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Fr. Kelly celebrates 40 years

Celebrating 40 years of priesthood in honor of Fr. Mike Kelly at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, 803 North 1st Street, Groton. Please join us for an Open House on June 12th from 2-4 pm with a short program at 3pm. Hors d'oeuvres and cupcakes will be served.

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

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

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Saturday, May 28

State Track Meet in Sioux Falls
Birthdays: • Kim Zerr • Darliss Larson • Lora McMahon • Marty Sippel • Jim Stearns • Joyce Grenz • Steven Jones • Braeden Fliehs
4:30pm: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

Sunday, May 29

Birthdays: Clare Brotherton • DeLoris Knoll • Howard Gengerke • Jerry Ray Johnson • Jeff Ringgenberg • Michelle Osterman
9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship
9:00am: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass
9:00am: St. John's Lutheran Worship
10:00am: Heaven Bound Ministries worship at Pierpont Church
11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship

Monday, May 30

Memorial Day
Birthdays: • Hazel McKittrick • Kami Lipp • Kellie Townsend • Teresa Krueger

Tuesday, May 31

Senior Menu: Baked pork chop, mixed vegetables, pineapple strawberry ambrosia, whole wheat bread.
Anniversary: Steve & Tami Herron
Birthdays: Joyce Schaller • Linda Anderson • Carol Osterman • Josephine Doeden
10:00am: Region Girls Golf at Madison
10:00am: United Methodist Women's Bible Study

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Groton Pool Summer 2016

★ **Pool opens for the season: May 30** ★

Season Passes: Family Pass (must be immediate family only - max 10) = \$100.00 (Immediate Family = Mother, Father, Biological Children, Adopted Children, and Step Children living in one household)

Special Vacation Family Pass (up to 5 persons for 1 week) = \$30.00

Senior Pass (62 & Over) = \$30.00

Adult Pass (18-61yrs) = \$60.00

Youth Pass (6-17 yrs) = \$40.00

Youth Pass (0-5yrs) = \$20.00

Lap Swim Pass - \$4.00 per session or \$30.00 per summer

Aerobics Pass - \$4.00 per session or \$30.00 per summer

Lap AND Aerobic Pass - \$50.00 per summer

*Any child under 6yrs must have an adult (at least 18yrs of age) with them when they are in attendance. See Managers for more information.

***ALL PATRONS HAVE TO PAY TO GO INSIDE THE POOL AREA. THIS IS NO DIFFERENT THAN GOING TO ANY OTHER FACILITY OR EVENT TO WATCH THE ACTIVITY/EVENT.**

Daily Admission Per Session: Seniors (62 and Over) = \$3.00 Adults (18-61) = \$5.00

Youth (6-17 yrs) = \$3.00 Youth (0-5yrs) = \$1.00

HOURS

Open Swim Daily: 1:00 - 4:50pm & 6:40 - 8:50pm

Family Swim is every Saturday and Sunday from 5:45 - 6:30 (each child must have a family member/parent with them who is 18 yrs or older - This is a great family time!

FUN Night is every Friday from 6:40-8:50pm - ALL pool toys are allowed at this time!

Adult Water Aerobics: Monday thru Thursday - 8:00am - 8:45am AND 5:45pm - 6:30pm

Adult Lap Swim: Monday thru Thursday - 7am - 8am & 5pm - 5:45pm - Friday 7am-8am & 5pm-6:30pm Saturday and Sunday - 5pm - 5:45pm

*Hours are subject to change

Pool Rental for Private Parties: - \$150.00 - 2 hours which includes 2 lifeguards

Swimming Lessons: \$20.00 per two-week session - due on first day or prior to first day of lessons, payable at the pool

Mon - Thurs with Friday being a rain/make-up day

Session 1- June 6 - 16

Session 2 - June 20 - June 30

Session 3 - July 11 - July 21

Private Lessons - \$10.00 per 30 minutes with a minimum of 5 lessons and a maximum of 10 consecutive lessons during non-open swim times.

*All parents must provide an accurate phone number to call in case of inclement weather for possible cancellations





The Life of Linda Stearns

Funeral services for Linda Jean Stearns, 60, Groton, SD will be 11 am, Tuesday, May 31, 2016 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Groton, Rev. Craig Grams officiating. Burial at Hecla Cemetery, Hecla, SD. Linda fell asleep on Tuesday, May 24, 2016 at Avera St. Luke's Hospital, surrounded by the love of her family, after battling pulmonary fibrosis for five years.

Visitation will be 5:00-7:00pm, Monday, with a prayer service at 7:00pm, at Spitzer-Miller Funeral Home, 1111 South Main Street.

Linda Jean (Glover) Stearns was born July 16, 1955, to Lauren Ray and Helena Maye (Nutton) Glover in Aberdeen, SD.

Linda attended school in Hecla, SD, graduating in 1973. She received a secretarial certificate at Stewarts School of Commerce in Aberdeen. On August 17, 1974, she married her high school sweetheart, James Stearns. While raising their five children, she worked at Red Horse, Control Data, Groton Nursing Home, and the past 21 years at St. Luke's Hospital as a Nurse Aide and Admitting Representative.

Linda enjoyed spending time with family and friends. Her greatest joy was her nine grandchildren. She had many favorite dishes that she would prepare for family and gatherings. In her spare time, she would read books, play games, garden or can produce. She was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Groton and served on the Brown County Thrivent board for four years. She generously gave her time and talents helping others.

Linda is survived by her husband; children: Lester, Stephanie (Mike) Ewalt, Lauren (Jennifer), Samantha (Andy) Jondahl; grandchildren: Lyndsie Stearns, Amelia and Zoey Ewalt, Abigail and Gabriel Stearns, Lane, Levi, Lawson and Lexton Jondahl; father-in-law Stanley Stearns; sisters: Nancy (Wayne) Schulz, Judy (Douglas) Hamaker, Wendy (Mike) Ramberg; sister-in-law Lynn Claeys; aunts Carol Hajzyk, Alice (Caryl) Wilmsen and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Linda was preceded in death by her grandparents; parents; son Jordan Stearns; sister Kathy (Laverne) Schweer; brothers: Steven Glover and Jeffrey (Dorothy) Glover; mother-in-law Irma Stearns and niece Annette Stearns.

Linda was very thankful for the prayers and support from her family and friends especially during the last few years while undergoing exams at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN.

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A Memorial Day column by Gov. Dennis Daugaard:

The birth of Memorial Day is much like the birth of America. It is a story of people from different backgrounds uniting as Americans under one flag.

Following the Civil War, General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, proclaimed that "the 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country." General Logan asked that the people cherish the "memory of our heroic dead, who made their breasts a barricade between our country and its foe."

On that first Decoration Day, as it was initially called, mourners decorated the graves of both Union and Confederate soldiers. Both sides in the Civil War had answered when their country called and, by honoring them in death, America began to heal the wounds of the war.

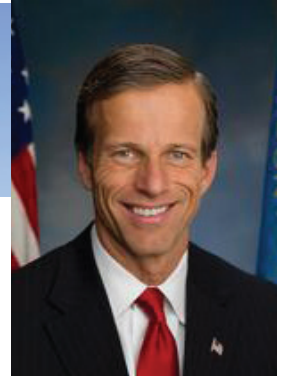
Memorial Day, as it is known today, is a time to pause and remember those who died in defense of our country and for the preservation of freedom. I am grateful to those who have answered our nation's call, and have given their lives. As governor, on behalf of all South Dakotans, I also thank those families who have supported their armed service family members, and who have lost one of their own. We commit to always remember the patriotism and self-sacrifice that their fallen soldier carried into the battlefield. As General Logan said so many years ago, "If other eyes grow dull, other hands slack, and other hearts cold in the solemn trust, ours shall keep it well as long as the light and warmth of life remain to us."

As South Dakotans, let us vigilantly join our families who guard this solemn trust. Let us never forget these witnesses and let us continue to defend and love this nation. In the words of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow:

Rest, comrades, rest and sleep!
The thoughts of men shall be
As sentinels to keep
Your rest from danger free.

Your silent tents of green
We deck with fragrant flowers
Yours has the suffering been,
The memory shall be ours

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Keeping Our Skies Safe and Secure

Memorial Day has long marked the unofficial start to summer, and with it, a busy travel season quickly ensues. Whether you and your family are hopping in the car this summer for a trip across the state or boarding a plane for an adventure around the country or overseas, safety is rightfully top-of-mind. Everyone who relies on air travel wants peace of mind that airport officials – both in the United States and abroad – are doing everything they can to protect the traveling public and prevent bad actors from doing bad things.

Aviation safety and security was recently thrust back into the national conversation after an EgyptAir flight bound for Cairo, Egypt, crashed into the Mediterranean Sea in the middle of the night shortly after entering Egyptian airspace. Until the investigation is complete, no one can say with certainty what brought down the flight and the 66 lives that went with it, but absent clear evidence of a technical failure, terrorism cannot be ruled out. Although no credible claim of responsibility has yet to be made, U.S. and Egyptian officials have already suggested that terrorism or another form of foul play could be to blame for the downed flight.

In the Senate Commerce Committee, which I chair, aviation security has been one of our top priorities. Last December, the Commerce Committee approved legislation I authored that would protect the traveling public by tightening the vetting process for workers who have access to secure areas in airports throughout the country. We also approved an amended version of House legislation to expand PreCheck enrollments that will help shorten TSA screening lines. In April, these measures were included in my bipartisan FAA Reauthorization Act of 2016 that the Senate approved by a vote of 95-3.

Also included in the package of security measures, which I co-sponsored with a bipartisan group of senators, including the Commerce Committee's ranking member, is a provision that would strengthen security at international airports with direct flights into the United States, also known as last-point-of-departure airports. We must ensure that U.S.-bound flights meet the highest security standards.

Since it's impossible to have TSA agents screening passengers outside of the United States at last-point-of-departure airports, our amendment requires the TSA to conduct a security risk assessment in conjunction with domestic and foreign partners, including foreign governments and airlines, and an assessment of TSA's workforce abroad. The amendment also authorizes the TSA to donate security screening hardware to last-point-of-departure airports around the world that currently lack the necessary equipment.

The FAA bill, which contains all of these important security provisions and numerous other reforms, cleared the Senate last month with strong support. Taken together, these security reforms comprise a comprehensive approach to addressing emerging threats. It's now time for my colleagues in the House of Representatives to take up this bill so we can get meaningful safety and security reforms that can protect air travelers around the United States to the president's desk without delay.

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Today in Weather History

1877 - A "terrific" two day long sandstorm (sand) blasted Yuma, AZ. (28th-29th) (The Weather Channel)

1942 - The latest snowstorm of record for the state of Iowa left ten inches at LeMars, eight inches at Cherokee, and 7.5 inches at Waukon. Afternoon highs were in the lower 30s in parts of northwestern Iowa. (The Weather Channel)

1947 - A storm produced heavy snow across Wisconsin, with ten inches reported at Gay Mills. The snow damaged fruit and other trees, and downed power lines. The storm was followed by the coldest weather of the month for much of the High Plains Region and Missouri Valley. Williston ND reported a low of 21 degrees the morning of the 28th, and the next morning Cheyenne WY reported a morning low of 16 above zero. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Thunderstorms produced torrential rains in Oklahoma and northern Texas. Lake Altus, OK, was deluged with nine inches of rain. Up to eight inches drenched northern Texas, and baseball size hail was reported north of Seminole and at Knickerbocker. Ten to 13 inch rains soaked central Oklahoma the last five days of May resulting in an estimated 65 million dollars damage, and forcing several thousand persons to evacuate their homes, many by boat or helicopter. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A sharp cold front began to usher cold, wet and windy weather into the western U.S. Thunderstorms in the Great Plains Region produced wind gusts to 80 mph near Brookings, SD. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Unseasonably hot weather continued in Florida. Five cities reported record high temperatures for the date. The record high of 98 degrees at Lakeland, FL, was their fifth in a row. Thunderstorms produced severe weather in Florida late in the day, with golf ball size hail reported at Kissimmee. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Two to five inches of rain over southeastern Ohio on the 28th and 29th capped an exceptionally wet month of May, and triggered widespread flooding. Flooding which resulted claimed three lives, and caused millions of dollars damage. Numerous roads in southeast Ohio were flooded and impassable, and many other roads were blocked by landslides. (Storm Data)

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Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Memorial Day	Monday Night	Tuesday
 50%	 20%			 60%	 70%	 30%
Chance T-storms	Slight Chance T-storms then Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny then T-storms Likely	T-storms Likely	Chance T-storms
High: 72 °F	Low: 54 °F	High: 80 °F	Low: 53 °F	High: 81 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 72 °F

 Today...Chance of Showers/Thunderstorms...Highs in Upper 60s to Mid 70s.

 Sunday...Slight Chance of Showers/Storms Far East...Highs around 80.

 Monday...Chance of Storms (Possibly Severe) Afternoon & Evening...Highs near 80



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD

Published on: 05/28/2016 at 4:49AM

Scattered showers and thunderstorms are expected today across the region. On Sunday, they should be confined to the far eastern parts of the forecast area. Memorial Day could bring some strong to severe storms by late afternoon and evening as a front begins to push across the Northern Plains.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 73.9 at 1:20 PM

Low: 55.8 at 6:19 AM

High Gust: 27 at 1:52 PM

Precip: 0.21

Today's Info

Record High: 102° in 1934

Record Low: 30 in 1965

Average High: 72°F

Average Low: 48°F

Average Precip in May: 2.81

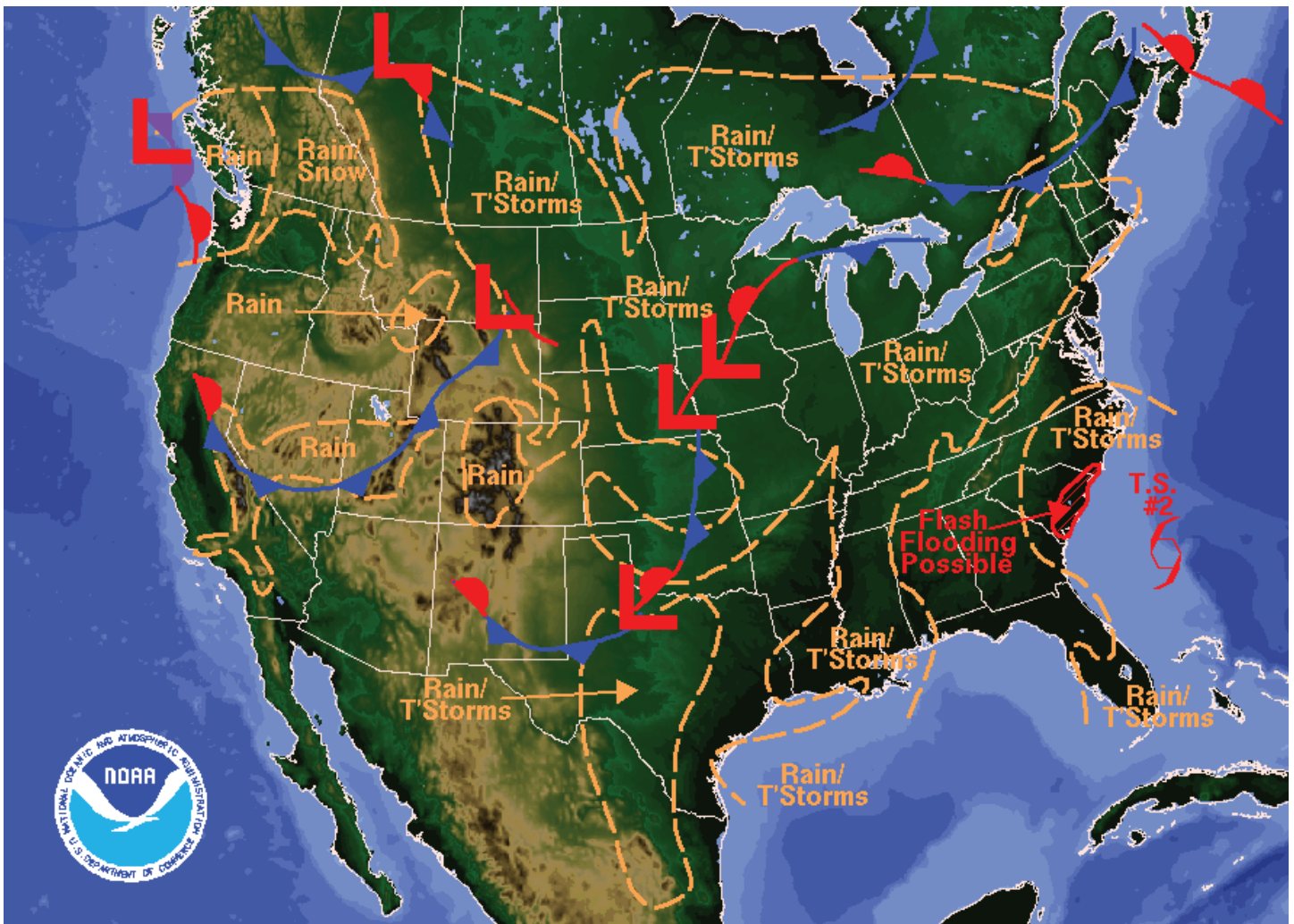
Precip to date in May: 1.34

Average Precip to date: 6.84

Precip Year to Date: 4.63

Sunset Tonight: 9:11 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:50 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sat, May 28, 2016, issued 4:44 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Fanning based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



THE PERIL OF PREJUDICE

Gandhi, considered to be India's spiritual leader, once considered converting to Christianity. One Sunday morning he went to a Protestant church to talk to the pastor about what it meant to become a Christian. As he entered the church, an usher refused to seat him and sent him away.

"If Christians have a caste system," he said, "I might as well remain a Hindu."

In the letter that James wrote to the Jewish Christians who lived in the Gentile community that was outside of Palestine, he strongly condemned prejudice. Graciously, but sternly, he said to them, "My dear brothers and sisters, how can you claim to have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus if you favor some people over others?"

Unfortunately, it is easier to accept a well-dressed, impressive looking person into our homes and congregations than one who looks needy and unkempt. We would rather identify with people who look like they have "made it in life" than those who are "apparent failures." This type of attitude is sinful. God sees all people as equal because His Son leveled the playing field when He died on the cross for "whosoever." Whosoever is all-inclusive.

Prayer: Prevent us, Father, from having hearts that are hard, minds that are set and attitudes that favor some more than others. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: James 2:1-13 For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in a good place," and say to the poor man, "You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool," have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

Leave baby wild animals alone, new campaign stresses

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota wildlife official is trying to combat a scene she sees several times every summer: A mom and her children show up carrying a box with holes poked in the top and a baby wild animal inside.

The family thinks they've rescued it from apparent abandonment, but that's far from the truth, Thea Miller Ryan says, because the rescue can be harmful, even deadly. So, with the backdrop of the bison calf in Yellowstone that had to be euthanized this month after tourists put it in their car, Ryan is taking to social media to teach people to let nature take its course.

"I know that it's not going to have a happy ending," Miller said of any rescued animal's future. "... Really, the minute humans intervene with wildlife in most cases, not all, it's a death sentence."

Miller and the Outdoor Campus in Sioux Falls, which she directs, have been teaching adults and children for years to avoid this type of rescues. But the number of calls the facility receives every year — upward of 300 — has not decreased. Now, for every call her office answers about a potential rescue, she posts on Facebook and Twitter a photo of a ceramic sparrow that has a sugar skull as its head. The accompanying message mentions the creature that the call was about and the phrase, "If you care, leave it there."

Her campaign comes at an appropriate time after the failed "rescue" at Yellowstone National Park, where a man told park rangers that he loaded a bison calf into his sport utility vehicle May 9 because he thought it was cold. Rangers took the animal back to where it was picked up, but they could not reunite it with the herd. The calf had to be euthanized as it was causing a dangerous situation by constantly approaching people and cars.

"You wouldn't pick up your neighbor's kid and try to raise it just on your own. So, why would you assume that you want no better than mother nature?" said Kenneth Wilson, who leads the fish, wildlife and conservation biology department at Colorado State University. "... How do we know they are abandoned? They have no sign on them."

Wildlife officials across the country almost always encourage people who have attempted a rescue to return the animals exactly where they found them, because mothers are likely to return to their offspring after searching for food or hiding from predators. People are also told to put the animals in a nearby area if they are at risk of being attacked by a pet. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, for example, has a website that helps people determine whether a wild animal is orphaned and provides detailed descriptions for at least 13 species.

People are also encouraged to use gloves while handling the animals and avoid hugging them to prevent their "human scent" from transferring, which could be a giveaway to predators.

"Nature can be pretty darn harsh," Wilson said. "Often sometimes people will grab a youngster, 'Oh, we are worried about it getting attacked by something,' Well, that's the natural cycle."

Pierre to repair sinkhole from corroded storm sewer pipe

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Crews in Pierre plan to repair a sinkhole created by a corroded storm sewer pipe. Staff members say the repair work should begin within the next four weeks, and they're currently in the process of soliciting quotes for labor and materials.

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The Pierre City Commission recently approved an emergency declaration request to expedite the repair work. Pierre Mayor Laurie Gill says the declaration allows for a quicker quote process.

Westbound traffic on Fourth Street near North Euclid Avenue will remain restricted until repairs can be completed.

Barricades have been placed around the sinkhole to prevent vehicle damage and further deterioration of the street and underground utilities.

Daugaard naming USD student to state Board of Regents

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard says he's naming University of South Dakota student Conrad Adam to the state Board of Regents.

The governor said Friday that Adam, a finance student entering his junior year, will serve as the board's student member.

Daugaard says he will be a great representative of the student perspective on the board. Adam says he looks forward to advocating on behalf of students in the state university system.

The board governs South Dakota's six state universities and two special schools. The student representative is a full voting member of the nine-person board.

Adam replaces Joseph Schartz, whose service ended this month with his graduation from South Dakota State University.

Campaign reports show legislative, ballot committee receipts

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — State campaign finance reports released Friday show hundreds of thousands of dollars in donations from a car title lending company for ballot measure campaigns and primary contributions to favored Republican lawmakers from Gov. Dennis Daugaard.

They cover January through May 23. Here's a look at what's in the reports filed ahead of South Dakota's June 7 primary election:

DAVID AND GOLIATH

A Georgia-based auto title lender has sunk roughly \$2.4 million into a pair of South Dakota ballot question committees aimed at thwarting short-term loan interest rate caps in the state. That amount includes nearly \$240,000 this fundraising period in industry-backed financing to the organizations. A vote doesn't come until November.

Meanwhile, a group of short-term lending opponents pushing a ballot measure to cap interest rates for payday and title loans at 36 percent annually pulled in about \$4,400 during the same period.

GOVERNOR'S LARGESSE

GOP Gov. Dennis Daugaard gave \$1,000 each to at least nine Republican state Senate candidates who face primary elections, including a lawmaker who helped lead the push for the governor's half-cent sales tax hike to raise teacher pay.

Daugaard appreciates the support he's received from legislators in his campaigns and wants to return it, spokesman Tony Venhuizen said, noting that the donations are comparable to those from Daugaard in past primaries.

WEST RIVER PRIMARIES

Two west river Republican House members campaigning to escape term limits by challenging their GOP counterparts in the Senate have teed up a pair of high-profile primary races that could influence the partisan tilt of the chamber.

Republican Rep. Jacqueline Sly, who helped lead the teacher pay charge, significantly leads fundrais-

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ing in her race to oust conservative Sen. Phil Jensen. Sly raised nearly \$26,000 and has more than \$21,000 on hand, compared to Jensen's \$7,400 haul and roughly \$4,200 bank balance.

Conservative Rep. Lance Russell, who is running to the right of sitting GOP Sen. Bruce Rampelberg, hadn't filed a report as of Friday evening. Rampelberg raised about \$13,700 and had about \$6,300 on hand.

BALLOT MEASURES

A group that's pushing a constitutional amendment in South Dakota to expand rights for crime victims and their families raised roughly \$225,000 from a California businessman backing the measure. The proposal is in honor of Marsalee "Marsy" Nicholas, a University of California, Santa Barbara, student who was stalked and killed in 1983 by a former boyfriend.

The national effort is bankrolled by her brother, high tech billionaire Henry Nicholas.

An organization backing a constitutional amendment that would remove candidates' party affiliations from primary and general election ballots pulled in nearly \$54,000, nearly all from the non-profit Open Primaries.

And the group behind a labor union-backed measure that would give corporate or non-profit organizations the right to charge fees in right-to-work South Dakota raised roughly \$93,000, all from an Illinois-based organization named Americans for Fairness.

Public safety officials urging safe driving this weekend

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — State public safety officials are urging people to stay safe while traveling during this Memorial Day holiday weekend.

The South Dakota Department of Public Safety says it expects more vehicles on roads over the next few days because of the holiday and the fact that some consider this weekend the official start of the summer.

South Dakota Highway Patrol superintendent Col. Craig Price says drivers should slow down, watch for others and wear their seatbelts.

Officials say four motor vehicle fatalities occurred in 2015. The four individuals who died were not wearing seatbelts.

State Office of Highway Safety director Lee Axdahl says seatbelts have many years of proven success in reducing death and injuries in crashes and it just takes a few seconds to put one on.

Auto title lender gives \$237K to loan ballot question groups

JAMESNORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Georgia car title lender has contributed nearly \$240,000 in additional funds to two South Dakota political organizations waging campaigns over a pair of short-term lending ballot measures, according to campaign finance records released Friday.

Alpharetta-based Select Management Resources LLC is the organizations' sole reported financier in filings covering January through May 23. The company appears to be singlehandedly opposing proposed payday and title lending restrictions in South Dakota this election cycle, giving nearly \$2.2 million to the groups in 2015.

Short-term lending opponents have put forward a ballot measure to cap yearly interest rates, while the company is funding a constitutional amendment that would impose no limit on interest rates if a borrower agrees to a rate in writing.

The convoluted campaign means South Dakota residents will likely face a confusing scenario at the polls in November: a ballot with two proposals about payday loan interest rates that could have divergent consequences for borrowers and businesses across the state.

The Friday filings show Select Management Resources gave more than \$190,000 to Give Us Credit South Dakota, a group opposing the measure that would limit short-term lenders' interest rates to 36 percent annually. The organization spent \$6,000 on salaries and \$194,000 on consulting during the campaign finance period.

The company also gave \$46,000 to South Dakotans For Fair Lending, which is backing the constitutional amendment that would cap rates at 18 percent annually but allow higher ones if borrowers agree. The political group spent \$30,000 on salaries and nearly \$13,000 on consulting.

The roughly \$2.4 million Select Management Resources has donated to the two groups is a serious amount for ballot measure campaigns in South Dakota, said Jon Schaff, a political science professor at Northern State University. He said the early activity indicates there's more to come as campaign seasons gets underway.

"What are they willing to spend to see their side vindicated?" he said.

Officials from Select Management Resources and the two political organizations didn't immediately return requests for comment. The company has locations in South Dakota under North American Title Loans.

Payday lending opponents view the constitutional amendment as an attempt to insert a loophole allowing unlimited interest rates into the state constitution.

Steve Hildebrand, a South Dakota resident who is helping lead the push for the 36 percent proposal, has said the amendment is intended to sow confusion among voters and to provide protections for short-term lenders.

Hildebrand's group, South Dakotans For Responsible Lending, raised roughly \$4,400 during the reporting period. He didn't immediately return a telephone message requesting comment Friday.

Inmate serving life sentence for manslaughter dies in prison

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Department of Corrections says a 54-year-old man serving a life sentence for manslaughter has died at the state penitentiary.

Officials say Rick Pulfrey died in a comfort care setting at the Sioux Falls prison Friday following an extended illness.

Pulfrey was sentenced to life in prison in 1994 for first-degree manslaughter out of Pennington County. He was charged with killing his girlfriend of eight years, Wendy Powell, at their home in October 1993 when an argument escalated into a physical fight.

An autopsy on Pulfrey is being conducted.

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The company also gave \$46,000 to South Dakotans For Fair Lending, which is backing the constitutional amendment that would cap rates at 18 percent annually but allow higher ones if borrowers agree. The political group spent \$30,000 on salaries and nearly \$13,000 on consulting.

The roughly \$2.4 million Select Management Resources has donated to the two groups is a serious amount for ballot measure campaigns in South Dakota, said Jon Schaff, a political science professor at Northern State University. He said the early activity indicates there's more to come as campaign seasons gets underway.

"What are they willing to spend to see their side vindicated?" he said.

Officials from Select Management Resources and the two political organizations didn't immediately return requests for comment. The company has locations in South Dakota under North American Title Loans.

Payday lending opponents view the constitutional amendment as an attempt to insert a loophole allowing unlimited interest rates into the state constitution.

Steve Hildebrand, a South Dakota resident who is helping lead the push for the 36 percent proposal, has said the amendment is intended to sow confusion among voters and to provide protections for short-term lenders.

Hildebrand's group, South Dakotans For Responsible Lending, raised roughly \$4,400 during the reporting period. He didn't immediately return a telephone message requesting comment Friday.

Inmate serving life sentence for manslaughter dies in prison

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Department of Corrections says a 54-year-old man serving a life sentence for manslaughter has died at the state penitentiary.

Officials say Rick Pulfrey died in a comfort care setting at the Sioux Falls prison Friday following an extended illness.

Pulfrey was sentenced to life in prison in 1994 for first-degree manslaughter out of Pennington County. He was charged with killing his girlfriend of eight years, Wendy Powell, at their home in October 1993 when an argument escalated into a physical fight.

An autopsy on Pulfrey is being conducted.

Iowa Indian burial site possibility stalls oil pipeline

DAVID PITT, Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — The possibility of an American Indian burial site in northwest Iowa may require relocation of a crude oil pipeline route and delay the beginning of construction in Iowa, the only one of four states where work hasn't begun.

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The Dakota Access pipeline passes through the Big Sioux Wildlife Management area in Lyon County, traditional homeland for the Dakota Sioux where Standing Rock Sioux Tribal leaders say there is a burial site.

"The site has been identified by the tribe as of historical and cultural significance with associated burial activity," said State Archaeologist John Doershuk.

Under Iowa law, Doershuk must now study the area to determine whether it is more than 150 years old. If so, it is considered ancient burial grounds and he is obligated under Iowa law to protect it from disturbance.

The Sioux ceded land in the region to the U.S. government by treaty in 1851, according to a history of Lyon County, Iowa, posted on the county's website.

The wildlife area is managed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources but the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service owns the property.

The federal agency in March granted Iowa permission to issue a permit for the pipeline to run through the area but on Wednesday informed the state agency the permit was revoked due to the discovery.

"We did send a letter to the DNR stating to please stop all clearing and ground disturbing activities within that pipeline corridor on the Big Sioux pending further investigation," said Mara Koenig, a spokeswoman for the agency's Midwest region. "We'll work with state archaeologist to review evidence that is collected from that site so we can determine the next course of action."

On Thursday the state sent a "stop work order" letter to the Dakota Access contractor.

Houston-based Dakota Access LLC wants to build the 1,150-mile pipeline — designed to carry a half-million barrels of oil a day — from northwest North Dakota to a storage facility in south-central Illinois. Construction on the \$3.8 billion project has begun in North Dakota, South Dakota and Illinois, but the Iowa Utilities Board has not yet authorized work to begin.

A spokeswoman for Dakota Access said the project isn't affected because work has not yet begun in Iowa.

"We are aware of the rumors of a potential archaeological site along the route, which has not been confirmed," said Lisa Dillinger. "If something is confirmed in the area, we will work with the appropriate agencies to make any necessary adjustments."

Tribal leaders said discovery of the burial site highlights why state and federal agencies should slow down and more thoroughly study the pipeline route.

"This consequence of the expedited project is representative of a Tribal apprehension regarding the Dakota Access Pipeline: the destruction of important cultural and historic sites," said Dave Archambault II, chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.

The area also includes a pipeline section for which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has jurisdiction. The Corps has yet to issue permits for the pipeline as it continues to review river crossings and other federal land for which the Corps has permit responsibilities.

"If this is a significant Indian historical site that certainly could delay the permitting process if we have to get involved in realignments," said Ron Fournier, a Corps spokesman.

Season's Mount Rushmore lighting ceremonies begin Friday

MOUNT RUSHMORE NATIONAL MEMORIAL, S.D. (AP) — Mount Rushmore National Memorial is holding its first evening lighting ceremony of the season on Friday.

The program will be offered nightly at 9 p.m. through August 13, weather permitting. The event shifts to 8 p.m. on August 14 through October 1.

Mount Rushmore Superintendent Cheryl Schreier is inviting visitors out for the celebration of 100

years of the National Park Service. Special programs and activities will be held throughout the summer, including two special exhibits in the Lincoln Borglum Visitor Center.

The visitor center and information center are open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Visitors can also see the original Rushmore model at the Sculptor's Studio from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

Lake Andes man charged in car crash that killed his brother

LAKE ANDES, S.D. (AP) — A Lake Andes man has been charged with vehicular homicide after a one-vehicle crash left his brother dead.

The Daily Republic reports (<http://bit.ly/1UhFSF8>) that 25-year-old Albert Fischer allegedly was drunk when he lost control of his car on state Highway 50 northwest of Wagner on April 26.

The vehicle rolled several times in a ditch, killing 22-year-old passenger James Fischer, of Lake Andes. Albert Fischer is free on a personal recognizance bond. It isn't clear if he has an attorney, and a home telephone listing for him couldn't be found. Vehicular homicide carries a maximum punishment of 15 years in prison.

Man accused of having fentanyl while serving as Brandon cop

BRANDON, S.D. (AP) — A man accused of possessing the powerful synthetic opiate fentanyl while he was a sergeant in the Brandon Police Department is apologizing and taking responsibility for a "blatant" violation of the public's trust.

Former Sgt. Wayne Ellingson was indicted Tuesday for felony drug possession. He faces up to five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Ellingson says he takes full responsibility for his actions and wants his situation to be a message to people suffering in silence that they should seek help for addiction before it damages their lives more.

Brandon police say an investigation into Ellingson began in April and was quickly turned over to the state Division of Criminal Investigation. Ellingson was placed on administrative leave and the Brandon City Council accepted his resignation May 6.

South Dakotan pleads not guilty to child sex in North Dakota

MINOT, N.D. (AP) — A South Dakota man accused of sexually abusing two girls while he was living at Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota has pleaded not guilty.

Thirty-nine-year-old Thad Richard, of Manderson, South Dakota, allegedly abused the girls between 2007 and 2009 at a residence on base. He's accused of having sex with one of the children and fondling the other.

Richard on Thursday pleaded not guilty to three counts of felony gross sexual imposition. He could face life in prison if convicted.

His trial was not immediately scheduled.

2 dead, 5 missing after heavy rains in Texas, Kansas

BREHAM, Texas (AP) — At least two people are dead and five people are missing after this week's torrential rains in Texas and Kansas, officials said Saturday. The same areas face the possibility of more rain over the long Memorial Day weekend.

"It's not going to take very much rain to get us in those flood stages again," said John Brieden, a judge in Washington County, Texas, where more than 16.5 inches of rain fell in places Thursday.

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The forecasts through the holiday weekend called for scattered or isolated thunderstorms in Central and Southeast Texas. But officials say they will be monitoring local rivers and waterways, which could rise out of their banks in the coming days due to the heavy rains.

Other parts of the U.S. got drenched Friday as well, especially in central Kansas, where the Wichita Eagle reports that an 11-year-old boy went missing after he was swept away by a swollen creek.

In Washington County, located between Austin and Houston, two people have died and two are missing due to swollen rivers that have overrun communities, washing away mobile homes and causing water to flow into other structures. More than 50 water rescues had taken place since the rains began Thursday morning.

Brieden said Saturday that one person was found dead in a mobile home that was swamped by floodwaters and a second person was found in a vehicle that had gone off a road and into a submerged ditch.

Brieden also said two motorists are missing in separate parts of the rural county: One vehicle was located without its driver, and the other vehicle can't be found. Brieden says the fear is that it may be submerged and won't be located until floodwaters recede.

The Washington County seat, Brenham, received 16.62 inches of rain Thursday, breaking the city's daily rainfall record, said National Weather Service meteorologist Wendy Long.

Near Austin in Travis County, which saw up to 9 inches of rain this week, officials are searching for two missing people whose vehicle was swept off a flooded roadway, according to emergency services spokeswoman Lisa Block.

The National Weather Service said an EF1 tornado hit Thursday in Bryan, about 100 miles northwest of Houston. Bryan officials said 153 homes were damaged, including 53 with major damage.

In Wisconsin, another EF1 tornado damaged about 25 homes and knocked out power to the village of Brandon on Friday, but no one was injured.

AP-NORC Poll: Voters interested, not excited about election

JULIE PACE, Associated Press

THOMAS BEAUMONT, Associated Press

ALLENTOWN, Pa. (AP) — Mary Heintzelman shakes her head in disgust over the presidential election. "I don't think we have a candidate that's really suitable to be president in either party," says Heintzelman, an administrative assistant from Whitehall, Pennsylvania. Her son suggests she write in a candidate when she votes in November, but the 68-year-old says despondently, "I don't even know who to write in."

Heintzelman is hardly alone in her angst over the prospect of a November matchup between presumptive Republican nominee Donald Trump and likely Democratic pick Hillary Clinton. While 65 percent of Americans say they're interested in the White House race, just 23 percent say they're excited as the presidential contest shifts from the primaries to the general election, according to a poll by the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

The malaise crosses party lines. Majorities of Republicans and Democrats say the election has left them angry, helpless and frustrated. Only 13 percent of Americans say they're proud of what has transpired in a campaign where surprising candidates have thrived and Trump in particular has defied political norms.

Election experts say the gap between Americans' high interest and low excitement makes the race to succeed President Barack Obama highly unpredictable.

Turnout can be low when unpopular candidates are on the ballot, but the unusual nature of a race

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between a billionaire businessman who has never before sought elected office and a former first lady who would be the country's first female president could offset voters' sour mood.

"We're in uncharted territory here with these two candidates," said Michael McDonald, a political science professor at the University of Florida who studies voter turnout. He said that while Americans may not be excited about their options, "the negativity gives people something to talk about."

"If people perceive the election is interesting, they may still show up to vote even if it's against a candidate," McDonald added.

Former Gov. Ed Rendell, D-Pa., predicted voter enthusiasm could increase as the general election heats up, particularly when the nominees meet in debates.

"I do believe in some ways there's a reset in the general election," Rendell said. "First of all, you have some voters that paid no attention and only vote in general elections. Secondly, even the ones who paid attention, now all of a sudden there's two candidates and six months."

For now, though, some people say they're resigned to an election in which they'll be voting against a candidate instead of for one. That view was pervasive in interviews with more than 30 voters interviewed by the AP in Pennsylvania. Democrats have carried the state in every presidential election since 1992, but Trump's campaign hopes strong support from working-class white voters could swing the state back to the GOP.

"Your vote isn't who you're for, it's who you don't want in," Joann Spangenberg, a 48-year-old loan underwriter, said as she stood outside her office in downtown Allentown on a sunny afternoon. "It shouldn't be that way."

Spangenberg said the election is generating more interest among her family and friends than in past years, including spurring her daughter to register to vote right after her 18th birthday. But the frequent Republican voter says that while she likely will go for Trump in November, her support is lukewarm at best.

"He's what we have left," she said before ducking back into her office.

Pittsburgh voter Kim Bowles feels the same way about Clinton. Bowles has been intrigued by Bernie Sanders, but doesn't think the Vermont senator can win, leaving her feeling stuck with Clinton as the only option for stopping Trump.

"If you don't vote, you're helping someone else, and I'm not a fan of Donald Trump," said Bowles, 51, as she waited at a bus stop. "So, I've got to vote for Hillary. But it's not easy."

Trump formally clinched the GOP nomination last week, cementing his extraordinary rise to the top of the Republican Party. Clinton is still trying to shake Sanders, but it's nearly impossible for Sanders to catch the former secretary of state in the Democratic delegate count.

For Ron Zemlansky, a 64-year-old accountant from Catsauqua, an election between Trump and Clinton leaves voters with two bad options.

"Trump, I don't think he's qualified," he said. "Hillary, there's too much baggage."

Despite voting for Obama twice, Zemlansky said his questions about Clinton may push him to Trump.

"Right now, I hate to say it, I'd probably pick Trump," he said.

The AP-NORC poll of 1,060 adults was conducted May 12-15 using a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 4.1 percentage points.

Respondents were first selected randomly using address-based sampling methods, and later interviewed online or by telephone.

Loss, accusations mark a turbulent few days for Johnny Depp

SANDY COHEN, AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Johnny Depp seemed the picture of rock star cool as he played guitar onstage in Portugal with his band, the Hollywood Vampires. An ocean away, he is facing serious accusations.

A judge on Friday ordered Depp to stay away from estranged wife, Amber Heard, after she accused the Oscar-nominated actor of repeatedly hitting her during a recent fight and leaving her face bruised.

Depp's publicist has not responded to a request for comment, and the "Pirates of the Caribbean" star made no mention of the allegations during his Friday night concert in Lisbon.

The restraining order was issued on the day Depp's latest film, "Alice Through the Looking Glass," opened in theaters and caps a turbulent week for the star. His mother died May 20 and Heard filed for divorce on Monday. On Friday, she appeared in court with a bruise on her right cheek below the eye, saying Depp threw her cellphone at her during a fight.

Heard's filing alleges a history of abuse throughout her relationship with Depp, which started after they met on the set of the 2011 film "The Rum Diary." A judge ordered Depp to stay away from Heard and not to attempt contact with her before a June 17 hearing.

Los Angeles Police responded to a domestic violence call at the couple's home on May 21, but the person who made the call declined to file charges and officers determined no crime occurred.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Carl H. Moor rejected Heard's request that Depp attend a year's worth of anger management classes and the protective order extend to her dog, a Yorkshire terrier named Pistol. The status of the couple's other dog, Boo, was not immediately known. (The dogs received worldwide publicity last year when Heard brought them into Australia without proper documentation. Heard and Depp released an awkward video last month apologizing for the action.)

Depp's attorney, Laura Wasser, declined to comment. Wasser wrote in a court filing that Depp was out of the country and would agree to a mutual stay-away order. Heard is seeking spousal support but Depp's response filed Wednesday asked a judge to deny the request.

Depp has been working steadily for the past few years, but his work has not always connected with the public. His eccentric heist comedy "Mortdecai" was a flop, but he rebounded by playing Whitey Bulger in the hit mobster film "Black Mass."

Depp has also filmed "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales" — the fifth installment of the long-running franchise — and even played Donald Trump in a satirical comedy for the website Funny or Die. Last year, he and the Hollywood Vampires — Alice Cooper and Joe Perry — released their self-titled album.

His new Tim Burton-directed film, "Alice Through the Looking Glass," a sequel to 2010's "Alice in Wonderland," has been critically panned and is performing below expectations going into the holiday weekend.

Presidential race shows deep seated strife toward

JESSE J. HOLLAND, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It started with Mexicans being publicly compared by presidential candidate Donald Trump to criminals and rapists. It escalated to ejections, to sucker punches, to pepper spray. And now violence and strife seems to be a commonplace occurrence out on the campaign trail.

They are just a few instances of the tensions that have surfaced in the contentious 2016 presidential campaign, where hostilities have revolved around the ascendancy of Trump, first toward minorities and

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now by minorities protesting his policies.

In San Diego on Friday, protesters waved Mexican flags, shouted obscenities and clashed with police outside a Trump rally while inside, Trump made derisive comments about Gonzalo Curiel, the federal judge who is hearing a class-action lawsuit against one of Trump's business ventures, noting that Curiel is Mexican American as he called the judge a "hater" who had "railroaded" him.

On Tuesday, protesters in New Mexico opposing Trump threw burning T-shirts, plastic bottles and other items at police officers, injuring several, and toppled trash cans and barricades. Police responded by firing pepper spray and smoke grenades into the crowd outside the Albuquerque Convention Center.

Karla Molinar, 21, a University of New Mexico student, participated in a planned disruption of Trump's speech and said she had no choice because Trump is sparking hatred of Mexican immigrants. Trump, among other things, has called for a ban on Muslims entering the United States and declared that he will build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.

"Trump is causing the hate to get worse," she said.

Earlier this year, demonstrators against Trump swarmed outside the hotel near San Francisco airport, forcing the candidate Trump to crawl under a fence to enter the hotel where he met with local GOP power brokers. Other protesters tangled with authorities and damaged police cars after a Trump rally in Orange County, California.

Earlier, the violence was aimed toward minorities. For example:

— A black woman was surrounded, cursed and shoved by white onlookers at a Trump rally in Louisville, Kentucky in March.

— Latino demonstrators Ariel Rojas was kicked and dragged by a white Trump supporter at a rally in Miami in October.

— A black male protester, Rakeem Jones, was punched from behind by white Trump supporter John McGraw as Jones was being ejected from a rally by police in North Carolina. McGraw was later arrested.

— Video captured Trump supporters physically assaulting Mercurio Southall Jr., an African-American activist, at a rally in Birmingham, Alabama in November. Southall said afterward he was called several expletives by the crowd and later compared them to a "lynch mob."

While political violence is not unknown, like the 1968 violence at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago where 119 police and 100 protesters were injured, rarely has it been targeted so specifically at minorities, said Matt Dallak, a professor of political management in the Graduate School of Political Management at George Washington University.

He also laid much of the responsibility on Trump, who started his political campaign by comparing undocumented immigrants from Mexico to criminals and rapists. The crowds at Trump's rallies are feeding off him "demonizing particular segments of the population, including racial minorities" he said.

"When you are whipping people up, it contributes to an atmosphere that leads to the potential of political violence. Words matter," he said.

Trump says he does not encourage violence; the fault, he says, lies with the demonstrators. But the political rhetoric is feeding into misplaced myths about the contributions of minorities to this society, said Sol Trujillo, founder and chair of the Latino Donor Collaborative.

"We're a country of breaking barriers, not erecting barriers," he said.

Ken Burns, an Academy Award-winning documentary filmmaker, said some of Trump's comments and actions — like forgetting that he had repudiated a Ku Klux Klan leader — "that is the wink-wink dog whistle that signals to our unreconstructed brothers."

"We'd like to believe in our better selves but in point of fact, a lot of us aren't that," said Burns, who explored racial tensions in his documentary, "Jackie Robinson."

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No one has died yet this campaign season. However, violence — including some that has been fatal — has often been suffered by minorities participating in political processes and social protesting.

For example, an estimated 150 blacks and three whites were killed after white Louisianans attempted to take over a courthouse in Colfax, Louisiana on Easter Sunday after losing a statewide election to reconstructionists in 1872, which became known as the Colfax Massacre. And Rev. George Lee was gunned down in Belzoni, Mississippi in May 7, 1954 for his attempts to get blacks to vote. In August 1955, World War II veteran Lamar Smith was shot on the courthouse lawn in Brookhaven, Mississippi, for urging blacks to vote.

Lee had turned down police protection because it was offered only on the condition he stopped his voter registration efforts.

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Sea Shepherd founder Paul Watson rams whalers for a living

THOMAS ADAMSON, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — He's a fugitive on Interpol's Red List and a marine vigilante who's done jail time for extradition requests. Yet to many, he's also a heroic marine conservationist who risks his life and those of his crew to save countless endangered whales, turtles, dolphins and sharks from slaughter.

Love him or loathe him, Paul Watson, the 65-year-old, silver-haired founder of Sea Shepherd and co-founder of Greenpeace is now a celebrity because of his job: ramming whaling boats for a living.

Watson has a hit U.S. reality TV series, "Whale Wars," that has aired on the Discovery Channel since 2008 about his organization's fight against Japanese whalers. And his influence reached new heights with the award-winning documentary "Sharkwater," which conservationists say resulted in shark finning being banned worldwide.

Both have attracted a new legion of global fans to Sea Shepherd's controversial approach of battering whaling and fishing ships.

The tactics have landed him in the legal hot water even as they boost his renown. During an interview with The Associated Press in Paris, Watson — a dual U.S.-Canadian citizen — was stopped four times in the street by fans of all nationalities who asked for autographs.

"The camera is the most powerful weapon we've ever invented, so we had to utilize that weapon. That's why we created the (reality) show," he said.

France has granted Watson political asylum, shielding him from extradition requests by Costa Rica and Japan on charges that he asserts are trumped up. Watson now lives as an international fugitive in

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a luxurious 18th-century chateau near Bordeaux.

"It's not bad," he said with a smile.

Japan says Watson allegedly masterminded Sea Shepherd's disruption of Japanese whale hunts in the Antarctic Ocean and thus put whalers' lives at risk during the hunt.

Watson's career has been as stormy as the seas he's travelled. Co-founder of Greenpeace in 1969, he left the organization eight years later.

"I left Greenpeace because protesting is submissive. Like 'Please, please, please don't kill the whales,'" he said.

The same year he founded Sea Shepherd with the mantra using "aggressive non-violence" to protect marine life.

"We've never caused a single injury to anyone but all the stories of ramming ships are true," he said, his eyes sparkling.

Getting celebrities on board has boosted his cause. It was not until the 1970s, when he got blond bombshell Brigitte Bardot to pose "cheek-to-cheek" with a baby seal on the ice, that he first realized the "power of celebrity."

"It got us the cover of every major publication in the world," he said.

Now it's an integral part of his organization's outreach.

A scary-looking Sea Shepherd ship — a camouflaged vessel painted with jagged shark's teeth — was docked in front of the world's media at the celebrity-filled Cannes Film Festival this month with activist Pamela Anderson in tow, drawing attention to the campaign against Antibes' Marineland, Europe's largest Sea World-style theme park. Sea Shepherd is suing the marine park for negligence that they claim led to the deaths of an orca and other animals — allegations that Marineland officials deny.

"I don't love the celebrity thing, but it's what gets the message across," Watson said, citing supporters including Christian Bale, William Shatner, Pierce Brosnan, Sean Connery and Richard Dean Anderson. "We can't lose because we've got two James Bonds, Batman, Captain Kirk and MacGyver on our advisory board."

Isn't he forgetting Robert Redford, who is also on the board?

"Robert Redford wasn't a superhero in 'Captain America,' he was a villain," he laughed.

Humor is just the veneer on a focused, dogged determination that's carried him through six decades of fighting for the rights of marine life.

An Interpol Red Notice is the closest instrument to an international arrest warrant in use today — the police organization circulates those notices to member countries listing people who are wanted for extradition.

Watson said the original charges from Japan — the world's biggest whaling nation — date from 2010, when a Japanese whaling vessel cut a \$2 million Sea Shepherd boat in half. The Sea Shepherd captain then boarded the Japanese ship — "to confront the whaler who just destroyed his boat" — and was summarily arrested. Watson claims the captain "made a deal" with the Japanese to suspend his sentence "in return for him saying that I ordered him to board."

Watson says the captain wrote an affidavit to the U.S. State Department a year later admitting that he'd lied to Japan, which led the U.S. to ignore the extradition request — after briefly handcuffing him when he when crossed the border from Canada. He says the Costa Rica request is also trumped up and is linked to the Japanese charges.

Watson's charm comes from his effortless way of making extreme positions seem highly reasonable. He says all the property that Sea Shepherd destroys by ramming it at sea is being used for criminal activity.

"So we don't see a problem with that," he explained.

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The hype is back at Indy and everyone wants to win the 100th

JENNA FRYER, AP Auto Racing Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Tony Kanaan spent the final practice before the Indianapolis 500 talking to the race track.

He wanted to be kind to the old lady, to land in her good graces before the historic 100th running of "The Greatest Spectacle In Racing."

"I think this track will pick the winner. Whatever she picks, it's going to be a very lucky guy," Kanaan said Friday after landing atop the leaderboard at Indianapolis Motor Speedway. "I'm trying to massage the track a little bit, talk to her nicely and then see if she will pick me on Sunday."

Kanaan has led a total of 715 miles around the sprawling speedway, but it took him 12 tries to win the checkered flag. That 2013 victory was the most important of his career and the Brazilian is eager to try for another in front of the first capacity crowd in the history of a race that was first run in 1911. There could be more than 350,000 people on hand on what is expected to be a warm, sunny day that will be marked by celebration.

"I'm so humbled to be part of this, I've always wanted to be in this race since I was a little kid," he said. "I never really came to this place until I raced in 2002, so I haven't experienced what it's like when this place is sold out. I've been here for 15 years and I've never, never seen anything like this. I hope it's the big jump we need to bring the 500 back to where it belongs."

This centennial running has turned a special event into a once-in-a-lifetime experience. At least 100,000 fans poured into the speedway Friday for Carb Day, the traditional final day of practice. Everyone wants to be part of the show, and every driver wants to win this race.

Marco Andretti has been preparing for Sunday for an entire year.

His family suffers from the notorious "Andretti curse" that has produced just one victory — Mario Andretti in 1969 — despite numerous chances to win. Michael Andretti returned from retirement in 2006 to race against his son, an Indy 500 rookie, and the curse struck again. Michael Andretti held a late lead, only to be passed by his son and then Sam Hornish Jr. went roaring by and passed Marco at the finish line.

Another Andretti defeat.

"I think about it still every day," Marco said. "See, this place was really, really tough to us. We've been healthy as a family with all the tries, over 70-something tries, we're blessed to be healthy. But man, we've had a lot of plane rides home talking about how we didn't win it, and that's getting old."

This is the one he really wants for his family.

"This whole buildup, all the buzz surrounding this race, I've never been a part of anything like it," he said. "Just to put your mark on the 100th would be huge. I keep saying, 'It's only right an Andretti wins the 100th.'"

Andretti is like the 32 other drivers in the field in their desire to become the 100th face on the famed Borg-Warner trophy.

Among those eyeing the winner's bottle of milk Sunday is Graham Rahal, who is trying to win his first Indy 500 on the 30th anniversary of the race won by his father, Bobby.

More than anything, Rahal is striving to help IndyCar and its cornerstone event use the 100th running to strengthen the series and ensure that the Indy 500 remains a fixture in American sports.

"I put a lot of pressure on myself to try and help this sport grow. If we could win it, obviously it would be a great platform to do even more of that," Rahal said. "Whoever wins this thing needs to be on top of their game and promote like crazy and work hard. I really hope it's an American, honestly. This is going to be a big one. They've captured that audience again that maybe we had lost there for a little

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bit. Now we've got to keep their attention and keep it going."

Although a pair of Americans — Josef Newgarden and 2014 winner Ryan Hunter-Reay — will start on the front row Sunday, a Canadian will lead the field to the green flag. James Hinchcliffe was the feel-good pole winner for the 500, a year after he nearly died in a crash during a practice session the day after qualifying. His crash caused a part to break off his car and it skewered one of his thighs, causing Hinchcliffe to nearly bleed to death as IndyCar's safety team raced him to emergency surgery.

He watched the 500 from his hospital bed and remembers very little of last May because he was heavily medicated while hospitalized.

"I remember the finish, that battle at the end, that was very fun to watch," he said of Juan Pablo Montoya's showdown with teammate Will Power. Montoya went on to win his second Indy 500.

Montoya would like to repeat this year and give team owner Roger Penske a 17th Indy 500 win. Team Penske is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, and all four of his drivers want to give the boss the centennial victory.

If Penske gets a win from Helio Castroneves, the Brazilian would become just the fourth driver in history to win Indy four times.

If there was a favorite for this race, it would likely be another Penske driver: Simon Pagenaud has been on a tear this year, his second driving for The Captain. He opened the year with a pair of second-place finishes, then reeled off three wins in a row headed into the 500. Montoya won the season opener, so Penske has four wins in five races this year.

It's been a trend as Chevrolet teams have dominated the series, while Honda is still looking for its first win of the year.

Hinchcliffe on the pole is a start for Honda, as were several strong days of practice by the five Andretti Autosport entries. But many have wondered if the Chevy teams are simply waiting to show their hand on Sunday. That may be slightly true based on the final practice in which Kanaan and reigning series champion Scott Dixon were first and third in their Chip Ganassi Racing Chevys.

Rahal isn't concerned with what Honda will have on Sunday.

"I think Honda's done a good job," he said. "The power plant is pretty good. It's got some juice to it. I'm looking forward to going out there and see if it stays that way for the race."

Family of lost hiker won't second-guess Maine over search

DAVID SHARP, Associated Press

PATRICK WHITTLE, Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — When she became lost in the Maine woods, Appalachian Trail hiker Geraldine Largay did what she thought she was supposed to do. She stayed put, pitched her tent and waited for help.

But help never came.

Journal entries after she lost her way in July 2013 indicate she survived for another two weeks or more after the Maine Warden Service scaled back their search for her.

The revelations didn't shake the family's belief that hundreds of searchers did all they could to find her.

"While we grieve for Gerry, we do not second-guess any of the efforts to find her when she went missing. We witnessed firsthand the passion and commitment of the hundreds of game wardens and volunteers who searched for her," the family said in a statement Friday evening.

Documents released by the Maine Warden Service on Wednesday in response to Freedom of Access Act requests by media organizations indicate the 66-year-old woman from Brentwood, Tennessee, sur-

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vived more than three weeks after getting lost.

The slow-and-steady hiker who earned the trail nickname "Inchworm" lived on even after wardens announced on Aug. 4, 2013, that one of the most extensive searches in state history would be "extensively scaled back." Her last journal entry was dated Aug. 18.

Virtually every rescue team in the state had been asked to assist in finding Largay, said Chris Hayward, a member of Mahoosuc Mountain Rescue Team.

"It definitely was a very aggressive effort. There's no question about that," said Dave Martin, from Dirigo Search and Rescue, who assisted at the search headquarters.

Wardens declined to comment.

The terrain where Largay disappeared in western Maine is rugged, making it difficult for searchers on foot. Turbulent wind conditions made it challenging for dogs trying to track a scent, searchers said. Cell signals were nonexistent, as Largay discovered in her futile attempts to text her husband to send help on July 22 — the day she went missing — and again on July 23.

Resigned to her fate, Largay wrote a note directing anyone who found her remains to contact her husband, George, and daughter, Kerry.

Her body was in a sleeping bag in a collapsed tent when it was found last October, more than two years after she went missing. She died from lack of food and water, and environmental exposure.

In the statement, the family said "her final days were a testament to her bravery, resourcefulness and her faith."

"Gerry was doing exactly what she wanted to do. She'd hiked a thousand miles — after 200 miles of training hikes the year prior — and as the warden's report indicates, she was lucid and thinking of others, as always, until the end," the statement said.

The Warden Service documents indicate she'd left behind in a motel room a GPS device that could've sent an emergency signal. They also indicated some questioned Largay's ability to use a compass — which was found in her belongings — but two hikers who may have been the last to see her alive said she seemed to be fairly experienced hiker.

Regina Clark, 54, of Frederick, Maryland, and Dottie Rust, 60, of Thurmont, Maryland, met Largay as they were traveling south and she was traveling north, and the group spent the night the Poplar Ridge Lean-To, a wooden shelter.

The next morning, Largay, who'd begun her hike in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, continued toward the trail's end at Mount Katahdin. A photo snapped by Rust that morning shows a beaming Largay.

Later that day, Largay found herself lost in the woods after leaving the trail to go the bathroom. Trail etiquette suggests hikers travel as far as 200 feet — more than 50 yards — from the trail to relieve themselves and hikers can easily lose sight of the trail.

Clark said Largay remains on her mind "all the time."

"After it happened, the next hike I went on, my family was very concerned. I told them, 'If I don't come back, like Inchworm, I'll be happy out there, doing what I love,'" Clark said. "I hope Inchworm was at peace, too."

West Bank buries wounded Palestinian who was killed in March

HEBRON, West Bank (AP) — Over a thousand people have attended the West Bank funeral of a Palestinian who was shot and killed by an Israeli soldier while he lay wounded after carrying out a stabbing attack on security forces in March.

Mourners carried the body of Abdel-Fattah al-Sharif at the funeral in Hebron on Saturday.

The shooting incident was caught on video and the soldier is now standing trial for manslaughter.

The rare case has polarized Israel, with defense officials condemning the soldier's conduct while others supported him.

Israel has faced months of Palestinian attacks against civilians and security personnel. So far, 28 Israelis and two Americans have been killed, as well as about 200 Palestinians. Israel says most of the Palestinians have been attackers.

The assaults have declined recently but not entirely stopped.

Schools preparing for the worst, with active shooter drills

JENNIFER C. KERR, Associated Press

CARMEL, Ind. (AP) — "Lockdown, lockdown, lockdown. This is a drill."

With those seven words, calmly announced over the intercom system, an eerie silence overtook a bustling elementary school of 650 students in suburban Indianapolis. Lights were turned off and blinds shut. In some classrooms, doors were barricaded with small desks and chairs.

From start to finish, the "intruder drill" at the Forest Dale Elementary School in Carmel took about 10 minutes — an exercise now as routine at the school as a fire drill. What might sound terrifying to some parents has become the norm in many schools nationwide after a rash of school shootings.

More than two-thirds of school districts surveyed by the U.S. Government Accountability Office conduct "active shooter" exercises.

Some schools make their drills very realistic, simulating the sounds of gunshots and using smoke and fake blood. In one case, armed police officers with weapons drawn burst into a Florida middle school, terrifying staff and students alike.

Staff and teachers are usually given warning that drills will happen.

GAO investigators said one district noted "the difficulty of striking a balance between providing knowledge and inciting fear, particularly at schools with younger children."

Between 2000 and 2013, there were 25 shootings at U.S. elementary and secondary schools, resulting in 57 deaths, according to the FBI.

These numbers include the shooting at Connecticut's Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012 when an intruder gunned down 20 first-graders and six educators.

Students at Forest Dale began participating in twice-a-semester intruder drills even before Sandy Hook.

"We do fire drills, but we don't expect there to be a fire. When you get on an airplane, they talk to you about all sorts of safety procedures, but not because they expect the plane to crash, but because you just need to know, just in case," said D.J. Schoeff, a school resource officer in Carmel and a regional director with the National Association of School Resource Officers.

But Forest Dale's drills don't have the effects and props that have drawn criticism elsewhere.

Playing the role of intruders, Forest Dale Principal Deanna Pitman and Police Officer Greg Dewald walked the halls, jiggled the doorknobs of darkened classrooms, checking for unlocked doors. A staff assistant in an office watching a monitor used the intercom to broadcast the location and description of the intruders, so staff and students could choose how to respond.

"Mrs. Pitman is wearing a green blouse today and Officer Dewald is wearing khaki pants with his policeman's jacket," the assistant said. "Consider what you would do if they were in the fifth-grade pod."

Fifth-graders scattered from a hallway, leaving notebooks and pencils strewn across the carpeted floor as they fled inside a classroom. At the other end of the school, youngsters streamed outside in lines of two with their teachers to designated safe locations.

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Students had no advance warning of the drill. Teachers were told there would be a drill, but they didn't know what kind or when.

Inside the school, all went mostly according to plan. No children were stranded in hallways. Doors were locked. Only the head of one little child could be seen peeking out from under a desk. The child quickly popped back under the desk as Pitman walked by a classroom window.

Outside school, one class went to the wrong safe spot — a "lessons learned" moment for future drills, Pitman said.

"We had a little bit of concern from parents when we first started the drills," Pitman said after the students were back to class. "I think it was more of the unknown, and not necessarily anxiety over lockdown and intruder drills. Once they know what the teachers are saying to the kids, we don't really get a lot of pushback."

Not all schools feel the same way about the drills, and some security experts are cautious about them.

"Practice your lockdowns and diversify when you do those, different times of the day, and keep your focus on the other types of threats and day-to-day security issues without getting a tunnel vision focus on active shooters," said school safety consultant Ken Trump.

Many schools across the country don't have enough security cameras to capture the entire campus for potential threats, Trump added.

He said exiting the building can be risky if there truly is an intruder because of the uncertainty about whether there could be accomplices outside waiting. "You are leaving secure areas and evacuating into — you don't know what," said Trump, president of National School Safety and Security Services in Cleveland.

But a school psychologist, Dr. Melissa Reeves, says schools need to be prepared and conduct age-appropriate exercises like the Forest Dale drill. It's the more realistic simulation drills with props that worry Reeves.

"We do not light a fire in the hallway to practice fire drills, so why do we feel the need to bring in a fake gun, people screaming and people with makeup that looks like blood?," said Reeves, a psychologist at a pre-K through 12 school in Charlotte, North Carolina, and the president-elect of the National Association of School Psychologists. "There are other ways we can train staff members and students to be prepared."

Jennifer Cassidy, who has a second-grader and fifth-grader at Forest Dale, says her kids never come home talking about the intruder drills.

"I don't think that's because they are traumatized or freaked out. I think they just think it's just another part of school," she said. "At first I felt like, I don't understand why we have to do these. Then, after Sandy Hook, I was glad we do these, and I feel completely different about them."

US naval, air maneuvers become 'new normal' in Asia Pacific

LOLITA C. BALDOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — American ships and fighter jets maneuvering across the South China Sea and the Sea of Japan represent the "new normal" in U.S.-Pacific relations despite rising tensions with China and Moscow.

U.S. moves in recent months have led to angry protests from China and Russia, which contend the Obama administration is fueling unrest in the Asia Pacific and conducting illegal and unsafe transit in the region. U.S. military leaders defend the operations and say they will continue to exercise freedom of navigation, and may do so more frequently as time goes on.

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The escalating rhetoric reflects efforts by China and Russia to show military superiority in an increasingly crowded and competitive part of the world. And it sets up a tense game of political brinksmanship as leaders from the two countries and the U.S. thrust and parry across the military and diplomatic fields of play.

The military maneuvers have shadowed President Barack Obama's "pivot to Asia," a decision early in his tenure to try to focus the relationship with Pacific partners on economics and trade.

"We're at a moment when China, Iran and Russia are all testing us, engaging in reckless behavior and forcing policy makers with the question of how far we push and when," said Derek Chollet, a former assistant defense secretary for international affairs and now a senior adviser at the German Marshall Fund. "We're for freedom of navigation and following the rules, and to an extent we are pushing back against changing the rules."

Adm. John Richardson, chief of naval operations, said that for the first time in 25 years, the U.S. is facing competition for maritime superiority as China and Russia build up their navies.

China's island development in the South China Sea has inflamed regional tensions, including with nations that have competing claims to the land formations. Most fear that Beijing, which has built airfields and placed weapons systems on the man-made islands, will use the construction to extend its military reach and perhaps try to restrict navigation.

Three times in the past seven months, U.S. warships deliberately have sailed close to one of those islands to exercise freedom of navigation and challenge the claims.

In response, China has deployed fighter jets and ships to track and warn off the American ships, and accused the U.S. of provocative action.

Twice this year, Defense Secretary Ash Carter has flown to U.S. aircraft carriers in the South China Sea with reporters, sending a message that the U.S. will not cede navigational rights. He plans to return to the area next week for an annual Asian national security conference.

"China has taken some expansive and unprecedented actions in the South China Sea, pressing excessive maritime claims contrary to international law," Carter said Friday during a speech to graduates at the U.S. Naval Academy. "The result is that China's actions could erect a Great Wall of self-isolation, as countries across the region - allies, partners, and the unaligned - are voicing concerns publicly and privately, at the highest levels."

Similarly, Russian attack planes buzzed a U.S. Navy warship in international waters in the Baltic Sea last month, and last week Moscow lodged a formal protest about a U.S. reconnaissance flight over the Sea of Japan.

The U.S. says its missions are meant to underscore the rights of the U.S. and others to traverse the region freely and to block efforts by any nation to unlawfully extend their boundaries or territorial rights.

"To the degree that we could advocate more strongly, we need to do enough of these things so that advocacy is well understood," Richardson said in an Associated Press interview. "Certainly if you wanted to dial those up in frequency, well I think that we can support that." The U.S. is establishing "a new normal level of activity or interaction" that comes with Russia's and China's "return to great power competition."

Richardson noted that freedom of navigation operations happen hundreds of times a year in the backyards of friends and foes.

"Even though there's a tremendous amount of visibility on the South China Sea right now, it is important to keep those in context," he said. "We do these around the world against a lot of these excessive claims."

Under the Law of the Sea, a country can claim up to 12 nautical miles beyond its coastline. In some

cases countries try to claim more than that.

In other cases, countries try to restrict what others can do within the 200-mile exclusive economic zone that's allowed under international law. For example, they may require advance notice of a flight or ship passage within that zone or prohibit certain military activities there.

The Pentagon releases an annual report that lists the countries where the U.S. has conducted freedom of navigation operations, but includes no details.

U.S. military officials said that at least 80 percent are done by ships, but U.S. aircraft also conduct flights to challenge excessive airspace claims.

The most frequent U.S. operations are in the narrow Strait of Hormuz, where hundreds of times a year ships pass through territorial waters claimed by Iran and Oman. Both countries try to restrict movement through the strait, but international law allows innocent passage.

The Iranian military often hails U.S. ships and tells them to leave. The two sides essentially follow a script, as the U.S. ship continues on its way.

In other places around the globe, including portions of India or large swaths of the South American coast, U.S. ships routinely sail within claimed territorial waters or refuse to provide advance requests for transit. Often the operations go unnoticed or trigger no reaction or protest.

In some cases, U.S. officials said, countries are only aware of the operation after the Pentagon releases the annual report.

According to the 2015 report, the U.S. formally conducted freedom of navigation operations as a way of challenging excessive claims made by 13 countries during the budget year ending Sept. 30.

AP-NORC Poll finds bare confidence in government, elections

EMILY SWANSON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Few Americans have much confidence in the U.S. political system, the government in general, or in either political party.

Most say they're interested in the 2016 presidential election, but they also feel frustrated, helpless and even angry with the way the election is going, a poll by the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research shows.

Democrats and Republicans alike feel down in the dumps about the election and about the political system in general.

Some things to know about Americans' opinions on their government and the political system from the AP-NORC poll:

LITTLE CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT

Few Americans have a lot of confidence in any of the branches of the government. Just 4 percent say they have a great deal of confidence in Congress, while 48 percent say they have only some and 46 percent have hardly any.

The other branches of government fare a little better, but still don't inspire much confidence. Fifteen percent say they have a lot of confidence in the executive branch, 50 percent have some and 33 percent have hardly any. And 24 percent have a great deal of confidence in the Supreme Court, 58 percent have some confidence and 17 percent have hardly any.

On the other hand, 56 percent of Americans say they have a great deal of confidence in the military.

There are some partisan differences in Americans' confidence in their government institutions. With a Democrat occupying the White House, Democrats are more likely than Republicans to express a great deal of confidence in the executive branch, 24 percent to 6 percent. And about 7 in 10 Republicans, but just under half of Democrats, have a great deal of confidence in the military.

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FEELING BLUE, BUT CAN'T LOOK AWAY

Few Americans have positive things to say about the 2016 presidential election.

Seven in 10 Americans describe themselves as frustrated with the 2016 presidential election, while more than half, including majorities in both parties, say they're angry.

Only 23 percent say they're excited about the election, while 37 percent feel hopeful. Just 13 percent say they're proud.

Still, Americans can't seem to turn away. About two-thirds say they're interested in the presidential election, and just 3 in 10 say they're bored.

At the same time, 55 percent, including majorities from both political parties say they feel helpless about the election.

About half of voters age 45 and over, but two-thirds of those under 30, say they feel helpless.

SYSTEM NEEDS FIXING

Just 10 percent say they have a great deal of confidence in the political system overall, the AP-NORC poll finds, while 51 percent have only some confidence and 38 percent say they have hardly any. About one-quarter say they have hardly any confidence that their votes will be counted accurately, while close to 4 in 10 say they have only some confidence.

Only 13 percent of Americans say they think the two-party political system in the U.S. works fairly well, while 38 percent say it's seriously broken. An additional 49 percent say the system has real problems, but with some improvements it can still work.

Neither political party inspires much confidence, either. Just 8 percent say they have a great deal of confidence in the Republican Party and 15 percent say that about the Democratic Party. Just 29 percent of Democrats and 16 percent of Republicans have a great deal of confidence in their own political parties.

The AP-NORC poll of 1,060 adults was conducted May 12-15 using a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 4.1 percentage points.

Respondents were first selected randomly using address-based sampling methods, and later interviewed online or by phone.

Looking ahead to 100 more years at the Indianapolis 500

DAVE SKRETTA, AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Ray Harroun never could have envisioned the speed, science and styling behind the cars on the starting grid for the 100th Indy 500, not when he was piloting the Marmon Wasp to victory in the inaugural race back in 1911.

His black-and-gold car looked like a battering ram on wheels, rather than the sleek, fighter-jet-like cars of today. Harroun pattered around at an average speed of 74 mph, roughly 160 mph behind the pole-winning speed of James Hinchliffe this year, and he needed nearly 7 hours to complete that first 500-mile race.

"In my estimation the limit is reached at 500 miles," Harroun predicted upon exiting the car, "and is entirely too long for the endurance of the driver."

Yet they're still racing 500 miles after all these years, with the 100th edition taking place Sunday. They

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probably will be after 100 more years.

Everything else could be vastly different.

"It's a fascinating question because in essence this is why we race: To learn and to develop new technologies to push the performance envelope," said Jim Campbell, vice president of performance vehicles and motorsports for Chevrolet. "I just wish I could live another 100 years to be a part of it."

The high-pitched hum of ethanol-powered engines could be replaced by the nearly silent thrum of electric cars, an idea that might have seemed preposterous a decade ago. Or perhaps they will be solar-powered. Or run on garbage a la the DeLorean in "Back to the Future."

"You've got to believe that they'll go with some sort of green technology," said 1986 winner Bobby Rahal, who now runs the Rahal Letterman Lanigan team. "Maybe you'll have nuclear-powered cars, I don't know."

Nobody does. That's the fun of the exercise.

Asking drivers and executives in Gasoline Alley to picture the future of the Indy 500 is like asking Helio Castroneves to play Aldous Huxley or Simon Pagnaud to channel his inner George Orwell. Not surprisingly, many of their responses trended toward science fiction.

"You know what? I'm a big 'Star Wars' fan," Pagnaud said, "so maybe it will look like a 'Star Wars' car with no tires. That would be awfully strange, wouldn't it?"

Well, drying the track after a rainstorm would no longer be an issue. And all those seats in the upper reaches of the grandstands would become prime viewing spots.

"Maybe they'll look like a spaceship," Castroneves said. "That's a good question. I won't be here. I'll be looking up at the sky. Or hopefully, I should say, I'll be looking down."

Perhaps the changes will be more subtle, like the engine moved elsewhere on the car — it wasn't until the 1960s that it was moved from the front to the back. If the cars are still stuck to the ground, maybe the tires will be made of some new material — they have already undergone myriad changes over the years.

Aerodynamics will change. The cars these days seem like they cut through air like a scalpel, but that was probably the case in Harroun's time, too. The car that wins the 100th running this weekend will almost certainly land in the trackside museum, where it will seem woefully antiquated in another 100 years.

"If you go back through history, you see a lot of funny things happen here, a lot of guys getting creative on the engineering side to find that extra tenth of a mile an hour," Hinchcliffe said. "It's pretty standard to see people trying things outside of the box when you're running around this place."

Yes, one of the hallmarks of the Indy 500 has always been innovation. Drivers and crews would arrive each May with bold designs and creative engineering, pushing the envelope in new and imaginative ways.

"Where do we go from here? It's an open question," said Art St. Cyr, president of Honda Performance Development. "Advanced fuels? Definitely. Increased safety, of course, would be a major priority. Chassis, where the wheels, tires and suspension are a single unit made out of as-yet undeveloped materials? Perhaps.

"One thing about racing, this is the venue that will continue to push technology."

Not everybody agrees, nor does everyone share the same outlandish optimism for the future.

Three-time winner Bobby Unser lamented the direction the Indy 500 has gone in recent years. Spec chassis provided by Dallara and engines delivered by Chevrolet and Honda have robbed it of its creativity.

"If they don't change something they're going to kill it — if they don't change the thing and get back

to some real racing and innovation, it's going to kill the race," Unser said with a sigh. "This is America. We're an innovative country. Why would we want everything to be the same?"

Just as many argue the racing has never been better, though.

Recent years have produced record numbers of lead changes and heart-stopping finishes. The 100th running is sold out, allowing the blackout to be lifted for local TV. Interest appears to be at an all-time high.

Maybe that will be enough to push the race through another 100 years.

"I imagine the rate of change has slowed," Hinchcliffe said, "but the cars will be massively different. The track will have grown a lot. Speeds will get back to record-breaking territory. But I think we'll still have the same awesome event, the same respect and appreciation for it. I wish I could be around to see it."

Death on Everest leads to risky effort to recover bodies

BINAJ GURUBACHARYA, Associated Press

TIM SULLIVAN, Associated Press

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) — The mountain is speckled with corpses.

Nearly 300 people have died on Mount Everest in the century or so since climbers have been trying to reach its summit. At least 100 of them are still on the mountain, perhaps 200. Most of the bodies are hidden in deep crevasses or covered by snow and ice, but some are visible to every climber who passes by, landmarks in heavy plastic climbing boots and colorful parkas that fade a little more every year. The most famous corpses get nicknames — "Green Boots," "Sleeping Beauty," "The German" — becoming warnings of what can go wrong on the 8,850-meter (29,035-foot) peak, even as they become part of the mountain's gallows humor.

No mountaineer wants to end up a nicknamed body. No grieving family wants their loved one to become a punchline. But in one of the most unforgiving places on Earth, where low oxygen, frigid temperatures and strong winds mean any effort can seem impossible, taking down the dead is no simple thing.

So when four people died on the upper reaches of Everest in recent days, and with a fifth missing and presumed dead, climbing teams and climbers' families scattered around the world had to face the question of whether the bodies would be brought down.

"For the loved ones back home and family members of those fallen and died on Mount Everest, it is worth it," said Ben Jones, a guide from Jackson, Wyoming, who made his third successful Everest ascent this year.

But the equation isn't simple.

"It's extremely difficult and extremely dangerous," said Arnold Coster, expedition leader for Seven Summit Treks, which lost two climbers this year on Everest and spent days getting them off the mountain. "The terrain is steep and the weather is bad. It's been snowing, and been very windy the past couple days," he said Thursday, as a team of Sherpas struggled to get the body of one climber, Maria Strydom, low enough to be picked up by helicopter.

It can take 10 Sherpas more than three days to move a body from Everest's South Col, at 8,000 meters or 26,300 feet, to Camp 2, a rocky expanse at 21,000 feet where helicopters can take over. It's a painful, exhausting process, with the bodies, which are normally carried in sleeping bags or wrapped in tents, often much heavier because they are covered in ice.

Given the risks involved in spending so much time at high altitudes, many climbing teams decide not

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to bring down their dead, sometimes lowering them into crevasses or covering them with rocks so they are not gawked at.

Coster said that Strydom's body was just off a main climbing route, in an area where it was easily visible, and that her family wanted it brought down.

But he said he discussed the situation first with a Sherpa team, evaluating the potential dangers involved, before deciding they could safely get down the mountain with the corpse.

Coster described Strydom as a strong climber who had weakened as she neared the summit. She turned back but later collapsed and died. After being carried down the mountain, her body was flown to Kathmandu on Friday.

A recovery like that does not come cheap.

Dan Richards of Global Rescue, a Boston-based agency, said retrieving a body from Everest is a massive logistical operation that can cost from \$10,000 to \$40,000, depending on the difficulty and helicopter flights.

"However, we do not take the risk for mortal remains unless it is in a safe location," he said.

Jiban Ghimire of Shangri-la Nepal Trek, a prominent expedition outfitter agency based in Kathmandu, said recovery operations are generally covered by insurance companies or paid for by the families of the dead climbers. Strydom's family and friends are trying to raise at least \$30,000 to cover what it cost to get her body down from Everest and to Kathmandu, according to Australian media reports.

The climbers who died on Everest this year included Strydom, a Dutch man and two Indian men. Another Indian man is missing, with almost no chance he remains alive.

But across the years, it is Sherpas who die most often on the mountain. In just the past two years, at least 28 of the dead were from the ethnic group that has lived for centuries around Everest, and who have become an integral part of the Himalayan mountaineering world.

The pay on the mountain, in a nation with an average per capita income of just \$730, has long made the risks worthwhile.

Sherpa climbing guides can earn up to \$7,000, plus bonuses and tips, in the three-month climbing season. Cooks and other support personnel earn about half as much.

When a Sherpa dies on Everest, relatives also working there will normally rush to recover the body.

But sometimes, they are never found.

Chheddar Sherpa, a guide who has scaled Everest seven times, lost his brother and nephew when an Everest avalanche killed 16 Sherpas in 2014. His brother's body was recovered, but his nephew has never been found.

"In our culture we do not like to leave behind bodies on the mountain. We believe that the bodies should be properly cremated for the peace of their souls and so the family gets closure," said Sherpa, who gave up high-altitude work after avalanche.

But he added: "We believe that one's safety should be the priority when trying to bring down a body."

Sometimes, the mountain itself brings back the dead, as shifting glaciers or melting snow reveal bodies that have been lost for years.

The body of George Mallory, the great English climber who disappeared on Everest in 1924, was not found until 1999. The corpse of a Sherpa guide, who had fallen in a crevasse in 2005, emerged near Base Camp in 2013.

Ang Tshering, head of the Nepal Mountaineering Association, predicted that warming temperatures will reveal many new corpses.

"In the next 10 years or so, these bodies could begin turning up," he said.

Atomic bomb survivors feel wonder, doubt after Obama visit

FOSTER KLUG, Associated Press

KAORI HITOMI, Associated Press

HIROSHIMA, Japan (AP) — The survivors of the world's first atomic bomb attack are used to hearing grand vows to rid the world of nuclear weapons. They just don't usually come directly from the leader of the country that dropped the bomb on them in the first place.

On Saturday, a day after Barack Obama left, there was gratitude — wonder, even — that he had become the first sitting U.S. president to visit the place where the nuclear age began. But there was also clear-eyed recognition that the realities of a dangerous, fickle world may trump Obama's call for nations, including his own, to have the "the courage to escape the logic of fear" of nuclear weapons stockpiling.

Hiroshima cherishes its survivors — a grove not far from the atomic bomb's hypocenter proudly displays signs announcing that these "A-bombed Trees" still thrive — but there's also some skepticism when faced with yet another anti-nuclear call, even from the leader of the world's sole superpower.

"The world paid attention to what happened here, even if just for a while, because someone as important as (Obama) came to Hiroshima. So perhaps it could make things a little bit better," Kimie Miyamoto, 89, a bomb survivor, said in an interview. "But you never know if it will really make a difference, because so much depends on what other countries are thinking as well."

Asked if Obama's visit could inspire those countries to abandon nuclear weapons, she shook her head. "I don't think so," she said, "because there are so many (bombs) in the world."

Long after Obama left for Washington, people here were loath to let go of his whirlwind trip.

Into the night, a line at Peace Memorial Park stretched from an arched stone monument that honors the 140,000 who died from the Aug. 6, 1945, bombing to a museum that tells the stories of some of those dead, about 200 meters (yards) away. People stood patiently, inching forward and waiting for their chance to take pictures of the wreath Obama had left behind.

People around Hiroshima were still talking about their glimpses of Obama as they lined the streets to watch his motorcade speed by or watched the media coverage that documented nearly every single moment of the two hours he spent in Hiroshima in a carefully choreographed political performance meant to close old wounds without inflaming new passions.

Beneath the thrill that lingered from Obama's star power, there was also a widespread desire to keep momentum going.

"We should not let President Obama's Hiroshima visit be just a ceremony," the left-leaning Mainichi newspaper said in an editorial Saturday. "He will be in office only eight more months. We hope the president will use the remaining time effectively to take concrete steps to leave a political legacy that will pave the way for a world without nuclear weapons."

Some anti-nuclear activists worry that Obama's Hiroshima speech could turn out like his 2009 speech in Prague that helped secure him a Nobel Peace Prize: After the buzz dies down, there will be a return to business as usual.

"The world needs more than words," Derek Johnson, executive director of Global Zero, an anti-nuclear group, said in a statement. "President Obama must take urgent action to reduce the threat of nuclear weapons being used again."

In an interview at the retirement home she shares with other bomb victims, Tsuyako Hiramatsu, 90, flipped through the pages of a book with a photograph of smiling young World War II pilots holding a puppy on its cover.

She marveled at Obama's political and military power, but said she had seen too many Japanese leaders who have said one thing in public and another in private to believe that there will ever be a world without war.

Since Obama received the Nobel for his anti-nuclear agenda, he has seen uneven progress and criticism over plans for a big, costly program to upgrade U.S. nuclear stockpiles.

Another bomb survivor, Michiko Kimoto, 87, also had doubts that Obama's visit would ever lead to a world without nuclear weapons. "You can never tell how people's minds work," she said.

One of the two survivors who met directly with Obama, 91-year-old Sunao Tsuboi, was more optimistic.

Tsuboi, like some other survivors, thought Obama had spent too little time in Hiroshima to fully understand the extent of the tragedy. But Obama's presidency, he told reporters, has pushed the world "a step or two forward" to the goal of nuclear disarmament.

"I think he has the strong leadership abilities to make it happen," he said.

Argentine court sentences ex-dictator for Operation Condor

DEBORA REY, Associated Press

LUIS ANDRES HENAO, Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Argentina's last dictator and 14 other former military officials were sentenced to prison for human rights crimes, marking the first time a court has ruled that Operation Condor was a criminal conspiracy to kidnap and forcibly disappear people across international borders.

The covert operation was launched in the 1970s by six South American dictatorships that used their secret police networks in a coordinated effort to track down their opponents abroad and eliminate them. Many leftist dissidents had sought refuge in neighboring countries and elsewhere.

An Argentine federal court on Friday sentenced former junta leader Reynaldo Bignone, 88, to 20 years in prison for being part of an illicit association, kidnapping and abusing his powers in the forced disappearance of more than 100 people. The ex-general who ruled Argentina in 1982-1983 is already serving life sentences for multiple human rights violations during the 1976-1983 dictatorship.

In the landmark trial, 14 other former military officials received prison sentences of eight to 25 years for criminal association, kidnapping and torture. They include Uruguayan army colonel, Manuel Cordero Piacentini, who allegedly tortured prisoners inside Automotores Orletti, the Buenos Aires repair shop where many captured leftists were interrogated under orders from their home countries. Two of the accused were absolved.

The sentences are seen as a milestone because they mark the first time a court has proved that Operation Condor was an international criminal conspiracy carried out by the U.S.-backed regimes in Chile, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay.

"Operation Condor affected my life, my family," Chilean Laura Elgueta told The Associated Press outside the court room. Her brother, Luis Elgueta, had taken refuge in Buenos Aires from Gen. Augusto Pinochet's forces, only to be forcibly disappeared in Buenos Aires in 1976 as part of Operation Condor.

"This trial is very meaningful because it's the first time that a court is ruling against this sinister Condor plan," she said.

The investigation was launched in the 1990s when an amnesty law still protected many of the accused. Argentina's Supreme Court overturned the amnesty in 2005 at the urging of then-President Nestor Kirchner.

"Forty years after Operation Condor was formally founded, and 16 years after the judicial investiga-

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tion began, this trial produced valuable contributions to knowledge of the truth about the era of state terrorism and this regional criminal network," said the Buenos Aires-based Center for Legal and Social Studies, which is part of the legal team representing plaintiffs in the case.

During the case, several defendants either died or were removed from the judicial process. Since the bodies of many victims have never been found, Argentine prosecutors argued that the crime of covering up their deaths continues today, and that statutory time limits don't apply.

The victims included Maria Claudia Irureta Goyena, the daughter-in-law of Argentine poet Juan Gelman, who was pregnant when she was kidnapped and held for months inside Automotores Orletti before an Argentine air force plane took her to Uruguay. She gave birth there, and then was disappeared. Decades passed before her daughter, Macarena Gelman, discovered her own true identity.

A key piece of evidence in the case was a declassified FBI agent's cable, sent in 1976, that described in detail the conspiracy to share intelligence and eliminate leftists across South America.

Operation Condor was launched in November 1975 by Chile's Pinochet who enlisted other dictators in South America. But the covert program went much further: the U.S. government later determined that Chilean agents involved in Condor killed the country's former ambassador Orlando Letelier and his U.S. aide Ronni Moffitt in Washington, D.C., in September 1976. Operation Condor's agents also tracked other exiles across Europe in efforts to eliminate them.

"This is a great ruling, with stiff sentences," Luz Zaldua, a lawyer representing families of the victims. "It has established that Condor was a supranational criminal association, and that's important — not just for our country but for all countries that have been part of this operation."

LeBron, Cavs confident, healthy as they return to NBA Finals

IAN HARRISON, Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — LeBron James isn't just going back to the NBA Finals. He's returning with a team that's healthy and whole, which makes this trip unlike last year.

Maybe it will lead to a different result.

James scored 33 points, Kevin Love had 20 points and 12 rebounds, and the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Toronto Raptors 113-87 in Game 6 of the Eastern Conference finals Friday night, winning the series 4-2.

Kyrie Irving had 30 points and J.R. Smith added 15 for the Cavaliers, who will face the winner of the Golden State-Oklahoma City series beginning Thursday.

Cleveland would open at home against the Thunder but would be on the road against the 73-win Warriors, who trail 3-2 against Oklahoma City heading into Saturday's Game 6.

Last year, a depleted Cavs team lost in six games to the Warriors, left to wonder whether things would have worked out differently if Love (left shoulder) and Irving (left knee) had been at full strength.

That's not a concern this time around.

"There's definitely a different feeling," said James, who was emotional during his postgame interview on the court.

"I didn't appreciate last year, myself personally, getting to the finals. So much was going on in my mind, knowing that Kev was out for the rest of the season and knowing that Ky was dealing with injuries all the way from the first round. Having these guys right here at full strength, having our team at full strength and the way I feel personally, I appreciate this moment, to be able to be a part of it and be there once again."

Irving, who had battled knee injuries during his first postseason before breaking his kneecap late in

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Game 1 of last year's finals, said he's thankful for the opportunity to be a contributor this time around.

"It just didn't feel the same hobbling into the locker room, knowing that we were going to the finals but I wasn't at full strength and Kev was out," Irving said, recalling the Cavs' East-clinching victory last year. "Thinking about the steps it took to get back to where we are now, I really have a true appreciation for these guys, my teammates and just a true appreciation of the journey."

Love and Irving struggled as the Cavs stumbled in Games 3 and 4 against Toronto, their only losses in 14 games this postseason. Both were back in form for runaway wins in Games 5 and 6.

"We wouldn't be at this point today, going to the finals, without those two," James said. "Throughout the first three rounds, they've been the reason we've played at such a high level. They've accepted the challenge. They wanted to get back to this moment."

James will be playing in his sixth consecutive finals, four of them with Miami. This time, however, he's got perhaps his best shot to end Cleveland's 52-year championship drought, the longest by any city with at least three professional teams. No Cleveland team has won it all since the Browns blanked Baltimore 27-0 to win the NFL championship in 1964.

"This city has been craving a championship," coach Tyronn Lue said. "We have the right team and we have the right talent."

James, who grew up in nearby Akron, is well aware of what a championship would mean to Cleveland.

"I know our city deserves it, our fans deserve it," James said. "But that gives us no sense of entitlement. We've still got to go out and get it. We've still got to go out and prove ourselves."

James will be the eighth player in NBA history to appear in six consecutive finals and the first who didn't play for the Boston Celtics.

It's the third finals appearance in team history for the Cavaliers. Cleveland lost to Golden State in six games last year and got swept by San Antonio in 2007.

Toronto's DeMarre Carroll, who played with Atlanta last season, said this Cleveland team is better than the one that swept aside his Hawks in the Eastern Conference finals.

"They've got a lot more weapons," Carroll said. "They've got a lot better veterans from Channing Frye to (Richard) Jefferson. They've got a complete team."

A shot at the NBA title is just what Cavs owner Dan Gilbert had in mind when he signed Love to a \$113 million contract last summer and gave Tristan Thompson \$82 million. Cleveland has a \$175 million payroll this season.

"They didn't go over the cap for no reason," Carroll said. "They're playing great basketball right now."

Small WWII-era plane crashes in Hudson River; body recovered

MICHAEL BALSAMO, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A small World War II vintage plane taking part in celebrations of its 75th anniversary flew a partial loop while smoke spewed from it and then crashed in the Hudson River between New York and New Jersey on Friday, and divers recovered a body from its sunken wreckage, police and witnesses said.

The single-seat plane, a P-47 Thunderbolt, crashed on a part of the river near where a US Airways commercial jet carrying 155 people splash-landed safely in 2009 in what became known as the Miracle on the Hudson.

A witness to the P-47 Thunderbolt crash, Hunter College student Siqi Li, saw smoke spewing from the plane and thought it was doing a trick.

"It made kind of a U-turn, and then there was a stream of smoke coming from it," Li told the Daily News. "It was tilting down toward the water. I thought they were doing some sort of trick. I didn't real-

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ize it at first, but it was a plane crash.”

Scuba divers recovered the body of a 56-year-old man from the submerged plane about three hours later, New York Police Department Detective Michael Debonis said. Police identified the body as William Gordon, of Key West, Florida.

The body was taken back to the New York shore via police boat. Several police officers carried a stretcher to the dock.

The Federal Aviation Administration said the P-47 Thunderbolt aircraft, which went down near the George Washington Bridge around 7:30 p.m., was among three planes that had departed from Republic Airport in Farmingdale, on Long Island, just east of New York City. The other two aircraft returned to the airport and landed safely.

The American Airpower Museum is celebrating the 75th anniversary of the P-47 Thunderbolt this weekend. Museum spokesman Gary Lewi said the plane was kept at the museum and was taking part in an air show at nearby Jones Beach this weekend.

“Apparently the aircraft suffered an inflight engine failure,” Lewi said. “I’m told the aircraft is at the bottom of the Hudson.”

The three planes, the P-47, a P-40 and a photo plane, had been flying over the Hudson to shoot promotional material for the Jones Beach air show, Lewi said. The identity of the pilot of the plane that crashed was being withheld, he said.

North Hudson Regional Fire and Rescue co-director Jeff Welz told The Jersey Journal that firefighters and the Coast Guard responded after the Friday night crash. He said the plane sank “pretty quickly.”

The P47-Thunderbolts were the heaviest single-engine fighter planes used by Allied forces in World War II. They first went into service in 1942, with the 56th Fighter Group based on Long Island.

The one that crashed in the river flew periodically, including to other air shows, Lewi said.

Trump tells California ‘there is no drought’

JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

ELLEN KNICKMEYER, Associated Press

FRESNO, Calif. (AP) — Presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump told California voters Friday that he can solve their water crisis, declaring, “There is no drought.”

California is, in fact, in midst of a drought. Last year capped the state’s driest four-year period in its history, with record low rainfall and snow.

Speaking at a rally in Fresno, Calif., Trump accused state officials of denying water to Central Valley farmers so they can send it out to sea “to protect a certain kind of three-inch fish.”

“We’re going to solve your water problem. You have a water problem that is so insane. It is so ridiculous where they’re taking the water and shoving it out to sea,” Trump said at a rally that drew thousands.

The comments came a day after Trump outlined an energy policy plan that relies heavily on expanding U.S. fossil fuel exploration and reducing environmental regulations.

He held a pair of rallies Friday in Fresno and San Diego as he closed a campaign swing through the west, drawing vocal crowds of protesters, many carrying signs critical of Trump’s plan to wall off the U.S. border with Mexico.

About a thousand Trump foes demonstrated outside San Diego’s convention center as Trump spoke inside to an enthusiastic crowd of supporters packed in tight. Police said they made about a dozen arrests, including one man who climbed a railing separating protesters from officers. His arrest led

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protesters to spray water and throw empty plastic bottles at police.

In another tense exchange, police shoved back demonstrators to separate them from Trump supporters when they left the center after the rally.

Officers in riot gear declared the gathering outside the convention center unlawful after shouting matches erupted and people began hurling trash at each other.

Inside, the mood was far less charged, as Trump took repeated jabs at Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton. He also went on defense against negative media stories and an ongoing lawsuit against his now-defunct Trump University.

"I'm getting railroaded by a legal system," Trump complained.

In Fresno, Trump said he'd spent 30 minutes before his rally meeting with more than 50 farmers who complained to him about their struggles.

"They don't understand — nobody understands it," he said, declaring at one point: "There is no drought. They turn the water out into the ocean."

Trump appeared to be referring to disputes over water that runs from the Sacramento River to the San Francisco Bay and then to the ocean. Some farmers want more of that flow captured and diverted to them.

Politically influential rural water districts and well-off corporate farmers in and around California's Central Valley have been pushing back against longstanding federal laws protecting endangered fish and other species, saying federal efforts to make sure endangered native fish have enough water is short-changing farmers of the water they want and need for crops.

Water authorities say they can't do it because of the water rights of those upstream of the farmers, and because of the minimum-water allowances needed by endangered species in the bay and by wild-life in general.

The three-inch Delta smelt is a native California fish on the brink of extinction. The smelt has become an emblem in the state's battles over environmental laws and water distribution.

The farm lobby, a heavyweight player in California's water wars, also is seeking federal and state approval for billions of dollars in new water tunnels, dams and other projects.

Trump promised that, if he's elected, he would put their interests first. "If I win, believe me, we're going to start opening up the water so that you can have your farmers survive," he said.

California is the country's No. 1 agriculture producer. The state's drought is raising the stakes in water disputes among farmers, cities and towns, and environmental interests.

A count by The Associated Press found Thursday that Trump has reached the required number of delegates to officially clinch the Republican nomination.

Expecting worst, holiday travelers find fast airport lines

JEFF MARTIN, Associated Press

RUSS BYNUM, Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Fast moving airport security lines at the start of the Memorial Day weekend could bode well for return travelers Monday.

Travelers reported moving quickly through airport checkpoints Friday after authorities opened extra screening lanes and used bomb-sniffing dogs to give some passengers a break from removing their shoes.

"Wow. I mean, wow," said Mike Saresky, who flew into Chicago from Philadelphia, where he breezed through airport security in 12 minutes and got to leave his shoes on. "I thought it was going to be a

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lot worse.”

The extra dogs were concentrated at the nation’s largest airports, but they were not used for all screenings, meaning that many travelers still had to observe the usual procedures.

But as the busy summer travel season kicked off, the federal Transportation Security Administration tried to offer travelers some relief after weeks of slow-moving lines blamed on an increase in the number of air travelers and a shortage of TSA security officers.

A TSA spokesman said the extra dogs would remain well beyond the holiday.

At Hartsfield-Jackson Airport in Atlanta, known as the world’s busiest, all 16 security lanes at the main checkpoint were open Friday morning as a bomb-sniffing dog and its handler walked among waiting passengers. Wait times were slashed to less than 15 minutes, compared with backups of nearly an hour in recent weeks.

“All the natives were telling me, ‘Brace yourself,’” said Carl Plum, who arrived in Atlanta to fly home to Denver. “I left myself two hours before my flight, so I think I’ll be OK.”

When she flew barely two weeks ago, LaGretta Watkin recalled security lines that were “so chaotic” that travelers “could barely move.”

“But today it’s smooth sailing and refreshing,” Watkin said as she started a trip from Atlanta to Jacksonville, Florida. “And I’m loving it.”

The TSA began deploying extra canine teams to the busiest airports months ago. While the goal was to shorten waits at larger airports, the reshuffling could also result in longer lines at airports that lost dog teams.

The dogs “have the ability to screen large groups of passengers for explosives, making the removal of shoes and laptops and such unnecessary,” TSA spokesman Mike England said.

The agency has 900 dog teams nationwide, England said. He declined to say which airports they were sent to for the holiday weekend or how long they might stay.

“This is not just for Memorial Day weekend,” England said. “I wouldn’t expect that it would go away any time soon.”

At O’Hare Airport in Chicago, which had some of the worst screening meltdowns in recent weeks, lines moved briskly Friday, though still swelled at times. Typical security procedures appeared to be in place, with passengers removing belts and shoes and taking computers from bags and items out of pockets. Bomb-sniffing dogs were making rounds in pre-security areas.

Terri Hale, arriving in Chicago from Cleveland, said security there seemed, if anything, tighter than usual. Passing through the millimeter-wave scanner, she was stopped and asked to empty her pocket for what turned out to be a tiny piece of foil from a gum wrapper.

“When she found that I was like, OK,” Hale recalled with a laugh, as a security dog sniffed around her in the O’Hare baggage claim area.

Security lines were fairly short at LaGuardia Airport in New York. Arlene Dobren, who was flying to Atlanta, said she and her husband arrived early to find “the lines are like no lines.”

Harrison Pavlasek, departing for Texas, said he had been prepared to make the best of the situation if lines were long.

“It is just one of those things we are going to have to live with,” Pavlasek said. “Whether it is the airlines’ fault or TSA’s fault or our own fault, it is unfortunately the consequences we have to live with at this point in time.”

Travelers at the San Diego airport said security lines were moving faster Friday than in recent weeks. Adam Hutson noticed improvements as he returned from a two-week trip to Hawaii.

“When we left two weeks ago, it was very slow here,” said Hutson, a San Diego business manager

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who waited over an hour in lines on his way to Hawaii. He said his wait leaving Maui was 30 minutes.

"I think the scrutiny over the last week has really paid off in a big way," said Gary McGoffin of Lafayette, Louisiana, who was traveling through San Diego on vacation with his wife.

Nationwide, AAA estimated that 2.6 million Americans would fly during the long weekend. That's out of an anticipated 38 million domestic travelers, most of whom will probably drive to their destinations. AAA predicted 2016 would have the second-highest Memorial Day travel volume on record and the most since 2005.

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, May 28, the 149th day of 2016. There are 217 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 28, 1934, the Dionne quintuplets — Annette, Cecile, Emilie, Marie and Yvonne — were born to Elzire Dionne at the family farm in Ontario, Canada.

On this date:

In 1533, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer, declared the marriage of England's King Henry VIII to Anne Boleyn valid.

In 1892, the Sierra Club was organized in San Francisco.

In 1912, the Senate Commerce Committee issued its report on the Titanic disaster that cited a "state of absolute unpreparedness," improperly tested safety equipment and an "indifference to danger" as some of the causes of an "unnecessary tragedy."

In 1929, the first all-color talking picture, "On with the Show!" produced by Warner Bros., opened in New York.

In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt pushed a button in Washington signaling that vehicular traffic could begin crossing the just-opened Golden Gate Bridge in California. Neville Chamberlain became prime minister of Britain.

In 1940, during World War II, the Belgian army surrendered to invading German forces.

In 1945, the novel "Brideshead Revisited" by Evelyn Waugh was published in London by Chapman & Hall.

In 1959, the U.S. Army launched Able, a rhesus monkey, and Baker, a squirrel monkey, aboard a Jupiter missile for a suborbital flight which both primates survived.

In 1961, Amnesty International had its beginnings with the publication of an article in the British newspaper The Observer, "The Forgotten Prisoners."

In 1977, 165 people were killed when fire raced through the Beverly Hills Supper Club in Southgate, Kentucky.

In 1985, David Jacobsen, director of the American University Hospital in Beirut, Lebanon, was abducted by pro-Iranian kidnappers (he was freed 17 months later).

In 1998, comic actor Phil Hartman of "Saturday Night Live" and "NewsRadio" fame was shot to death at his home in Encino, California, by his wife, Brynn, who then killed herself.

Ten years ago: Pope Benedict XVI visited the Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland as "a son of the German people" and asked God why he had remained silent during the "unprecedented mass crimes" of the Nazi Holocaust. Barry Bonds hit his 715th home run during the San Francisco Giants' 6-3 loss to the Colorado Rockies to slip past Babe Ruth and pull in right behind Hank Aaron's long-standing record

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of 755. Sam Hornish Jr. won the second-closest Indianapolis 500 ever, by point-0635 seconds.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama praised Poland's transition to democracy following a meeting in Warsaw with President Bronislaw Komorowski (kah-mah-RAWF'-skee). After a four-year blockade, Egypt permanently opened the Gaza Strip's main gateway to the outside world. North Korea freed Eddie Jun, an American it had held for a half year for reportedly proselytizing.

One year ago: A federal grand jury indictment handed up in Chicago revealed that former U.S. House Speaker Dennis Hastert had agreed to pay \$3.5 million in hush money to keep an unidentified person silent about "prior misconduct" by the Illinois Republican. (Hastert later pleaded guilty to breaking banking law; prosecutors said the money was intended to conceal past sexual abuse against a student wrestler while Hastert was a high school teacher and coach.) Sepp Blatter defiantly resisted calls for him to resign as FIFA president and deflected blame for the massive bribery and corruption scandal engulfing soccer's world governing body. For the second straight year, the Scripps National Spelling Bee ended with co-champions as Vanya Shivashankar and Gokul Venkatachalam (GOH'-kul VEHN'-kuh-TAHTCH'-uh-lum) were the last two standing.

Today's Birthdays: Rockabilly singer-musician Sonny Burgess is 87. Actress Carroll Baker is 85. Producer-director Irwin Winkler is 85. Actor John Karlen is 83. Basketball Hall-of-Famer Jerry West is 78. Former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani is 72. Singer Gladys Knight is 72. Actress-director Sondra Locke is 72. Singer Billy Vera is 72. Actor Jean-Pierre Leaud is 72. Singer John Fogerty is 71. Country musician Jerry Douglas (Alison Krauss and Union Station) is 60. Actor Louis Mustillo is 58. U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford, R-S.C., is 56. Actor Brandon Cruz (TV: "The Courtship of Eddie's Father") is 54. Country singer Phil Vassar is 52. Actress Christa Miller is 52. Singer-musician Chris Ballew (Presidents of the USA) is 51. Rapper Chubb Rock is 48. Singer Kylie Minogue (KY'-lee mihn-OHG') is 48. Actor Justin Kirk is 47. Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., is 45. Olympic gold medal figure skater Ekaterina Gordeeva is 45. Television personality Elisabeth Hasselbeck is 39. Actor Jake Johnson is 38. Actor Jesse Bradford is 37. Actress Monica Keena is 37. Actress Alexa Davalos is 34. Actress Megalyn Echikunwoke (eh-chee-kuh-WAH'-kay) is 34. Pop singer Colbie Caillat (kal-LAY') is 31. Actress Carey Mulligan is 31. Actor Joseph Cross is 30.

Thought for Today: "The bravest thing you can do when you are not brave is to profess courage and act accordingly." — Corra May Harris, American writer (1869-1935).