

Groton Daily Independent

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Friday, May 6

Howard Wood Relays in Sioux Falls
School Breakfast: Breakfast pizza, fruit, juice, milk.
School Lunch: Pizza, green beans, carrots and dip, fruit.
Senior Menu: Tuna noodle casserole, beets, swedish apple pie square, whole wheat bread.
Anniv: Dale & Joyce Grenz
Birthdays: Clint Jacobson • Kerwyn Dinger • Luke Sternhagen • Richard Ruden • Ann Erdmann • Kendale Berndt
5:00pm: Track at Sisseton

Saturday, May 7

MS Instrumental Music Contest in Webster
Birthdays: Carter Schinkel • Reese Schuneman
4:30pm: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

Sunday, May 8

MOTHER'S DAY
Birthdays: Austin Jones • Dale Kramer • John Lowary • Shonna Harry • Jodie Harry
9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran Final School for season
9:00am: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass
9:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Fellowship
10:00am: Heaven Bound Ministries worship at Pierpont Church
10:15am: Emmanuel Lutheran worship / SS Sings
11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship
2:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran pastor at Bethesda in Aberdeen

Monday, May 9

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

Closed: 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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Mark Malmberg, DDS
19 North 6th St.

Oakes, N.D.
701-742-3401



Dairy Queen Help Wanted

HELP WANTED: Part-time, flexible hours. Apply at Dairy Queen in Groton.

Lori's Pharmacy to close for funeral

Lori's Pharmacy will be closed from 10:15 AM to 11:30 AM, on Saturday, May 7, 2016 for the funeral of Brian Sundstrom. Brian was the husband of our employee, Nancy Sundstrom. We are sorry for the inconvenience. Thank you.

Rummage Sale

Saturday, May 7, 2016

Yardman riding mower, auto drive, 25HP; Murry riding mower, auto drive, 16.5 HP, 8 drawer tool box on wheels; 5 gal. gas can; hand tools, garde tools - some new, bicycles - different sizes, dishes - some new in the box, house vacuum, end table lamps, 30 cup coffee maker, feather pillow, small cooler with radio - electric and battery, 2 - 7.25" electric Skill saws (some new 7.25" blades), 2 wood working benches - 1 nnew in the box, small electric air compressor, new garden hose on reel, new 400 watt generator, electric power washer, electric tile cutter TDH550, Powermate air paint sprayer; new nuts, bolts, etc.; lots more stuff too numerous to mention. Come early at 511 1st Ave. East, Groton, Eddy Opp residence. Some items will be half price from noon to 1:30 p.m.



Jessica Adler is modeling her navy blue two piece halter top prom dress. The top features a flower pattern and has iridescent gems on it, while the bottom has beaded waistband. Jessica had a blast at the prom with her date and all of her friends. Jessica also had a blast recently at the State FCCLA meeting in Sioux Falls. You look beautiful Jessica! (Photo by Julianna

Kosel)

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Up next is Brady Graf and his plaid and camel colored polar fleece blanket. This is his first semester in FACS. He enjoyed learning to sew and this blanket was a breeze. While attending Groton Area High School, Brady has been active in Football, Wrestling, Track, FFA, the school play and was part of Homecoming Royalty. His future plans are to attend Lake Area Tech and get a degree in Energy Operations to become a Power Plant Operator. Fantastic blanket Brady! (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Taylor Holm is our next seamstress to take the runway with her soft blanket that she made in FACS I. On one side is a turquoise blue ultra-soft "heavenly plush" fabric and on the opposite side a black volleyball polar fleece fabric. She and her sewing buddy, Cassandra Townsend, spent a lot of time outside of the FACS classroom seam-ripping and trying to perfect their blankets. Outside of FACS, Taylor spends her time participating in basketball, volleyball, and track. Looks great Taylor!

(Photo by Julianna Kosel)



At this time, we would like to welcome our final talent performer of the night to the stage. Kari Hanson, FCCLA member and senior here at Groton and will be singing "A Moment Like This". (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

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Our next model, Allison Weber, will be presenting the next two quilts. Her own and Kiernan McCranie's quilt, Kiernan is out of town, but we still wanted to show off her beautiful quilt, the pattern she created was inspired from a stain glass window Kiernan's mom made a few years ago and Kiernan has always admired.. She found all different shades of blue fabrics and laid them out so they would transition from lightest to darkest. Kiernan had a lot of fun sewing this quilt and is excited to try her new sewing skills on some more complicated projects.. Thanks Allison for helping out! (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



And now she will show off her the quilt she made! This is Allison's first year in Mrs. Tietz's FACS class. She was a first time quilter and chose a multi-color block pattern for this quilt. She picked out gray, black, cream, and red fabrics to match the school colors of University of Nebraska-Lincoln where she will be attending in the fall. The colors are elegant, yet rustic. She liked the pattern because it allowed her to choose so many different vibrant fabrics. Allison used the red paisley to accent the quilt and bring out the red in the other fabrics. On the back side she used black minky because she like the soft feel of it. Allison says dealing with the minky backing was the hardest part of finishing her quilt. Allison is so excited to have finished her quilt and show it off to her family. She will use it next year in her dorm at the UNL where she plans to major in Business Administration with an emphasis in Human Resources and a minor in Finance. Fantastic Job Allison! (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

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Up next is Angela Locke, she used a hopscotch pattern for her quilt design. She decided on using a combination of black, crimson red, and white to give it a classic look. Angela had some difficulties in the beginning stemming from continuously sewing the wrong pieces together, but she gradually got the hang of it. She now considers sewing one of her favorite things to do! She plans on giving this quilt as a gift to her friend, Shauna. But she and her quilt will not be separated for long as she and Shauna both plan on attending Black Hills State University in the fall. **Awesome job Angela!** (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Next is Kari Hanson showing off her bright and colorful patterned quilt. Many fat quarter bundles were used to complete the quilt and she chose to back it with minky fabric to finish it. The most difficult part was getting all of the rectangles the same size and sewn together straight. Her favorite part was designing the pattern and figuring out what colors looked best next to each other. This was Kari's first time quilting and she thoroughly enjoyed it, but decided to retire her quilting career after the quilt was completed. Kari plans to take the quilt with her while she attends Northern State University next fall to major in music education in hopes to someday become a music therapist. **Great job Kari, you rock!** (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

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Oh me Oh my, look who it is!! It's Madison Sippel coming in hot with her reversible satchel bag. She made her bag with a red polka dotted and nautical printed fabrics. Madison had some problems cutting out the fabric for this project, but all in all she did great! Even though she was a human pin cushion during this process, she really enjoyed making her bag! Madison is the FCCLA Vice President and her sophomore class treasurer. In addition to these activities, she is involved in soccer, volleyball, basketball, cheerleading, track, debate, student congress, and Emmanuel Luther League. Fantastic job Madison! (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

Here is another FACS II student, Shelby Hjermstad. She is a junior this year and made a reversible tote. She bought this material at Wal-Mart. Her sister, Shannon, helped her pick her fabric out and knew that Shelby liked pink and it reminded her of spring. She likes to sew and it turned out awesome. She poked the stick pins in her finger many times, but survived. She will put her phone and a wallet in her tote. Way to go Shelby! (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

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Oh my, look at Hattie Weismantel coming down the runway with her very fashionable reversible bag. One side is a dark salmon color with white polka dots and the other side is a grey background with flowers on it. This bag is a gift for her amazing mother. Hattie's mom will most likely use it as a travel bag which she will put snacks in. The funny thing is her daughters will be the ones most likely eating those snacks! Along with FCCLA, Hattie is also involved in basketball, dance, jazz band, show choir, dance team, band, choir, teaching Sunday school, and piano. Good job Hattie! (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Our first FACS I sewer of this group is Cassandra Townsend with her superman blanket. On one side features a polar fleece with a superman logo pattern, with the other side featuring red minky. Cassandra has been sewing for many years now, as her grandma has taught her, she sewn many projects for 4-H. So she found this sewing project to be a breeze, and you'll probably be seeing it displayed at the county fair! She and her sewing buddy, Taylor Holm, found time throughout their day to come down to the FACS room to perfect their blankets. Cassandra plans to take this blanket with her to horse shows and on other trips. Great job, Cassandra! (Photo by

Julianna Kosel)

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Up next is Sam Menzia with her oh so snugly blanket! Sam spent many hours making her blanket that is a hot pink ultra-soft heavenly plush fabric on one side and on the other side is polar fleece fabric that is blue with pink and white anchors. Sam says that this blanket kept her warm all winter and was probably the best project she did this year taking FACS 1. Sam plans on taking FACS thought all 4 years of high school. Awesome blanket Sam! (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Our last model of the evening is Renee Hinman. Renee made a polar fleece blanket featuring Minions for her niece Aryanna who is 20 months old. Aryanna absolutely loves her blanket! Renee made the blanket for her niece because she is Aryanna's best friend and Aryanna loves Minions. In her free time, Renee is currently in track and likes to hang out with her friends at meets and also be with her niece Aryanna, be on her phone constantly, watch TV shows and movies, and draw. Renee is planning to continue on with FACS and FCCLA. Her favorite part of FACS 1 is the Child Development unit. Awesome blanket Renee! (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

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Here comes Kaitlyn Kassube with her soft and cozy blanket that she recently constructed. It features a purple and white geometric design fleece fabric on the top and a solid black fuzzy fabric on the bottom. The black fabric is super soft and comfy, but tends to shed when it's cut or seam ripped. Kaitlyn did a great job and avoided using the seam ripper during the making of her blanket. She enjoyed taking the time and working on this blanket in FACS with her friends. **Marvelous work Kaitlyn!** (Photo

by Julianna Kosel)



Here comes Portia Kettering, she is a freshman at Groton High School. She participates in basketball and volleyball and this is her first year in FACS. She has made a blanket with navy blue patterned fabric and a grey minky fabric on the back. She plans on using this blanket as a decorative blanket in her bedroom as the colors coordinate. **Marvelous job Portia!** (Photo by

Julianna Kosel)



Here comes Heather Lone modeling her warm & cozy, purple and floral super soft blanket. Heather spent a long time in class working on her blanket. Pinning and lining up the fabric took the longest because the fabric easily shifts, it requires lots and lots of pins, but after it was all done, it was well worth it! She now uses it every night to cuddle up with. Way to go Heather! (Photo

by Julianna Kosel)



Here comes junior Tage Taylor showing off her quilt she made in FACS III. FACS III students are able to choose what they would like to make, so Tage decided to do take on a quilt for the challenge. The colors of her quilt block are orange, turquoise blue, and the block in the middle is a paisley pattern. This is not Tage's first quilt she has made, as she has made several for 4-H. Tage plans on taking on an even more challenging quilt design next year when she takes FACS 4. Spectacular work Tage! (Photo

by Julianna Kosel)

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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.

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Well look at that, here comes Emilie Crosby with her reversible satchel bag. It was made with coordinating green and blue polka dotted fabrics. It looks like the perfect bag to take to the beach! Emilie is involved in Debate and Student Congress, and she has two jobs in addition to her school activities, so she stays pretty darn busy. Great job Emilie! (Photo by Julianna

Kosel)



Our next model is Jessie Bjerke. Jessie is a sophomore here at the Groton High School. Jessica is involved in track, volleyball, and basketball. Her favorite part about making the bag was finishing it! Her least favorite thing about the bag was burning/pinning her fingers many times throughout the process. She plans to use her bag a lot, especially this summer! Nifty Job Jessie! (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Our next model is Hailey Hanson with her Radio Way Patterned quilt. This quilt was quite a challenge as she only had a picture to go off of and had to come up with her own dimensions with the aide of Mrs. Tietz. There were a few hiccups along the way, but it turned out great and came together in the end. Hailey grew up surrounded by sewing and thoroughly enjoyed doing this project. She chose bold colors to compliment her project; she plans to display in her dorm room. Hailey's future plans are to attend SDSU next fall and major in Agronomy or Ag Business. Looks splendid Hailey!

(Photo by Julianna Kosel)

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SATURDAY | MAY 14 | 9:30 to 11:30 A.M.

WHERE

ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON CATHOLIC CHURCH

GROTON, SOUTH DAKOTA
Sam and McKinsey are registered at
Bed, Bath and Beyond and Amazon

Here comes Harleigh Stange, showing off her new satchel bag. She is a sophomore in the FACS II class. What Harleigh enjoyed the most was picking out her fabric to begin her project. Harleigh mentioned at last year's style show that she didn't think she's the best at sewing, she says this project was quite difficult for her, but she perfected her skills this year and turned out an amazing bag. She also says that it was well worth the process and will be using her bag often. Lookin' good Harleigh! (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

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Katie Koehler is involved in Soccer, Volleyball, Basketball, Track, Carnival of Silver Skates and FFCLA. For FACS 3 the students had a choice to whatever they wanted to sew. Katie says she wanted to sew a blanket because she knows she'll use her blanket all throughout her life, when she goes to college and gets her own apartment, so it was a pretty obvious choice for Katie. Her blanket is made from a grey Geometric Fleece Fabric on top and bottom is a light pink minky fabric. She was an absolute perfectionist when it came to pinning her fabric, but it paid off for her as her project came together very easily for this natural seamstress. She says her favorite part of this project is when her blanket was done and she was able to take it home and cuddle up with it. Fabulous Job Katie! (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Holy Moley! Here comes Lexie Harder modeling her comfy blanket she made in FACS III. Her blanket is made of a light pink and light gray damask fleece fabric on top and a light gray minky fabric on the bottom. Lexie is in soccer and says her blanket will be perfect for her on those long bus rides. She is also the Treasurer of FCCLA, and will be in the same position for her upcoming senior year. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

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Our next model is Shannon Wiedrick with her blue and black blanket. It took a lot of work and a lot of time to make it but she says it's totally worth it. On one side is a fluffy blue ultra soft heavenly plush fabric and on the other side is a soft black minky fabric with dots. She is planning to take FACS for the rest of her high school years. **Amazing blanket Shannon!** (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Up next is McKenzie Menzia with her fabulously super soft blankey! The pink fabric is made of a Super Soft Heavenly Plush Fleece and the grey fabric is the ever popular Minky. She really enjoyed making her blanket, the class time went by fast making it as she is a natural gifted seamstress. She really enjoyed being able to sew all the way around the blanket, it was a relief taking out all of the pins. Now it is her favorite blanket! **Great Job McKenzie!** (Photo

by Julianna Kosel)

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The senior FCCLA members this year are Aubray Harry, Maggie Simon, Marlee Jones, Kari Hanson, Tia Thompson, Hannah Webb, Angela Locke, and Jamie Krueger. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



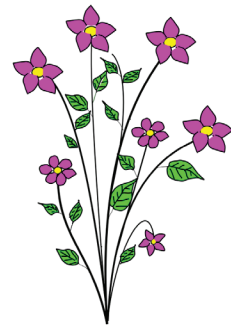
FCCLA Officers. From left to right: Erika Herr (Reporter), Kellyn Fluke (Secretary), Madison Sippel (Vice President), Hannah Webb (President), Lexie Harder (Treasurer), Maggie Crosby (incoming Historian for 2016-17), and Jessica Adler (Historian) and not pictured is Hannah Lewandowski (Public Relationist). (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

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Fresh Floral
Green & Blooming
Plants
Wine
Coffee
Jewelry
Home Decor
Perfume - Lotions

Mother's Day
May 8th



We are OPEN Mother's Day - Sunday,
May 8th, 10-2!
(sorry no deliveries, pick up only)

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Today in Weather History

May 6, 1988: High winds produced blowing dust which reduced visibilities to less than one half mile in northeastern South Dakota. Wind gusts of 62 mph were reported at Aberdeen. A small building was destroyed in Gettysburg and a building was damaged near Timber Lake. Winds also blew over a tractor-trailer injuring a man in Okaton.

May 6, 1999: High winds of 35 to 50 mph, gusting to over 60 mph blew across central and north central South Dakota from the early morning to the late evening hours causing some damage. In Pierre, the high winds blew a large tree down and tore loose a piece of the sheet metal cornice atop a downtown building. At the Legion Memorial Park in Mobridge, the high winds knocked the centerfield lights to the ground. In Jones County, a semi-tractor trailer was blown over and damaged. A fishing tournament at Lake Oahe had to be postponed as a result of the high winds.

1933 - Charleston, SC, was deluged with 10.57 inches of rain, an all-time 24 hour record for that location. (The Weather Channel)

1975 - A massive tornado hit Omaha, NE, killing three persons, injuring 133 others, and causing 150 million dollars damage. The tornado struck during the late afternoon moving northeastward through the industrial and residential areas of west central Omaha, and lifting over the northern section of the city. The twister, which cut a swath ten miles long and as much as a quarter of a mile wide, was the mostly costly in U.S. history up til that time. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Eighteen cities in California and Oregon reported record high temperatures for the date. Highs of 91 degrees at Portland OR, 101 degrees at Medford OR, and 104 degrees at Sacramento CA, were the warmest of record for so early in the season. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - A major storm brought high winds to the western half of the country. A wind gust of 74 mph at Pueblo CO broke their May record established just four days earlier, and winds in the Arapahoe Ski Basin area of Colorado reached 85 mph. In North Dakota, the high winds reduced visibilities to near zero in blowing dust closing many roads. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Sixteen cities in the north central U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date. Morning lows of 17 at Bismarck ND and 26 at Minneapolis MN were the coldest of record for so late in the season. A reading of 43 degrees at the start of the Kentucky Derby was the coldest in 115 years of records. Light snow was reported in the Upper Midwest, with an inch reported at Chicago IL. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Snow and high winds prevailed behind a Pacific cold front crossing the northwestern U.S. Wind gusts above 50 mph were reported in southeastern Idaho, and heavy snow blanketed the Cascade Mountains of Washington State, with twelve inches reported at Stampede Pass. (The National Weather Summary)



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Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
						
Sunny	Mostly Cloudy and Breezy then Mostly Cloudy	Sunny	Clear	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Chance Showers
High: 88 °F	Low: 44 °F	High: 69 °F	Low: 42 °F	High: 71 °F	Low: 47 °F	High: 67 °F

Mainly Dry Cold Front sinking across the area Today

Impacts

Wind

- Morning: Southwest 5 - 10 mph
- Afternoon: Becoming North 15 - 25 mph

Temperatures

- 80s to low 90s
- Warmest across central South Dakota

Thunderstorms

- Possible from mid afternoon – tonight (mainly south)
- Severe weather not anticipated at this time



Check out the latest forecast at...
www.weather.gov/Aberdeen

A mainly dry cold front will sink across the area today, but not until temperatures again top out in the 80s to low 90s. Northerly winds will be on the increase after the passage of the cold front this afternoon. Isolated to scattered showers and thunderstorms will be possible from mid afternoon through tonight, with the best chance being over central and southern portions of South Dakota.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 87.7 at 4:41 PM

Low: 42.6 at 6:12 AM

High Gust: 26 at 2:41 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 92° in 1916

Record Low: 23 in 1931

Average High: 66°F

Average Low: 40°F

Average Precip in May: 0.61

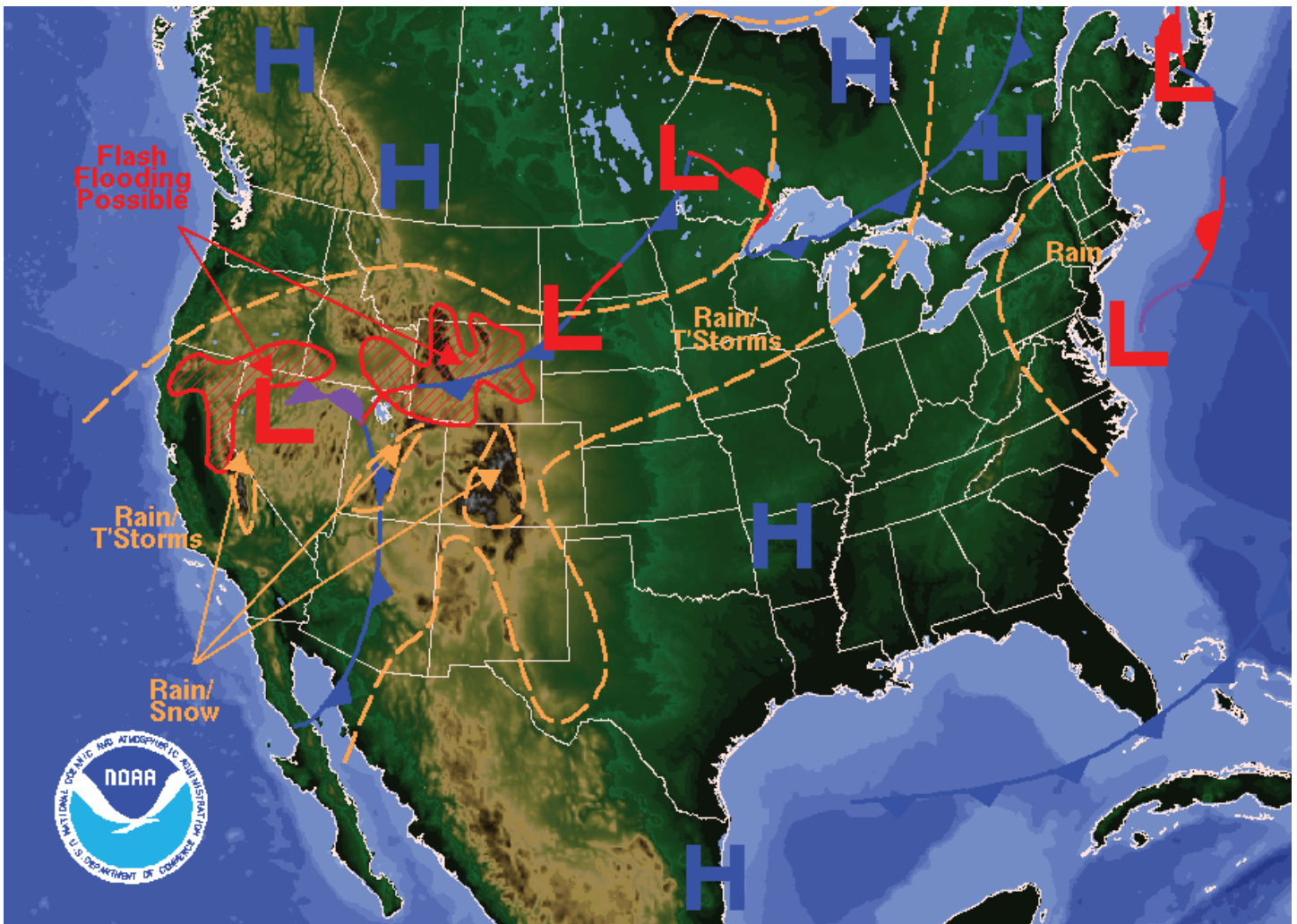
Precip to date in May: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 4.64

Precip Year to Date: 3.39

Sunset Tonight: 8:47 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:12 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Fri, May 06, 2016, issued 4:43 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Krekeler based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



A HAPPY HEART

Five-year-old Matthew was having a difficult time remaining still in church. He did not understand what the preacher was talking about, nor did he really care. It was far beyond him.

Turning to his left he saw a kindly lady. As he caught her eye, he smiled at her. She returned the smile and he giggled. His mother, becoming upset at his behavior jerked him, pinched his arm and said, "Stop grinning. You're in church."

As the tears rolled down his cheeks she said, "There, that's better," and returned to listening to the sermon.

Jesus said, "I have told you these things so that you will be filled with My joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!" It is easy to be filled with joy when things are going the way we want them to. But when hardships come it is easy to be discouraged and even depressed. However, the joy that comes from our relationship with God can bring bursts of joy in the darkest of hours. Our joy does not come from the events of this world but from the relationship we can have with God, our Heavenly Father. When we are truly surrendered to the Lord, come what may, we will find lasting joy that only comes from Him.

Prayer: We pray, Lord, that we will live a life filled with joy that comes from You that the world cannot disturb no matter what happens. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: John 15:7-11 "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.

News from the Associated Press

Wounded Knee woman sentenced for stealing from tribal group

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A Wounded Knee woman has been sentenced to three years of probation and restitution for stealing from a tribal organization.

U.S. Attorney Randolph Seiler says 27-year-old Casey Titus embezzled more than \$15,000 from the Wounded Knee Community Council while serving as vice chairwoman and treasurer from 2010 through May 2014.

She pleaded guilty last November to a theft charge and was recently sentenced. U.S. District Judge Jeffrey Viken ordered her to pay back the money she stole.

Mother charged after kids found in filthy living conditions

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities in Sioux Falls have taken four children into protective custody and arrested their mother after finding what they said was a filthy home with drugs present.

Investigators say 24-year-old Jenna Foster's home was filled with trash and smelled of urine, and that children were sleeping on the floor. Officers said they also found a bag Wednesday that contained marijuana residue.

Foster is charged with child abuse, contributing to the delinquency of minors and drug counts. It wasn't clear if she had obtained a lawyer, and a home telephone listing for her couldn't be found.

Daugaard again declares May as 'Beef Month' in South Dakota

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard has declared that May is once again "Beef Month" in South Dakota.

The state Department of Agriculture said on Thursday that South Dakota has nearly five cattle for every one person. Daugaard says more than 15,000 cattle producers call South Dakota home.

Interim Secretary of Agriculture Dustin Oedekoven says recognizing Beef Month is a good way to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of the state's beef producers.

Krebs: South Dakota ballots were printed on April 22

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Secretary of State Shantel Krebs says the state's June 7 primary ballots were printed on April 22, so presidential candidates who suspended their campaigns after that date will still appear on ballots.

The Republican ballots for the South Dakota presidential primary will list John Kasich, Ted Cruz and Donald Trump.

The Democratic ballots will list Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton.

Krebs says the ballots have been in possession of the county auditors' offices across the state for the start of absentee voting on April 22.

Man accused of dealing large amounts of meth to plead guilty

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — A North Dakota man accused of distributing large quantities of methamphetamine in Fargo and in Sisseton, South Dakota, says he will plead guilty.

Roble Hernandez is charged in federal court with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute a controlled substance. He faces a maximum penalty of life in prison and a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years.

Authorities say Hernandez's residence in Fargo was being used as a "stash house" for an out-of-state drug trafficking organization. A woman who lived with Hernandez had allegedly stolen five pounds of meth and members of the cartel came to Fargo and assaulted her to gain information about the missing drugs.

Court documents show that meth was also distributed in Minnesota and Arizona.
A federal public defender could not be reached for comment.

Indian Health Service looks to expand telehealth care

DIRK LAMMERS, Associated Press

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The Indian Health Service is looking to expand telehealth care across the Great Plains in the wake of federal inspections that uncovered serious quality-of care deficiencies at some of its facilities.

The IHS on Thursday issued a request for proposals from providers to offer remote care at its seven hospitals and other facilities in Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota and North Dakota. Patients would receive emergency medical services and could set appointments with specialists in behavioral health, cardiology and other areas.

Kevin Steele, spokesman for the Oglala Sioux Tribe, said telehealth is a great way to provide care to tribal members living on remote parts of the vast Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

"This telehealth is going to be put in communities that don't have clinics or services," Steele said. "We have communities that are 50 miles away in which people have to drive that far, but they have a school system and a small building capable to house telehealth."

Mary Smith, IHS' principal deputy director, said in a statement that integrating telemedicine especially expands access to specialty care.

IHS provides free health care to enrolled members of Native American tribes as part of U.S. treaty obligations. 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.

Earlier this year, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services threatened to end the ability of hospitals on the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Indian Reservations to bill the government for services provided to Medicare- and Medicaid-eligible patients after inspectors uncovered serious deficiencies during unannounced visits.

On Sunday, IHS announced that it reached last-chance remediation agreements with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services that will overhaul the hospitals' management and appoint a monitor to provide periodic assessment reports. Emergency rooms at both facilities will be privatized, as previously proposed.

The agreement for the hospital on the Rosebud Indian Reservation, however, did not immediately result in the reopening of its ER, which has been shut down since early December.

Steele said the Oglala Sioux Tribe has been working through other grants to improve technology across Pine Ridge in preparation for the push toward remote care.

"These first two years are basically just putting the infrastructure in, getting them set up so they can provide telehealth services," he said.

The deadline for proposals is June 6.

Fire destroys Titan Machinery building in South Dakota town

MILBANK, S.D. (AP) — Fire has destroyed the Titan Machinery building in the northeastern South Dakota town of Milbank.

The blaze was reported about 7:30 p.m. Wednesday. Police Chief Boyd Van Voren says there were multiple explosions inside the building, and ash from the fire traveled as far as a mile. No injuries were reported.

The cause of the fire was not immediately determined. Company officials said in a statement that they're working with their insurance company and local authorities on a damage estimate.

Titan Machinery is a dealer of agricultural and construction equipment. It's based in West Fargo, North Dakota.

The company says neighboring Titan stores will help support customers of the Milbank store.

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Ticket sold in Watertown wins \$35,658 Dakota Cash jackpot

WATERTOWN, S.D. (AP) — A ticket sold in Watertown has won the Dakota Cash jackpot worth \$35,658. State lottery officials say the ticket matched all five white ball numbers in Wednesday's drawing. The winning numbers are 1, 3, 15, 18 and 27.

Dakota Cash is played only in South Dakota. The odds of winning the jackpot are 1 in about 325,000. The jackpot goes back to \$20,000 for the next drawing, on Saturday.

Meade County Commission suspends member facing charges

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — The Meade County Commission has voted to suspend a member who's facing criminal charges in a private job contract dispute.

Alan Aker's fellow commissioners made the decision in a special meeting Tuesday. Commission Chairman Galen Niederwerder said the group is following state law and that once the legal matter is settled "we will move forward."

Aker, 52, of Piedmont, who has served on the County Commission since 2009, will not receive any pay or benefits while suspended. He did not immediately respond to an Associated Press request for comment on Thursday.

A grand jury indicted Aker in April on a felony charge of intentional damage to property and a misdemeanor count of trespassing. Authorities allege that Aker, who runs a wood home products company, entered a client's property in Deadwood last summer, sawed off part of a deck railing and took it with him.

Aker maintains he did nothing wrong because he hadn't been fully paid for the job.

"When all the facts are known, they will demonstrate that I am innocent of this accusation," he said in an earlier statement.

The property owner maintains the project was incomplete and the work unacceptable. William Hegg has withheld \$2,500 of the total payment of about \$11,500.

Aker is due in state court in Deadwood May 16. The most serious charge against him carries a maximum punishment of five years in prison.

Paterno's son calls 1976 allegation about father 'bunk'

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Joe Paterno's son said Friday that an allegation made by insurers that a boy told the longtime Penn State University football coach in 1976 that he had been molested by former assistant coach Jerry Sandusky is "bunk."

In a tweet, Scott Paterno wrote that "it would be great if everyone waited to see the substance of the allegation before they assume it's true. Because it's not."

The allegation was revealed Thursday in an order issued by Philadelphia Judge Gary Glazer in litigation between an insurance company and Penn State. The order also cited reports by unnamed assistant coaches who said they witnessed inappropriate contact between Sandusky and children, according to Pennlive.com. Glazer wrote there was "no evidence that reports of these incidents ever went further up the chain of command at PSU."

The allegations were made in victim depositions taken in the insurance case, but those depositions remain under seal, Pennlive.com reported.

In 2001, Paterno told high-ranking university officials that one of his assistant coaches reported seeing Sandusky acting inappropriately with a child in a team shower. In 2011, Paterno told a grand jury that he did not know of any other incidents involving Sandusky, who retired from Penn State in 1999.

Sandusky is appealing a decades-long sentence for abusing 10 boys during encounters that went back to the 1990s. He had met the boys through the children's charity he founded in 1977.

Evidence of earlier allegations had not previously come to light, though the university disclosed in November that it had settled a total of 32 claims regarding Sandusky allegations that were worth \$93 million.

Penn State spokesman Lawrence Lokman told Pennlive.com that university officials knew broadly of the allegations made in the insurance case, but refused to talk about the "specific circumstances" of people

who came forward in the settlement process.

Penn Staters for Responsible Stewardship, a group formed in the wake of the scandal to oust board members who voted to fire Paterno, released a statement calling for Penn State officials to produce all records related to the insurance case "so that they may be evaluated fairly and fully in an environment of complete transparency."

Paterno had an unparalleled coaching career at Penn State but was fired in the months between Sandusky's November 2011 arrest and his own death of lung cancer in January 2012.

Three administrators who worked with him as high-ranking university officials await trial on criminal charges for their handling of the Sandusky scandal.

An appeals court recently threw out many of the charges against former president Graham Spanier, former vice president Gary Schultz and former athletic director Tim Curley, and state prosecutors did not challenge that decision. No trial date is set.

On Thursday, Sandusky was granted a hearing as he pursues appeals in his 45-count child sexual abuse conviction.

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. ONE SURE THEME AT PARTY CONGRESS IN NORTH KOREA

Get ready for wall-to-wall praise of Kim Jong Un and his efforts to strengthen the North's nuclear-weapons program.

2. MILLIONS OF DOLLARS STORED AWAY TO TARGET TRUMP

Priorities USA, the lead super PAC backing Hillary Clinton, has already reserved \$91 million in television advertising that will start next month and continue through Election Day, the AP learns.

3. HOW AUTHORITIES HOPE TO MOVE PEOPLE DISPLACED BY WILDFIRE

Canadian officials will start shuttling thousands of people from work camps north of devastated Fort McMurray in a mass convoy if the highway is safe from the huge wildfire raging in Alberta.

4. MAN CONVICTED IN 'GRIM SLEEPER' SERIAL KILLINGS

Lonnie Franklin Jr., 63, shows no emotion as the verdicts are read in the Los Angeles court, while victims' family members quietly weep.

5. WHO COULD MAKE POLITICAL HISTORY IN LONDON

Sadiq Khan, a 45-year-old Labour lawmaker, is the favorite to be elected the city's mayor. He'd be the first Muslim to hold the job.

6. HUNDREDS OF MOURNERS GATHERING IN NEW MEXICO

They'll remember an 11-year-old girl who was killed after being abducted along her school bus route on the Navajo Nation.

7. NO LACK OF JOBS, DESPITE SLUGGISH ECONOMY

Most economists believe hiring in the U.S. will continue at a healthy clip, even as the economy has slowed to an anemic pace.

8. FRESH QUESTION RAISED ABOUT JOE PATERNO

Insurers in litigation with Penn State reportedly allege that a boy told the head football coach in 1976 that he had been molested by Jerry Sandusky.

9. LITTLE-KNOWN CZECH COMPANY RIDES VINYL WAVE

As vinyl records make a global comeback in popularity, GZ Media is establishing itself as one of the world's biggest record manufacturers.

10. WHY TV CHARACTER KEPT CALLING HIMSELF A 'REALTOR'

On ABC's "Modern Family," Phil Dunphy explains the difference between a Realtor and real estate agent — in a segment paid for by the Realtors association.

Triple Crown winner thriving in new home at Ashford Stud

RICHARD ROSENBLATT, AP Racing Writer

VERSAILLES, Ky. (AP) — American Pharoah is led out of his stone palace of a barn, head up, eyes alert, a little heavier these days but still pretty well sculpted. In a few minutes, the champion will be walked over to the breeding shed, a mere 50 yards away. By now, the Triple Crown winner has the routine down pat.

No more early morning workouts under the watchful eyes of trainer Bob Baffert. No Victor Espinoza asking the big bay for every ounce of energy over 11 grueling races in 17 months. No more huge media crowds around him, or cameras clicking away at his every move. No more parades at Churchill Downs or Santa Anita Park.

Welcome to paradise, also known as Coolmore Ashford Stud, a magnificent 2,000 acre empire in the heart of Bluegrass country. This is home to racing's first Triple Crown winner in 37 years, a luxurious resort for the first horse to win the Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont Stakes since Affirmed in 1978, and just the 12th in history.

The latest edition of the Derby is Saturday, about 75 miles away at Churchill Downs. Nyquist is the early 3-1 favorite in a full field of 20, carrying an unbeaten record into the race in which the winner becomes the only horse with a chance to duplicate Pharoah's feat.

Nyquist trainer Doug O'Neill is well aware that more fans are paying attention.

"They now have heard a lot about horse racing in the last year, year and a half and that's a credit to Pharoah," he said, "and hopefully Nyquist can carry the torch farther."

At Ashford, mares are carrying the torch for American Pharoah. Two days after winning the Breeders' Cup Classic in his final race at nearby Keeneland on Nov. 1, he arrived at his new home to much fanfare. When the breeding season started in mid-February, Pharoah was ready, willing and able. Since then, he's covered about 100 mares, and could double that amount by the end of the season in June. He commands a stud fee of \$200,000.

One thing hasn't changed.

"He's still as sweet and cuddly as he's always been," owner Ahmed Zayat said after a recent visit with American Pharoah. "He has taken to his new role like he did to the racetrack."

Here's a look at what's up with American Pharoah:

BABY BOOM

Breeding sessions are scheduled in the morning, afternoon and evening. There are 19 stallions at Ashford, and American Pharoah has shown he's a quick learner.

"He's a pro in the breeding shed," stallion manager Richard Barry said. "Everything has gone smoothly."

His first date was Untouched Talent, a broodmare who produced Bodemeister, a Zayat-owned horse who finished second in the 2012 Derby. She is expected to deliver Pharoah's first foal sometime in January.

Zayat has seen the breeding process.

"He's a champ, so nice. The girls love him," Zayat said. "He's as fertile as you can get at this point. Up to now, we've bred nine and they are all in foal, all pregnant. He's enjoying life. His condition is unreal and his coat shines."

If American Pharoah covers 175 mares in his first season — at \$200,000 each — he would bring in \$35 million for Coolmore, which bought breeding rights from Zayat last year. In his racing career, Pharoah earned \$8.6 million.

DAILY ROUTINE

When he first arrived at Ashford, American Pharoah was given a camp buddy, 1995 Derby winner Thunder Gulch. The thinking was an older, more experienced stallion would show the new kid the ropes of retirement. A little over five months later, "he's just one of the boys now," said Barry, "and has settled in to the same routine as all the other stallions.

"Thunder Gulch was an important part of that process and helped American Pharoah to settle but now

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that he has got the hang of everything Thunder Gulch's work is done," he added.

Currently, American Pharoah shares the same barn as Munnings, Giant's Causeway, Competitive Edge and Verrazano. It's the closest barn to the breeding shed.

As for his daily routine, it's not complicated. Breeding in the morning, out in the paddock afterward, then lunch. Back to the breeding shed, to the paddock, dinner, and then they are bedded down for the night. However, if a horse is "particularly busy," Barry said, there's an evening breeding session.

"Horses are creatures of habit and like a routine," Barry explained.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW

Zayat has been back and forth to Churchill Downs in the past week, but won't be at the Derby. He says he'll be home in New Jersey with his family. He was in Louisville to celebrate the opening of the American Pharoah exhibit at the Kentucky Derby Museum.

Baffert is in the thick of the Derby again with Mor Spirit. The four-time Derby winner is far from the center of attention, but he's been signing autographs all week on the backstretch. He and his wife, Jill, and their son Bode visited Pharoah this week, and also showed up at the Derby museum.

"It's always great to go there and get your Derby fix," he said. "This horse has such a following. There's a lot of things people are going to see that they didn't even know about."

Mor Spirit ran second in the Santa Anita Derby, and is 12-1 on the morning line.

Espinoza, meanwhile, picked up the ride aboard Whitmore for the Derby. He had not ridden in many Derby prep races, but was a last-minute replacement for Irad Ortiz, Jr., who will be riding My Man Sam. He, too, visited American Pharoah this week.

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Friday, May 6, the 127th day of 2016. There are 239 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 6, 1891, electrician Irwin "Ike" H. Hoover began installing the first electrical wiring in the White House during the administration of President Benjamin Harrison. (Hoover ended up being offered a full-time job as White House electrician, which he accepted; he later became the White House chief usher.)

On this date:

In 1889, the Paris Exposition formally opened, featuring the just-completed Eiffel Tower.

In 1910, Britain's Edwardian era ended with the death of King Edward VII; he was succeeded by George V.

In 1935, the Works Progress Administration began operating under an executive order signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1937, the hydrogen-filled German airship Hindenburg burned and crashed in Lakehurst, New Jersey, killing 35 of the 97 people on board and a Navy crewman on the ground.

In 1941, Josef Stalin assumed the Soviet premiership, replacing Vyacheslav M. Molotov. Comedian Bob Hope did his first USO show before an audience of servicemen as he broadcast his radio program from March Field in Riverside, California.

In 1942, during World War II some 15,000 Americans and Filipinos on Corregidor surrendered to Japanese forces.

In 1954, medical student Roger Bannister broke the four-minute mile during a track meet in Oxford, England, in 3:59.4.

In 1960, Britain's Princess Margaret married Antony Armstrong-Jones, a commoner, at Westminster Abbey. (They divorced in 1978.)

In 1966, The Rolling Stones single "Paint It, Black" was released in the U.S. by London Records (some sources say May 7).

In 1981, Yale architecture student Maya Ying Lin was named winner of a competition to design the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

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In 1994, former Arkansas state worker Paula Jones filed suit against President Bill Clinton, alleging he'd sexually harassed her in 1991. (Jones reached a settlement with Clinton in November 1998.) Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and French President Francois Mitterrand (frah-n-SWAH' mee-teh-RAHN') formally opened the Channel Tunnel between their countries.

In 2001, Pope John Paul II, during a visit to Syria, became the first pope to enter a mosque as he called for brotherhood between Christians and Muslims. American businessman Dennis Tito ended the world's first paid space vacation as he returned to Earth aboard a Russian capsule.

Ten years ago: A British military helicopter apparently hit by a missile crashed in Basra, Iraq, killing four crew members. Barbaro won the Kentucky Derby. Lillian Gertrud Asplund, the last American survivor of the sinking of the Titanic, died in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, at age 99.

Five years ago: Brimming with pride, President Barack Obama met with the U.S. commandos he'd sent after terror mastermind Osama bin Laden during a visit to Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Al-Qaida vowed to keep fighting the United States and avenge the death of bin Laden, which it acknowledged for the first time in an Internet statement.

One year ago: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu completed formation of a new governing coalition. The NFL released a 243-report on "Deflategate" that stopped short of calling Patriots quarterback Tom Brady a cheater, but did call some of his claims "implausible" and left little doubt that he'd had a role in having footballs deflated before New England's AFC title game against Indianapolis and probably in previous games. Former U.S. House Speaker Jim Wright, 92, died in Fort Worth, Texas. Errol Brown, 71, lead singer of the band Hot Chocolate, died in the Bahamas.

Today's Birthdays: Baseball Hall-of-Famer Willie Mays is 85. Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., is 82. Rock singer Bob Seger is 71. Singer Jimmie Dale Gilmore is 71. Gospel singer-comedian Lulu Roman is 70. Actor Alan Dale is 69. Actor Ben Masters is 69. Actor Richard Cox is 68. Actor Gregg Henry is 64. Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair is 63. TV personality Tom Bergeron is 61. Actress Roma Downey is 56. Rock singer John Flansburgh (They Might Be Giants) is 56. Actress Julianne Phillips is 56. Actor-director George Clooney is 55. Actor Clay O'Brien is 55. Rock singer-musician Tony Scalzo (Fastball) is 52. Actress Leslie Hope is 51. Rock musician Mark Bryan (Hootie and the Blowfish) is 49. Rock musician Chris Shiflett (Foo Fighters) is 45. Actress Stacey Oristano is 37. Model/TV personality Tiffany Coyne (TV: "Let's Make a Deal") is 34. Actress Adrienne Palicki is 33. Actress Gabourey Sidibe (GA'-bah-ray SIH'-duh-bay) is 33. Actress-comedian Sasheer Zamata is 30. Actress-singer Naomi Scott is 23.

Thought for Today: "To know your ruling passion, examine your castles in the air." — Richard Whately, English clergyman (1787-1863).

Los Angeles man guilty in 10 'Grim Sleeper' serial killings

BRIAN MELLEY, Associated Press

AMANDA LEE MYERS, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A former Los Angeles trash collector was convicted Thursday of 10 counts of murder in the "Grim Sleeper" serial killings that targeted poor, young black women over two decades.

Lonnie Franklin Jr. showed no emotion as the verdicts were read and family members who had wondered if they would ever see justice quietly wept and dabbed their eyes with tissues in the gallery.

"We got him," exclaimed Porter Alexander Jr., whose daughter Alicia, 18, was shot and choked. Her body was found under a mattress in an alley in September 1988. "It took a long time. By the grace of God it happened. It's such a relief."

Prosecutors will seek the death penalty during the second phase of trial scheduled to start May 12.

Franklin, 63, was also found guilty of one count of attempted murder for shooting a woman in the chest and dumping her body from his orange Ford Pinto two months after Alexander's killing. The survivor, Enietra Washington, provided a link to seven previous slayings and was a key witness at trial.

The killings from 1985 to 2007 were dubbed the work of the "Grim Sleeper" because of an apparent 14-year gap after Washington's shooting, though prosecutors now think he never rested and there were

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other victims during that span.

The crimes went unsolved for decades and community members complained that police ignored the victims because of their race and the fact some were prostitutes and drug users.

Much of the violence unfolded during the nation's crack cocaine epidemic when at least two other serial killers prowled the area then known as South Central.

The 10 victims, including a 15-year-old girl, were fatally shot or strangled and dumped in alleys and garbage bins. Most had traces of cocaine in their systems.

The cases were reopened after the last killing when a task force was assigned to revisit cases dozens of officers failed to solve in the 1980s. The team compiled ballistics evidence and DNA testing that hadn't been available at the time of the first killings.

Franklin, a onetime trash collector in the area and a garage attendant for the Los Angeles Police Department, had been hiding in plain sight, said Deputy District Attorney Beth Silverman.

He was connected to the crimes after DNA from a son, collected after a felony arrest, showed similarities to genetic material left on the bodies of many of the victims.

An officer posing as a busboy retrieved pizza crusts and napkins with Franklin's DNA while he was celebrating at a birthday party.

It proved a match with material found on the breasts and clothing of many of the women and on the zip tie of a trash bag that held the curled-up body of the final victim, Janecia Peters. She was found Jan. 1, 2007, by someone rifling through a dumpster who noticed her red fingernails through a hole in the bag.

Silverman described the victims as sisters, daughters and mothers who suffered frailties but had hopes and dreams.

She projected photos of the 10 women from happier days, many smiling from headshots that captured their youth and hairstyles of the times. The images were in stark contrast to gory crime scene and autopsy photos also displayed of half-naked bodies sprawled among garbage — images that made family members wince, weep and recoil.

Samara Herard, the sister of the youngest victim, Princess Berthomieux, said there were things she didn't want to see during the trial and had to hold her head down at times, but was elated with the verdict.

"I wanted to remember the sweet little girl who had her whole life in front of her," Herard said. "She had a heart of gold and she deserved to live a full life."

Defense lawyer Seymour Amster challenged what he called "inferior science" of DNA and ballistics evidence. During his closing argument, he introduced a new theory: a "mystery man with a mystery gun and mystery DNA" was responsible for all the killings. He said the man was a "nephew" of Franklin's who was jealous because his uncle had better luck with women, though he offered no supporting evidence or any name.

Amster based the theory on the testimony of the sole known survivor, Washington, who crawled to safety after being shot in Franklin's flashy Pinto. She testified that her assailant said he had to stop at his "uncle's house" for money before the attack.

Silverman scoffed at the "mystery nephew" notion, saying it was as rational an explanation as a space ship dropping from the sky and killing the women. She said Franklin had lied to Washington and was probably stopping at his house to get his gun.

Washington later led police to Franklin's street, but not his house.

The attack fit the pattern of other killings and showed how the killer carried out the crimes, Silverman said. The bullet removed from Washington's chest came from the same gun used to shoot the seven previous victims and she provided a detail that would later prove telling.

Washington described how her attacker took a Polaroid photo of her as she was losing consciousness. Police searching Franklin's house more than two decades later found a snapshot of the wounded Washington slouched over in a car with a breast exposed.

The Polaroid was hidden behind a wall in his garage.

Arsenio Hall sues Sinead O'Connor for libel over Prince post

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Arsenio Hall is suing Sinead O'Connor over a Facebook post in which the singer accused him of furnishing Prince with drugs.

The comedian's libel lawsuit filed Thursday in Los Angeles Superior Court calls O'Connor's accusations fabricated lies. The lawsuit states O'Connor, who scored a hit in 1990 with her rendition of Prince's "Nothing Compares 2 U," barely knew the superstar and despised him.

O'Connor wrote a Facebook post Monday that stated investigators looking into the supplier of drugs used by Prince should question Hall. She also accused him of drugging her.

O'Connor's agent did not immediately return an email message seeking comment.

The lawsuit seeks more than \$5 million in damages but any award would be decided by a jury. The case was first reported by celebrity website TMZ.

Towery, who won '55 Pulitzer Prize for local reporting, dies

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Ken Towery, a small-town Texas journalist who won the 1955 Pulitzer Prize for local reporting at the tiny Cuero Daily Record, has died. He was 93.

Lennie Gilroy of Austin said his father-in-law died at an Austin assisted living center early Monday after a lengthy period of declining health.

Towery won the Pulitzer for a series of articles exposing corruption at the Texas Veterans Land Board that helped imprison longtime Land Commissioner James Bascom Giles.

Before joining the Cuero Record, Towery had served with the U.S. Army in the Philippines. He was captured by Japanese troops overrunning the island fortress Corregidor in 1942 and spent the next 3½ years as a prisoner of war.

Trump says he was surprised by Paul Ryan's rebuff

STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

ERICA WERNER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump says he was surprised by House Speaker Paul Ryan's declaration that he wasn't ready to support Trump as the presumptive Republican presidential nominee.

Trump tells the Fox & Friends news show the rejection doesn't bother him. Still, Trump says, Ryan's refusal to swing behind him is "not a good thing" and "something the party should get solved quickly."

Trump says he's meeting with Ryan next week, possibly on Wednesday. As for whom he wants to be his running mate, Trump would only say that the person will have to be a Republican, not a Democrat.

Scotland's independence party scores well but no majority

PAUL KELBIE, Associated Press

GLASGOW, Scotland (AP) — The pro-independence Scottish National Party Friday secured another term in government with an historic third consecutive victory in Scotland's parliamentary elections but fell short of an outright majority.

In a startling reversal, the Conservative Party scored more seats in the Scottish Parliament than the Labour Party, highlighting Labour's hard times.

The SNP, which advocates independence for Scotland, won 63 seats; the Conservatives took 31 to Labour's 24.

SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon called the party's position "historic" as crowds cheered the results.

"The SNP has won a third consecutive Scottish Parliament election. That has never been done before in the history of the Scottish Parliament. We have tonight made history," she said.

Still, the party will have to make deals with smaller parties or form some sort of coalition to govern effectively.

Just 20 months after losing the independence referendum, in which Scottish voters retained ties to the United Kingdom, the SNP has enjoyed a surge in popularity under Sturgeon's leadership, sparking speculation that another independence referendum may be possible.

In contrast the Labour Party, which had been the official opposition in the Scottish Parliament since 2007, scored its worst-ever result, losing out to the Conservatives for the first time in 60 years.

Labour leader Kezia Dugdale, conceding defeat, admitted the election was always going to be tough for Labour following last year's painful general election setback.

She blamed continuing divisions in Scotland over independence for her party's poor showing.

"I know that for some the constitutional argument remains the most important factor when casting their vote and my determination to try and move the Scottish debate on will have cost me and my party votes tonight," she said.

The Labour Party defeat was seen as a blow to Jeremy Corbyn, who took over the party leadership in the fall.

The Green Party won six seats and the Liberal Democrats won five.

Israel retaliates to Gaza fire with strikes on Hamas targets

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's military says its aircraft struck infrastructure in Gaza used by the militant group Hamas that rules the coastal territory after gunmen there continued to fire mortars at forces along the border.

Friday's fire comes after three days of violence in which Gaza militants fired mortars, prompting Israeli retaliatory fire. Palestinian attacks intensified after Israel uncovered a tunnel Thursday stretching from Gaza into Israel.

Military spokesman Lt. Col. Peter Lerner said, "The repeated attacks against the IDF activities to locate and destroy cross border tunnels will not be tolerated. Hamas' diabolical plan to infiltrate into Israeli communities must be stopped."

The recent violence has been among some of the most serious violence between Gaza and Israel since 2014. Hamas used tunnels to attack Israel during that 50-day war.

Gucci sorry for warning to Hong Kong funeral offering shops

HONG KONG (AP) — Gucci and its parent company apologized Friday after drawing heavy criticism for warning some Hong Kong shops not to sell paper offerings for the deceased that resembled the fashion brand's luxury products.

The brand and its Paris-based owner, Kering, also said in a statement that they regretted any misunderstanding caused by the letters, which were sent to six shops last month.

After meeting with the shop owners, "Kering and Gucci would like to reiterate their utmost respect with regards to the funeral context," the statement said.

In Hong Kong and some other parts of Asia, people burn paper offerings at funerals and during grave-sweeping festivals for deceased relatives to "use" in the afterlife.

Specialty shops near funeral parlors sell a diverse array of paper offerings, including bundles of "hell money," mansions, iPhones, cars, cigarettes and designer handbags, cans of beer and soda, mahjong tables and dogs and cats.

The letters, which were sent as part of the companies' global intellectual property protection efforts, did not suggest legal action or compensation because they did not believe the shop owners intended to infringe on the Gucci trademark, the statement said.

Gucci operates 11 boutiques in Hong Kong and is one of the brands most coveted by shoppers, including many visiting from mainland China, where luxury goods are more expensive because of higher taxes.

AP Analysis: For Republicans fearing Trump, Ryan offers out

JULIE PACE, AP White House Correspondent

An AP News Analysis

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Within the span of a single hour, Donald Trump gave Republicans wary of his presidential nomination yet another reason to worry — and House Speaker Paul Ryan tried to give them a way out.

In a surprise rebuke, Ryan announced Thursday that he was “just not ready” to support Trump, who became the presumptive Republican presidential nominee this week after a big win in Indiana forced his remaining rivals from the race. Ryan told CNN that his party should have a leader who “appeals to a vast majority of Americans.”

Just before Ryan’s stunning statement, Trump attempted to make that kind of appeal — in his own eyebrow-raising way. The billionaire businessman sent a tweet from his Trump Tower office featuring a picture of him eating a taco bowl and declaring his affection for one of America’s fastest-growing and politically powerful minority groups.

“I love Hispanics!” Trump wrote. He noted that he sent the message on Cinco de Mayo, a holiday marking the Mexican Army’s victory over the French in 1862.

Trump’s ode to the taco bowl may have been sent with good intentions. But it reflected a political tone deafness that worries some Republican leaders as they not only weigh the real estate mogul’s prospects in the general election, but also how far they should go in linking themselves to his candidacy.

To some Hispanic leaders, Trump’s tweet was offensive and patronizing, the latest stumble from a candidate who has deeply offended many in their community.

“Eating a taco or wearing a sombrero doesn’t cut it w/our community in 2016,” Janet Murguia, president of the National Council of La Raza, the nation’s largest Hispanic civil rights organization, said on Twitter.

Vicente Fox, the former president of Mexico, who has clashed with Trump over his signature proposal to build a wall between the two nations, joked that he saw that Trump is “now having some enchiladas and some Mexican food. I hope that he will not get indigestion.”

To be sure, Trump’s enthusiastic support from Republican primary voters — they skew whiter and older — is rooted in part in his willingness to cross lines of political correctness and flout traditional campaign decorum. But the voters Trump will face in his November race, likely against Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton, will be far more diverse.

Trump already enters the general election struggling mightily with Hispanics, many of whom strongly oppose his call for building a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border and deporting the millions of people in the United States illegally.

In an Associated Press-GfK poll conducted in early April, 82 percent of Hispanics had an unfavorable opinion of Trump and just 11 percent had a favorable opinion. At least 7 in 10 Hispanics said words including honest, civil, compassionate, competent and likable don’t describe Trump even slightly well.

Ryan, a Wisconsin lawmaker and the Republican Party’s vice presidential nominee in 2012, has been among the GOP leaders pushing for an overhaul of U.S. immigration laws. He has also supported measures that would give legal status to those already in the country illegally.

Some Republicans see immigration as a threshold issue for Hispanic voters, and say their party stands little chance of having broad appeal with Hispanics unless it addresses the nation’s fractured approach to immigration. Mitt Romney won less than 30 percent of Hispanics in his loss to President Barack Obama in the 2012 election.

Those stark political realities pose one of the biggest problems for Ryan and other GOP officials trying to gauge how supporting Trump in the short-term could impact their party — and, of course, their own political futures — in years to come. That’s a particular concern for Ryan, who passed on running for president this year but is already being eyed for a run in 2020.

Other prominent Republicans took similar steps to distance themselves from Trump this week, including former Presidents George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush, who both made clear they would not be helping their party’s nominee. But as the nation’s highest elected Republican, Ryan’s words have particular

resonance and could give others in his party cover to take a similar stance.

Of course, Ryan may yet come around on Trump; he told CNN "there's a lot of questions conservatives are going to want answers to." One of the first big-name Republicans to back Trump, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, said Thursday: "Donald's got work to do to bring people together. I'm going to reach out to the speaker and see what his concerns are."

But Trump made clear later Thursday that he won't be waiting around.

"I am not ready to support Speaker Ryan's agenda," Trump said. "Perhaps in the future we can work together and come to an agreement about what is best for the American people."

Democratic advertising blitz awaits GOP's Trump

CHAD DAY, Associated Press

JULIE BYKOWICZ, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Long before Donald Trump swatted away his Republican presidential rivals, his likely Democratic opponent and her allies began laying traps for him.

Priorities USA, the lead super PAC backing Hillary Clinton, has already reserved \$91 million in television advertising that will start next month and continue through Election Day. In addition, Clinton's campaign and Priorities USA have both debuted online videos that cast Trump in a negative light — a preview of what voters will see on TV over the next six months.

So far, Priorities USA is the only group on either side that has rolled out such an ambitious advertising plan geared toward the general election. The group's leaders say they're trying to avoid what they see as the core mistake made by Trump's Republican rivals — not pushing hard enough against him until it was too late.

"There's a reason that we have a head start," said Justin Barasky, a Priorities USA spokesman, "and it's that we've taken Donald Trump seriously all along, unlike the Republicans."

The group's ad strategy will test what has been a hallmark of Trump's GOP primary rise: his ability to withstand — even thrive in the face of — tens of millions of dollars in attack ads.

An Associated Press review of Priorities USA's TV buys, collected by Kantar Media's Campaign Media Analysis Group, reveals a formidable 22-week advertising blitz through what the group considers key battleground states: Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Nevada, New Hampshire, Ohio and Virginia.

In those states, Priorities USA will start ads in major metropolitan areas, then broaden its outreach to smaller cities as the November election approaches. The group will also start ads on satellite TV in September.

According to the CMAG data, Priorities USA plans to spend about \$4 million a week through most of June. The group then slows spending through July, taking off the weeks of the Republican and Democratic conventions, when widespread television coverage essentially provides free media time for the candidates.

Priorities USA returns to the airwaves in August and begins unloading \$60 million in ads between September and Election Day. The week of the election, Priorities USA plans to spend about \$8 million in the seven battleground states.

The heaviest concentration is in Florida, where the group has reserved \$23 million in time, mostly in Orlando and in Tampa.

The group also plans to spend about \$19.5 million in the traditional presidential bellwether state of Ohio. More than half is for Cleveland, Akron and Columbus.

There's no substantive GOP counterweight to the pro-Clinton effort — partly because Trump has repeatedly trashed big donors and called the outside groups that can raise unlimited money from them "corrupt."

As the presumptive GOP nominee, Trump is now beginning his outreach to donors. But even if he fully embraces outside help, he's far behind: One super PAC backing him, Great America, was almost \$700,000 in debt at the end of March.

Another group that was a major player in the 2012 race, American Crossroads, is still "evaluating what our specific role will be," said spokesman Ian Prior.

Television ads are only one part of Priorities USA's strategy. It is putting at least \$35 million into online

advertising between June and Election Day, Barasky said. Those ads will largely aim to drive up turnout among core Democratic groups: African-Americans, Hispanics, women and younger voters, Barasky said.

Trump is already getting a taste of what some these ads will say.

On Thursday, Priorities USA overlaid audio of Trump talking about “unifying” the Republican Party with images of violence that has erupted inside and outside of his massive rallies. “I think we’re going to win in November,” Trump says at the end. “NOPE,” reads text on the screen. “Vote for Hillary Clinton.”

That follows an online video the Clinton campaign put out Wednesday that features clips of prominent Republicans, including his former rivals, bashing Trump in every possible way.

“He needs therapy,” says former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush at the end of the spot.

Behind closed doors, North Korea opens ruling party congress

ERIC TALMADGE, Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — North Korea on Friday opened the first full congress of its ruling party since 1980, a major political event intended to showcase the country’s stability and unity under young leader Kim Jong Un despite international criticism and tough new sanctions over the North’s recent nuclear test and a slew of missile launches.

North Korea’s information committee said the congress began Friday morning. More than 100 foreign journalists — brought in to give the event a global audience — were bused to the venue but were allowed to view it only from outside. No one but presumably the thousands of delegates and officials were allowed inside the ornate April 25 House of Culture, draped in red party banners and flags.

The congress promises to be the country’s biggest political show in years, if not decades. Pyongyang, the capital, has been spruced up, and large groups of students and workers could be seen around the city as a light rain fell Friday. They were preparing for parades and rallies that are to be held in conjunction with the political theater going on inside the congress hall.

Kim Jong Un, grandson of national founder and “eternal president” Kim Il Sung, is officially presiding over the congress, though North Korea has announced precious few details of what it will entail.

The last time North Korea’s ruling party held a full congress was in 1980, before Kim Jong Un was even born.

It has held other big meetings since — notably in 2010 and 2012 — but all six previous congresses came under Kim Il Sung, who died in 1994. This congress provides a major opportunity for Kim Jong Un, who is still largely a mystery to the outside world and has yet to travel abroad or meet any world leaders, to step out of the shadows of his grandfather and father, Kim Jong Il.

Though it remained unclear Friday whether Kim Jong Un would address the congress or when, he has patterned himself more closely after his charismatic grandfather than Kim Jong Il, his notoriously reticent father, who almost never spoke in public.

The congress is expected to tout his successes on the nuclear front and promise economic improvements to boost the nation’s standard of living — two themes that the state media hit hard as the congress approached. Mostly, however, the congress is about Kim himself, and putting him front and center in the eyes of the people and the party as the country’s sole leader.

“Now we are greeting the new era of Marshal Kim Jong Un,” said Choe Un Su, a 75-year-old retiree. “We should make the American soldiers get out of South Korea and under the leadership of our marshal we can open up the path of reunification.”

Though some personnel shuffling and economic policy tweaks may be forthcoming, Pyongyang has made been clear it has no intention of backing down on its nuclear development program.

Hours before the ruling party’s congress, the North’s state-run Korean Central News Agency boasted of the country’s military achievements that followed its nuclear test and long-range rocket launch earlier this year, including claimed advancements in developing nuclear warheads, missile re-entry vehicles and long-range rocket engines.

It said the congress would be a historic celebration because the guidance of Kim Jong Un has elevated the country into a “nuclear, space power” and pushed into the “absolute prime” of its efforts to build a

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“thriving nation.”

On paper, the congress is the party’s highest-level decision-making body, though the real decisions are made by Kim and his inner circle. The delegates at the congress — who will probably number in the thousands — will be there more to endorse than debate.

But it will likely provide some insights into what Kim’s priorities are, and who he wants to help him carry them out.

“The significance of the 7th Congress of the Workers’ Party of Korea is that it will be a turning point in our revolution,” professor Song Dong Won of North Korea’s Academy of Social Sciences told an Associated Press television crew in Pyongyang. He said the congress would present “the successes of the last 30 years” and a “brilliant plan for the ultimate success of our revolution.”

More than any major policy surprises, the congress is likely to be a forum for the expression of loyalty to Kim and of his dual guns-and-butter policy of developing North Korea’s nuclear weapons while also building its domestic economy. That strategy has become his trademark, but many outside economists believe it can’t work because of the heavy price the nuclear program brings in international sanctions.

Another important feature of the congress may be who gets titles, or loses them.

Many analysts expect Kim to replace the party’s old guard with younger elites loyal to him.

He may formally elevate his younger sister, Kim Yo Jong, to a position that would essentially make her his second-in-command. Believed to be in her late 20s, she is currently a vice department director at the party’s Central Committee and frequently appears at her brother’s public events, standing out amid elderly male officials.

South Korea’s latest online celebrities: Stray cats eating

YOUKYUNG LEE, Associated Press

YONG JUN CHANG, Associated Press

JANGSEONG, South Korea (AP) — The stars of the latest online trend in South Korea stay out of sight most of the day. Viewers don’t seem to mind waiting for hours while nothing happens. When the stray cats finally come to eat the food left out for them, people watching online sit enraptured by their feline charms.

The livestreamed “Cats Meok Bang” show is a twist on an online trend of young South Korean men and women tucking into feasts in real time, while viewers send messages and sometimes virtual cash. In a country where young adults increasingly live and dine alone, the shows have become so popular, some hosts have made small or big fortunes from the virtual cash sent from viewers.

While the stars of those programs seek a rapport with their fans, cat TV has gained viewers despite its uneventfulness. Some avid fans say they quit watching soap operas, reading online news or playing mobile phone game to watch. One says instead of smoking every time he gets stressed at work, watching the cats restores his peace of mind. While cats have generally fascinated the Internet, a show devoted to watching them eat is unusual. But it has helped change negative images of stray cats in South Korea, which has traditionally seen them as thieves.

“Cats Meok Bang,” a mash-up of the Korean words for broadcasting and eating, began by accident. While visiting his mother-in-law in a mountainous village in southwestern Korea, Koo Eun-je saw a cat outside, wondered how it survived and put out leftover fish for it. The next day, the cat was back so Koo kept feeding him, and the others who followed. Finally, he set up a surveillance camera and livestreamed the scene online.

“We started the channel simply for me and my wife to watch, but other viewers also started watching it,” the 35-year-old who previously worked as a web designer said in an interview near the lake where he goes bass fishing for the cats. “We guessed that there would be one or two cats, but now it turns out that 17 cats are coming to eat food.”

Four months on, 110,000 South Koreans watched the show on a monthly average and more than 10,000 of them have bookmarked the show. Some viewers sent him virtual cash items, which help cover his living expenses and cat food. Others send food and donations to Koo. As his cat TV got popular, at least one copycat show emerged.

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Koo has turned the area outside the family home into what he calls "a restaurant for cats." Its decorations change regularly. A chalkboard features the day's menu, and about a dozen cats' nicknames are written on a piece of paper. A fish bowl and trays of food sits on a pink blanket covering the ground. Everything is at a standstill except a pinwheel spinning in the background and small toys, a rubber duck and sometimes hula dancers, in the foreground. Serene music plays from a speaker. Larger toys like a Hello Kitty doll are in the background, and beyond them are rice and pepper farms and a patch of sky.

Sometimes birds fly by. Other times, Koo's mother-in-law is seen sweeping outside the house. Once or twice a day, Koo appears onscreen, replenishing the food.

When a cat finally enters the scene, viewers share their excitement, exchange live chats, call out the cat's name and tell them to eat well.

"They are like unexpected joy suddenly visiting you," said Park Tae-kyung, a 33-year-old computer graphic designer in Seoul. For the past two months, Park said she played the cat TV all day at work on a computer screen and watched the show before going to bed. When she spotted a cat at work, her colleagues rushed to the screen to stare at it.

During the slow hours after patients leave his office, Yoo Young Hoon, a 49-year-old physician in Seoul, said he always plays the cat TV on the screen next to the medical chart. The show has replaced his time on Facebook and his day is full of newfound cat-related activities although he still does not plan to adopt one.

"I was never fond of cats before," he said. "Now when I take a walk after lunch, I go to places where I might run into street cats."

The only game he plays, he said, is Neko Atsume, the popular mobile game where users collect and feed cats.

Unlike dogs that are considered loyal to their owners, cats do not have a positive image in South Korea. Stray cats are called "thief cats" because they are believed to survive by stealing food from humans. They are unwelcomed creatures who scavenge rubbish. Many of South Korea's older generations still view cats as a wicked, untrustworthy animal.

But viewers of the cat TV said they began paying attention to those animals roaming around the street with affection.

"I always walked looking straight ahead. But now once in a while I look down, like beneath a car, to see what kind of cats live near my house," Park said. "When looked closely, those street cats were full of charms."

Fortunately, the reactions from Koo's mostly elderly neighbors were heart-warming.

"They were surprised how devotedly the meals were prepared," Koo, the host of the cat TV, said. "I wish the show would be remembered as a channel that people can blankly stare the cats eating and rid their stress and worries from life."

Asian shares lower ahead of closely watched US jobs report

YURI KAGEYAMA, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian markets were mostly lower in nervous trading Friday ahead of a closely watched U.S. jobs-report that may influence interest rate decisions and the value of the U.S. dollar.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 edged down 0.8 percent to 16,014.19 as Tokyo resumed trading after the three-day "Golden Week" national holidays. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 edged 0.1 percent higher to 5,349.50, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng index slipped 1 percent to 20,247.21. The Shanghai Composite inched down 0.1 percent to 2,995.01. Markets were closed in South Korea for a national holiday.

WALL STREET: The Dow Jones industrial average rose 9.45 points, or less than 0.1 percent, to 17,660.71. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 0.49 of a point, less than 0.1 percent, to 2,050.63 and the Nasdaq composite lost 8.55 points, or 0.2 percent, to 4,717.09.

U.S. JOBS: The market's focus is turning to the U.S. jobs report for April due out later in the day. Investors are watching to see if it might affect the Federal Reserve's plans for raising interest rates at its next policy meeting in June. Economists expect the report to show jobs grew by 200,000 last month while the

unemployment rate stayed at 5 percent.

THE QUOTE: "The key theme this week has been that the U.S. dollar managed to hold on to its gains across major currencies," said Alex Wijaya, senior sales trader & institutional sales at CMC Markets Singapore of the U.S. dollar. "The biggest question is how the U.S. dollar will perform tonight in light of the U.S. non-farm payrolls announcement."

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude oil lost 8 cents to \$44.24 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It gained 54 cents on Thursday to \$44.32 a barrel. Brent crude, used to price international oils, was down 3 cents at \$44.98 a barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The euro fell to \$1.1405 from \$1.1490 and the dollar rose to 107.13 yen from 107.10 yen.

Canada evacuating 8,000 wildfire evacuees by air

FORT MCMURRAY, Alberta (AP) — Canadian officials began evacuating 8,000 people from work camps north of devastated Fort McMurray by air on Thursday and hoped to move thousands more via a highway convoy Friday if it is safe from a massive wildfire raging in Alberta that has grown to 85,000 hectares (210,035 acres).

More than 80,000 people have emptied Fort McMurray in the heart of Canada's oil sands, authorities said.

The Alberta government, which declared a state of emergency, said more than 1,100 firefighters, 145 helicopters, 138 pieces of heavy equipment and 22 air tankers were fighting a total of 49 wildfires, with seven considered out of control. Chad Morrison with AB Wildfire, manager of wildfire prevention, said the fire continued to grow but is moving away from Fort McMurray and the rate of its growth has slowed.

About 25,000 evacuees moved north in the hours after Tuesday's mandatory evacuation, where oil sands work camps were converted to house people. But the bulk of the more than 80,000 evacuees fled south to Edmonton and elsewhere, and officials are moving everyone south where they can get better support services.

Officials had flown 4,000 evacuees to Edmonton and Calgary by Thursday evening and expected to fly 4,000 more by the end of the day. They hoped the highway would become safe enough on Friday to move the remaining people out via the south. It wasn't safe Thursday. A helicopter will lead the evacuation convoy on Friday morning to make sure the highway is safe. It will pass through Fort McMurray where the fire has torched 1,600 homes and other buildings.

Alberta Premier Rachel Notley said the first convoy will be 400 vehicles and officials would see how that goes.

There have been no injuries or death in the province from the fires. Notley said financial support will be provided to Albertans and that cash cards may be made available for evacuated residents.

The Alberta government also declared a province-wide fire ban in an effort to reduce the risk of more blazes in a province that is very hot and dry.

Morrison said rain is needed.

"Let me be clear: air tankers are not going to stop this fire," he said. "It is going to continue to push through these dry conditions until we actually get some significant rain."

The fire remained wrapped around the western and southern edges of the city. No rain clouds were expected around Fort McMurray until late Saturday, with 40 percent chance of showers, according to online forecasts by Environment Canada.

Notley said she didn't know how much better the evacuation could have been when asked if ample warning was given to residents, noting that in 48 hours more than 80,000 people were evacuated from a town that essentially has two roads out of it.

Fort McMurray is surrounded by wilderness and is Canada's main oil sands town. Despite the size of the town and its importance to the Canadian economy, there are essentially only two ways out via car. The region has the third largest reserves of oil in the world behind Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.

Aided by high winds, scorching heat and low humidity, the fire grew from 75 square kilometers (29 square miles) Tuesday to 100 square kilometers (38.6 square miles) on Wednesday, but by Thursday it was almost nine times that — at 850 square kilometers (328.2 square miles). That's an area roughly the

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size of Calgary — Alberta's largest city.

Unseasonably hot temperatures combined with dry conditions have transformed the boreal forest in much of Alberta into a tinder box. Morrison said they are investigating the cause of the fire but he said it started in a remote forested area and said it could have been lightning.

A combination of factors conspired to make this wildfire especially ferocious, said Bill Patzert, a climatologist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California. The El Nino global weather system brought Alberta a mild winter and low snowpack, he said. Patzert said the flames sparked at a time between the snowy season and before springtime rains that turn the landscape green, making the region especially vulnerable to wildfire.

"In a way, it's a perfect storm," Patzert said. "It's been warm, it's been dry and windy. It's the in-between period before you're in the full bloom of spring."

The fire is driving one of the largest evacuations in North America in recent memory, said Bill Stewart, co-director of the University of California's Center for Fire Research and Outreach at the University of California, Berkeley.

With few exceptions in the United States, an entire town hasn't been threatened on this scale for more than 100 years, he said.

"You could add five times the number of firefighters, but you can't get all the embers," he said. "There's no way to put out every ember flying over firefighters' heads."

Fort McMurray resident Fahed Labek, whose relatives from war-torn Syria recently migrated to northern Alberta as refugees, said his family has escaped one fire for another. Labek fled the encroaching wildfire two days ago with family members, who arrived in Canada in late February.

Labek, who made it to Edmonton after a harrowing journey, is concerned the refugees are enduring additional trauma after leaving the Middle East. But he said he's taking solace in the helpfulness of Canadians now assisting the tens of thousands of forest fire evacuees.

The fire has dealt a blow to the region's crude production, with companies curtailing production or stopping altogether. Notley, the province premier, said the infrastructure for oil and gas production remains largely unaffected. What's slowing down production is that their employees are not there, she said.

The airport only suffered minor damage because of the "herculean" efforts of firefighters, said Scott Long of the Alberta Emergency Management Agency. Firefighters have focused on protecting key infrastructure like the water treatment plant, the hospital and the airport. Crews water bombed the city Thursday.

Trump strains to unite GOP behind him; Ryan says no, for now

JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

JULIE BYKOWICZ, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Donald Trump is struggling in his efforts to unify the Republican Party behind his presidential campaign, the difficulty immediately underscored Thursday by a startling exchange of negative comments with GOP House Speaker Paul Ryan who said he was not ready to support him.

Although Trump is now the party's presumptive nominee, Ryan said Thursday: "I'm just not ready to do that at this point. I'm not there right now." Still, he added: "I hope to. And I want to," in comments on CNN's "The Lead."

Trump responded, in a statement released by his campaign, that he was "not ready to support" Ryan's agenda as the party's leader in the U.S. House. "Perhaps in the future we can work together and come to an agreement about what is best for the American people," he said.

Two days after the Indiana primary all but sealed Trump's victory as the man who will lead the GOP ticket in November, he is appealing to big-money donors he blasted during the primaries as he takes his first steps toward raising the massive amounts of cash he'll need for the general election campaign.

That effort was hardly helped by the rejection — for now — by Ryan, the Wisconsin congressman who was Mitt Romney's running mate in 2012. In addition, Romney and former President George W. Bush said

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they do not plan to attend the party's national convention in July.

Trump is aiming to broaden his primary insurgency into a full-fledged general election campaign, reaching out to party heavyweights and trying to repair his sometimes strained relationships with the Republican National Committee.

Upbeat still, Trump said in a brief interview with The Associated Press that his message has made the GOP "the hottest party around."

His campaign is trying to convert that energy into dollars.

On Thursday, Trump named a finance chairman, Steven Mnuchin, a private investor with ties to New York and Hollywood. Mnuchin "brings unprecedented experience and expertise" to the fundraising operation, the campaign said.

And Trump is taking pains to reassure party leaders that he wants to help Republican Senate and House candidates, some of whom are openly worried that Trump at the top of the GOP ticket will be a drag on their own campaigns.

Earlier this week, Trump's final GOP foes, Ted Cruz and John Kasich, dropped out, clearing his path. Still, many party leaders, including Ryan, Bush and Romney, are keeping Trump at arm's length.

Their reluctance to embrace him sends an unmistakable signal to their fundraising networks, which include most of the GOP's best-connected donors.

"You might have a lot of these donors sit on the sidelines," said Spencer Zwick, who led Romney's fundraising efforts and now serves as Ryan's national finance chairman.

Trump, a billionaire who paid for most of his primary campaign by himself, acknowledges he would have to sell some of his holdings to muster the hundreds of millions of dollars for a general election bid, something he says he doesn't necessarily want to do.

He said Thursday he would be "putting up substantial money toward the general election," following the \$36 million in loans he previously made.

Yet he's also beginning to take a more traditional route for his likely battle with Hillary Clinton, a Democratic fundraising powerhouse.

Mnuchin, who has never led a major political fundraising team, faces a gargantuan task.

Many major GOP donors have never heard of him — or even know how to pronounce his name (muh-NOO-chihn). Like his new boss Trump, Mnuchin has a record of giving both to Republicans and Democrats — including Clinton during her 2008 presidential run.

Anthony Scaramucci, a New York investor and Republican donor, said Mnuchin, a friend with homes in New York and California, has Wall Street and Hollywood ties and "is a great team-builder." Scaramucci, who earlier raised money for failed GOP candidates Scott Walker and Jeb Bush, said he plans to be part of that team.

Trump also hopes to tap into the RNC's existing fundraising network, but faces hurdles.

"High-dollar donors need to be convinced that Trump is going to be a serious candidate and won't embarrass them," said Charlie Spies, a veteran Republican operative with deep ties to party fundraisers.

This is all new to Trump. Through the end of March, he had raised \$12 million, mostly from fans who clicked the "donate" button on his website or bought wares such as the ubiquitous red ballcap emblazoned with his slogan, "Make America Great Again," campaign finance documents show.

That contrasts with Clinton, who has raised some \$187 million so far and back in November began her general election fundraising effort, which can solicit huge checks for her campaign, the Democratic National Committee and state parties.

Trump's lean campaign team will likely depend heavily on the Republican National Committee as he shifts to the 50-state task ahead. The RNC is counting on him to reciprocate by helping fund its nationwide data operation and staffing expansion.

Trump will also name a transition team and a vice presidential search committee. He told the AP he will announce his running mate choice at the July convention.

Survivors found 6 days after Kenyan building collapse

TOM ODULA, Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Rescuers found four survivors Thursday in the rubble of an apartment building that collapsed six days ago amid heavy rains in the Kenyan capital, raising hopes that more people might still be alive in a disaster that has left dozens dead and missing.

The first to be rescued was a pregnant woman, although her husband said that amid the joy of finding her alive, doctors also reported that their baby had not survived. In addition, one of those found alive later died en route to the hospital, officials said.

Soldiers, firefighters and volunteers have been working around the clock since the April 29 collapse of the seven-story building in a desperate search effort, and their spirits were lifted Tuesday when a nearly 6-month-old girl — dehydrated but relatively unscathed — was found in a wash basin.

Then on Thursday, they found 24-year-old Elizabeth Night Odhiambo, who was eight months pregnant, said her husband, Stephen Onyango.

A crowd broke into applause as Odhiambo — under a blanket and with her face covered with an oxygen mask — was carried to an ambulance in a scene broadcast live on Kenyan TV.

Odhiambo was taken to Kenyatta National Hospital, where she underwent an emergency cesarean section, but doctors told Onyango the baby had not survived.

"A doctor pulled me aside and told me, 'Your wife is here in the (operating) theater, and when she was in the collapsed building, the baby died in her stomach and we have removed it,'" Onyango told The Associated Press. "He showed me the baby, and I told him it was OK."

Despite that news, Onyango said he was joyful his wife was still alive.

"I cannot say the happiness I have," the truck driver said in a telephone interview. "I have never had such happiness like this in my life."

Onyango said he was able to comfort his wife after the surgery.

Pius Masai, the head of the Disaster Management Unit, said that of the other three people rescued after Odhiambo, one died because the ambulance did not have advanced life-saving equipment. The condition of the other two was not immediately known.

The disaster has killed 37 people and injured 134. About 70 people remain missing, said Kenya Red Cross head Abbas Gullet, and rescuers were working around the clock to find survivors.

Before military engineers broke through slabs of concrete that had trapped Odhiambo in a corner of the building, medics had managed to give her oxygen and an intravenous drip of water and glucose, according to Kenya's Disaster Management Unit.

Authorities initially used backhoes in the search, with firefighters and volunteers also removing chunks of debris by hand in the frantic rescue effort. A day after the collapse, the military brought in special equipment. President Uhuru Kenyatta visited the scene.

Trained dogs were brought in, along with special equipment to detect breathing and movement, said military spokesman Col. David Obonyo.

Authorities say it is rare for anyone to survive more than 72 hours without water in such instances.

Following the 2013 collapse of the eight-story Rana Plaza factory in Bangladesh, a 19-year-old woman was rescued after being trapped in the rubble for 17 days, surviving on four packets of cookies and some water. It was the worst garment-industry disaster in history, killing 1,127 people.

In Haiti's 2010 earthquake, a 17-year-old girl was found severely dehydrated and near death in a collapsed home 15 days after the quake struck. Rescuers said she may have had access to water from a bathroom.

The Nairobi collapse occurred in the low-income Huruma neighborhood, and it came amid Kenya's April-May rainy season.

The building was constructed less than 5 meters (15 feet) from a river, when it should have been at least 30 meters away, said local lawmaker Steven Kariuki. The National Construction Authority said it had marked the building as unfit for habitation, but the county government failed to follow up.

A neighbor said the building had been constructed rapidly and poorly, and its more than 125 single rooms were snapped up quickly at a rent of \$35 per month.

Onyango said his wife, 2-year-old son and a niece were having dinner in their apartment on April 29 when he heard neighbors yelling to each other that "the building has a crack on the ground floor," and he went to check on it.

As he was descending the stairs, Onyango said he changed his mind and went back to his apartment to evacuate his family, telling his niece to take his son outside.

He looked back and saw his wife following him down the stairs when "suddenly there was a loud noise and stone slabs and concrete started falling," he said.

"I jumped into the balcony, and it collapsed with me to the ground," he said.

After handing a neighbor's injured child over to rescuers amid the dust and debris, Onyango said he tried to get to his wife, but found the staircase blocked.

Dizzy and struggling to breathe, he said he was put in a Land Rover to be taken to the hospital. After it started its journey, the vehicle stopped twice — once to pick up an injured 3-month-old and then again to pick up another child, who Onyango realized was his 2-year-old son, who was only slightly hurt.

At the hospital, he was later contacted by his niece to say she was safe.

The two owners of the building were taken into custody but released on \$5,000 bail Wednesday, pending formal charges.

Most of Nairobi's 4 million people live in low-income areas or slums. Housing is in high demand, and unscrupulous developers often bypass regulations.

After eight buildings collapsed and killed 15 people in the country last year, Kenyatta ordered an audit of all the country's buildings to see if they are up to code. The National Construction Authority found that 58 percent of buildings in Nairobi are unfit for habitation.

AP Source: Clinton aide interviewed in email investigation

ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI has interviewed Huma Abedin, a close aide to Hillary Clinton, as part of a federal investigation into Clinton's use of a private email server as secretary of state, a person familiar with the probe said Thursday.

The person insisted on anonymity to discuss an ongoing investigation.

The FBI and Justice Department have been investigating whether sensitive information that flowed through Clinton's email server was mishandled.

Abedin was one of Clinton's closest aides during her tenure as the nation's top diplomat, serving as deputy chief of staff. It was not immediately clear whether other aides have been interviewed, or when or if Clinton herself might be questioned.

"From the start, Hillary Clinton has offered to answer any questions that would help the Justice Department complete its review, and we hope and expect that anyone else who is asked would do the same," Clinton campaign spokesman Brian Fallon said in a statement. "We are confident the review will conclude that nothing inappropriate took place."

It is not known how much longer the investigation will take. FBI Director James Comey has said there is no timetable for finishing the probe and it's being done thoroughly.

A Justice Department spokeswoman declined to comment Thursday, and a spokesman for the FBI did not return messages seeking comment.

On Wednesday, a federal judge in Washington said he may order Clinton, the Democratic presidential front-runner, to testify under oath about whether she used a private email server to evade public records disclosures.

The order from U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan granted a request from the conservative legal advocacy group Judicial Watch to question six current and former State Department staffers, including Abedin, about the creation and purpose of the email system. Those interviews would be part of a civil case from Judicial Watch about whether the State Department conducted an adequate search of public records in response to a Freedom of Information Act request.

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Clinton has acknowledged during the campaign that her home-based email setup was a mistake, but insists she never sent or received any documents that were marked classified at the time.

She has dismissed the idea that she could face legal trouble over the use of the server, responding to a debate question in March about the prospect of a federal indictment by saying, "It's not going to happen."