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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

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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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



Building a Financial Emergency Kit for Your Family **By Nathaniel Sillin**

What would a sudden financial emergency be in your life? It could be a storm causing massive property damage to your home. It could also be something more personal, like an accident that would cut off your ability to make a living.

Whatever it is, if someone else had to step in to help you in an emergency situation, it's important to have a plan in place so they know what to do.

A financial emergency kit is a crucial component in financial planning. In short, a financial emergency kit involves identifying and planning for potential financial emergencies that could affect you and your loved ones. Building a successful one goes beyond sorting paperwork – it involves looking at a variety of potential situations in your life and then asking, "What's the worst that could happen?"

You will want to create a kit – a set of physical or digital documents and instructions – that can help you or someone else you trust manage in a crisis. Here are some items you'll likely want to include:

1. Estate documents. Estate planning is really the highest form of financial emergency planning, because it addresses the ultimate personal financial emergencies – medical incapacitation or death. Would your family have easy access to this material if something happened to you? In your family financial emergency kit, estate documents would include copies of current wills (for you and your spouse or partner), your advanced directives (which instruct doctors on end-of-life or other stages in medical care), health/financial powers of attorney (which designate specific individuals to step in to manage your money or healthcare if you cannot do so) as well as other documents that provide additional guidance for operating businesses and managing and distributing other assets you have. Make sure these documents are always current and that contact information is included for all the qualified experts you used to prepare them – estate or business attorneys, tax professionals and financial planners.

2. Insurance policies. Being able to find home and auto policies in a natural disaster is a no-brainer, but it's important to think a little more broadly. File as much policy and contact detail as you can for any health, disability, business, life and accident coverage you have – and remember that it's particularly important to note or file documentation on this coverage at work, too. Sometimes we sign up rather blindly for work-based benefits only to realize how important they may be in a financial emergency.

3. Tax materials. If a family member dies or becomes incapacitated, tax matters still need to be attended to. If you work with a tax professional, make sure their contact information is in the digital or physical kit (see indexes, contacts and guides, below), but it's also important to keep past returns and relevant supporting data based on your individual tax situation.

4. Investment, savings and retirement documents. If you work with a qualified financial planner or tax expert, you may have access to a particular system that lists and track this information in an organized way that many of us don't have at home. However you plan and track your investments, it should be included in your kit.

5. Indexes, contact sheets and guides. Some people need a little guidance, others need a lot. A family financial emergency kit needs to be usable by all designated family members. Put yourself in the role of a friend or family member who's been called in to help you in a crisis. If you had to step in to settle an estate, healthcare or disaster emergency for a friend or family member and they weren't around to

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advise you, what information would you need to get started? In any category of information you include in a financial emergency kit, include a separate file or digital instruction that details people to call, account numbers if necessary, relevant online and physical addresses and other key data to advise that person about what's in front of them and what they should do. If you work with qualified financial experts, make sure their contact information is included.

6. Easy access to essentials under lock and key. If you're away from home when damage occurs or if family members need to access vehicles or other spaces, make sure you have keys and access codes locked safely in your emergency kit. You will also want to ensure that your emergency contacts have the necessary access to your emergency kit in order to retrieve these materials. You or loved ones might also need access to funds, particularly cash in an emergency. If you don't have a bank account established strictly for emergencies that allows specific family members to write checks or make cash withdrawals, you should consider it.

Bottom line: Building a financial emergency kit requires some thinking, but it can help you avoid major losses and speed up decision making in a crisis. Work with people you trust to make it accessible and useful to your family and trusted individuals.

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Tricia Keith and Kami Lipp were tying the net on the new volleyball game that will be available this year at the Groton Swimming Pool. The pool is scheduled to open today at 1 p.m.

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Today in Weather History

1879 - A major outbreak of severe weather occurred in Kansas and western Missouri. In Kansas, tornadoes killed eighteen persons at Delphos, and thirty persons at Irving. Two tornadoes struck the town of Irving within a few minutes time virtually wiping the small Kansas community off the map. The second tornado was perhaps two miles wide, and exhibited multiple vortices. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1948 - A railroad bed acting as a dam gave way during a flood along the Columbia River destroying the town of Vanport, OR. The nearly 19,000 residents escaped with little more than the clothes on their backs. (David Ludlum)

1948 - Twenty carloads of glass were needed in Denver, CO, to replace that destroyed by a severe hailstorm. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Unseasonably warm weather prevailed across the eastern U.S. Eighteen cities, from Virginia to Ohio and Michigan, reported record high temperatures for the date. Afternoon highs of 97 degrees at Baltimore, MD, and Washington, DC, and 98 degrees at Newark, NJ, were records for the date. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Memorial Day heralded heavy snow in some of the mountains and higher passes of Wyoming, closing roads in Yellowstone Park. McDonald Pass, MT, was blanketed with eight inches of snow, while the temperature at Miles City, MT, soared to 94 degrees. A "supercell" thunderstorm in west Texas produced baseball size hail in Bailey and Lamb counties, and up to five inches of rain in less than an hour. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from the Upper Mississippi Valley to the Upper Ohio Valley during the day. A powerful (F-4) tornado injured three persons and caused a million dollars damage at New Providence, IA. Baseball size hail was reported at Blue Earth, MN. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Thunderstorms developing along a warm front spawned fourteen tornadoes in northeastern Texas during the late afternoon and evening hours. The thunderstorms also produced baseball size hail near Marshall, wind gusts to 77 mph at Commerce, and up to five inches of rain. Thunderstorms over southwestern Kansas produced up to six inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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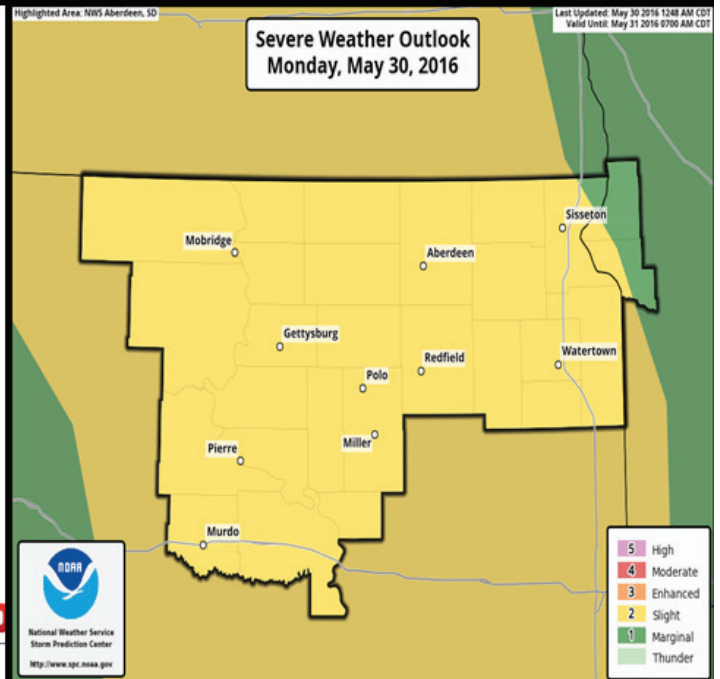
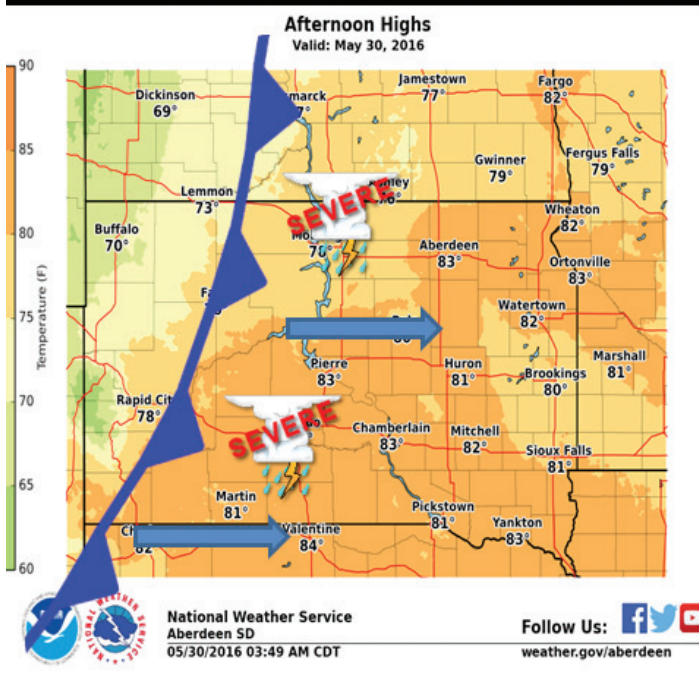
**1106 N 2nd St., Groton
605/397-2365**

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Memorial Day	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday
30%	80%	20%	20%			
Mostly Sunny then Chance T-storms and Breezy	T-storms	Mostly Sunny then Slight Chance T-storms	Slight Chance T-storms	Partly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny
High: 83 °F	Low: 54 °F	High: 70 °F	Low: 49 °F	High: 66 °F	Low: 45 °F	High: 75 °F

Severe Storms Possible Later Today



*** Hail and Wind Are The Main Severe Threats This Afternoon and Evening ***

Published on: 05/30/2016 at 4:12AM

A cold front will move east over the region this afternoon and evening. Showers and storms (some severe) are expected to accompany that front. Hail and wind are the main severe threats. Temperatures will be warm.

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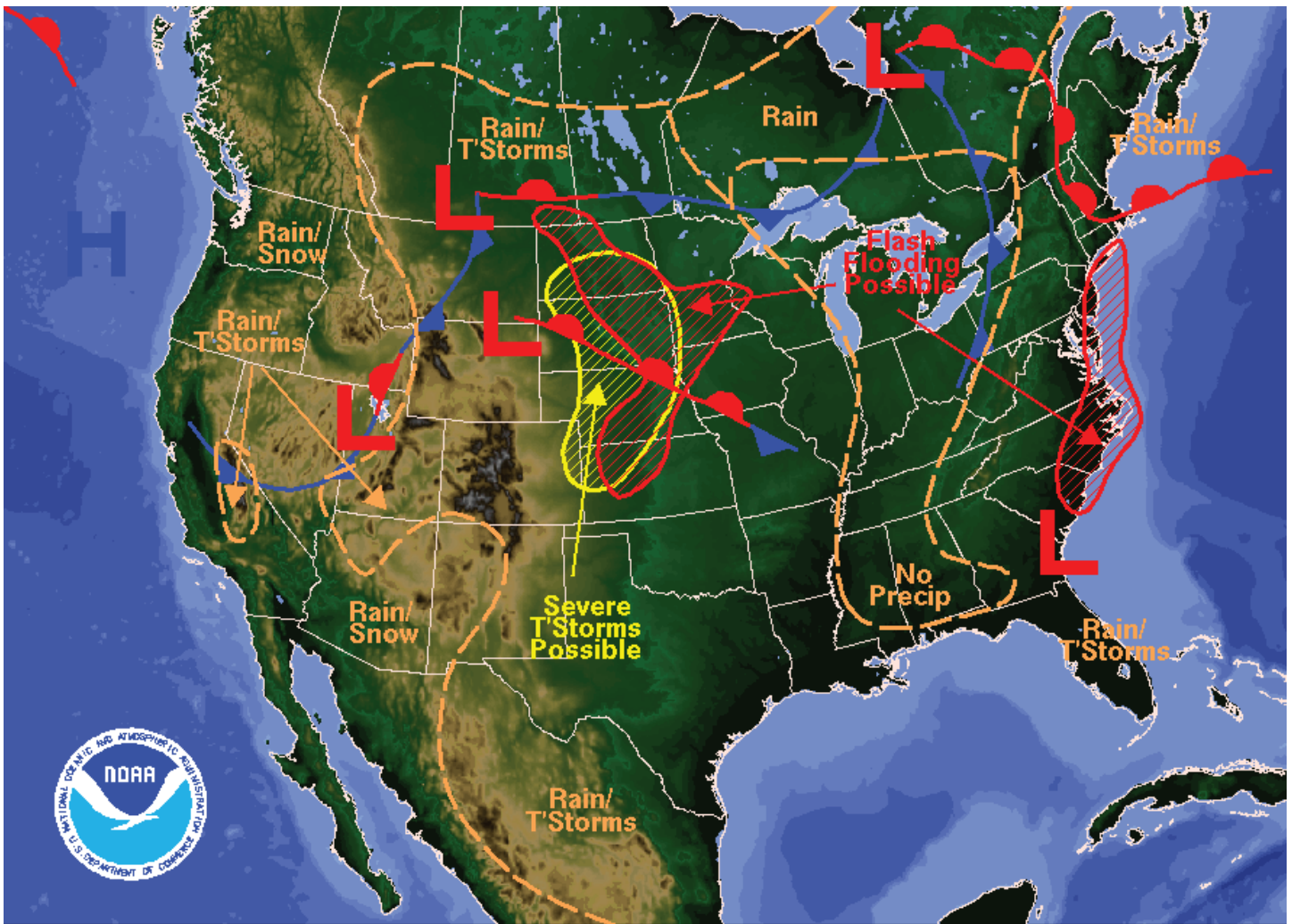
Yesterday's Weather

High: 79.8
Low: 51.1
High Gust: 22

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 110° in 1934
Record Low: 73 in 1947
Average High: 72°F
Average Low: 49°F
Average Precip in May: 3.01
Precip to date in May: 1.42
Average Precip to date: 7.04
Precip Year to Date: 4.51
Sunset Tonight: 9:13 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:48 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Mon, May 30, 2016, issued 4:44 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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WEATHER MASTER

A meteorologist and minister enjoyed playing golf each Saturday morning. One morning, just as they were about to begin their game, a fierce thunderstorm greeted them. They ran to the clubhouse through the cold rain and driving wind. As they sat looking at the dark clouds and soggy grass, they wondered if the sun would ever shine again.

With no relief in sight the preacher said to the weatherman, "You'd think that between the two of us we could do something. But we may as well give up. It's here to stay."

Once when Jesus was crossing the Sea of Galilee in a boat with His disciples, a fierce storm developed and threatened to destroy them. In fear, these experienced and expert fishermen awakened Jesus shouting, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!"

Calmly Jesus rebuked the wind and raging waves and calmed the sea. Then putting them to the test He asked, "Where is your faith?" Filled with awe they wanted to know, "Who this man was who could control the seas."

Often when we are caught in the storms of life and overwhelmed by clouds of despair, we can easily fear that God has lost control of things and that we are at the mercy of fate. Not so! God is sovereign and we must remind ourselves of the question He asked His disciples: "Where is your faith?"

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to realize that Your strength and power, peace and healing is available to rescue and save us when we turn to You in faith. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Luke 8:22-25 And they were afraid, and marveled, saying to one another, "Who can this be? For He commands even the winds and water, and they obey Him!"

News from the Associated Press

No injuries in early morning fire at hotel in Oacoma

OACOMA, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say no one was hurt in an early morning fire at a hotel in Oacoma. The blaze was reported at the Oasis Inn about 2:15 a.m. Monday. There was no immediate word on the extent of the damage.

The Chamberlain Police Department tells KELO-TV that there were no injuries.

The hotel's owners tell KSFY-TV that a lightning strike caused the fire.

Trump's movement campaign needs adjustments at margins

BILL BARROW, Associated Press

SERGIO BUSTOS, Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Donald Trump calls his presidential campaign a mass movement, but he must show he can coax enough support from voters who twice delivered the White House to Barack Obama.

The billionaire businessman depended almost exclusively on conservative and GOP-leaning whites — a majority of them men — to secure the Republican nomination. Now he must look ahead to a wider, more diverse voting population in his likely general election matchup with Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton.

His ability to seize on marginal shifts in the electorate may determine whether he can pull off a victory once unthinkable. Trump's task is critical to flipping back into the GOP column some of the most contested states that Obama won twice.

This challenge is perhaps most evident in Florida, a culturally, racially and ideologically varied state where Obama defeated Republican Mitt Romney four years ago by fewer than 75,000 votes out of more than 8.4 million cast.

That means small shifts anywhere in the electorate could make a difference — from turnout changes among white small-town and rural Republicans or urban, nonwhite Democrats to partisans, embittered by contentious nominating bouts, choosing third-party candidates or declining to vote at all; and if Trump can't close the gaps in Florida, he has little shot at winning key Rust Belt and Great Lakes states where Obama's advantages were greater.

"We still elect presidents using the Electoral College ... depending on states that are made up of diverse electorates," cautions GOP pollster Whit Ayres. "There aren't enough angry white people to create a majority in the new America of 2016, (and) running up your numbers with white males in Mississippi doesn't get you one more electoral vote than Mitt Romney."

One of Trump's vanquished primary rivals, Sen. Marco Rubio, told reporters this week Trump can win Florida, which has gone with the winner in every presidential contest since 1996, as long as he can "continue to be Donald." That brash outsider pitch has sewn up support from white men like Jack Oliver, a 66-year-old construction worker from West Palm Beach and 84-year-old Frank Papa, a retired grocery manager from Clearwater.

Oliver cites Trump's hard line on immigration and calls him a leader "who will finally give a damn about people like me." Papa, a New Jersey native, says Trump "speaks my language, talks and thinks like me."

But Trump must expand his reach. "If he can't unify Republicans, there really isn't enough votes for him to make up elsewhere," said Steve Schale, who ran Obama's 2008 campaign in Florida. He said Florida elections have been close for decades, noting 41 million combined presidential votes have been

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cast since 1992, with fewer than 131,000 votes separating the combined totals of Democratic and Republican nominees.

Trump gives lip service to the electorate's diversity, suggesting "the Mexican people" will "vote for me like crazy" and that he can win 25 percent of African-Americans. The highest number of African-Americans won by any GOP nominee since 1980 is about 12 percent. He said recently he could lure "40 percent" of voters backing Clinton's primary opponent, Bernie Sanders.

Some nonwhite Floridians mock Trump's claims about his own appeal.

"I haven't heard any of my (black) friends say they'll vote for Trump," said Tanisha Winns, 39, a black Democrat in Lakeland, located along central Florida's Interstate 4 corridor that twice helped give Republican George W. Bush the statewide victory before swinging in Obama's favor. "If anything, I'm hearing my white friends say they won't," Winns added.

For now, Florida polls suggest Trump and Clinton are running about even, with about 15 percent undecided. But there are variables that should give Trump pause.

In 2012, nonwhites accounted for almost a third of all votes cast in Florida, compared to 28 percent nationwide. But population growth, driven by Hispanics, suggests both numbers could be higher come November.

Obama beat Romney among Florida's black voters, with 95 percent. The president won Hispanics by a 60-40 margin, closer than his 71-27 advantage nationally, with many of Florida's conservative Cuban-American voters accounting for the difference. Those numbers still left Romney too reliant on whites. He managed 61 percent of Florida's white vote — better than his 59 percent nationally — but he needed to get closer to 63 percent to win the Sunshine State's 29 electoral votes.

Demographers and pollsters from both parties say Trump likely would have to push into the mid- to high-60s with whites — a level no candidate has reached since Ronald Reagan's 1984 landslide — to have a chance nationally. That's even more daunting considering an AP-GfK poll, taken in April, that found two out of three white women view Trump negatively.

Among them are Republicans the nominee absolutely must get.

In Clearwater, Republican Barbie Sugas says she's always voted for the GOP nominee, but the 47-year-old surgical technician said she's "kind of leaning toward Clinton" because she doesn't "trust Trump" with international affairs.

To be sure, Clinton also must shore up her Democratic base, still divided with Sanders in the race. Jennifer Perelman, a Sanders supporter, says she won't back the former secretary of state. But she won't vote for Trump either. Her plan: to vote for Sanders as a write-in candidate.

Ayres, the Republican pollster, affirmed that it's "not impossible" for Trump to fashion a winning coalition. But, he says, "You're basically arguing that somehow, a constant 20-year-plus demographic trend is just going to magically stop."

Governor asks flags to be flown at half-staff

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard is asking that flags in the state be flown at half-staff Monday morning in observance of fallen military service members.

President Barack Obama has proclaimed Memorial Day as a Day of Prayer for Permanent Peace and has called on governors to request flags at half-staff from 8 a.m. until noon. Flags are to return to full-staff from noon until sunset.

The President has designated the hour beginning at 11 a.m., local time, to unite in prayer. He is also urging Americans to observe a National Moment of Remembrance beginning at 3 p.m. local time.

It's raining men! Sweden sees historic gender balance shift

BY KARL RITTER, Associated Press

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Famous for its efforts to put women on an equal footing with men, Sweden is experiencing a gender balance shift that has caught the country by surprise: For the first time since record-keeping began in 1749, it now has more men than women.

Swedes don't quite know what to make of this sudden male surplus, which is highly unusual in the West, where women historically have been in the majority in almost every country. But it may be a sign of things to come in Europe as changes in life expectancy and migration transform demographics.

"This is a novel phenomenon for Europe," said Francesco Billari, a University of Oxford demographer who is president of the European Association for Population Studies. "We as researchers have not been on top of this."

The tipping point in Sweden happened in March last year, when population statistics showed 277 more men than women. The gap has since grown to beyond 12,000. While that's still small in a population of almost 10 million, it's "not unreasonable" to suspect that Sweden will have a big male surplus in the future, said Tomas Johansson, a population expert at the national statistics agency, SCB.

Despite a natural birth rate of about 105 boys born for every 100 girls, European women have historically outnumbered men because they live longer. An Associated Press analysis of national and European Union population statistics suggests women will remain in the majority in most European countries for decades to come. But the number of men per 100 women, known as the sex ratio, is increasing, slowly in Europe as a whole and quickly in some northern and central European countries.

Norway swung to a male surplus in 2011, four years before Sweden, while Denmark and Switzerland are nearing a sex ratio of 100. Germany, which had an unnatural deficit of men after two world wars, has seen its sex ratio jump from 87 in 1960 to 96 last year. Meanwhile, Britain's sex ratio rose from 93 to 97 in the same period. British statistics officials project that men will be in the majority by 2050.

Researchers don't have a clear idea of what happens to a society when the population becomes more masculine.

Tomas Sobotka, of the Vienna Institute of Demography, said in theory a male surplus could increase the bargaining power of women by allowing them to be choosier when picking a partner. But they could also face an increased risk of harassment from frustrated males struggling to find a mate.

Sweden's rapid shift to a male majority — which experts didn't see coming just 10 years ago — has triggered debate among some feminists about the potential impact on women in one of the world's most egalitarian countries.

Statistics officials say Sweden's demographic shift is mainly due to men catching up with women in terms of life expectancy. But the arrival in recent years of tens of thousands of unaccompanied teenage boys from Afghanistan, Syria and North Africa is also having a significant impact.

Sweden's biggest male surplus is in the 15-19 age group, where there are 108 boys for every 100 girls. That imbalance could grow to 115-to-100 this year when the impact of last year's record number of asylum-seekers — including more than 35,000 unaccompanied minors — is reflected in the population statistics.

Valerie Hudson, director of a program on women, peace and security at Texas A&M University, said this should make Swedes concerned, because her research has linked skewed sex ratios in China and India to more violence against women and higher crime levels.

What's happening in Sweden, Hudson said, "is one of the most dramatic alterations of demography over such a short period of time that I've ever seen." She called it ironic that a country considered a beacon of women's rights isn't paying more attention to the issue.

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"Are people thinking about whether this could undermine the gains that have been made by Swedish women over the last 150 years?" Hudson said.

Other feminist researchers disagree.

"Hogwash," said Jacqui True, a professor of politics and international relations at Monash University in Australia.

How many men there are in a population matters less than how much a society is shaped by "hyper-masculine" gender characteristics such as aggression and hierarchies where males are preferred, True said.

Annick Wibben, of the University of San Francisco, said gender equality is so "deeply embedded" in Swedish society that comparisons with China or India, where sex-selective abortions have resulted in unnatural surpluses of men, don't tell you much.

"The way in which masculinity works in different societies needs to be taken into account," she said.

In Sweden, there's been little discussion about the surplus, perhaps because of the link to immigration, a sensitive subject in the Nordic country.

Equality Minister Asa Regner, of the governing Social Democrats, twice turned down requests to be interviewed. The main opposition party, the center-right Moderates, also declined to comment.

Elsewhere in Europe, the gender balance is stable or tipping further in favor of women in some countries, including Italy, Spain and Greece. But overall, the proportion of men in the 28-nation European Union is increasing slowly, according to the bloc's statistics agency, Eurostat.

Last year there were 12 million more women than men in the EU, which has a population of just over 500 million people. That gap is projected to narrow in coming decades "mainly because of the decreasing gap in life expectancy," said Eurostat spokeswoman Baiba Grandovska.

Experts say men, particularly in western Europe, are living healthier lives than their fathers, drinking and smoking less, and benefiting from better treatment of heart disease. In wealthy countries, men have moved away from mining and other dangerous occupations to safer white-collar jobs.

Eurostat projects the male-female gap will dip below 1 million in 2080. But such projections are highly uncertain, as the Swedish example shows.

In 2003, Sweden's SCB projected that a male surplus wouldn't happen until 2050. Three years later it moved up the date by 10 years. It barely had time to recalibrate its projections before the moment arrived last year when men outnumbered women.

SCB expert Lena Lundkvist said the gender balance could shift rapidly in other places as well.

"In some countries, the mortality rate for men is still very high," she said. "If men change their behavior, things are going to move quickly in those countries, too."

Guarding against deadly blows to the chest in kids' sports

LAURAN NEERGAARD, AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jack Crowley was 15 when a baseball hit him in the chest and stopped his heart. The Long Island teen survived thanks to a police officer who grabbed a defibrillator and shocked his heart back into rhythm.

A blow to the chest — one that hits at just the wrong spot, at just the wrong time — can trigger deadly cardiac arrest. Fortunately it's rare. But most victims are otherwise healthy kid athletes. And survival hinges on fast use of those heart-zapping defibrillators that not every athletic league or school keeps near the playing fields.

There soon may be another attempt at protection: A U.S. organization that oversees athletic equipment has proposed the first performance standard for chest protectors to reduce the risk from those

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blows, a step that could lead to updated gear.

Nancy Crowley finds it hard to watch her three sports-loving sons' games since Jack's scary near-miss in a batting cage a year ago. She calls the latest move by the athletic industry overdue.

"You cannot live in a bubble," acknowledged Crowley, who helped lobby local athletic officials to improve access to defibrillators but wants more protection. "If a standard has come along that they feel is going to protect them in some way, I'm thrilled."

Cardiac arrest, when the heart abruptly stops beating, is uncommon in young people, especially athletes who presumably are in their prime. There are no good counts in kids' athletics. Whatever the number — or whatever the cause — cardiac arrest is getting more attention from parents, coaches and heart specialists who say deaths should be preventable.

Indeed, NCAA guidelines recently reported in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology say defibrillators should be kept in the immediate vicinity of "high risk locations" such as weight rooms, basketball courts and ball fields.

For younger students, many states have laws encouraging or requiring defibrillators in schools but few specify athletic facilities, according to the advocacy group Parent Heart Watch.

The most frequent cause of cardiac arrest in a young athlete is an underlying structural problem of the heart, such as a thickened heart muscle, the problem often behind headline-making collapses of basketball players.

The chest protector standards take aim at a different problem: Every year, an estimated 10 to 20 people suffer what's called commotio cordis — cardiac arrest caused by a blow to the chest. A voluntary registry that has collected information on more than 250 cases over two decades does show survival increasing in recent years thanks to more defibrillator access.

The highest risk is to boys under 15, when the chest wall is still flexible, not as sturdy as it will become by their 20s when such deaths hardly ever are reported.

About a third of the time, victims were wearing some form of chest protector when they collapsed, showing at least some of today's equipment isn't enough, said Dr. Mark Link, a heart specialist at Tufts University Medical Center who spent more than a decade unraveling just how commotio cordis occurs.

Link's tests, using young pigs as a model, revealed that killer hits are those landing directly over the heart, at about 40 miles an hour — and in the milliseconds between heartbeats.

Armed with that science, the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment, or NOCSAE, funded creation of a sort of crash-test dummy to prove what gear really reduces the risk, and proposed the first standard for chest protectors used in baseball and lacrosse that aim to do so.

The idea: find materials that disperse the heart-damaging force of a blow without impeding players' movements — whether they're catchers or youngsters playing other positions who may wear shirt-like chest coverings under their uniforms. Guarding against commotio cordis may require a different design than standard foam that blocks a broken rib. Among the questions is how to integrate protection against both.

The standard is expected to be completed in January; only then could manufacturers label gear certified as meeting it. NOCSAE's recommendations often are adopted by sports governing bodies. It's not clear what such gear would cost.

Already, one company that uses military-grade materials in sports equipment has developed some lightweight protection it expects to fit the bill. In March, Link's team published lab tests in the Journal of Clinical Sports Medicine suggesting a combination of foams and polymers used by Pennsylvania-based Unequal Technologies is likely to be effective. The company, which funded the research, is producing chest protectors and heart-covering shirts that it plans to test against the final NOCSAE standard.

"If we can stop a bullet, we can stop a ball," said Unequal chief executive Rob Vito.

Other manufacturers are traveling to NOCSAE's lab to learn to test products. Stan Jurga Jr. of All-Star Sporting Goods, a Massachusetts-based manufacturer, wonders if he'll need to alter equipment aimed at professionals, too, because teens sometimes wear the adult sizes.

"Those are the real-world challenges," said Jurga, who also is pursuing a protective shirt. But he applauded the science, saying, "the last thing anyone wants is a false sense of security."

Military veteran finds a mission nursing fellow vets at VA

SUSANNE M. SCHAFER, Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Nursing assistant Tom Alligood wears camouflage scrubs during his emergency room shifts at the Dorn VA hospital because he says it helps other veteran patients realize they've "walked over the same dirt," the 62-year-old former Army tanker says.

And he doesn't just mean the desert sands of Iraq.

Alligood means homelessness, job loss and the mental anguish of being a long-time military veteran trying to adjust to the trials of a dog-eat-dog, backstabbing civilian world he says nearly ate him alive.

"I need to be around veterans like me. That's where I get my strength, my 'positiveness' from," says the burly former first sergeant who now sports a long, gray braid on his back.

Alligood says he has found a new mission - working in the sprawling Columbia VA hospital and helping as many of his one-time brothers and sisters in arms as he can.

And the VA is looking for more people like Alligood.

In an attempt to respond to the crisis of lengthy patient wait-times and a malfunctioning bureaucracy, VA Secretary Robert McDonald told Congress the agency hired about 14,000 health care workers last year, including 1,300 doctors and 3,600 nurses.

At Dorn, nursing administrator Ruth Mustard said the hospital hired an average of 85 nurses as well as 25 licensed practical nurses and 25 nursing assistants each year for the past two years.

Alligood's background as a military veteran is a plus, she says, and they can always use more like him.

"Veterans know what it takes to serve and what sacrifices they've endured and what some of their challenges have been that have affected their health," the nurse supervisor says.

Alligood said he can relate to his veteran-patients because the route he took from being a VA patient to VA caregiver has been a challenging one.

After leaving the Army, he took a job managing a concrete block plant. The job was eliminated when the plant was sold. Falling deep in debt, Alligood said he took to sleeping in abandoned buildings after losing his car and his home. Life in homeless shelters didn't sit right, either.

"I wasn't in the best of shape, mentally and physically," he said, his rumbling voice catching. "That was the lowest I've ever been."

Alligood said counselors told him about a VA program that put homeless veterans into counseling and back to work. He grabbed the chance to put in 40 hours a week transporting other veterans around the hallways of the sprawling Dorn VA Medical Center in wheelchairs and gurneys.

"It was for \$5.15 an hour, minimum wage. But trust me, that \$5.15 meant more to me at that time than anything," he recalls.

As he traversed the hospital's maze of corridors, Alligood said he made a point of greeting as many people as he could.

Alligood's banter with other veterans caught Mustard's ear. She told him the VA would pay for his schooling if he wanted to learn to become a certified nursing assistant and come back to help other veterans.

He went back to school and the Florida native returned to the Dorn VA Medical Center, where he's logged three years in an eldercare unit and six years in the emergency department.

"He has a fabulous rapport," Mustard said.

Emergency room nurse Karen Teal says the former first sergeant has a personal touch that put stressed-out patients "instantly at ease."

"He's our jewel," Teal says, beaming at her co-worker.

Alligood said his days in Iraq and Saudi Arabia help him understand veterans who might be dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder. He recounted one veteran he found experiencing a "flashback" in the ER.

"I was able to tell him, 'I got your back, I got your back,'" Alligood said, telling how he'd gotten down on the floor with the ailing veteran, assuring him he'd reached a safe place.

"I don't feel that this is a job for me. I feel that this is a calling, because I get to help so many people," Alligood said.

US coach promotes wheelchair basketball in Gaza

FARES AKRAM, Associated Press

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip (AP) — A top U.S. coach is in the Gaza Strip to help set up the territory's first female wheelchair basketball team.

"I think for Gaza this is a very unique thing," said the trainer, Jess Markt. "I think there are not so many opportunities for women to play sports here, and particularly for disabled women."

Markt, 40, was a track athlete until 21 years ago when he suffered a severed spinal cord in a car accident. Three years later, he began playing basketball and in recent years he has coached wheelchair teams in Afghanistan, India and Cambodia.

In 2015, the International Committee of the Red Cross brought Markt to Gaza to train local referees and coaches. Now, he is back to train players and organize tournaments between wheelchair teams.

For nearly a decade, Gaza has been subject to an Israeli-Egyptian blockade aimed at preventing Hamas, the militant Islamic group that controls the territory, from smuggling in weapons. Hamas and Israel have fought three wars since the Islamic group seized power in the coastal strip in 2007. The perpetual state of conflict, along with substandard health care, has added to the tens of thousands of disabled Gazans.

In the last three years, there has been "a revolution" of basketball among disabled men, according to Kamel Abu El-Hassan, the head of the Palestinian Paralympic Committee. Eight clubs have formed male basketball teams and Markt is coaching and advising them in his second visit to Gaza.

The success of these teams helped the Paralympic Committee to persuade women and girls to form their own team in this conservative society, in which sports can be seen as immodest. Abu El-Hassan said Markt's visit is a significant new step toward forming a women's team.

On Saturday, 15 women and girls in wheelchairs clustered around Markt, listening to the instructions with smiles on their faces. They rolled their wheelchairs briskly in the closed sports hall of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society after Markt blew his whistle, but they had difficulties catching the bouncing balls.

Mona Khattab, 47, is one of the first female basketball players in Gaza. She says Markt taught them the rules of the game, which they did not "know 100 percent," and showed them techniques for playing.

She said that most basketball courts in Gaza are not designed for wheelchairs, and many courts are

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open to the sun. The players' wheelchairs are also heavier than those used by basketball teams overseas.

"With our will and power we challenge the game using these chairs," she said. "In the international matches, the chairs are light as air. Here, our arms and muscles are sore."

Markt said the women just need a chance to play on a regular basis.

"As long as they are encouraged to play every week, they will quickly become stronger and faster. Then they will move from being very beginning players to skilled players," he said.

EU leader Juncker to visit Russia in hint of diplomatic thaw

NATALIYA VASILYEVA, Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker is coming to Russia next month in what would be the most high-profile EU visit since Russia annexed Crimea two years ago, but both sides are downplaying the prospects of a more meaningful diplomatic thaw.

Like the United States, the European Union has effectively frozen ties with Russia and imposed sanctions after its 2014 seizure of the Crimean peninsula from Ukraine. Only a handful of European leaders have visited Moscow since, including Greek and Cypriot officials last year and Austria's president and Hungary's prime minister this year.

Russia's sanctions-struck economy contracted by nearly 4 percent last year while Russia's retaliatory boycott of EU food products has spurred inflation.

Dmitry Peskov, a spokesman for Russian President Vladimir Putin, told reporters that Juncker would address a Russian economic conference in St. Petersburg and meet Putin in mid-June.

But Peskov stopped short of calling this a sign that EU-Russia ties were on the mend.

"I would not be too optimistic and spot the signs of a breakthrough anywhere," Peskov said. Mutual sanctions and loss of trust would be "impossible to get rid of overnight," he said.

EU Commission spokesman Margaritis Schinas would not confirm whether Juncker intended to meet Putin. He said the visit would not herald any softening of EU sanctions on Russia, while Juncker's speech to the economic forum would allow the commission chief to assess the current damaged state of EU-Russia relations.

Floods in Texas, Kansas leave at least 6 dead, 2 missing

MICHAEL GRACZYK, Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Authorities in central Texas have found two more bodies along flooded streams, bringing the death toll from flooding in the state to six.

It was unclear Sunday whether a body found in Travis County near Austin is one of the two people still missing in Texas. An 11-year-old boy was still missing in central Kansas, too.

The latest flooding victim identified by authorities was a woman who died when the car she was riding in was swept from the street by the flooded Cypress Creek about 1:30 a.m. Sunday, Kendall County sheriff's Cpl. Reid Daly said.

The car, with three occupants, was in Comfort, about 45 miles north of San Antonio. The driver made it to shore, and a female passenger was rescued from a tree. But Daly said 23-year-old Florida Molima was missing until her body was found around 11 a.m. Sunday about 8 miles downstream. She becomes the sixth flood-related death in Texas this Memorial Day weekend.

In Bandera, about 45 miles northwest of San Antonio, an estimated 10 inches of rain overnight led to the rescues of nine people. The rain caused widespread damage, including the collapse of the roof of

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the Bandera Bulletin, the weekly newspaper, KSAT-TV in San Antonio reported. Photos from the area showed campers and trailers stacked against each other, but no injuries were reported.

Torrential rains caused heavy flash flooding in some parts of the U.S. over the last few days, and led to numerous evacuations in southeast Texas, including two prisons. But the threat of severe weather has lessened over the long Memorial Day holiday for many places, though Tropical Depression Bonnie continued to bring rain and wind to North and South Carolina.

Near Austin, a crew aboard a county STAR Flight helicopter found a body Sunday on the north end of a retention pond near the Circuit of the Americas auto racing track, which is close to where two people were reported to have been washed away by a flash flood early Friday, Travis County sheriff's spokesman Lisa Block said. The body still must be recovered and no identification has been made.

To the southeast along the rain-swollen Brazos River near Houston, prison officials evacuated about 2,600 inmates from two prisons to other state prisons because of expected flooding, Texas Department of Criminal Justice spokesman Jason Clark said. Inmates in a low-level security camp at a third prison in the area were being moved to the main prison building, Clark said.

All three prisons are in coastal Brazoria County, where the river empties into the Gulf of Mexico.

"TDCJ officials continue to monitor the situation and are working with our state partners as the river level rises," Clark said, noting that additional food and water has been delivered to prisons that are getting the displaced inmates and sandbags have been filled and delivered to the prisons where flooding is anticipated.

In Kansas, the search for the missing 11-year-old continued Sunday and expanded beyond the swollen creek he fell into Friday night, according to Wichita Fire Department battalion chief Scott Brown. "We are more in body-recovery mode than rescue," Brown said Saturday night.

Four people died from flooding in rural Washington County, Texas, located between Austin and Houston, where more than 16.5 inches of rain fell in some places Thursday and Friday. The bodies of two missing motorists were found Saturday in separate parts of the county, according to Judge John Brien.

Tropical Depression Bonnie reached the South Carolina coast early Sunday, bringing heavy rain and rough tides to an area packed with tourists for the Memorial Day weekend. Forecasters say up to 8 inches of rain have fallen in parts of southern South Carolina. About 3 inches of rain fell in Charleston in 24 hours and more is expected, according to the National Weather Service.

Bleaching kills third of coral in Great Barrier Reef's north

KRISTEN GELINEAU, Associated Press

SYDNEY (AP) — Mass bleaching has killed more than a third of the coral in the northern and central parts of Australia's Great Barrier Reef, though corals to the south have escaped with little damage, scientists said on Monday.

Researchers who conducted months of aerial and underwater surveys of the 2,300-kilometer (1,400-mile) reef off Australia's east coast found that around 35 percent of the coral in the northern and central sections of the reef are dead or dying, said Terry Hughes, director of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies at James Cook University in Queensland state. And some parts of the reef had lost more than half of the coral to bleaching.

The extent of the damage, which has occurred in just the past couple of months, has serious implications, Hughes said. Though bleached corals that haven't died can recover if the water temperature drops, older corals take longer to bounce back and likely won't have a chance to recover before the

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next bleaching event occurs, he said. Coral that has died is gone for good, which affects other creatures that rely on it for food and shelter.

"Is it surprising? Not anymore. Is it significant? Absolutely," said Mark Eakin, the coral reef watch coordinator for the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "We're talking about losing 35 percent of the population of coral in some of these reefs — that's huge."

The damage is part of a massive bleaching event that has been impacting reefs around the world for the past two years. Experts say the bleaching has been triggered by global warming and El Nino, a warming of parts of the Pacific Ocean that changes weather worldwide. Hot water puts stress on coral, causing it to turn white and become vulnerable to disease. Other reefs have suffered even more severely from the recent bleaching; Some Pacific islands, for example, have reported coral death rates of more than 80 percent, Eakin said.

This is the third and most extreme mass bleaching event in 18 years to strike the Great Barrier Reef. In each case, the areas that suffered the worst bleaching were the areas where the water was hottest for the longest period of time, Hughes said.

This time, the southern half of the reef was spared largely due to a lucky break that arrived in the form of a tropical cyclone. The remnants of the storm which had lashed the South Pacific brought cloud cover and heavy rains to the region, cooling the ocean enough to stop bleaching that had just begun in the south. About 95 percent of the coral in the southern portion of the reef has survived.

Storms have previously proven very helpful for heat-stressed reefs, Eakin said. In 2005, for instance, the quick succession of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita cooled the waters below as they passed over Florida, sparing the Florida Keys from a serious coral bleaching event affecting the Caribbean.

Experimental approaches to the bleaching dilemma have included attempts to lower water temperatures by using shades to cover corals, Eakin said. But such efforts require massive amounts of preparation and can only be done in small areas, Eakin said. Other solutions may lie in finding ways to minimize additional stressors to the already fragile reef.

"Anything you can do to reduce the level of injury and stress coming from other sources, the better the chance that the corals are going to survive," Eakin said. "Those reefs that have recovered after events like this are the ones that are the most protected, least visited and least disturbed."

Last year, the United Nations' heritage body expressed concern about the state of the Great Barrier Reef and urged Australia to boost its conservation efforts.

Following the release of the bleaching report on Monday, Australian politicians — who are in the midst of an election campaign — jumped on the issue, with the opposition Labor Party pledging to create a \$500 million fund for better management and research of the reef. Environment Minister Greg Hunt, meanwhile, announced that if his party is re-elected, the government would invest \$6 million to helping combat the crown-of-thorns starfish, which feast on coral.

Philippine Congress proclaims next president, vice president

JIM GOMEZ, Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The Philippine Congress on Monday proclaimed crime-busting Mayor Rodrigo Duterte as president-elect and Rep. Leni Robredo as vice president-elect of a country that has been posting high growth rates but remains saddled with poverty, corruption and insurgencies.

Duterte did not attend the ceremony at the House of Representatives, telling reporters earlier he shuns such ceremonial proclamations. He has stayed in southern Davao city, where ambassadors, well-wishers and potential Cabinet members have met him, since the May 9 elections.

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Robredo's three daughters joined her on stage for the brief ceremony. The House speaker and Senate president raised her hands to proclaim her victory as legislators applauded.

"There's a tinge of nervousness," Robredo told reporters earlier. "But maybe it's more of excitement that I'm being given a rare chance to make a difference."

Monday's proclamation cements the stunning political rise of Duterte, 71, who won on an audacious promise to eradicate crime and corruption within six months as president. The pledge resonated among many crime-weary Filipinos, although police officials have said it is impossible to accomplish, noting that crime continues to hound Davao city, where the president-elect has served as mayor on and off for more than 22 years.

Human rights groups have expressed alarm over Duterte, who they suspect instigated extrajudicial killings of many crime suspects by motorcycle-riding gunmen dubbed the Davao death squads. The suspicions have been bolstered by Duterte's public threats to kill drug dealers and other criminals.

Robredo, 52, is a former rights lawyer who helped defend the rural poor in her home province of Camarines Sur southeast of Manila. A year after her husband, a popular reformist politician, died in a plane crash in 2012, she was reluctantly thrust into politics with a successful run for a seat in the House of Representatives.

In the Philippines, presidents and vice presidents are elected separately, and Duterte and Robredo come from rival parties.

Duterte won by more than 6 million votes over his closest rival, while Robredo finished only about 260,000 votes ahead of second-place candidate Sen. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. Marcos, son of late former dictator Ferdinand Marcos, has raised suspicions of election fraud and has sought an investigation.

Duterte and Robredo have different styles. The president-elect says his working hours may start at 1 p.m. and run late into the night, while his future vice president has been known as early riser, visiting far-flung rural villages to check on residents.

They also differ on some key issues, including a long-hanging proposal to bury the elder Marcos in a heroes' cemetery, which Duterte says he will allow but Robredo opposes.

"Even if I may disagree with some of his views, I will always assure him that he will have 100 percent of my support," Robredo said.

Bombing in Pakistan wounds 3, including a Chinese national

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) — A Pakistani police official says a roadside bombing in the southern port city of Karachi has wounded three people, including a Chinese national.

Mazhar Mashwani says the blast took place on the city's outskirts on Monday morning.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attack. Karachi is Pakistan's commercial hub and has long been a center of ethnic and militant violence.

Local and al-Qaida-linked foreign militants have been waging a war for over a decade on the Pakistani state, seeking to establish a hard-line Islamic regime. Tens of thousands of people have been killed in the violence.

Obama's pets Bo and Sunny living the good life

DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's hardly a dog's life of just eating and sleeping for President Barack Obama's pets, Bo and Sunny.

The pair of Portuguese water dogs — Bo with his distinctive white chest and front paws, and the all-

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black Sunny — are canine ambassadors for the White House, very popular and so in demand that they have schedules, like the president.

"Everybody wants to see them and take pictures," Michelle Obama said. "I get a memo at the beginning of the month with a request for their schedules, and I have to approve their appearances."

The dogs have entertained crowds at the annual Easter Egg Roll, and Bo has been at Mrs. Obama's side when she welcomes tourists on the anniversary of the president's inauguration. The dogs also have cheered wounded service members, as well as the hospitalized children the first lady visits each year just before Christmas. In a sign of just how recognized Bo and Sunny are, authorities in January arrested a North Dakota man who they say came to Washington to kidnap one of the pets.

Bo, now 7, joined the Obama family in April 2009. He was a gift from the late Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., a key supporter of Obama's 2008 presidential campaign who became close to the family. Bo helped Obama keep a promise to daughters Malia and Sasha that they could get a dog after the election.

Sunny, nearly 4, came along in August 2013.

Bo already had a job as a "helper" to Dale Haney, the head groundskeeper at the White House, which happens to be a national park.

"He leaves every morning and he goes down with Dale ... and he's with all the National Park Service guys. And you'll see him, and he's like walking around with them and looking at the plants," Mrs. Obama said. "I think he thinks he has a job because he takes it very seriously. So if I go out and see him, he kind of ignores me when he's with his worker crew people."

The dogs have a pretty nice life. "They can sit on my lap, they sit on my chair, they cuddle with me," Mrs. Obama said. "I like to lay on the floor with them and blow in their face. I like to make them run and chase each other. But they're so cute, I just love to just cuddle them and massage them."

Presidential pets are always popular and many presidents kept dogs as companions. President Harry S. Truman famously advised: "If you want a friend in Washington, get a dog."

President George H.W. Bush's English Springer Spaniel, Millie, "wrote" the best-seller "Millie's Book."

President Bill Clinton's chocolate Labrador Retriever, Buddy, helped Clinton weather the scandal over his affair with White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

President George W. Bush's Scottish Terrier, Barney, had an official web page and starred in "Barney-cam" videos that were filmed from a camera hung around his neck. Like Mrs. Obama, first lady Laura Bush was involved with the video scripts and the taping schedule.

President Lyndon B. Johnson angered animal lovers by lifting his pet beagle, Him, by the ears in front of news photographers.

Obama promised last year to "clean things up a little bit" before leaving the White House in January because the dogs "have been tearing things up occasionally."

Mrs. Obama said her four-legged family members had been nice overall, but she exposed Sunny's naughtier side.

"You know what she does sometimes? She leaves the kitchen and she'll sneak and she'll go poop on the other end of the White House," the first lady said.

Though largely unknown, Trump finds fans in China

CHRISTOPHER BODEEN, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China features prominently in the rhetoric of presumed Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, who accuses the country of stealing American jobs and cheating at global trade. In China itself, though, he's only now emerging as a public figure, despite notoriety elsewhere for his

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voluble utterances, high-profile businesses and reality TV show.

And although Chinese officials and state media have denounced Trump's threats of economic retaliation, many Chinese observers see a silver lining in his focus on economic issues to the near-total exclusion of human rights and political freedoms. That appears to make him an attractive alternative to his likely rival, Democrat Hillary Clinton, who is regarded as far more critical of China's communist system.

Trump "could in fact be the best president for China," Hong Kong Phoenix Television political commentator Wu Jun said during a recent on-air discussion.

"That's because the Republican Party is more practical and Trump is a businessman who puts his commercial interests above everything else," Wu said. Clinton, on the other hand, "might be the least friendly president toward China."

Despite his frequent evocations of China, it's not clear how familiar Trump actually is with the country. While he's claimed to have made "billions of dollars dealing with China," he has no known investments in the nation, and it isn't clear what influential figures he knows in the Chinese political and business realms. Chinese are, however, customers for Trump's hotel, golf course and real estate ventures, while Trump-branded clothing and accessories have been made in China.

Trump mentions the country so often that a popular YouTube compilation video exists in which he says the word China more than 200 times in just over 3 minutes. His various statements on China range from the blunt ("We can't continue to allow China to rape our country") to the anodyne ("I like China very much").

Still, Trump was largely unknown in China until his campaign for the Republican nomination began gathering momentum last year.

Though China's government rarely comments on American political campaigns, Trump's advocacy of a 45 percent tariff on imports that would hit China hard has been lambasted by Finance Minister Lou Jiwei, who called Trump "one of those irrational types" and said enacting such a tariff would cost the U.S. its global leadership.

"Don't even think of being the big boss anymore," Lou said in April.

Trump's comments might've sparked a stronger response if Chinese hadn't already grown accustomed to American candidates making strong comments about their country during elections, only to moderate their positions once in office, said Nanjing University foreign relations expert Zhu Feng.

"The most important thing is that he or she be solid in their knowledge about China and know how to strike the right balance," Zhu said.

Many Chinese may also be relieved that Trump is focused so relentlessly on China's role in the U.S. economy, rather on the country's authoritarian political system, human rights record or policies toward Tibet and the northwestern region of Xinjiang.

Trump's questioning of U.S. foreign military commitments is also sweet music to the ears of Chinese nationalists who want China to dominate in Asia and challenge U.S. dominance in the rest of the world. His opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal, which excludes China and seeks to offset Chinese influence, also goes down well in Beijing, though he has also criticized China's construction of man-made islands in the South China Sea.

The Chinese public, meanwhile, seems unfazed by Trump's anti-immigration stance, with its overwhelming focus on Mexico, and the candidate's vow to bar Muslims from entering the U.S. That could reflect anti-Islamic sentiments that have grown in China following a series of deadly attacks by radicals from the Muslim Uighur minority, even while the government promotes ties with the Islamic world.

In contrast, many Chinese have qualms about Clinton that date from a speech she gave at a U.N. conference in Beijing in 1995 that focused heavily on human rights, to the displeasure of the hosts.

As a former secretary of state under Barack Obama, Clinton is also closely associated with Washing-

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ton's "pivot" to Asia that includes an increase in the U.S. military presence in the region. Beijing has been strongly critical of the policy shift, which was largely seen as prompted by China's robust assertions of its South China Sea maritime claims.

Interest in Trump here is rising. Why? Because Chinese have long regarded American elections as a particularly dramatic type of spectator sport. The process of working for a candidate and taking part in rallies and political campaigns doesn't exist within China's staid, authoritarian political system.

U.S. politics is also a topic on which the tightly leashed state media is relatively free to report, so discussion of Trump, Clinton and Democratic candidate Bernie Sanders rages on social media platforms and podcasts. Many have also noted that Trump's personality-driven, publicity-fed style is also a familiar archetype for Chinese known for their love of high-profile business moguls such as Alibaba's Jack Ma.

Although no polls have been taken, Chinese public sentiment toward Trump appears mixed. Comparing him to a figure from folklore known for sowing chaos, the official Global Times newspaper proclaimed him a symptom of an "American disease."

"I don't think many people knew him as a businessman before the campaign," said Shanghai IT engineer Kong Kong, who is unimpressed with Trump's vaunted political outsider status.

"Politics is not entertainment and simply being fresh may not be a good thing," Kong said. "A lack of political experience and an excess of personality may lead to an imbalance among interest groups and an abuse of authority, which are not good things for America."

Zhong Heng, a Shanghai paralegal, says she regards much of what Trump says as bluster. "He's like an artificial performance-enhancing drug being fed to the American people," Zhong said.

Trump, though, does seem to have won some Chinese supporters, particularly online. There, chat groups such as "Donald Trump Super Fans Club" and "God Emperor Trump" have popped up in recent months. One posting in a Weibo messaging service chat group was unrestrained in its enthusiasm.

"The more I know about Donald Trump," it said, "the more I feel that he's not only saving the U.S., but also the entire world."

Today in History The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, May 30, the 151st day of 2016. There are 215 days left in the year. This is the Memorial Day observance.

Today's Highlights in History:

On May 30, 1966, NASA launched Surveyor 1, a probe that made a soft landing on the moon three days later. The Beatles single "Paperback Writer" was released in the United States by Capitol Records.

On this date:

In 1431, Joan of Arc, condemned as a heretic, was burned at the stake in Rouen (roo-AHN'), France.

In 1536, England's King Henry VIII married his third wife, Jane Seymour, 11 days after the king's second wife, Anne Boleyn, was beheaded for treason and adultery.

In 1866, the opera "The Bartered Bride" by Czech composer Bedrich Smetana premiered in Prague in a two-act version (it was later reworked into three acts).

In 1883, 12 people were trampled to death in a stampede sparked by a rumor that the recently opened Brooklyn Bridge was in danger of collapsing.

In 1911, the first Indy 500 took place at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway; the winner was Ray Harroun, who drove a Marmon Wasp for more than 6 1/2 hours at an average speed of 74.6 mph and collected a prize of \$10,000.

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In 1922, the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. was dedicated in a ceremony attended by President Warren G. Harding, Chief Justice William Howard Taft and Robert Todd Lincoln.

In 1937, ten people were killed when police fired on steelworkers demonstrating near the Republic Steel plant in South Chicago.

In 1943, during World War II, American troops secured the Aleutian island of Attu from Japanese forces.

In 1958, unidentified American service members killed in World War II and the Korean War were interred in the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery.

In 1971, the American space probe Mariner 9 blasted off from Cape Kennedy on a journey to Mars.

In 1980, Pope John Paul II arrived in France on the first visit there by the head of the Roman Catholic Church since the early 19th century.

In 1996, Britain's Prince Andrew and the former Sarah Ferguson were granted an uncontested decree ending their 10-year marriage.

Ten years ago: Gen. Michael Hayden was sworn in as CIA director. President George W. Bush tapped Goldman Sachs chief Henry Paulson to be Treasury secretary. A jury in Rockville, Maryland, convicted John Allen Muhammad of six of the 10 Washington-area sniper killings. (Although sentenced to life in prison for the Maryland killings, Muhammad was executed in Nov. 2009 for a slaying in Virginia.) The FBI said it had found no trace of Jimmy Hoffa after digging up a suburban Detroit horse farm. Actor Robert Sterling, 88, who'd appeared in the ghostly 1950s comedy series "Topper," died in Los Angeles.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama selected Army Gen. Martin Dempsey to be the Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman. Germany announced plans to abandon nuclear power over the next 11 years, outlining an ambitious strategy in the wake of Japan's Fukushima disaster to replace atomic power with renewable energy sources. Jim Tressel, who had guided Ohio State to its first national football title in 34 years, resigned amid NCAA violations from a scandal involving five players and the owner of a tattoo parlor that sullied the image of one of the country's top football programs.

One year ago: Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley entered the Democratic presidential race. Vice President Joe Biden's son, former Delaware attorney general Beau Biden, died at age 46 of brain cancer.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Clint Walker is 89. Actress Ruta Lee is 81. Actor Keir Dullea is 80. Actor Michael J. Pollard is 77. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Gale Sayers is 73. Rock musician Lenny Davidson (The Dave Clark Five) is 72. Actor Stephen Tobolowsky is 65. Actor Colm Meaney is 63. Actor Ted McGinley is 58. Actor Ralph Carter is 55. Actress Tonya Pinkins is 54. Country singer Wynonna Judd is 52. Rock musician Tom Morello (Audioslave; Rage Against The Machine) is 52. Actor Mark Sheppard is 52. Movie director Antoine Fuqua is 51. Rock musician Patrick Dahlheimer (Live) is 45. Actress Idina Menzel is 45. Actor Trey Parker is 44. Rapper Cee Lo Green is 41. Rapper Remy Ma is 36. Actor Blake Bashoff is 35. Christian rock musician James Smith (Underoath) is 34. Actor Jake Short is 19. Actor Sean Giambrone is 17. Actor Jared Gilmore is 16.

Thought for Today: "There are two statements about human beings that are true: that all human beings are alike, and that all are different. On those two facts all human wisdom is founded." — Mark Van Doren, American poet (1894-1972).