

# Groton Daily Independent

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## 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

## Thursday, April 7

**School Breakfast:** French toast, links, fruit, juice, milk.

**School Lunch:** Chicken patty, tater tots, carrots and dip, fruit.

**Senior Menu:** Roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, peas and carrots, peach cobbler, whole wheat bread.

**Anniv:** Scott & Mary Fordham

**Birthdays:** Reilly Ell, Shelly Lerew, Steve Gibbs, Cody Becker

9:00am: Robotics competition at Council Bluffs, IA

**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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**Hanlon Brothers**  
**Gravel Huling**

New & Cleaning of  
Stockdams with our  
60' reach trackhoe

**605/395-6531**

## Dollar General given the OK from city council

On a 5-1 vote, the Groton City Council granted approval for Tyler Oliver of Colby Capital, LCC, to build a building that will house a Dollar General Store in Groton. The location is east of Main Street, south of US 12. Oliver appealed the Planning & Zoning Commission 3-2 decision to deny the special exception in an R3 zone. The testimony at the city council meeting went about an hour before the council took its vote. Councilman David Blackmun was the lone no vote.

Sherwin Nyberg submitted his resignation off the Planning and Zoning Commission and was accepted by the council with regret. Two councilmen had talked with Nyberg asking if he would reconsider.

The city has received a \$1,000 tree grant from the state. That along with the \$900 donated by the Groton Garden Club and \$100 by the city council will provide up to 23 new trees on the west side of Groton. If anyone would like to add to the tree fund, contact city hall. The trees will be ordered within the next week.

The second reading of licensing cats in Groton was tabled after a motion to turn it down was defeated. Councilman Jay Peterson said that several other communities around Groton already have cat licensing ordinances.

Spring clean-up time in Groton has been set for May 1-9.

Groton's airport is one step closer to being recertified. The FAA has granted the city its okay and that is contingent upon an inspection by the state.

Anita Lowary was authorized to attend finance officer school June 7-10 in Spearfish.

The summer salary ordinance was approved with the pool managers getting a \$1 an hour raise to \$13.

## City Council livestream gets over 300 viewers

The Groton City Council was livestreamed on gdilive.com and as of this morning, it had 315 views. A more indepth story from the meeting will be forthcoming in the GDI.

## Blood Drive set for April 12

Blood drive April 12th from 11:30am to 6pm at the Groton Legion. Call for an appointment Carol Osterman at 397-8498 or June Ackman at 397-8369

**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.**

golden living

**We now accept**

**Avera** Health Plans

**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.

## The Life of Willis A. "Bill" Kruse

Funeral services for Willis A. "Bill" Kruse, age 80, of Columbia, SD, will be 2 p.m., Wednesday, April 5, 2016 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Columbia, SD, with Pastor Thomas Brown and Pastor Tyler Poppen officiating. Burial at St. John's Lutheran Cemetery in rural Columbia, SD. Willis fell asleep Sunday, April 3, 2016 at Dougherty Hospice House in Sioux Falls, SD.

Visitation will be 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at the Fellowship Hall at Spitzer-Miller Funeral Home, 1111 South Main Street, Aberdeen, SD.

Willis Arlen Kruse was born on a farm near Columbia, SD, on April 10, 1935 to John and Lillian (Bretch) Kruse. He grew up and attended School in Columbia. He was baptized and confirmed at St John's Lutheran Church. On September 2, 1956 he married Darlys Wenck at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Aberdeen, SD. Willis farmed and worked for Groton School District in Columbia.

Dad shared his love of basketball with many school aged kids by coaching and taking them to YMCA tournaments. He also loved farming and working with his cattle. He loved spending time with family and friends, especially playing cards. He was always quick with a smile or a joke.

Willis is survived by his wife, Darlys of 59 years; two daughters: Beth (Loren) Wegehaupt of Mt. Vernon, SD, and Nancy (Mitchell) Johnson of Sioux Falls, SD; two sons: Terry (Donna) Kruse of McCory, AR, and Tim (September) Kruse of Lakeville, MN; 10 grandchildren; and two brothers: Ernie Kruse of Columbia, and Robert Kruse of Ft Collins, CO.

Willis is preceded in death by his parents; one brother, Harley Kruse; and two sisters: Doris Smith and Arlene Weismantel.

In lieu of flowers you can send donations to Main Street Living Ministry or Dougherty Hospice house, both in Sioux Falls.

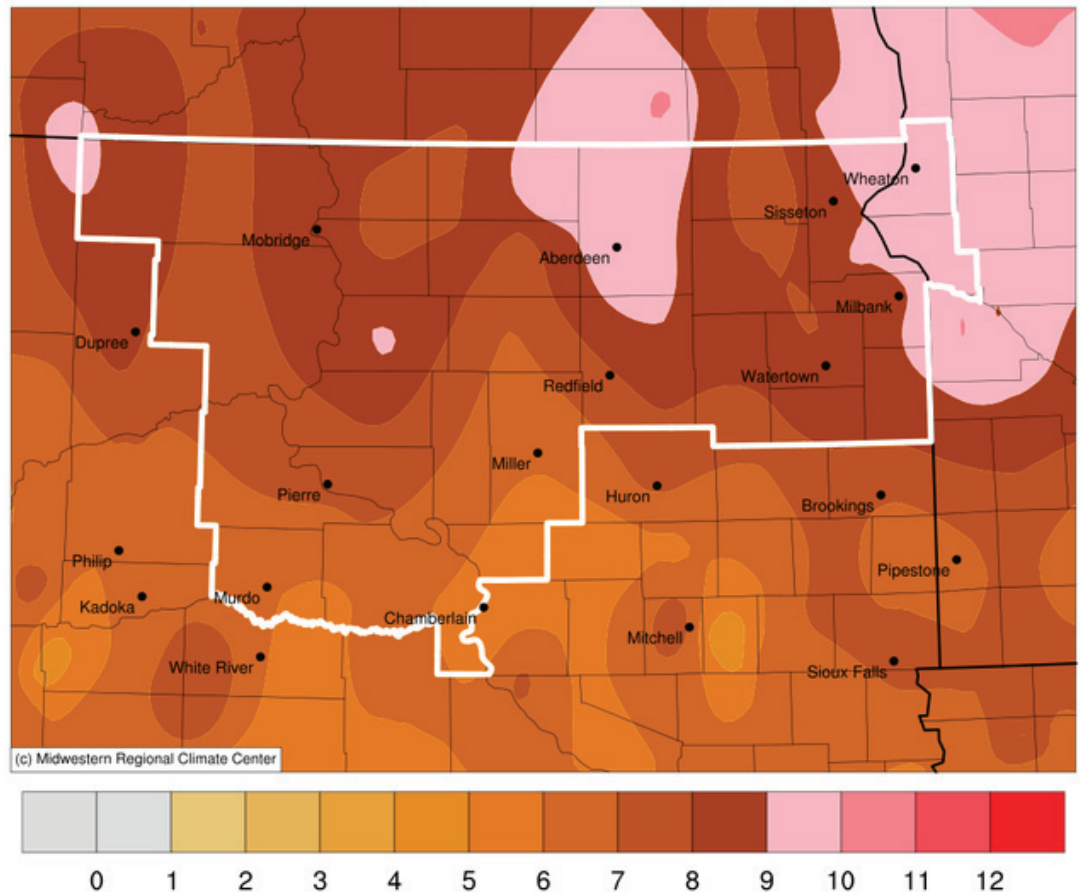


## Top Ten Warmest March on Record

The average temperatures for March 2016 across central and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota were much above normal with all locations having one of their top ten warmest March's on record. The average monthly temperatures for March were from 6 to 10 degrees above normal (shown in the graphic below). Just four years ago in 2012, March was the warmest on record with average monthly temperatures an astounding 12 to 15 degrees above normal (shown in the graphic below). For comparison, the highs for March 2016 at all locations were in the 70s with 80s for highs in March 2012 with some locations in 2012 setting all-time record highs for the month. For March 2016, Mobridge had their second warmest month on record with Watertown having their third warmest on record. Aberdeen had their fourth warmest March on record with Sisseton and Wheaton, Minnesota having their fifth warmest. All locations set several record daily highs in March along with several record low maximums with all of the records occurring before the 15th of the month. The record low maximums were in the upper 30s and 40s. In fact, Watertown only cooled to 47 degrees on March 13th, which is 10 degrees warmer than the previous record and almost 30 degrees above the normal low.

The region was also generally dry in March with precipitation amounts varying from a quarter of an inch at Watertown to an inch and a third at Pierre. The departure from average precipitation across the region ranged from a tenth of an inch above normal at Pierre to over an inch below normal at Wheaton, Minnesota (shown in the graphic below). Snowfall amounts across the region were generally below 2 inches in March, with the heaviest snow occurring in central South Dakota. Pierre also received heavy rain on March 9th with just over eight tenths of an inch along with some rare thunder. Another interesting point for March is that Aberdeen failed to measure more than a trace of snow depth which is something that has only happened six other times since 1940.

**Average Temperature (°F): Departure from 1981-2010 Normals**  
March 01, 2016 to March 31, 2016



Stations from the following networks used: WBAN, COOP, FAA, GHCN, ThreadEx, CoCoRaHS, WMO, ICAO, NWSLI, Missouri FSA, ,

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## Today in Weather History

April 5, 2000: High winds of 35 to 50 mph gusting to around 70 mph blew across central and north central South Dakota from the late morning to the late afternoon hours. As a result, several trees and many tree branches were downed, many structures, roofs, billboards, and road signs were damaged, a few mobile homes were overturned, and some power outages occurred. Not only did the high winds make driving difficult but, at some locations, they stirred up dirt causing visibilities to drop to near zero at times. Some detours and traffic collisions resulted due to the low visibility in blowing dirt. Airborne objects broke some windows across the area. One house had all of the windows on the front porch blown out. Also, a few semi tractor-trailers were tipped over by the high winds. Wind gusts included 60 mph at Pierre, 63 mph at Kennebec, 64 mph at Mobridge, 65 mph at Pollock, and 71 mph at McLaughlin. The high winds and extremely dry conditions combined with downed and arcing electrical lines, out of control burns, and smoldering embers from previous fires resulted in several grassfires across central and north central South Dakota. Several thousand acres of grassland, hundreds of hay bales and haystacks, along with some trees and fences were burned. Also, the smoke from some of these fires created low visibilities and difficult driving conditions on some roads.








1815: The Tambora Volcano in Java began erupting on this day. A few days later on the 10th, Tambora produced the largest eruption known on the planet in the last 10,000 years. Ash from the eruption would circle the globe, blocking sunlight and leading to the unusually cold summer in 1816. On 6/6/1816, snow would fall as far south of Connecticut with some places in New England picking up 10 inches. On July 4th, 1816, the temperature at Savannah GA plunged to 46 degrees. Eastern North America and Europe had freezing nighttime temperatures in August. Click [HERE](#) for more information from Volcano Discovery.com

1936: Approximately 454 people were killed in the second-deadliest tornado outbreak ever in U.S. More than 12 twisters struck Arkansas to South Carolina. An estimated F5 tornado cut a path 400 yards wide through the residential section of Tupelo, Mississippi. At least 216 people were killed and 700 were injured. The tornado had a 15-mile long path and did \$3 million dollars in damage. One of the survivors in Tupelo was a baby of an economically strapped family who had an infant they'd recently named Elvis Aaron Presley. Gainesville, Georgia had at least 203 fatalities and 934 injuries from an estimated F4 tornado that occurred early the following morning.

1972: An F3 tornado, touched down at a marina on the Oregon side of the Columbia River, and then tore through Vancouver, Washington. The tornado killed six people, injuring 300 others, and causing more than five million dollars damage. It was the deadliest tornado of the year and the worst of record for Washington.

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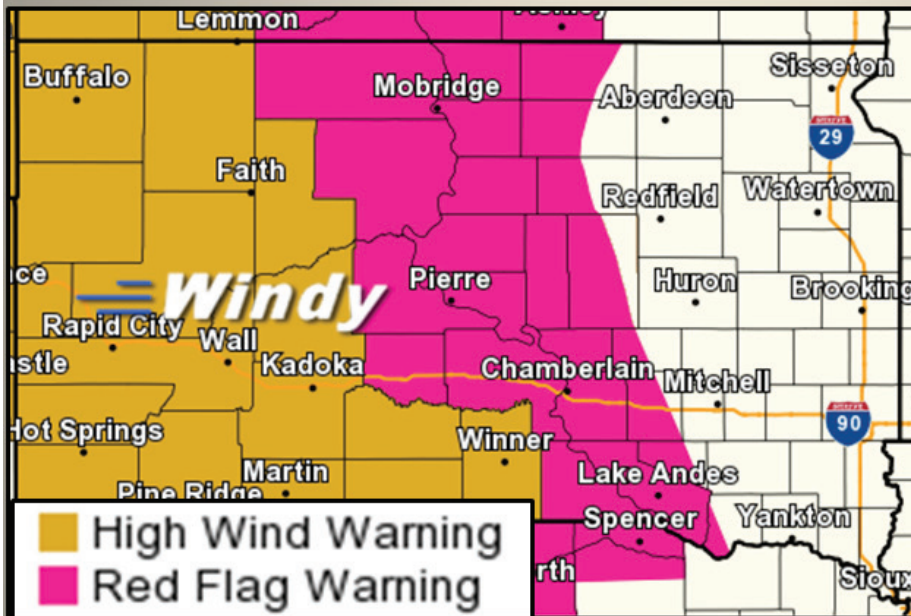
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Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
						
Slight Chance Rain and Breezy then Partly Sunny	Chance Rain and Breezy	Decreasing Clouds and Breezy	Chance Rain	Mostly Sunny and Breezy	Partly Cloudy and Blustery then Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 65 °F	Low: 35 °F	High: 53 °F	Low: 37 °F	High: 50 °F	Low: 27 °F	High: 44 °F



## Red Flag Warning

For Western and Central South Dakota (this afternoon-evening)



- **Winds**... West winds will increase to 25 to 35 mph with gusts up to 45 mph, and switch out of the Northwest early this evening
- **Relative Humidity**... As low as 10 to 20%
- **Impacts**... Any fires could quickly become out of control due to the combination of strong winds and low relative humidity

\*\*Wind Advisory late this afternoon through tonight Central\*\*

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD



[weather.gov/Aberdeen](http://weather.gov/Aberdeen)



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 4/5/2016 5:36 AM Central

Published on: 04/05/2016 at 5:44AM

Light showers will slowly exit west to east this morning, with plenty of warm and dry air filtering in. The combination of relative humidity values falling to 10 to 20 percent, and winds increasing to 25 to 35 mph with gusts up to 45 mph, has resulted in the hoisting of a Red Flag Warning for much of western and central South Dakota for this afternoon. While moisture is expected to slowly increase tonight, winds will remain strong, and switch out of the northwest. A Wind Advisory will linger through the overnight hours. Check out the current forecast for the latest information.

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## Yesterday's Weather

**High:** 49.6 at 5:30 PM

**Low:** 16.7 at 7:04 AM

**High Gust:** 17 at 11:25 PM

Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

**Record High:** 86° in 1991

**Record Low:** 6 in 1968

**Average High:** 51°F

**Average Low:** 28°F

**Average Precip in April.:** 0.22

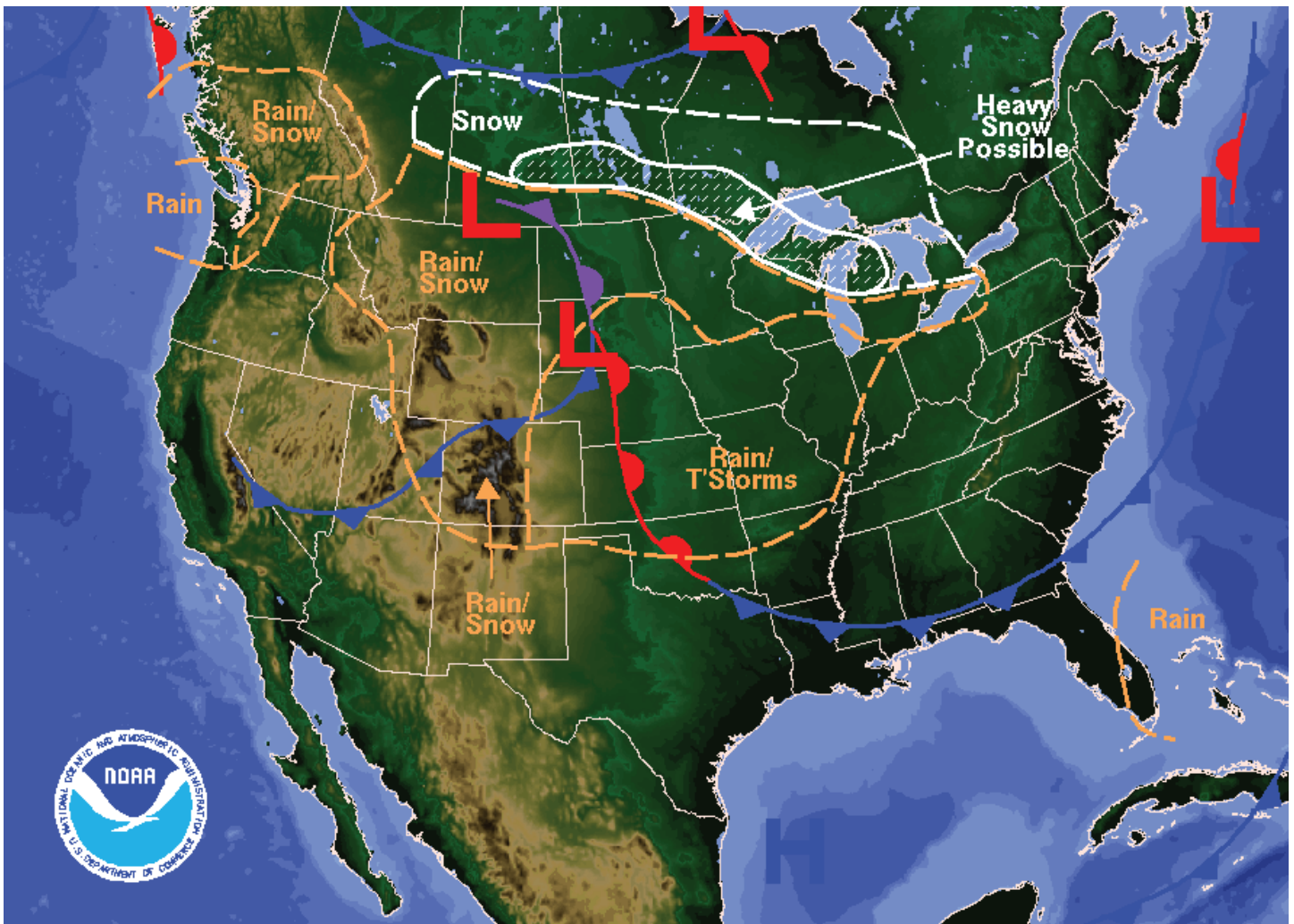
**Precip to date in April.:** 0.00

**Average Precip to date:** 2.40

**Precip Year to Date:** 0.95

**Sunset Tonight:** 8:07 p.m.

**Sunrise Tomorrow:** 7:03 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Tue, Apr 05, 2016, issued 4:27 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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## WHAT'S FIRST IN LIFE?

A young man had just completed college and was having a difficult time adjusting to his new job. In his frustration he decided to speak with his pastor about the problem.

After a few moments of polite conversation he said, "I'm having a difficult time at work. My problem is learning to allow myself to be in second place."

"No," said his pastor, "the real problem is learning Who to put into first place."

Jesus said, "Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need."

To "seek the kingdom of God above all else" means to put God first in our lives. To do this we must fill our minds with His Word, our hearts with His love and commit our entire being to doing His will and serving Him. It is all too easy in life to allow our priorities – our hobbies, our work, our friends – even our families – to slip into first place.

We have all heard the phrase that "life is choice." And it is. Unfortunately, we often do not consider the consequences of our choices and allow God's Kingdom to be dethroned by the things of this world.

**Prayer:** Our Father, help us to make every effort to not only seek Your Kingdom but to place it above everything else in our lives no matter what it costs us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**Scripture for Today:** Matthew 6:33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.



## News from the Associated Press

### **Keystone pipeline could be shut down rest of the week**

FREEMAN, S.D. (AP) — TransCanada Corp. says the Keystone pipeline is likely to remain shut down the rest of the week while officials investigate an apparent spill in southeastern South Dakota.

Oil was discovered on a 300-square-foot area about 4 miles from a pump station at Freeman. About 100 workers are at the site removing soil and determining where the oil came from. A company spokesman says crews haven't found any damage on the pipeline.

A state environmental scientist visited the site on Sunday to ensure the cleanup is being handled properly. The state will continue monitoring.

TransCanada says it has found no significant harm to the environment.

The Keystone pipeline runs from the Canadian province of Alberta to refineries in Illinois and Oklahoma, passing through the eastern Dakotas, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri.

### **Cold Fire in western South Dakota about one-third contained**

PRINGLE, S.D. (AP) — A wildfire in the Black Hills National Forest area of western South Dakota is about one-third contained and remains about 3 square miles in size.

No structure damage or injuries have been reported in the Cold Fire burning in the Black Hills National Forest, Wind Cave National Park, Norbeck Wildlife Preserve and on private land.

The fire was reported Saturday afternoon, east of Pringle. The cause isn't yet known.

The Great Plains Fire Information office says about 150 personnel are fighting the blaze on the ground and from the air. Overnight work focused on hot spots in anticipation of gusty winds Tuesday.

### **Grouse suit seeks to block new fences on BLM land in Nevada**

**SCOTT SONNER, Associated Press**

RENO, Nev. (AP) — Conservationists are suing the Bureau of Land Management to block the construction of fences in northern Nevada they say are intended to appease livestock ranchers at the risk of harming sage grouse and the drought-stricken federal rangeland.

The Western Watersheds Project filed the lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Reno last week on the heels of a broader one it filed last month challenging the Obama administration's overall protection plan for the greater sage grouse across 10 western states.

Leaders of the Idaho-based group say the 3 miles of new fence planned near key grouse habitat flies in the face of BLM's own research showing the low-flying, hen-sized birds often die when they strike fences. Fence posts also provide perches for ravens that prey on grouse nests.

The suit says BLM rejected a similar proposal to build fences along the grazing allotment near Battle Mountain 200 miles northeast of Reno in 2014.

Pitched as an alternative to orders to remove cattle from the range, the ranchers said the fencing would keep the animals out of streams and key riparian areas. But BLM said at the time it was too costly and counterproductive to range health because fences promote growth of invasive weeds.

Ken Cole, the group's Idaho director, says BLM's reversal shows the sage-grouse planning process "is just a pile of paper written to avoid an Endangered Species Act listing."

"Nothing has changed on the ground, and most of the new protections from grazing won't be implemented for years to come," he said.

The BLM approved the fencing under a settlement agreement with ranchers last June to govern the land until the agency completes a formal assessment of range conditions next year.

The six permittees include Henry Filippini Jr., whose family has ranched in Nevada since the 1870s. Several ranchers rode across the country by horseback in 2014 to deliver a petition to the Obama administration in a protest they called the "Grass March."

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The ranchers have paid their grazing fees for years so their situation differs from that of Cliven Bundy, a southern Nevada rancher who owes the government as much as a \$1 million for trespassing, staged an armed standoff at his ranch two years ago and now faces federal charges.

But in both cases, BLM has been criticized for backing down and at least initially declining to enforce laws to avoid confrontation.

Paul Ruprecht, an Oregon-based lawyer for Western Watersheds, said the ranchers "have resisted the BLM's drought closures and instead bullied the BLM into considering a slew of proposals for new livestock infrastructure to justify more grazing on the badly degraded public lands."

"Rather than insist upon needed rest periods, the BLM has caved to rancher demands to allow their herds back onto the parched landscapes and enabled that use by approving the contested fencing," he said.

Nevada Cattlemen's Association President David Stix Jr. and Nevada Association of Counties Director Jeff Fontaine praised BLM for working cooperatively with the ranchers.

"Once again, Western Watersheds has proven through their obstructionist tactics that their only goal is to kill an industry at any cost," Stix said.

Interior Department spokeswoman Jessica Kershaw defended the administration policy that allows for continued land use and development "where it makes sense and doesn't conflict with high priority areas of the bird's habitat."

"We continue to believe the plans are both balanced and effective — protecting key sage-grouse habitat and providing for sustainable development," she said.

## Indian Health Service chief to meet with tribal leaders

**REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Tribal leaders from four Great Plains states will meet this week with the head of the federal Indian Health Service as part of an effort to improve health care services for their members.

The meetings, which start Tuesday in Sioux Falls and will be hosted by Indian Health Service principal deputy director Mary Smith and other senior agency leaders, come in the wake of inspections that recently uncovered serious deficiencies at two facilities in South Dakota. They also follow a congressional hearing during which lawmakers demanded substantial changes to improve the care provided to tribal members in the Dakotas, Nebraska and Iowa.

Smith is expected to address several topics Tuesday, including staffing shortages in the region, the delivery of much-needed behavioral health services and the use of telemedicine, which allows patients to access doctors remotely via video and other technology. Meetings with tribal delegations will take place Wednesday, and Smith and staff members will conduct on-site hospital visits later in the week.

In a letter to tribal leaders, Smith, who has been at the helm of the agency for about a month, said the agency wants to develop solutions in partnership with the tribes.

"We value your feedback and advice, especially since the challenges we face are significant," Smith said in the letter. "Your input is vital for driving change and improvement."

The Indian Health Service, commonly referred to as IHS, provides free health care to enrolled tribal members as part of the government's treaty obligations to Native American tribes, which are considered sovereign nations. In the Great Plains region, the agency provides services to about 130,000 people through seven hospitals, 15 health centers and several smaller satellite clinics. But some of the hospitals have long been plagued by deficiencies that have brought into question the quality of care they provide.

In October, inspectors visiting the hospital on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in southwest South Dakota cited safety deficiencies including unlocked cupboards with syringes, needles and other equipment; unsecured drugs and medical records; and doctors without proper credentials.

An inspection of the hospital caring for the Rosebud Sioux Tribe in November found conditions so alarming the emergency room was shut down, forcing patients to be diverted to facilities about 50 miles away. And months earlier, an inspection report of the hospital in Winnebago, Nebraska, cited the case of a patient who died at a relative's house two days after he told hospital staffers about extreme back pain and was sent home. A hospital staff member then left him a voicemail telling him his kidneys were failing, but the

staffer did not attempt to make additional contact.

These deficiencies were the subject of a U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs hearing in February during which at least one senator expressed a "deja vu"-type feeling because of the many times that similar conditions have been found at IHS facilities.

Jerilyn Church, the chief executive officer of the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Health Board, said tribal leaders are hoping Smith comes prepared with a detailed agenda on how she intends to address the quality-of-care issues in a "very timely manner."

"One of the concerns we have, of course, is that Rosebud emergency room is still on diversion status and that's been the case now since December," said Church, whose Rapid City-based board advocates for the health care needs of 18 tribes located in the four-state region. "We are going on four months now, and, really, we had expected that by now they would have developed a strategy to address that immediately."

## **Ex-US tax court judge, husband indicted in tax evasion case**

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A former U.S. Tax Court judge and her husband have been indicted on charges in Minnesota that they conspired to evade at least \$400,000 in federal taxes, the U.S. Attorney's office said Monday.

Diane Kroupa, 60, and her 62-year-old husband, Robert Fackler, are charged with conspiracy to defraud the United States, tax evasion, making and subscribing false tax returns and obstruction of an IRS audit, U.S. Attorney Andrew Luger announced.

"The allegations in this indictment are deeply disturbing," Luger said in a statement.

Tax laws apply to everyone, "and those of us appointed to federal positions must hold ourselves to an even higher standard," he said.

Kroupa was appointed to a 15-year term as a tax court judge by then-President George W. Bush in 2003 and retired in 2014. According to the charges, between 2004 and 2010, the Minnetonka couple understated their taxable income by about \$1 million and the amount they owed in taxes by at least \$400,000.

A working telephone number for Kroupa and Fackler could not be found, and it was unclear if the couple has attorneys who could comment on their behalf. They are expected in court later this week.

Federal prosecutors accuse Kroupa and Fackler of fraudulently deducting at least \$500,000 of personal expenses they listed as expenses at Fackler's consulting firm, and another \$450,000 in purported business costs for which clients had reimbursed Fackler, the Star Tribune reported.

The charges allege expenses labeled as business costs for Fackler's Grassroots Consulting instead went toward Pilates classes, wine club fees, Chinese tutoring and airline flights. Kroupa also failed to report about \$44,520 that she received from a 2010 land sale in South Dakota, instead claiming it was part of an unrelated inheritance, court documents allege.

Richard Weber, chief of IRS Criminal Investigation, said the allegations were "particularly troubling" because as a tax court judge, Kroupa dealt regularly with tax cheats.

"Reporting personal expenses as business expenses on your tax returns is not tolerated, regardless of your job or position," Weber said in the statement.

## **Agriculture Department: Remember risk of pesticide drift**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The state Department of Agriculture is reminding pesticide applicators of the risk of drift during this spraying season.

The agency says applicators should prevent risk to non-target areas or susceptible crops and evaluate factors such as wind speed and wind direction, temperature, spray pressure, nozzle height and surrounding properties.

Tom Gere is agronomy services manager. Gere says reading the label of a pesticide is one of the most important things applicators can do to get a job done safely. He says labels provide information about safe handling, rates and personal protective equipment, among other details.

Complaints about drift must be filed with the department within 30 days after damage occurs. If a growing crop is damaged, the complaint must be filed before 25 percent of the crop has been harvested.

## Appeals court won't overturn wind farm fraud conviction

**BEN NEARY, Associated Press**

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — A federal appeals court is rejecting an effort by a Salt Lake City man to overturn his conviction for bilking investors in a fraudulent wind farm business, just days after rejecting a similar appeal from the man's sister.

The 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver on Monday rejected the latest appeal from Robert Arthur Reed of Salt Lake City.

Reed is serving a 12-year federal sentence at a prison in Texas after pleading guilty in 2013 to conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud and conspiracy to launder money.

The same appeals court on Friday dismissed the latest challenge filed by Reed's sister, Lauren Elizabeth Scott of Morgan, Utah. She's serving a federal prison sentence in California of nearly five years after pleading guilty in 2013 to charges of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and money laundering.

Prosecutors have said investors nationwide lost more than \$4.4 million after investing in what they were told were wind farm projects in Wyoming and South Dakota. In fact, prosecutors have said, there were no wind farms and investors lost their money.

According to court records, Reed and others acquired land near Casper and in Butte County, S.D., to satisfy investors that construction of the promised wind farms was moving forward. They put up signs at the South Dakota site and took pictures of contractors they hired to push dirt around to make it appear construction was ongoing, prosecutors have said.

Following Reed's guilty pleas, U.S. District Judge Scott Skavdahl of Casper sentenced him to prison in August 2013.

At sentencing, Skavdahl called Reed a manipulative person and said it was clear he served as "puppeteer," directing others how to perpetuate the massive fraud.

Despite pleading guilty, Reed wasted little time after his sentencing before filing court pleadings attacking his convictions. Court records show he's filed eight separate appeals with the Denver court, in addition to other challenges in federal court in Wyoming.

Reed maintains that investors had agreed to lend money to the wind farm enterprise for three years and say no crime was committed before he was arrested before the three-year term had run its course.

Earlier this year, Reed filed a federal lawsuit against Skavdahl in federal court in Wyoming, claiming that the judge had committed fraud and misappropriated millions of dollars by ordering federal prosecutors to seize cash, real estate and other assets from Reed and other defendants. Skavdahl's office recently declined comment on Reed's lawsuit against the judge.

U.S. District Judge Nancy Freudenthal of Cheyenne dismissed Reed's suit against Skavdahl last month, ruling the judge was immune from the suit.

Neither Reed nor Scott, who's serving time in a federal prison in California, is represented by lawyers in their recent appeals.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Cheyenne prosecuted both Reed and Scott and has filed responses to their many appeals. Office spokesman John Powell declined comment Monday.

## Mount Marty College hosting sculpture exhibit

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — Mount Marty College is hosting a sculpture exhibit showcasing fabricated fine art works by University of South Dakota art students and faculty.

The Sculpture Club Exhibition can be seen in the Bede Art Gallery in the Marian Auditorium through April 15. The works include fabricated steel, cast metals, small-scale installation, carved and fabricated wood and mixed media pieces.

A reception and gallery talk will be held on April 15 from 2-4 p.m. Following the USD student exhibit, the Mount Marty College Student Art Show will be on display April 18 through May 12.

## West river GOP legislative primaries among key races in June

**JAMES NORD, Associated Press**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Two west river Republican House members are campaigning to escape term limits by challenging their GOP counterparts in the state Senate, teeing up what are likely to be two of the highest profile legislative races ahead of the June primary.

There were more than 20 Republican and a handful of Democratic legislative primaries set as of Monday, according to a candidate list maintained by the Secretary of State's office. The election will be held June 7, and the Rapid City-area races are shaping up to be among the most-watched in the state.

"Those are going to be a couple of the hotter ones," said Pat Powers, who runs the conservative blog South Dakota War College. "I think this is going to be a wild election year."

Legislators are limited from running for another seat in the chamber in which they sit after serving four consecutive two-year terms.

Term-limited Republican Rep. Jacqueline Sly is challenging her district counterpart, Sen. Phil Jensen, for his seat in the upper chamber. Sly is known for helping lead a state task force on education that produced the blueprint for this session's school funding overhaul, which included a historic half-cent sales tax hike for teacher pay that Sly supported.

Sly plans to slap "Senate" over "House" on the lawn signs she's saved and start meeting voters, she said. Jensen, a conservative who opposed the sales tax increase, said he plans to contrast his time in the Legislature with Sly's "liberal voting record," including her support for increasing taxes.

"We have a lot of conservatives that have rallied around us in the previous elections, and that number continues to grow," Jensen said, adding that he'll pursue the seat with "a great deal of vigor and enthusiasm."

But he could see electoral backlash from some comments he's made. Speaking to the Rapid City Journal about potentially blocking refugees from settling in South Dakota, Jensen mentioned a constituent saying he saw South Americans running away from a bus in Rapid City.

"He knew they were South Americans," Jensen told the newspaper in February, "because they had different skull structures and skin tones from Mexicans."

The state Democratic Party condemned the comment and called on Republicans to denounce it. "I simply quoted what a constituent had observed," Jensen said Monday.

Jensen has a "very good machine" of supporters that will make telephone calls or go out door knocking for him, but Sly is well-liked too, said Pennington County GOP chairman Ben Treadwell, predicting it will be "a good race."

"It is a pretty high profile race, but I probably won't try to be anybody different than who I am," Sly said.

In a different Republican primary contest in the southwestern portion of the state, a conservative House lawmaker is running against more moderate Republican Sen. Bruce Rampelberg.

Term-limited GOP Rep. Lance Russell is arguing that Rampelberg has supported tax increases that have been part of Republican Gov. Dennis Daugaard's agenda, which is "divergent" from where he thinks the state should be going.

"I just believe on the major policy issues over the last few years that we have differed, and I feel that some of the decisions that have been made are harmful to the state," Russell said.

Rampelberg said he believes there are enough people in the district who appreciate his pragmatic approach to carry him to victory. But he predicted it would be a close race.

Rampelberg intends to highlight the tax increase for teacher pay because he said he knows Russell will criticize him for it.

"People need to hear both sides of the story," Rampelberg said. "I think it'll be an interesting race."

Meanwhile, House Republican leader Brian Gosch decided not to challenge GOP Sen. Alan Solano for his seat in what would have been another marquee west river primary race. Gosch is blocked by term limits from running for re-election to the House.

## Keel laying held in Rhode Island for stealthy Navy submarine

JENNIFER McDERMOTT, Associated Press

NORTH KINGSTOWN, R.I. (AP) — Officials representing the Navy and shipbuilders gathered with politicians Monday to praise a \$2.5 billion submarine that they say will be the stealthiest vessel patrolling the oceans for the U.S. military — the South Dakota.

It will have quieter machinery, a coating on its hull to further eliminate noise and sonar panels to better detect and track other submarines, Rear Adm. Michael Jabaley said during the ceremony in Rhode Island, where the submarine is being built. Those new modifications represent about \$115 million of the cost, the Navy says.

“With the undersea environment constantly changing and becoming more crowded with capable threats, the Navy has decided to use South Dakota as a prototype ship that will include significant investments in stealth beyond anything seen to date,” Jabaley said.

The ceremony, which formally marked construction of the nation’s 17th Virginia-class attack submarine, was held at a manufacturing plant operated by Electric Boat, a subsidiary of General Dynamics.

Groton, Connecticut-based Electric Boat and Newport News Shipbuilding in Virginia are building the South Dakota. They have an agreement to build two Virginia-class attack submarines annually.

Construction on the South Dakota began in March 2013, and the submarine is 65 percent complete. Its contracted delivery date is August 2018.

In keeping with Navy tradition, the ship’s sponsor, Deanie Dempsey, wrote her initials on a metal plate that will be mounted on the submarine. A welder traced over her initials to make them permanent.

Dempsey, the wife of former Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman and retired U.S. Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, is an advocate for military families and volunteers with military support organizations.

“I am beyond honored and thrilled to be here and to start this relationship with all of you,” she said at the ceremony.

Martin Dempsey, who was in the audience, said he loved the tradition of the keel-laying ceremony and the “heartfelt passion” for building submarines that it showcased.

“The merging of men and machines is really remarkable,” he said.

Members of Congress from Rhode Island, Connecticut and South Dakota spoke about the nation’s need for submarines. They, along with Rhode Island Gov. Gina Raimondo, a Democrat, thanked the shipbuilders and service members in attendance.

U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds, a South Dakota Republican, said “a new symbolic link” is now formed between South Dakota and the Navy.

## Sioux Falls teen acquitted of murder now accused of assault

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls teenager acquitted of murder earlier this year now faces a domestic violence charge.

Eighteen-year-old Conner Hanson is accused of assaulting his girlfriend early Monday. He faces a simple assault charge. It wasn’t immediately clear if he had an attorney.

A jury in January found Hanson not guilty in the January 2015 killing of 18-year-old Anthony Gabriel, who authorities say was shot and killed after a car chase. Hanson was 17 at the time but was tried as an adult. He argued self-defense.

## AP Interview: Philanthropist finds joy in helping children

Banking executive T. Denny Sanford has given much of his \$1.4 billion in donations to the health care and research fields, but the 80-year-old philanthropist says he finds joy in spearheading programs that help children

**By DIRK LAMMERS**  
**Associated Press**

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Banking executive T. Denny Sanford has given much of his \$1.4 billion in donations to the health care and research fields, but the 80-year-old philanthropist says he finds the most joy in spearheading programs that help children.

Sanford, who has created programs aimed at teaching teachers how to inspire children and create harmony between boys and girls, is now looking to tackle bullying, particularly social media bullying that disproportionately affects young girls.

"I see the results more quickly," Sanford said of his education- and children-focused initiatives. "I see these kids' lives change in front of my eyes."

In a wide-ranging interview with The Associated Press at his home in Scottsdale, Sanford said the anti-bullying program is in early stages of development. One thing he's sure of, though, is that it will stress prevention in trying to reach children at a young age.

"Bullying programs are essentially ineffective," he said. "They only address correcting bullying as opposed to preventing it."

Sanford grew up in a small apartment in St. Paul, Minnesota, with two siblings. His mother died of breast cancer when he was just 4 years old. Sanford's father had him working at his clothing distribution company starting at age 8. He made his money in the banking business and owns First Premier Bank/Premier Bankcard, which markets subprime cards to people trying to rebuild their credit. He has given away more than \$1.4 billion of his fortune to groups across the country and was honored in Washington, D.C., last week with a Horatio Alger Award, given to leaders who have succeeded despite adversity and are committed to philanthropy and higher education.

Sanford now spends about 50 percent of his time working with charitable causes from his homes in Scottsdale, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and La Jolla, California, while setting aside time for golf and sailboat racing. Sanford said he has done well, but he has committed to "die broke" after developing a strong desire to change his success into significance. "And I'm well on my way," he said.

His first major gift was a \$2 million donation to the Children's Home Society of South Dakota in 1998. He followed with a \$16 million gift in 2002 to Sioux Valley Health's new children's hospital, which put his name on the building.

In 2005, Sioux Valley executives Kelby Krabbenhoft and Brian Mortensen came out to one of Sanford's homes in Colorado and told him they would like to change the name of their organization and put Sanford's name on it. Sanford Health was born.

Sanford said he's taken good care of his two sons and two grandchildren, so all of his assets at death will turn over to a foundation supporting his charities. He estimates that the amount will be near the \$1.4 billion he's already given away. Sanford Health is due 60 percent of his estate, and several other organizations including National University and the Children's Home Society are set to receive smaller chunks, he said.

Sanford said many of his latest endeavors come from him seeing voids in society. At National University, a California-based nonprofit that offers online and other courses, Sanford has developed a program he's branded Cause Selling to teach nonprofit workers how to present their causes to donors in a professional manner. The Sioux Falls-based Sanford Institute of Philanthropy at Augustana University is administering the course.

"People have good causes, but they don't know how to explain them," he said.

National is also his partner on the anti-bullying program.

The University of South Dakota is distributing his Sanford Harmony Program, which teaches boys and girls in preschool to middle school how to better understand the opposite gender. Sanford said the program, which was borne out of 8 1/2 years of research, has been well received by teachers during its first

18 months in classrooms.

"It creates more harmony in the classroom, but ultimately the idea is to reduce the divorce rate and abuse and so forth," he said.

He also teamed with Teach for America to create Sanford Inspire, which provides teachers with a toolbox to help children think big about their goals.

"There's no school of education that teaches teachers how to inspire," he said. "They're taught how to teach reading, writing and arithmetic, but they're never taught how to get kids believing in themselves."

Sanford said he's enjoying this stage of his life, and he's happy that his wealth will continue to assist the organizations he's partnered with after he's gone.

"That's the whole game," he said. "OK, so you've got it, what are you going to do with it? You can only have so many cars and all of that kind of stuff so put it into something in which you can change people's lives."

## **Former Badgers player Joe Krabbenhoft back as assistant**

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Wisconsin has hired Joe Krabbenhoft as an assistant coach, bringing a former player back to the Badgers.

He returns to Madison to join the staff of Greg Gard, who was an assistant when Krabbenhoft was a Wisconsin player from 2005-09. Gard described his new assistant as a fierce competitor who played with toughness and fearlessness.

Krabbenhoft comes from South Dakota State, where he was an assistant coach the past three seasons. At Wisconsin, Krabbenhoft replaces Gary Close, the longtime assistant who stepped down last week.

## **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 southwestern South Dakota's Jackson County over the weekend.

The Highway Patrol says 26-year-old Brittnie Montague, of St. Francis, Minnesota, lost control of the pickup truck she was driving on Interstate 90 about 13 miles west of Kadoka, and the vehicle rolled several times in the median.

Montague was pronounced dead at the scene about 1 a.m. Sunday. Thirty-eight-year-old passenger Dawn Vanwagner, of St. Francis, was taken to a Rapid City hospital with what the patrol said were injuries that are serious but not life-threatening.

## **Wright State hires South Dakota State basketball coach**

DAYTON, Ohio (AP) — Wright State has hired South Dakota State's Scott Nagy as its basketball coach. The Ohio school said Monday he will succeed Billy Donlon, a former Horizon Conference coach of the year who was fired after six seasons.

Nagy has led South Dakota State to the NCAA Tournament three of the last five seasons. This season he led the Jackrabbits to a 26-8 record and a Summit League Tournament championship.

South Dakota State lost to Maryland 79-74 in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. In 21 seasons at South Dakota State he had a record of 410-240.

Wright State reached its conference's tournament title game three of the past four years but lost each time. The team went 22-13 this season.

## **Gilbert and Torabi to write columns for Winfrey's magazine**

NEW YORK (AP) — "Eat Pray Love" author Elizabeth Gilbert and personal finance author-commentator Farnoosh Torabi will be writing columns for O, the Oprah Magazine.

Editor-in-chief Lucy Kaylin told The Associated Press on Tuesday that Gilbert will contribute an "uplifting column" about self-expression and creative living and will provide a video to go with her monthly writing.



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Torabi will be a financial columnist, "helping readers learn to take control of their finances."

The debut columns of Gilbert and Torabi will appear in the May issue, which comes out April 12.

Other books by Gilbert besides "Eat Pray Love," the spiritual memoir that became a film starring Julia Roberts, include the novel "The Signature of All Things." Torabi is known for the podcast "So Money" and such books as "When She Makes More."

## China restricts trade with North Korea over nuclear tests

BEIJING (AP) — China imposed restrictions Tuesday on imports of coal from North Korea and exports of jet fuel to the North in a potentially significant increase in pressure on Pyongyang following U.N. sanctions over its nuclear and missile tests.

China is the impoverished and politically isolated North's main trading partner, making its cooperation essential for penalties approved by the U.N. Security Council last month to succeed.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has intensified nuclear activities this year in defiance of U.N. sanctions, conducting his country's fourth nuclear test explosion in January and test-firing missiles.

Last month, the Security Council responded by approving sanctions including inspections of cargo bound to and from North Korea. On March 19, it called on all countries to "redouble their efforts" to enforce sanctions against the North.

The latest Chinese measures ban most imports of North Korean coal, iron, iron ore, gold, titanium, vanadium and rare earths. Such products are a key source of revenue for the mineral-rich North.

The Ministry of Commerce said an exception would be allowed for materials for civilian use so long as they are not connected to the North's nuclear or missile programs.

The announcement also banned sales of jet fuel to North Korea, which might ground Pyongyang's state-owned airline, Air Koryo.

The U.S. Embassy in Beijing had no immediate comment.

Beijing has balked at previous demands by Washington and other governments to use trade as leverage against North Korea. Chinese diplomats have said the potential humanitarian impact of sanctions had to be considered.

Many analysts believe Chinese leaders are reluctant to impose crippling sanctions on North Korea for fear of destabilizing Kim's government and setting off a possible flood of refugees.

## 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. PANAMA REJECTS MONEY-LAUNDERER LABEL FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS LEAK

The leaking of confidential documents revealing the secret dealings of the world's rich and powerful puts an unwelcome light on the offshore financial industry at the heart of Panama's booming economy.

#### OFFSHORE ACCOUNTS-PANAMA AS HAVEN

#### 2. WHO'S ANGLING FOR WINS IN WISCONSIN PRIMARIES

Victories for Republican Ted Cruz and Democrat Bernie Sanders could give their campaigns a needed boost, but still leave them with mathematically challenging paths to their parties' nominations. 2016-ELECTION RDP

#### 3. WHAT HAS SOOTHED ASYLUM-SEEKERS' FEARS OF SEA

Learning how to surf at Australia's Bondi Beach has changed the mindset of men terrified of boat trips marked by sickness, fear and death. AUSTRALIA-SURFING ASYLUM-SEEKERS

#### 4. HOW GOP IS TRYING TO WIN OVER CONSERVATIVES

House Republicans sweeten their budget proposal by putting several programs on the chopping block, including Obama's health care law and tax credits for children of immigrants living in the country illegally. CONGRESS-ELUSIVE CUTS

#### 5. WHERE EATERIES ARE THRIVING

Entrepreneurs are finding restaurant projects a safe business bet as Baghdad's expanding culinary scene

is unexpected in a city facing almost daily bombings, and a nation in political crisis. IRAQ FOOD

## 6. PRO-PARENT LEGISLATION LOOMS

San Francisco is poised to require six weeks of fully paid leave for new parents — a move that advocates say is a first for any city in the country. PAID FAMILY LEAVE-SAN FRANCISCO

## 7. FACEBOOK TO DESCRIBE PHOTOS FOR THE BLIND

Facebook is training its computers to become seeing-eye guides for blind and visually impaired people as they scroll through pictures. FACEBOOK-AUTOMATED PHOTO DESCRIPTION

## 8. THESE FELINES HAVE A SAFE HAVEN

A California woman turns her 12 acre, four-thousand square foot ranch home into what's believed to be the largest no-cage cat sanctuary and adoption center in the U.S. THOUSANDS OF CATS

## 9. INDONESIA CALLS LEONARDO DICAPRIO MISGUIDED

The country's environment minister says the Oscar-winner lacked complete information when he criticized destruction of rainforests during a visit last month. INDONESIA-DICAPRIO

## 10. VILLANOVA REIGNS SUPREME ON JENKINS' 3

Marcus Paige and Kris Jenkins trade baskets 4.7 seconds apart, turning a thrilling men's college basketball national title game into an instant classic.

## Uncertainties shadow California plan for nation-leading wage

**MICHAEL R. BLOOD, Associated Press**

**DON THOMPSON, Associated Press**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — California's decision to push its statewide minimum wage to a nation-leading \$15 comes with uncertainties that could see the pay jumps postponed if the economy sours or the state budget slumps, while the overall goal of helping the working poor might be lessened if some employers cut jobs or, worse, leave the state.

With Congress deadlocked on sweetening the federal minimum wage, California on Monday stepped in. Under a law signed by Gov. Jerry Brown, the state will bump its \$10 hourly minimum by 50 cents next year, and to \$11 in 2018. Hourly \$1 raises will then come every January until 2022. Businesses with 25 or fewer employees have an extra year to comply; wages will rise with inflation each year thereafter.

But after the first 50-cent step-up, there's a catch.

The governor can suspend a planned increase if job growth retreats and retail sales tank. And a delay could also kick in — up to two times — if the state is facing a serious budget crisis.

"Predicting the future's a dangerous game," warned Jeffrey Wenger, a senior policy researcher at Rand Corp.

With incremental steps planned until 2022 "it's difficult to know how binding the \$15-an-hour wage increase is," Wenger said.

The governor, too, has alluded to the uncertainties of a fickle economy, and what it could mean for the planned wage hikes. He began his term in early 2011, when the state was struggling to recover from the recession and a housing crisis.

"You get a big recession, particularly in different parts of the state where the wages are a lot lower, there could be real problems in terms of reductions of jobs," Brown said last week.

But with tools to slow the wage jumps in bad times "this one gives the opportunity to pay a \$15 wage, but does so in a way that takes account of the vagaries of the capitalist economy," he added.

Brown's action Monday came on the same day that New York also pushed its minimum wage to \$15 an hour — the highest in the nation. Hillary Clinton joined New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo in Manhattan as he signed the law that will gradually boost the pay rate. The former first lady predicted the movement will "sweep our country."

Bernie Sanders said in a statement that his campaign is about building on the steps in California and New York "so that everyone in this country can enjoy the dignity and basic economic security that comes from a living wage."

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The new laws in California and New York mark the most ambitious moves yet by legislatures to close the national divide between rich and poor. Experts say other states may follow, given Congress' reluctance to act despite entreaties from President Barack Obama.

The bill's effects could vary widely in vast and diverse California — itself the world's eighth-largest economy — from sparsely populated mountain and desert areas to inner city Los Angeles and wealthy Silicon Valley.

While it was a victory for those struggling on the margins of the economy and the politically powerful unions that pushed it, business groups warned that the higher wage could cost thousands of jobs as employers are forced to provide steadily bigger paychecks.

"Minimum-wage workers should not be excited about this wage hike. It's only going to prompt businesses to automate more jobs and move those jobs, if possible, to areas where there's a more feasible minimum wage," Stuart Waldman, president of the Valley Industry and Commerce Association, said in a statement.

"Ultimately, this will mean higher costs and fewer jobs for everyone," he predicted.

The bill was pushed through the Legislature by Democrats — who control both chambers — without a single Republican vote. A nonpartisan legislative analysis put the cost to California taxpayers at \$3.6 billion a year in higher pay for government employees.

It's not clear how the state will absorb those costs.

"It's a huge state with lots and lots of tax base and lots and lots of tax revenue," Wenger noted. On the other hand "that's big as a number and it's big as a percentage of the state budget."

Brown, a Democrat, never specifically addressed criticism of the bill on Monday but argued the decision to set the nation-leading wage was about "economic justice."

"Economically, minimum wages may not make sense," the governor said. "But morally and socially and politically they make every sense, because it binds the community together and makes sure that parents can take care of their kids in a much more satisfactory way."

Predicting what the higher wages will mean is not an exact science. Some jobs could be lost, but others might grow with increased economic activity from the higher wages. Prices could increase for businesses that rely heavily on lower-wage workers, such as restaurants.

About 2.2 million Californians now earn the minimum wage, but University of California, Irvine, economics professor David Neumark estimated the boost could cost 5 to 10 percent of low-skilled workers their jobs.

California and Massachusetts currently have the highest statewide minimum wage at \$10. Washington, D.C., stands at \$10.50. Los Angeles, Seattle and other cities have recently approved \$15 minimum wages, while Oregon officials plan to increase the minimum to \$14.75 an hour in cities and \$12.50 in rural areas by 2022.

New York's state budget includes gradually raising the \$9 minimum wage to \$15, starting in New York City in three years and phasing in at a lower level elsewhere. An eventual statewide increase to \$15 would be tied to economic indicators such as inflation.

## China blasts reports on hidden wealth of leaders' families

**CHRISTOPHER BODEEN, Associated Press**

BEIJING (AP) — China's Foreign Ministry on Tuesday denounced as "groundless" reports based on documents leaked from a Panama-based law firm that name relatives of current and retired Chinese politicians, including President Xi Jinping, as owning offshore companies.

Spokesman Hong Lei said he would not discuss the reports further and declined to say whether the individuals named would be investigated.

"For these groundless accusations, I have no comment," Hong told reporters at a regularly scheduled news conference.

State media are ignoring reports on the revelations. Search results of websites and social media for the words "Panama documents" were blocked Tuesday.

The blocking was not total, however, with some searches for Panama-related news resulting in stories mentioning soccer player Lionel Messi and others featured in the documents who are not related to China.

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The nationalistic tabloid Global Times published an editorial saying an unidentified "powerful force" was behind the document leak. It said the main targets were opponents of the West, especially Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"The Western media have taken control of the interpretation each time there has been such a document dump, and Washington has demonstrated particular influence in it. Information that is negative to the U.S. can always be minimized, while exposure of non-Western leaders, such as Putin, can get extra spin," said the newspaper, published by the party's flagship People's Daily.

The paper made no mention of any involvement by Chinese figures.

The reports by an international coalition of media outlets working with the Washington-based International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, or ICIJ, are based on documents from the Panama-based law firm Mossack Fonseca, one of the world's biggest creators of shell companies.

A lack of legal guarantees in China has motivated many of the country's newly wealthy to hide their riches through complicated legal arrangements that place them beyond the reach of the authorities.

The ICIJ said Mossack Fonseca had arranged offshore companies for relatives of at least eight present or past members of the Communist Party's Politburo Standing Committee, the apex of power in China. Among those it mentioned was Xi's brother-in-law.

The government's response came as no surprise, but many Chinese are likely to have heard about the ICIJ reports by finding ways around the censors or by discussing them indirectly, said Zhang Lifan, a Beijing-based independent historian and political observer.

"As usual, the first reaction of the Chinese government is to block the information from spreading," Zhang said.

"It is difficult to prevent that, but they may be able to put the situation under control, unless someone within the system attempts to take advantage of the incident," Zhang said.

The family lives and personal finances of Chinese leaders are taboo subjects for Chinese media and reports on them in the international press can draw angry responses from Beijing.

Previous reports by Bloomberg News and the New York Times about wealth accumulated by Xi's family and the even-greater fortune built up by relatives of former Premier Wen Jiabao prompted China to block access to their websites within China and refuse to grant visas to their reporters to work in China.

## 5 killed in tourist helicopter crash in Smoky Mountains

**STEVE MEGARGEE, Associated Press**

SEVIERVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A sightseeing helicopter crashed near the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in eastern Tennessee, killing all five people aboard, officials said.

The Bell 206 helicopter crashed Monday around 3:30 p.m. near Sevierville, Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman Kathleen Bergen said in an email. Officials said the tourist helicopter was destroyed by fire after the crash.

"There's not much left of the helicopter," Pigeon Forge Police Chief Jack Baldwin said. "It's pretty much gone from the fire."

Baldwin said the helicopter appeared to have come down the side of a mountain and crashed at the foot of it.

"There's a little bit of the tail fin of the helicopter, and that's about all that's left, that and the console, that's about it," he said.

About four hours after the crash, more than a dozen emergency vehicles were at the site, which is less than a mile from a large outlet mall in Sevierville and adjacent to a neighborhood off the main tourist drag. The site is about three miles from Dolly Parton's Dollywood theme park.

Smoke billowed over the wooded area. The Pigeon Forge Fire Department said it had units at the scene.

Shawn Matern said he was inside his parents' house when he heard a loud boom. "That's when we came out and saw the second explosion right before our eyes," he said.

He said he saw the pilot roll out of the burning helicopter on the ground and a neighbor went to try to help.

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Matern said the tour helicopters fly over at least three or four times a day in that area.

Tennessee Emergency Management Association spokesman Dean Flener confirmed late Monday afternoon that five people had died. Flener said no homes were damaged and no one on the ground was injured when the helicopter went down.

National Transportation Safety Board spokesman Chris O'Neil says two investigators from the agency were headed to the scene of the crash.

Representatives from Bell Helicopter, Textron Aviation, Rolls Royce and the FAA were also going to the scene.

Gary C. Robb, a Kansas City attorney who wrote a book on helicopter crash litigation, said it was far too early to determine the cause of the Sevierville crash, but some helicopter tour operators have been known to be reckless to "thrill the tourists" by flying too close to trees or waterfalls or by dangerous maneuvers.

## California woman gives up home to care for thousands of cats

PARLIER, Calif. (AP) — It started with a few kittens. But nearly a quarter century later, a California woman has transformed her 4,000-square-foot home into what's believed to be the largest no-cage cat sanctuary and adoption center in the U.S.

An estimated 24,000 cats have been saved by the sanctuary, which houses up to 1,000 felines at any given time. Lynea Lattanzio set up Cat House on the Kings after finding out that many nearby shelters euthanize cats who aren't adopted.

As more feral and abandoned cats took up residence in her home, she moved out into a trailer on her 12-acre property.

Lattanzio spent her entire retirement fund on her pet project, which also relies on donations.

"If I didn't have to deal with humans and all their drama in life, I would be perfectly content just taking care of cats," she said.

She now has staff and a team of volunteers to keep the house clean and the cats fed. The sanctuary also employs veterinarians who keep the cats healthy and spayed or neutered. The cats lap up about 1,000 cans of cat food a week.

People looking for a furry companion are allowed kitty cuddle time on adoption days.

A cat-proof fence keeps predators out and cat doors allow them free reign of the home.

"They've got this house. They've got 12 acres. They can climb a tree. They can go sit in the sun outside," Lattanzio said. "It just gives these animals a reason to live as opposed to just living in a cage just because no one wants them."

## Cruz aims to extend Trump's bad week with Wisconsin win

**NANCY BENAC, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ted Cruz aims to use Wisconsin's presidential primary to extend Donald Trump's recent rough stretch on the campaign trail. Bernie Sanders would like to administer some tough medicine of his own to Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton in the state. At the end of the night, the two parties' front-runners still will be the two parties' front-runners — but Wisconsin could well adjust the height of their hurdles to clinching the nomination.

A look at what to watch for in Tuesday's primaries in Wisconsin:

### THE TIMELINE

Polls across the state close at 9 p.m. EDT. The state historically has been fairly quick to release its vote count. Milwaukee is generally the exception to that rule, meaning that close races frequently come down to the size and direction of the vote count there.

### WISCONSIN WHEREABOUTS

Republicans will award all 18 delegates to their statewide winner, and three more to the winners in each of the state's eight congressional districts. Check out who picks up pockets of delegates and where: Cruz

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is aiming to clean up in Milwaukee, where the Republican base is concentrated and where Trump has been hammered by conservative talk radio; John Kasich has been focusing on Madison; Trump is expected to do well in the north. On the Democratic side, with 86 delegates proportionally at stake on Tuesday, look for Sanders to show strength in Madison, a liberal college town. Clinton needs to do well with the diverse, urban voters of Milwaukee. That could leave the Democratic race to be decided elsewhere, so watch how the candidates do along the Minnesota border and in the Green Bay area.

## TRUMP'S HURDLE

Heading into the Wisconsin vote, Trump had won 47 percent of all delegates awarded so far, and he needed to win 55 percent of the remaining delegates to claim the nomination before the primary season ends. Size up how those percentages shift by end of the night to get a better idea of the odds of a contested Republican convention. With Cruz showing strength in Wisconsin, Trump could well have an even narrower path to clinching the nomination before the July convention.

## SANDERS' STRUGGLE

The delegate math is far more difficult for Sanders, even if he pulls out a win in Wisconsin, where he led in pre-primary polls. Heading into Tuesday's primary, Sanders needed to win 67 percent of the remaining Democratic delegates and uncommitted superdelegates through June to be able to clinch the Democratic nomination. So far he's won 37 percent.

## CRUZ'S COURSE

The Texas senator insists he still has a "clear path" to winning the 1,237 delegates needed to claim the Republican nomination. But even a Wisconsin win wouldn't do much to alter his daunting task. Heading into the Wisconsin primary, Trump had 737 delegates and Cruz 475. Expect Cruz to look past the delegate numbers and focus on Trump's recent policy stumbles. "The last two weeks Donald Trump has gotten his rear end whipped, over and over and over again," Cruz said on the eve of Wisconsin's vote.

## CLINTON'S SOFT SPOTS

Clinton's lead in the Democratic delegate count is commanding, but Wisconsin exit polls will show whether she's making progress winning over more younger and white working-class voters, soft spots so far for her campaign. Both are important segments of the Democratic coalition that she'll need to energize for a strong general election showing.

## KASICH'S STAND

Watch how the Ohio governor explains his insistence on hanging in there when he entered Wisconsin with just 143 delegates. Kasich's been sketching a scenario in which the party turns to him at a contested convention, and says it's a sign of his growing strength that his opponents are "starting to trash me." As for Trump's call for him to drop out, Kasich says that's nothing more than whining.

## **GOP appeal to conservatives with health care, immigrant cuts**

**ANDREW TAYLOR, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Trying to win over conservatives, House Republicans are sweetening their budget proposal by putting several programs on the chopping block, including President Barack Obama's health care law and tax credits for children of immigrants living in the country illegally.

But cuts to programs like food stamps are on hold and a drive to cap medical malpractice awards has faltered before a GOP-controlled committee, though cuts to Medicaid and a popular program that provides health coverage to children have advanced through a panel responsible for federal health programs.

Still, it may not be enough. And if the party's broader budget plan sinks, the effort may fade.

The strategy behind the work is to increase support for the budget, a nonbinding measure that sets a

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more than \$1.1 trillion overall cap next fiscal year for the operating budgets of federal agencies. Beyond the appropriations cap, the measure calls for sweeping spending cuts to benefit programs like Medicaid, the health care law, and food stamps.

So far, the idea of the so-called "sidecar" spending cuts hasn't swayed conservatives opposing the broader budget outline over its endorsement of last year's bipartisan budget pact between Obama and the GOP-controlled Congress.

The situation amounts to a black eye for House Republicans and their new leader, Speaker Paul Ryan. Just three years ago, House Republicans lashed out at a Democratic-controlled Senate for failing to adopt a budget and forced through a temporary law that would have cut off the paychecks of lawmakers if they failed to pass a budget.

"When I grew up in Wisconsin, if you had a job and you did the work, then you got paid. If you didn't do the work you didn't get paid. It's that simple," Ryan said at the time. "All we're saying is: 'Congress, follow the law. Do your work. Budget.'"

The "No Budget, No Pay" law has lapsed, however, and for the first time since taking over the House in 2011, Republicans are at risk of failing to do a budget. If the broader but nonbinding budget plan remains stalled, the sidecar idea is likely to get scrapped, several GOP aides said.

Republicans have never sought to actually implement the most controversial cuts they've proposed, such as transforming Medicare into a voucher-like program for future retirees or sweeping cuts to Medicaid health coverage for the poor, elderly and disabled.

Instead, when proposing real, concrete spending savings. Republicans have gone after many of the same targets time after time, opting for cuts that are politically easy for GOP lawmakers. And that's the case now with the two committees that have already approved their share of the 10-year, \$140 billion in cuts called for by House GOP leaders.

The tax-writing Ways and Means Committee and the Energy and Commerce panel have weighed in with cuts to a prevention fund established by the Affordable Care Act and a move to reclaim Obamacare subsidies from people whose income has unexpectedly increased. A temporary increase in the government's contribution to a popular health care program for children from lower-income families would be repealed.

The tax panel also would require taxpayers claiming the refundable portion of the \$1,000 child tax credit to claim it by filing their taxes with a Social Security number rather than an ID number commonly used by immigrants working illegally, saving \$20 billion over the coming decade.

But an effort to save \$44 billion by putting restrictions on medical malpractice awards unraveled in the Judiciary Committee last month. The measure was estimated to generate savings because doctors would be less likely to perform "defensive medicine."

The Judiciary measure would have placed a \$250,000 cap on noneconomic damages and established new guidelines for punitive damages. That drew opposition from some panel Republicans, even though similar legislation has passed in prior years.

"What this legislation does is goes and tells 15 states that since you do not have a limit on punitive damages, we are going to impose a limit on punitive damages in your state whether you like it or not," said Rep. Ted Poe, R-Texas, an opponent of the measure.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the Agriculture Committee is delaying cuts to food stamps until the broader budget blueprint is passed.

"I'm going to wait until there's a deal," said Agriculture Committee Chairman Mike Conaway, R-Texas. He added that there was no reason to "create a furor and have an argument with a bunch of folks" if the effort is going nowhere.

The Agriculture panel has jurisdiction over food stamps and farm subsidies and while Conaway wouldn't say, it's likely he would seek cuts to food stamps. That would draw intense opposition from Democrats whose support he'll want when writing a future farm bill.

Rep. Jeb Hensarling, R-Texas, chairman of the Financial Services Committee, has been silent about his plans, but he's likely to opt to eliminate a provision from the 2010 Dodd-Frank financial system overhaul.

That provision provides the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. with a line of credit with the Treasury that it could tap to orderly liquidate non-banks whose failure might harm the financial system. The move could save about \$20 billion over 10 years.

## **Cruz, Sanders angle for wins in Wisconsin primaries**

**JULIE PACE, Associated Press**

**SCOTT BAUER, Associated Press**

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Republican Ted Cruz and Democrat Bernie Sanders are angling for victories in Tuesday's Wisconsin presidential primaries that could give their campaigns a needed boost, but still leave them with mathematically challenging paths to their parties' nominations.

While Sanders remains a force in the Democratic primary, a win over Hillary Clinton in Wisconsin would do little to significantly cut into her lead in delegates that will decide the party's nomination. The stakes are higher for Cruz, who trails Donald Trump in the GOP race and sees Wisconsin as a crucial state in his effort to push the party toward a convention fight.

"We are seeing victory after victory after victory in the grassroots," Cruz said during a campaign stop Monday. "What we are seeing in Wisconsin is the unity of the Republican Party manifesting."

With the White House and control of Congress at stake in November, leaders of both parties are eager to turn their attention toward the general election. Clinton would enter the fall campaign saddled with persistent questions about her honesty and trustworthiness, but also with a significant demographic advantage. It's an edge Democrats believe would be magnified in a race against Trump, who has made controversial comments about immigrants and women.

For Trump, the long lead-up to Wisconsin's contest has included one of the worst stretches of his candidacy. He was embroiled in a spat involving Cruz's wife, which he now says he regrets, was sidetracked by his campaign manager's legal problems after an altercation with a female reporter, and stumbled awkwardly in comments about abortion.

While Trump is the only Republican with a realistic path to clinching the nomination ahead of the Republican convention, a big loss in Wisconsin would greatly reduce his chances of reaching the 1,237 delegates needed to do so before the GOP gathers in Cleveland.

Cruz headed into Tuesday's contest with the backing of much of the state's Republican leaders, including Gov. Scott Walker, but Trump made a spirited final push in the state and predicted a "really, really big victory."

"If we do well here, it's over," he said. "If we don't win here, it's not over."

Complicating the primary landscape for both Cruz and Trump is the continuing candidacy of John Kasich. The Ohio governor's only victory has come in his home state, but he's still picking up delegates that would otherwise help Trump inch closer to the nomination or help Cruz catch up.

Trump has grown increasingly frustrated with the governor and has joined Cruz in calling for Kasich to end his campaign. Kasich cast Trump's focus on him as a sign that he's best positioned to win over the businessman's supporters.

"They're not really his people," Kasich said. "They're Americans who are worried about, they're really most worried about their kids, are their kids going to have a good life?"

If Cruz wins all of Wisconsin's 42 delegates, Trump would need to win 57 percent of those remaining to clinch the GOP nomination before the convention. So far, Trump has won 48 percent of the delegates awarded.

To win a prolonged convention fight, a candidate would need support from the individuals selected as delegates. The process of selecting those delegates is tedious, and will test the mettle of Trump's slim campaign operation.

Cruz prevailed in an early organizational test in North Dakota, scooping up endorsements from delegates who were selected at the party's state convention over the weekend. While all 28 of the state's delegates go to the national convention as free agents, 10 said in interviews that they were committed to Cruz. None has so far endorsed Trump.



Among Democrats, Clinton has 1,243 delegates to Sanders' 980 based on primaries and caucuses. When including superdelegates, or party officials who can back any candidate, Clinton holds an even wider lead — 1,712 to Sanders' 1,011. It takes 2,383 delegates to win the Democratic nomination.

Sanders would need to win 67 percent of the remaining delegates and uncommitted superdelegates to catch up to Clinton. So far, he's only winning 37 percent.

Even if Sanders wins in Wisconsin, he's unlikely to gain much ground. Because Democrats award delegates proportionally, a narrow victory by either candidate on Tuesday would mean that both Sanders and Clinton would get a similar number of delegates.

## Mobile chat apps Line, Kakao flourishing among young Asians

**YOUKYUNG LEE, AP Business Writers**

YURI KAGEYAMA, AP Business Writers

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Forget Facebook and Twitter.

Two of Asia's biggest social media players, Kakao Talk and Line, are growing by making mobile messaging apps an integral part of the lives of young Asians who prefer to communicate more privately instead of shouting out in virtual arenas and risking troubles with trolls — or disclosing aspects of their lives to their parents they'd rather not share.

Kakao Talk is the top messenger app in South Korea, with more users than Facebook or Twitter. People use it to hail cabs and transfer money, advancing toward a cashless society. Even South Korean government officials prefer Kakao chat rooms for communicating with colleagues as opposed to email.

In Japan, where Line users outnumber those on Facebook or Twitter, people buy cute digital stickers to link to messages and use the app to search for music and jobs.

In doing so, the apps are serving as test beds for digital services, demonstrating ways the latest trends in technology and communication can be integrated with daily life in the 21st century.

Above all, they are making money, although some of their products, such as digital stickers, would be a hard sell in other markets. Silicon Valley investors and tech startups everywhere are watching closely.

Here's a look at Kakao Talk and Line, Asia's top messenger app companies.

**KAKAO TALK:** Headquartered on the southern island of Jeju, South Korea. The app was released in 2010.

**OWNED BY:** Kakao, South Korea's No. 2 Internet search engine, which counts former Naver CEO Kim Beom-su as the largest shareholder.

**NUMBERS:** 48 million active users globally, including 40 million in South Korea. Sales at the owner of Kakao Talk reached 932.2 billion won (\$808.5 million) last year.

**HITS:** Kakao Talk itself and its cute emoticon characters. The company was able to build on the success of Kakao Talk when it launched Kakao Story, an Instagram-like service which was at one point more popular than Facebook among South Koreans. But its user growth has been slowing. The latest big hit is Kakao Taxi, an Uber-like taxi hailing service.

**MAKING MONEY:** The 2012 launch of Kakao Game proved its first big jackpot. Many mobile games adopted a business model where users would have to either invite Kakao Talk friends or pay to play more rounds or buy virtual items. This fueled huge growth in the mobile game market in South Korea, helping some game developers go public and amass cash. It also allowed advertisers like Uniqlo and mom-and-pop stores to interact with users one-on-one.

**CHALLENGES:** Game revenue has declined since peaking in 2014 as game developers began to distance themselves to save commission fees. Following a controversy in 2014 over South Korean authorities' seizure of Kakao Talk user data, many customers have migrated to Berlin-based competitor Telegram. Since then, South Koreans have become wary of what they say on the app, which has not severely dented its traffic but has hurt its reputation.

**EXPANSION:** Kakao Talk has unsuccessfully tried to expand in Japan and Indonesia, both countries where

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Line is strong. Instead, the company has largely focused on developing new services for its huge Korean customer base.

**ANALYST TAKE:** "They have to get a momentum in the mobile advertisement market, but no messenger companies have established themselves as strong an advertisement platform as Facebook," said Justin Lee, an analyst at BNP Paribas in Seoul. Earlier expectations for monetizing messenger apps may have been overly optimistic, he said. "Because of the limitations of one-on-one services, its appeal as an ad platform is not as big as Facebook."

**LINE:** Headquartered in Tokyo. Founded in 2011.

**OWNED BY:** South Korea's No. 1 Internet search engine company Naver Corp.

**NUMBERS:** 215 million active users globally, 68 million in Japan. Recorded 120.7 billion yen (\$1.1 billion) in sales last year.

**HITS:** Line has leveraged businesses such as merchandising of dolls and other goods featuring mascot-like characters such as Brown the bear. It also rakes in revenue from the sale of emoticon stickers, called "stamps" in Japan, to use with Line messages. Many stamps are free or cost very little, and Line has opened stamp designing to the public, enhancing their appeal. Cab drivers, for instance, use special stamps with their industry jargon handy for quick communication with other drivers in their team. Some 2.4 billion such stickers are sent each day, with sales reaching 25.3 billion yen (\$224 million) last year. Free voice calls among Line users, including international calls, are another reason for its popularity.

**MAKING MONEY:** Line has signed up major companies for advertising such as Toyota and online retailer Rakuten. It plans to expand its clientele, using its knowledge of users' interests in targeting advertising. Such contracts now cost about 50 million yen (\$500,000), but will be offered to small and medium-size businesses at lower rates. Line mainly appeals to young people, many of whom don't have access to credit cards. To get around that problem, Line has come up with its own prepaid cards that can be charged at convenience-store chains.

**CHALLENGES:** Line is entering the mobile operator service in Japan, to be launched in a few months, starting at an affordable 500 yen (\$4.40) a month, using the telecommunications infrastructure of major Japanese carrier NTT DoCoMo. Nearly half of mobile phone users in Japan haven't yet switched to smart-phones, and Line hopes to attract those users when they finally make the switch.

**EXPANSION:** Line has also been focusing on expanding to Thailand, Taiwan and Indonesia. To appeal to such markets, it has created locally oriented serial dramas to watch. It also offers music and job-search services and is branching into online news.

**ANALYST TAKE:** "It is important for Line to continue focusing on its localization strategy," said Jun Wen Woo, an analyst at IHS. "Users from Japan and Taiwan may have similar interests in Japanese comics, but users from Thailand and Indonesia might be more interested in other content such as games." Line users have been dropping outside the four main countries, Japan, Taiwan, Thailand and Indonesia, she said.

**FACEBOOK AND TWITTER:**

Facebook, which boasts 1.6 billion users globally, has about 16 million monthly active users in South Korea and 25 million in Japan. Instagram, the photo-sharing mobile app owned by Facebook, has 6 million users in South Korea and 8.1 million in Japan. Globally, Instagram has 400 million users. Facebook has been gaining traction along with Instagram in South Korea. Facebook's users there jumped nearly 50 percent from 2013 to 2015.

Twitter, meanwhile, has 320 million users around the world and 35 million in Japan, one of its largest markets. It is popular in Japan for its quick, newsy feel and the option for anonymity that Japanese tend to favor.

Koreans tend to view Twitter as a niche, alternative platform for people seeking to voice opinion anonymously. Twitter does not disclose a country-specific user number for South Korea. Seoul-based market research firm Rankey.com estimates that there are 1.2 million Twitter users in the country, but its estimate is based on a survey of 60,000 Android phone owners and does not include iPhone users.

## US says Iran forces pulling back in Syria; others say no

**DEB RIECHMANN, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration is making the case that Iran is drawing down its elite fighting force from Syria in an effort to allay fears that Tehran is using its powerful Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps in Syria to strengthen its influence across the Middle East. Yet the Iranian government said Monday it has dispatched commandos to the war and it is still taking high-ranking casualties.

Secretary of State John Kerry, who is deeply involved in trying to broker a political solution to end the five-year-old civil war between President Bashar Assad and rebels, told Congress in late February that Iran was recalling its IRGC forces from Syria.

"On Iran, let me just inform everybody here that the IRGC has actually pulled its troops back from Syria," Kerry told the House Foreign Affairs Committee. He said Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei "pulled a significant number of troops out. Their presence is actually reduced in Syria."

Other administration officials have backed Kerry's assertion.

U.S. officials, who were not authorized to publicly discuss Iran's role in Syria and spoke only on condition of anonymity, said Tehran's drawdown of IRGC forces will compel Assad to rely more on his own forces, which lack the training and intelligence capabilities of the IRGC.

But experts say that even if the IRGC has trimmed forces, the pro-Iranian Shiite militias Tehran helped create are still fighting. Iran stepped up its fighting in Syria in October 2015, sending mainly IRGC officers to direct Shiite foot soldiers from other nations, including Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

"Iran has done so much to strengthen the Assad regime — stabilize the Assad regime — through the creation of these militia groups," said Scott Modell, a former CIA officer who has conducted operations throughout the Middle East.

"They don't want to just build up their militia groups and leave. This is their way of creating a lasting footprint" across the region, he said. "This isn't Russia where they make sure to shore up Assad and then they downsize."

A senior congressional staffer said what the U.S. is seeing from the Iranians is not different from what it is seeing from the Russians — a withdrawal of some number of forces and resources that does not significantly change the battlefield. The staffer spoke only on condition of anonymity.

Russia began supporting Assad with airstrikes on Sept. 30, helping his military reverse the tide of war and make some key advances. President Vladimir Putin recently ordered a pullout of some Russian warplanes from Syria, but said that strikes against the Islamic State group and the al-Qaida-linked Nusra Front will continue. Those groups have been excluded from a Russian- and U.S.-brokered cease-fire that began on Feb. 27 and has largely held.

Amir Ali Hajizadeh, the head of the IRGC's aerospace division, told reporters on March 9 that Iran is still deploying troops to Syria. On Monday, Iran's semiofficial Fars news agency quoted Gen. Ali Arasteh, deputy chief liaison of the Iranian Army's Ground Force, as saying that the army has dispatched a number of commandos to Syria.

Iran was training, advising and assisting Syrian forces through September of last year, but stepped up its activity a month later after Russia began its air campaign. It's unclear exactly how many Iranians are fighting in Syria, but Iranian deaths rose significantly in mid-October with reports that 1,500 more Iranian troops had been deployed to Syria, according to a new report by the Critical Threats Project at the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative-leaning policy institute in Washington.

Reports surfaced last year that Iranian forces were pulling out of Syria.

But "it is more likely that the IRGC was rotating and repositioning its units, however, for casualties began to pick up again in early December," said Frederick Kagan who wrote the report with Paul Bucala.

According to the report, Iranian media and other sources reported at least 187 Iranian casualties between October 2015 and Feb. 26. Since the report was published, the authors have recorded five more Iranian deaths, including one during the recent battle to recapture the ancient Syrian city of Palmyra, which was conducted by Syrian troops under the cover of Russian airstrikes.

The ranks of IRGC killed in Syria suggest that Iran has been sending mostly officers — not enlisted mili-

tary personnel — to the fight. Iranian officers accounted for 80 of 132, or 60 percent, of the casualties reported among the IRGC ground forces and navy between October 2015 and February, the report said. “No normal fighting force with a full complement of all ranks takes 60 percent of its casualties among its officers however much they lead from the front,” the authors said.

Nicholas Heras, an expert on the Syrian war at the Center for a New American Security in Washington, said he didn’t think the IRGC was disengaging from Syria. IRGC advisers were sent into Syria to stand up Syrian paramilitary forces throughout areas controlled by Assad, he said. After that, the IRGC concluded that Assad’s military needed more reserve manpower, so it facilitated the movement of predominantly Iraqi Shia militias into Syria, Heras said.

“Now the Iraqi Shia militias are training and advising Afghani, Pakistani, and other nationality Shia militias that the IRGC is deploying to Syria in direct-action combat roles,” he said.

By saying the Iranians are leaving, the U.S. is leaving the impression that the Russians and the Iranians are on board with de-escalation in Syria, said Tony Badran, research fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, which has been critical of the recent nuclear deal with Iran. “It’s a military game with an eye on the politics,” Badran said.

## 1 good shot deserves another, and Villanova comes out on top

**EDIE PELLIS, AP National Writer**

HOUSTON (AP) — Some plays you can’t draw up. Other plays you can.

The double-clutch 3-pointer North Carolina’s Marcus Paige made came right off a playground. It might go down as college basketball’s most spectacular footnote ever.

The buzzer-beating 3 that Villanova’s Kris Jenkins poured in on top of that was the result of months, even years, of practice making perfect. It might go down as the sport’s most memorable game-winner.

Two huge buckets in the span of 4.7 seconds Monday night turned a back-and-forth, edge-of-your-seat national title game into something even better.

Jenkins walked away the winner. His 3 at the buzzer, two steps behind the arc and with a 6-foot-9 defender flying in his face, gave Villanova a 77-74 victory and the second national title in program history.

“I think every shot’s going in,” Jenkins said, “and this one was no different.”

’Nova coach Jay Wright barely flinched when Jenkins’ shot fell with the buzzer blaring. “Bang,” he said, calmly, before walking to midcourt to shake Carolina coach Roy Williams’ hand.

Wright has been coaching that play for months, even years.

With the game tied and 4.7 seconds left, Jenkins inbounded under the Villanova basket to point guard Ryan Arcidiacono. Forward Daniel Ochefu set a pick at midcourt to free things up, then it was up to Arcidiacono to create. He underhand flipped a pass to Jenkins, who was open. The junior spotted himself up, and with North Carolina’s Isaiah Hicks running at him, launched the shot.

Swish. Confetti. Party time. Or, as Jenkins put it, “One, two step, shoot ‘em up, sleep in the streets.”

The Wildcats (35-5) took the title for the first time since 1985, when Rollie Massimino coached the program to a title-game victory over Georgetown. Villanova shot 78 percent that night. In this game, the Cats shot 58.3 percent in the first half, 58.3 percent in the second half and 100 percent with the final buzzer sounding.

Wright said every coach designs plays for game-ending situations with less than four seconds, four to seven seconds, seven to 12 seconds.

They practice it. A lot. When showtime comes, the coach puts the ball in his players’ hands and hopes they can execute. He knows that with the senior, Arcidiacono, running the play, odds are the Wildcats will get a good look.

“Every kid dreams about that shot,” said Arcidiacono, who finished with 16 points and two assists, one more memorable than the other. “I wanted that shot, but I just had confidence in my teammates, and Kris was able to knock down that shot.”

Not too much earlier, trailing 74-71, Paige knocked down his.

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No coach could draw up that sort of thing.

The senior guard took a skip pass from Joel Berry II, almost lost the handle, dribbled twice, and with Arcidiacono running at him, hit a double-clutch 3 from two steps behind the arc.

"He's been doing that his whole career here," Berry said. "He just that tough a guy."

The Tar Heels (33-7), the only No. 1 seed in the Final Four, trailed by 10 with 5:30 left. At that point, Williams said he promised his team that if he did what they said, they would have a chance to win.

Then, after Paige hit his shot, the senior told his teammates they just needed to play 4.7 seconds of defense, and they would win the overtime.

Never happened.

"It was helpless," Williams said. "It was not a good feeling."

The tears flowed out of the 65-year-old coach, who fell to 2-3 in title games. It's never fun being on the wrong side of hoops history.

Back in 1983, Lorenzo Charles dunked after an air ball to lift North Carolina State to its improbable title.

In 1987, Keith Smart made one from the side late to lift Indiana to a championship.

In 1992, Christian Laettner took Grant Hill's pass and hit a turnaround jumper to help Duke beat Kentucky and make the Final Four.

Now, this.

"The last play, we were just calm in the huddle, honestly," Arcidiacono said. "We knew what we were going to do and we just executed."

## Villanova tops Carolina 77-74 on Jenkins' buzzer-beater

**EDDIE PELLIS, AP National Writer**

HOUSTON (AP) — Kris Jenkins is one of those players who believes every shot is going in.

Sometimes, it feels so right to be right.

The Villanova junior answered a double-clutch, game-tying 3-pointer by North Carolina's Marcus Paige with a buzzer-beating 3 of his own Monday night to lift the Wildcats to a 77-74 victory and the national championship.

One good shot deserved another.

And Jenkins wasn't about to be outdone.

"I think every shot's going in," he said, "and this one was no different."

The shot came on a play Villanova works on every day in practice: Jenkins inbounds the ball to Ryan Arcidiacono, he works it up court and forward Daniel Ochefu sets a pick near halfcourt to clutter things up, then Arcidiacono creates.

This time, the senior point guard made an underhanded flip to Jenkins, who spotted up a pace or two behind the arc and swished it with Carolina's Isaiah Hicks running at him. Or, as Jenkins put it: "One, two step, shoot 'em up, sleep in the streets."

Jenkins had to come up big after Paige collected a pass on the top right side of the arc and, with Arcidiacono running at him, double clutched and pumped it in to tie the game at 74 with 4.7 seconds left.

It completed a Carolina comeback from six points down with 1:52 left.

Coach Jay Wright called timeout and called the play the Wildcats (33-5) have worked on all season.

"I didn't have to say anything in the huddle," he said. "We have a name for it, that's what we're going to do. Just put everybody in their spots."

He knew the shot was going in, too.

"Bang," Wright said as he watched it fall, then calmly walked to shake Carolina coach Roy Williams' hand. Confetti flew. The refs looked at the replay to make sure the shot got off in time. It did. The points went up on the scoreboard. Celebration on.

Jenkins finished with 14 points — the last three as memorable as any that have been scored in the history of this tournament.

After being thrown to the floor by his teammates, Jenkins got up, leaped over press row, hugged his

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birth mom — a college basketball coach who helped him hone his shot — and shouted, “They said we couldn’t, they said we couldn’t, they said we couldn’t.”

Oh yes, they could.

This adds to the title Villanova won in 1985, when Rollie Massimino, who was on hand Monday night, coaxed a miracle out of his eighth-seeded underdogs for a victory over star-studded Georgetown.

Hard to top this one, though.

Jenkins, who was adopted by the family of North Carolina guard Nate Britt when his mother moved to take a coaching job, now has a spot alongside — and probably above — Keith Smart, Lorenzo Charles, Christian Laettner and everyone else who ever made a late game-winner to win a big one in March Madness.

Paige finished with 21 and Joel Berry II had 20 for the Heels (33-7), the only No. 1 seed to make the Final Four. They came one agonizing shot short of giving Williams his third national title.

Not surprisingly, the tears flowed from the 65-year-old coach who, some speculate, could have worked his last game on the sideline; the entire sports program at Chapel Hill is under NCAA scrutiny and awaiting possible penalties for a long-running academic-fraud case.

“I’m not very good because I can’t take away the hurt,” Williams said. “I told them I loved them. I told them I wish I could have helped them more.”

His thought when he saw the last shot fly: “It was helpless. It was not a good feeling.”

Even MJ felt the pain. In the stands with the thousands of Carolina Blue-wearing fans, Michael Jordan simply nodded, smiled, looked at his buddy Ahmad Rashad and said, “Good shot, good shot.”

High praise from the Great One. And what a night for Villanova — a second-seeded team full of scrappers, grinders and also-rans, who proved you don’t have to have a roster full of NBA-bound one-and-doners to win a title. More people in the ESPN bracket contest picked ‘Nova to lose to a No. 15 seed in the first round than to win the whole thing. This team flamed out early in the last two tournaments despite big expectations.

Not this time.

Before Jenkins did his thing, it was unheralded sophomore Phil Booth — who isn’t unheralded on that Villanova squad? — pouring in a career high 20 points to give the Cats their late six-point lead.

Booth forced a turnaround jumper with the shot-clock blaring to give ‘Nova a 69-64 lead at the 3:03 mark. With 1:52 left, a free throw from Josh Hart pushed the lead to six.

But Carolina never quits. Paige sandwiched a 3-pointer and a putback around a bucket from Brice Johnson (14 points, eight rebounds) to help the Tar Heels stay within striking range. Then, he took a bounce pass, scooted by the diving Ochefu, twisted past Arcidiacono and hit his double-clutch.

Carolina fans went wild, and it looked like overtime.

Only, it wasn’t.

“If I could get a shot, I was going to shoot it,” said Arcidiacono, who finished with 16 points and two assists, one more memorable than the other. “But I heard someone screaming in the back of my head. It was Kris. I just gave it to him and he let it go with confidence.”

## **Panama rejects money-launder label following documents leak**

**JUAN ZAMORANO, Associated Press**

**JOSHUA GOODMAN, Associated Press**

PANAMA CITY (AP) — Panamanians have long shrugged off their country’s checkered reputation as a financial haven for drug lords, tax dodgers and corrupt oligarchs. If they’re crooks, they’ve learned from the world’s wealthy nations, they like to joke.

That same defensiveness has re-emerged amid the fallout from the leak of 11.5 million confidential documents from the Panama-based law firm Mossack Fonseca revealing details of how some of the globe’s richest people funnel their assets into secretive shell companies set up here and in other lightly regulated jurisdictions.

Ramon Fonseca, a co-founder of the firm, said Monday that his country’s success in establishing itself

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as an offshore banking giant has bred jealousy from first-world rivals at a time of increasing competition and scrutiny of the industry in the aftermath of the global financial crisis.

"It's very unfair what's happening because there's not a level playing field," Fonseca told The Associated Press in an interview. "Without a doubt if this happened to a company in Delaware nothing would happen, but because it's Panama it's the front page of the world's newspapers."

Panama cemented its status as a money laundering center in the 1980s, when dictator Gen. Manuel Noriega rolled out the red carpet to Colombian drug cartels. It has remained a magnet for illicit money, as well as for legitimate funds, because its dollarized economy sits at the crossroad of the Americas. Breakneck economic growth averaging 8.5 percent a year for a decade has been fed by the flood of cash, transforming the capital's skyline into Latin America's Dubai.

But Panama isn't alone in its permissive attitude toward shell companies, which the British-based Tax Justice Network estimates hide \$21 trillion to \$32 trillion in untaxed or lightly taxed financial wealth around the globe. Panama ranks 13th on the watchdog group's financial secrecy index — better than the U.S., which is at No. 3.

In 2014, a group of academics wrote a book, "Global Shell Games," that looks at tax havens. They used emails to set up shell companies with 3,700 corporate service providers in 182 jurisdictions, posing as a range of low- to high-risk customers, including drug traffickers and terrorist groups. The findings were startling: All countries scored poorly. Service firms in Panama complied 29 percent of the time with minimum standards like requesting photo IDs and other documents establishing the identity of the company owners. U.S. firms complied on average 25 percent of the time, while Delaware, at 6 percent, was even more lax.

"Most of the money from these shady dealings is held in other countries, not Panama, so there is plenty of blame to share around," said Jason Sharman, one of the book's authors and a political scientist at Australia's Griffith University.

Panamanian President Juan Carlos Varela has promised to cooperate with any judicial investigations stemming from the leaked data, and the country's chief prosecutor's office said Monday that it will look into the documents to see if they reveal any wrongdoing.

Varela says he has "zero tolerance" for financial crimes and likes to cite the ramming through congress last year of legislation expanding supervision over more than 12 non-financial industries, from real estate to casinos. The legislation paved the way for Panama's removal in February from a black list of high-risk jurisdictions kept by the Financial Action Task Force, an inter-government agency that sets standards for controlling money laundering and terror financing.

In a statement issued Monday, Mossack Fonseca said: "Our industry is not particularly well understood by the public, and unfortunately this series of articles will only serve to deepen that confusion. The facts are these: while we may have been the victim of a data breach, nothing in this illegally obtained cache of documents suggests we've done anything wrong or illegal, and that's very much in keeping with the global reputation we've worked hard to build over the past 40 years of doing business the right way."

Until recently, Panama was one of the few jurisdictions allowing companies to issue "bearer shares," which obscure any record of ownership by giving whoever is in possession of a stock certificate ownership rights. Legislation last year banned the practice although outstanding bearer shares still circulate while the legislation is being implemented.

Still, Varela's close relationship with Ramon Fonseca is likely to bring questions about his commitment to transparency. Until recently, Fonseca was president of the governing Panamenista party and served in Varela's Cabinet as a special adviser. He resigned in February after authorities in Brazil raided the offices of a Mossack Fonseca affiliate as part of the investigation into bribes paid to politicians by companies doing business with the state-run oil giant Petrobras.

Varela himself was hit with unproven allegations during the 2014 presidential campaign that he evaded taxes and took money from an illegal gambling ring in the U.S.

Some say Panama's stigma as a haven for illicit cash is well deserved and cleaning up will be hard. While the regulatory framework has greatly improved, old habits are ingrained and many of Panama's bankers

and lawyers have little to fear from the country's corrupt prosecutors and judges.

"This scandal is truly an indication of the schizophrenia of Panama's ruling class," said RM Koster, an American-born novelist who has made his home in Panama City for decades. "They want to pretend to live in a first world country run by serious people but at the same time won't give up the culture of graft, bribes, etcetera."

## **In Australia, surfing soothes asylum-seekers' fears of sea**

**KRISTEN GELINEAU, Associated Press**

SYDNEY (AP) — They gather under the blazing sun and blue skies of an Australian beach, looking out at the water that once symbolized so much misery: Terrifying boat trips marked by sickness and death and the constant dread that their own lives might be nearing the end. But today, the sea will become their unlikely savior.

For these five asylum-seekers, a novel program introducing them to the iconic Aussie sport of surfing is helping to transform both their feelings toward the ocean and their lives and allowing them, at least for a brief time, to forget the pains of the past.

"We know that getting into the ocean and surfing makes everybody feel good," says Brenda Miley, surf school director at Let's Go Surfing, which is providing the lessons. "... I just think it's a win-win because it helps build confidence, they learn some skills, they learn about being a local Aussie."

There is a rush of nervous laughter and chitchat as the men file into the Let's Go shop at Sydney's famed surf haven, Bondi Beach. Inside, instructors Conrad Pattinson and Will Bigelow demonstrate how to put on wetsuits.

Amin, an asylum-seeker from Iran, flexes his muscles under the neoprene and chuckles. He has been urging his fellow Surfing Without Borders buddies along all morning, eager to get on a surfboard for the first time. But he admits his excitement is tinged with anxiety.

Like the tens of thousands of asylum-seekers who have fled to Australia in recent years, Amin's trip involved a harrowing ocean crossing that began in Indonesia, where smugglers pack migrants into rickety boats that frequently break down or capsize. Those who survive the journey are often scarred by it.

Amin's memories of that trip and the relentless seasickness that came with it are dark. Today, though, he hopes to forget all that.

Down on the beach, Pattinson and Bigelow give the men a pep talk. They explain how the current works and the different parts of the surfboard.

"We're going to make a plan to keep it safe and get heaps and heaps of waves," Bigelow says.

Amin eyes the turquoise water, where the swells are gaining strength. He asks how far out they will go. "Not deep," Bigelow assures him.

The students practice standing on the boards from the safety of the sand. Pattinson warns them that if they don't use proper form, they'll lose their balance and "do a helicopter." At this, he circles his arms wildly. The men crack up.

Finally, it is time to hit the water. The men slide onto their boards and paddle toward a sandbar where the waves are breaking. There, the instructors help maneuver the students' boards into the proper position. And when Amin is ready, Pattinson pushes him forward onto his first wave.

Amin presses himself up with his hands, pops into a brief, unsteady crouch and...

Splash!

"Fell down, no good!" he says. Undeterred, he wipes his face, grabs his board and paddles back out.

One by one, the men make their first shaky attempts as Pattinson and Bigelow whistle and cheer. Flanked by other student surfers, they are largely indistinguishable from the rest of the rookies: Their hips wobble, their arms "do the helicopter," they occasionally collide, and they belly flop more than they stand. But more than anyone else in the water, they laugh.

This kind of joy is exactly what the staff at Settlement Services International hoped to achieve when they launched the surf program last year. They knew their clients were grappling not only with the trauma



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associated with their boat journeys and the wars and persecution they had fled, but also with the anxiety of settling into a new country.

Sandra Oehman, a case manager at the not-for-profit organization and a surfer herself, researched the concept of ocean therapy, which has been used to help everyone from sexual assault survivors to war veterans. Many find that being in the water and focusing their energy on riding the waves produces a calming sensation that helps clear the mind. Maybe, Oehman thought, it could do the same for her clients.

Her manager, Robert Shipton, thought it was a brilliant idea. After all, their organization's goal is to help asylum-seekers adapt to their new culture — and what could be more Australian than surfing?

Conscious that students might harbor fears of the ocean, instructors took a gradual approach, says Miley, the surf school director. First, they encouraged the men to go in the water just up to their hips, then helped push their boards onto the waves, and calmed any jitters along the way.

The technique worked wonders for the dozen or so participants, who quickly gained confidence and became so enamored with the sport that many of them now surf on their own, using boards donated by locals and the surf school.

"We just found that once we just encouraged people and got them in and gave them that safe space to be in the water, that very quickly those worries about anything that had to do with the water — that just disappeared," Shipton says. "And it's now to the stage where they're like, 'Let's go to the beach, we want to go surfing, let's do it more!'"

Danny, an asylum seeker from Iran who was part of the pilot group, says surfing helped clear his head of the horrors he left behind.

"It was very different from my (boat) journey," says Danny, who like the other students spoke on condition that their last names be withheld to protect themselves and loved ones in their home countries. "My worries when I was in the ocean were gone and I had the feeling of freedom. And I was happy."

Back at the beach, Kumar, an asylum-seeker from Sri Lanka, hops off his board after riding a wave into shore. He can't stop grinning. In his former life as a fisherman, he spent a lot of time on the water. But it was nothing like Bondi.

"I will never forget this," he says. "Ever."

The waves are growing along with the students' fatigue. Amin's muscles are tired, but he isn't ready to quit. Bigelow pushes his board onto a wave. Amin stands up for a brief moment — then pitches face-first into the water. He emerges from the whitewash, claps victoriously at his progress and paddles back out for more.

Another wave is coming. Bigelow counts it down: "3-2-1... Go!"

And this time, Amin has it. He stands up, steady on his feet, coasting atop the water and whooping in glee. "AHHH!" he screams. "It feels good!"

In the shallows, he pauses to catch his breath, face lit by a smile and the warm Australian sun. Today, that miserable boat trip — and the fear that went with it — feel a world away.

"I took a chance in my life," he says of his journey to Australia. "I have to win or lose my life. I didn't lose, I win — because I was stronger than the ocean."

Then, surfboard slung under his arm, he turns and trudges jubilantly back into the sea.

## Asian stocks droop after Wall Street decline

**YURI KAGEYAMA, AP Business Writer**

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares drooped in early trading Tuesday following a decline on Wall Street, as falling oil prices and a stronger yen hurt regional investor sentiment.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index lost 2.1 percent in morning trading to 15,786.47. South Korea's Kospi fell 0.9 percent to 1,961.04. Hong Kong's Hang Seng was down 1.6 percent to 20,162.09, while the Shanghai Composite index stood at 3,009.83, almost unchanged from the previous session, inching up 0.01 percent. Other regional markets were also mostly lower, dipping in Taiwan, Singapore and the Philippines.

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**WALL STREET:** The Dow Jones industrial average lost 55.75 points, or 0.3 percent, to 17,737. The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 6.65 points, or 0.3 percent, to 2,066.13 and the Nasdaq composite lost 22.75 points, or 0.5 percent, to 4,891.80.

**THE QUOTE:** "Given the somewhat mixed signals from the U.S. Federal Reserve, investors will be looking for clues to its next move," said Alex Furber, senior client services executive at CMC Markets in Singapore. "China and Hong Kong markets also resume today after Monday's break."

**ENERGY:** Market sentiment has been hurt by a recent drop in oil prices. Benchmark U.S. crude fell 21 cents to \$35.49 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude, used to price international oils, lost 18 cents to \$37.51 a barrel in London.

**CURRENCIES:** The euro was unchanged at \$1.1397, while the dollar edged down to 110.83 yen from 111.495 yen.

## Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, April 5, the 96th day of 2016. There are 270 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On April 5, 1976, during an outdoor demonstration against court-ordered school busing in Boston, a white teenager swung a pole holding an American flag at a black attorney in a scene captured in a Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph now known as "The Soiling of Old Glory" that was taken by Stanley Forman of the Boston Herald American. Reclusive billionaire Howard Hughes died in Houston at age 70.

On this date:

In 1614, Indian Chief Powhatan's daughter Pocahontas married Englishman John Rolfe in the Virginia Colony. England's King James I convened the second Parliament of his rule; the "Addled Parliament," as it came to be known for accomplishing nothing, lasted two months.

In 1621, the Mayflower sailed from Plymouth Colony in present-day Massachusetts on a monthlong return trip to England.

In 1764, Britain's Parliament passed The American Revenue Act of 1764, also known as The Sugar Act.

In 1895, Oscar Wilde lost his criminal libel case against the Marquess of Queensberry, who'd accused the writer of homosexual practices.

In 1915, Jess Willard knocked out Jack Johnson in the 26th round of their fight in Havana, Cuba, to claim boxing's world heavyweight title.

In 1916, Academy Award-winning actor Gregory Peck was born in La Jolla, California.

In 1925, a tornado estimated at F-3 intensity struck northern Miami-Dade County, Florida, killing five people.

In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an executive order creating the Civilian Conservation Corps and an anti-hoarding order that effectively prohibited private ownership of gold.

In 1955, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill resigned his office for health reasons. Democrat Richard J. Daley was first elected mayor of Chicago, defeating Republican Robert E. Merriam.

In 1964, Army General Douglas MacArthur died in Washington, D.C., at age 84.

In 1986, two American servicemen and a Turkish woman were killed in the bombing of a West Berlin discotheque, an incident which prompted a U.S. air raid on Libya more than a week later.

In 1991, former Sen. John Tower, R-Texas, his daughter Marian and 21 other people were killed in a commuter plane crash near Brunswick, Georgia.

Ten years ago: Duke University's lacrosse coach resigned and the school canceled the rest of the season amid a burgeoning controversy involving allegations that three players on the highly ranked team had raped a stripper at an off-campus party. (The rape charges were later dropped, and the players exonerated.) Katie Couric announced she was leaving NBC's "Today" show to become anchor of "The CBS Evening News." Singer Gene Pitney was found dead in his hotel room in Cardiff, Wales; he was 66.

Five years ago: Ivory Coast's strongman leader, Laurent Gbagbo (loh-RAHN' BAHG'-boh), remained holed

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up in a bunker inside the presidential residence, defiantly maintaining he'd won an election four months earlier even as troops backing the internationally recognized winner encircled the home. (Gbagbo was arrested six days later.) Texas A&M won its first national women's basketball championship with a 76-70 victory over Notre Dame.

One year ago: In an Easter Sunday peace wish, Pope Francis praised a framework nuclear agreement with Iran as an opportunity to make the world safer, while expressing deep worry about bloodshed in Libya, Yemen, Syria, Iraq, Nigeria and elsewhere in Africa. Rolling Stone magazine apologized and officially retracted its discredited article about an alleged gang rape at the University of Virginia. Actor Richard Dysart, 86, died in Santa Monica, California.

Today's Birthdays: Movie producer Roger Corman is 90. Former U.S. Secretary of State and former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Colin Powell is 79. Country singer Tommy Cash is 76. Actor Michael Moriarty is 75. Pop singer Allan Clarke (The Hollies) is 74. Writer-director Peter Greenaway is 74. Actor Max Gail is 73. Actress Jane Asher is 70. Singer Agnetha (ag-NEE'-tah) Faltskog (ABBA) is 66. Actor Mitch Pileggi is 64. Singer-songwriter Peter Case is 62. Rock musician Mike McCready (Pearl Jam) is 50. Country singer Troy Gentry is 49. Singer Paula Cole is 48. Actress Krista Allen is 45. Country singer Pat Green is 44. Rapper-producer Pharrell (fa-REHL') Williams is 43. Rapper/producer Juicy J is 41. Actor Sterling K. Brown is 40. Country singer-musician Mike Eli (The Eli Young Band) is 35. Actress Hayley Atwell is 34. Actress Lily James is 27.

Thought for Today: "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Great men are almost always bad men, even when they exercise influence and not authority, still more when you superadd the tendency or the certainty of corruption by authority." — Lord Acton, British historian (1834-1902), in a letter written on this date in 1887.