

Groton Daily Independent

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Monday, April 4

School Breakfast: Mini pancakes, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Pizza cruncher, baked beans, carrots and dip, fruit.

Senior Menu: Chicken alfredo, lemon buttered broccoli, fruit dessert, French bread.

Birthdays: David Krueger, Desiree Morehouse, Mitchell Madsen, Sandy Strom

6:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study

7:00 pm: City Council meeting at Groton Community Center

Tuesday, April 5

School Breakfast: Egg omelet, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Submarines, potato chips, fruit.

Senior Menu: Roast pork, baked potato with sour cream, squash, apple sauce, Molasses cookie, whole wheat bread.

Birthday: Toby Carda

10:00am: United Methodist Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, April 6

School Lunch: Breakfast pizza, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Cheese sticks, mixed vegetable, broccoli and dip, fruit.

Senior Menu: BBQ Chicken, rosemary red potatoes, old fashioned slaw, Strawberry Jell-O dessert, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Cheryl Tullis, Walker Cutler, Josh Heupel, Courtney Kurtz

7:00am: United Methodist Men's Bible Study

12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

1:30pm: St. John's Lutheran Ladies Aid (LWML)

3:45pm: St. John's Confirmation

5:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Sarah Circle

6:30pm: Emmanuel Lutheran League

7:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Confirmation

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Closed**

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Put our experienced team to work for you!

GROTON
Ford
GROTONFORD.COM 605-397-2311

Dollar General Appeal hearing is tonight

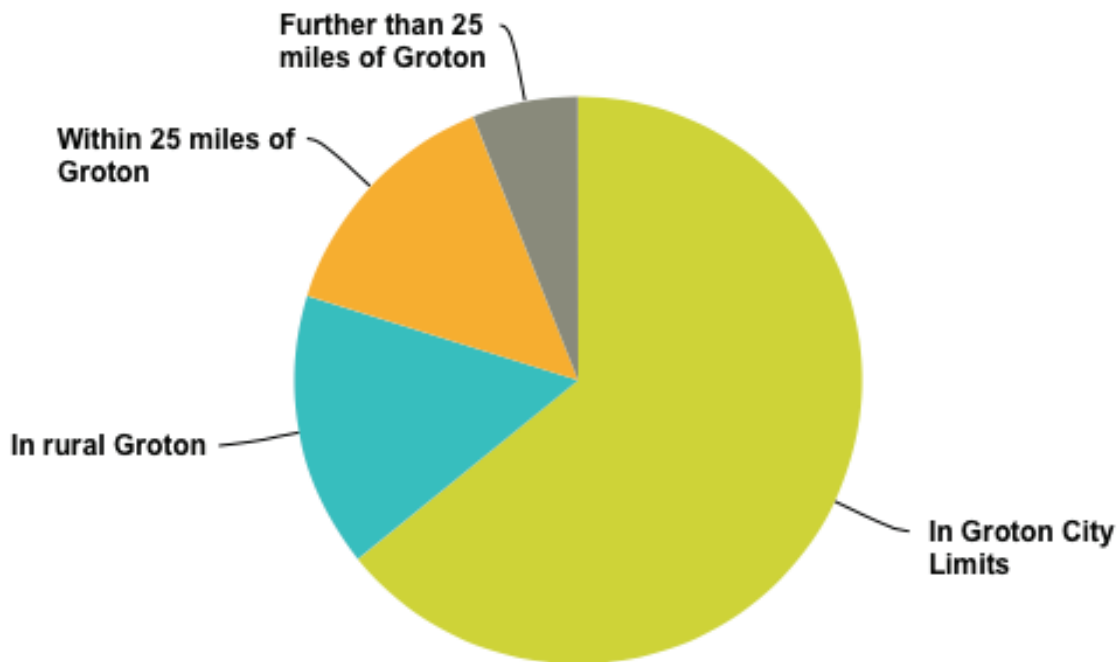
The Groton City Council will be hearing the appeal from Tyler Oliver of Colby Capital in reference to a Dollar General store to be located in Groton. Oliver is appealing the Planning and Zoning Commission's 3-2 defeat of allowing the store in an R3 zoned area, east of Main Street and south of US 12.

The city council will be meeting at 7 p.m. at the Groton Community Center. All interested parties should attend the meeting.

Then the council will then consider a second reading requiring that cats in Groton be licensed.

Where do you live?

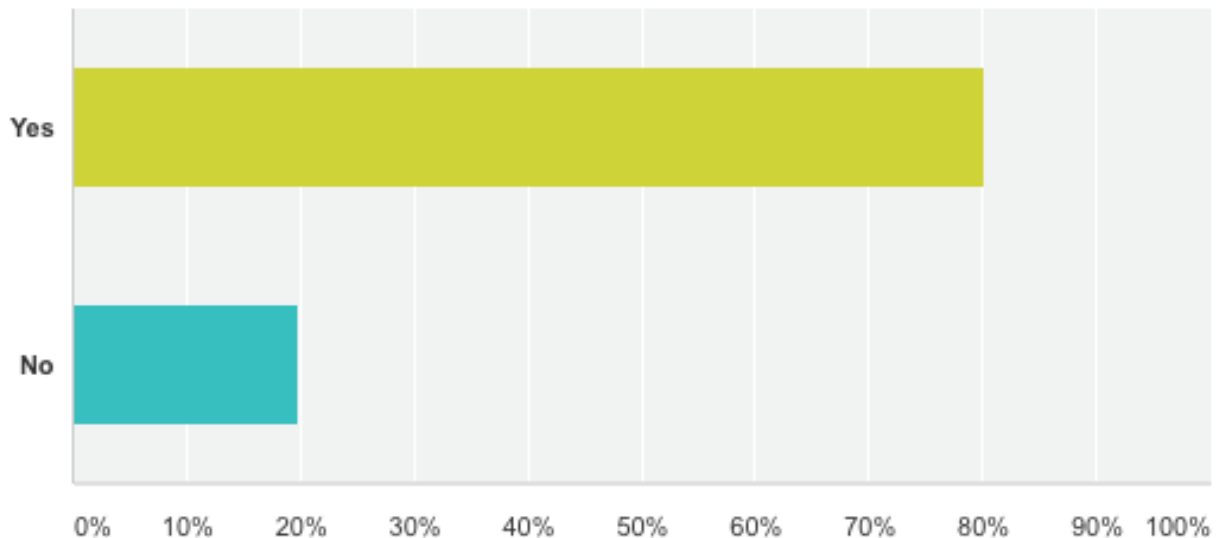
Answered: 332 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
▼ In Groton City Limits	64.16%	213
▼ In rural Groton	15.66%	52
▼ Within 25 miles of Groton	14.16%	47
▼ Further than 25 miles of Groton	6.02%	20
Total		332

Should Groton have a Dollar General Store?

Answered: 314 Skipped: 19



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Yes	80.25%	252
No	19.75%	62
Total		314

Come and go bridal shower for Sarah Geary, bride-to-be of Sam Thorson, Saturday, April 23, 10 a.m., St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, Groton. The couple is registered at Bed Bath and Beyond and at Target.



We now accept



for out patient therapy.

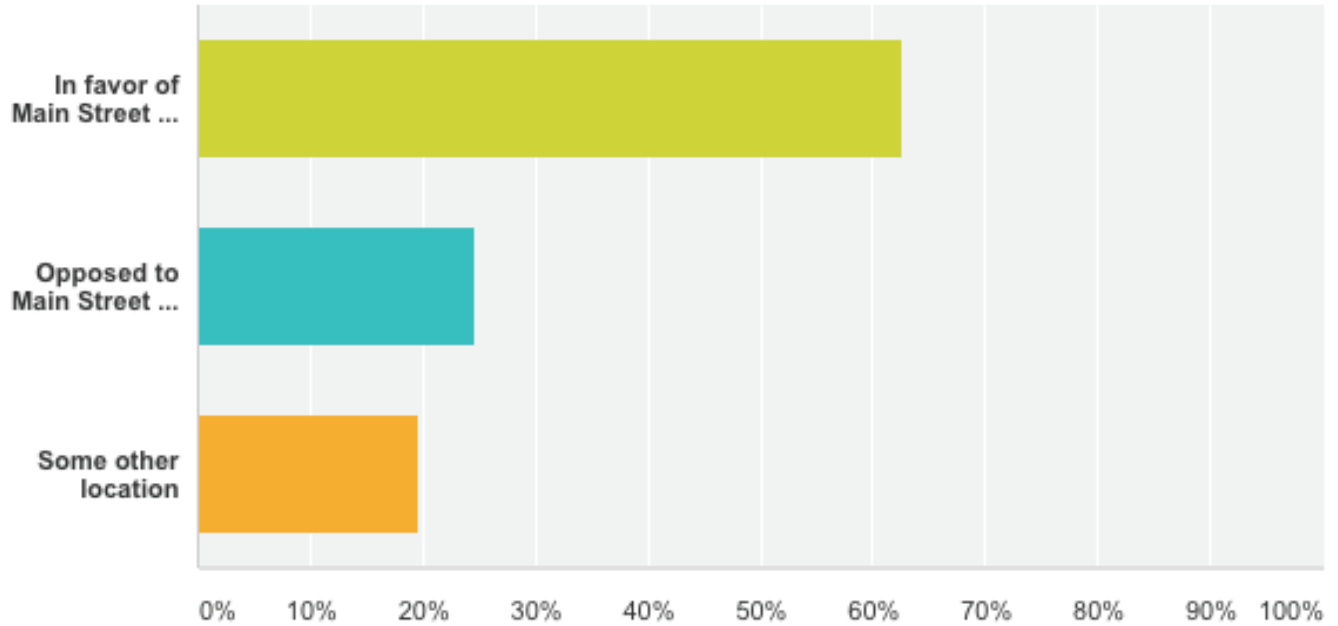
**1106 N 2nd St., Groton
605/397-2365**

Handiman looking for work

I can do almost anything from building whatever you need, repairing machinery, welding, flooring, installing windows and doors. If you're looking for work to be done around the home or farm, I'm your guy. Call me at 605/228-4172.

Location of the store (You may select more than one answer)

Answered: 322 Skipped: 11

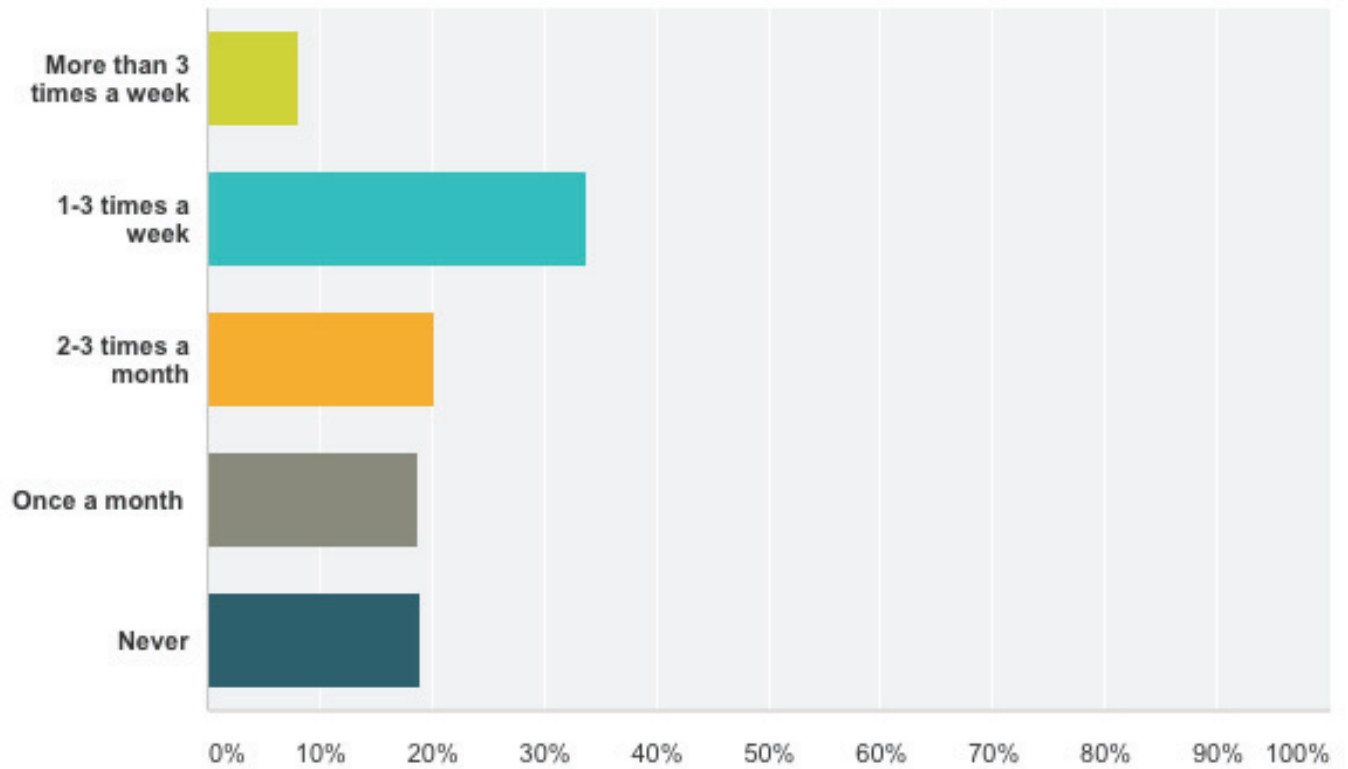


Answer Choices	Responses
▼ In favor of Main Street and US 12	62.73% 202
▼ Opposed to Main Street and US 12	24.53% 79
▼ Some other location	19.57% 63

Total Respondents: 322

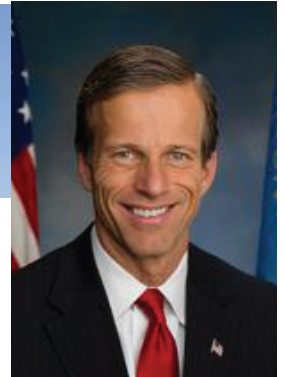
How often would you shop at Dollar General in Groton?

Answered: 331 Skipped: 2



Answer Choices	Responses
More than 3 times a week	8.16% 27
1-3 times a week	33.84% 112
2-3 times a month	20.24% 67
Once a month	18.73% 62
Never	19.03% 63
Total	331

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Another Milestone for Ellsworth Air Force Base

Ellsworth Air Force Base is well-known to all South Dakotans, especially those who live in West River. It's not only home to two B-1B Lancer combat squadrons and MQ-9 Reaper ground control stations, but it's a staple of the community and is something in which our state takes great pride. The base has a \$350 million impact on South Dakota's economy and is the state's second largest employer, and thanks to the recent Powder River Training Complex (PRTC) expansion, Ellsworth is saving taxpayers millions of dollars per year and can now conduct advanced training closer to home.

It's in this expanded PRTC, which spans the skies over South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, and Wyoming, that airmen are able to practice the kinds of realistic engagements they expect to see in combat. I spent nearly a decade working with the Air Force and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to move the PRTC project forward and saw it through to the end. It was a long road, but following the FAA's approval of the project in March 2015, the PRTC was chartered on September 17, 2015, and flights through the area began just 24 hours later.

One of the greatest advantages of the new training airspace, now the largest over the continental United States, is the ability to conduct large force exercises (LFEs) with airmen from around the country who pilot a variety of aircraft. The larger area, which is nearly the size of Indiana, provides space to simulate enemy threats hundreds of miles away. To give a sense of this expanded area, imagine a highway patrolman moving from a training space the size of an empty parking lot to one the size of a race track fit with obstacles and gradient terrain. This will drastically increase the likelihood of successfully accomplishing future combat missions and will help bring our aircrew home safe and sound.

The first LFE was completed late last year, and I was recently able to join Ellsworth's airmen to view the second LFE in the PRTC. What an experience it was to see it firsthand. Nearly 20 aircraft, including B-52s, F-16s, KC-135s, E-3s, and B-1s participated. One of the biggest limiting factors for our flight crew readiness has been the availability of training airspace nationwide. The PRTC helps alleviate that problem, all while improving our national security and saving the Department of Defense millions of dollars too.

While I'm excited about the opportunities this presents for Ellsworth and the airmen who train there, I've always felt it was important to listen to the concerns of the surrounding community, and I will continue to make that a priority. These missions will go largely unnoticed by people on the ground, but the leaders at Ellsworth still provide adequate notice to the community prior to the days of these exercises, and rightly so. It's because of this transparency, commitment to the community, and dedication to training the men and women who keep America safe that makes us proud Ellsworth calls South Dakota home.

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Here to Help

Every year, hundreds of South Dakotans take the opportunity to visit our nation's capital, to stand at the base of the Lincoln Memorial, wander through the World War II Memorial, or sit underneath the Capitol dome. Some make the trip with their high school class, a cause they care deeply about, or a veterans' group. Others do it with their families or colleagues. Regardless of the reason, the visit for many is a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Our office is committed to doing everything we can to make sure this visit is as memorable and educational as possible. In fact, we consider our office on Capitol Hill as a home base for any South Dakotan in the area, so never hesitate to stop by.

One of the services we offer is a personalized tour around the Capitol building. We'll make sure you get a behind-the-scenes look at how the Legislative Branch operates and the halls where history has been written.

Most Wednesday mornings, you can also join Senator John Thune, Senator Mike Rounds, and I at the South Dakota Sunrise Coffee (the coffee is on us!) This is an opportunity to sit down with all three members of the South Dakota delegation to talk about the issues on your mind and what we've been working on as of late. I'm always surprised at just how many South Dakotans make it each week and I always look forward to getting that mid-week dose of South Dakota commonsense.

Of course, most of my days are spent meeting one-on-one with South Dakotans, having in-depth conversations about the issues impacting their families and communities. On any given week that I'm away from South Dakota, I will meet with dozens of constituents out of our D.C. office – each sharing their story and their ideas.

Our office can also be helpful for anything you'd like to do off of Capitol Hill too. If you'd like to visit the Pentagon, White House, Supreme Court or any of the other attractions in the area, let us know and we can set up tours for you in many cases. Even if you're just looking for a good hotel to stay at or a nice restaurant to take the family, reach out and we'll do everything we can to help. You can find a lot of this information on noem.house.gov or by calling our office toll-free at 855-225-2801.

Our local offices are also there to help. You are welcome to come visit us in Sioux Falls, Rapid City or Watertown at any time. We also have a regular staff presence in Aberdeen and Pierre and travel frequently to many of the surrounding communities throughout the year.

Whether you are looking for help while you're in South Dakota or the nation's capital, please keep us in mind. We are here to help.



Mental Illness and South Dakota's Criminal Justice System

A significant number of Americans struggle with mental illness. For many the struggle is silent. Some experience short-term mental health problems, as it's not uncommon for individuals to temporarily face mild forms of mental illness throughout their lives. For others though, it's a lifelong battle that requires consistent treatment. No community is untouched by mental illness. It deeply affects schools, work places and families.

According to a recent survey from the Helmsley Charitable Trust's Rural Healthcare Program, South Dakota has a high prevalence of undiagnosed and untreated depression as well as a very high prevalence of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and anxiety. While 87 percent of survey respondents reported receiving all needed medical care, only 64 percent reported receiving all needed mental health care, and just 54 percent received all needed substance use care.

Without proper treatment, individuals with mental health problems can land in the emergency room or in jail.

When someone showing signs of mental illness behaves in ways that cause arrest, a court may order an evaluation of their fitness to be tried. In recent years, the number of these court-ordered evaluations in our state has tripled, from 48 in Fiscal Year 2013 to 147 in Fiscal Year 2015. This is why some counties have reported a backlog of court-ordered evaluations. Backlog delays lead to increased jail costs and are a disservice to the mentally ill.

This week Supreme Court Chief Justice David Gilbertson and I joined with Walter Panzirer, a trustee of the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, to announce a mental health grant from the Trust. This grant to the Department of Health will fund the work of the newly formed Task Force on Community Justice and Mental Illness Early Intervention.

The \$302,500 award will provide the task force with technical assistance from the Crime and Justice Institute. The Institute will assist with evaluations of data from our court system, and from large counties in South Dakota, to help understand the extent to which those with mental illness are becoming involved in the criminal justice system. The Institute will also examine practices in other states, to help us find evidence-based practices that hold promise for our state.

Three years ago, Chief Justice Gilbertson and I joined with legislative leaders to initiate a year-long review of the criminal justice system. That process resulted in a sweeping reform package that passed with broad support. Then last year, the Legislature passed a similar juvenile justice reform package, which was developed after a similar year-long process. Now we are applying that same successful process to evaluating how those with mental illness are coming into contact with the criminal justice system.

Thanks to support from the Helmsley Charitable Trust, I am optimistic the task force will identify sound proposals to improve our processes and practices. I'm hopeful of finding ways to ensure we are making the best use of our resources and treating the mentally ill as early as possible to avoid deeper involvement with the system.

We owe it to the taxpayers and, most of all, to those who struggle with mental health problems, to get this right.

Trees in Windbreaks

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture (SDDA) Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry (RCF) encourages landowners in South Dakota to consider planting trees in late April through May to help protect crops, wildlife, fields, roads and farmsteads.

Trees provide natural protection from the wind and snow. They help prevent soil erosion, keep crops healthy and protect wildlife by adding habitat.

"Farmsteads are more efficient when shielded from the winds, saving owners money on energy use," said service forester Nathan Kafer. "Windbreaks with five rows or more will block predominant winds, with conifers and shrubs providing winter protection and hardwoods shielding winds."

Contact your local conservation district, USDA Service Center or RCF office for more information about how and where to properly plant a windbreak.

Agriculture is a major contributor to South Dakota's economy, generating \$25.6 billion in annual economic activity and employing over 115,000 South Dakotans. The South Dakota Department of Agriculture's mission is to promote, protect, preserve and improve this industry for today and tomorrow. Visit us online at <http://sdda.sd.gov> or find us on Facebook and Twitter.

The Livestream logo features a red stylized leaf icon to the left of the word "livestream" in a black, lowercase, sans-serif font.

City Council Meeting
7 p.m.
Groton Community Center

gdilive.com

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Today in Weather History

April 4, 1961: High winds of 40-60mph, with 80-90mph gusts, affected Central and Western South Dakota. The most extensive property damage occurred in the Pierre area. The roof was blown off and one wall damaged at a new motel. One trailer home was blown over, numerous windows and large signboards were destroyed, and roofs sustained damages in Pierre. Total loss estimated \$10,000.

1804: A group of tornadoes slashed a 120-mile path across seven counties in Georgia and one county in South Carolina killing 11 people near Augusta, GA. The tornado's path through heavy timber was still visible some 71 years later as noted in an Army Signal Corps survey.

1923: An estimated F4 tornado killed 15 people and injured 150 at Alexandria and Pineville, LA. 142 homes and businesses in Pineville were destroyed.


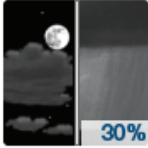





1966: One of the strongest tornadoes in Florida's history moved in from the Gulf of Mexico and ripped through Pinellas, Hillsborough, Polk, and Osceola County. Damage was very severe in the towns of Gibsonia and Galloway in Polk County. 11 people were killed and 350 were injured. The tornado was classified as F4.

1977: A Southern Airways DC-9 jet crashed near New Hope, Georgia, after being struck by large hail. The hail and associated heavy precipitation caused the engines to flame out. Seventy-two people (including nine on the ground) died.

1977: A massive F5 tornado moved across northern Birmingham, Alabama, killing 22 people and injuring 130. The tornado cut a 15-mile path from just northwest of Birmingham to the town of Tarrant. 167 homes were destroyed, primarily in the Smithfield Estates subdivision. Daniel Payne College sustained heavy damage. At one point, the tornado was three-quarters of a mile wide. The tornado crossed busy I-65, tossing cars and trucks like they were toys. Other tornadoes killed 1 other person in Alabama and 1 person in Georgia that day. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the NWS Office in Birmingham, Alabama.

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Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday
						
Sunny	Partly Cloudy then Chance Showers	Chance Showers	Chance Rain and Breezy	Breezy. Chance Rain/Snow then Slight Chance Rain	Chance Showers	Mostly Sunny and Breezy
High: 49 °F	Low: 35 °F	High: 64 °F	Low: 35 °F	High: 52 °F	Low: 37 °F	High: 49 °F



Cooler Today With Less Wind

Follow us on *Social Media*

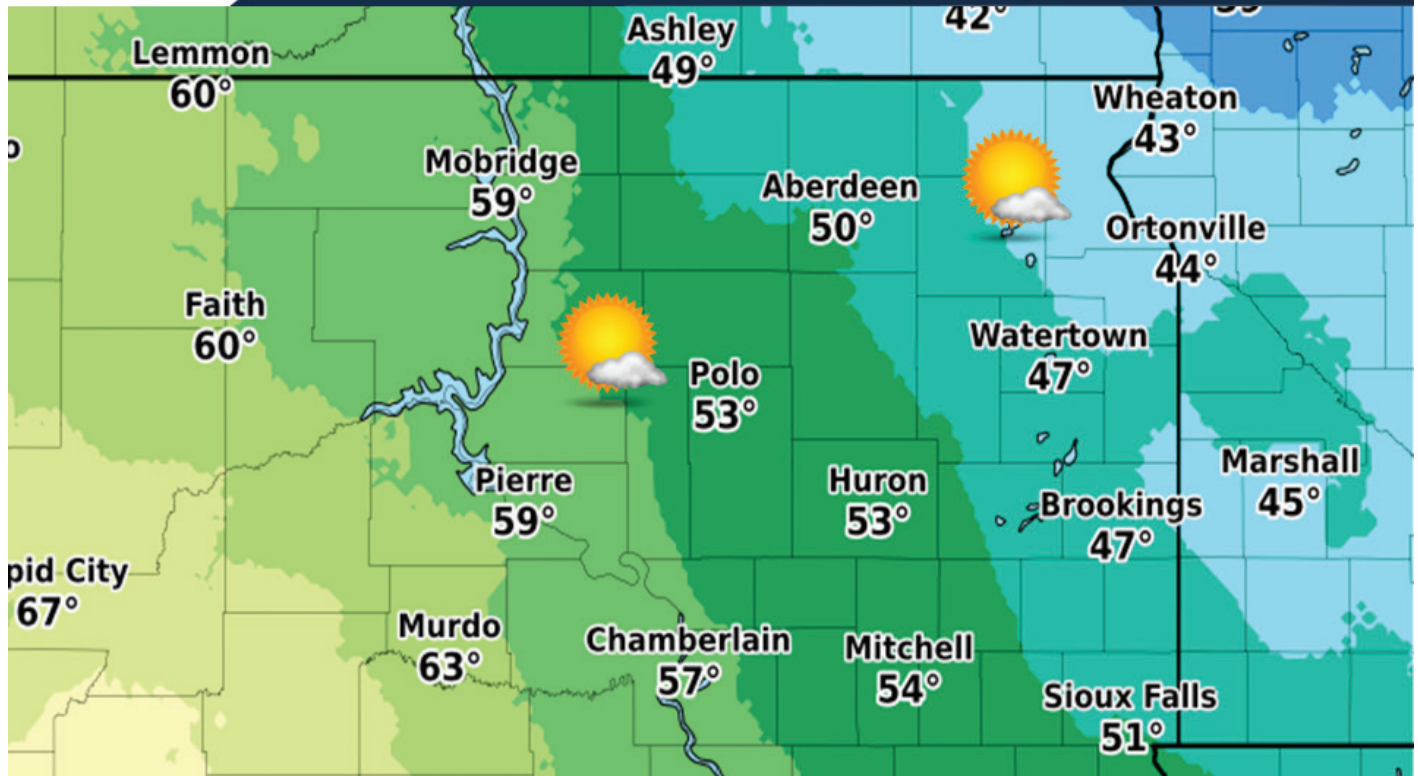
weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen



Published on: 04/04/2016 at 5:29AM

Surface high pressure will bring cooler temperatures to the region today, along with lighter winds than what we saw on Sunday. Skies will be mostly sunny with highs ranging from the 40s east, to the low 60s over south central South Dakota.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 63.0 at 12:04 PM

Low: 29.4 at 11:56 PM

High Gust: 30 at 11:03 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 90° in 1921

Record Low: 5 in 1920

Average High: 51°F

Average Low: 27°F

Average Precip in April.: 0.18

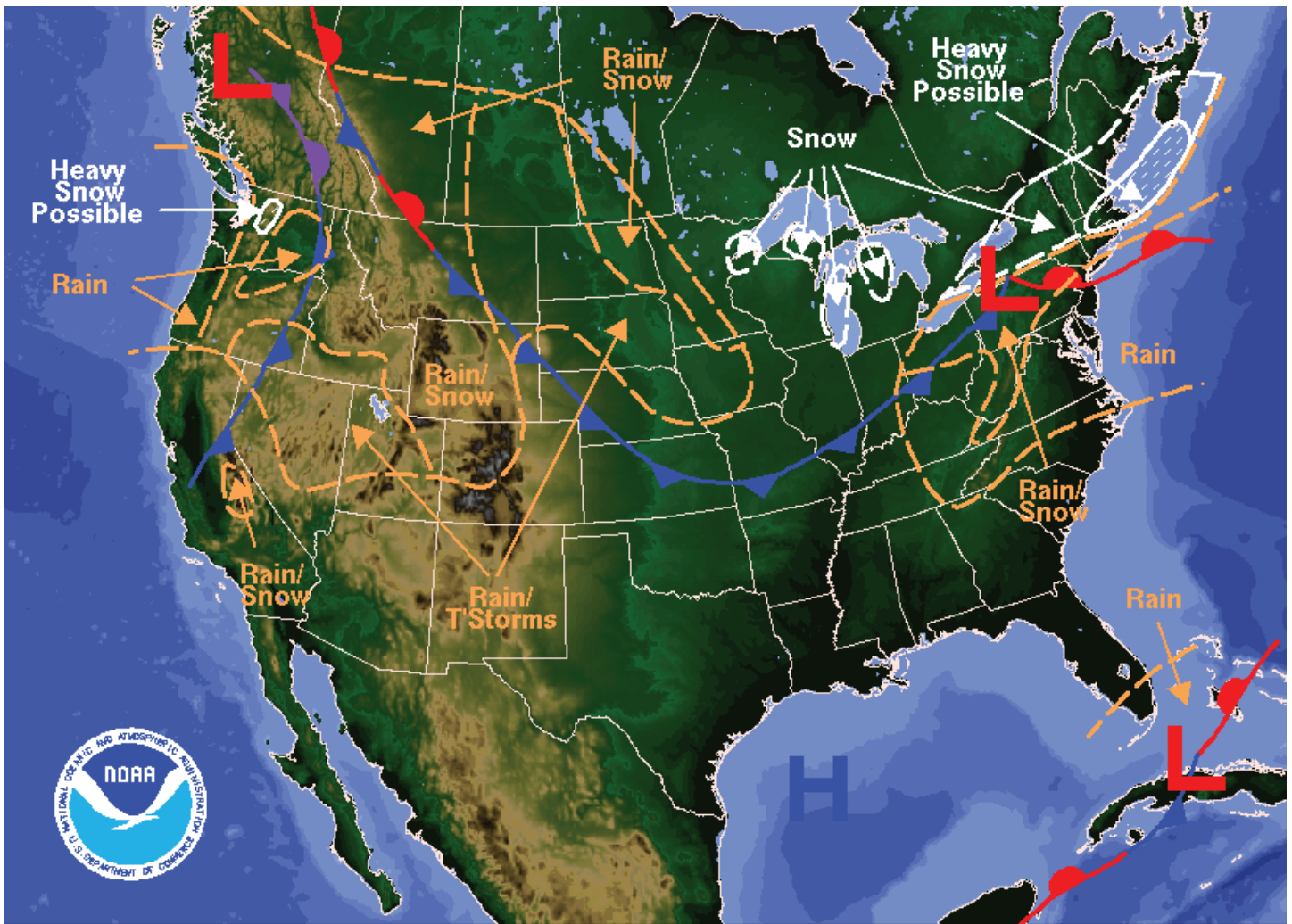
Precip to date in April.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 2.36

Precip Year to Date: 0.95

Sunset Tonight: 8:06 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:05 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Mon, Apr 04, 2016, issued 3:25 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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WHATEVER IT TAKES!

He did not graduate from high school but was accepted as a member of the inaugural class of Stanford University. When he applied for a part time job to pay for his expenses, he was told that "There's only one job available, a typist's position."

"I'd love it," he said enthusiastically. "But I can't begin until Wednesday."

On Wednesday morning when he arrived for work his employer Louis Janin asked, "Herb, why couldn't you start until today?"

"Sir," he said, "I had to find a typewriter and learn how to use it." When an opportunity presented itself, he seized the moment and took advantage of it. He did not allow time to pass when an opportunity presented itself. And it was that kind of determination that led Herbert Hoover to become president of the United States.

Other students had been offered the job and turned it down. But he saw what it had to offer him and he accepted it. Salvation is like that. God offers salvation to everyone. Many put off making this decision thinking that there will be another opportunity, a better time or another day. We must not wait until tomorrow to do what we must do today. Tomorrow may never come.

Prayer: Lord, we pray now for those who believe that there is always tomorrow when today is all they may have to accept Your salvation. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: 2 Corinthians 6:1-2 As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

News from the Associated Press

Cold Fire burns 2 acres in western South Dakota

PRINGLE, S.D. (AP) — About 200 personnel are fighting a wildfire in the Black Hills National Forest area of western South Dakota.

The Great Plains Fire Information office says the Cold Fire has burned about 2 square miles and is about 10 percent contained.

The fire is burning in the Black Hills National Forest, Wind Cave National Park, Norbeck Wildlife Preserve and on private land. It was reported Saturday afternoon, east of Pringle.

No injuries or lost structures have been reported, though some roads have been closed. The cause of the fire hasn't been determined.

Crash on Interstate 90 kills 1 woman, injures another

KADOKA, S.D. (AP) — One woman died and another was seriously hurt in a one-vehicle crash in Jackson County over the weekend.

The Highway Patrol says the driver of a pickup truck lost control on Interstate 90 about 13 miles west of Kadoka, and the vehicle rolled several times in the median.

The 26-year-old driver was pronounced dead at the scene about 1 a.m. Sunday. The 38-year-old passenger was taken to a Rapid City hospital with what the patrol said were injuries that are serious but not life-threatening.

The women's names were not immediately released.

Philippines launches world's first mass dengue vaccination

TERESA CEROJANO, Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The Philippines on Monday launched the first public immunization program for dengue fever, seeking to administer to a million schoolchildren the world's first licensed vaccine against a mosquito-borne disease that the World Health Organization estimates infects 390 million people a year globally.

Hundreds of fourth-graders at a public school in metropolitan Manila's Marikina city were given the first of three shots of Dengvaxia. Some of the pupils received their vaccination shot under the glare of cameras during a festive ceremony at a gymnasium festooned with multicolored bunting and preceded by songs and dances performed by the children.

The Philippines had the highest dengue incidence in the WHO's Western Pacific region from 2013 to 2015, recording 200,415 cases last year, according to the Department of Health.

Health Secretary Janette Garin called the program's launch "a historic milestone" in public health. "We are the first country to introduce, adopt and implement the first-ever dengue vaccine through (the) public health system and under a public school setting," she said.

The government is spending 3.5 billion pesos (\$76 million) to administer the free vaccines, which it bought at a discounted cost of 3,000 pesos (\$65) for three doses for each child. Free vaccine programs ensure that "health should be for all, rich or poor," Garin said.

The health department says a study showed that the vaccination of 9-year-old children for five years starting in 2016 can reduce dengue cases by 24.2 percent in the Philippines. The vaccine is given as a three-dose series, with the doses coming six months apart.

Dengvaxia, developed by the French pharmaceutical company Sanofi Pasteur, obtained its first license in Mexico in December 2015 for use in individuals aged 9 to 45. Regulatory agencies in Brazil, the Philippines and El Salvador followed. But the vaccine is awaiting regulatory reviews in Europe and dozens of non-European countries, as well as prequalification by the WHO.

According to the New England Journal of Medicine, a study of children from 9 to 16 years old showed

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that the vaccine reduces the risk of contracting dengue by 65.6 percent. It also prevents dengue hospitalizations by 80 percent, and severe dengue cases by 93 percent. But the effectiveness was lower for children younger than 9, as well as against the type of dengue caused by serotype 2 — one of the four strains of dengue.

"A vaccine able to reduce six out of 10 cases, or more importantly to reduce by 80 percent the risk of hospitalization or 93 percent of the risk of dengue hemorrhagic fever, is a major breakthrough," Guillaume Leroy, Sanofi Pasteur's vice president for dengue vaccine, told The Associated Press, adding that the vaccine would be especially important in Asia and Latin America, where dengue incidents are high.

Leroy said that while there are differences in the level of effectiveness against the different dengue strains, the vaccine "has shown efficacy against all the four serotypes, all the serotypes circulating in the world."

He said that while Sanofi has prioritized dengue endemic countries for licensing, it recently submitted for review an application to the European Medicines Agency. It has applications in 20 additional countries, and will be applying in 17 more.

Croatian police probe massive theft from its headquarters

ZAGREB, Croatia (AP) — Croatian police are investigating the reported theft of 280,000 euros (\$320,000) and two kilograms (4.4 pounds) of gold — all snatched from the headquarters of the Croatian police.

Helena Biocic of the police media office confirmed Monday that the theft had taken place, but refused to reveal any details.

The Jutarnji List newspaper, which reported what was taken, says the heist occurred late Sunday. The report says the thieves got in by the fire stairs and broke into the office of the organized crime department chief, Zeljko Dolacki.

The daily says police found an overturned, empty safe in the morning.

They flee North Korea, only to be adrift in the South

TIM SULLIVAN, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — A middle-aged man is walking through a quiet Seoul neighborhood when he suddenly stops. He lights a cigarette, cupping his hands to shield the flame from the winter wind, and takes a deep draw, remembering how things used to be. He's a former policeman, a broad-shouldered man with a growling voice and a crushing handshake.

Back where he came from, he says, he was someone who mattered.

"In North Korea, people were afraid of me," he says. He says it wistfully, almost sadly, like a boy talking about a dog he once had. "They knew I could just drag them away."

That fear meant respect, and bribes, in the North Korean town where he lived, a place where the electricity rarely worked and the Internet was only a rumor. It meant he could buy a TV, and that he had food even as those around him went hungry. It meant that when he grew exhausted by the relentless poverty and oppression around him, and when relatives abroad offered to advance him the money to escape, he had connections to a good smuggler.

Just over a year ago, that smuggler showed him where to slip across a river and into China, on his way to South Korea. His new home is one of the wealthiest and most technologically advanced nations in the world. It has a thriving democracy and a per-capita income at least 12 times larger than the North's. Seoul is a city of infinite shopping choices, glass-fronted office towers and armies of exquisitely dressed businesspeople. He used to dream of the easy life he'd have here.

And what does he think now?

"Sometimes, when my work is too hard, I think about my job as a policeman," says the man, who spoke on condition his name not be used, fearing for the safety of relatives who still live in the North. "I didn't have problems with money back then. I ate what I wanted to eat." He pauses, thinking about his decision to leave: "There are times when I regret it a lot."

Every year, thousands of North Koreans risk imprisonment, or worse, to leave their homeland, many

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hoping to eventually reach the South. Instead, they often find themselves lost in a nation where they thought they'd feel at home, struggling with depression, discrimination, joblessness and their own lingering pride in the repressive nation they left behind. Surveys have shown that up to one-third would return home if they could.

Take the former policeman, an increasingly bitter day laborer who now supports his family hauling bags of cement through the sprawling apartment blocks constantly under construction around Seoul. His hands are rougher than sandpaper now. His fingernails are warped. He sleeps most nights in a dormitory near his latest construction site, just outside the city, only occasionally visiting his wife and the rest of his family, who live in a middle-class Seoul neighborhood.

"I knew that South Korea was a capitalist country, that it was very rich. I thought that if I can just get there, I can work less but earn a lot of money," he says.

He grimaces when he thinks of his naivete.

More than 27,000 North Koreans exiles live in the South, most arriving since a brutal famine tore at the country in the mid-1990s. Government control foundered amid widespread starvation, and security loosened along the border with China. While security has again tightened, nearly 1,300 refugees reached South Korea last year, according to statistics compiled by the Seoul government. For most, the journey required bribing border guards, life underground in China for months or years, and weeks of travel through still more countries.

They left behind one of the most isolated nations in the world, where the ruling family has been worshipped now for three generations, and only a minuscule elite are allowed to make international phone calls. It has no free press or political opposition. While the famine is over, the country remains very poor, with hunger and malnutrition serious problems.

It's a country where jobs are assigned by the government, but where most families now survive by selling everything from rice to car parts in an ever-growing network of markets. Most North Korean refugees come from collective farms or hardscrabble towns near the Chinese border. Few have more than a high school education.

Tens of thousands of North Koreans are believed to live underground in China. Some stay permanently, while others slip back into the North after earning extra money. For many, though, the lure of a wealthy, Korean-speaking nation is strong, even if refugees' expectations of the South are often shaped less by reality and more by the bootlegged southern soap operas that are wildly popular in the North.

Those who go find themselves living in one of the most brutally competitive countries in the world, where education is worshipped, toddlers are offered exam-prep classes and a drive for perfection has produced one of the world's highest rates of plastic surgery.

"Life in South Korea is competitive," Hong Yong-pyo, South Korea's minister of unification, said in a recent speech to a group of defectors. "For you to succeed in this competition, you need to push yourself on your own."

But that can be very difficult. Despite government programs that include an immersive three-month program, along with assistance in getting apartments and jobs, the exiles are immediately marked by their accents and their confusion over everything from checking accounts to job applications. Many are noticeably shorter than southerners because of malnutrition, a serious issue in a country that sees height as a measure of attractiveness and success. When it comes to finding work, they have none of the school or hometown connections that are often key here to getting hired, and many South Koreans dismiss them as lazy and difficult.

When they do get jobs, seemingly simple things — such as knowing they need to arrive at work on time — can leave them flummoxed, their pride badly battered.

"It has happened so many times: They show up for work for one or two days, then get into a fight with their colleagues and quit," says Ahn Kyung-su, a Seoul-based researcher who has spent years working with exiles.

As a result, they remain far less educated than most South Koreans and have far higher rates of unemployment. Their most common profession is unskilled laborer.

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Even success doesn't make life easy.

Gae-yoon Lee, who was raised on a collective farm, left North Korea in 2010 with only a high school diploma. Six years later, she's a published poet who often writes about her childhood and the famine, and is midway through a degree in Korean literature at one of Seoul's top universities.

A quiet woman with a stylish purse and braces on her teeth, she finds herself intimidated by southerners' intense focus on success.

"Even between friends, people are always competing here," says Lee, 30. "It can be really stressful to live here."

With an accent that still gives her away as an outsider, she sometimes resorts to pretending she doesn't belong at all.

"There are times when I'm too afraid to be tagged as a North Korean," she says. "So when I'm talking to South Koreans, sometimes I'll use a few English words that I remember so that people think that I'm a foreigner just learning to speak Korean. At that moment, I really want to be a foreigner."

During the first few months after he got to the South, the former policeman thought he might become a cop again, or maybe join the army. But he's too old to be a police recruit, and he says the army turned him down.

Since then, he's tumbled from one job to the next: He trained to be a welder but quit because he wasn't earning enough. He worked in a food-processing factory for a time but says his bosses refused to give him a raise.

"It was because I'm from North Korea," he grumbles.

Since then, there have been stints with at least two construction companies. The pay is bearable, about \$100 a day, more than he made in the North, but his expenses are dramatically higher. Rent, food, subways, clothing — all are far more expensive here. Plus, he's not just supporting his immediate family anymore. He's also channeling cash through underground brokers to relatives still across the border.

"Money," he says at one point. "Money is the problem."

He's hardened since he first reached Seoul. He looks at people suspiciously, goes silent around strangers and often wonders if he's being discriminated against.

He insists, though, that pity is the last thing he wants.

"Whatever you do, don't pray for me," he says.

Israel demolishes homes of 3 Palestinian attackers

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli security forces demolished the West Bank homes of three Palestinians early Monday who killed an Israeli officer and seriously wounded another in Jerusalem in February, the military said.

In February's attack outside Jerusalem's Old City, according to Israeli authorities, three Palestinian men in their early 20's drew rifles and knives and attacked two female officers during a security check, killing a 19-year-old officer. They were killed by Israeli officers at the scene.

Israel argues that home demolitions are an effective tool to deter attacks, but critics say the tactic amounts to collective punishment.

Also Monday, the military reported an Israeli soldier was stabbed and wounded in central Israel, and that forces were searching for the attacker, but later said it was checking the possibility that it was a false report.

Palestinian attacks in the last six months have killed 28 Israelis and two Americans, and at least 188 Palestinians have died by Israeli fire. Israel says most were attackers, and the rest died in clashes with Israeli security forces.

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10 Things to Know for Today

The Associated Press

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. EU REFUGEE DEPORTATION PLAN UNDERWAY

The first vessel transporting migrants from Greece docks in Turkey, putting into practice a European Union plan to stem migration to Europe.

2. TROVE OF DATA ON OFFSHORE ACCOUNTS PROMPTS PROBE

The shell companies the wealthy, famous and powerful create are raising questions over the widespread use of such tactics to avoid taxes and skirt financial oversight.

3. WHO IS URGING KASICH TO GET OUT OF THE RACE

Donald Trump argues that the Ohio governor shouldn't be allowed to collect future delegates because the nomination is already beyond his grasp.

4. WHAT IS KEEPING AIR TRAVELERS UNHAPPY

More flights are arriving on time and airlines are losing fewer bags, yet more consumers are complaining about air travel, with the chief concern cancellations and delays.

5. FEDS TARGET LONG-TERM CARE COSTS

The federal government is pushing states to keep more low-income seniors out of institutions and, instead, enroll them in their home- and community-based programs.

6. RACISM TO PEACE PRIZE: WOODROW WILSON'S LEGACY ON DISPLAY

AP gets an early look at exhibit meant to fully air the mixed legacy of the country's 28th president, whose name adorns Princeton University's public policy school.

7. THEY FLEE NORTH KOREA, ONLY TO BE ADRIFT IN THE SOUTH

North Koreans leaving their homeland often find themselves lost in a nation where they thought they'd feel at home, struggling with depression, discrimination and joblessness.

8. OREGON STANDOFF SHEDS LIGHT ON CONSERVATIVE SHERIFFS GROUP

An obscure law enforcement organization bills itself as "the last line of defense" against a federal government the group contends overreaches on gun control and other issues.

9. ALDEAN FINALLY BREAKS THROUGH AT ACMs

The "My Kinda Party" singer beats Luke Bryan and Miranda Lambert for entertainer of the year at the Academy of Country Music Awards.

10. RARE 'YEAR OF THE SENIOR' COMES TO A CLOSE

The college basketball season that ends with Villanova playing North Carolina for the NCAA men's title will be remembered as the year four-year players stole the spotlight.

1st migrants deported from Greece to Turkey

MEHMET GUZEL, Associated Press

DEREK GATOPOULOS, Associated Press

DIKILI, Turkey (AP) — A first group of migrants were ferried from the Greek islands to Turkey Monday as part of a controversial European Union plan to curb migration to Europe.

Under heavy security, authorities on the Greek islands of Lesbos and Chios put 202 people on boats bound for Turkey — the first to be sent back as part of the plan, which has drawn strong criticism from human rights advocates.

The first vessel arrived later in the Turkish port of Dikili where migrants were taken to red-and-white tents for registration and health checks. About a dozen people stood at the port holding a banner that read "Welcome refugees. Turkey is your home."

A second vessel was expected soon after. Authorities said most of the people in the first batch are Pakistani nations.

Turkey and the European Union reached a deal last month which stipulates that migrants who reach

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Greece illegally from Turkey after March 20 will be returned to Turkey unless they qualify for asylum. For every Syrian turned back, a Syrian refugee is to be resettled from Turkey to the EU.

Monday was the designated start date for transfers and marks a symbolic, successful benchmark in the agreement, which has been plagued by concerns over human rights and the adequacy of preparations taken in Greece and Turkey, the primary players in its implementation. The numbers transferred, however, were smaller than initially forecast.

"All of the migrants returned are from Pakistan except two migrants from Syria who returned voluntarily," Giorgos Kyritsis, a spokesman for a government refugee crisis committee, told state TV.

"There is no timetable for returns. Examining (asylum) applications will take some time."

About 4,000 migrants and refugees are being detained on Greek islands since the agreement came into effect March 20.

Kyritsis said 136 migrants were deported from Lesbos and 66 from the nearby island of Chios, where riot police clashed with local residents hours earlier during a protest against expulsions.

"This is the first day of a very difficult time for refugee rights. Despite the serious legal gaps and lack of adequate protection in Turkey, the EU is forging ahead with a dangerous deal," Giorgos Kosmopoulos, head of Amnesty International in Greece, told the Associated Press from Lesbos.

"Turkey is not a safe third country for refugees. The EU and Greek authorities know this and have no excuse."

The operation was supervised by a lieutenant general of the Greek police and occurred peacefully, as ships departed from Lesbos to the Turkish port of Dikili. The deportations started with migrants who did not apply for asylum or had their applications declared inadmissible.

"Even if this first group is not refugees, what we are seeing here is symbolic kick-off of what might be a very dangerous practice of returns to Turkey," Kosmopoulos said.

The first vessel, the Nazli Jale, docked in Dikili accompanied by the Turkish coast guard as a helicopter flew overhead. A second ship, the Lesvos, was due later in the morning.

A total of 50,000 migrants and refugees are stranded in Greece following EU and Balkan border closures, but only those who arrived after March 20 will be detained for deportation.

Audit finds UN deficiencies linked to alleged bribery case

EDITH M. LEDERER, Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — An internal audit has found important deficiencies and lapses in the U.N.'s involvement with two foundations and several non-governmental organizations linked to an alleged bribery case involving former General Assembly president John Ashe.

The audit by the Office of Internal Oversight Services obtained early Monday by The Associated Press said the U.N.'s failure to check out certain NGOs before dealing with them put the United Nations' "integrity, independence and impartiality" at risk.

The office gave the U.N. Secretariat a "partially satisfactory" overall result in complying with U.N. policies and procedures, saying "important — but not critical or pervasive — deficiencies exist."

Ashe, a former U.N. ambassador from Antigua and Barbuda who served in the largely ceremonial post of president of the 193-nation assembly from September 2013 to September 2014, is accused by U.S. federal authorities of turning the position into a "platform for profit" by accepting more than \$1 million in bribes. The alleged conspiracy involves six others including a billionaire Chinese real estate mogul, two diplomats and a humanitarian organization officer.

Ashe's arrest last October put a spotlight on the money the U.N. and its key players accept from outside entities and how donations and partners are vetted. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon ordered the audit days later.

The Office of Internal Oversight Services gave several examples of the U.N.'s failure to check out foundations and organizations that exposed the world body to the risk it could be involved with organizations whose interests conflicted with the U.N.'s.

It said the United Nations Office for Partnerships accepted a \$60,000 contribution from the Global Sus-

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tainability Foundation, whose leader Sheri Yan was an adviser to Ashe during his presidency and is accused in the alleged scheme, without performing any due diligence check.

There was no evidence of checks before projects were undertaken with the International Organization for South-South Cooperation whose president, Francis Lorenzo, a deputy U.N. ambassador from the Dominican Republic, also has been charged in the alleged bribery scheme.

The Sun Kian Ip Group Foundation headed by Macau billionaire Ng Lap Seng, accused of lying about plans for \$4.5 million in cash brought into the U.S. over several years aboard private jets, was also audited. Prosecutors say Ng wanted to build a multibillion-dollar U.N.-sponsored conference center in Macau as a sort of satellite operation for the world body.

The auditors said the foundation co-sponsored a forum on South-South cooperation in Macau in August 2015 with the U.N. Development Program. All participants, including some U.N. staff, received iPads worth at least \$599 plus taxes — and three U.N. staffers kept them until after the audit was announced, which violates the U.N. policy on gifts.

It recommended that the secretary-general take “appropriate corrective action” against the staff members.

The auditors made a series of other recommendations including urging the secretary-general to ensure that all U.N. bodies check out NGOs, businesses, foundations and other civil society organizations before they are engaged as U.N. partners.

U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said the secretary-general “is pleased that the audit ... shows that many of the control systems in place within the organization were found to be working properly.”

But he said Ban “is concerned at the findings related to instances where proper procedures were not followed.”

Taylor Swift thanks ‘boyfriend Adam’ at iHeartRadio Awards

SANDY COHEN, AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — For the second year in a row, the iHeartRadio Awards became the iHeartTaylorSwift show.

Not only did Swift claim three prizes, including album of the year, but her bestie and her boyfriend took home trophies, too.

Swift, who swept the awards last year, won the first and last prize Sunday night — female artist and album of the year. In between, she claimed best tour honors for her star-studded “1989 World Tour,” thanking boyfriend Calvin Harris (real name: Adam Wiles) from the stage.

“For the first time, I had the most amazing person to come home to when the spotlight went out and when the crowds were all gone,” Swift said. “So I want to thank my boyfriend Adam for that.”

Harris won dance artist of the year. Gomez took the “biggest triple threat” award.

Bono and the Edge from U2 accepted the show’s Innovator Award, presented by last year’s winner, Pharrell Williams.

“The thing that might be the most innovative about our band is we are a real band,” Edge said. “We are still in our high school band.”

Song of the year went to Adele for “Hello.” She accepted via video from a performance in Birmingham, England. Other winners at the fan-voted show included Fetty Wap (best new artist), Pitbull (Latin artist of the year) and Chris Brown (R&B artist of the year). All three men also performed during the show.

Brown thanked “everybody who supported me through all the worst times in my life and the positive times in my life.”

“I tend to not have a filter sometimes, and I go off on a lot of people,” said Brown, who has been dogged by legal troubles since pleading guilty to felony charges in 2009 for beating then-girlfriend Rihanna. “But the music stays the same.”

There were as many performances as awards presented during the three-hour show, hosted by Jason Derulo and broadcast live on TNT and TBS from the Forum in Inglewood, California.

Justin Bieber was the first to perform, showing off his new dreadlocks during a mash-up of “Love Yourself” and “Company.” He returned to the stage twice as a winner, claiming male artist of the year and sharing

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in the dance song of the year award with Diplo and Skrillex for "Where Are U Now."

Bieber thanked his fans for standing by him through what he described as "tough times."

"It's just about our growth and learning," he said.

Meghan Trainor performed her new single, "No." Demi Lovato sang the heart wrenching "Stone Cold" while Brad Paisley accompanied her on guitar. Iggy Azalea unveiled her new song, "Team." Zayn Malik made his solo awards-show performance debut, performing "Like I Would" from his new album, "Mind of Mine."

Other performers included DNCE, The Weeknd, show host Jason Derulo and Maroon 5, which was named duo or group of the year.

Trump: 'I automatically win' if Kasich would just quit

JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump is pushing rival John Kasich to get out of the White House race, arguing that the Ohio governor shouldn't be allowed to collect future delegates because the nomination is already beyond his grasp.

Trying hard to right himself after a difficult week, Trump said it was unfair for Kasich, the winner of only his home state's primary, to continue campaigning. He suggested that Kasich, who has pledged to make it to the summer convention, follow the lead of former candidates Marco Rubio and Jeb Bush — and quit.

"If I didn't have Kasich, I automatically win," Trump said Sunday evening in West Allis, Wisconsin.

Trump said Kasich could ask to be considered at the GOP convention in Cleveland in July even without competing in the remaining nominating contests. He said earlier Sunday that he had shared his concerns with Republican National Committee officials at a meeting in Washington this past week.

Kasich's campaign countered that neither Trump nor Texas Sen. Ted Cruz would have enough delegates to win the nomination outright in Cleveland.

"Since he thinks it's such a good idea, we look forward to Trump dropping out before the convention," said Kasich spokesman Chris Schrimpf.

Across the political aisle, Democrat Hillary Clinton told NBC's "Meet the Press" that the FBI had yet to request an interview regarding the private email server she used as secretary of state.

Clinton and her Democratic opponent, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, announced they'd agreed to debate in New York before the important April 19 primary, though their campaigns continued debating over when to schedule the face-off. Sanders, meanwhile, fired up a crowd in Wausau, Wisconsin, hoping to continue a string of recent campaign victories even as Clinton maintains a sizable delegate lead.

Trump's call for Kasich to bow out came as Republican concerns grew about the prospect of convention chaos if Trump fails to lock up his party's nomination — or even if he does.

Behind Cruz in the polls in Wisconsin, Trump faces the prospect that a loss on Tuesday there will raise further doubts that he can net the needed delegates, making it far easier for his party to oust him in a floor fight at the convention in Cleveland in July.

Cruz, Trump's closest challenger, has only a small chance to overtake the real estate mogul in the delegate hunt before the convention. Cruz spent Sunday rallying supporters, including conservative Wisconsin talk radio hosts who oppose Trump's candidacy.

Kasich acknowledges that he cannot catch up in the delegate race, leaving a contested convention his only path to victory. He has faced calls in the past to step aside, but those nudges became less frequent following his decisive victory last month in his home state.

Still, Kasich suggested that a contested convention would not involve the chaos that party leaders fear.

"Kids will spend less time focusing on Bieber and Kardashian and more time focusing on how we elect presidents," Kasich told ABC. "It will be so cool."

Republicans fear a bruising internal fight would damage the party in November's general election. Trump also isn't ruling out the possibility of running as an independent if he isn't the nominee, making it that much harder for the GOP to retake the White House.

Such talk has "consequences," said GOP Chairman Reince Priebus, though he tried to quell the prospect of a convention fight. He told ABC that the process will be clear and open, with cameras there "at every step of the way."

Frustration with the GOP field has stoked calls in some Republican corners for the party to use a contested convention to pick someone not even on the ballot. Priebus acknowledged that was a remote possibility, but said he believed his party's nominee would be "someone who's running."

Trump has been on the defensive as he struggled to explain away a week of controversies over abortion, nuclear weapons and his campaign manager.

"Was this my best week? I guess not," Trump told "Fox News Sunday."

New push to keep seniors in home, community-based programs

ALEJANDRA CANCINO, For The Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — The federal government is pushing states to keep more low-income seniors out of nursing homes and, instead, enroll them in home and community-based programs.

The shift comes as demand for long-term care is rising. By 2050, the number of people older than 85 is expected to triple to more than 18 million. These seniors tend to have the highest disability rate and the greatest need for long-term care.

The tug-of-war between rising demand and controlling costs has advocates for seniors worrying about quality of care.

Medicaid is one of the largest expenses for states, and it's a program they look to for savings when budgets are tight. Medicaid spending on long-term care for seniors rose by 4 percent, to nearly \$89 billion in fiscal year 2013.

Advocates say programs for seniors often wind up on the chopping block.

For example, Illinois is considering changes to its home and community-based program that would reduce funding by about \$200 million.

"I think that oftentimes people are afraid of change, regardless of what that change is," said Andrea Maresca, director of federal policy and strategy at the National Association of Medicaid Directors. There's room to improve the programs, Maresca said, and states are also trying to make sure seniors don't lose access to services.

Loren Colman, of the Minnesota Department of Human Services, said it took that state roughly 25 years to shift from institutional care to home and community-based programs. The focus now is on helping older adults remain at home, delaying expensive nursing home care and supporting family caregivers.

To rein in costs, some states are changing payment systems from fee-for-service to managed care, which generally pays a per-person rate to providers who manage seniors' health and social services.

Gwen Orłowski, an attorney at Central Jersey Legal Services, said New Jersey's managed care program is an improvement over its previous system, but not without issues. She's had to help some seniors appeal service cuts.

"I do worry that the delivery of services is beholden to the money that the managed-care companies are receiving (from the state) and the money they want to make," said Orłowski, whose office provides free legal assistance to low-income seniors.

To address fears, new federal regulations have been proposed to strengthen protections for seniors in managed care, including help with appeals. A final rule is expected this spring.

Already, states are working on implementing earlier rules from 2014 aimed at improving quality of care across programs. In exchange for federal dollars, states must ensure that seniors have a say over where they want to live, and get treated with dignity and respect.

Robyn Grant, director of public policy and advocacy for the National Consumer Voice for Quality Long Term Care, said regulations are a "step in the right direction," but there needs to be proper enforcement. "Unfortunately, that's very nebulous," Grant said.

The cornerstone of home and community-based programs is personal care services, such as providing an aide who helps with cooking or cleaning. Those services cost a fraction of nursing home care.

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The average per-person cost of Illinois' Community Care Program is \$860 per month, less than a third of the cost for a nursing home. Over the last decade, however, enrollment has doubled to more than 83,000 people, costing the state nearly \$1 billion in fiscal 2015.

One of those seniors is Yuen Chu Wong, 71, of Chicago, who worked at a chocolate factory until she retired nearly a decade ago. Wong requested a home-care aide about seven years ago when her health began deteriorating.

The aide, Wan Ling He, does laundry for Wong and her husband, cleans the apartment and prepares traditional Chinese soups. The two women have developed a friendship, often talking in their native Cantonese about food and cooking shows. Wong calls her aide "an old friend."

Illinois is now proposing to move about half the seniors in its program to a new initiative it says will increase flexibility while lowering costs. For example, it may pay for Uber rides to doctors' appointments instead of sending a driver to seniors' homes.

Lori B. Hendren, associate state director of advocacy and outreach at AARP Illinois, said the new proposal raises questions about the state's commitment to seniors aging independently and with dignity at home. "Where will the savings come from?" Hendren said. "The devil is in the details."

Racism to peace prize: Woodrow Wilson's legacy on display

ERRIN HAINES WHACK, Associated Press

PRINCETON, N.J. (AP) — Kristen Coke and Jameil Brown enrolled at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public Policy and International Affairs at Princeton University not knowing much about the school's namesake aside from his oft-touted positive accomplishments, from the changes he made as the university's president to elevate the school's stature to his progressive record during his two terms as a U.S. president.

It wasn't until their junior year that they began to learn more about his record on race and his views toward African-Americans and women. Now seniors, both students were among the first to see a new exhibit Princeton is launching Monday that will more fully explore who Wilson was — openly and publicly acknowledging his bigotry alongside the progressivism for which he is so revered.

"When we were freshmen here, there definitely was not really any conversation about what Woodrow Wilson's legacy was as a whole," said Coke, 21, who is black. "There's lots of things that we do here on campus to exalt his name. ... When I started critically looking at his legacy, it made me start to think, 'Who are we celebrating?'"

"In the Nation's Service? Wilson Revisited" will run through Oct. 28. An interactive version is also available online, inviting viewers to tweet their reactions. The exhibit features about a dozen panels outlining highlights from Wilson's life, putting him in context of his era while emphasizing that he was a man apart from it.

"What we were trying to do here is take the line that separates 'Wilson good' and 'Wilson bad' and expand it," said Daniel Linke, archivist at the Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Library at Princeton and curator of the exhibit. "There's a nuanced debate to be had. He's still affecting us today."

Princeton was challenged to take a deeper look into Wilson's life in the fall, when a group of students raised questions about his racist roots and their impact on his worldview and policy. The Black Justice League held a 32-hour sit-in inside the president's office at Princeton, demanding Wilson's name be removed from programs and buildings, and for other changes to be made on campus to make the university more diverse and inclusive. A Princeton University committee's decision whether to change the name is imminent.

Cecilia Rouse, dean of the Wilson School, said the students have opened a helpful dialogue that is part of a national conversation.

"It's important for students to understand great people are complicated," said Rouse. "Rarely is someone black or white. We have to learn to live with that complexity. It's what we're grappling with on campuses across the country. We can sandblast a name from the building, but to actually change how we operate, and what our community is like is much harder."

The panels explore his achievements, including his transformative role as president of Princeton from

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1902 to 1910, and his years as the country's 28th president from 1913 until 1921. Wilson won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1919. But he also supported segregation — including in the federal government — rolling back progress for the emerging black middle class in the nation's capital.

Wilson's faults are laid bare from the beginning. One states plainly: "Among Wilson's most serious failings was his racism and the damage it did to individual lives at home and abroad." Another quotes him in his own words: "Segregation is not a humiliation but a benefit, and ought to be so regarded by you gentlemen."

Particularly illuminating is a panel of quotes from his contemporaries, who single him out for his prejudices during his lifetime. Pioneering black journalist Ida B. Wells said of Wilson that segregation "has been given a new meaning and impetus under President Wilson, and members of the (black race) have been snubbed, degraded and humiliated during this administration as never before since freedom."

As Brown, 23, prepares to graduate in May, he said he is thankful to be leaving with a better understanding of a person whose example, in many ways, he has been taught to emulate.

"It would be a disservice for Princeton to not give us a whole picture of one of its most venerated leaders and expect us to go forward and be thoughtful about the way we move in the world," said Brown, who is also black. "At Princeton, a large amount of people go into esteemed positions in the world. ... We have a good chance of being the next Woodrow Wilson."

One-hit wonder: Rare 'Year of the Senior' comes to a close

EDDIE PELLIS, AP National Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — The "One and Dones" didn't get anywhere near the Final Four this season. Instead, this will be remembered as the year when patience was rewarded.

The projected top two picks of the upcoming NBA draft, freshmen Brandon Ingram of Duke and Ben Simmons of LSU, were warming up the couch for Monday night's title game between North Carolina and Villanova — two teams that, quite fittingly, got where they are with a locker room full of seniors.

"We did have good freshmen this year," said Kansas coach Bill Self, in summing up the scene around the country. "But seniors stole the show."

The Season of the Senior offered a break from the story lines of the last five or six years, during which hand-wringing over the "One and Done" rule has taken over the sport, almost non-stop.

Officially, "One and Done" is the NBA's requirement that players be at least 19 and wait one season after graduating high school before entering the draft. With the league and its union expected to pick up collective-bargaining negotiations later this year, the debate will almost certainly be resumed.

What's the best outcome? Depends on who you ask.

At the college level, "One and Done" can make for some exciting one-hit wonders. John Calipari has led Kentucky to four Final Fours over the last six years, with one national championship, thanks to his uncanny ability to reload at Kentucky. Duke's Mike Krzyzewski also has a title under that formula.

Both have faced their share of criticism for sacrificing continuity and subverting education in exchange for the high of a quick title run. Calipari and Coach K are fond of bragging about the still-impressive numbers of their players who do get degrees — and insisting they're only playing by the rules, not writing them.

Meanwhile, at the NBA level, Charles Barkley considers "One and Done" a crisis.

"We've got guys who can't play coming to the NBA after one year," he said. "Our quality of basketball is awful. We've got six good teams. ... We can't sustain our business model that way. Charging people outrageous sums of money for regular-season tickets and putting a (bad) product out there, we're going to kill our product."

To Barkley's dismay, this season looks more like a one-time reprieve than a trend. The upcoming recruiting class is loaded. Jayson Tatum and Harry Giles have committed to Duke; De'Aaron Fox, Malik Monk and Bam Adebayo are pointed toward Kentucky.

All are already listed on 2017 mock NBA draft boards.

Because these five are moving as package deals to coaches who are used to this sort of thing, their chances for NCAA success over a short stay figure to be greater.

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This year's freshmen, however, were different. Instead of "One and Done," this group was more like "Now or Never."

After winning it all last season with One-and-Doners Jahlil Okafor and Justise Winslow, the Blue Devils, as Krzyzewski explained early and often, were thin this year, leaving Ingram on the outside looking in after the Sweet 16.

At LSU, coach Johnny Jones lost a pair of sophomores, Jarell Martin and Jordan Mickey, to the NBA, leaving Simmons and the Tigers out of the tournament altogether.

"For Ben, things happened that were beyond his control," Jones said. "He was very impactful and engaged for us. He put his team in the best possible position."

In a perfect world, says former UConn coach Jim Calhoun, these situations wouldn't be so common.

"You take 770 kids transferring every year, and add those to the freshmen who leave," he said, "and it's a case where you just don't get the stability in the game. I'm not trying to be a curmudgeon. I'd just like to see more stability."

In a way, 2015-16 must have felt like a nice breather to him.

All these Final Four seniors — Brice Johnson and Marcus Paige of Carolina, Daniel Ochefu and Ryan Arcidiacono of Villanova, Buddy Hield of Oklahoma and Michael Gbinije of Syracuse — should, at minimum, get a chance to make an NBA roster next season. Hield and Johnson could both be lottery picks. That they all had four years to learn basketball in college only helped their cause.

The Associated Press Player of the Year, senior Denzel Valentine, also benefited. His Michigan State team was supposed to contend for a title, but lost, shockingly, in the first round.

He's still glad he stuck around.

"I don't think it always needs to be a fight, seniors versus freshmen," Valentine said. "If you stay in school and you're a senior, there shouldn't be a knock on that. They shouldn't say, 'Aw, he waited too long.' Let's just look at who's good and go from there."

Standoff sheds light on conservative sheriffs group

NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS, Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — The actions of two rural Oregon sheriffs during an armed standoff at a national wildlife refuge were striking: one worked with federal officials to end the siege while the other questioned the FBI's authority and offered words of support for the occupiers.

Sheriff Dave Ward of Harney County, where the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge is located, cooperated with federal and state police, urging standoff leader Ammon Bundy and his followers to stand down and respect the law.

Meanwhile in Grant County, immediately to the north, Sheriff Glenn Palmer called the occupiers "patriots." When Bundy and others were arrested during a Jan. 26 traffic stop, they were on their way to his county. An Arizona rancher who police fatally shot when they say he reached for a gun shouted he was on his way to meet Palmer.

Palmer is a member of the Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association, a group that bills itself as "the last line of defense" against a federal government they contend overreaches on gun control and other issues. They see sheriffs as the ultimate law enforcement authority in their dispute with the federal government over control of federal lands.

The group's founder said they are recruiting people to run against sheriff's that don't support their cause and that the group's website includes lists of county sheriffs and whether they need to be "recalled or replaced."

Critics say the group's views are far outside the mainstream. Mark Potok of the Southern Poverty Law Center, which for decades has advocated against groups it considers extremist, called the CSPOA "a remarkably radical organization, considering who their members are."

"Many constitutional sheriffs believe they can pass a local law and forbid federal authorities from coming into a county," he said. "That is patently false."

Richard Mack, a former Arizona sheriff and CSPOA founder, said he didn't support the occupation of

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the wildlife refuge, "but I understand the complete frustration people have in this country towards this government." Mack said the group will work to defeat Ward in the November election.

Mack's group, founded in 2011, claims more than 400 of the nation's more than 3,000 county sheriffs support its positions, which hold that elected county sheriffs should oppose federal agents whose conduct appears to violate the U.S. Constitution.

The CSPOA is unequivocal about gun rights. It supports the right of criminals and the mentally ill to carry firearms and opposes gun registration or background checks.

In conservative Kootenai County, Idaho, popular sheriff Ben Wolfinger has drawn two opponents who support the concept of constitutional sheriffs. Tina Kunishige, one of the candidates, said sheriffs need to decide which laws are constitutional.

"I'm very comfortable with that," said Kunishige, who has no law enforcement experience. "I've studied the Constitution for a number of years."

Wolfinger said he doesn't need an outside group like the CSPOA to approve how he does his job. "I believe that the people I serve in Kootenai County will hold me accountable to do the job that they elected me for," Wolfinger said.

Sheriffs who support the CSPOA have faced backlash.

Palmer, the sheriff who sided with the Oregon occupiers, has drawn an opponent in the November elections who criticized him for making his own interpretations of the Constitution.

And Palmer, who did not respond to interview requests from The Associated Press, is being investigated by the state for his actions during the Oregon standoff. If Palmer is found to have violated standards, he could lose his police certification.

The Oregon occupation started on Jan. 2 and ended Feb. 11 when the last holdouts surrendered to authorities. It began as a protest amid mounting tension over the case of local ranchers Dwight and Steven Hammond.

The Hammonds lit fires on federal land in 2001 and 2006 to protect their property from wildfires and invasive plants. The two were convicted three years ago and served time — the father three months, the son one year. But an appeals court ruled the sentences were too short under federal law, and a federal judge ordered them back to prison for about four years each.

Mack backs Palmer in the ongoing investigation into his actions.

"He's an honorable man who has done nothing wrong," Mack said.

Ko wins ANA, taking advantage of Jutanugarn's late collapse

JOHN NICHOLSON, AP Sports Writer

RANCHO MIRAGE, Calif. (AP) — Lydia Ko got the help she needed to win the ANA Inspiration.

Taking advantage of Ariya Jutanugarn's late collapse and caddie Jason Hamilton's advice, Ko found herself splashing around in Poppie's Pond late Sunday afternoon at Mission Hills.

"This is an unbelievable moment," Ko said before taking the traditional victory leap into the pond.

When Jutanugarn — playing in the group behind — blew a two-stroke lead with bogeys on the par-4 16th and par-3 17th, the top-ranked Ko had the opening she needed on the par-5 18th.

That's when Hamilton stepped in.

"I think I'm lucky that Jason kind of talked me out of not going for the green in two," said Ko, facing a 3-wood shot over water from a downhill lie if she went for it.

"I knew if I mis-hit it, it was going to go straight in the water. 'He said, 'Hey, we can still make birdie going the conventional way.' I decided to hit an 8-iron out and hit a sand wedge."

And what a sand wedge it was, an 88-yarder that gently released to a foot for a tap-in birdie.

"Every shot is special in its own way, like every win is special," Ko said. "But just playing the 72nd hole, birdieing the last hole, that's always a good feeling. For that shot to mean so much that I would win the event, that makes it extra special."

The 18-year-old New Zealander closed with a 3-under 69 to finish at 12 under, a stroke ahead of playing

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partner In Gee Chun and Charley Hull, and two ahead of Jutanugarn.

Jutanugarn bogeyed the final three holes. The 20-year-old Thai player three-putted 16, failed to get up-and-down from a bunker on 17 and hooked her drive into the water on 18.

"I really get nervous, especially being my first time leading," Jutanugarn said

Until Sunday, best known for blowing a two-stroke lead with a closing triple bogey in the 2013 LPGA Thailand, Jutanugarn made four birdies in a five-hole stretch in the middle of the round to move into position for a breakthrough victory that slipped away. She finished with a 71.

"I got a lot of experience from this week," Jutanugarn said.

Ko won the Evian Championship in September in France to become the youngest female major champion and became the youngest two-time major winner Sunday. She has 12 LPGA Tour victories, the first two as an amateur and five last season when she was the tour's player of the year.

"For these amazing things to be happening it is unbelievable, but it also motivates me to work harder," said Ko, the winner last week in Carlsbad.

Ko birdied the two front-nine par 3s in her bogey-free round, making a 22-foot putt on the fifth and a 40-footer on the eighth. She had three key par saves on the back nine, the first with a 15-foot putt after crisscrossing the par-5 11th. She ran in an 18-footer on the par-4 13th, and a 10-footer on 17.

"At the end of the day, they were all important," Ko said. "If I had missed my par putt on 11, who knows what would have happened. If I had missed my par putt on 13, I might have been a few more shots behind. If I missed my putt on 17, I might not have birdied."

Hull birdied the 18th for a 69 and her best finish in a major.

"I know I can play well under pressure now when I have to get it going," the 20-year-old English player said. "I'm happy I holed that putt on the last. I'm proud of myself."

Chun also closed with a birdie for a 70. The U.S. Women's Open champion was making her first start after sitting out a month because of a back injury. She was hurt when she was struck by a hard-case suitcase that rival South Korean player Ha Na Jang's father dropped down an escalator at the Singapore airport.

Lexi Thompson, the third-round leader, eagled the last hole for a 73 to finish fifth at 9 under. The 2014 winner had three front-nine bogeys and didn't make a birdie."

"Just overall tough day," Thompson said. "I struggled today, ball-striking, and the bad ball-striking didn't give me many birdie chances, so I struggled a bit with the putter as well."

Michelle Wie, tied for seventh entering the round, shot a 77 to drop into a tie for 36th at 5 over. She's winless since the 2014 U.S. Women's Open and hasn't had a top-10 finish in 31 events.

Brooke Henderson shot a 67 for the best round of the day. The 18-year-old Canadian tied for 10th at 7 under to run her top-10 streak to six events.

In West, region of guns and suicide, outreach to curb deaths

DAVID CRARY, AP National Writer

MONTROSE, Colorado (AP) — Keith Carey is a gunsmith in Montrose, a town with a frontier flavor set amid the rocky mesas of western Colorado. He's a staunch, though soft-spoken, defender of the right to bear arms.

Yet now he's also a willing recruit in a fledgling effort to see if the gun community itself — sellers and owners of firearms, operators of shooting ranges — can help Colorado and a swath of other Western states reduce their highest-in-the-nation suicide rates.

"Suicide is a tragedy no matter how it's done," said Carey, whose adult daughter killed herself with a mix of alcohol and antidepressants a few years ago on the East Coast. However, he sees the logic in trying gun-specific prevention strategies in towns like Montrose, where guns are an integral part of daily life.

"It's very expedient for people to commit suicide by a firearm, without too much forethought," Carey said. "Unfortunately, it's generally effective."

So at the urging of a local police commander, Carey agreed last year to participate in the Gun Shop Project, a state-funded pilot program in which gun sellers and range operators in five western Colorado

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counties were invited to help raise awareness about suicide. It's a tentative but promising bid to open up a conversation on a topic that's been virtually taboo in these Western states: the intersection of guns and suicide.

The counter in Carey's tiny shop — where he repairs horns and woodwinds as well as guns — now displays wallet-sized cards with information about a suicide hotline. A poster by the door offers advice about ways to keep guns out of the hands of friends or relatives at risk of killing themselves.

"Consider offering to hold on to their guns or to help store their guns temporarily," the poster says. "You may save a life."

Carey says some of his customers take materials home, or ask a few questions. But the conversations tend to be brief.

"Suicide is one of those morose subjects that a lot of us don't want to talk about," he said. "But it's all too common. I believe any method of suicide prevention is worth a good hard try."

Across the U.S., suicides account for nearly two-thirds of all gun deaths — far outnumbering gun homicides and accidental deaths. In 2014, according to federal data, there were 33,599 firearm deaths; 21,334 of them were suicides. That figure represents about half of all suicides that year; but in several western Colorado counties, and in some other Rocky Mountain states with high gun-ownership rates, more than 60 percent of suicides involve firearms.

A map of state suicide rates reveals a striking pattern. Along with Alaska, the states with the highest rates form a contiguous bloc of the interior West — Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Nevada, Colorado, Utah and New Mexico. All have age-adjusted suicide rates at least 50 percent higher than the national rate of 12.93 suicides per 100,000 people; Montana's rate, 23.80, is the highest in the nation.

Between 2000 and 2014, gun suicides increased by more than 51 percent in those states, while rising by less than 30 percent nationwide.

Theories abound as to why residents of this Western region kill themselves at such high rates. Commonly cited factors include the isolation and economic hard times that are prevalent in rural areas of these states. A University of Utah psychiatrist, Perry Renshaw, contends that the lower oxygen levels of higher altitudes contribute to elevated suicide rates.

There's also widespread belief that a self-reliant frontier mindset — admirable in many circumstances — deters some Westerners from seeking help when depression sinks in.

"We embrace the cowboy mentality," says Jarrod Hindman, director of Colorado's Office of Suicide Prevention. "If you're suffering, suck it up, pick yourself up by your boot straps. But that doesn't work very well if you're suicidal."

Underlying all these explanations is the fact that firearms — the most effective of all the common means of suicide — are more ubiquitous in the West than in most other parts of the country.

Catherine Barber, a suicide prevention expert at the Harvard School of Public Health, says numerous studies show that residents of gun-owning homes are at substantially higher risk of suicide than other people — simply because a suicide attempt is more likely to involve a gun and thus prove fatal. According to federal estimates, suicide attempts involving firearms succeed 85 percent of the time, compared to less than 10 percent of attempts involving drug overdoses and several other methods that often allow a suicidal person to reverse course.

"It's not that gun owners are more suicidal," Barber argues. "It's that they're more likely to die in the event that they become suicidal, because they are using a gun."

Colorado's Gun Shop Project is modeled largely after a program pioneered in New Hampshire a few years ago; it's now being tried in Nevada and a few other states. Barber helped design the initiative and hopes that constructive collaboration on firearm suicide prevention can spread nationwide.

"In the past, people shut up about this issue because they thought raising it meant raising the issue of gun control," she said. "It makes so much more sense to look at gun owners as part of the solution: Gun

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owner groups have a strong tradition of caring about safety.”

The Colorado project is being expanded this year from five counties to nine, including San Miguel County, home to the Telluride ski resort and some of Colorado’s most spectacular mountains. In a two-week span in late February to early March, the county of 8,000 people recorded three firearm suicides.

Hindman, who oversees the Colorado program, said that when he joined the state health department in 2004, talking about the role of firearms in suicide was discouraged. It’s still a sensitive topic, he said, but some funding has materialized for gun-specific initiatives. One of Hindman’s strategies is to emphasize the toll of firearm suicides, which run more than 5-to-1 higher than gun homicides in Colorado.

“Homicides and mass shootings are tragic,” he said. “But the vast majority of gun deaths are suicides, and we don’t have that conversation.”

In Montrose, Police Commander Keith Caddy has been around guns since childhood as a hunter, lawman, firearms instructor and licensed gun seller. Now he’s doing outreach for the Gun Shop Project — and most of the businesses he has visited agreed to display the suicide-awareness materials once they were assured it wasn’t a gun-takeaway program in disguise.

“Is it doing any good or not? That’s a tough thing to quantify,” Caddy said. “It’s my duty to protect the community I serve. If I can go out there and spend a little time talking to the gun shops, maybe the reward will be saving someone’s life.”

In Grand Junction, western Colorado’s largest city with about 60,000 residents, the outreach was assigned to Dave Fishell, a local historian and author who knew most of the shop owners. He’s a gun aficionado and collector who has made his own bullets.

Fishell says he has another important credential — for many years he battled serious depression, to the point where he contemplated suicide and three times put himself into a psychiatric ward.

“Maybe it’s part of my mission in life,” he said. “When people ask, ‘Do you know what I’m going through?’ I say I do.”

During those episodes of severe depression, he placed his guns in a safe and gave the key to his wife — the kind of precaution he’d like to see more people consider. Yet he also remembers thinking that if he did kill himself, it should not be with a gun. He didn’t want to contribute to giving gun owners a bad name.

At the gun shops he visited, several owners declined to display the materials and expressed skepticism about playing a role in suicide prevention.

“I can see that point of view,” Fishell said. “But making people aware is a first step.”

Throughout the region, prevention efforts are fueled to a large degree by people who’ve lost loved ones to suicide, often involving firearms.

Cindy Haerle, a teacher and board member of the Grand Junction-based Western Colorado Suicide Prevention Foundation, grew up in “a real gun family” in Salida, Colorado, and had her own gun by the time she was 5. But she gave up shooting after her brother John, a high school football star and later a sniper in Vietnam, killed himself with a pistol in 1980 at age 29 after prolonged struggles with depression.

“Nothing is as final as a gunshot,” said Haerle, who was 13 at the time.

Jim Doody, a former Grand Junction mayor and city councilor, serves on the foundation’s advisory board. He talks movingly about the suicide of a close friend, Matt Townsend, in 1989 at the age of 33.

They’d met in 7th grade at a parochial school — “We drove the nuns crazy,” said Doody — and stayed close through high school and thereafter. But adulthood proved challenging for Townsend, who took painkillers after a motorcycle injury. He told Doody at one point, “I think I’ll blow my brains out someday.”

Doody says Townsend called him late one night, drunk but seemingly in good spirits, just a day before killing himself with his brother’s handgun. Even 27 years later, Doody feels some guilt for not picking up clues that his friend was on the brink of suicide.

Doody has joined in the recent appeals to gun owners to keep their weapons out of the reach of those at risk of suicide.

“Have we made a difference?” Doody wondered. “We won’t ever know about a life we might have saved.”

Andy Mills, who works for an energy company in the northwest Colorado town of Craig, lost his 15-year-old son, Austin, to suicide in 2010. Mills blames himself for not ensuring that Austin couldn’t find the handgun

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that was kept in the house, and he now supports the Gun Shop Project's suicide prevention outreach.

Firearms remain a part of the family's life, however; Mills replaced the gun that Austin had used with a different model.

"My wife and daughter-in-law, we've all talked about it," he said. "They understood the need, as our protection and our right as gun owners, to still have a gun at home."

In Fruita, a few miles west of Grand Junction, high school teacher and gun-rights supporter Jami Jones talked about two people she knew who fatally shot themselves in recent years — a mechanic who had seemed devoted to his two young daughters, and a 15-year-old girl who was a classmate of Jones' own daughter.

The man used his own gun; the girl used a gun she found hidden in her mother's bedroom.

Jones depicted guns as a fact of life for western Colorado — she has a concealed-weapons permit and joins her husband in hunting and target shooting. But she says gun owners need to think about suicide prevention.

"What's your plan?" she said. "We've got to keep the children safe and the people who are mentally ill safe."

In a region of ruggedly beautiful peaks and canyons, the high suicide rates puzzle her.

"I don't really know why," she said. "You look around: We're in God's country."

Suicide presents a distinctive challenge for shooting ranges: Occasionally, someone will rent a gun, then use it to commit suicide at the site.

At the Family Shooting Center at Denver's Cherry Creek State Park, there have been three such wrenching incidents, including two since Doug Hamilton began managing the range in 2004. One involved a young man upset by post-divorce problems; the other involved identical twin sisters from Australia who shot themselves with rented pistols — one died, the other survived.

Hamilton is open to letting his staff get some suicide-prevention training, though he's unsure it would help. Those who killed themselves at his range exhibited no signs of stress beforehand.

"How do we identify a bad apple who's about to go over the edge, and get them the help that they need?" Hamilton asked. "Suicide prevention brochures aren't something that anyone's going to pick up who has come out to our range to kill themselves."

In Grand Junction, a Gun Shop Project poster hangs on the bulletin board at the Rocky Mountain Gun Club, a state-of-the-art shooting range with sections for pistols, rifles and archery.

The general manager, Josh O'Neal, says safety is a high priority; there's a video system providing live views of all the ranges. Yet he's not confident of avoiding an onsite suicide attempt.

"We all feel in the back of our minds it's a question of when, not if," he said. "We're not psychologists. A lot of unstable people are good at hiding that."

The challenges facing shooting ranges are familiar to Dr. Michael Victoroff, a physician in the Denver area whose leisure-time passion is competitive shooting. He's a certified firearms instructor and was at the Family Shooting Center in Denver when one of the suicides occurred there.

"Nobody wants that," he said. "It's bad for your soul, it's bad for business, it's bad for the sport."

Due in part to that incident, Victoroff has become increasingly engaged in suicide prevention, and serves on a state working group seeking to raise awareness of the issue among primary-care doctors. He also has provided firearms instruction to Jarrod Hindman and other suicide-prevention specialists.

Differing from some gun enthusiasts, Victoroff asserts emphatically that the presence of a gun in a household is "an enabler of suicide."

"It's a myth that people would just choose some other means if they didn't have a gun," he said. "There's a particular attractiveness about suicide with a gun... It's by far the most effective means."

Victoroff belongs to the American Medical Association and the National Rifle Association, and has qualms about both.

"The medical community has been content not to know anything about gun culture and gun safety,"

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said Victoroff, who offers presentations trying to bridge that knowledge gap. As for the NRA, he'd like to see suicide prevention highlighted in its training materials.

Over the years, firearm suicide has not been a high-profile issue for the NRA; it worries that the topic might be used to advance a gun-control agenda. Though the NRA has no position on Colorado's Gun Shop Project, it has endorsed a bill in Washington state encouraging gun dealers to participate in suicide prevention efforts, said spokeswoman Jennifer Baker.

The NRA views suicide as a mental health problem, she said. "The goal is to prevent it regardless of how people kill themselves."

The intersection of gun culture and mental health is complicated. And it's personal for Ed Hagins in Montrose. Deputy director of a local mental health center and active with the county's suicide prevention coalition, he had a cousin who fatally shot himself.

Beyond that, Hagins says he has suffered from depression for much of his life, including instances as a teenager when he considered suicide. As an enthusiastic gun owner who enjoys target shooting, he's leery of proposals to deny gun rights to people diagnosed with mental illness.

"I meet that criteria," he said. "That's one of my biggest fears — legislation that I can't have a gun."

It's personal, too, for Ken Constantine, owner of Elk River Guns in Steamboat Springs.

"I don't want to sell a gun to someone to commit suicide," he said. "That happened once in this shop — it weighs on me."

He recalled the sale of a handgun to a woman several years ago: "She seemed completely normal. No telltale signs."

But he learned later from police that the woman, within a week of purchasing the gun, killed herself with it.

Having been through that experience, Constantine is troubled by the Gun Shop Project's offer of training for shop employees so they can better identify customers at risk of suicide.

"I won't assume the responsibility of a mental health professional," he said, suggesting instead that therapists in the area should get permission from their at-risk patients to temporarily place their names on a private list of people who shouldn't acquire guns.

But that approach has been tried and doesn't work, said Tom Gangel, director of a mental health center serving the area.

"We have asked patients who we think are really in danger, can we give their names to gun shops or they can self-report, but only one or two have done that," Gangel said. "In our area, not very many people want to give up the right to be able to go buy guns."

The local Gun Shop Project is coordinated by Meghan Francone, who constantly reassures gun owners and sellers that the outreach program poses no threat. She got involved after her 15-year-old brother-in-law, Austin Mills of Craig, fatally shot himself in 2010.

"Keep your guns. Keep a dozen. I don't care. But please make sure they are locked and out of the reach of someone who's in crisis," she said. "I'm not asking any gun shop owner to be a psychologist. I'm asking them to be their brother's keeper."

Royals hold off Mets 4-3 in opening rematch of World Series

DAVE SKRETTA, AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Edinson Volquez would rather sit on the bench than stand on the mound on opening day, especially when it happens to be the first game following a World Series triumph.

"I like to enjoy the show," Volquez explained with a grin. "Enjoy the time."

He had every reason to enjoy Sunday night's festivities anyway.

Given no choice but to start the game by Royals manager Ned Yost, the veteran right-hander responded with six scoreless innings. His bullpen held on through three more shaky frames and Kansas City beat the New York Mets 4-3 in the first opening-day rematch of a World Series.

"I did the best I could," said Volquez, who also started the decisive Game 5 at Citi Field last November.

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The Mets rallied for three runs off Joakim Soria in the eighth, then put runners on the corners with one out against Wade Davis in the ninth. But the All-Star closer struck out David Wright and Yoenis Cespedes, preserving a nail-biting victory and sending 40,030 fans home in another celebratory mood.

"They're scrappy," Wright said. "We knew that they put the ball in play, they find holes, put together terrific at-bats. They get that lead early and you know the bullpen is coming in. That's their M.O. — good starting pitching, terrific bullpen and a pesky offense. That's exactly what they did tonight."

Volquez (1-0) allowed two hits and three walks in outdueling Matt Harvey, who also opposed him in Game 5 of the World Series. Harvey (0-1) allowed four runs — three earned — on eight hits and two walks in 5 2-3 innings.

There wound up being little good about opening night for the NL East champs, still in search of their first championship in three decades. They spent nearly an hour before the first pitch reliving last year's World Series defeat through a steady stream of highlights on the crown-shaped big screen, then had to watch the raising of the championship banner over the Royals Hall of Fame in left field at Kauffman Stadium.

"It was just strange, the pregame ceremony. I think I would have enjoyed it more if we played another team," Yost said. "For them to relive that, it's a little awkward."

Things didn't get a whole lot better for the Mets once the game began.

Cespedes, the Gold Glove outfielder whose shoddy fielding hurt the Mets in the Series, dropped an easy fly ball in the first inning that ultimately led to the Royals' opening run.

Kansas City then strung together a couple of singles before Kendrys Morales popped a sacrifice fly to center in the fourth, and Alex Gordon and Omar Infante added two-out RBI singles in the sixth.

Volquez and the Kansas City defense had things well in hand by that point.

The right-hander escaped a jam by getting Travis d'Arnaud to ground out in the second inning, then watched first baseman Eric Hosmer make a nice diving stop to escape a sticky spot in the third. All-Star catcher Salvador Perez threw out Michael Conforto trying to steal second base to end the fourth.

The biggest misstep Volquez made may have been fashion-related — he wore his spring training hat with a gold crown over the interlocking "KC" to start the game. He swapped it out for the proper one by the second inning.

"Nobody said anything!" he said, grinning again. "Not even in the bullpen."

TRAINER'S ROOM

Mets: Harvey got the start despite having a blood clot in his bladder that led to a minor procedure last week. "When the word 'blood clot' came up, that's severe stuff," manager Terry Collins said. "We started to look at alternative plans and what we might do down the road. Fortunately, it came out he's going to be OK."

Royals: RF Jarrod Dyson was milling around the clubhouse before the game. He's out a few more weeks with an oblique injury that he sustained in the first game of spring training.

MORE BLING

During the pregame festivities, DH Morales picked up his Silver Slugger Award, and 1B Hosmer, C Perez and SS Alcides Escobar got their Gold Gloves. The remaining members of last season's team are scheduled to get their championship rings before Tuesday's game.

UP NEXT

Mets: RHP Noah Syndergaard, whose inside pitch to Escobar in Game 3 was a flashpoint of the World Series, takes the mound Tuesday. Syndergaard allowed three runs in six innings in a 9-3 victory that night.

Royals: RHP Chris Young started Game 4 of the World Series against New York. He also earned the win in Game 1 when he tossed three scoreless innings in a 5-4, 14-inning victory.

A look at offshore accounts used to hide wealth, avoid taxes

ELAINE KURTENBACH, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — An investigation published by an international coalition of more than 100 media outlets, based on 11.5 million records of offshore holdings, details how politicians, celebrities and other famous people use banks, law firms and offshore shell companies to hide their assets.

The International Consortium of Investigative Journalism, a nonprofit organization based in Washington, said an anonymous source provided internal documents from the Panama-based law firm Mossack Fonseca, one of the world's biggest creators of shell companies. Ramon Fonseca, a co-founder of Mossack Fonseca, said the documents were obtained illegally by hacking but confirmed that many of them were real. He denied his firm has engaged in any wrongdoing.

This is a look at offshore accounts and how they are used:

WHAT ARE OFFSHORE ACCOUNTS?

Offshore bank accounts and other financial dealings in another country can be used to evade regulatory oversight or tax obligations. Often, companies or individuals use shell companies, initially incorporated without significant assets or operations, to disguise ownership or other information about the funds involved.

WHERE ARE MOST OFFSHORE ACCOUNTS?

Panama, the Cayman Islands and Bermuda are among more than a dozen small, low-tax locations that specialize in handling business services and investments of non-resident companies.

LEGITIMATE USES FOR OFFSHORE ACCOUNTS:

Companies or trusts can be set up in offshore locations for legitimate uses such as business finance, mergers and acquisitions and estate or tax planning, according to the global money laundering watchdog, the Financial Action Task Force.

ILLICIT USES OF OFFSHORE ACCOUNTS:

Shell companies and other entities can be misused by terrorists and others involved in international and financial crimes to conceal sources of funds and ownership. The ICIJ says the files from Mossack Fonseca include information on 214,488 offshore entities linked to 14,153 clients in 200 countries and territories.

EFFORTS TO CRACK DOWN ON FINANCIAL HAVENS:

The Financial Action Task Force and other regulatory agencies publish assessments identifying weaknesses in enforcement of anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing efforts of specific countries and territories. Financial and legal professionals get training on how to spot potential violations, since in some cases lawyers and bankers are unaware they are handling illicit transactions. The EU has stepped up efforts to crack down on tax avoidance by multinational corporations.

PAST SCANDALS OVER OFFSHORE ACCOUNTS:

Banking secrecy laws tend to obscure offshore financial dealings. But the disclosure of other leaked documents by the ICIJ and other organizations in late 2014 drew attention to sweet tax deals offered by the tiny European country of Luxembourg to multinational companies and ultra-wealthy individuals. In the 1980s, the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, an international bank founded by a Pakistani financier, was found to have been involved in wide-scale money laundering and other illegal financial dealings.

Airline complaints rise even as more planes arrive on time

DAVID KOENIG, AP Airlines Writer

DALLAS (AP) — More flights are arriving on time and airlines are losing fewer bags, yet more consumers are complaining about air travel.

Traveler complaints jumped 34 percent last year, to the highest level since 2000. The top frustration is problem flights including cancelations and delays, which is unchanged in 16 years.

"Everything is getting better, but they are still unhappy about the same things," says Dean Headley, a marketing professor at Wichita State and co-author of an annual report on airline quality. He thinks passengers resent the growth in extra fees for things like checked baggage and changing or canceling a reservation, and that makes them quicker to complain when something goes wrong with their trip.

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The report by Headley and Brent Bowen, dean of the aviation school at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, is being released Monday. The researchers use publicly available information from the U.S. Department of Transportation to rate the airlines for on-time performance, baggage handling, bumping passengers because of oversold flights, and complaints filed with the government.

Among the findings in this year's report:

— ON TIME: The percentage of flights that arrived on time rose to 79.9 percent last year from 76.2 percent in 2014.

— LOST BAGS: The rate of bags being lost, stolen or delayed bags dropped 10 percent in 2015.

— GETTING BUMPED: Fewer passengers were bumped off oversold flights; the rate dropped by 17 percent last year. That doesn't count people who voluntarily gave up their seats for money or a travel voucher.

— MORE COMPLAINTS: Airline customers filed more than 15,000 complaints with the Transportation Department last year, up from about 11,000 in 2014. Spirit Airlines and Frontier Airlines, budget carriers that charge lots of fees and had poor on-time records, had the worst complaint rates.

It was the fifth increase in complaints in six years. Still, more than 670 million people flew on U.S. carriers last year, so only a tiny slice bothered to complain to the government. Many more gripe directly to the airline. Frontier CEO Barry Biffle has said that his airline gets about 30 complaints for every one filed with the Transportation Department and it used to be a 90-to-1 ratio.

Complaints to the government topped 20,000 in 2000 but dropped sharply after the terror attacks of September 2001, which resulted in fewer people flying. Complaints didn't start rising again until 2004.

There are serious students of the airline industry who dismiss reports like the one from Wichita State and Embry-Riddle.

Brett Snyder, who writes the Cranky Flier blog, says the overall rankings don't tell travelers whether an airline is good or bad at what matters to them.

"It lumps everything together in a way that doesn't make sense for most travelers," Snyder says. "You should research what matters to you. If you're flying a specific route, you can look at on-time performance on that route."

Each month the Transportation Department lists flights that are chronically delayed and provides on-time figures for each airline at specific airports.

Aldean wins top award, Stapleton cleans house at ACM Awards

MESFIN FEKADU, AP Music Writer

Jason Aldean beat Luke Bryan and Miranda Lambert for entertainer of the year at the Academy of Country Music Awards — a first for the singer after earning nominations for the top prize over the years, while Chris Stapleton cleaned house in other categories.

Aldean also won over Garth Brooks and Eric Church on Sunday at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas.

"I was just starting to think this one wasn't in the cards for me," Aldean said onstage near the end of the three-hour show, which aired on CBS. "This is one of the best nights of my professional career."

Stapleton had an even better night. It was a repeat of the recent Grammy Awards and last year's Country Music Association Awards. Stapleton took home six awards, including album, song, male vocalist and new male vocalist of the year (he won twice for album and song of the year as the artist and songwriter-producer).

Stapleton also shined with an impressive performance of the song, "Fire Away." His special guest this time wasn't Justin Timberlake, but his wife, Morgane, who sang next to her all-star hubby.

The critically-acclaimed singer-songwriter was humbled and shocked as he won the most awards of the night.

"You got to be kidding me. I thought for sure we were going to be girl-crushed on this one," Stapleton said onstage after winning song of the year for "Nobody to Blame" and beating Little Big Town's mega-hit

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"Girl Crush."

Other top moments from the show included Dolly Parton partnering with Katy Perry for "Coat of Many Colors" and "Jolene."

"Y'all finally got me in a pair of boots," Perry said onstage, sporting a bright pink and yellow country-flavored get-up. Parton wore a 2016 sparkly version of the famous coat she said "represents a very special time in my life" and was part of last year's NBC TV-movie about her childhood, "Dolly Parton's Coat of Many Colors." She won the Tex Ritter Award for films that honor country music.

Eric Church also had a special moment when he paid tribute to rock icons like David Bowie, The Eagles' Glenn Frey, Lemmy Kilmister of Motorhead and former Stone Temple Pilots frontman Scott Weiland. Bryan introduced Church and said the performer was a big fan of vinyl records and was set to pay tribute to "four of his musical heroes." Church performed the track, "Record Year," and intertwined the late performers' songs into his performance.

Tim McGraw's performance was also a highlight: As he sang "Humble & Kind," a diverse group of people joined him onstage, from children to adults of every race. Some even dressed in clothes representing their backgrounds, and others wore clothes representing their occupation.

Other performers include Lambert with ZZ Top's Billy Gibbons and Keith Urban, Sam Hunt, Kenny Chesney, Little Big Town with Trombone Shorty and Kelsea Ballerini, who sang with pop singer Nick Jonas.

Carrie Underwood earned loud applause after singing "Church Bells." She was nominated for female vocalist of the year, but lost to Miranda Lambert, who won the honor for record-setting seventh time.

"I love to see here tonight a bunch of new country girls up here shining and singing their great songs that they wrote themselves," said Lambert, who also won vocal event of the year for "Smokin' and Drinkin'" with Little Big Town. "I'm really excited for women in country music, and I'm glad to be here as one of them."

Lambert was referring to breakthrough singers like Ballerini, who won new female vocalist of the year, and Cam, who was nominated for six awards and sang her Grammy-nominated hit, "Burning House," at the ACMs. They represent a small number of women who performed Sunday. In typical fashion of the last few years — at country awards shows and country radio — the night was dominated by the men.

Other winners included Little Big Town, Florida Georgia Line, Church, Old Dominion and Thomas Rhett, who took home single record of the year for "Die a Happy Man."

Blake Shelton, who didn't host this year's ACMs like usual with Bryan, joined his former co-host to open the show with a performance, taking the spot of new co-host Dierks Bentley.

Bentley was waiting backstage to jump into the performance before Shelton took his microphone to perform "Huntin', Fishin' and Lovin' Every Day" with Bryan. "The Voice" coach followed the collaborative performance with his own, of his recent single "Came Here to Forget."

After the performance, the hosts told a string of jokes, including one about country singers in the audience taking credit for the breakthrough career of leading nominee Chris Stapleton, who has written hits for dozens of country stars.

Stapleton's six of seven wins ties him with Brooks and Faith Hill for most wins in a night at the ACMs.

Presenters on Sunday included Kiefer Sutherland, who is working on a country album; British actor Tom Hiddleston, who portrays Hank Williams in biopic, "I Saw the Light"; Miss America Betty Cantrell; and singers Kacey Musgraves, Darius Rucker, Martina McBride and Jake Owen.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Monday, April 4, the 95th day of 2016. There are 271 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 4, 1968, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., 39, was shot and killed while standing on a balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee.

On this date:

In 1818, Congress decided the flag of the United States would consist of 13 red and white stripes and

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20 stars, with a new star to be added for every new state of the Union.

In 1841, President William Henry Harrison succumbed to pneumonia one month after his inaugural, becoming the first U.S. chief executive to die in office.

In 1850, the city of Los Angeles was incorporated.

In 1859, "Dixie" was performed publicly for the first time by Bryant's Minstrels at Mechanics' Hall in New York.

In 1865, President Abraham Lincoln, accompanied by his son Tad, visited the vanquished Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia, where he was greeted by a crowd that included former slaves.

In 1933, the Navy airship USS Akron crashed in severe weather off the New Jersey coast with the loss of 73 lives.

In 1949, 12 nations, including the United States, signed the North Atlantic Treaty in Washington, D.C.

In 1958, Johnny Stompanato, an enforcer for crime boss Mickey Cohen and the boyfriend of actress Lana Turner, was stabbed to death by Turner's teenage daughter, Cheryl Crane, who said Stompanato had attacked her mother.

In 1975, more than 130 people, most of them children, were killed when a U.S. Air Force transport plane evacuating Vietnamese orphans crash-landed shortly after takeoff from Saigon. Microsoft was founded by Bill Gates and Paul Allen in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

In 1976, the film "All the President's Men," starring Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman as Washington Post reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, had its world premiere in Washington, D.C.

In 1983, the space shuttle Challenger roared into orbit on its maiden voyage. (It was destroyed in the disaster of Jan. 1986.)

In 1991, Sen. John Heinz, R-Pa., and six other people, including two children, were killed when a helicopter collided with Heinz's plane over a schoolyard in Merion, Pennsylvania.

Ten years ago: The Iraq tribunal announced new criminal charges against Saddam Hussein and six others, accusing them of genocide and crimes against humanity stemming from a 1980s crackdown against Kurds. Denis Donaldson, a former Sinn Fein (shin fayn) official recently exposed as a British spy, was found fatally shot at his home in County Donegal, Ireland. Maryland beat Duke, 78-75, in overtime to win its first NCAA women's basketball title.

Five years ago: Yielding to political opposition, the Obama administration gave up on trying avowed Sept. 11 mastermind Khalid Sheik Mohammed and four alleged co-conspirators in civilian federal courts and said it would prosecute them instead before military commissions. President Barack Obama's campaign announced in a web video that he would run for re-election in 2012. The Connecticut Huskies beat the Butler Bulldogs 53-41 for the NCAA men's basketball title. Dennis Rodman, Chris Mullin, Artis Gilmore, Arvydas Sabonis, Olympic gold medalist Teresa Edwards, Harlem Globetrotter Reece "Goose" Tatum and Boston Celtic Tom "Satch" Sanders were elected to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

One year ago: In North Charleston, South Carolina, Walter Scott, a 50-year-old black motorist, was shot to death while running away from a traffic stop; Officer Michael Thomas Slager, seen in a cellphone video opening fire at Scott, has been charged with murder. More than 300 enslaved migrant fishermen, mostly from Myanmar, were brought to freedom by an Indonesia delegation following a dramatic rescue from a remote island that was the result of an Associated Press investigation. The United States defended their women's world hockey championship with a 7-5 win over Canada in Malmo, Sweden. Jenny Wallenda, 87, the matriarch of the famous family of high-flying circus performers, died in Sarasota, Florida.

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., is 84. Recording executive Clive Davis is 84. Bandleader Hugh Masekela is 77. Author Kitty Kelley is 74. Actor Craig T. Nelson is 72. Actor Walter Charles is 71. Actress Christine Lahti is 66. Country singer Steve Gatlin (The Gatlin Brothers) is 65. Actress Mary-Margaret Humes is 62. Writer-producer David E. Kelley is 60. Actress Constance Shulman (TV: "Orange is the New Black") is 58. Actor Phil Morris is 57. Actress Lorraine Toussaint is 56. Actor Hugo Weaving is 56. Rock musician Craig Adams (The Cult) is 54. Talk show host/comic Graham Norton is 53. Actor David Cross is 52. Actor Robert Downey Jr. is 51. Actress Nancy McKeon is 50. Actor Barry Pepper is 46. Country

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singer Clay Davidson is 45. Rock singer Josh Todd (Buckcherry) is 45. Singer Jill Scott is 44. Rock musician Magnus Sveningsson (The Cardigans) is 44. Magician David Blaine is 43. Singer Kelly Price is 43. Rhythm-and-blues singer Andre Dalyrimple (Soul For Real) is 42. Country musician Josh McSwain (Parmalee) is 41. Actor James Roday is 40. Actress Natasha Lyonne is 37. Actor Eric Andre is 33. Actress Amanda Righetti is 33. Actress-singer Jamie Lynn Spears is 25. Actress Daniela Bobadilla is 23. Pop singer Austin Mahone (muh-HOHN') is 20.

Thought for Today: "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." — Martin Luther King Junior (1929-1968).