGUITCH, Utah (AP) — A tour bus crashed on a highway running through the red-rock landscape of southern Utah, killing four people from China and injuring dozens more.

On Friday, the bus from Southern California rolled onto a guard rail, crushing its roof and ramming the rail's vertical posts into the cab, Utah Highway Patrol Sgt. Nick Street said.

Five passengers remained in critical condition Friday night, and the death toll could rise, he said.

All 31 people on board were hurt. Twelve to 15 were considered in critical condition shortly after the crash, but several of them have since improved, Street said. Not everyone was wearing a seatbelt, as is common in tour buses, he said.

The crash happened near a highway rest stop a few miles from southern Utah's Bryce Canyon National Park, an otherworldly landscape of narrow red-rock spires.

Authorities believe the driver swerved on the way to the park on Friday morning, but when he yanked the steering wheel to put the bus back onto the road the momentum sent the bus into a rollover crash.

The driver, an American citizen, survived and was talking with investigators, Street said. The driver didn't appear intoxicated, but authorities were still investigating his condition as well as any possible mechanical problems, he said.

There was some wind but not strong enough to cause problems, Street said.

The crash left the top of the white bus smashed inward and one side peeling away as the vehicle came to rest mostly off the side of the road against a sign for restrooms.

The National Transportation Safety Board was sending a team to investigate.

The company listed on the bus was America Shengjia Inc. Utah business records indicate it is based in Monterey Park, California. A woman answering the phone there did not have immediate comment.

Injured victims were sent to three hospitals. Intermountain Garfield Memorial Hospital said it received 17 patients, including three in critical condition and 11 in serious condition.

Patients also were taken to Cedar City and St. George hospitals.

Millions of people visit Utah's five national parks every year. Last year, about 87,000 people from China visited the state, making them the fastest-growing group of Utah tourists, according to state data.

More than half of visitors from China travel on tour buses, said Vicki Varela, managing director of Utah Office of Tourism.

The Chinese Embassy tweeted that it was saddened to learn of the crash and that it was sending staff to help the victims.

Bryce Canyon, about 300 miles (480 kilometers) south of Salt Lake City, draws more than 2 million visitors a year.

"You have a group from China who have worked hard to come to the states, got the visa and everything they needed, excited about it, and for a tragedy like this to happen it just makes it all the more tragic," Street said.

Associated Press writer Brady McCombs contributed to the report.

Iran's Guard says ready for 'any scenario' amid US standoff

By AMIR VAHDAT Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guard is ready for combat and "any scenario," its chief commander said Saturday, as the country's nuclear deal with world powers collapses and the U.S. alleged Iran was behind a weekend attack on major oil sites in Saudi Arabia that shook global energy markets.

Iran has denied involvement in the Sept. 14 attack that was initially claimed by Yemen's Iranian-backed Houthi rebels. Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, who is in New York for the U.N. meetings, has warned that any retaliatory strike on Iran by the U.S. or Saudi Arabia will result in "an all-out war."

On Saturday, Gen. Hossein Salami, at a ceremony displaying pieces of an American drone Iran shot down in June, said that his forces have carried out "war exercises and are ready for any scenario."

He added: "If anyone crosses our borders, we will hit them."

Zarif claimed in a tweet that Saudi Arabia does not believe its own allegations that Iran was responsible for the attack on Saudi oil sites.

"It is clear that even the Saudis themselves don't believe the fiction of Iranian involvement", Zarif said, pointing to what he described as a Saudi retaliatory attack on Houthi forces in southwestern Yemen.

Saudi Arabia has been at war with the Houthi rebels since March 2015. The U.N., Gulf Arab nations and the U.S. accuse Iran of supplying arms to the Houthis, something Tehran denies.

Analysts say the missiles used in the Sept. 14 assault wouldn't have enough range to reach the oil sites in eastern Saudi Arabia from impoverished Yemen. The missiles and drones used resembled Iranian-made weapons, although analysts say more study is needed to definitively link them to Iran.

Salami added that Iran does not want to start a conflict, but appeared to warn the U.S. and Saudi Arabia that Iran is prepared.

"We won't stop until the destruction of any aggressor. And we will not leave any secure spot," he said. "Do not miscalculate and do not make a mistake."

President Donald Trump signaled on Friday that he was not inclined to authorize an immediate military strike on Iran in response to the attacks on the Saudi oil industry, saying he believes showing restraint "shows far more strength" and he wants to avoid an all-out war.

The Pentagon said the U.S. will deploy additional troops and military equipment to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to beef up security.

Trump, who withdrew the U.S. from the nuclear deal more than a year ago, said separately Friday that America "just sanctioned the Iranian national bank." He did not elaborate.

The U.S. Treasury Department said it took action against the Central Bank of Iran.

Iran's central bank chief, Abdolnasser Hemmati, sought to shrug off the new sanctions on Saturday. According to the state-run IRNA news agency, Hemmati said re-imposing sanctions on Iran's central bank shows the U.S. has little leverage left.

US to send troops to Saudi Arabia, hold off on striking Iran

By LOLITA C. BALDOR and ROBERT BURNS Associated Press

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WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon on Friday announced it will deploy additional U.S. troops and missile defense equipment to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, as President Donald Trump has at least for now put off any immediate military strike on Iran in response to the attack on the Saudi oil industry.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper told Pentagon reporters this is a first step to beef up security and he would not rule out additional moves down the road. Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said more details about the deployment will be determined in the coming days, but it would not involve thousands of U.S. troops.

Other officials said the U.S. deployment would likely be in the hundreds and the defensive equipment heading to the Middle East would probably include Patriot missile batteries and possibly enhanced radars.

The announcement reflected Trump's comments earlier in the day when he told reporters that showing restraint "shows far more strength" than launching military strikes and he wanted to avoid an all-out war with Iran.

Instead, he laid out new sanctions on the Iranian central bank and said the easiest thing to do would be to launch military strikes.

"I think the strong person's approach and the thing that does show strength would be showing a little bit of restraint," Trump told reporters during a meeting with Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison. "Much easier to do it the other way, and Iran knows that if they misbehave, they are on borrowed time."

Dunford told reporters the extra equipment and troops would give the Saudis a better chance of defending against unconventional aerial attacks.

"No single system is going to be able to defend against a threat like that," he said, "but a layered system of defensive capabilities would mitigate the risk of swarms of drones or other attacks that may come from Iran."

The U.S. has not provided any hard evidence that Iran was responsible for the attacks, while insisting the investigation continues, but Esper on Friday said the drones and cruise missiles used in the attack were produced by Iran.

"The attack on Sept. 14 against Saudi Arabian oil facilities represents a dramatic escalation of Iranian aggression," Esper said, adding that the U.S. has thus far shown "great restraint."

In deciding against an immediate U.S. strike, Trump for the second time in recent months pulled back from a major military action against Iran that many Pentagon and other advisers fear could trigger a new Middle East war. In June, after Iran shot down an American surveillance drone, Trump initially endorsed a retaliatory military strike then abruptly called it off because he said it would have killed dozens of Iranians.

On Friday, he left the door open a bit for a later military response, saying people thought he'd attack Iran "within two seconds," but he has "plenty of time."

Trump spoke just before he gathered his national security team at the White House to consider a broad range of military, economic and diplomatic options in response to what administration officials say was an unprecedented Iranian attack on Saudi oil facilities.

Iran has denied involvement and warned the U.S. that any attack will spark an "all-out war" with immediate retaliation from Tehran.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Vice President Mike Pence have condemned the attack on Saudi oil facilities as "an act of war."

Esper and Dunford declined to discuss any potential ship movements to the region, although a number of U.S. Navy vessels are nearby.

The additional air and missile defense equipment for Saudi Arabia would be designed to bolster its defenses in the north, since most of its defenses have focused on threats from Houthis in Yemen to the south.

A forensic team from U.S. Central Command is pouring over evidence from cruise missile and drone debris, but the Pentagon said the assessment is not finished. Officials are trying to determine if they can get navigational information from the debris that could provide hard evidence that the strikes came from Iran.

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Area 51 events mostly peaceful; thousands in Nevada desert

By KEN RITTER Associated Press

HIKO, Nev. (AP) — Events involving thousands of Earthlings answering an internet buzz about an invitation to “Storm Area 51” in the Nevada desert have been mostly festive, with crowds numbering in the low thousands and few arrests, officials said.

Three more people were arrested Friday on the remote once-secret military base, Lincoln County Sheriff Kerry Lee said, bringing to five the tally since Thursday of accused trespassers during “Alienstock” and “Area 51 Basecamp” events and festivals in the tiny desert towns of Rachel and Hiko.

Several minor injuries were reported, and one man was treated for dehydration by festival medics in Rachel before returning to the party.

While costumed space aliens were a common, dayglow, and sometimes hilarious sight, no one reported seeing actual extraterrestrials or UFOs.

“There’s a great sense of community among everyone here,” said John Derryberry, who drove with his girlfriend, Sarah Shore, from Nashville, Tennessee.

“It started as a joke and now people are getting to know each other,” said Tracy Ferguson, 23, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He said the internet gave him the idea to drive to Nevada with his girlfriend, Jade Gore, 19, of Worthington, Minnesota.

Lee said a man reported missing Friday morning after heading Thursday from a festival campground in Hiko toward an Area 51 gate was found safe Friday evening. Details weren’t immediately made public, but his disappearance was not believed to have been an abduction.

Almost 100 people went at 3 a.m. Friday to the best-known “back gate” of the legendary former top-secret U.S. Air Force base, near of the tiny town of Rachel, and another 40 made a more difficult trek to a lesser-known gate in Tikaboo Valley, Lee said.

About 300 went to the Tikaboo gate during daylight, and another 800 people made the dusty 8-mile (13-kilometer) drive to the Rachel gate during the day, Lee said.

One, a woman in her 60s from California, was arrested after making it clear to sheriff’s deputies, her husband and everyone around her that she was going to trespass no matter what.

“It was just something she wanted to do,” said the sheriff, who was at the Rachel gate at the time.

Two men were arrested after military security officers found them in the mountains inside the perimeter of the base somewhere between the two gates, Lee said. Authorities were trying to determine how to tow their vehicle out of the rugged area.

The gates are marked by bright floodlights, watchful cameras and, at the Rachel gate, a squat tan bunker building with blackout windows — all surrounded by razor wire.

The sheriff in neighboring Nye County reported that about 40 people dispersed after “heated warnings” from officers about 3 a.m. Friday near a base gate not far from a conspicuously green “Area 51 Alien Center” about 90 minutes’ drive west of Las Vegas.

Matty Roberts, a 20-year-old from Bakersfield, California, who sparked the Area 51 phenomenon with a late-night Facebook post in June and then broke with Little A’Le’Inn owner Connie West over production of the Rachel event, hosted a Thursday evening event at an outdoor venue in downtown Las Vegas — also using the “Alienstock” name.

“Area 51 Basecamp” was featuring music, speakers and movies Friday and Saturday at the Alien Research Center in Hiko. Business owner George Harris said he expected a crowd of 5,000, but Lee said the audience and nearby campers appeared to number in the hundreds.

Cyril Soudant, 25, of Lille, France, said at the Rachel gate that he was disappointed not to see more people. Soudant took video for his YouTube channel and said he would wait until Friday night to make a final assessment about the experience.

“We all know we can’t cross the gate,” Soudant said. “But if tonight we get together, have some music, have some beers, that would be a success.”

Houston area sees relief, rescues after Imelda leaves 4 dead

By JUAN A. LOZANO Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Emergency workers used boats Friday to rescue about 60 residents of a Houston-area community still trapped in their homes by floodwaters following one of the wettest tropical cyclones in U.S. history.

At least four deaths have been linked to the remnants of Tropical Storm Imelda, which deluged parts of Texas and Louisiana and drew comparisons to Hurricane Harvey two years ago. Officials took advantage of receding floodwaters to begin assessing how many homes and cars were flooded.

Almost 16 feet of standing water was reported in Huffman, northeast of Houston, when a nearby bayou overflowed. The Harris County Sheriff's Office deployed its marine unit to evacuate the around 60 residents. Officials have warned residents they might not see high waters recede in their neighborhoods until the weekend.

Tuesday Martin, one of the residents in Huffman who was rescued, couldn't help but think of Harvey when Imelda's floodwaters rushed into her home.

"Harvey affected us. We lost the whole first floor," Martin said. "So, it's like two years later, we do not want to go through this again."

East of Houston in Jefferson County, which got hit by more than 40 inches of rain, officials also began taking stock of their damage. They also announced the death of Malcolm Foster, a 47-year-old Beaumont resident whose body was found inside his vehicle.

The heaviest rainfall had ended by Thursday night in Southeast Texas, but forecasters warned that parts of northeast Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Louisiana could see flash flooding as Imelda's remnants shifted to the north.

Officials in Harris County, which includes Houston, said there had been a combination of at least 1,700 high-water rescues following Thursday's torrential rainfall.

"The water is getting lower and it's time for assessment and to move into recovery," said Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo, the county's top administrator.

Most of the Houston-area roads that became water-logged after heavy rainfall Thursday and resulted in more than 1,650 vehicles being abandoned and later towed were mostly dry on Friday.

But parts of one of the major thoroughfares that passes through Southeast Texas — Interstate 10 — remained closed Friday due to flood waters from torrential rain in the Beaumont area. Another freeway section, closer to Houston, was also shut down as officials assessed damage to its bridges over the San Jacinto River after they were hit by two barges that broke free of their moorings.

Nearly 123,000 vehicles normally cross the bridges each day, according to the Texas Department of Transportation.

More than 900 flights were canceled or delayed in Houston on Thursday. Airports in the city resumed operating normally on Friday.

Officials say two of the deaths from Imelda happened in the Houston area: an unidentified man in his 40s or 50s who drowned Thursday while driving a van through 8-foot-deep floodwaters, and a man whose body was found in a ditch Friday and is believed to have drowned.

In Jefferson County, besides Foster's death, officials say a 19-year-old man drowned and was electrocuted Thursday while trying to move his horse to safety.

The National Weather Service said preliminary estimates suggested Jefferson County was hit with more than 40 inches (102 centimeters) of rain in a span of just 72 hours, which would make it the seventh-wettest tropical cyclone to hit the continental U.S.

"The issue is that you can't get 40 inches of rain in a 72-hour period and be fully prepared for that," Jefferson County spokeswoman Allison Getz told The Associated Press on Friday. "At this point we haven't been able to fully assess what's happened."

Getz said dozens of people have traveled to the county with boats in tow from Louisiana and other parts of Texas to assist with rescue efforts, an outpouring of support reminiscent of volunteer efforts during

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Harvey.

In nearby Chambers County, preliminary estimates indicate about 800 homes and businesses sustained some level of damage from floodwaters, county spokesman Ryan Holzaepfel said. Emergency personnel rescued about 400 people during the deluge, mostly from homes, he said.

Emergency crews on Thursday evacuated 87 residents from a nursing home in Porter, northeast of Houston, as floodwaters began to seep into the home, according to Meghan Ballard, spokeswoman for the Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management.

In Winnie, a town of about 3,200 people 60 miles (95 kilometers) east of Houston, a hospital was evacuated.

For many residents in Houston, Imelda's punishing rainfall and flooding evoked the memory of Harvey — which dumped more than 50 inches (127 centimeters) of rain on the nation's fourth-largest city in 2017. Imelda is the first named storm since then to impact the Houston area.

Following Harvey, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott ordered a report warning that punishing storms would become more frequent because of a changing climate. Scientists say climate change is responsible for more intense and more frequent extreme weather such as storms, droughts, floods and fires, but without extensive study they cannot directly link a single weather event to the changing climate.

Abbott has said it's "impossible" for him to say whether he believes manmade global warming is causing the kind of disasters the state is telling residents to get used to.

Hidalgo attributed this week's flooding in part to "a lack of acknowledgement on climate change."

The flooding from Imelda came as Hurricane Humberto blew off rooftops and toppled trees in the British Atlantic island of Bermuda, and Hurricane Jerry was expected to move to the northern Leeward Islands on Friday and north of Puerto Rico on Saturday. In Mexico, people in Los Cabos were preparing for Hurricane Lorena's arrival.

Follow Juan A. Lozano on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/juanlozano70>

Associated Press writers David Warren, Diana Heidgerd, Terry Wallace and Jamie Stengle in Dallas; video journalist John Mone in Houston; Clarice Silber and Paul J. Weber in Austin; and Jill Bleed in Little Rock, Arkansas, contributed to this report.

Hurricane Lorena skirts east coast of Mexico's Baja

By **IGNACIO MARTÍNEZ DE JESÚS** Associated Press

CABO SAN LUCAS, Mexico (AP) — Hurricane Lorena skirted along the east coast of Mexico's Baja California Peninsula late Friday, prompting new warnings and watches for coastal areas but apparently sparing a direct hit on the resort-studded twin cities of Los Cabos.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center said Lorena was a Category 1 storm with maximum sustained winds of 80 mph (130 kph), and its center was about 40 miles (65 kilometers) east-southeast of the Baja California Sur state capital, La Paz. It was heading to the north-northwest at 8 mph (13kph) on a forecast track parallel to the coast through the Sea of Cortez.

A hurricane warning was in effect for the peninsula between Santa Rosalia and Puerto Cortes, and a hurricane watch was announced for northern parts of the peninsula and the Mexican mainland from Altata to Bahia.

For days, forecasts had predicted likely landfall in or a near miss with Los Cabos, but at the last minute the storm took a path well east of the glitzy resort area.

Earlier Friday, residents and tourists in Cabo San Lucas and San Jose del Cabo hunkered down in homes, shelters and hotels amid warnings of damaging winds, flash floods and life-imperiling surf.

Police and soldiers went through low-lying, low-income neighborhoods in Los Cabos urging people to evacuate. Locals who have been through past hurricanes took no chances, pulling boats from the water and boarding up windows and doors.

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Authorities in Los Cabos said 787 people had taken refuge at 18 storm shelters.

It kicked up strong waves in the twin resorts, but by early evening the clouds cleared partially and people ventured onto the beach to view the ocean.

The two cities remained under a hurricane warning late Friday, though the hurricane center's latest projection had them outside the cone of uncertainty with Lorena's center well to the north and heading away.

Civil defense official Carlos Godínez said an American tourist who went to the beach in Los Cabos with his son died after being swept out to sea. The son survived. But Godínez said the death occurred early Thursday, before beach access was restricted, and that it was "not necessarily attributable" to Lorena.

A second cyclone, Tropical Storm Mario, was several hundred miles south of the southern tip of the Baja Peninsula but was not immediately forecast to pose a threat to land.

Authorities in Los Cabos had closed the port and suspended classes for Friday and prepared to use schools as shelters if necessary.

Lorena came onshore a day earlier as a hurricane in the western Mexican state of Colima, whipping palm trees with its strong winds and lashing the area with rain. It flooded streets, washed out roads and touched off minor slides in 10 municipalities. Dozens of trees were downed, and power was knocked out in some areas.

Colima state Gov. José Ignacio Peralta said more than 7,400 acres (3,000 hectares) of crops such as bananas and papayas were damaged statewide, but there were no deaths or significant damage to infrastructure.

In the Atlantic, meanwhile, Hurricane Jerry was forecast to pass "well north" of the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico on Saturday, but heavy rainfall remained possible on the northern Leeward Islands, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, the hurricane center reported.

In the coming days it could take a northward track in the direction of Bermuda, which was recently buffeted by Hurricane Humberto.

Jerry's maximum sustained winds stood at 80 mph (130 kph) Friday night. It was centered about 160 miles (260 kilometers) north of Anguilla and was moving to the west-northwest at 16 mph (26 kph).

A tropical storm watch was in effect for St. Maarten, St. Martin and St. Barthelemy.

American, Australian luminaries gather at White House dinner

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE and LAURIE KELLMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A glittering crowd of American and Australian luminaries gathered under the stars in the White House Rose Garden on Friday, resolutely "celebrating" even as serious matters of national security and presidential politics combined to cast a cloud over President Donald Trump.

Not long before the president and first lady Melania Trump stepped out of the White House front door and welcomed Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and his wife, Jenny, Defense Secretary Mark Esper announced the deployment of additional U.S. troops to the Persian Gulf region in response to a recent attack on the Saudi oil industry. At the same time, a controversy intensified over a conversation Trump had with Ukraine's new president.

Some guests attending just the second state dinner of the Trump administration sought to keep the conversation on the lighter side.

"I'm looking forward to celebrating tonight," Republican Rep. Mark Meadows of North Carolina said when he was asked about the day's breaking news.

"Ha ha ha," came the response from Trump attorney Rudy Giuliani, who tipped his head back and laughed when he was asked about the bewildering answers he gave about Trump's conversation with the Ukrainian leader during a nationally televised interview Thursday. A person familiar with the matter said the Republican president urged his East European counterpart during a summertime telephone conversation to investigate the son of former Vice President Joe Biden, who is among the leading Democrats vying for the chance to deny Trump reelection in November 2020.

Music wafted across the South Lawn below an illuminated White House as guests descended the outside

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staircases to join the garden party.

Guests, including several Cabinet secretaries, members of Congress, White House staff and an Australian delegation that included native son and pro golfer Greg Norman, were seated at a mix of round and rectangular tables draped in alternating yellow and green tablecloths in tribute to Australia's national colors and dined on sunchoke ravioli, Dover sole and apple tart a la mode. Temporary flooring was laid over the grass.

Dinner centerpieces were made using more than 2,500 yellow California roses and Australia's national flower, the golden wattle, while the garden itself was decorated with white and yellow roses.

Music came from all four sides of the Rose Garden and from above. The singers and musicians represented the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps and surrounded the party, while a band played on the roof of the West Wing. At one point, a violinist wound through the tables while playing her instrument.

For the after-dinner entertainment, a band on the West Wing roof and a chorus below performed "What a Wonderful World." A solo violinist also performed while walking among the guest tables.

The first lady wore an aqua silk chiffon gown by J. Mendel with inserted pleats and bias cut waves, the White House said. Morrison's wife wore a midnight blue sequined halter-style gown.

In remarks before the three-course meal was served, Trump raised his glass to a "very special people and a very, very special country." He had said earlier Friday that he would love to attend the 2019 President's Cup golf tournament in Australia in December, if his schedule will allow it.

In return, Morrison praised the first lady's "quiet grace" and toasted to 100 years of "mateship" between the U.S. and Australia.

Other notables among the more than 170 invited guests were Fox Business Network hosts Maria Bartiromo and Lou Dobbs, Las Vegas casino mogul and Trump supporter Phil Ruffin, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, Republican Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, the Rev. Franklin Graham, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, Democratic U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Attorney General William Barr.

Trump and Morrison held private talks earlier Friday after the prime minister was feted with a pomp-filled military arrival ceremony on the South Lawn.

At an afternoon news conference in the grand East Room, Trump said he and Morrison "talked about everything you can talk about," including military issues and trade. Morrison said he and Trump share a "passion for jobs" and commended Trump for his record on job creation.

On a big day for diplomacy, Morrison and his wife also worked in a State Department luncheon hosted by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

Australia was last a recipient of a U.S. state visit in 2006, when President George W. Bush feted Prime Minister John Howard.

When it comes to state dinners, Trump seems to prefer being on the receiving end.

He's been the honored guest on state visits to Japan and Britain this year alone, in addition to other such visits in his first two years in office, including to Beijing on what China billed as a "state visit, plus."

Trump's first state visitor was French President Emmanuel Macron last year.

Associated Press writers Deb Riechmann and Kevin Freking contributed to this report.

Follow Darlene Superville and Laurie Kellman on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/dsupervilleap> and <http://www.twitter.com/APLaurieKellman>

Antonio Brown cut by Patriots amid sexual misconduct claims

By JIMMY GOLEN AP Sports Writer

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) — Antonio Brown was released by the New England Patriots on Friday after a second woman accused him of sexual misconduct — the third team in seven months to tire of the off-field behavior that has overshadowed his accomplishments as one of the NFL's most prolific receivers for a decade.

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The defending Super Bowl champions announced the move in a statement emailed to reporters, three minutes after Brown posted on Twitter: "Thank you for the opportunity @Patriots #GoWinIt."

Already facing a civil suit claiming that he raped a former trainer, Brown was accused in a Sports Illustrated story published on Monday of exposing himself to an artist he hired to paint a mural at his home. He has denied both allegations.

But the Patriots cut ties with the four-time All-Pro after just one game.

The statement attributed to "a Patriots spokesperson" said, in its entirety: "The New England Patriots are releasing Antonio Brown. We appreciate the hard work of many people over the past 11 days, but we feel that it is best to move in a different direction at this time."

Patriots coach Bill Belichick and quarterback Tom Brady both avoided questions about Brown during their scheduled media availability Friday, a few hours before Brown was released. Belichick said during the morning that the team was looking into "some things," then cut off his news conference when reporters continued to ask about Brown.

Asked if he expected Brown to play in Sunday's game against the New York Jets, Belichick said, "He's on the roster."

About five hours later, he wasn't.

"It's unfortunate things didn't work out with the Patriots," Brown's agent, Drew Rosenhaus tweeted. "But Antonio is healthy and is looking forward to his next opportunity in the NFL. He wants to play the game he loves and he hopes to play for another team soon."

The NFL said it will continue to investigate Brown's behavior, as it has with stars like Ray Rice and Kareem Hunt and lesser players who have run afoul of the personal conduct policy — whether or not they were convicted of a crime, or even charged.

The league said in a statement late Friday that Brown could be placed on the commissioner's exempt list if he is signed by another team and could also be suspended once the investigation concludes, casting doubt on whether he will play again this season.

"We have as yet made no findings regarding these issues," the statement said. "Upon the conclusion of the investigation, he may also be subject to discipline if the investigation finds that he has violated the law or league policies."

Brown has been sued by former trainer Britney Taylor, who claimed Brown raped or sexually assaulted her on three occasions. Although the lawsuit became public last week, Brown practiced with the Patriots, then played on Sunday in a 43-0 rout of Miami, scoring a touchdown.

Taylor had a lengthy meeting with the NFL this week.

The AP does not typically identify people who say they are victims of sexual assault unless they come forward publicly, but Taylor was identified in the federal lawsuit and was quoted in a statement provided by her lawyer.

According to a Sports Illustrated story, a second woman, who as a victim of sexual harassment is not being identified, was working at Brown's home when she turned around to find him standing there naked except for a small towel covering his genitals.

After the article ran, the magazine reported, the woman "received what she characterized as intimidating texts" from Brown that included pictures of her children.

"She received a group text message that appeared to come from the same phone number Brown provided to her in 2017," the magazine said. "The person she believes is Brown encouraging others in the group to investigate the woman. The texter accused the artist of fabricating her account of the 2017 incident for cash."

Lawyers for the woman said in a statement that the league and the Patriots "took our client's concerns seriously."

"She wanted the threats and intimidation to stop and we hope that will be case," said a statement emailed to reporters from attorneys Lisa Banks and Debra Katz. "The NFL has assured us that regardless of Antonio Brown's roster status, it will continue to investigate all claims regarding his behavior."

Also this week, Nike cut ties with the receiver, saying in an email to The Associated Press on Friday,

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"Antonio Brown is not a Nike athlete."

A four-time All-Pro who caught 837 passes over nine seasons with the Steelers, Brown wore out his welcome in Pittsburgh after he went missing for two days before the 2018 season finale. The Steelers traded him to Oakland, which signed him to a contract that would have paid him up to \$50 million over the next three seasons.

But he never played a game for the Raiders, quarreling with the coach and general manager until they, too, released him. The Patriots signed him only a few hours later, giving him a one-year deal that would have guaranteed him \$9 million and paid him up to \$15 million this season.

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

History buff finds ships that sank in 1878 in Lake Michigan

By COREY WILLIAMS Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — A diver and maritime history buff has found two schooners that collided and sank into the cold depths of northern Lake Michigan more than 140 years ago.

Bernie Hellstrom, of Boyne City, Michigan, said he was looking for shipwrecks about 10 years ago when a depth sounder on his boat noted a large obstruction about 200 feet (60 meters) down on the lake bottom near Beaver Island.

"I've made hundreds of trips to Beaver Island and every trip I go out the sounder is on," he told The Associated Press on Friday. "But if you happen to see something that's not normal, you go back. A lot are nothing but fish schools. This was 400 feet of boat. There's nothing out there that big that's missing."

He returned to the area in June with a custom-made camera system and discovered the Peshtigo and St. Andrews about 10 feet (3 meters) apart with their masts atop one another. The hull of one of the ships has a huge gash.

It had been believed the ships sank in 1878 farther to the east in the Straits of Mackinac in Lake Huron. But only one ship could be found and that was thought to be the St. Andrews.

"They never found the second boat," said Hellstrom, 63.

Hellstrom brought technical divers in to record video of the wrecks. Madison, Wisconsin-based marine historian Brendon Baillod was recruited to help solve the mystery.

Baillod said he searched through old news reports and learned that the Peshtigo and St. Andrews did hit each other and sink between Beaver and Fox islands, northwest of Charlevoix, Michigan.

The Peshtigo was 161 feet (49 meters) long and carrying coal. The St. Andrews was 143 feet (43 meters) long and carrying corn. The collision was blamed on confusion in signal torches, he said.

Two of the Peshtigo's crewmen were lost. Survivors from both ships were rescued by another passing schooner, according to Baillod.

Wayne Lusardi, Michigan's state maritime archaeologist, calls finding the actual resting place of the Peshtigo and St. Andrews a "fantastic discovery."

"You can argue that any new discovery is important because it really gives you a first-time look at something that has been lost and missing for such a long time," Lusardi said.

He added that the Peshtigo and St. Andrews "had been mistakenly identified as two vessels up in the Straits for decades."

"Now, it begs the question: What are those wrecks?" he said.

An estimated 6,000 shipwrecks sit on the bottoms of the Great Lakes, according to Cathy Green, executive director of the Wisconsin Maritime Museum in Manitowoc.

"If you think about it, cities like Chicago, Detroit and Milwaukee would never have been able to develop without the water highway," Green said. "When material remains of that history is found, it's a big deal to historians and archeologists."

This story has been corrected to show that the St. Andrews was carrying corn, not coal.

Trump, in call, urged Ukraine to investigate Biden's son

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, MICHAEL BALSAMO and LISA MASCARO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump urged the new leader of Ukraine this summer to investigate the son of former Vice President Joe Biden, a person familiar with the matter said Friday. Democrats condemned what they saw as a clear effort to damage a political rival, now at the heart of an explosive whistleblower complaint against Trump.

It was the latest revelation in an escalating controversy that has created a showdown between congressional Democrats and the Trump administration, which has refused to turn over the formal complaint by a national security official or even describe its contents.

Trump defended himself Friday against the intelligence official's complaint, angrily declaring it came from a "partisan whistleblower," though he also said he didn't know who had made it. The complaint was based on a series of events, one of which was a July 25 call between Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, according to a two people familiar with the matter. The people were not authorized to discuss the issue by name and were granted anonymity.

Trump, in that call, urged Zelenskyy to probe the activities of potential Democratic rival Biden's son Hunter, who worked for a Ukrainian gas company, according to one of the people, who was briefed on the call. Trump did not raise the issue of U.S. aid to Ukraine, indicating there was not an explicit quid pro quo, according to the person.

Biden reacted strongly late Friday, saying that if the reports are true, "then there is truly no bottom to President Trump's willingness to abuse his power and abase our country." He said Trump should release the transcript of his July phone conversation with Zelenskyy "so that the American people can judge for themselves."

The government's intelligence inspector general has described the whistleblower's Aug. 12 complaint as "serious" and "urgent." But Trump dismissed it all Friday, insisting "it's nothing." He scolded reporters for asking about it and said it was "just another political hack job."

"I have conversations with many leaders. It's always appropriate. Always appropriate," Trump said. "At the highest level always appropriate. And anything I do, I fight for this country."

Trump, who took questions in the Oval Office alongside Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, whom he was hosting for a state visit, was asked if he knew if the whistleblower's complaint centered on his July 25 phone call with Ukrainian President Zelenskyy. The president responded, "I really don't know," but he continued to insist any phone call he made with a head of state was "perfectly fine and respectful."

Trump was asked Friday if he brought up Biden in the call with Zelenskyy, and he answered, "It doesn't matter what I discussed." But then he used the moment to urge the media "to look into" Biden's background with Ukraine.

There has yet to be any evidence of any wrongdoing by Biden or his son regarding Ukraine.

Trump and Zelenskyy are to meet on the sidelines of the United Nations next week. The Wall Street Journal first reported that Trump pressed Zelenskyy about Biden.

The standoff with Congress raises fresh questions about the extent to which Trump's appointees are protecting the Republican president from oversight and, specifically, whether his new acting director of national intelligence, Joseph Maguire, is working with the Justice Department to shield the president.

Democrats say the administration is legally required to give Congress access to the whistleblower's complaint, and Rep. Adam Schiff of California has said he will go to court in an effort to get it if necessary.

The intelligence community's inspector general said the matter involves the "most significant" responsibilities of intelligence leadership.

House Democrats also are fighting the administration for access to witnesses and documents in impeachment probes.

In the whistleblower case, lawmakers are looking into whether Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani traveled to Ukraine to pressure the government to aid the president's reelection effort by investigating the activities of Biden's son.

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During a rambling interview Thursday on CNN, Giuliani was asked whether he had asked Ukraine to look into Biden. He initially said, "No, actually I didn't," but seconds later he said, "Of course I did."

Giuliani has spent months trying to drum up potentially damaging evidence about Biden's ties to Ukraine. He told CNN that Trump was unaware of his actions.

"I did what I did on my own," he said. "I told him about it afterward."

Still later, Giuliani tweeted, "A President telling a Pres-elect of a well known corrupt country he better investigate corruption that affects US is doing his job." Democrats have contended that Trump, in the aftermath of special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation, may have asked for foreign assistance in his upcoming reelection bid.

Trump further stoked those concerns earlier this year in an interview when he suggested he would be open to receiving foreign help.

The inspector general appeared before the House intelligence committee behind closed doors Thursday but declined, under administration orders, to reveal to members the substance of the complaint.

Schiff, a California Democrat, said Trump's attack on the whistleblower was disturbing and raised concerns that it would have a chilling effect on other potential exposers of wrongdoing. He also said it was "deeply disturbing" that the White House appeared to know more about the complaint than its intended recipient -- Congress.

The information "deserves a thorough investigation," Schiff said. "Come hell or high water, that's what we're going to do."

Among the materials Democrats have sought is a transcript of Trump's July 25 call with Zelenskyy. The call took place one day after Mueller's faltering testimony to Congress effectively ended the threat his probe posed to the White House. A readout of the call released from the Ukrainian government said Trump believed Kyiv could complete corruptions investigations that have hampered relations between the two nations but did not get into specifics.

Sen. Chris Murphy of Connecticut, who in May called for a probe of Giuliani's effort in Ukraine, said in an interview on Friday it's "outrageous" the president has been sending his political operative to talk to Ukraine's new president. Murphy tweeted that during his own visit it was clear to him that Ukraine officials were "worried about the consequences of ignoring Giuliani's demands."

The senator tweeted that he told Zelenskyy during their August visit it was "best to ignore requests from Trump's campaign operatives. He agreed."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Trump faces "serious repercussions" if reports about the complaint are accurate. She said it raises "grave, urgent concerns for our national security."

Letters to Congress from the inspector general make clear that Maguire consulted with the Justice Department in deciding not to transmit the complaint to Congress in a further departure from standard procedure. It's unclear whether the White House was also involved, Schiff said.

Maguire has refused to discuss details of the whistleblower complaint, but he has been subpoenaed by the House panel and is expected to testify publicly next Thursday. Maguire and the inspector general, Michael Atkinson, also are expected next week at the Senate intelligence committee.

Atkinson wrote in letters that Schiff released that he and Maguire had hit an "impasse" over the acting director's decision not to share the complaint with Congress. Atkinson said he was told by the legal counsel for the intelligence director that the complaint did not actually meet the definition of an "urgent concern." And he said the Justice Department said it did not fall under the director's jurisdiction because it did not involve an intelligence professional.

Atkinson said he disagreed with that Justice Department view. The complaint "not only falls under DNI's jurisdiction," Atkinson wrote, "but relates to one of the most significant and important of DNI's responsibilities to the American people."

Associated Press writers Deb Riechmann, Eric Tucker, Alan Fram and Mary Clare Jalonick contributed to this report.

'I want a future': Global youth protests urge climate action

By JENNIFER PELTZ and FRANK JORDANS Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Young people afraid for their futures protested around the globe Friday to implore leaders to tackle climate change, turning out by the hundreds of thousands to insist that the warming world can't wait any longer.

Marches, rallies and demonstrations were held from Canberra to Kabul and Cape Town to New York. More than 100,000 turned out in Berlin.

Days before a U.N. climate summit of world leaders, the "Global Climate Strike" events were as small as two dozen activists in Seoul using LED flashlights to send Morse code messages and as large as mass demonstrations in Australia that organizers estimated were the country's largest since the Iraq War began in 2003.

"You are leading the way in the urgent race against the climate crisis," U.N. Secretary General António Guterres wrote in a message to the young protesters on Twitter. "You are on the right side of history. Keep pushing us to do the right thing."

In New York, where public schools excused students with parental permission, tens of thousands of mostly young people marched through lower Manhattan, briefly shutting down some streets.

"Sorry I can't clean my room, I'm busy saving the world," one protester's sign declared.

Thousands marched to the Capitol in Washington, including 15-year-old high school sophomore A.J. Conermann.

"Basically, our earth is dying, and if we don't do something about it, we die," Conermann said.

Thousands packed the streets around Seattle's City Hall, following a march where tech workers from Amazon and Google joined students demanding an end to fossil fuel use.

Demonstrations came in smaller cities as well. Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, who recently abandoned his climate-focused presidential run, addressed a rally in Spokane, and a crowd chanted inside the rotunda of the state Capitol in Madison, Wisconsin.

"It's really unbelievable and really startling to know how little time we have to reverse the damage," said Maris Maslow-Shields, a high school student from Santa Rosa, California, who marched in San Francisco.

In Paris, teenagers and kids as young as 10 traded classrooms for the streets. Marie-Lou Sahai, 15, skipped school because "the only way to make people listen is to protest."

The demonstrations were partly inspired by the activism of Swedish teenager Greta Thunberg, who has staged weekly "Fridays for Future" demonstrations for a year, urging world leaders to step up efforts against climate change.

"It's such a victory," Thunberg told The Associated Press in an interview in New York. "I would never have predicted or believed that this was going to happen, and so fast — and only in 15 months."

Thunberg spoke at a rally later Friday and was expected to participate in a U.N. Youth Climate Summit on Saturday and speak at the U.N. Climate Action Summit with global leaders on Monday.

"They have this opportunity to do something, and they should take that," she said. "And otherwise, they should feel ashamed."

The world has warmed about 1 degree Celsius (1.8 Fahrenheit) since before the Industrial Revolution, and scientists have attributed more than 90 percent of the increase to emissions of heat-trapping gases from fuel-burning and other human activity.

Scientists have warned that global warming will subject Earth to rising seas and more heat waves, droughts, storms and flooding, some of which have already manifested themselves.

Climate change has made record-breaking heat twice as likely as record-setting cold temperatures over the past two decades in the contiguous U.S., according to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration data.

Nations around the world recommitted at a 2015 summit in Paris to hold warming to less than 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) more than pre-industrial-era levels by the end of this century, and they added a more ambitious goal of limiting the increase to 1.5 C (2.7F).

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But U.S. President Donald Trump subsequently announced that he would withdraw the U.S. from the agreement, which he said benefited other nations at the expense of American businesses and taxpayers.

Trump called global warming a "hoax" before becoming president. He has since said he's "not denying climate change" but is not convinced it's man-made or permanent.

New York protester Pearl Seidman, 13, hoped the demonstration would tell the Trump administration "that if they can't be adults, we're going to be adults. Because someone needs to do it." At least one Trump supporter waved a large "Trump 2020" flag as the demonstrators marched in Manhattan.

In Florida, high school students shouted "Miami is under attack" in Miami Beach, where some worried about losing their homes to rising water. On the West Coast, student-led protests drew in some Google and Amazon employees.

Amazon, which ships more than 10 billion items a year, vowed Thursday to cut its use of fossil fuels, and Google CEO Sundar Pichai told the Financial Times in a story published Friday that eliminating the company's carbon emissions by 2030 did not seem "unreasonable."

Friday's demonstrations started in Australia, where organizers estimated 300,000 protesters marched in 110 towns and cities, including Sydney and the national capital, Canberra. Demonstrators called for their country, the world's largest exporter of coal and liquid natural gas, to take more drastic action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Acting Prime Minister Michael McCormack — filling in while Prime Minister Scott Morrison was on a state visit to the United States — said Australia was already taking action to cut emissions. McCormack called the climate rallies "a disruption" that should have been held on a weekend to avoid inconveniences.

Many middle schools in largely coal-reliant Poland gave students the day off so they could participate in the rallies in Warsaw and other cities. President Andrzej Duda joined school students picking up trash in a forest. German police said more than 100,000 people gathered in front of Berlin's landmark Brandenburg Gate, near where Chancellor Angela Merkel's Cabinet thrashed out the final details of a 54 billion euro (\$60 billion) plan to curb Germany's greenhouse gas emissions .

Thousands of schoolchildren and their adult supporters demonstrated in London outside the British Parliament. The British government said it endorsed the protesters' message but did not condone skipping school — a stance that did not sit well with some of the young protesters.

"If politicians were taking the appropriate action we need and had been taking this action a long time ago when it was recognized the world was changing in a negative way, then I would not have to be skipping school," said Jessica Ahmed, a 16-year-old London student.

In Helsinki, the Finnish capital, a man dressed as Santa Claus stood outside parliament holding a sign: "My house is on fire, my reindeer can't swim."

Smaller protests took place in Asia, including in Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, Hong Kong and India. In the Afghan capital of Kabul, an armored personnel carrier was deployed to protect about 100 young people as they marched, led by a group of several young women carrying a banner emblazoned with "Fridays for Future."

"We know war can kill a group of people," said Fardeen Barakzai, one of the organizers. "The problem in Afghanistan is our leaders are fighting for power, but the real power is in nature."

Facebook suspends thousands of apps but user impact unclear

By BARBARA ORTUTAY and FRANK BAJAK AP Technology Writers

Facebook said Friday that it has suspended "tens of thousands" of apps made by about 400 developers as part of an investigation following the Cambridge Analytica scandal.

The announcement came the same day that unsealed legal documents in Massachusetts disclosed that Facebook had suspended 69,000 apps. In the vast majority of cases, however, the suspensions came not after any kind of serious investigation but because app developers had failed to respond to emailed information requests.

Starting in March 2018, Facebook began looking into the apps that have access to its users' data. The

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probe came after revelations that data mining firm Cambridge Analytica used ill-gotten data from millions of Facebook users through an app, then used the data to try to influence U.S. elections.

It led to a massive backlash against Facebook that included CEO Mark Zuckerberg being called to testify before Congress. The company is still trying to repair its reputation.

Facebook said Friday its app investigation is ongoing and it has looked at millions of apps so far.

The company said it has banned a few apps completely and has filed lawsuits against some, including in May against a South Korean data analytics company called Rankwave. In April, it sued LionMobi, based in Hong Kong, and JediMobi, based in Singapore, which the company says made apps that infected users' phones with malware.

Facebook settled with the Federal Trade Commission for a record \$5 billion this summer over privacy violations that stemmed from the Cambridge Analytica scandal. The company said the FTC agreement "will bring its own set of requirements for bringing oversight to app developers. It requires developers to annually certify compliance with our policies" and that developers who don't do this will be "held accountable."

Also on Friday, a judge unsealed a subpoena by the Massachusetts attorney general demanding that the social network disclose the names of apps and developers that obtained data from its users without their consent. It also asked for all Facebook internal communications about those apps.

The state began investigating Facebook when the Cambridge Analytica scandal broke. But the company refused to identify any of the apps or developers, and the subpoena would have remained confidential under Massachusetts law had Facebook not insisted on keeping it and related exhibits secret.

Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey's consumer protection division had sought data on apps from prior to 2014, when Facebook announced changes to the platform to restrict access to user data.

Facebook tried to redact the subpoena in negotiations before Friday's ruling by state Judge Brian A. Davis. But Healey's office fought to limit the redacted sections.

Facebook did disclose that it had identified more than 10,000 apps that "show characteristics associated with higher risks of data misuse" but did not identify any of them.

The state attorney general noted that Facebook had allowed developers to integrate at least 9 million apps into the platform as of 2014 and had, for many years, allowed developers to access user data, including photos, work history, birthdates and "likes." This applied not just from people who installed the apps but also to their Facebook friends who did not.

The unsealed subpoena also says that Facebook informed the Massachusetts attorney general's office that it had identified about 2 million apps "as warranting a closer examination for potential misuses of Facebook user data."

That suggests that, five years ago, more than one in four apps may have been accessing Facebook users' data without their knowledge or consent.

Q&A: Climate activist Greta Thunberg on global strikes

By **SETH BORENSTEIN** AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Swedish teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg said she's overwhelmed by the success of Friday's climate protests.

But the 16-year-old who sparked the global movement said she was underwhelmed by the United States government's approach to climate change.

Thunberg spoke with The Associated Press as the climate events were underway. Responses have been edited for length and clarity.

DID YOU THINK YOU'D GET NUMBERS LIKE THIS WHEN YOU STARTED?

It's just such a victory. I would never have predicted or believed that this was going to happen someday. And so fast, only in 15 months. I can't wait to see the official numbers come in. It will be magnificent.

I think if enough people get together and stand up for this then that can have a huge difference, to put pressure on the people in power, to actually hold them accountable and to say you need to do something now.

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WHAT'S YOUR IMPRESSION OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE UNITED STATES AROUND CLIMATE CHANGE?

It's a bit worse than in other countries. The arguments for continuing to not do anything and the empty words and promises and lies are the same. Some countries are more extreme than others but it's not much different.

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT FROM THE UPCOMING CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT?

We must hope, but we must also be prepared for that nothing comes out of it. And then we need to continue no matter what. Giving up cannot be an option. Indeed, this is a great opportunity to do something and they (leaders) should take that. Otherwise they should feel ashamed.

PEOPLE WHO DENY CLIMATE CHANGE HAVE ATTACKED YOU PERSONALLY. HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH THAT?

It's sad. You just have to ignore them because they are just desperately trying to remove the focus from the climate crisis to make it something about me as an individual rather than the crisis itself. When they do that, they don't have any arguments left."

US, El Salvador sign asylum deal, details to be worked out

By COLLEEN LONG and ASTRID GALVAN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The United States on Friday signed an agreement that paves the way for the U.S. to send many asylum-seekers to one of the world's most violent countries, El Salvador.

But both countries must first take necessary legal actions and implement major border security and asylum procedures before it would go into effect, according to a draft copy of the agreement obtained by The Associated Press.

The deal is the latest ambitious step taken by the Trump administration to lean on other nations — many of them notoriously violent — to take in immigrants to stop the flow of migrants to the U.S.-Mexico border.

U.S. immigration officials also are forcing more than 42,000 people to remain in Mexico as their cases play out and have changed policy to deny asylum to anyone who transited through a third country en route to the southern border of the U.S.

Curbing immigration is a signature political issue for Trump and one that thrills his supporters. But the U.S. is also managing a crush of migrants at the border that has strained the system.

Acting Homeland Security Secretary Kevin McAleenan and El Salvador's foreign minister, Alexandra Hill Tinoco, signed the "cooperative asylum agreement" in a live-streamed press conference on Friday.

They lauded the two countries for working together to stem migration to the U.S. but provided few details about the agreement.

Condemnation from migrant and refugee advocates was swift.

"Where will they declare a haven for asylum seekers next? Syria? North Korea? This is cynical and absurd. El Salvador is in no way safe for asylum seekers," said Refugees International President Eric Schwartz.

Meghan Lopez, country director for El Salvador at the International Rescue Committee, said the U.S. government is "attempting once more to turn its back on extremely vulnerable people."

"El Salvador is not safe for many of its own nationals and is struggling to meet their needs, which is why many seek asylum in the United States. It is unrealistic to expect El Salvador to be able to offer protection to asylum-seekers fleeing conditions comparable to those in El Salvador."

El Salvadorans are excluded from the agreement, according to the draft.

McAleenan, who called the agreement "a big step forward," and Hill Tinoco discussed U.S. assistance in making El Salvador a safer and more prosperous place for its citizens. Hill Tinoco talked about ending gang violence.

"I mean, those individuals threaten people, those individuals kill people, those individuals request for the poorest and most vulnerable population to pay just to cross the street," she said, adding that her country needs more investment from the U.S. and other nations.

The agreement, first reported by The Associated Press, could lead to migrants from third countries

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obtaining refuge in El Salvador if they pass through that country on their way to the U.S., Hill Tinoco said in an interview with the AP.

But she said most migrants who travel north don't pass through El Salvador, which is on the western edge of Central America and is much smaller geographically than its neighbor to the east, Honduras.

She told The AP the details would need to be hammered out, including border security, asylum procedures and potential aid from the U.S. She said the agreement is a starting point, and they expected negotiations on possible aid to continue.

"It has to be a real partnership," she said, which means the U.S. would have to give something.

The country's new president, Nayib Bukele, has made clear he wishes to be an ally to the U.S., Hill Tinoco said.

"It is a complete 180 in terms of foreign policy," she said.

McAleenan said the agreement advanced El Salvador's commitment to developing an asylum framework, with help from the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

"This will build on the good work we have accomplished already with El Salvador's neighbor, Guatemala, in building protection capacity to try to further our efforts to provide opportunities to seek protection for political, racial, religious or social group persecution as close as possible to the origin of individuals that need it," he said.

Guatemala officials are still working on how to implement a "safe third country" agreement with the U.S. signed earlier this summer.

The arrangement with El Salvador was not described as a safe third country agreement, under which nations agree that their respective countries are safe enough and have robust enough asylum systems, so that if migrants transit through one of the countries they must remain there instead of moving on to another country.

The U.S. officially has only one such agreement in place, with Canada.

The Trump administration this year threatened to withhold all federal assistance to El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras unless they did more to end the migrant crisis.

The move was met by stiff resistance in Congress as experts had said the cuts would likely only exacerbate the number of migrants seeking to make the hazardous journey to the U.S. because of a further lack of resources.

On Thursday, the U.S. announced a plan to promote economic development in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador — as long as fewer migrants end up at the U.S. border.

Mauricio Claver-Clarone, national security adviser in charge of Latin America, said U.S. investment would occur soon but it was contingent on a continued reduction in the number of migrants. He didn't specify how much Washington plans to give to promote economic growth in those countries.

In June, the State Department announced that the Trump administration was reversing some of the cuts but would not approve future aid to those nations. The State Department said then that some \$370 million from the 2018 budget will not be spent and instead will be moved to other projects.

El Salvador is plagued by gangs and is among the world's deadliest countries, with one of the highest homicide rates on the globe.

According to a 2018 State Department report, human rights issues included allegations of "unlawful killings of suspected gang members and others by security forces; forced disappearances by military personnel; torture by security forces; harsh and life-threatening prison conditions; arbitrary arrest and detention; lack of government respect for judicial independence."

Associated Press writers Elliot Spagat in San Diego, and Michael Balsamo, Luis Alonzo Lugo and Zeke Miller in Washington contributed to this report.

Walmart to quit selling e-cigarettes amid vaping backlash

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Walmart is getting out of the vaping business.

The nation's largest retailer said Friday that it will stop selling electronic cigarettes at its namesake stores and Sam's Clubs in the U.S. when it sells out its current inventory.

The nation's largest retailer said the move is due to "growing federal, state and local regulatory complexity" regarding vaping products. It also comes after several hundred people have mysteriously fallen ill after vaping, and eight have died.

Walmart's decision is the latest blow to the vaping industry, which has tried to position its products as healthier alternatives to smoking cigarettes, which are responsible for 480,000 deaths a year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

But the industry has come under increased scrutiny after the deaths and illnesses — along with a surge in underage vaping.

President Donald Trump has proposed a federal ban on flavored e-cigarettes and vaping products. Michigan banned the sale of flavored e-cigarettes this week. In June, San Francisco became the first major U.S. city to ban the sale of electronic cigarettes.

The bulk of e-cigarettes are sold through vape shops, which number about 115,000 nationwide, with additional outlets including drug stores, grocery stores and tobacco outlets, industry experts say.

E-cigarettes represent a very small part of Walmart's nicotine business, which also includes traditional cigarettes, smokeless tobacco and nicotine gum, so the impact on the retailer will be small.

But, it will be difficult for vaping companies to replace that access to shoppers given Walmart's size, said Greg Portell, global lead partner in the consumer and retail practice of A.T. Kearney, a strategy and management consulting firm. Walmart operates more than 5,000 stores under its namesake and Sam's Club in the U.S.

"Walmart's size and scale makes their decisions about what products to carry meaningful for the impacted products," Portell said. "Vaping companies will be especially challenged given the lack of direct consumer access."

The Vapor Technology Association, a trade group, was quick to slam Walmart's move against vaping products while keeping cigarettes on its shelves.

"The fact that Walmart is reducing access for adult smokers to regulated vapor products while continuing to sell combustible cigarettes is irresponsible," Tony Abboud, executive director of the association, said in a statement. "This will drive former adult smokers to purchase more cigarettes."

More than 500 people have been diagnosed with breathing illnesses after using e-cigarettes and other vaping devices, according to U.S. health officials. An eighth death was reported this week. But health officials still have not identified the cause.

In July, Walmart, which is based in Bentonville, Arkansas, raised the minimum age to purchase tobacco products, including all e-cigarettes, to 21. It also said then that it was in the process of discontinuing the sale of fruit- and dessert-flavored electronic nicotine delivery systems.

The moves come as Walmart is trying to become a better corporate citizen. It has adopted measures to become more environmentally friendly. It thrust itself in the country's gun control debate after a mass shooting at one of its stores killed 22 customers in August. Earlier this month it decided to discontinue sales of certain gun ammunition and requested customers no longer openly carry firearms in its stores, even where state laws allow it.

"Increasingly, consumer companies are blurring the line between business and social decisions," Portell added. "As the risks associated with new categories like vaping become more well known, we would expect retailers to make decisions on what role they want to play in those risks."

Target says it doesn't sell electronic cigarettes. CVS Health got out of the cigarette business five years ago, and says it doesn't sell any vaping devices.

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Fresh US-China trade worries erase early gains for stocks

By ALEX VEIGA AP Business Writer

Wall Street closed out a volatile week with losses Friday as investors worried that upcoming trade talks aimed at resolving the costly trade war between Washington and Beijing could be in trouble.

The selling, which erased modest early gains for the market, snapped a three-week win streak for the S&P 500. The benchmark index is still up 2.2% for September.

The afternoon market slide came as investors reacted to published reports indicating Chinese officials canceled a planned trip to farms in Montana and Nebraska and would be returning to China. Representatives from the U.S. and China were engaging in preliminary discussions over the next two weeks to lay the groundwork for more formal negotiations next month.

The reports about the Chinese delegation came after President Donald Trump told reporters during a midday news conference that he wants a complete deal with China and won't accept one that only addresses some of the differences between the two nations. Trump also said he doesn't feel he needs to secure an agreement before next year's election.

"This is why China has been reluctant to continue to negotiate with the Trump administration, because as soon as it looks like we're moving toward some sort of constructive talks, there is a change in direction and it seems like a lot of head fakes," said Ben Phillips, chief investment officer at EventShares.

Markets rallied this month after the U.S. and China took steps to ease tensions in advance of their next round of talks. That had fueled speculation among investors that the two countries may at least reach an interim deal on trade.

The S&P 500 fell 14.72 points, or 0.5%, to 2,992.07. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 159.72 points, or 0.6%, to 26,935.07. The index had been up about 100 points then swung as low as 168 points.

The Nasdaq lost 65.20 points, or 0.8%, to 8,117.67, weighed down by declining technology sector stocks. The Russell 2000 index of smaller company stocks slid 1.71 points, or 0.1%, to 1,559.76.

Major European indexes closed mostly lower.

Even with Friday's selling, the S&P 500 remains relatively close to its all-time high. The benchmark index held steady this week despite volatility caused by a swing in oil prices and the Federal Reserve's latest interest rate cut.

On Monday, oil prices spiked more than 14% after a key Saudi Arabian oil processing facility was attacked. Oil prices retreated after the Saudi government said production could be restored by the end of the month, although they're still up nearly 6% for the week.

The Federal Reserve cut interest rates for the second time this year as it tries to shore up economic growth amid a lingering trade war between the U.S. and China and weak economic growth overseas. The central bank left open the possibility of additional rate cuts if the economy weakens.

The U.S. and China have slapped import taxes on hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of each other's products in a tariff war that has weighed on global trade and economic growth and created uncertainty for businesses deciding where to situate factories, find suppliers and sell their products.

The two countries appeared to be nearing a deal in early May, but talks stalled after the U.S. accused China of reneging on earlier commitments.

"The market is at a pretty fragile point right now," Phillips said. It's at all-time highs and there are risks, it seems like, building everywhere globally, with trade being the biggest one."

Technology stocks accounted for the biggest share of the market's losses. The sector is particularly sensitive to swings on the trade conflict because many companies manufacture products in China. Apple slid 1.5% and Microsoft dropped 1.2%.

Retailers and other companies that benefit from consumer spending also declined broadly. Amazon fell 1.5% and Starbucks dropped 1.6%.

Financial stocks veered lower as bond yields declined. The yield on the 10-year Treasury fell to 1.72% from 1.77% late Thursday. Bond yields, which can affect interest rates on mortgages and other consumer loans, slid steadily all week. Bank of America and American Express each fell 0.8%.

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Netflix led communications services companies lower, sliding 5.5%. In an interview with Variety published Friday, Netflix CEO Reed Hastings acknowledged that the company faces tough competition from Disney, Apple and other companies rolling out streaming services in November. Netflix shares are down nearly 26% this quarter.

Shares in health care companies and utilities stocks rose. Johnson & Johnson added 1.2% and Exelon gained 1.4%.

Semiconductor maker Xilinx tumbled 6.8% as its chief financial officer, Lorenzo Flores, leaves the company for Toshiba Memory Holdings, where he will be vice chairman. Flores will stay at Xilinx through its second quarter financial report.

Benchmark crude oil fell 4 cents to settle at \$58.09 a barrel. Brent crude oil, the international standard, dropped 12 cents to close at \$64.28 a barrel.

Wholesale gasoline fell 2 cents to \$1.68 per gallon. Heating oil declined 1 cent to \$1.99 per gallon. Natural gas fell 1 cent to \$2.53 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Gold rose \$8.90 to \$1,507.30 per ounce, silver fell 3 cents to \$17.74 per ounce and copper was unchanged at \$2.59 per pound.

The dollar fell to 107.67 Japanese yen from 107.97 yen on Thursday. The euro weakened to \$1.1015 from \$1.1052.

AP Business Writer Damian J. Troise contributed.

A look at controversy over intelligence whistleblower law

By MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The rancorous standoff between Congress and the Trump administration over a whistleblower's complaint hinges on a 20-year-old law designed to protect those in the intelligence community who want to raise concerns about things they've seen or heard.

The acting director of national intelligence, Joseph Maguire, won't turn a whistleblower's complaint over to Congress, and Rep. Adam Schiff, chairman of the House intelligence committee, says that's violating the law. The agency's inspector general, Michael Atkinson, notified Congress that the complaint existed but says he and Maguire have reached an "impasse" over whether to turn it over.

House Democrats say they believe the complaint involves President Donald Trump, and suggest Maguire may be withholding it to protect the president. Reports say the allegations appear to center on Ukraine and a private conversation with a foreign leader. Atkinson has said the complaint is credible and an "urgent concern."

A look at the law and the controversy surrounding it:

WHAT IS THE LAW?

The Intelligence Community Whistleblower Protection Act of 1998 was designed to protect people who want to report wrongdoing. It empowers a person in the intelligence community "who intends to report to Congress a complaint or information with respect to an urgent concern" to go to an inspector general with the complaint.

The inspector general is required to report "credible" complaints to the head of their agency — in this case, Maguire, the director of national intelligence — within 14 days. The agency head is then, in turn, required to submit the complaint to Congress within a week.

"The whole point of the whistleblower statute is not only to encourage those to report problems, abuses, violations of laws, but also to have a legal mechanism to do so and not to disclose classified information, because there is no other remedy," Schiff said on Thursday after his panel received a briefing from Atkinson.

WHAT HAPPENED IN THIS CASE?

On Aug. 12, Atkinson received a complaint that he determined to be both credible and an "urgent con-

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cern." Two weeks later he forwarded it to Maguire, as the law required. Maguire's office took the unusual move of consulting the Department of Justice on the matter, and then determined it was not an "urgent concern" because it related to someone outside of the intelligence community and did not fall within "the responsibility and authority" of the director of national intelligence.

Atkinson then wrote the House and Senate intelligence committees on Sept. 9 to inform them of the situation — igniting a furor among House Democrats who suspected that the complaint might have something to do with Trump.

The inspector general told Schiff in a letter that he disagreed that the complaint was not an urgent concern. He said it not only falls under DNI's jurisdiction, "but relates to one of the most significant and important of DNI's responsibilities to the American people."

Atkinson briefed members of the House committee on Thursday, but did not give them details about the substance of the complaint.

Schiff subpoenaed Maguire for the complaint on Sept. 13. Maguire still hasn't provided it, but agreed to testify in public on Sept. 26.

WHY DO DEMOCRATS THINK THIS INVOLVES THE PRESIDENT?

Democrats noted two things about letters they received from a counsel to Maguire — that the Justice Department had been consulted, a highly unusual move, and that the information "involves confidential and potentially privileged communications by persons outside the intelligence community."

The word "privileged" seems to point to the president, who has the power to claim executive privilege over certain matters to protect the confidentiality of Oval Office decision making.

Reports then emerged — first in The Washington Post — that the complaint was related to a conversation between Trump and a foreign leader. Some of the whistleblower's allegations appear to center on Ukraine.

Democrats were already looking into whether Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani traveled to Ukraine to pressure the government to aid the president's reelection effort by investigating the activities of potential rival Joe Biden's son Hunter, who worked for a Ukrainian gas company.

Trump said Friday the complaint was "just another political hack job" and insisted any phone call he made with a head of state was "perfectly fine and respectful."

IS THIS UNUSUAL?

Democrats say they are in uncharted waters as they battle an administration that has constantly challenged institutional norms.

Atkinson said in his Sept. 9 letter to Schiff that in the past, intelligence directors have allowed such complaints to be forwarded to Congress even when they weren't determined to be an urgent concern.

"That past practice permitted complainants in the intelligence community to contact the congressional intelligence committees directly, in an authorized and protected manner," he wrote.

WHAT'S NEXT?

In addition to his House hearing, Maguire will also talk to the Senate intelligence committee next week, though the details of that session are unclear. It will likely be closed to the public.

Atkinson will also talk to the Senate panel, which is led by Republican Richard Burr of North Carolina.

Schiff has threatened to sue the administration over the complaint. He said Friday that the matter "deserves a thorough investigation" and that "come hell or high water, that's what we're going to do."

Associated Press writers Michael Balsamo, Lisa Mascaró and Alan Fram contributed to this report.

Trudeau's support holds after apology for wearing brownface

By ROB GILLIES and DAVID CRARY Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau acknowledged Friday that he let down his supporters — and all Canadians of color — by appearing years ago in brownface and blackface. Yet the scandal's fallout may be limited in a country without the harsh and still-divisive racial history of the neighboring United States.

"I hurt people who in many cases consider me an ally," Trudeau told a news conference. "I let a lot of people down."

Trudeau, 47, is seeking a second term as prime minister in an Oct. 21 election. His leading opponent, Andrew Scheer of the Conservative Party, has assailed him as "not fit to govern" because of the revelations. But key figures in the prime minister's Liberal Party have stuck by him, including Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland, who would be a favorite to replace Trudeau as Liberal leader if he lost the election.

Many minority Canadians, increasingly active in politics and government, seem ready to forgive Trudeau. "As I have gotten to know Justin, I know these photos do not represent the person he is now, and I know how much he regrets it," Defense Minister Harjit Sajjan, a Sikh, said on Twitter.

Nelson Wiseman, a political science professor at the University of Toronto, predicted Trudeau would easily weather the scandal.

"Indeed, I think he is drawing some sympathy," Wiseman said. "This affair is a media bombshell that is bombing with the public ... The international media love this story because it goes against type."

Wiseman also disputed the assertion that Trudeau is a hypocrite when it comes to race and diversity, noting that his cabinet is the most diverse in Canadian history in terms of gender and ethnic background.

Trudeau's brownface controversy has drawn some comparisons with developments earlier this year in the U.S., where Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam withstood intense pressure to resign after a racist picture surfaced from his 1984 medical school yearbook.

Quentin Kidd, a political science professor at Virginia's Christopher Newport University, said the revelations were "a shock and disappointment" to supporters of both Trudeau and Northam, whom they viewed as compassionate politicians.

However, Kidd sees big differences in how the two politicians handled the situation.

"Trudeau has expressed genuine contrition and willingness to accept what he did as racist," Kidd said. "We haven't seen that from Ralph Northam."

Kidd also cited the divergent racial histories of the two countries.

"Canada has its issues dealing with racial inequities, but nothing like the American South. There's no legacy of slavery, of Jim Crow or huge gaps in wealth and poverty," he said. "Northam has to carry the baggage of that history, whereas Trudeau doesn't have to carry similar baggage."

According to recent census figures, Canada's population is about 73% white, compared with 77% in the U.S. Many of the nonwhites in Canada are from Asia. Only about 3.5 percent of the population is black.

In Trudeau's multiethnic parliamentary district in Montreal, some residents questioned about the scandal offered a collective shrug.

"It was no big deal, it was a long time ago," said Zahid Nassar, an immigrant from Pakistan. "When we're young, we all do stupid things."

Nassar said he voted for Trudeau in 2015 and will likely do the same next month. If he does not, he said, it will be because he's worried about safety in his neighborhood.

The brownface controversy surfaced Wednesday when Time magazine published a photo from a yearbook from the West Point Grey Academy, a private school in British Columbia where Trudeau worked as a teacher. It shows the then-29-year-old Trudeau at an "Arabian Nights" party in 2001 wearing a turban and robe with dark makeup on his hands, face and neck. Trudeau said he was dressed as a character from "Aladdin."

Trudeau said he also once darkened his face for a performance of a Harry Belafonte song during a talent show when he was in high school. In a third incident, a brief video surfaced of Trudeau in blackface. He

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said it was taken on a costume day while he was working as guide for a river rafting company.

"I have been forthright about the incidents that I remembered," he said Friday. "I did not realize at the time how much this hurt minority Canadians, racialized Canadians."

Sunny Khurana, who was photographed with Trudeau for the 2001 yearbook, said no one had a problem with Trudeau's get-up at the event.

"It was a costume party, Arabian nights, Aladdin," said Khurana, a Sikh Indian who had two children at the school at the time. "That's it. People dress up. It was a party. It was never meant to put down anybody."

In Washington, U.S. President Donald Trump was asked by a reporter about the Trudeau controversy.

"I was hoping I wouldn't be asked that question," Trump replied. "I'm surprised. And I was more surprised when I saw the number of times."

Trudeau later asked if his standing internationally is damaged.

"My focus is Canadians who face discrimination every day," he replied. "I'm going to work very hard to demonstrate as an individual and as a leader I will continue to stand against intolerance and racism."

Trudeau said he would call the leader of the opposition New Democrat party, Jagmeet Singh, and apologize for wearing brownface. Singh is also a Sikh.

As for Trudeau's main election rival, his denunciation of the prime minister was undercut by comments he made shortly before the brownface photo surfaced. Scheer said he would stand by other Conservative candidates who had made racist or anti-gay comments in the past, as long as they apologized and took responsibility for those remarks.

"I accept the fact that people make mistakes in the past and can own up to that and accept that," Scheer said. "I believe many Canadians, most Canadians, recognize that people can say things in the past, when they're younger, at a different time in their life, that they would not say today."

Crary reported from New York.

23 states sue Trump to keep California's auto emission rules

By ADAM BEAM Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — California sued Friday to stop the Trump administration from revoking its authority to set greenhouse gas emission and fuel economy standards for cars and trucks, enlisting help from 22 other states in a battle that will shape a key component of the nation's climate policy.

Federal law sets standards for how much pollution can come from cars and trucks. But since the 1970s, California has been permitted to set tougher rules because it has the most cars and struggles to meet air quality standards. On Thursday, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration withdrew California's waiver.

The NHTSA action does not take effect for 60 days, but state leaders did not wait to file a lawsuit. Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom, who has clashed with President Donald Trump on several fronts, vowed the state "will hold the line in court to defend our children's health, save consumers money at the pump and protect our environment."

The Trump administration's decision does not just affect California. Thirteen other states, plus the District of Columbia, have adopted California's standards.

A spokesman for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration declined to comment on the lawsuit. But Thursday, Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao said the rules "were making cars more expensive and impeding safety because consumers were being priced out of newer, safer vehicles."

"We will not let political agendas in a single state be forced upon the other 49," Chao said.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said its authority to set nationwide fuel economy standards pre-empts state and local programs.

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra cited a 2007 U.S. Supreme Court decision that rejected the NHTSA's argument that greenhouse gas emission standards under the Clean Air Act interfered with its ability to set fuel economy standards.

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"The Oval Office is really not a place for on-the-job training. President Trump should have at least read the instruction manual he inherited when he assumed the Presidency, in particular the chapter on respecting the Rule of Law," Becerra said in a statement.

Federal regulators said the regulation would not impact California's programs to address "harmful smog-forming vehicle emissions."

Joining California in the lawsuit are attorneys general from Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin. The cities of New York and Los Angeles and the District of Columbia also joined the lawsuit.

The lawsuit highlighted a day of climate-related action by California leaders, which included an executive order from Newsom directing state transportation officials to consider climate goals in their planning and direct money where possible to programs that will reduce reliance on cars.

Newsom's order, issued Friday morning, also calls on pension funds for state employees and teachers to consider climate risk when making its investments. The pension fund already considers climate risk and the University of California has said it will divest its endowment and pension funds from fossil fuels.

Alex Jackson of the National Resources Defense Council called the order welcome but said he'd like to see more action instead of goal-setting.

Associated Press reporter Michael Biesecker contributed reporting from Washington.

Warren's momentum spurs new attacks from 2020 rivals

By **BILL BARROW** Associated Press

Elizabeth Warren has enjoyed a heady summer of massive crowds and endless selfie lines as she steadily climbs in Democratic presidential primary polls. With the apparent success comes a new reality: She's now a prime target for rivals and their supporters.

Some of the offensives are direct, with Pete Buttigieg hammering her this week as "evasive" on what a single-payer government health insurance system would mean for middle-class tax bills. Some Bernie Sanders supporters lashed out when the Working Families Party endorsed Warren over Sanders. Others are more circumspect, with Joe Biden's campaign beginning to question Warren's corporate legal work decades ago, suggesting it's at odds with her brand as a progressive champion for middle-class Americans.

Together, it's a new dynamic that at once affirms Warren's strength and promises to test whether she can dispatch fellow progressive Bernie Sanders and ultimately challenge the more moderate Biden, who has maintained front-runner status since the spring. At least in the short term, it could shift some heat off of Biden, who as the consistent polling leader has drawn more frequent attacks and media scrutiny than the Massachusetts senator, but has thus far weathered the hits.

For her part, Warren insists she won't go hard after her opponents, at least not yet, and her campaign has declined comment on the emerging onslaught. Some of her supporters, meanwhile, are leaning into the latest turn.

"Ironically, I think most attacks make her stronger, because they send a signal to Democratic voters that she's a threat and can win," said Adam Green, co-founder of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee and top Warren supporter. "That's a far cry from January."

Mayor Pete Buttigieg, who along with Kamala Harris is trying to join a top tier that now consists of Warren, Sanders and Biden, launched the most direct attacks this week, casting her as less-than-honest about how she'd pay for the "Medicare for All" insurance overhaul. Buttigieg, like Biden, backs adding a government insurance plan to existing insurance markets without eliminating private insurance.

Buttigieg told CNN that Warren has been "extremely evasive" when asked about middle-class taxes that Sanders, the lead "Medicare for All" advocate, has said would have to go up. Warren emphasizes that many if not most middle-class households would see their overall spending on health care go down, because they'd no longer have private premiums, deductibles and co-pays. But she avoids confirming that

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taxes would rise.

"Look, people are used to Washington politicians not giving straight answers to simple questions," Buttigieg said in a remark striking at Warren's effort to frame herself as an outsider and reformer.

Buttigieg's argument partially echoes a months-old Biden tactic. "At least Bernie is being honest," Biden would often say. He got more direct Friday in Iowa. "Tell Elizabeth ... she's gonna raise people's taxes," he said at a campaign stop in Cedar Rapids. "What we are gonna do" if we end up in a recession, he added.

Harris hasn't yet taken on Warren, but in a conference call with reporters this week, a top Harris aide took veiled swipes at the progressives. "I think there are far more ideological, strict ideological candidates who I believe will contribute to the partisan rancor," Lily Adams said.

One of Biden's top supporters, meanwhile, has abandoned all subtlety.

"I like Elizabeth Warren. I like her a lot. Too bad she's a hypocrite," Ed Rendell wrote in a Washington Post op-ed this month. He chided the senator for touting her refusal to hold traditional large-donor fundraisers when she's previously taken big donor money — most recently ahead of the 2018 midterms — and used her Senate campaign account to seed her presidential run.

It's an argument related to one Biden and his aides make more quietly: that Warren is glossing over her time as a Republican who did legal work for the kinds of large corporations she now blasts.

Biden has yet to make that case explicitly, perhaps aware of his own cozy history with credit-card companies in his home state of Delaware and Warren's previous criticism of it. But his aides noted ahead of the Sept. 12 Houston debate that he's released at least two decades of his tax returns, more than Warren, and they suggested she doesn't want scrutiny on her sources of income in the years before she established herself as a consumer champion. At a Houston fundraiser the day after debate, Biden quipped that some of his opponents used to be Republicans.

Green said he welcomes Biden to make those claims openly.

"Elizabeth Warren's willingness to challenge corporate power is unquestioned," Green said. "He'd only help her emphasize her record."

Whatever the case, the shifting spotlight could help Biden in the short run.

Since he entered the race in April, Biden, 76, has had to defend his long public record, deflect a stream of broadsides during debates and, in part because of his own verbal missteps, navigate questions about whether he's still up for the job — concerns the 70-year-old Warren hasn't faced.

Biden's aides say candidates are ratcheting up their shots at Warren because previous attempts to derail Biden haven't yet worked. "I think candidates have seen ... that attacking Joe Biden is not the way to advance yourself," said Kate Bedingfield, a top Biden campaign official, after the Houston debate.

Indeed, over the first three debates, Harris, Bill de Blasio, Eric Swallwell and Julian Castro blistered Biden on everything from his record on school desegregation and immigration to his fitness for office. Swallwell and de Blasio have since dropped out. Castro is mired near the bottom of the polls. Harris is struggling to establish herself as a top tier candidate.

Now, if nothing else, candidates like Buttigieg who focus attention on Warren aren't spending energy on Biden.

Associated Press reporters Thomas Beaumont in Des Moines, Iowa, Alexandra Jaffe in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Juana Summers in Washington contributed.

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It's no joke: women rule the Emmy comedy series category

By LYNN ELBER AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — When the winner of the best comedy series Emmy Award is announced Sunday, odds are good that a woman will be giving the acceptance speech.

An unprecedented number of the seven nominated comedies are from female creators: defending cham-

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pion "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel," "Fleabag" and "Russian Doll." Count in "Veep," with Julia Louis-Dreyfus both its star and an executive producer, and women are ruling the comedy party.

There have been other peaks for female-led shows, most notably in the mid-1980s and '90s when hit-makers included Susan Harris ("The Golden Girls"), Diane English ("Murphy Brown") and Linda Bloodworth-Thomason ("Designing Women"). Roseanne Barr ("Roseanne") and Marta Kauffman ("Friends") were a critical part of the comedies they co-created with men.

The notion that men are the funny sex is a stubborn one. Christopher Hitchens, the late writer and intellectual provocateur, devoted a 2007 Vanity Fair essay, "Why Women Aren't Funny," to the topic. Then a media growth spurt forced an attitude adjustment, at least by the entertainment industry.

The addition of streaming services to cable and broadcasting generated a "desperate need for content," said Amy Sherman-Palladino, who created Amazon's "Mrs. Maisel" and produces it with husband Daniel Palladino. "Whether or not they wanted to keep it a boys' club or not, it makes it impossible."

That's especially true given the worldwide reach of streaming services and cable channels, she said.

"You need different people to tell those stories, because suddenly, you're not just pitching to one demographic. If you want to go global, you gotta go global," Sherman-Palladino said. "And I don't know if you've noticed, but there's a lot of women in the world."

Leslye Headland, co-creator of Netflix's "Russian Doll" with its star, Natasha Lyonne, and Amy Poehler, said creative opportunities for women are both expanding and improving.

"It's a completely different world than when I was pitching" a network pilot just a few years ago, Headland said, with the expectation the main female character would be appealing and not overly complex. "Now it feels like you're going into projects thinking, 'How much more challenging and exciting can we make this?'"

The Emmy-nominated comedies are an indication of progress for women, not outliers. Women are getting more behind-the-camera TV work on comedies than dramas, according to new research from the Center for the Study of Women in Television and Film at San Diego State University. Women represented 32 percent of the creators of comedy shows on broadcast, cable, and streaming platforms in 2018-19, compared to 22 percent for dramas, the study found, while 42 percent of comedy producers were female vs. 38 percent for dramas.

"These numbers are interesting within the larger context of women and the history of comedy," said professor Martha M. Lauzen, the center's executive director, citing skeptics Hitchens and the late Jerry Lewis, who in 2000 declared that a woman doing comedy "sets me back a bit. ... I think of her as a producing machine that brings babies in the world." Tina Fey offered several retorts in her 2011 memoir "Bossypants," Lauzen said, including: "It is an impressively arrogant move to conclude that just because you don't like something, it is empirically not good."

And this stinger from the book: "We don't (expletive) care if you like it."

Fey, who created and produced of "30 Rock," and fellow "Saturday Night Live" alum Poehler are among the 21st century trailblazers. Fey also co-created (with Robert Carlock) and produced "The Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt," one of 2018's trio of Emmy-nominated comedies from women that included "Mrs. Maisel" and "GLOW," created by Liz Flahive and Carly Mensch.

Women were more than ready for their close-up when the marketplace relented, said Rachel Bloom, star and co-creator (with Aline Brosh McKenna) of CW's musical comedy "Crazy Ex-Girlfriend" and a winner at last weekend's creative arts Emmys as co-writer of the song "Anti-Depressants Are So Not a Big Deal."

The main Emmy ceremony, which includes the top comedy and drama series awards, airs 8 p.m. EDT Sunday on Fox.

"The question of whether or not women are funny, whether or not women can do stuff — women have been doing stuff in alternate comedy venues, live comedy venues, theater, for years," Bloom said. But when they tried to pitch a project, "no one gave a (expletive)."

Bloom's popular online videos led to her partnership with Brosh McKenna on "Crazy Ex-Girlfriend." "Fleabag" creator and star Phoebe Waller-Bridge originated her dark comedy about a troubled soul on the British stage. Headland also is a playwright.

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The question is whether the door remains open, or opens wider to include more women of color in the largely white-dominated comedy field (with Issa Rae's "Insecure" and Robin Thede's new "A Black Lady Sketch Show" among the rare exceptions).

"I feel like our show, sadly, wouldn't have been made a handful of years ago," said Anna Konkle, co-creator of "PEN15," a coming-of-age comedy about two middle-school girls. "We started writing it seven years ago, and it took probably five years to get made. So, I think it's a moment that I hope lasts forever, and keeps growing."

Emmys: <http://www.emmys.com>

AP Entertainment Writer Mike Cidoni Lennox contributed to this report.

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Auto union strike is latest worry in Flint, GM's birthplace

By JEFF KAROUB and MIKE HOUSEHOLDER Associated Press

FLINT, Mich. (AP) — The birthplace of General Motors has been on an economic roller-coaster ride for more than a century as the automaker rose, crashed and retooled for changing markets. Now, the city of Flint is again steeling for economic impact amid a nationwide United Auto Workers' strike against the automaker.

Workers seeking job security and a bigger share of GM's profits have been surrounding the company's massive complex in Flint for days, marching and toting signs and U.S. flags at entrances.

"Vehicle City" — and many of the workers — have been here before.

James Schneider, who operates a laser-guided forklift truck at the GM plant, participated in a 54-day strike at a Flint plant in 1998 that forced a companywide shutdown. "Our motto then was: 'One day longer.' And that's what we're going to be. We're going to hold out one day longer," said Schneider, 43.

He described his hometown as "rough-and-tumble" and "a hard city."

"It's kind of left over from when we had a lot of GM plants here and you had to be tough or you got walked over," he said.

There is resolution but also apprehension in Flint, where an estimated 45% of the city's 100,000 residents live below the poverty line, according to 2016 census data.

Mayor Karen Weaver says she supports the striking workers, but she also doesn't want to see a long walkout.

"I don't know what this is going to mean for Flint ... but it needs to get resolved quickly," Weaver said.

She said she worries about the workers' livelihoods, as well as a tentative economic recovery that's included the arrival of an auto supplier plant on part of the site that once held GM's massive Buick City assembly center. The city is also hoping for another factory on a piece of the 390-acre plot on the city's north side.

"So we were looking ... for an expanded relationship and for things (with GM) to continue, and the strike happened," she said. "Because we have made that kind of progress it is a chance for us to focus on other things. That's what was starting to happen."

GM employs roughly 10,000 people in Flint and surrounding Genesee County, the majority of which are at truck, engine and metal plants clustered on the city's southwest side. That's actually up by a few thousand workers since the early 2000s, as more jobs have been added and investments made to the profitable truck-making business.

Still, it's a far cry from the manufacturing heyday of the 1950s and '60s, when GM boasted a workforce in Flint of upwards of 85,000. In later decades, jobs moved south or overseas, or just dried up. GM's dramatic job cuts and plant closings in Flint were chronicled in filmmaker and Flint-area native Michael Moore's 1989 film, "Roger and Me," a takedown of the company and its then-CEO, Roger Smith.

Residents suffered another kind of blow in 2014 and 2015, when lead from old pipes leached into drink-

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ing water due to a lack of corrosion-control treatment following a change in the water source when the financially strapped city was under state emergency management. The switch also has been linked to a deadly Legionnaires' disease outbreak.

Water quality has improved, and officials expect a citywide effort to replace the aging pipes to be finished this year.

For the mayor, it was a sign of progress when GM last year resumed using the Flint-supplied water.

Weaver says when she asks residents "what recovery looks like," the reply is simple: "Jobs."

A strike lasting a couple of weeks or less shouldn't deliver a major economic blow to the area or state, said Chris Douglas, an associate professor of economics at University of Michigan-Flint. But a longer walkout would curb needed tax revenue — the state has fewer jobs now than in 2000 — and hobble GM, which never regained market share from the shutdown two decades ago, he says.

"Everyone is weaker now, compared to 1998 — the company, the city and even the statewide economy," he said.

Joe Duplanty Jr., 56, works on the assembly line making diesel engines. Duplanty, whose father was the president of a Flint UAW local decades ago, knows the history of GM and Flint — including how tough it can be on the city when the automaker scales back operations.

"When plants start leaving, the city's going to suffer," he said.

Karoub reported from Detroit.

On Twitter, follow Jeff Karoub at <https://twitter.com/jeffkaroub> and Mike Householder at <https://twitter.com/mikehouseholder>

Why you don't need a 5G phone just yet

By ANICK JESDANUN AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — No 5G iPhone? No problem. You probably don't want one anyway.

For most people, it's smart to stick with a smartphone that isn't compatible with speedier 5G wireless networks, which are just starting to roll out. That's the case even if you think you'll be hanging on to your next phone for a few years.

Not only are the first-generation 5G phones expensive, their antennas and modems typically work only with particular 5G networks owned by specific mobile carriers. That could limit your options if you're trying to get the faster speeds while roaming overseas or on a rival company's network — or if you decide to switch providers later.

Experts say second-generation phones in the coming year will address those and other shortcomings. The research firm IDC, calling 2019 "an introductory year at best," expects 5G phones to make up 9% of worldwide shipments next year and 28% in 2023.

THE TARGET MARKET

Samsung, Motorola, LG and OnePlus already make 5G phones that use Google's Android system. Huawei announced one Thursday, though it's missing popular Google apps because of a U.S. ban on tech exports to the Chinese company.

Although 5G phones are a niche product, IHS Markit said phone makers haven't been able to keep up with surprisingly strong demand, especially in South Korea.

Samsung said it has sold 2 million 5G phones worldwide since April and expects to double that by the end of the year. Motorola said it has seen "tremendous engagement and excitement" from customers.

But Motorola said such first-generation products primarily suit early adopters who need to be first on the block.

New iPhones out Friday won't support 5G. Apple typically waits for technology to mature before adopting it.

THE PRICE OF 5G

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The speedy wireless technology can add a few hundred dollars to phone price tags. For instance, Samsung's standard Galaxy S10 phone costs \$900; the 5G model costs \$1,300, though Samsung said it also showcases the company's best features, including a larger screen and a better camera. For Motorola, 5G comes as a \$350 option for the existing Moto Z series phones.

"This territory is reserved for the leading-edge type of consumer, those willing to sacrifice a bit more money up front to be first," said Wayne Lam, an analyst at IHS Markit. "Longer term is where the smart money is."

The price gap is expected to narrow and eventually disappear as 5G becomes a standard feature, Geoff Blaber of CCS Insight said.

NETWORK LIMITATIONS

Even as phone companies make big claims about revolutionary new applications, 5G coverage is limited to certain neighborhoods in a handful of cities. While 5G phones can still connect over existing 4G LTE networks, "are you willing to spend extra for something you might not see consistently until 2021?" IHS Markit analyst Josh Builtta asks.

5G is actually a set of wireless technologies using different parts of the airwaves. Each wireless carrier emphasizes a different flavor of 5G, and each one is selling 5G phones designed specifically for its network.

Wireless networks have a history of Balkanization, although it tends to sort itself out. Verizon and Sprint have been using a wireless technology called CDMA, while AT&T and T-Mobile use an incompatible version called GSM. Early on, phone makers produced separate CDMA and GSM models. But as technology advanced, they were able to pack all the necessary antennas and components into universal phones.

Similar all-in-one 5G phones should be fairly common by next year, experts say.

In fact, T-Mobile CEO John Legere suggested the company is holding back on 5G network expansions until compatible phones come out later this year. T-Mobile's current 5G phones only work with parts of its planned 5G network. Sprint, which T-Mobile is in the process of acquiring, said first-generation phones are intended to show off 5G benefits to those who live or spend a lot of time in the company's nine 5G markets.

Verizon didn't return messages. AT&T isn't offering 5G to consumers yet, although it has rebranded some existing 4G service as "5G E."

TO WAIT OR NOT TO WAIT

If you can squeeze another year or two out of your current phone, there will be plenty of 5G phones to choose from — including iPhones — by the time you're ready to upgrade.

But it's OK to buy a new, pre-5G phone now if you can't wait. You can always trade that in for a 5G model later. Even if you stick with 4G, experts say you'll still see speed bump there as phone companies install new equipment.

And IDC is expecting deals on 4G phones to clear shelves for upcoming 5G models.

NOT REAL NEWS: A look at what didn't happen this week

By AMANDA SEITZ and BEATRICE DUPUY

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: Democratic presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke is a convicted felon who can't own a gun, and while campaigning for president has said he will send men house-to-house to take away guns.

THE FACTS: O'Rourke has not been convicted of felony crimes, nor has he faced felony charges. He did not call for house-to-house confiscation of guns, but he has said he would act to take assault-type weapons from the general public through a mandatory buyback program. Posts circulating on Facebook and Twitter falsely suggest that O'Rourke wants to enforce a ban on guns because he is a convicted felon and, therefore, cannot legally own a gun. The online assertions were made shortly after the Sept. 12 Democratic presidential debate where, in response to a question about gun control, O'Rourke said, "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

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Americans anymore." The former congressman's hometown of El Paso was the site of a mass shooting in August at a Walmart that left 22 people dead. O'Rourke has talked about owning and using firearms, telling the AP in a March interview that he inherited guns belonging to his great uncle, who taught him how to shoot. O'Rourke has said he has been arrested twice. He faced misdemeanor burglary charges in 1995 for jumping a fence at the University of Texas at El Paso, which were dropped. A 1998 drunk-driving charge was dropped after he completed a court-ordered diversion program.

CLAIM: Photo shows six women wearing T-shirts that say "I'm a racist b---h 2020," with an image of a red, white and blue stiletto heel.

THE FACTS: The photo has been altered. In the original photo, the women are wearing T-shirts that say "I'm a Trump girl 2020," with a stiletto heel image. The manipulated photo was shared widely in posts on Facebook and Twitter last week with captions implying that the women were proud to wear the shirts in support of President Donald Trump. Gerri McDaniel, who is pictured, told the AP the photo was taken at a hotel on July 17 before the women went to a Trump rally in Greenville, North Carolina. McDaniel said she and the other women often wear their Trump girl T-shirts when they attend events in support of the president. She said she and her friends thought it was "disgusting" that the photo was manipulated. "We would never wear a shirt that said anything like that," she said. McDaniel shared the original photo on her Twitter account on July 18 with the caption, "Women for Trump were on the move in Greenville, NC at the Trump Rally. So much support it was hard not to be excited." Trump was criticized after the Greenville rally for intensifying attacks on four new U.S. congresswomen of color. The crowd responded by chanting, "Send her back!"

CLAIM: Video shows a Somali gang violently beating and robbing a man, part of a recent wave of violent attacks in downtown Minneapolis.

THE FACTS: Minneapolis police have "no indication" that suspects charged in the Aug. 3 attack on a man outside of Target Field, which was captured on surveillance video, are Somali, police spokesman John Elder told the AP. Surveillance video of the man being punched, stomped on, kicked and stripped of his clothes by roughly a dozen people in downtown Minneapolis has been shared in social media posts with users wrongly attributing the crime to a Somali immigrant gang. Some of the inaccurate posts also blame Somali gangs for an increase in downtown robberies. Elder said that accusation is also untrue. Police said a total of 18 people have been charged in connection with two violent attacks in downtown Minneapolis, including the one on Aug. 3. In the second case, a man told police that on Aug. 17 he was surrounded by a group who kicked and punched him in an attempt to take his wallet. "There is no indication that any of the suspects were of Somali descent," Elder told the AP. The suspects ranged in age from 15 to 27 years old.

CLAIM: Photo shows CIA Director Gina Haspel, a Trump appointee, giving a thumbs-up sign next to the body of a tortured Iraqi man in Abu Ghraib prison.

THE FACTS: Haspel is not the woman in the photograph. The photo shows former Army Spc. Sabrina Harman smiling and giving a thumbs-up as she poses next to a body at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq. Harman was in several 2003 photographs taken at the prison that depicted abuse of prisoners. The photo with the false caption circulated on social media after President Donald Trump nominated Haspel as CIA director in 2018 and re-emerged on Facebook last week. The photo has been used with articles, including a 2008 story in *The New Yorker*, where Harman was named as the source. The photo is similar to ones the AP obtained of Harman posing next to inmates at Abu Ghraib. In one of those, Harman wears a beanie as she smiles and gives a thumbs-up next to a bleeding detainee. The photos of Harman and other soldiers were leaked in 2004 during President George W. Bush's re-election campaign. They sparked international outcry over human rights abuses faced by the inmates. Harman was convicted in 2005 on several counts of mistreating detainees.

This is part of The Associated Press' ongoing effort to fact-check misinformation that is shared widely

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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.

Find all AP Fact Checks here: <https://apnews.com/APFactCheck>

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Sept. 21, the 264th day of 2019. There are 101 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 21, 1985, in North Korea and South Korea, family members who had been separated for decades were allowed to visit each other as both countries opened their borders in an unprecedented family-reunion program.

On this date:

In 1792, the French National Convention voted to abolish the monarchy.

In 1893, one of America's first horseless carriages was taken for a short test drive in Springfield, Mass., by Frank Duryea, who had designed the vehicle with his brother, Charles.

In 1912, magician Harry Houdini first publicly performed his "Water Torture Cell" trick at the Circus Busch in Berlin.

In 1938, a hurricane struck parts of New York and New England, causing widespread damage and claiming some 700 lives.

In 1970, "NFL Monday Night Football" made its debut on ABC-TV as the Cleveland Browns defeated the visiting New York Jets, 31-21.

In 1981, the Senate unanimously confirmed the nomination of Sandra Day O'Connor to become the first female justice on the Supreme Court.

In 1987, NFL players called a strike, mainly over the issue of free agency. (The 24-day walkout prompted football owners to hire replacement players.)

In 1989, Hurricane Hugo crashed into Charleston, South Carolina (the storm was blamed for 56 deaths in the Caribbean and 29 in the United States). Twenty-one students in Alton, Texas, died when their school bus, hit by a soft-drink delivery truck, careened into a water-filled pit.

In 1996, President Bill Clinton signed the Defense of Marriage Act denying federal recognition of same-sex marriages a day after saying the law should not be used as an excuse for discrimination, violence or intimidation against gays and lesbians. (Although never formally repealed, DoMA was effectively overturned by U.S. Supreme Court decisions in 2013 and 2015.)

In 2001, Congress again opened the federal coffers to those harmed by terrorism, providing \$15 billion to the airline industry, which was suffering mounting economic losses since the Sept. 11 attacks.

In 2008, baseball said farewell to the original Yankee Stadium as the Bronx Bombers defeated the Baltimore Orioles 7-3.

In 2017, Facebook said it would provide congressional investigators with the contents of 3,000 ads that had been bought by a Russian agency; it had already released the ads to federal authorities investigating Russian interference in the U.S. presidential election.

Ten years ago: Record flooding hit the Atlanta area, leaving neighborhoods, schools and even sections of roller coasters submerged in several feet of water. Deposed President Manuel Zelaya (zuh-LY'-uh) of Honduras defied threats of arrest and returned to his country, three months after he was forced into exile. (Zelaya took shelter at the Brazilian Embassy for four months until he was allowed to fly to the Dominican Republic.)

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Five years ago: Thousands of demonstrators filled the streets of Manhattan and cities around the world to urge policy makers to take action on climate change. A SpaceX cargo ship rocketed toward the International Space Station, carrying the first 3-D printer for astronauts in orbit. NASA's Maven spacecraft arrived at Mars after a 442 million-mile journey that began nearly a year earlier. Ending months of vote-related tension, Afghanistan's election commission named Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai (ahsh-RAHF' gah-NEE' ah-mahd-ZEYE') the country's new president.

One year ago: President Donald Trump directly challenged by name the woman accusing his Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of sexual assault, saying that if the attack on Christine Blasey Ford had been as bad as she claimed, then she would have filed charges. Following reports that Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein had discussed secretly recording him, Trump promised further firings to get rid of what he called a "lingering stench" at the Justice Department.

Today's Birthdays: Author-comedian Fannie Flagg is 78. Producer Jerry Bruckheimer is 76. Former Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear is 75. Musician Don Felder is 72. Author Stephen King is 72. Basketball Hall of Famer Artis Gilmore is 70. Actor-comedian Bill Murray is 69. Hall of Fame jockey Eddie Delahoussaye is 68. Former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd is 62. Movie producer-writer Ethan Coen is 62. Actor-comedian Dave Coulier is 60. Actor David James Elliott is 59. Actress Serena Scott-Thomas is 58. Actress Nancy Travis is 58. Actor Rob Morrow is 57. Actor Angus Macfadyen is 56. Retired MLB All-Star Cecil Fielder is 56. Actress Cheryl Hines is 54. Country singer Faith Hill is 52. Rock musician Tyler Stewart (Barenaked Ladies) is 52. Country singer Ronna Reeves is 51. Actress-talk show host Ricki Lake is 51. Rapper Dave (De La Soul) is 51. Actor Billy Porter is 50. Actor Rob Benedict is 49. Actor James Lesure is 48. Actor Alfonso Ribeiro (rih-BEHR'-oh) is 48. Actor Luke Wilson is 48. Actor Paulo Costanzo is 41. Actor Bradford Anderson is 40. Actress Autumn Reeser is 39. TV personality Nicole Richie is 38. Actress Maggie Grace is 36. Actor Joseph Mazzello is 36. Actress Ahna O'Reilly is 35. Rapper Wale (WAH'-lay) is 35. R&B singer Jason Derulo is 33. Actor Ryan Guzman is 32. Actors Lorenzo and Nikolas Brino are 21.

Thought for Today: "The only true measure of success is the ratio between what we might have done and what we might have been on the one hand, and the thing we have made and the things we have made of ourselves on the other." — H.G. Wells, English author (born this date in 1866, died 1946.)

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