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FINAL FLY-IN

Former pilots for Braniff Airways gathered this week for their last annual fly-in.
Find out more about the 41-year pastel-colored tradition. **FEATURES, 6**



Southwest Journalist

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

■ DOW JONES NEWS FUND CENTER FOR EDITING EXCELLENCE

■ SOUTHWESTJOURNALIST.COM

■ THURSDAY, MAY 31, 2018



VERNON BRYANT / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott on Wednesday called for schools to have more armed personnel and focus more on spotting student mental health problems.

Gov. Abbott pushes for more guns in schools

Following Santa Fe, Abbott detailed plan to prevent other shootings

BRANDON FORMBY AND EMMA PLATOFF
Associated Press

Less than two weeks after 10 people were killed in a Southeast Texas school shooting, Gov. Greg Abbott laid out a 40-page, 40-strategy plan for preventing future school shootings and left the door open to calling lawmakers back to Austin to pass some of those priorities. “If there is consensus on some laws that could be passed, I am open to calling [a special session],” Abbott said. A special session would be a dramatic move during an election year in which he, all top state officials and a majority of lawmakers are seeking new terms. Some lawmakers have demanded that Abbott, who has the sole authority to call and set agendas for special sessions, take such action. Most Texans responding to a poll taken before the Santa Fe shooting said they support stricter gun control laws.



ERIC GAY / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Students, families and educators from the Santa Fe, Alpine and Sutherland Springs communities take part in a roundtable discussion on safety and security in schools with Gov. Greg Abbott on May 24.

The main points of Abbott’s plan:

- increase law enforcement presence at schools
- train and arm more school marshals who would respond in the event of a shooting
- provide mental health evaluations that identify students at risk of harming others and equipping them with resources and help

Much of the plan Abbott laid out Wednesday would require approval from the Texas Legislature, which will not reconvene until January 2019 unless Abbott intervenes.

Abbott’s announcement, made at the Dallas school district’s headquarters Wednesday, came one day after Santa Fe students returned to class for the first time following the deadly shootings. Thirteen people were also injured in the attack.

At the heart of the governor’s proposal is an expansion of the existing School Marshal Program, one of two existing systems for arming school personnel. More than 170 school districts of the 1,000-plus in Texas already have some type of system for arming educators and other staff.

Abbott also raised narrow, gun-related proposals, including the tightening of Texas’ safe gun storage and laws.

Suspected shooter Dimitrios Pagourtzis, a 17-year-old junior at the high school, has been in custody in Galveston County since the attack at Santa Fe High School. Authorities say he used his father’s guns.

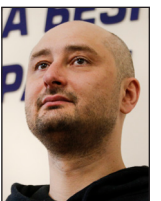
Current Texas law holds parents ac-

■ GOVERNOR, Page 2

Journalist turns up alive after death hoax

DMYTRO VLASOV AND NATALIYA VASILYEVA
Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Russian journalist Arkady Babchenko walked into a news conference Wednesday, less than a day after police in the Ukrainian capital said he had been assassinated.



Babchenko

Authorities said his death was staged to foil a plot on his life by Moscow’s security services. One arrest was made. Russia denounced the faked killing as an outlandish attempt at defamation by its neighbor and foe.

Even Babchenko’s wife was unaware of the deception, and the 41-year-old Kremlin critic who fled to Ukraine 15 months ago apologized to her “for the hell she had to go through in the past two days. There was no choice there, either.”

Neither Babchenko nor Ukrainian Security Service chief Vasyl Gritsak gave details of the sting operation or how they made his wife believe he was dead.

Kiev Police Chief Andriy Kravchenko had announced Babchenko’s death Tuesday, saying that the journalist’s wife found him bleeding at their apartment building in Kiev but that he died en route to the hospital. Lawmaker Anton Gerashchenko, an

■ JOURNALIST, Page 2

Poll: More youths think they matter to politicians

STEVE PEOPLES AND EMILY SWANSON
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Don’t tell 20-year-old Nestor Aguilera he can’t effect change in politics.

The Indiana University business major protested outside President Donald Trump’s recent appearance in Aguilera’s home of Elkhart, Indiana. And while he says he didn’t vote in 2016, he’s promising to show up for this fall’s midterm elections.

“If young people decide to go out there and vote, we have the power to affect what the government does,” Aguilera said. “We could have a big impact.”

Aguilera is among a small, but significant, surge of young people who say they feel politically empowered in the latest Youth Political Pulse survey from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and MTV. A slim majority — 54 percent — of people aged 15 to 34, a group that is typically the least likely to vote, continue to believe they have little or no effect on government. But 46 percent of young people now believe they can have at least a moderate effect, a significant increase from two months earlier, when 37 percent said the same.

There’s also an uptick in the

■ YOUNG, Page 2

Summer may harm HS shooting survivors

Extra time may force students to relive the pain

KELLI KENNEDY AND TERRY SPENCER
Associated Press

PARKLAND, Fla. — As students count down the days until summer vacation, concerned parents are scrambling to keep survivors of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School massacre occupied so they don’t have extra time to relive the nightmare.

Community leaders and parents eager to prevent stress caused by time away from friends are organizing programs so students can socialize, play sports, create art or talk to therapists.

Michelle Siccone says she worries about what to do this summer with her 15-year-old daughter, Aria, who saw the terror-stricken face of a boy through a window as he pounded furiously on her classroom door just before being gunned down. When a SWAT team later led her out of the building, she saw three more bodies in the hallway.

Now, a knock on the door and other everyday events dredge up haunting memories and Siccone doesn’t want her daughter to be alone.

“We have no idea how we will



LYNNE SLADKY / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Freshman Kacie Shatzkamer stands outside Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. As summer approaches, parents and community leaders worry that more downtime away from friends could trigger stress and depression among survivors of the school’s February massacre. Shatzkamer said being around other students who went through the February shooting helps her cope.

occupy her time. Every day is a concern,” Siccone said.

Freshman Kacie Shatzkamer said that she would likely participate in a setting where she could hang out with her friends and that being around other students who went through the February shooting helps her cope.

“Somehow, being at the school

when thinking about it makes me feel better as long as several of my friends are there,” said the teen, whose friend Alyssa Alhadeff was killed along with 16 others.

Alexis Grogan, on the other hand, can’t wait to be away from the school.

“I don’t really like coming to school much,” she said. “Things

that trigger me would have to be seeing the siblings or girlfriends or friends of the victims who were killed in the shooting.”

Grogan, who turns 16 in June, is planning to do the same thing she does every summer: hang at the beach with friends. “We all have each other’s back, and I’m sure no one will be alone during this time,” she said.

But community leaders recognize that the summer lull could be a danger zone for other students. Parkland Mayor Christine Hunschofsky said planning for summer began not long after the shooting.

“We really have a group that is coming together to make sure no one is falling through the cracks,” Hunschofsky said.

Craig Pugatch, a Fort Lauderdale lawyer and a leader of Mobilizing MSD Alumni, is helping organize the programs, particularly focusing on giving kids an outlet through creative arts.

“The idea is not to impose a program but to draw them out and give them a place to hang out with each other,” Pugatch said. “Drama for example, some have really gotten into improv comedy. We want to give them a space and not just a lounge and couches, but give them a chance to express

■ VICTIMS, Page 2

**Online now:
Full survey
results**

Check out all the numbers from the Youth Political Pulse survey at swjournalist.com.

And head over to @SWJournalist to catch the results of our own Twitter poll.



JOE SKIPPER / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Students take part in the “March For Our Lives” rally on March 24 in Parkland, Florida, to advocate for tighter gun control regulations following the Majory Stoneman Douglas High School massacre. A new poll reveals a significant surge in the number of young people who feel politically empowered, a change that comes after the Parkland shooting elevated the voices of high school students in American politics.

Young people say their ideas are critical to politicians, poll finds

■ Continued from Page 1

number of young people who say politicians care what they think: 34 percent of 15- to 34-year-old people report that elected officials care at least a moderate amount about what they think, while just 25 percent said so two months ago.

At the same time, two-thirds say they think the government is not functioning well, and 52 percent say they rarely or never keep up with the midterm elections.

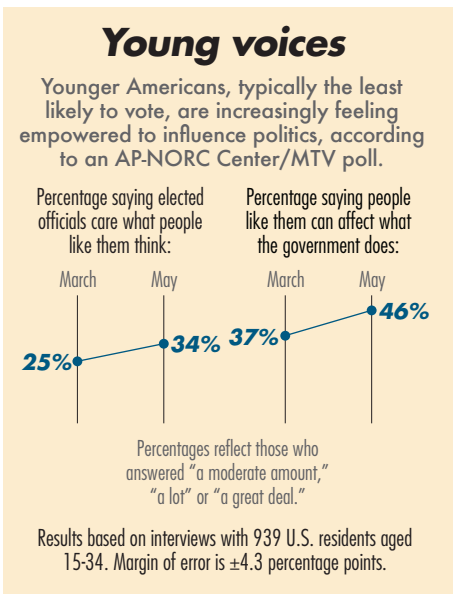
While many young people continue to feel powerless in the current political environment, the modest increases revealed in the poll could be further evidence of a Democratic wave building against the GOP this fall. Young people are far more likely to side with Democrats than Republicans. The new poll finds that they are also especially likely to have concerns about the Re-

publican president.

Just 30 percent of people aged 15 to 34 approve of Trump's job performance, the poll found. Forty percent said they approved of the president's work at the White House.

Despite the rise in engagement, it's far from certain that young people will reshape the political landscape this fall. Young voters, with few exceptions, have struggled to maintain interest in politics over the last half century. Just 15 percent of eligible voters ages 18 to 20 cast ballots in the last midterm election, for example.

“Do I feel like I could actually make a difference or influence things? Probably not,” said 23-year-old Charly Hyden. “I feel exhausted. I go out on protests and try to do things, but I feel like it doesn't matter. Maybe I'd feel differently if I were still in high school,” she said.



Journalist fakes death to evade hired Russian hit man, he says

■ Continued from Page 1

adviser to the interior minister, said the assailant had waited on a staircase in the building and shot Babchenko in the back as he was going to buy bread.

At the start of Wednesday's news conference, Babchenko, clad in a black sweatshirt, walked into the room as other reporters gasped and exclaimed their surprise, then broke into applause.

“I'm still alive,” an uneasy-looking Babchenko said with a straight face. Then he apologized for the deception. “I know that sickening feeling when you bury a colleague,” he added.

The news conference produced mixed emotions. “I was shocked. But then a feeling of happiness rose up,” said Serhii Nuzhnenko, a freelance journalist.

Babchenko said he was not allowed to go into the details of his false death.

He said Ukraine's law enforcement had been aware of a contract on his head for two months. He said he was approached by the Ukrainian Security Service, or SBU, a month ago.

It also was unclear why authorities decided to go to such lengths to make it look as if Babchenko was dead.

Gritsak said investigators had identified a Ukrainian citizen who allegedly was paid \$40,000 by the Russian security service to organize and carry out the hit. The unidentified Ukrainian man in turn allegedly hired an acquaintance to be the gunman, he added.

The suspected organizer of the alleged hit plot was detained Wednesday, Gritsak said, suggesting the bogus killing was aimed at flushing him out, and he showed a video of the arrest.



MYKOLA LAZARENKO / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russian journalist Arkady Babchenko, right, was reported shot dead in Kiev, Ukraine, on Tuesday but showed up at a news conference the next day saying the security services faked his death.

For a history of notable people faking their own deaths, visit our website at swjournalist.com

nipulation of the Ukrainian secret services. It is always deeply dangerous for states to play with the facts.”

Babchenko fled the country in February 2017 because of threats against him and his family. He said his home address was published online. He also said he received threats by phone, email and social media.

The journalist was scathingly critical of Moscow's annexation of Crimea.

Several Russian lawmakers said that Babchenko should be stripped of his citizenship and Russian state media called him a traitor.

Governor proposes new plan in response to Santa Fe shooting

■ Continued from Page 1

countable when their minor children — under the age of 17 — access their loaded weapons. Because Pagourtzis was 17, his family won't be liable under that law, though they are being sued under other, more general liability statutes. Abbott proposed raising that age to include 17-year-olds, a measure that would bring Texas in line with dozens of other states that have

stricter child-access prevention laws.

Abbott also proposed expanding a mental health screening program already operated through Texas Tech University. He said he hopes to “eventually” make that program — currently operational in 10 school districts — a statewide system, and said he recommends Texas fund it with \$20 million.

The Telemedicine Wellness, Intervention, Triage, and Referral Project at the Tex-

as Tech University Health Sciences Center, which aims to identify junior high and high school students at risk of committing school violence and intervene before tragedy occurs, has already had 25 students removed from school, 44 placed in alternative schools and 38 sent to a hospital. Abbott had praised that program just hours after the shooting, tweeting that “we want to use it across the state.”

Confession clears name of man jailed for 15 years

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — A man who spent 15 years in prison for the 2001 killing of a teenager was freed Wednesday after a judge ruled he didn't commit the crime.

Dallas County District Attorney Faith Johnson said Quintin Lee Alonzo, 38, was freed when the judge agreed with a petition from prosecutors declaring him innocent in the death of Santos Gauna, who was killed at a party for his high school graduation and decision to join the Marines.

Although Alonzo was freed because prosecutors and the judge believe he's innocent — due largely to the confession of a condemned man the day before that man's execution — Alonzo still needs the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals to formally exonerate him to be eligible for state compensation for being falsely imprisoned. That ruling could take months.

Officials say an “exhaustive investigation” corroborated the 2015 confession that Licho Escamilla gave to investigators from the district attorney's office right before Escamilla was put to death for the killing of an off-duty Dallas police officer.

“He was facing execution the next day,” said Cynthia Garza, who heads the unit. “We believe he was doing this to make peace with God and make things right for him.”

Escamilla was a suspect in Gauna's killing. But a person identified Alonzo as the shooter from a photo lineup, and Johnson said the jury at his 2003 trial relied heavily on that identification to convict him.

Alonzo was sentenced to life in prison.

Escamilla was convicted in 2002 in the death of officer Christopher Kevin James, who was among four uniformed Dallas officers working off-duty security at a club when a brawl broke out and James was shot multiple times by Escamilla.

Prosecutors say Escamilla confessed to killing Gauna and also confessed later to his appellate attorneys. Johnson acknowledged that rumors circulated after the teen's death that Escamilla was responsible, but she said Alonzo's attorney argued this point at Alonzo's trial and jurors didn't buy it.

Victims may dig up trauma on time off

■ Continued from Page 1

themselves.”

In Washington state, community groups organized activities and the YMCA gave free memberships to students and staff. In Ohio, the community held dances and group yoga, and the school worked with a college where many graduating seniors were headed to set up a support group.

Frank DeAngelis, who was principal at Colorado's Columbine High School when 13 died in an April 1999 attack, said his community had few examples to draw on to plan the summer after their tragedy, so they improvised. A community theater opened its doors and allowed students to hang out. Churches and athletic teams held programs and counselors were available.

Those things helped, he said, but drug and alcohol use still increased among Columbine survivors.

“I asked some kids why and they said, ‘There are no guarantees in life,’” DeAngelis said. “It is important that the school let parents know that if their kids are struggling, they have a place to turn.”

In Parkland, an organization created by the parents of slain 14-year-old Alaina Petty will host a suicide prevention seminar before summer break.

“We've heard things from kids about feeling overwhelmed. We just want to make sure that they ... are able to identify the different feelings,” said Kelly Petty, Alaina's mother.

One of the biggest challenges may be getting students to access the services. Dozens interviewed by The Associated Press said they didn't want to share their feelings with a stranger, saying talking with friends was more helpful. That's why leaders focus on outlets like art and theater.

The number of students seeking counseling at the school “has dropped dramatically to a trickle,” said Cindy Arenberg Seltzer, president of the Children's Services Council of Broward County.

“There are services there where nobody's going, so it's hard to know, and we're trying to get at the root of it,” she said. “I keep struggling with why won't they go, and I think it is the stigma.”

Community leaders recognize that the summer lull could be a danger zone for other students.

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INTERNATIONAL

Brit sentenced over plot to attack gay pride event

LONDON — A British man who planned a neo-Nazi-inspired machete attack on a gay pride event has been sentenced to an indefinite stay in a psychiatric hospital.

Ethan Stables was arrested in June 2017 as he walked toward a pub in his hometown of Barrow-in-Furness, northwest England, on what prosecutors said was a reconnaissance trip. Police found an ax, a machete and a swastika flag at his home.

Prosecutors said Stables had posted on Facebook that he wanted to “slaughter every single one of the gay bastards.”

Defense lawyers said the 20-year-old, who has an autism spectrum disorder, had been influenced by right-wing extremists. But he was convicted in February of preparing an act of terrorism.

Passing sentence Wednesday, Judge Peter Collier said Stables posed “a very real risk to the public.”

Italian president resolute in face of economic crisis

ROME — Earlier this week, Luigi Di Maio, who leads the euro-skeptic 5-Star Movement, raised the specter of impeaching Italian President Sergio Mattarella. The threat came after the president refused to submit to populist demands to appoint, as economy minister, an advocate of a backup plan for Italy's exit from the euro currency.

Those who have followed Mattarella's career say his refusal to bow to pressure reflects his character and courage of convictions.

Mattarella is someone “with strong, deep values,” said Sergio Fabbini, director of the school of government at Rome's private LUISS University. “His family was a bourgeois family that stood up to the Mafia and refused to compromise” with the powerful organization based in Sicily.

Mattarella's willingness to accommodate different viewpoints — but also to draw lines he won't cross — ultimately played out in the current political crisis.

In rebuffing the populists' demands, Mattarella evoked a sense of justice, describing how the markets' turmoil was eroding Italians' savings and driving up business loan costs.

The populist narrative, Fabbini said, depicts institutions like the presidency as “the bastion of the elite” and the “enemy of the people.”

Prince Charles in Romania, promotes agriculture jobs

BUCHAREST, Romania — Britain's Prince Charles has arrived for his annual visit to Romania, where he charges his batteries and also promotes skills and training in rural Transylvania.

He met Romanian President Klaus Iohannis on Wednesday and later met Prime Minister Viorica Dancila in Bucharest, the capital. Later, he will travel to Transylvania, in the northwest.

He owns two properties in the deep, sparsely populated countryside where bears and other wildlife roam wild.

Three years ago, Charles set up the Prince of Wales Foundation Romania, which supports the Eastern European nation's heritage and rural life, and sustainable development.

Charles, who first visited Romania in 1998, will attend a theater festival in the central city of Sibiu next week.

Top North Korea official arrives in US for talks

WASHINGTON — A North Korean official has arrived in New York for talks with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo ahead of what the White House says is an “expected” summit between President Donald Trump and North Korea's Kim Jong Un.

Kim Yong Chol is a former military intelligence chief and one of the North Korean leader's most trusted aides. He is the highest-level representative from the North to set foot in the United States since 2000.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported that Kim landed shortly after 2 p.m. on an Air China flight from Beijing. Associated Press journalists saw the plane touch down at New York's JFK International Airport and the North Korean delegation get off the plane.

The visit comes ahead of a summit planned for June 12, which Trump canceled but now says may take place after all.

Afghan forces repel attack by Islamic State in Kabul

KABUL, Afghanistan — Islamic State militants, including two suicide bombers, dressed in military uniforms and riding in two armored vehicles, launched a surprise attack on the Interior Ministry in Kabul on Wednesday but Afghan forces managed to repel the assault, leaving all the attackers dead.

It was a rare victory for Afghan security forces, who have struggled to secure the capital in recent months amid relentless attacks by the Taliban and the IS affiliate in Afghanistan.

According to the ministry spokesman, Najib Danish, one policeman was killed and five were wounded in the assault.

Two of the attackers detonated their explosives, allowing eight others to pass through an outer gate at the ministry where they traded fire with security forces before they were eventually killed.

Gen. John Nicholson said the tactics used in the attack “track with” the tactics that the Haqqani faction has used in the past, and added: “We at this time do not believe it was an ISIS attack.”

The Islamic State group has since claimed responsibility for the attack.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gaza, Israel cease fire Israeli-Gaza violence reaches uneasy stillness

FARES AKRAM Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Gaza's Hamas rulers said Wednesday they had agreed to a cease-fire with Israel to end the largest flare-up of violence between the two sides since a 2014 war.

Khalil al-Hayya, a senior Hamas official, said Egyptian mediators intervened “after the resistance succeeded in warding off the aggression.” He said militant groups in Gaza will commit to the cease-fire as long as Israel does.

Israeli Cabinet minister Arieה Deri told Israel's Army Radio that he expected calm to be restored.

“If it will be quiet, we will respond with quiet,” he said. “We've given Hamas a chance to prove that we can return to routine. ... There is a good chance that the routine will be restored after the blow the army unleashed on them.”

The Israeli military struck dozens of militant sites in Gaza overnight as rocket fire continued toward southern Israeli communities into early Wednesday

morning, setting off civil defense sirens in the area throughout the night.

The military said it hit drone storage facilities, military compounds, and rocket and munition workshops across the Gaza Strip. The overnight Hamas rocket fire reached the city of Netivot for the first time since the 2014 war, striking one home but causing no injuries.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel gave Palestinian militant groups in Gaza “the strongest blow dealt to them in years” and warned against renewed rocket fire.

“When they try us, they pay immediately. And if they continue to try us, they will pay a lot more,” Netanyahu said at a ceremony in Tel Aviv.

But neither Israel nor the Palestinian factions in Gaza attacked with full force, a sign that neither

side was interested in escalating hostilities. Militants in Gaza did not fire long-range rockets at Israel's major cities, as they did in 2014, and Israeli airstrikes zeroed in on only unmanned military targets.

With neither side appearing interested in a full-blown conflict, a tense calm appeared to be holding Wednesday as Israeli children went to school in the morning.

Israel and Hamas are bitter enemies and have fought three wars since the Islamic militant group seized control of Gaza in 2007.

The last war, in 2014, was especially devastating, with over 2,000 Palestinians killed, including hundreds of civilians, and widespread damage inflicted on Gaza's infrastructure in 50 days of fighting. Seventy-two people were killed on the Israeli side.

“When they try us, they pay immediately. And if they continue to try us, they will pay a lot more.”

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU

IS takes credit for Belgian attack

RAF CASERT AND LORNE COOK Associated Press

BRUSSELS — A Belgian prison inmate, who killed four people while on furlough, committed “terrorist murder” and likely intended to cause more harm, prosecutors said Wednesday. The Islamic State group has since claimed responsibility for the bloodshed.

The convict, later identified as Belgian native Benjamin Herman, stabbed two police officers in the city of Liege and used their handguns to kill them and a bystander. Belgian Interior Minister Jan Jambon noted that Herman killed a fourth person on Monday night away from the eastern industrial town.

IS said in a brief statement that Herman was a “soldier of the caliphate.”

Such wording is typical of the claims IS makes even when suspects have not been linked directly to the terror group. Belgian



GEERT VANDEN WIJNGAERT / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A woman falls to tears as she approaches the site of mourning for the victims of the Belgian inmate attack Wednesday, May 30, 2018.

authorities have not said if they have evidence the inmate had vowed allegiance to IS or was acting on its orders.

Herman, 31, a convert to Islam, was known to local authorities as a repeat offender involved in petty crime and drugs. He spent most of his time in prison since 2003 and was on a two-day leave when he launched his attack. Police shot him dead not long after.

The attack has shaken Belgium.

GERMAN ZOO WELCOMES LION CUBS



MICHAEL PROBST / ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Frankfurt Zoo is showing off its first lion cubs in 15 years. The mother, Zarina, gave birth to triplets April 14, and kept a close eye on her offspring as they took their first steps in the zoo's lion enclosure on Wednesday. The father, 12-year-old Kumar, is being kept apart from 6-year-old Zarina and the cubs until zookeepers

are sure that the mother will tolerate his presence. The Asian lion cubs haven't yet been named, and keepers believe — but aren't yet sure — that two of them are male. Anni Fuchs, head of the big cats section at the Frankfurt Zoo, believes the cubs' father would love nothing more than to see them in a few weeks.

Racist chants on rise in Russia ahead of World Cup

JAMES ELLINGWORTH Associated Press

MOSCOW — Racist and anti-gay chants have become more common in Russian soccer as the country prepares to host the World Cup, even as overall incidents of discrimination declined.

Nineteen incidents of abusive chants were recorded this season, according to an annual report from the anti-discrimination Fare Network and the Moscow-based Sova Center released Wednesday. That compares to two cases the season before, and 10 the year before that.

Targets included players from the French national team, who were met with monkey chants during a game against Russia in March, and Liverpool youth player Bobby Adekanye, who was racially abused by Spartak Moscow supporters.

Russian national team goalkeeper Guilherme Marinato, a naturalized citizen who was born in Brazil, was twice targeted by Spartak fans calling him a monkey.

In another case, a regional governor told local media that the club his administration funds in the city of Vladivostok would not sign

any black players.

Last month, Nigeria defender Bryan Idowu, who was born and raised in Russia, told The Associated Press that some fans in the country viewed racist abuse as a tactic to distract opposing players, rather than as a statement of ideology.

“I think most of them do that to put pressure on a player psychologically, maybe so he doesn't want to keep playing,” he said. “It could just be because someone finds it funny.”

Overall, cases of discrimination in Russian soccer fell to 80, the lowest since the 2013-14 season, according to Fare.

Fare Executive Director Piara Powar said there is also a growing shift by far-right fan groups to racist chants because visual displays like banners are more easily tracked by surveillance cameras in stadiums.

The Fare Network, which helps FIFA and UEFA investigate racism cases, is planning to open two “Diversity Houses” in Moscow and St. Petersburg during the World Cup, where issues of discrimination in sports will be discussed.

“It's a celebration of diversity,” Powar said.



DENIS TYRIN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

While Russia prepares to host the World Cup, abusive chants plague teams of all countries and ethnicities, even toward Russian-born player Guilherme Marinato.

“It showcases the rise of ethnic-minority players across the continent and looks at the growth of women's football, looks at issues associated with Russian football.”

Fare is also issuing a guide to Russia for visiting fans and operating a helpline for fans from minority groups to report harassment or attacks.

France warns against potential trade war

SYLVIE CORBET AND ANGELA CHARLTON Associated Press

PARIS — French President Emmanuel Macron warned against trade wars in an impassioned speech about international cooperation Wednesday, a day or two before the Trump administration decides whether to hit Europe with new tariffs.



Macron

Top European officials were holding last-ditch talks in Paris with the U.S. commerce and trade chiefs on the steel and aluminum tariffs. However, they seem to be losing hope of winning an exemption from the charges.

European officials said they expect the United States to announce its final decision Thursday, but the U.S. plan has kindled fears of a global trade war — a prospect that is already weighing on investor confidence and could hinder the global economic upturn.

If the U.S. goes ahead with its tariffs, the EU has threatened to impose retaliatory tariffs on U.S. orange juice, peanut butter and other goods in return.

“Unilateral responses and threats over trade war will solve nothing of the serious imbalances in the world trade. Nothing,” Macron said in a speech at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris.

Besides the U.S. steel and aluminum tariffs, the Trump administration is also investigating limits on foreign cars in the name of U.S. national security. French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire pledged that the European response would be “united and firm.”

Gowdy: No evidence of FBI spy

Senior House Republican contradicts Trump's claim

ANNE FLAHERTY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — There is no evidence that the FBI planted a “spy” on President Donald Trump’s 2016 campaign, a senior House Republican said Wednesday, directly contradicting Trump’s repeated insistence that the agency inserted a “spy for political reasons and to help Crooked Hillary win.”

Rep. Trey Gowdy, chairman of the House Oversight Committee and a longtime Trump supporter, was briefed last week by



Gowdy

the Justice Department and FBI following reports that investigators relied on a U.S. government informant in its investigation into Russian election meddling.

“I am even more convinced that the FBI did exactly what my fellow citizens would want them to do when they got the information they got and that it has nothing to do with Donald Trump,” Gowdy, a South Carolina Republican, told Fox News on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, Gowdy said he had “never heard the term ‘spy’ used” and did not see evidence of that.

Gowdy’s comments are particularly striking because of his role as a powerful GOP watchdog who took on Democrat Hillary Clinton

in his committee’s investigation into the 2012 attacks on Americans in Benghazi, Libya, while she was secretary of state. The probe unearthed the existence of Clinton’s private email server, which triggered an FBI inquiry and crippled her 2016 presidential campaign against Trump.

Trump has zeroed in on, and at times embellished, reports on the informant, calling the matter “spygate” and tweeting that it was “starting to look like one of the biggest political scandals in U.S. history.” Trump has also rejected assertions by the U.S. intelligence agencies that the Russian government was trying to help him beat Clinton.

Trump’s legal team has asked

to review classified information about the origins of the FBI investigation to prepare the president for an interview with special counsel Robert Mueller, who is now leading the investigation into ties between Trump’s campaign and Russia.

Gowdy did, however, express support for Trump’s “frustration” with Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who recused himself in May 2017 from the Russia probe because of possible conflict of interest. The recusal of Sessions, an early backer of Trump’s presidential bid, followed the revelation that he had two previously undisclosed interactions during the 2016 campaign with the Russian ambassador.

“I am even more convinced that the FBI did exactly what my fellow citizens would want them to do.”

TREY GOWDY

Record 41 women to run for Senate

THOMAS BEAUMONT AND SCOTT BAUER
Associated Press

MADISON, Wisconsin — A record number of women are running for the U.S. Senate this year, and their stiff challenge is winning enough seats to dramatically diversify a chamber long dominated by men.

Many face uphill campaigns and two Democratic incumbents in particular among the 23 women in the Senate are seen as politically vulnerable in seeking re-election in November. When GOP state Sen. Leah Vukmir of Wisconsin filed petitions Wednesday, it meant 41 Republican and Democratic women have qualified to run for the Senate — the most ever, topping the 40 in 2016.

That’s according to an Associated Press analysis of data collected by the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers Univer-



MATT YORK / ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. Rep. Martha McSally, R-Ariz., delivers her signatures to the Arizona Secretary of State’s office Tuesday, May 29, 2018, at the Capitol in Phoenix. McSally is one of a record number of female candidates running for the Senate this year.

sity and information released by states. For more than two centuries, men have dominated the Senate, which has seated only 52

female members in its history.

A potent force behind the surge in female participation is the #MeToo movement, ignited by

allegations of sexual misconduct by men in entertainment, politics, journalism and other sectors. There’s also the criticism of President Donald Trump’s policies and his alleged conduct toward women.

The biggest hurdle for female candidates is the electoral map. Of the 13 Democratic women seeking re-election, four are in states that Trump won in 2016 and where he is expected to weigh in heavily.

“The march toward gender equity in the Senate is inexorable,” former Sen. Carol Moseley Braun, an Illinois Democrat who in 1992 was the first African-American woman elected to the Senate. “It’s a matter of attitude and sends the message to young women they can do whatever they want or can.”

Sixers launch investigation of Colangelo

DAN GELSTON
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The Philadelphia 76ers are investigating whether team President Bryan Colangelo used a variety of Twitter accounts to anonymously trash some of his own players and fellow executives and defend himself against criticism from fans and the sports media.

The allegations, reported Tuesday by the sports website The Ringer, raised questions about Colangelo’s future and that of the NBA team itself, a rising franchise heading into an important summer as it tries to attract free agents to contend for championships.

The five Twitter accounts under suspicion took aim at Philadelphia players Joel Embiid and Markelle Fultz, former Sixers general manager Sam Hinkie, Toronto Raptors executive Masai Ujiri and former Sixers players Jahlil Okafor and Nerlens Noel, according to The Ringer.

Among other things, the user or users of the accounts complained that Embiid was “playing like a toddler having tantrums.” The user of one of the accounts claimed to know Colangelo and described him more than once as a “class act.” The tweets also raised the question of whether Colangelo used the anonymous accounts to divulge team strategy and details about players’ medical conditions.

Colangelo acknowledged using one of the accounts to monitor the NBA industry and other current events but said he wasn’t familiar with the four others.

“The allegations are serious and we have commenced an independent investigation into the matter,” the Sixers said Wednesday in a statement.

The Ringer said it had been monitoring the accounts since February, when it received an anonymous tip, and that it found numerous connections among the accounts that suggested the same person was behind them. The website also said it initially asked the Sixers about just two of the accounts, and the same day the three others were suddenly made private.



Colangelo

S-C-R-I-P-P-S: NATIONAL SPELLING BEE IN FULL SWING



CLIFF OWEN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Matthew Rodgers, 13, from Severance, Colorado, waits to spell his word during the third round of the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Oxon Hill, Maryland, on Wednesday. This year’s bee drew 516 entrants, a record high. The competition has gotten stiffer over the years: according to one speller’s father, who won the bee himself in 1985, a few decades ago contestants could win by memorizing about 10,000 words. Now, they must memorize between 40,000 and 80,000.

Conn. prison unit supports young inmates

Unit for 18- to 25-year-olds already seen as national model

PAT EATON-ROBB
Associated Press

CHESHIRE, Conn. — Demetriuse Geyer, who met his father while both were inmates inside a Connecticut prison, says he’s now getting the skills to give himself a better future, one outside the barbed wire.

The 22-year-old from Bridgeport is part of a prison program called TRUE (Truthfulness, Respect, Understanding and Elevating), which is designed specifically to address the needs of 18- to 25-year-old offenders.

It focuses on developing inmates as people through educational programs, family engagement and the mentorship of older inmates.

“I’m learning how to control my anger,” said Geyer, who is serving a five-year sentence for robbery. “I’m also learning how to write a resume, fill out a job application, handle my money — things I never learned in high school.”

It is based on a German prison, which Gov. Dannel P. Malloy and Correction Commissioner Scott Semple toured in 2015. Younger criminals often act on impulse and are better served by a nurturing, supportive environment, rather than one that is strictly punitive, Semple said.

Inmates apply for the program and are chosen by a committee. But Semple also said those in the unit have varying disciplinary records in an effort to get a realistic idea of whether the program works.

“We’re not bringing cupcakes into this,” he said. “We’re trying to bring in folks who will challenge us.”

Semple said he was wary of allowing the unit to include the older mentors, worried that those inmates might take advantage of the younger prisoners. Instead they have become invaluable, he said, treating



PAT EATON-ROBB / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Inmates Festim Shyuqeriu, left, and Isschar Howard, center, tour Connecticut Gov. Dannel P. Malloy through their unit.

the inmates as younger versions of themselves and showing them how to avoid confrontations in prison and other pitfalls.

Family visits are encouraged, and inmates are able to have physical contact, which includes holding their children or reading to them.

There are team-building exercises, often including the guards, turning what is an adversarial relationship into a supportive one, officials said.

“Yesterday I was talking to a correction officer outside, and everyone was playing basketball ... and he looked at me and said, ‘I feel more like a camp counselor than a CO,’” said 24-year-old inmate Festim Shyuqeriu, who is serving time for robbery. “I said, ‘That’s a good thing.’”

Semple notes that disciplinary issues inside the TRUE unit are virtually nonexistent but that younger inmates account for about 25 percent of disciplinary incidents outside the unit. Several other prison systems, including those in South Carolina, Washington, D.C. and Massachusetts are starting programs based on the Connecticut model, he said.

NATIONAL

Weinstein indicted on rape and sex act charges

NEW YORK — Harvey Weinstein was indicted Wednesday on rape and criminal sex act charges, furthering the first criminal case to arise from a slate of sexual misconduct allegations against the former movie mogul.

Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. said the indictment brings Weinstein “another step closer to accountability” for alleged attacks on two women in New York.

Weinstein’s lawyer, Benjamin Brafman, said he would “vigorously defend” against the indictment and ask a court to dismiss it.

The indictment came hours after Weinstein’s lawyer said the film producer would decline to testify before the grand jury because there wasn’t enough time to prepare him and “political pressure” made an indictment unavoidable. Freed on \$1 million bail and under electronic monitoring, he is due back in court July 30, though that date may now be moved up in light of the indictment.

Beyond the two women involved in the case, dozens more women have accused Weinstein of sexual misconduct ranging from harassment to assault in various locales. He has denied all allegations.

Colon cancer screening should start at 45, not 50

NEW YORK — New guidelines released Wednesday recommend U.S. adults start colon cancer screening earlier, at age 45 instead of 50.

The American Cancer Society was influenced by its study, published last year, that found rising rates of colon cancer and deaths in people younger than 50. Experts aren’t sure why there has been a 50 percent increase in cases since 1994.

The guidelines are for men and women ages 45 to 75 of average risk for colon cancer; recommendations are different for people with certain conditions, like Crohn’s disease, or a family history of colon cancer. The group endorses six kinds of screening exams. Colon cancer, combined with rectal cancer, is the second leading cause of cancer death in the U.S.

Others argue that instead of lowering the age for routine screening, more effort should be put into getting more people tested. Only about two-thirds of people 50 and older have been following screening guidelines.

Prosecutor pleads guilty of trading sex for leniency

BEDFORD, Pa. — A former Pennsylvania district attorney accused of tipping off female drug dealers and giving them lenient treatment in exchange for sex has pleaded guilty to corruption charges.

Former Bedford County District Attorney William Higgins entered his plea Wednesday, according to Attorney General Josh Shapiro.

Higgins resigned in early April after the charges were filed, saying in a statement that he’d been accused of conduct “unbecoming of a district attorney” and “unbecoming of a husband and father.”

Police said Higgins also revealed the names of confidential informants to female drug dealers with whom he was having sex, or to their friends and associates. He pleaded guilty to 31 counts, including official oppression.

The 43-year-old Republican was sworn into office in 2004 as the state’s youngest district attorney.

Barr blames Ambien for tweet; drugmaker replies

NEW YORK — The maker of Ambien said Wednesday that “racism is not a known side effect” after Roseanne Barr cited the insomnia drug in explaining the tweet that led ABC to cancel her show.

Hours after ABC pulled the plug on “Roseanne” because of her offensive tweet about former Obama adviser Valerie Jarrett — and quickly breaking a promise to stay off Twitter — the comedian was busy posting on the social media platform.

Barr tweeted that what she did was unforgivable and urged supporters not to defend her. She said of the Jarrett tweet, “It was 2 in the morning and I was ambien tweeting.”

“Roseanne” was an instant hit when it returned this spring after a two-decade hiatus. But after Barr’s tweet that likened Jarrett, who is black and was born in Iran, to a cross between the Muslim Brotherhood and the “Planet of the Apes,” ABC canceled the show.

Barr’s agent also dropped her, and several services pulled “Roseanne” reruns. Jarrett, who said she was “fine” after the slur, urged in an MSNBC special Tuesday about racism that the incident become a teaching moment.

Kim Kardashian West meets with Trump

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has met with reality TV star Kim Kardashian West as she visited the White House to advocate on behalf of a woman serving a life sentence for drug offenses.

Trump is confirming the meeting — as he often does — via Twitter, writing, “Great meeting with @KimKardashian today, talked about prison reform and sentencing.”

He included a picture of the two in the Oval Office.

Kardashian West has been urging Trump to pardon Alice Marie Johnson, 63, who has spent more than two decades behind bars and is not eligible for parole.

Kardashian West had also been expected to meet with Trump’s son-in-law and senior adviser, Jared Kushner, who is overseeing the administration’s push to overhaul the nation’s prison system.

TEXAS AND SW

Trump to meet with families of Sante Fe victims

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump will be meeting with the families of the victims of a Texas school shooting during a visit to the state Thursday.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders made the announcement at the White House briefing Wednesday.

Eight students and two substitute teachers were killed during the shooting at Santa Fe High School on May 18.



Texas school district offers higher pay in Phoenix ads

PHOENIX — A Texas school district has placed advertisements on Phoenix billboards in an attempt to recruit teachers to a city with higher pay.

The Fort Worth Independent School District has rented five digital billboards in Phoenix that advertise a starting teacher salary of \$52,000. School district officials say the advertisements were placed in Arizona and Oklahoma to target teachers following the recent protests over pay in both states.

Arizona lawmakers approved a plan earlier this month to hike teacher salaries after a six-day walkout by educators that shut down most schools statewide.

Officials say the Fort Worth district has up to 800 job openings. The district has about 86,000 students and more than 10,000 employees.

The billboards went live Monday and will stay up for a month, officials said.

Ex-Dallas cop pleads guilty to shooting unarmed man

DALLAS — An ex-Dallas police officer will serve more than a year of probation after pleading guilty in the 2013 shooting of an unarmed black man.

WFAA-TV reports that Amy Wilburn pleaded guilty Tuesday to recklessly discharging a firearm at Kelvin Walker. Both Wilburn and Walker agreed to the plea deal. Wilburn was indicted on a felony aggravated assault by a public servant charge, which could have carried a sentence of up to life in prison.

Wilburn was pursuing a stolen vehicle in 2013 when she approached the car and shot Walker, who was unarmed in the passenger seat. Wilburn had alleged that Walker didn't put both of his hands up, but Walker and an independent witness said he did.

Wilburn's attorney declined to comment because of a pending multi-million dollar federal case. The trial is scheduled for August.

Warrant served for man killed by police

ARLINGTON, Texas — The mother of a man fatally shot by police last year said Wednesday that sheriff's deputies recently turned up at her mother's Arlington home to serve a warrant for the dead man's arrest.

Authorities say in February 2017, 23-year-old Tavis Crane ran over an Arlington police officer while attempting to flee a traffic stop. Another police officer entered Crane's car and shot him. A grand jury declined to take any action against that officer.

At the time of Crane's death, police said he had a felony warrant for evading arrest and multiple misdemeanor warrants.

Tarrant County Sheriff's Office spokesman David McClelland said Wednesday that records showed there were "several" warrants out for Crane's arrest, but not that he was dead. He said there was no policy that could be changed to prevent a similar incident from happening again.

"It's not our standard practice to check the death records if there are multiple active warrants out for somebody," McClelland said.

Crane's mother, Dee Crane, filed a harassment complaint with the sheriff's office, saying, "This was not a mistake."

Exxon Mobil aims to boost oil, gas production

DALLAS — Exxon Mobil Corp.'s CEO says the company can more than double its earnings by 2025 and will invest in new oil and gas production even if policymakers adopt rules to combat climate change.

Darren Woods told shareholders Wednesday that the world will need oil and gas for decades and that the company is responding to that demand while investing in technology to reduce carbon emissions. Last week, it promised to cut its emissions of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas.

Environmentalists counter that Exxon Mobil's technology investments will not produce enough reductions to avoid the worst effects of climate change.

One of Exxon Mobil's most prominent critics, New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, was forced from office by charges that he abused several women. He was investigating whether the company misled the public and investors by hiding what it knew about the link between burning oil and gas and climate change.

Schneiderman's interim replacement is continuing the investigation, an aide said. Voters will pick the next attorney general in November.

ASSOCIATED PRESS



BILLY CALZADA / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Grower Russ Studebaker examines peaches on his Hill Country farm near Fredericksburg, Texas, on May 25. Much to the delight of growers, this year's crop is exceptionally flavorful because of the the winter's dry, cold winter.

Hill Country is just peachy

Texas Hill Country peach growers ready for plentiful crop

LYNN BREZOSKY
San Antonio Express-News

It was a long, cold winter — at least in Texas terms — and that's good news for this year's Hill Country peach harvest.

Unlike last year, the orchards got the "chill hours" necessary to nudge buds out of dormancy so they can blossom into the summer tree fruit. The spring came and went without the type of lingering late freeze that wiped out the region's crop five years ago. What's more, the relatively dry weather meant natural sugars weren't diluted by rain, making this year's fruit exceptionally flavorful.

"We're really happy with the crop. It's really nice, really tasty," grower Russ Studebaker said. "Everybody's got plenty of peaches."

Hill Country peaches are prized thanks to the region's soils, said to be rich with mineral deposits from when the area was blanketed by an ancient sea. Along with an exploding winery business and Fredericksburg's famed cluster of German restaurants and brew pubs, peaches and peach products (including ice cream, jams and pies) are a major driver of tourism.

Jamey Vogel, vice president of the Hill Country Fruit Council, said growers were picking clingstone

varieties, which are best for canning and preserving.

Freestone peaches, which bakers often prefer because the pit is easy to remove once the fruit is sliced, should be available starting in mid-June.

Clingstone, freestone or in between, the best way for peach lovers to get some of this year's crop is to take a road trip to the Hill Country.

"It's become a situation where the demand is such that we don't really have to wholesale to the commercial market anymore," Vogel said. "People will come just because they get them as fresh as possible that way."

With Texas weather notoriously fickle, there's never a guarantee that fans of peach stands will be toting home boxes or even bags full of bounty.

Last year's winter was a weakling. According to National Weather Service meteorologist Cory Van Pelt, Fredericksburg temperatures between November 2016 and April 2017 averaged an "unusually warm" 58 degrees. Many growers had less than a 10 percent crop.

This year's crop will be abundant in comparison -- the average temperature for the same period was 54.4 degrees, 3.6 degrees lower.

There were some scary frosts in March and April, Studebaker said, but those ended up killing off just enough blossoms to provide what remained abundant sunlight.

"We had a nice, almost like a California-type winter where we didn't have extremes," Studebaker said.

"Everybody's got plenty of peaches."

RUSS STUDEBAKER

Amazon extends Prime savings to Whole Foods in Texas, other states

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEATTLE & AUSTIN, Texas — Amazon Prime member savings are expanding to an additional 121 Whole Foods Market stores across 12 states — including Texas — plus all Whole Foods Market 365 stores nationwide. Prime members will receive an additional 10 percent off sale items, plus exclusive weekly deep discounts on select popular items.

"From delicious dinner options like shrimp or rotisserie chicken to fresh organic raspberries, we're offering savings on products customers love and can enjoy with their families," said A.C. Gallo, president and chief operating officer at Whole Foods Market. "Exclusive deals like the sustainably-caught halibut were a huge hit in Florida, and we're excited to partner with our suppliers to bring Prime members even more discounts on seasonal favorites and everyday staples."

These savings are currently available at Whole Foods in Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Kansas, Kansas City, Missouri, Louisiana, New Mexico, northern Nevada, northern California, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah and at Whole Foods Market 365 stores nationwide.

Customers also receive these exclusive Prime member savings when they have their groceries delivered from Whole Foods stores via Prime Now. Both Prime member savings and Prime Now grocery delivery are available in Austin, Dallas, Denver, Sacramento and San Francisco. Prime Now offers free two-hour delivery on orders over \$35. Delivery from Whole Foods will continue expanding throughout 2018.

To start saving, customers can download the Whole Foods Market app, sign in with their Amazon account and scan the app's Prime code at checkout. Or customers can opt in to use their phone number to save at checkout.

Prime offers for the stores:

- Organic raspberries, \$2.50 per 6 oz. container
- Responsibly Farmed tail-on white shrimp, 2 lb. bag for \$12.99, save \$5
- Back to Nature crackers and cookies, 2 for \$5
- 40 percent off all probiotic supplements (weekend sale, June 1 – June 3)

Teen, girlfriend charged in father's death

ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — The teen son of an Austin-area jeweler and his girlfriend were charged with hiring someone to kill his father, who was gunned down in March during a home break-in, authorities said.

Nicolas Patrick Shaughnessy and Jaclyn Alexa Edison, who are 19 years old and live together in College Station, were arrested Tuesday on a count of criminal solicitation to commit capital murder, Travis County sheriff's officials said.

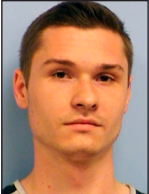
According to investigators, Shaughnessy's mother, Corey Shaughnessy, called 911 early March 2 to report an intruder in the home of her and her husband, Theodore Shaughnessy. Deputies found Theodore Shaughnessy dead of multiple gunshot wounds. A family dog was also killed. Authorities say the plot called for Corey Shaughnessy to be killed as well, but she wasn't harmed.

Theodore Shaughnessy was the owner of Gallerie Jewelers. In a Facebook post in late April, the company said, "We are happy to announce that Nicolas, Ted's son, will be carrying on his legacy here at Gallerie."

An obituary for the elder Shaughnessy published in the Austin American-Statesman said he was "a proud father to his son, Nicolas."

In the months before the shooting, Nicolas Shaughnessy asked multiple people if they were willing to be paid to kill someone, investigators said. He estimated that he'd receive some \$8 million from the life insurance policies for his parents, the sale of their home and sale of the jewelry store.

Authorities say they found ammunition in the defendants' home that matched casings found at the crime scene. Nicolas Shaughnessy and Edison remained in jail Wednesday, with Shaughnessy's bond set at \$3 million and Edison's at \$1 million. The shooter hasn't been caught, officials said.



Shaughnessy



Edison



EDUARDO VERDUGO / ASSOCIATED PRESS (FILE)

Women carry a banner on Mother's Day in Mexico City to call attention to the cases of people who have gone missing and demand that authorities locate their loved ones. (Sign: "disappeared")

UN says people disappearing in northern Mexico border city

CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Jessica Molina hasn't seen or heard from her husband since March, when Mexican marines broke through their door in the Mexican border city of Nuevo Laredo and took him and a friend away.

Molina, a U.S. citizen, said her Mexican husband, Jose Daniel Trejo Garcia, is a mechanic with an established business in Laredo, Texas, where they live.

The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on Wednesday called on the Mexican government to "take urgent measures to stop the wave of forced disappearances in Nuevo Laredo and surrounding areas" and said "there are strong indications" they were committed "by a federal security force."

The U.N. office documented the disappearance of 23 people since the start of February in Nuevo Laredo and said there could be many more. The non-governmental Nuevo Laredo Human Rights Committee estimates 56 forced disappearances from Jan. 20 to May 21, and attributed the majority to navy special operations.

Tensions were high in Nuevo Laredo when Trejo disappeared. On March 25, marines had been ambushed three times by gunmen. During the third clash, a helicopter was called in. Shots hit a family's car driving through the area, and a mother and two children were killed.

The navy initially denied responsibility, but after an expert concluded the shots came from above, it admitted its helicopter accidentally killed the civilians.

Molina said the marines who interrogated her and her husband asked if they knew about what happened in the helicopter incident before he was taken without a search warrant or arrest order. She filed a report with the Attorney General's Office and the National Human Rights Commission and went to the marine base, but they denied knowing anything.

Now Molina has joined with other families to search for hidden graves along the dirt roads surrounding the city.

Among the cases documented by the U.N. were the disappearances of 21 males and two females, including at least five minors. According to the U.N., the disappearances typically occur at night while the victims are traveling on roads. Sometimes their burned and bullet-riddled vehicles are found on roadsides.

"Many of these people would have been detained arbitrarily and disappeared while going about their daily lives," said U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein.

According to Mexican governmental data, there have been more than 6,000 registered disappearances in Tamaulipas since 2006, more than any other state.

Last week, Molina and other families met with a navy captain who promised to help them in their search, but there hasn't been any follow-up, she said. The navy is the primary security presence in Nuevo Laredo, where an offshoot of the Zetas drug cartel dominates.

"If the navy is here to protect us," Molina said, "what are they doing to avoid these disappearances?"



ANDY JACOBSOHN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Don Gieseke, second to left, jokes with Lanny Money, left, Dick Strohmeier, second from right, and Tom Naylor, right, all of whom were Braniff pilots, during the 41st annual Braniff International Airways pilots picnic at Denton Municipal Airport. The Monday event was the final such picnic, which also included a fly-in of the pilots' personal planes.

FLYING COLORS



Ex-Braniff pilots, staff gather in Texas for final fly-in

CONOR SHINE
The Dallas Morning News

It's been more than three decades since Braniff International Airways grounded its fleet of 62 brightly colored aircraft, bringing a sudden end to a Dallas icon and upending the lives of its 9,000 employees.

Every year since the carrier's 1982 demise, former pilots, whether they stayed in Dallas or moved across the country for work at another airline, have gathered at an airport in North Texas to grill, show off their personal planes and swap stories of an unforgettable time in their lives.

"I use the term family," said Bill Schoknecht, who joined Braniff in 1966 and is president of Braniff International Silver Eagles, the retired pilots' group. "In some cases, this is the only time we see them during the year. But if they need us or we needed them, we can always call on each other."

On Monday, the group held its 41st and final fly-in and picnic at the Denton Municipal Airport. The tradition started in the late 1970s as a gathering for retired pilots, but with Braniff's closure in 1982, all of its pilots became retired from the carrier in a sense, and the group was expanded.

With no new pilots entering the pipeline, a gathering that once drew hundreds has dwindled with each passing year, as the realities of life — be it personal, financial or mortal — have taken their toll. "We know it has to happen, because of the restraints and all. But we're really going to miss it," Schoknecht said.

Don Maynard joined Braniff Airways in 1951 as the carrier, founded in 1928, was preparing to make its ascent from an earlier generation of staid airlines that took cues from the military to a trailblazer of the Jet Age. "I left New Orleans, and everyone thought I was crazy," said Maynard, now 89, who joined the carrier at a time when it still flew unpressurized aircraft. "The day I got hired, when I was put on the seniority list, I was 258." Maynard describes it as a "wonderful time," with the airline hiring rapidly to fuel its expansion and pilots pioneering never-before-operated commercial routes into South America.

John J. Nance, a Braniff pilot from 1975 to 1982 who authored a book about the company, described Braniff as an innovative mold breaker, an identity typified by the Technicolor hues the airline painted its planes and the elements of design and fashion it incorporated into its plane interiors, crew uniforms and

lounges. "They were doing things that hadn't been done before," said Nance, author of "Splash of Colors: The Self-Destruction of Braniff International" and an aviation analyst for ABC.

Nance said the airline's glamour, boldness and ascendancy mirrored that of its hometown. "This was a very Texas airline," he said. "Dallas was a perfect location for Braniff. I think if it had been located in many other cities in the world, it wouldn't have the same level of panache and success."

The deregulation of the airline industry in 1978 created new opportunities for Braniff but also laid the groundwork for its ultimate demise. Faced with a newly open and rapidly changing airline landscape, Braniff's executives decided the best course of action was to expand aggressively, adding 31 destinations over two years, according to the Texas State Historical Association.

But the planes weren't full enough and gas prices were rising, leading to increasing flows of red ink on the carrier's balance sheet year after year. In 1980, the airline lost \$131 million. On May 12, 1982, rumors started to spread about the carrier grounding its fleet, as pilots and crew were called and told their flights were canceled. By 6 p.m., it was national news. "The bankruptcy in 1982 was such a startling event," Maynard said.

Pilots, flight attendants and other employees found themselves scattering as they hurriedly searched for jobs post-bankruptcy. Schoknecht would end his career with Minnesota-based Northwest Airlines, Nance with Alaska Airlines. Maynard, further along in his career, didn't make it back into the cockpit but found work as a flight instructor at Fort Worth-based American Airlines.

Through it all, the fly-in picnic and the bond it represents have persevered. This year, the invitation list expanded to include flight attendants and other former employees, making for a large turnout for one final bash. "We're all proud of the other airlines we've worked for. We still say Braniff is the best," Schoknecht said.

Even without the annual picnic, the pilots plan to keep the Braniff name alive as long as possible. There will still be monthly lunches in Dallas and other former crew bases. The website with employee information will stay online. And the group's charity will continue to raise funds for aviation education.

"We had a nice run. We enjoy it and we enjoy each other's company. We'll still have meetings until the last guy dies, I guess."

DON MAYNARD



BILL LARKINS / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Braniff was known for bold colors and designs on its planes, uniforms and advertising. In 1975, it commissioned Alexander Calder to paint this Boeing 727 called "Flying Colors of the United States" in honor of the US Bicentennial.

With Braniff grounded, Southwest took off

Texas wasn't big enough for the both of them.

- Southwest Airlines was incorporated in Texas and commenced customer service on **June 18, 1971**, with three Boeing 737 aircraft serving three Texas cities—Houston, Dallas, and San Antonio—and grew to become a major airline in **1989** when it exceeded the billion-dollar revenue mark.
- In **1994**, Southwest became the first major airline to offer ticketless travel.
- In **1996**, Southwest became the first major airline to post a website with the launch of our "Home Gate."
- Southwest topped the monthly domestic originating passenger rankings for the first time in **May 2003**.
- In **July 2014**, Southwest became an international airline with its first flights to Nassau, Bahamas; Montego Bay, Jamaica; and Aruba, and continues to expand.

Data from Southwest Airlines

