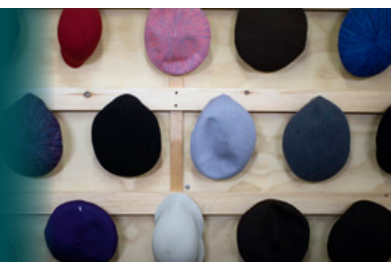




88°/70°
Partly cloudy

BRIMMING WITH OPTIMISM

Bollman Hat Co. moved its manufacturing of Kangol-brand hats from overseas to a factory in Pennsylvania. Bollman hopes to succeed despite higher costs. **SEE PAGE 6**



Southwest Journalist

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Trump to unveil climate decision

Critics: Pullout would result in lasting damage

JULIE PACE AND CATHERINE LUCEY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is expected to announce his decision on the Paris Accord Thursday.

On Wednesday, Trump tweeted “I will be announcing my decision on Paris Accord, Thursday at 3:00 P.M. The White House Rose Garden.”

He is expected to withdraw the United States from a landmark global climate agreement, a White House official said Wednesday.

Leaving the deal would fulfill a central campaign pledge, but would anger international allies who spent years in difficult negotiations to produce the accord, which aims to reduce carbon emissions.

Trump faced considerable pressure to hold to the deal during visits with European leaders and Pope Francis on his recent trip

abroad. The official, who insisted on anonymity, said the president and his aides were finalizing the details of a pullout and looking for “caveats in the language” related to the exit.

While Trump currently favors an exit, he has been known to change his thinking on major decisions, seeking counsel from a range of inside and outside advisers until the last minute.

A second White House official, who was not authorized to discuss private conversations and also insisted on anonymity, said Trump had not made a final decision on how to proceed.

Trump’s top aides have been divided on the accord.

He was to meet later Wednesday with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, who has favored remaining in the agreement. Chief strategist Steve Bannon supports an exit, as does Scott Pruitt, administrator of



Climate change is undeniable. Climate change is unstoppable.

ANTONIO GUTERRES

Environmental Protection Agency. Senior adviser Jared Kushner regards the deal negatively, but would like to find a way to change U.S. emissions targets.

Trump’s daughter Ivanka Trump’s preference is to stay, but she made it a priority to establish a review process so her father heard from all sides.

Nearly 200 nations, including the United States under President Barack Obama’s administration, agreed in 2015 to voluntarily reduce their greenhouse gas emissions in an effort to combat climate change. Withdrawing would leave the United States aligned only with Russia among the world’s industrialized economies.

A senior European Union official said the EU and China would reaffirm their commitment to the pact regardless of what Trump did, and would spell out, during talks Friday in Brussels, how they plan to meet their obligations.

News of Trump’s expected decision drew swift reaction from the United Nations. The organization’s main Twitter page quoted Secretary-General Antonio Guterres as saying, “Climate change is undeniable. Climate change is unstoppable. Climate solutions provide opportunities

that are unmatched.”

Michael Brune, executive director of the Sierra Club, a leading national environmental organization, called the expected move a “historic mistake which our grandchildren will look back on with stunned dismay.”

The House Democratic leader, Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California, referred to it as “a stunning abdication of American leadership and a grave threat to our planet’s future.”

Trump claimed before taking office that climate change was a “hoax” created by the Chinese to hurt the U.S. economy, an assertion that stands in defiance of broad scientific consensus.

But Trump’s chief White House economic adviser, Gary Cohn, told reporters during the trip abroad that Trump’s views on cli-

■ PARIS ACCORD, Page 2

Exxon Mobil to reveal climate info

DAVID KOENIG
AP Business Writer

DALLAS — Exxon Mobil investors voted Wednesday in favor of more disclosure around the impact of global policies aimed at limiting global warming. The vote is a defeat for Exxon and a victory for environmentalists and shareholder activists, who saw support for their proposal grow to 62 percent from 38 percent last year.

At the company’s annual meeting, shareholders pushed the company to publicize more information about whether regulations designed to reduce climate change will hurt the oil giant’s business.

Low crude prices have taken a toll on Exxon profit, which fell from \$32.5 billion in 2014 to \$16.2 billion in 2015 to \$7.8 billion in 2016. Last year, Exxon lost its AAA credit rating.

The climate-change resolution asked the company to analyze the impacts on Exxon’s oil and gas reserves and resources in case changes to climate policies cause a drop in fossil fuel demand.

CEO Darren Woods said Exxon believes that the risks related to climate change “are serious and warrant action, thoughtful action.” He suggested that the company is protecting shareholders by assuming a “proxy cost of carbon” when predicting energy demand and planning new projects.

“Our outlook assumes increasingly stringent climate policy,” Woods said. “It assumes growing energy demand through 2040 including substantial demand for oil and gas.”

Exxon officials did not disclose the votes of individual shareholders, but both sides had targeted major institutional investors including BlackRock, Vanguard and Fidelity. Critics have attacked Exxon for funding groups that try to dismiss climate science.

Eight other board-opposed resolutions were defeated, although four of them got at least 38 percent support, including one that asked Exxon to describe what it does to prevent methane emissions from hydraulic fracturing, or fracking.

Wednesday’s meeting was the first since Woods became CEO, replacing current Secretary of State Rex Tillerson. Tillerson set a different tone at Exxon by endorsing a carbon tax and the Paris Accord.



RAHMAT GUL / ASSOCIATED PRESS

An Afghan security official stands next to a crater left by a massive explosion in front of the German Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan, Wednesday, killing 90 people.

Death toll rises to 90 in Afghan blast

Diplomatic quarter of Kabul struck by suicide bomber; 11 Americans injured

RAHIM FAIEZ AND KATHY GANNON
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — A suicide attacker struck the heart of the Afghan capital Wednesday, killing 90 people, wounding 400 and raising new fears about the government’s ability to protect its citizens.

The bomber drove into Kabul’s heavily guarded diplomatic quarter during the morning rush hour, leaving behind a bloody scene of chaos and destruction in one of the worst attacks since the reduction of foreign forces from Afghanistan in 2014.

Most of the casualties were civilians, including women and children, said Ismail Kawasi, spokesman of the public health ministry. The dead also included Afghan security guards, including those stationed at the U.S. Embassy. Eleven American contractors were wounded — none with life-threatening injuries — according to a U.S. State Department official.

“I have been to many attacks,

but I can say I have never seen such a horrible attack,” ambulance driver Alef Ahmadzai told The Associated Press. “Everywhere was on fire and so many people were in critical condition.”

There was no claim of responsibility for the attack, which came in the first week of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. The Taliban condemned the attack, flatly denying any involvement.

The explosives were hidden in a tanker truck, said Najib Danish, deputy spokesman for the country’s interior ministry. The number of dead and wounded was provided by the Afghanistan government’s media center.

The blast gouged a crater about five meters (15 feet) deep near Zarnabq Square in the Wazir Akbar Khan District, where foreign embassies are protected by a battery of security personnel, Afghan police and National Security Forces. The nearby German Embassy was heavily damaged.

Also in the area is Afghanistan’s Foreign Ministry, the presidential

palace and its intelligence and security headquarters.

“The terrorists are not stopping the killing of our innocent people,” said President Ashraf Ghani.

Afghanistan’s war, the longest-ever involving U.S. troops, has shown no sign of letting up, and the introduction of an Islamic State affiliate has made the country only more volatile.

Although they are few in number, militants from the Islamic State in Khorasan — an ancient name for parts of Afghanistan, Iran and Central Asia — have taken credit for several brazen assaults on the capital.

“Let’s be clear: This is an intelligence failure, as has been the case with so many other attacks in Kabul and beyond. There was a clear failure to anticipate a major security threat in a highly secured area,” said Michael Kugelman, Asia program deputy director and senior associate for South Asia at the U.S.-based Woodrow Wilson International Center.

“The fact that these intelligence

failures keep happening suggest that something isn’t working at the top, and major and urgent changes are needed in security policy,” he said.

Still, there are questions about whether a U.S. pledge to send more troops to Afghanistan will curb the violence.

“The sad reality is that more foreign troops would not necessarily ensure these attacks happen less,” Kugelman said. “But they could help by supplementing training programs meant to enhance Afghan intel collection capacities.”

There are currently 8,500 U.S. troops in Afghanistan and the U.S. has promised that it will send more.

In regard to security in the region, Afghan lawmaker and analyst Nasrullah Sadeqizada said “The situation is deteriorating day by day.”

Gen. Mirza Mohammad Yarmand, former deputy interior minister, said more troops won’t

■ AFGHANISTAN, Page 2

REACTION:

I can say I have never seen such a horrible attack.

ALEF AHMAZAI, AFGHAN AMBULANCE DRIVER

We will lead the fight against terrorism, and we will win it.

ANGELA MERKEL, GERMAN CHANCELLOR

NASA probe will target inner region of sun

MARCIA DUNN
AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — A NASA spacecraft will aim straight for the sun next year and bear the name of the astrophysicist who predicted the existence of solar wind nearly 60 years ago.

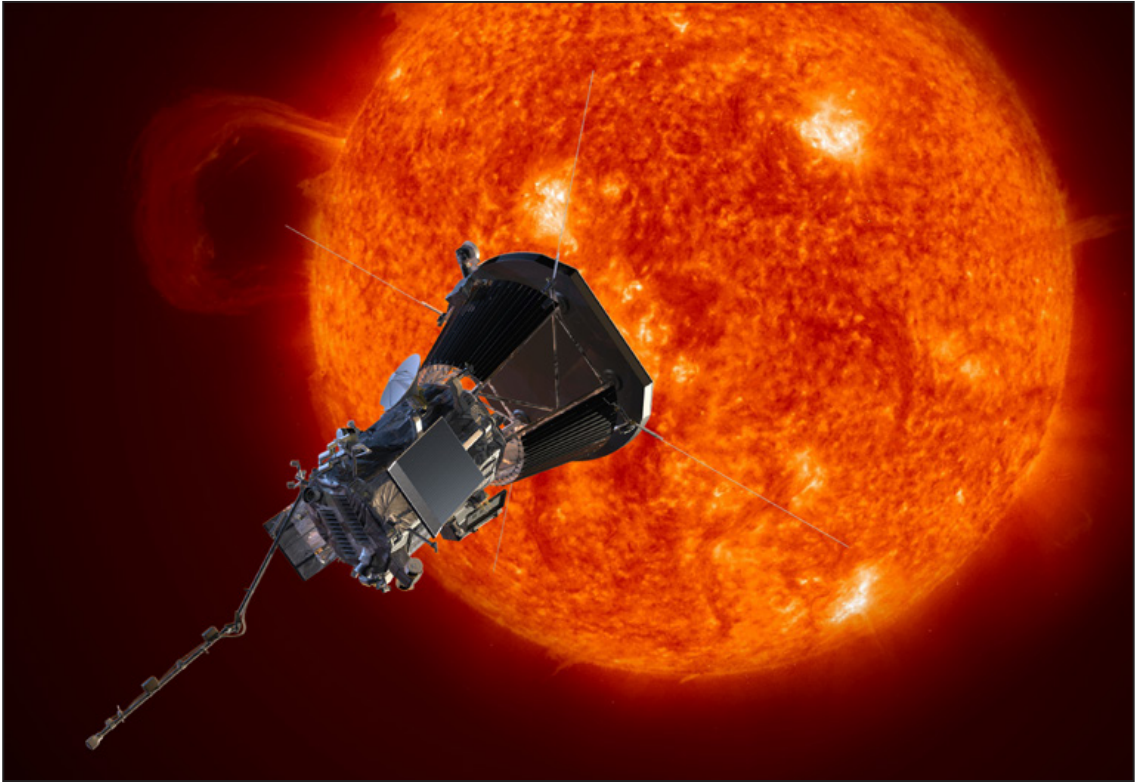
The space agency announced Wednesday that the red-hot mission would be named after Eugene Parker, professor emeritus at the University of Chicago. It's the first NASA spacecraft to be named after a researcher who is still alive.

The Parker Solar Probe will fly within 4 million miles of the sun's surface — right into the solar atmosphere — and is scheduled to launch next summer from Cape Canaveral. The spacecraft's proximity to the sun will subject it to brutal heat and radiation like no other man-made structure before. Until now, the necessary materials weren't available to undertake such a mission.

The purpose is to study the sun's outer atmosphere and better understand how stars like ours work.

NASA spacecraft have traveled inside the orbit of Mercury, the innermost planet.

"But until you actually go there and touch the sun, you really can't



JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY APPLIED PHYSICS LABORATORY / ASSOCIATED PRESS

This image made available by the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory on Wednesday shows NASA's Parker Solar Probe approaching the sun.

answer these questions," said mission project scientist Nicola Fox of Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Laboratory.

Parker Solar Probe — formerly known as Solar Probe Plus — will venture seven times closer than any previous spacecraft, Fox said.

The announcement came during a University of Chicago ceremony honoring Parker, who turns 90 on June 10. Parker called it "a

heroic scientific space mission," referring to the temperatures and solar radiation to be endured by the spacecraft, and the extreme safeguards taken. The probe will be "ready to do battle with the solar elements as it divulges the secrets of the expanding corona," he said.

While 4 million miles may not sound that close, it is by solar standards, according to Fox. She urged the crowd to remember while viewing the total solar eclipse this August to remember that the spacecraft eventually will be "right in there."

The probe will travel at a blistering speed of 430,000 mph and zip through a region where the mercury hits 2,500 degrees Fahrenheit.

"Solar Probe is going to be the hottest, fastest mission. I like to call it the coolest, hottest mission under the sun," Fox said.

The spacecraft will carry a chip containing photos of Parker as well as a copy of his groundbreaking research paper from 1958.

Parker's prediction of solar wind — the intense flow of charged particles or plasma from the sun — was initially ridiculed, but confirmed a few years later.

Analysts: Withdrawal from Paris deal will not boost American jobs

PAUL WISEMAN
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has declared that abandoning the Paris Accord would be a victory for the American economy.

Many economists have big doubts.

They say the agreement would likely help create about as many jobs in renewable energy as it might cost in polluting industries. Should the United States pull out of the pact and seek to protect old-school jobs in coal and oil, it would risk losing the chance to lead the world in developing environmentally friendly technology — and generate the jobs that come with it. Climate change

itself threatens to impose huge costs on the economy.

The Paris Accord has drawn surprising support from major companies, from oil giants like Exxon Mobil and Shell to other corporate giants like Walmart and Apple.

"We need a framework like that to address the challenge of climate change, the risk of climate change," said Darren Woods, CEO of Exxon Mobil.

The Paris Accord became one of President Barack Obama's signature achievements. But Trump campaigned on a promise to nix the deal, saying it would hobble the economy and cost jobs.

Economists say that leaving the Paris deal and easing efforts to

control emissions would hardly deliver a big payoff in jobs.

Polluting industries such as oil and coal are highly automated and are unlikely to embark on a major hiring spree even if the United States dropped out of the Paris agreement, experts say.

"The potential number of jobs you can create in fossil fuels is limited, while the potential number of jobs in green technologies — in principle the sky is the limit," said Bart van Ark, chief economist at the Conference Board, a business research group.

Already, the United States employs more people in solar energy (nearly 374,000) than in coal (a little over 160,000), according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

"The perception that we have to decide between creating jobs or tackling climate change is a false choice," said Dean Garfield, president of the tech trade group ITI. "It is not too late to for the president to stay the course and work with the tech industry to ensure that more clean energy jobs continue to go to Americans."

Many big companies say they must make long-term investment decisions based on the assumption that most countries will stiffen environmental standards.

"The business sector is moving ahead anyway," van Ark says. "Businesses that are into this are into it for the long haul. Not just for four years, the term of a president."

Wall-to-wall 'covfefe' for Trump gaffe

WASHINGTON — White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer claimed that "a small group of people know exactly" what President Donald Trump meant when Trump posted a seemingly unintelligible tweet early Wednesday morning.

Shortly before 1 a.m., Trump tweeted "Despite the constant negative press covfefe." The tweet ended there.

With that, Trump's Twitter feed went silent for the next five and half hours. Did the tweeter-in-chief fall asleep at the keyboard? Was it the start of a rant against "negative press coverage" that somehow went awry?

The president seemed to make a joke about the incident five hours later, tweeting: "Who can figure out the true meaning of 'covfefe' ??? Enjoy!"

The tweet left social media trying to find a meaning in the mysterious term "covfefe." The tweet went viral and became Twitter's top trend.



Paris Accord fate uncertain despite international pressure

Continued from Page 1

mate change were "evolving" following the president's discussions with European leaders.

Still, he said that the carbon levels agreed to by the prior administration "would be highly crippling to the U.S. economic growth," and that, if the president had to choose between limiting carbon and economic growth, the latter would win. Supporters say it's not an either-or choice.

The emissions goals are voluntary with no real consequences for countries that fail to meet them. That means the U.S. could stay in the accord and choose not

to hit its goals or stay in the pact but adjust its targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The U.S. has agreed to reduce its emissions by 2025 to 26 percent to 28 percent of 2005 levels.

Word of Trump's expected decision came a day after the president met with Pruitt. The EPA head has questioned the consensus of climate scientists that man-made emissions are to blame for the earth warming.

Trump and Pruitt have moved to delay or roll back federal regulations limiting greenhouse gas emissions while pledging to re-

vive struggling coal mines.

It is not yet clear whether Trump plans to initiate a formal withdrawal from the Paris Accord or exit the underlying U.N. climate change treaty on which the accord was based.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and 21 other Republicans sent Trump a letter last week urging him to follow through on his campaign pledge to pull out of the climate accord. Most of the senators who signed are from states that depend on the burning of coal, oil and gas.

Hundreds of high-profile busi-

nesses have spoken out in favor of the deal, including Apple, Google and Walmart. Even fossil fuel companies such as Exxon Mobil, BP and Shell say the United States should abide by the deal.

Forty Democratic senators sent Trump a letter saying withdrawal would hurt America's credibility and influence on the world stage.

Scientists say that the earth is likely to reach more dangerous levels of warming if the U.S. retreats from its pledge, given the United States' significant contribution to rising global temperatures.

Afghanistan explosion damages multiple embassies in capital

Continued from Page 1

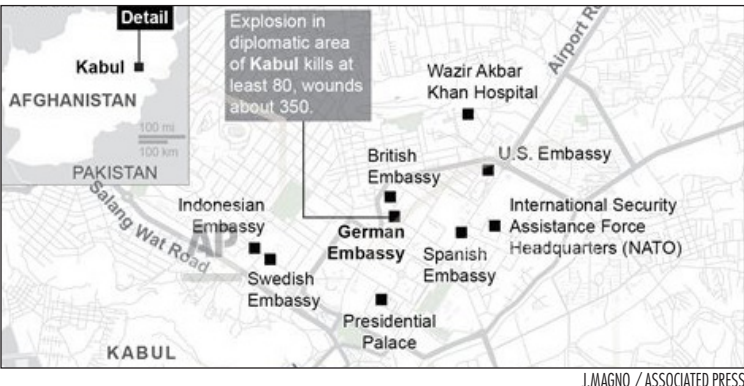
help, but urged the world to stay committed to Afghanistan.

"I don't think that more U.S. or NATO soldiers can solve the security problems in Afghanistan," he said.

The stricken neighborhood was considered Kabul's safest, as embassies are protected by dozens of 10-foot-high blast walls and guarded government offices.

"I've never seen such a powerful explosion in my life," said Mohammad Haroon, who owns a nearby sporting goods store. All the windows in his shop were shattered, he added.

Shocked residents soaked in blood stumbled in the streets before being taken to hospitals. Be-



J. MAGNO / ASSOCIATED PRESS

The bombing took place in the diplomatic heart of Kabul, Afghanistan.


sides the German Embassy, damage was reported at the embassies of China, Turkey, France, India and Japan, according to officials

from those countries. Other nearby embassies include those of the U.S., Britain, Pakistan and Iran, as well as the NATO mission.

A BRIEF GUIDE TO POLITICAL TWITTER MISTAKES

Anthony Weiner

In May 2011, then-New York congressman Anthony Weiner accidentally posted a lewd picture of himself on his public page, rather than in a direct message as he'd intended.


**Weiner**

Donald Trump

Last December, he condemned the alleged theft of a Navy drone by China as "unpresidential."

Ed Balls

In 2011, Ed Balls, then-finance spokesperson for the British Labour Party, tweeted just his own name. Every April 28, thousands tweet "Ed Balls Day."



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INTERNATIONAL

Duterte, Chelsea Clinton spar over rape comments

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte denounced the daughter of former U.S. President Bill Clinton on Wednesday after she criticized a comment he made about rapes committed by soldiers.

In an expletive-laden speech at a navy event, Duterte asked Chelsea Clinton if she also criticized her father when he had an affair with Monica Lewinsky.

He said he was being sarcastic when he told troops last week that he would take responsibility for any crimes they commit while implementing martial law that he declared in the southern third of the country, even if they rape three women.

Chelsea Clinton, responding last week to a tweet about Duterte's rape comment, tweeted: "Not funny. Ever."

German labor market remains strong in May

BERLIN — Germany's labor market remained strong in May, with the unemployment rate falling again over the previous month to a new post-reunification low, in a likely boost to Chancellor Angela Merkel ahead of September's election.

The Federal Labor Agency said Wednesday the unemployment rate fell to 5.7 percent from 5.8 percent in April in figures adjusted for seasonal variations. In unadjusted terms, the rate fell to 5.6 percent with nearly 71,000 fewer people registered as jobless.

IHS Markit economist Timo Klein said there has been a downward trend in unemployment since 2009, and the labor force has received a boost in rising migration from other European countries as well as refugees from the Mideast.

UK police search property in Manchester investigation

LONDON — British police have asked the public to stay out of the area in southern Manchester while a property is searched for clues about the concert bombing that killed 22 people and wounded dozens of others.

Police said Wednesday a cordon has been placed around a property south of central Manchester.

There are 11 men in custody for possible connection to Britain's worst extremist attack in more than a decade. Suicide bomber Salman Abedi, a British-born man of Libyan descent, detonated a device minutes after the conclusion of an Ariana Grande concert at Manchester Arena on May 22.

Five other people have been questioned and released without facing charges.

The arrested suspects haven't been identified or charged.

Egypt: 3 officers, 1 soldier dead in western desert

CAIRO — Egypt's military said three officers and one soldier were killed when a suicide belt went off as forces were sweeping a militant hub in the Bahariya Oasis in Egypt's Western desert.

Military spokesperson Tamer el-Refaie said on his Facebook page Wednesday that the incident took place during ongoing military operations in the western desert bordering Libya.

Egypt's western desert has been the scene of numerous terrorist attacks in recent years, including an attack on a border guard post in 2014 which left at least 21 troops dead. President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi blamed Libya-trained terrorists for the recent attack on a bus carrying Christians in Upper Egypt, which killed 29.

Malaysia Airlines jet diverted over bomb scare

CANBERRA, Australia — A Malaysia Airlines plane was forced to return to an Australian airport after a mentally ill passenger threatened to detonate a bomb and attempted to enter the cockpit, police said Thursday.

Flight MH128 was only a few minutes into a flight from Melbourne to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, late Wednesday when a 25-year-old Australian man attempted to enter the cockpit clutching an electronic device and created panic. Police Superintendent Tony Langdon and passengers said.

The man did not have a bomb and was restrained by passengers and crew. Police are not treating the incident as a terrorist act. There were no injuries.

"He was saying: 'I'm going to the blow the f---ing plane up, I'm going to blow the plane up,'" passenger Andrew Leoncelli told Australian Broadcasting Corp. on Thursday

The plane returned to the airport about 30 minutes after takeoff. Police carrying semi-automatic assault rifles and wearing body armor took the man off the plane. He had yet to be charged on Thursday.

Mexico extends gillnet ban to save porpoise

MEXICO CITY — Mexico's agriculture and fisheries department says it is extending a ban on gillnets in much of the upper Gulf of California as part of an effort to save the endangered vaquita porpoise.

A Wednesday statement from the department says it will continue to provide monetary and other support for fishermen affected by the measure.

Despite Mexico's campaign to help the porpoise species, estimates of remaining vaquitas have dropped below 30.

Vaquitas are often caught in nets illegally set to catch totoaba fish, whose swim bladder is prized in China.

The World Wildlife Fund says the measure won't be enough to save the vaquita. It says a permanent ban and recovery efforts are needed.

ASSOCIATED PRESS



BULLIT MARQUEZ / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Displaced residents of Marawi city wait for their other relatives after queueing up to receive relief and food supplies at an evacuation center in Balo-i township, Lanao del Norte province, southern Philippines on Wednesday.

A community displaced

Poor evacuation camp conditions add to difficult time in Marawi

JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MARAWI, Philippines — At an evacuation center outside the besieged Philippine city of Marawi on Wednesday, the results of a week of misery — a week of violence, uncertainty, long nights and promises of better tomorrows — were evident in the faces and hearts of the displaced.

About 130 people have been killed in the violence in Marawi, which erupted last Tuesday after soldiers launched a raid to capture militant leader Isnilon Hapilon, who has been designated leader of the Islamic State group's Southeast Asia branch. But the operation went awry and Hapilon got away.

Fighters loyal to him surprised government forces with their firepower, fending off air strikes and house-to-house searches.

The unrest has raised fears that the Islamic State group's violent ideology is gaining a foothold in

the country's restive southern islands, where a Muslim separatist rebellion has raged for decades.

Military spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said Hapilon is believed to still be in Marawi.

As the two sides battle it out, civilians have been caught in the crossfire.

Bilal Sulaiman, a 47-year-old carpenter, said his wife and three children evacuated to safety early in the conflict but he stayed behind to watch their house near the scene of the battle.

He said when the fighting became too fierce he ran for his life to a nearby mountain, where he waited without food and water until he decided to swim across a pond to safety.

He waited in an army-controlled area and was retrieved by government rescuers Wednesday.

"We did not eat for days," Sulaiman said as rescue workers handed out biscuits and water.

"It was really scary. There were

explosions just two blocks from my house, but I couldn't leave our house because somebody might burn it. I later left when the fighting got too intense."

Frightened civilians crowded into schools, basketball courts and sports centers.

Villagers slept on floors and relied on government food and water rations and donations.

Amid the squalor and lack of privacy, Naima Dimangadap wept.

"Our homes got burned because of the bombings. We failed to save anything, including our cooking pots. It's so difficult to live in this evacuation camp," said Dimangadap, a single mother of five.

Philippine authorities said troops had cleared almost 90 percent of Marawi city.

Padilla said 960 civilians had been rescued and an estimated 1,000 residents remained trapped in the city.

N. Korea testing missiles at substantial pace

ANALYSIS

ERIC TALMADGE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PYONGYANG, North Korea — Early one winter morning, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un stood at an observation post overlooking a valley of rice paddies near the Chinese border. Minutes later, four projectiles plunged into the sea off the Japanese coast.

North Korea had just run its first simulation of a nuclear attack on a U.S. military base.

North Korea, which is testing ballistic missiles faster than ever, is rapidly becoming a better-equipped and more formidable adversary.

Some experts believe it might be able to build missiles advanced enough to reach the United States in two to three years.

And that poses a game-changing problem for the U.S., which is also escalating, in successfully shooting down a mock target ICBM launched from a Pacific island with a California-based interceptor missile on Tuesday.

If North Korea launches a preemptive nuclear strike on an American military base in Asia, would the U.S. recoil and retreat? Would it strike back and risk losing Washington in a second wave of attacks?

In the March launch, North Korea sent four Scuds into the ocean 185 to 220 miles off Japan's coast.



Kim



WONG MAYE-E / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A missile that analysts believe could be the North Korean Hwasong 12 is paraded in Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang, North Korea on April 15. Many analysts believe the missile could be a stepping stone to the ICBM North Korea needs to attack the U.S. mainland.

Analyst Jeffrey Lewis and his colleagues at the Center for Non-proliferation Studies in Monterey, California, quickly realized the Scuds were on a trajectory that, with a southerly tweak, would have sent them raining onto Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni, on the southern tip of Japan's main island.

Before the simulation, U.S. and South Korean forces were conducting joint military drills involving F-35 fighters based at Iwakuni, home to some 10,000 U.S. and Japanese personnel. The F-35s had reportedly trained for a "de-

capitation strike" on Kim Jong Un and his top lieutenants.

Kim, apparently, was practicing how to take them out first.

The Cold War concept of "mutually assured destruction" works when each side is convinced neither would survive. North Korea isn't likely to reach that stalemate level. If it succeeds in building nuclear-tipped ICBMs that can reach the U.S. mainland, the dynamic could be much more volatile.

On April 15, Kim Jong Un watched military units from his million-man armed forces march by, and then applauded at the most varied array of missiles and

Lebanon bans new Gadot film

'Wonder Woman' star served in Israeli military

SARAH EL DEEB
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIRUT — Lebanese authorities banned the new "Wonder Woman" movie Wednesday following a campaign against its lead actress, Gal Gadot, who served in the Israeli army, a security official and activists said.

Lebanon is officially at war with Israel and the two countries have been through a number of wars.

A particularly devastating 2006 war battered Lebanon's infrastructure and left hundreds of civilians killed.

The ban is in accordance with a decades-old law that boycotts Israeli products and bars Lebanese citizens from traveling to Israel or having contact with Israelis.

A premiere later Wednesday in Beirut was cancelled. An executive at the Grand Cinema chain said the company was planning to show the movie in 16 out of its 18 theaters around the country.

The security official said violators of the ban will have to face legal consequences, but he didn't specify.

He spoke on the condition of anonymity because the decision has not yet been published.

A campaigner against the movie, Rania Masri, hailed the decision to ban "Wonder Woman," saying it signaled respect for the law.

A similar campaign against another movie where Gadot played the role of Wonder Woman last year, "Batman v Superman," never turned into an outright ban. Masri said it was "different" this time because of a major media campaign against the movie that has helped push for the ban.

Mexican border museum is hidden gem

RUSSELL CONTRERAS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico — Towns along the U.S.-Mexico border are often stereotyped as enclaves for bar-hoppers, smoky factories, cheap souvenirs and long entry lines for cargo and trucks. They also are known for inexpensive tacos and a plethora of adult entertainment options.

Cultural sites, in particular on the Mexican side, rarely get much attention.

But within a 20-minute walk from the Stanton Street Port of Entry in El Paso, Texas, visitors to Ciudad Juarez can enjoy a different experience and get a better understanding of a moment in history that fundamentally changed Mexico and the United States.

El Museo de la Revolucion en La Frontera, or the Museum of the Revolution in the Border, tells the story of the Mexican Revolution and its aftermath still felt today.

The armed struggle, which lasted from 1910 to 1920, transformed Mexican society and sparked a massive migration of Mexicans to the United States that remade the demographics of cities in the American Southwest.



HIDECOMISO AN CHIHUAHUA / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A man snaps a photo of an exhibit about photojournalism on display at the Museum of the Revolution in the Border in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.

Yes, the conflict gave rise to Pancho Villa and Emiliano Zapata as revolutionary heroes of the poor.

The war also spurred new movements in art, literature, journalism, photography and radical notions of land reform that spread across Latin America.

The museum guides visitors through the pre-revolutionary Mexico of dictator Porfirio Diaz and the intellectual movements opposing his rule.

Exhibits touch upon El Plan de San Luis Potosi, a call to remove Diaz and the re-establishment of democracy, and writers speaking out against what they described as colonial rule at the expense of the poor.

Newspaper accounts in the U.S. talked about the growing unrest south of the border and the museum explains in an easy-to-understand narrative how elite to middle-class political leaders joined efforts to remove Diaz. Using photographs, old documents and clothing, the museum goes through the short presidency of reformer Francisco Madero, followed by his overthrow and assassination at the hands of Gen. Victoriano Huerta.

Still, out of the chaos came artistic expression. Recorded songs depicted the suffering and separations caused by war. Art displayed shows images of revolution that inspired Diego Rivera's later work.

To visit: The museum is located at 16 de Septiembre Avenue in Ciudad Juarez in Mexico.

Budget would cut refugee funds

MATTHEW LEE
AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is moving to significantly reduce the number of refugees allowed to enter the United States, even as his bid to temporarily suspend admissions is stalled in the courts. The latest effort comes through Trump's fed-

eral budget proposal, which calls for a 25 percent cut in funds for resettling refugees on American soil.

While officials said they couldn't predict the impact of Trump's proposed cuts to the refugee admissions program, they said it will almost certainly mean fewer refugees eventually accepted into the country. Trump must

determine the target for refugee admissions by the start of the next budget year on Oct. 1. His March immigration order that has been halted by the courts had capped the number at 50,000. That is less than half of the 110,000 target former President Barack Obama adopted last September.

With Trump's cap not yet coming into effect, the State Depart-

ment's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration on May 25 notified refugee advocacy groups that it would lift an admissions limit it imposed early this year because of budget uncertainties, officials said.

The bureau had limited admissions to 900 refugees per week, compared with an average of 2,000 admitted per week in 2016.

LITTLE BEE, BIG BUZZ



JACQUELYN MARTIN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Edith Fuller, 6, of Tulsa, Okla., center, the youngest speller ever in the National Bee, sits next to Marlene Schaff, 14, of Lake Forest, Illinois, as they wait to compete in the 90th Scripps National Spelling Bee's preliminary round in Oxon Hill, Maryland, on Wednesday. They had to spell two words each, and 40 spellers advanced to Thursday's finals.

Vietnam's prime minister visits White House

MATTHEW PENNINGTON
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump welcomed Vietnam's prime minister to the White House on Wednesday to talk about the American trade deficit while the Southeast Asian country is still shaken by Trump's withdrawal from a regional commerce pact.

Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc is the first leader to visit the Trump White House from Southeast Asia, where the U.S. vies with China for influence. The two leaders said billions of dollars in U.S.-Vietnamese business deals were signed but gave no details.

Trump will travel to Vietnam to attend an Asia-Pacific economic summit in November, which Phuc said would be an opportunity for the U.S. to assert its positive role in the region.

As the two leaders sat down for formal talks, which also touched on North Korea, Trump was quick to raise the trade imbalance.

"We have a major trade deficit with Vietnam, which will hopefully balance out in a short period of time," Trump said. "We expect

to be able to do that."

Phuc said U.S.-Vietnam relations have "undergone significant upheaval, but today we have been able to become comprehensive partners." He said he has been impressed by Trump's friendliness and openness and was confident bilateral cooperation would be enhanced.

The U.S. and Vietnam normalized ties in 1995, two decades after the end of the Vietnam War. Diplomatic and security ties blossomed under President Barack Obama as Vietnam sought ways to counter China's island-building and vast claims to the disputed South China Sea.

However, the relationship is now on uncertain ground.

Vietnam would have been a prime beneficiary of the 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement negotiated under Obama. Within days of taking office, Trump withdrew the U.S. from the trade deal, saying it would hurt American workers.

At a dinner American business leaders hosted for Phuc late Tuesday, U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said the annual trade

deficit with Vietnam — America's sixth-largest — increased over the last decade from \$7 billion to nearly \$32 billion, presenting new challenges for the countries' relationship.

Speaking at the Heritage Foundation think tank Wednesday, Phuc pushed back by saying that in trade, the U.S. and Vietnamese economies are "more complementary than competitive."

He said contracts for U.S. goods and services worth \$15 billion were signed during his visit.

GE Power Chief Executive Officer Steve Bolze said the company would sign \$6 billion in agreements.

Security cooperation between the countries has grown because of shared concern over China's assertive behavior in the South China Sea. The U.S. recently delivered six coastal patrol boats and a decommissioned Hamilton-class cutter to Vietnam's coast guard.

Phuc did not address last week's U.S. Navy's freedom of navigation operation in the South China Sea, the first since Trump took office, but said he welcomes U.S. support for freedom of navigation and overflight, compliance with international law and peaceful resolution of disputes.

Rampage spurs calls to ban cars from Times Square

KAREN MATTHEWS
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The vehicle rampage in Times Square on May 18 has prompted conversations of whether the city should still be allowing cars, cabs and trucks to cruise down the Manhattan intersection.

Police said Richard Rojas, a Bronx man, was high on PCP when he took a U-turn off Seventh Avenue and plowed down sidewalks leading into Times Square for three blocks, killing a teenage tourist and injuring 22 others. Rojas, 26, was charged with murder and attempted murder.

Temporary concrete barriers were installed along the Seventh Avenue sidewalk after the carnage while city officials weigh a long-term solution. That could involve installing more steel posts like the ones that eventually halted the progress of Rojas' car.

City Transportation Commissioner Polly Trottenberg said closing Seventh Avenue to cars in the Times Square area "is certainly one of the things that's being discussed." David C. Kelly, associate managing director of K2 Intelligence in New York City, said banning traffic is attractive from a security standpoint but would need to be carefully planned.

Kelly noted when the area around the New York Stock Exchange in lower Manhattan was closed to cars, a garage owner filed a lawsuit arguing his livelihood would suffer.

First Bundy backer sentenced

Judge hands down seven-year term for role in Nev. standoff

KEN RITTER
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — A judge sentenced a New Hampshire man Wednesday to more than seven years in prison for his role in organizing armed backers of Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy after a standoff with U.S. agents in 2014.

Gerald "Jerry" DeLemus became the first person sentenced for his ties to the confrontation that occurred after Bundy and his backers tried to claim the right for Bundy's cattle to graze on government land. Eighteen others are in custody.

DeLemus has been jailed for almost 16 months, so the sentence means the 62-year-old former U.S. Marine will spend about six more years behind bars. His attorney, Dustin Marcello, said he will appeal.

DeLemus arrived at the Bundy ranch hours after the tense armed standoff that led to the release of the rancher's cattle and was hailed as a victory in a decades-long fight over government-owned land.

He then spent more than a month in an encampment organizing armed patrols and serving as an intermediary between a self-styled militia and local authorities.

He had been expected to get a six-year sentence after pleading guilty last August to conspiracy to commit an offense against the U.S. and to interstate travel in aid of extortion.

But Chief U.S. District Judge Gloria Navarro in Las Vegas added



KEN RITTER / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gerald "Jerry" DeLemus, of Rochester, New Hampshire, sits with a group of self-described militia members camping on rancher Cliven Bundy's ranch near Bunkerville, Nevada, on April 16, 2014.

time after faulting DeLemus for trying to withdraw his pleas. She said she did not think he accepted responsibility for his actions.

"I have to say, Mr. DeLemus, that you unfortunately are blinded by the information you choose to believe," she said.

Navarro said DeLemus could have advised Bundy to abide by court orders to pay 20 years of overdue grazing fees or to let agents round up his cattle from public land.

Instead he became a "bully vigilante, threatening peacekeepers of the community," she said.

"I never heard you say you told Mr. Bundy ... to follow the law," she said.

DeLemus told the judge he traveled cross-country with weapons because he'd heard gov-

ernment snipers had surrounded the Bundy home.

He said he was willing to "take a bullet" to protect the family.

"My concern was that someone would get hurt," he said. "It wasn't the cows. I didn't want that family injured. God will know in the end."

DeLemus said he never would have shot at law enforcement. He cited a biblical passage that there is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

"I may not have given it out there," he said of the standoff near Bunkerville, about 80 miles northeast of Las Vegas. "I'm giving it now, in jail."

Bundy, two of his sons and two other defendants are due for trial later this year. Six others may not be tried until early next year.

DeLemus became "a bully vigilante, threatening peacekeepers of the community."

GLORIA NAVARRO

NATIONAL

LeBron James' LA home sprayed with racial slur

LOS ANGELES — Police are investigating after someone spray-painted a racial slur on the front gate of LeBron James' home in Los Angeles on the eve of the NBA Finals, which begin Thursday night.

An unidentified person spray-painted the N-word on the front gate of James' home in the Brentwood neighborhood Wednesday morning, said Capt. Patricia Sandoval, a spokeswoman for the Los Angeles Police Department.

James wasn't at the home at the time, but the property manager told officers the incident might have been captured on surveillance video, Sandoval said. Police are investigating it as an act of vandalism and a possible hate crime.

CNN fires Kathy Griffin for Trump severed head video

NEW YORK — Kathy Griffin has lost a decade-long gig ringing in the new year for CNN as backlash builds over her video displaying a likeness of President Donald Trump's severed head.

CNN had called the images "disgusting and offensive" after Griffin posted the video Tuesday. The media outlet announced Wednesday it would not invite her back this year for the Times Square live New Year's Eve special she had co-hosted annually since 2007 with CNN's Anderson Cooper.

Griffin, a comic known for her abrasive style of humor, had apologized Tuesday, conceding the brief video, which she originally described as an "artsy-fartsy statement" mocking the commander in chief, was "too disturbing" and wasn't funny.

Jerry Garcia's guitar sells for \$1.9 million at auction

NEW YORK — A guitar that Jerry Garcia played everywhere from San Francisco's Winterland Ballroom to Egypt's Great Pyramids fetched more than \$1.9 million at an auction in New York.

Wolf, the Grateful Dead frontman's guitar, was purchased at a charity auction in Brooklyn on Wednesday night. The proceeds are earmarked for the Southern Poverty Law Center based in Montgomery, Alabama.

Devoted Deadhead Daniel Pritzker, a philanthropist, musician and film director, sold the guitar after having bought the instrument in 2002 for \$790,000.

Stanley Cup dead catfish toss charges to be dropped

PITTSBURGH — Prosecutors are dropping charges filed against a Tennessee man for throwing a catfish onto the rink in Pittsburgh during the opening of the Stanley Cup Final.

Jacob Waddell, 36, was charged in Allegheny County with disorderly conduct, possessing instruments of crime and disrupting meetings or processions after tossing the dead fish over the glass surrounding the rink Monday night during the Nashville Predators-Pittsburgh Penguins game.

District Attorney Stephen Zappala said in a Facebook post Wednesday that Waddell's actions "do not rise to the level of criminal charges," so the charges "will be withdrawn in a timely manner."

Nest security camera to use facial recognition tech

SAN FRANCISCO — Nest Labs is adding Google's facial recognition technology to a high-resolution home-security camera, offering a glimpse of a future in which increasingly intelligent, internet-connected computers can see and understand what's going on in people's homes.

The Nest Cam IQ, unveiled Wednesday, will be Nest's first device to draw upon the same human-like skills that Google has been programming into its computers — for instance, to identify people in images via its widely used photo app. Nest can tap into Google's expertise in artificial intelligence because the same parent company, Alphabet Inc., owns both companies.

Love for pizza gets student admitted to Ivy League

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. — A Tennessee teen's love for pizza has gotten her accepted to Yale University.

The Tennessean reports Ravenwood High School graduate Carolina Williams stood out to Yale admissions because of her answer to a short-essay prompt to write about something she loves to do: order pizza from Papa John's.

Williams will be the first in her family to go to college, but she will not attend Yale. She said she felt pursuing business at Auburn University would be a better fit.

Woman reports car stolen, finds girl with bag on head

PHILADELPHIA — Philadelphia police said a woman reported her son had stolen her vehicle, and then she stumbled upon her 7-year-old daughter with a plastic bag over her head.

The girl was unresponsive and has been taken to a hospital in critical condition, police said.

Police have yet to release the names of those involved in the call about 1 a.m. Wednesday in the city's Olney section. They also haven't said whether they believe the vehicle theft and the girl's condition are related.

Authorities found the vehicle crashed and abandoned several blocks away. They haven't found the 18-year-old who allegedly took it.

The mother reported the vehicle stolen before finding her daughter unresponsive when she went into the basement to retrieve the vehicle's registration.

TEXAS

Governor signs sweeping child welfare overhaul law

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott has signed a trio of new laws meant to improve Texas’ troubled foster care system.

The Republican endorsed the legislation, which is ringed by state lawmakers from both parties, at the headquarters of Texas’ family services department Wednesday.

Abbott declared more child welfare spending and reforms a priority for the state Legislature, which concluded its session Monday. Data last year showed Texas was failing to check on thousands of children at the highest risk of abuse or neglect.

A federal judge has separately declared that the foster care system violated youngsters’ constitutional rights and ordered sweeping changes.

Xcel’s wind power to double by 2021

PORTALES, New Mexico — A utility that serves parts of West Texas and eastern New Mexico says wind resources now make up more than one fifth of the sources used to generate electricity for its customers.

Xcel Energy says that percentage is expected to almost double to 43 percent by 2021.

A report released by the utility Tuesday details the growth in renewable energy across its service area in 2016. In the Southwest, renewable energy accounted for 23 percent of the power generated, with nearly all of that being derived from wind sources.

In March, the company announced plans to add 1,230 additional megawatts of wind energy to the Southwest regional grid over the next few years. Officials have said the cost will be below that of coal-fueled electricity.

Report details Texans WR Mumphery’s punishment

EAST LANSING, Michigan — Police documents say Houston Texans wide receiver Keith Mumphery was expelled from a Michigan State graduate studies program last year for a sexual misconduct violation.

The Detroit Free Press reported Wednesday that Mumphery was accused of sexually assaulting a student in March 2015. A campus police report says they agreed to meet in her dorm room, but contains conflicting accounts of what happened and whether it was consensual.

Prosecutors opted not to file charges and the woman didn’t return contact.

Mumphery has played two seasons with the Texans. The Texans declined comment in a statement to The Associated Press beyond saying team officials are “gathering information.” Mumphery’s agent, Kennard McGuire, declined comment.

Texas woman sentenced for selling designer drugs

TOPEKA, Kansas — Federal prosecutors say a Texas woman was sentenced to five years in federal prison for selling drugs manufactured in Kansas.

Thirty-seven-year-old Michelle Reulet, of Montgomery, Texas, was sentenced Tuesday and ordered to forfeit \$2 million in proceeds from the crime.

Federal prosecutors say Reulet and co-defendant Michael Myers owned a business in the Houston area called Bully Wholesale. They sold products they purchased from co-defendants Tracy Picanso and Roy Ehrett in Olathe, Kansas.

The drugs, called Pump It, Head trip, Black Arts and Grave Digger, were marketed as incense, potpourri and shoe deodorizer. Reulet admitted in her plea that she knew customers bought the products to get high.

Houston suburb curbs access to public information

PASADENA, Texas — A Houston suburb is being criticized for its lack of transparency and poor handling of public information requests.

The City of Pasadena has failed to respond to eight records requests from the Houston Chronicle in a timely manner. Requests were for information such as invoices and details of a tax collection contract held by Mayor Johnny Isbell’s longtime friend.

The newspaper filed a complaint with the Texas Attorney General’s office earlier this month.

Delays and excuses for not fulfilling public records requests are common in Pasadena, Councilman Orlando Ybarra said.

“This pattern of activity is clearly and strongly against the public interest and completely undermines the American tradition of democratic participation,” said attorney Joe Larsen, who serves on the board of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas.

Kellogg shuts distribution centers

NEW YORK — Kellogg Co. is shuttering distribution centers around the nation and cutting more than 1,000 workers, as it follows through with a cost-cutting plan amid falling sales.

The maker of Frosted Flakes, Pop Tarts and Eggo waffles notified agencies in several states of the closures this week.

The company said it won’t disclose specifics on jobs cuts and the location of facilities slated to close, though it is required to notify various state agencies about facility closures.

The company will shut down a distribution center in Memphis and lay off 172 workers. It will close a center in Sharonsville, Ohio, and lay off nearly 250 employees. Other closings include centers in Houston and Fort Worth, Texas, affecting 420 workers.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dealership shooting leaves 3 dead

Suspect, 2 bounty hunters killed

DAVID WARREN
Associated Press

DALLAS — Two bounty hunters and the fugitive they were tracking were shot dead in a hail of bullets that sent customers and employees fleeing for cover at a Texas car dealership.

The two men had pursued Ramon Michael Hutchinson, 49, of Minnesota to a Nissan dealership in Greenville, about 50 miles northeast of Dallas on Tuesday.

Stew Peters, a bail investigator with the private Minnesota-based company U.S. Fugitive Recovery and Extradition, said Hutchinson had been sought since March when he failed to appear for a

court hearing in Hennepin County, which includes Minneapolis.

It’s not clear what brought Hutchinson to Texas but Peters said he received a phone call Tuesday from Fidel Garcia Jr., a private investigator based in Corpus Christi to say Garcia and colleague Gabriel Bernal had tracked Hutchinson to the dealership. A woman associated with Hutchinson had her car there.

After an hourslong wait for Hutchinson to appear, the two bounty hunters approached Tuesday evening. Garcia and Bernal drew their weapons and Hutchinson responded by drawing his own pistol, which he dropped, according to a statement from Kathy Lucas, spokeswoman for the City of Greenville. The men fought as Hutchinson retrieved his weapon and began firing. The other two

fired as well, and Lucas said about 20 shots were fired in the span of six seconds. Customers and employees fled for cover.

“Mr. Garcia felt the defendant would ultimately appear at that dealership,” Peters said. “Unfortunately Mr. Hutchinson was more prepared for a gunfight.”

Hutchinson and the two investigators died at the scene. No one else was struck by the gunfire.

The owner of the dealership, Rick Ford, told The Associated Press by email Wednesday that the two men called the dealership earlier and identified themselves as federal agents. They later presented themselves to a receptionist and the general manager in the same way, Ford said.

Peters said he didn’t know Bernal, 33, but had been friends with Garcia for 10 years and said Garcia

wouldn’t misrepresent himself.

“He always performed his investigations with the utmost integrity,” Peters said, adding that Garcia commonly wore both audio and visual recording devices while working. It’s not known if he was wearing the devices Tuesday.

Garcia, 54, sat on the board of the Texas Association of Licensed Investigators.

Peters said private investigators registered in Texas are licensed through the state Department of Public Safety and added that bail-bond companies seeking fugitives in Texas are required to use registered investigators.

Hutchinson, listed in court records as a resident of St. Paul, Minnesota, was facing several charges that included assaulting a law enforcement officer.

Deportation waivers sought for witnesses

ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — Travis County officials are seeking to delay deportations of unauthorized immigrants who are crime victims or key witnesses.

The Austin American-Statesman reported that four individuals whom the district attorney’s office deem valuable to the prosecution of pending cases have received letters they can use to avoid deportation if they’re approached by law enforcement officers.

Travis County District Attorney Margaret Moore announced earlier this month that although the letters hold no legal authority, she is asking federal immigration officials to notify her office if they arrest someone in possession of one of the letters.

“Four might not sound like a lot, but it just launched,” said Mindy Montford, Moore’s lead assistant. “I can only imagine that’s going to be a much larger number within a month.”

The program doesn’t provide a recipient permanent status in the country but instead requests immigration officials to delay deportation until the criminal case is resolved.

The program is similar to the federal U Visa program, which aims to delay deportation of those who are living in the U.S. illegally who are victims or witnesses in criminal cases if they’re helpful with an investigation.

However, a letter from Moore’s office is more easily obtained than a U Visa, which has a lengthy application process and is capped at 10,000 visas a year.

Immigration experts hope the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency will honor Moore’s requests.

The agency released a statement that said all immigration cases are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

GOING STREAKING



JIM MONE/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Houston Astros left fielder Marwin Gonzalez slides to make a grab in the first inning against the Minnesota Twins on Wednesday in Minneapolis. With six home runs, the Astros won 17-6, putting their win streak at seven games.

Bill fails, but immigration centers still hold children past time limit

MEREDITH HOFFMAN
Associated Press

AUSTIN — Afghan asylum seeker Samira Hakimi and her family members — three of them young children — have spent six months inside a Texas immigration lockdown facility.

This week, state lawmakers adjourned without passing legislation to circumvent federal rules on housing minors at such facilities, leaving Hakimi’s fate up in the air.

The proposals that died in the legislative session would have licensed the immigrant detention facilities as childcare providers to avoid a requirement that stipulates minors can be held no longer than 20 days.

Immigrant welfare advocates celebrated the failure of the bills, which they said would have caused further physical and psychological harm to children. Still,

the federal government continues to hold some families long past the allotted time.

“The failure of the bill is good news as that is doesn’t seem to have done these families any good,” said Cristina Parker, immigration programs coordinator for the Austin-based nonprofit Grassroots Leadership.

Hakimi, her two young sons, sister-in-law and baby nephew are seeking political asylum from the Taliban. The family had operated schools in Afghanistan with a western-style curriculum, one of which was destroyed.

But the delay grew so distressing for Hakimi that three weeks ago she attempted suicide, wrapping her headscarf around her neck.

“She’s been very open about the fact that she was struggling with depression and that detention exacerbated it,” said Amy Fischer,

“She’s been very open about the fact that she was struggling with depression and the detention exacerbated it.”

AMY FISCHER

20-year-old Dallas cold case finally closed

Daughter uncovers truth, finds family in process

TASHA TSIAPERAS AND JULIE FANCHER
The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS — Daisy Serrano learned about her mother in spurts, years after she was slain in their Dallas apartment.

Serrano was 10 when she found out the woman she thought was her mother wasn’t, and she was in her early teens when her father explained that her mom had been killed.

He died before he could share the details: Manuela Dominguez had been raped and strangled in the same room where baby Daisy slept in her playpen.

Over the years, she figured out that her father’s family had a darker secret to hide. Her uncle was suspected of being the killer.

Daisy never knew her mother’s family, but a long-lost cousin was determined to change that.

For years, Dulce Dominguez searched Facebook hoping to find her cousin — knowing only what she looked like as a baby.

As she scrolled through search

MORE ON Dallas cold case

■ Read the remainder of this article on www.swjournalist.com

results last May, Dominguez spotted a profile with an old photo of a man wearing a cowboy hat holding a familiar-looking baby with big ears.

It had been 20 years. Dulce sent a message. It seemed like a long shot.

“I think you’re my cousin. Can you send me a picture of your mother?”

Daisy responded to Dulce with a photo. Dulce knew it was her aunt.

The women met days later and went to Dallas police headquarters.

They wanted answers.

And just like Dulce found Daisy on Facebook, a Dallas homicide detective used the social media site to find the man suspected of killing Daisy’s mom.



LOUIS DELUCA/ THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS VIA AP

Daisy Serrano and her cousin Dulce Dominguez, whom she was reunited with recently, hold a photo of Serrano’s mother in Dallas. Serrano’s mother, Manuela Dominguez, was murdered in an unsolved case from January 1996. The Dallas Police Department’s Cold Case Unit recently matched DNA to a suspect in the case—Manuela’s brother-in-law.



MATT ROURKE / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Don Rongione, president and chief operating officer of Bollman Hat Company, poses at the knitting machine used in the manufacturing of Kangol hats at the Bollman Hat Company in Adamstown, Pennsylvania. The 149-year-old company behind Kangol says it’s losing money on every kangaroo-logo cap knitted at its factory in Adamstown. “It has been certainly a bigger challenge than what we could’ve ever dreamed,” said Rongione.

MICHAEL RUBINKAM
Associated Press

Inside the Bollman Hat Co.’s 19th century, red-brick factory in Adamstown, Pennsylvania, Amaryllis Garman, 38, carefully places a piece of knitted fabric on a machine that joins both ends to form the familiar Kangol flat cap. She takes care to ensure a straight line. Her job requires patience and hand-eye coordination, and comes with a steep learning curve.

When Garman started, she could make 10 hats a day. She’s up to several times that now and hopes to become more efficient.

“I was ready to give up,” Garman said with a rueful laugh. “Very difficult, but once you accomplish it, it’s a good feeling.”

Garman’s job is new, with the famous hat brand worn by celebrities like Samuel L. Jackson, Brad Pitt and Gwen Stefani moving from China into a Pennsylvania factory only last year. Executives with Bollman billed it as an effort to create U.S. manufacturing jobs.

But Kangol is struggling to afford its pricey new U.S. digs, as labor costs went up and profits went down.

The 149-year-old company behind Kangol says it’s losing money on every kangaroo-logo cap knitted at its factory in Adamstown.

“It has been certainly a bigger challenge than what we

HATS

off for jobs

Kangol illustrate why the labor-intensive garment industry left the U.S. in the first place.

Bollman is betting it can succeed with U.S. workers by making Kangol, its most important brand, the old-fashioned way.

The employee-owned company raised more than \$100,000 through a Kickstarter campaign to ship dozens of knitting machines from China to Pennsylvania, then got to work refurbishing the ancient workhorses that have been knitting the fabric used in Kangol caps for nearly 80 years. American workers had to learn how to sew, shape and embroider the distinctive headwear.

Nearly a year later, Bollman’s overall cost per hat is still twice as high as it was in Asia, partly because the Pennsylvania crew can’t yet produce as many hats in a day as their more experienced counterparts at the now-shuttered factory in Panyu, in southern China. But the cost per hat was three times as high initially.

Bollman has spent more than \$1 million to shift production to Pennsylvania, putting a financial strain on a company whose brand lineup also includes Helen Kaminski women’s hats. There was no profit sharing in 2016, and, for the first time in 31 years, the company didn’t make a contribution to its employee stock ownership plan.

The Adamstown factory is responsible for about 20 percent of Kangol production, with the rest coming from plants in England, Italy, Taiwan, China and Vietnam.

Bollman has to start making money on its U.S.-made Kangol headwear or it’ll eventually have to ship production back overseas, Rongione said.

“This is not yet a success story,” Rongione said, “but we have great confidence we’re going to get there. ... This is near and dear to our hearts.”

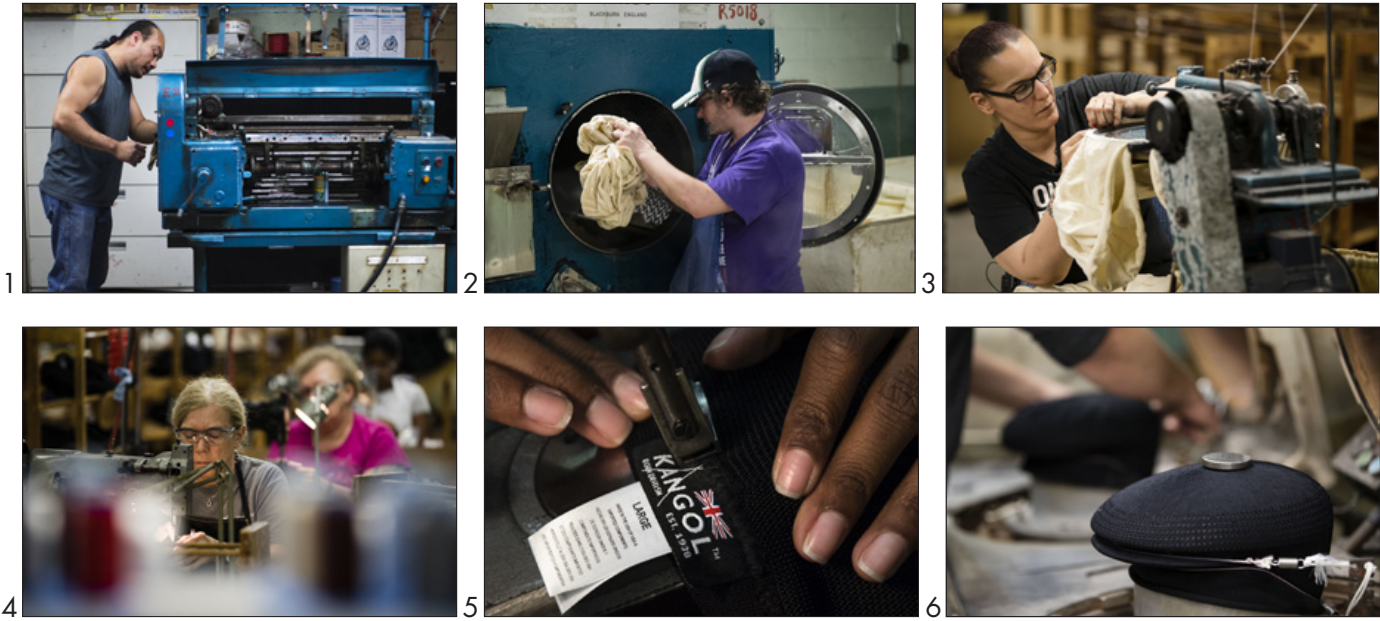


Kangol hats are displayed at the Bollman Hat Company in Adamstown. The nation’s oldest hatmaker expects a relatively quick turnaround once U.S. workers get better at making the popular caps.

could’ve ever dreamed,” said Don Rongione, Bollman’s president and CEO.

The nation’s oldest hatmaker expects a relatively quick turnaround once U.S. workers get better at making the popular Kangol caps. But Bollman’s early struggles with

A historic hat factory is struggling to break even. But the CEO is optimistic.



MATT ROURKE / ASSOCIATED PRESS

1) Hien Nguyen works on a knitting machine. 2) A worker treats fabric in a washing machine. 3) Amaryllis Garman cuts sections of fabric. 4) Workers sew hats together. 5) A worker embroiders a hat. 6) Hats are put on shaping blocks. 7) The final product.



7

Pennsylvania Bollman factory reflects worldwide trends in apparel manufacturing

MICHAEL RUBINKAM
Associated Press

Employment is down 85 percent since 1990 — the biggest decline of any manufacturing sector — as cost-cutting apparel companies shifted production to Asia in search of cheaper labor. Bollman Hat Co. spends about \$11 an hour per worker in Pennsylvania vs. \$2.60 in China.

In an industry where trends come and go quickly, “It’s incredibly important to incorporate speed into the delivery of the product,” said Bollman President and

Chief Operating Officer Don Rongione.

Other apparel companies are also trying to be more nimble. U.S. apparel production has increased 50 percent since 2009, according to the American Apparel & Footwear Association, as some footwear and clothing makers decided to accept higher labor costs in exchange for greater inventory control and proximity to U.S. customers.

“Obviously, if you have a plant in the United States, it’s much easier to respond to trends, produce small runs and get product to market really quickly,”

said Nate Herman, the trade group’s senior vice president of supply chain.

Last year, for the first time in decades, the number of manufacturing jobs created by U.S. companies that moved operations back to the nation and by foreign companies investing in America exceeded the number of jobs lost by companies moving overseas, according to the Reshoring Initiative, a nonprofit set up to bring factory jobs back to the United States.

Yet the U.S. garment industry’s production gains also show why President Donald Trump’s campaign

pledge to return manufacturing jobs to the U.S. could prove difficult. Increased automation is making it cheaper to sew and knit in the U.S. but requires fewer workers.

Moreover, more than 97 percent of America’s wardrobe still comes from abroad.

“It’s not going to be what it once was,” said Steven Frumkin, of the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York. “We’re never going to employ as many people because of efficiencies and equipment.”