

# Groton Daily Independent

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**For Sale by Owner: Very nice two-story home 107 South First Street, Andover, SD – 10 minutes from Groton and 20 minutes to Webster. Includes two lots, garage, small shed, three bedrooms, kitchen, living room, dining room, 1 ½ baths, new roof. Call 605-351-7991**

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

**The cardboard/paper**  
recycling trailer at the school is **Closed**

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## Tuesday, April 11

**Emmanuel Lutheran:** Church Council at 7 p.m.

**United Methodist:** Bible Study at 10 a.m., NO Ad Council

Groton hosts track meet starting at 11:30 a.m.

**School Lunch:** Mini corn dogs, baked beans, fruit, carrots, dip.

**School Breakfast:** Cinnamon roll, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.

**Senior Menu:** BBQ Chicken breast, baked potato with sour cream, green beans, chocolate cake, whole wheat bread.

## Wednesday, April 12

**School Lunch:** Soft shell tacos, tri taters, fruit.

**School Breakfast:** Bosco sticks, fruit, juice, milk.

**Senior Menu:** Vegetable beef soup, chicken salad sandwich, Mandarin oranges, oatmeal raisin cookie.

**Emmanuel Lutheran:** Sarah Circle at 5 p.m., League at 6:30 p.m., Confirmation at 7 p.m.

**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church:** Living Stations at 7 p.m.

**St. John's Lutheran:** Confirmation at 3:45 p.m.

**United Methodist, Groton:** Community Coffee Time from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. with free coffee and rolls; Kid Zone at 3:30 p.m., Confirmation at 6 p.m. with 8th grade mentors joining.

## Thursday, April 13

7th/8th grade track at Sisseton, 4 p.m.

**School Lunch:** Chicken noodle soup, grilled

**Harry Implement**  
"Family Owned & Operated Since 1935!"



(605) 395-6421

Ferney



**The garage area on the south side of the Groton Area Elementary School is scheduled for demolition this week. A safety fence has been installed separating the playground area from the work site.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

## Sombke threatens district with temporary injunction

Doug Sombke came before the Groton Area School Board Monday night and said he may be filing a temporary injunction on the school building projects. Sombke had submitted an open records request to Superintendent Joe Schwan on Friday asking for bidding materials and documentation. Schwan said his request does not require board action and that he will get his records either Tuesday or Wednesday. According to state law, a public entity has up to 10 days to provide materials for an open records request.

Sombke alleged that the district was at fault on two counts of the bidding process. One on the general contractor - the site contractor, and the other on Section 25 where several bids were hidden in other sections when they should have been clearly listed in Section 25.

The board did not comment on Sombke's potential of a temporary injunction. Board President Steve Smith said, "That's what attorneys are for. We can't discuss this tonight."

"After visiting with my attorney in the morning," Sombke said, "we will probably file a temporary injunction and that you don't go any further with this project than what you already have."

Schwan said there are over 900 pages to Sombke's request and the district charges 25 cents a page.

Then Bob Swisher came before the board and urged them to slow up on their building plans, especially during these uncertain times in the agriculture community. "There is an agriculture disaster that the farming economy is in right now," Swisher said. "Timing in life is everything. Timing results in good projects that are done well, and done on time and done under budget. This doesn't look like a project that is going to work well."

Swisher talked about the tornado that hit Groton in 1969. He said if an F5 tornado would hit the school and said, "If you had a school that was 2 story made of steel and sheet metal, it would no longer be here. Glass would have been spread all over Groton. That school, right there (pointing to the 1934 edition) would remain standing. That old girl is a good school. It just needs a little help."

Swisher pointed out that when the tornado hit Groton, it was the farmers that were called on to come and help. He also said five or six years ago when there was flooding, it was the farmers who showed up. He said that millions of dollars could be saved by doing things differently. He questioned why the meetings were held in July when everyone is busy. "We're all in this together," Swisher said. He urged people

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in Groton to vote no and to come up with better plans.

Later in the meeting, board member Merle Harder said he wanted to make a point. "I attended all but one meeting. There were two in October, four in November, one in December, two in February and two in March. I'm not sure which July meetings he was referring to."

Voting on the bond will run from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday. Business Manager Mike Weber said he has had 65 absentee ballots, which is 2-3 times more than normal.

Polling places are as follows:

**Andover Area Precinct #1**, (which includes Andover Town, Andover Township and Farmington Township) – Andover Senior Center.

**Bristol Area Precinct #2**, (which includes Bristol Town, Butler Town, Lily Town, Bristol Township, Butler Township, Kidder Township, Lynn Township, Oak Gulch Township, Scotland Township, Troy Township, Union Township, Valley Township and York Township as well as Clark County residents in Warren Township) – Bristol Community Center.

**Columbia Area Precinct #3**, (which includes the City of Columbia, Brainard Township #7, Shelby Township #8, Cambria Township #15, and Garland Township #46,) – Columbia Community Center

**Groton Area Precinct #4**, (which includes the City of Groton, Wards 1, 2, & 3, and Claremont Township #10, Riverside Township #16, Groton Township #17, Henry Township #18, Bath Township #19, Gem Township #24, East Hanson Township #25, Garden Prairie Township #26 East Rondell Township #27, Bates Township #44, Putney Township #48, and West Hanson Township #49 as well as Spink County residents in Beotia Township, Conde Township and Olean Township) – Groton Community Center.

There will be a lot of things going on during the last two months of school. They are the Math Contest on April 19, Middle School Talent Show at 7 p.m. on April 21, FCCLA Style Show at 7 p.m. on April 27, FFA Banquet at 6:30 p.m. on April 28, Girls golf in Groton on May 8, Track in Groton April 11 and April 25, Fifth Grade field trip to Sisseton on May 4, Fourth Grade field trip to the AG Fair in Aberdeen on April 11, Third Grade to Langford for the school play on April 19, Kindergarten trip to Aberdeen on April 28, Junior Kindergarten to the Dacotah Prairie Museum on April 19, Track and Field Day for JK through fifth grade on May 17 at 12:30 p.m., Health Fair for the first or second Friday in May, Elementary Spring Concert at 7 p.m. on May 2.

The board accepted the resignation of Becky Erickson as eighth grade girls' basketball coach pending suitable replacement. Erickson has been coaching eighth grade for seven years.

## Election in Groton, Ward 3

Not to be overshadowed by the Groton Area Bond election, there is an election for councilman in Ward 3 (northern part of the city). Running in this ward are Karyn Babcock and Mary Fliehs. Patrons can vote at the Groton Community Center from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.



## Vikings or Packers?

That is the question!

There were two baskets at the POPS Concert that would be classified as opposites. One was a Minnesota Vikings basket and the other a Green Bay Packers basket. The Schwans bid on the Green Bay one as that is "their team." However, someone put down Joe Schwan on the Vikings basket. Joe Schwan is proudly (probably not proudly!) holding his Vikings basket that he "won". JD is holding the Green Bay basket won by Jodi with Jordan pictured in front right. Now if the truth be told, Marty Weismantel said it was the best \$30 he ever spent! (Photo

by Paul Kosel)

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**Work is progressing on an east-bound turning lane on US 12 in north Groton. There is two-way traffic for several blocks going through town on US 12 as well as two-way for 150 feet going north on SD 37. (Photo by Paul Kosel)**

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## Deep Thoughts

Notes from the underground by Communications Director Constance Walter

Monday, April 10, 2017

# The botany of the Black Hills

Ryland Sprague spends a lot of time roaming the Black Hills National Forest. As a botanist for the Forest Service, he identifies areas that support rare plants, maintains fences that protect plants and provides botanical reviews of timber sales and other projects in the Northern Black Hills.

He also focuses on ethnobotany, the study of how people of a particular culture and region use native plants. For centuries, the indigenous people of this region used plants they found in the Black Hills for medicinal, edible, structural and spiritual purposes.

"It's not an extinct practice. People still use these plants today the same way they have for thousands of years," Sprague said. "These plants provide sustenance and healing and instill a sense of self-reliance and confidence when navigating through nature."

Sprague will discuss ethnobotany, the unique habitats of the Black Hills and plant compositions during the next Deep Talks, Thursday, April 13. His presentation includes a hands-on session with plant materials.

Compared to nearby grasslands, the Black Hills' unique and diverse ecosystems contain plants that do not grow elsewhere for hundreds of miles. As such, they have always been a major source for gathering plants and materials.

"It's one of many reasons the Black Hills hold such significance to so many indigenous peoples," Sprague said. "Understanding the properties and capabilities of plant life solidifies the value of the resource and [ethnobotany] serves as a reminder of times that are not as far removed as we might think."

The Forest Service manages approximately 32 plant species that are rare in the Black Hills National Forest,



Ryland Sprague examines a local plant through a microscope. Courtesy photo.

including orchids, grasses, sedges, shrubs and trees. One species of plant is listed as threatened.

"We also track some plant species to determine whether they need protection from the many activities occurring in the forest," Sprague said.

Sprague's work takes him all over the forest, but also includes a fair amount of paperwork. He works on projects big and small, analyzing the impacts they will have on resources and documenting findings.

"Understanding how to approach a project and how to document the

findings can be a challenging process, but it's rewarding when you find that solution," Sprague said.

"Still, hiking outdoors through all the seasons, sometimes to areas I have never visited, is pretty tough to beat."

Sprague holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology with a Botany emphasis and Master of Science in Sustainability from Black Hills State University. He serves on the Cultural Advisory Committee for the Sanford Underground Research Facility and is a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe.

### Deep Talks this Thursday: Botany of the Black Hills

"Deep Talks: The Botany of the Black Hills," takes place at the Sanford Lab Homestake Visitor Center, 160 W. Main, in Lead, S.D. The event begins Thursday, April 13 at 5 p.m. with a social hour; the talk begins at 6 p.m. Deep Talks is free to the public. Donations to support community education are welcome. Guests aged 21 and older may sample craft brews from Crow Peak Brewery; light refreshments will be provided.

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## Pump Price Average in South Dakota Jumps 5 cents in 1 Week

April 10, 2017 – Gasoline prices have been trending upward lately, showing signs of their typical spring-time volatility, AAA reports. The South Dakota statewide average price for self-serve regular has risen five cents per gallon from \$2.31 on April 3 to \$2.36 today.

“There are a lot of things putting upward pressure on oil and gas prices,” said Marilyn Buskohl, spokeswoman for AAA South Dakota. “With the advent of spring, people are driving more which boosts demand, refineries have begun producing more expensive summertime blends, there’s still some uncertainty over OPEC’s extension of production cuts and the market continues to be skittish over the U.S. bombings in Syria. While Syria is not a major oil producer, many of its neighbors are.”

AAA forecasts the South Dakota pump price average will hit a peak of \$2.60 this summer and the national average will top out at \$2.70. Helping keep a lid on prices is increased U.S. production. Supplies have been drawn down a bit lately but are still quite healthy. Friday’s daily settlement of \$52.24 per barrel is the highest since March 7.

### Current Price Averages per Gallon of Regular Gasoline

Sioux Falls – \$2.30, up five cents from one month ago ... up 33 cents since 4/10/16

Rapid City – \$2.41, up ten cents from one month ago ... up 47 cents since 4/10/16

South Dakota – \$2.36, up one cent from one month ago ... up 33 cents since 4/10/16

U.S. – \$2.39, up nine cents from one month ago ... up 35 cents since 4/10/16

### Global Market Dynamics

Crude oil futures opened today (April 10) trading at their highest level in more than a month as a result of ongoing tensions in the Middle East. An oilfield in Libya was shut down on Sunday after an armed group blocked a pipeline leading to an oil terminal. The Libyan production outage means that one source for crude oil is compromised and may affect global oil supply. Crude oil also rallied and then leveled out following last week’s U.S. missile strike against a Syrian airbase amid fears that further unrest in the region could lead to oil supply disruptions.

### Quick Stats

· The nation’s top ten least expensive markets are: South Carolina (\$2.11), Alabama (\$2.14), Tennessee (\$2.14), Mississippi (\$2.14), Oklahoma (\$2.15), Arkansas (\$2.16), Virginia (\$2.19), Louisiana (\$2.19), Missouri (\$2.20) and Texas (\$2.21).

· The nation’s top ten most expensive markets are: Hawaii (\$3.04), California (\$2.99), Washington (\$2.89), Alaska (\$2.88), Oregon (\$2.75), Nevada (\$2.67), Pennsylvania (\$2.59), Michigan (\$2.57), District of Columbia (\$2.54) and Illinois (\$2.51)

· The nation’s top ten markets with the largest weekly increases include: Kentucky (+15 cents), Florida (+12 cents), Michigan (+12 cents), Indiana (+11 cents), Alaska (+10 cents), Missouri (+9 cents), Pennsylvania (+9 cents), Illinois (+9 cents), Georgia (+7 cents) and Colorado (+7 cents).

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## Today in Weather History

April 11, 1993: Heavy wet snow fell over a portion of northeast South Dakota, mainly east of Aberdeen and north of Watertown. The snowfall began on the 10th and carried into the 11th. 2 to 6 inches were reported across the area. However, 8 inches were reported near Summit and 7 inches near Sisseton.

April 11, 2007: A large upper-level low-pressure area wrapped snow into far northeast South Dakota. Snow covered and slushy roads resulted from the heavy wet snow making travel tough. Some schools and events postponed or canceled. Snowfall amounts included 6 inches at Sisseton and Milbank, 7 inches at Castlewood, 8 inches at Bryant, 9 inches at Toronto and Clear Lake, and 12 inches at Summit.

April 11, 2008: An intense area of low pressure moving northeast across the Central Plains brought widespread heavy snow and strong winds to parts of central and northeast South Dakota. Snowfall amounts from 3 to 16 inches combined with north winds of 30 to 45 mph brought widespread blowing and drifting snow with blizzard conditions and heavy drifting affecting much of the area. A few thunderstorms also occurred, bringing rapid snowfall rates to some areas. Many vehicles went into the ditch with many other accidents occurring. Most roads became nearly impassable with no travel advised for parts of central and much of northeast South Dakota. There were many people stranded to wait out the storm. Also, many schools and businesses were closed on Friday the 11th. Snowfall amounts included, 6 inches at Faulkton, Ree Heights, Kidder, and Hayti, 7 inches at Garden City, Castlewood, Miller, Britton, and near Stephan, 9 inches at Waubay, Bryant, and Roy Lake, 10 inches at Big Stone City and Milbank, 11 inches at Wilmot, Watertown, and Victor, 15 inches at Summit, and 16 inches at Clear Lake.

1965 - Severe thunderstorms in the Upper Midwest spawned fifty-one tornadoes killing 256 persons and causing more than 200 million dollars damage. Indiana, Ohio and Michigan were hardest hit in the "Palm Sunday Tornado Outbreak". (David Ludlum)

1987 - Ten days of flooding in the northeastern U.S. finally came to an end. Damage from flooding due to rain and snow melt ran into the billions of dollars. The collapse of the New York State Thruway Bridge over Schoharie Creek claimed ten lives. (Storm Data)

1988 - Sixteen cities in the western U.S., nine in California, reported new record high temperatures for the date. Afternoon highs of 95 degrees at Sacramento CA and 96 degrees at Bakersfield CA were the warmest of record for so early in the season. (The National Weather Summary)








1989 - Forty-four cities in the south central and eastern U.S. reported new record low temperatures for the date. Lows of 25 degrees at Conway AR, 29 degrees at Dallas/Fort Worth TX, and 22 degrees at Ozark AR, were April records. Lows of 26 degrees at Hot Springs AR and 31 degrees at Shreveport LA equalled April records. (The National Weather Summary)

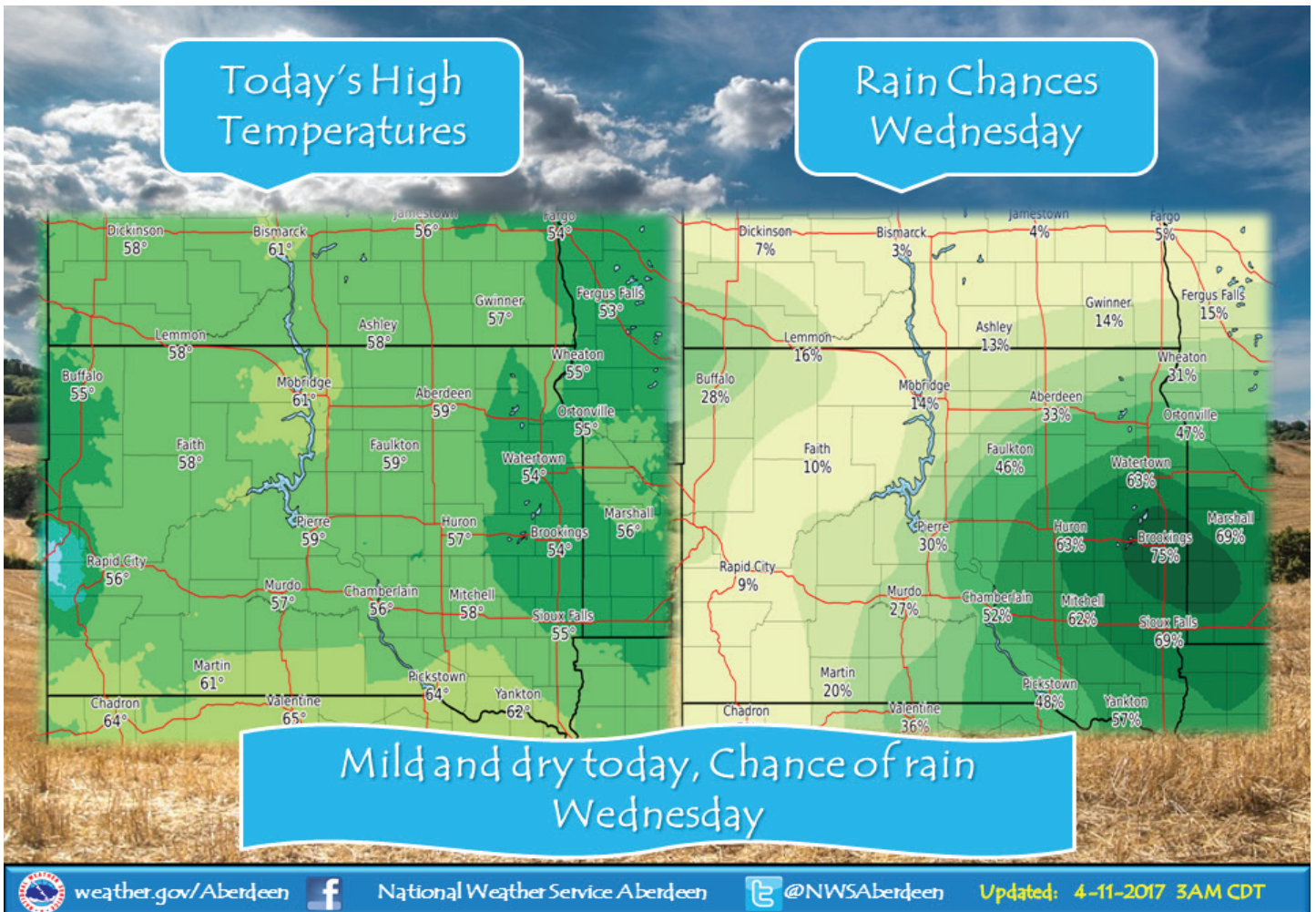
1990 - While showers produced heavy rain over much of the northeastern U.S., heavy snow blanketed northern Maine, with 13 inches reported at Telos Lake. Strong southwesterly winds accompanying the rain and snow gusted to 68 mph at the Blue Hill Observatory in Massachusetts. Rainfall totals of 1.04 inch at Pittsburgh PA and 1.52 inch at Buffalo NY on the 10th were records for the date. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



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Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
						
Sunny	Mostly Clear	Mostly Cloudy then Chance Showers	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Slight Chance T-storms then Chance Showers
<b>High: 59 °F</b>	<b>Low: 33 °F</b>	<b>High: 59 °F</b>	<b>Low: 37 °F</b>	<b>High: 66 °F</b>	<b>Low: 48 °F</b>	<b>High: 69 °F</b>



Published on: 04/11/2017 at 3:04AM

A mild and dry day is expected region wide. However, rain chances enter the picture on Wednesday as a system moves across the forecast area.

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## Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 42.5 F at 5:48 PM

Low Outside Temp: 25.6 F at 4:32 AM

High Gust: 28.0 Mph at 7:35 AM

Snow: Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

Record High: 83° in 1968

Record Low: 8° in 1939

Average High: 55°F

Average Low: 30°F

Average Precip in April.: 0.52

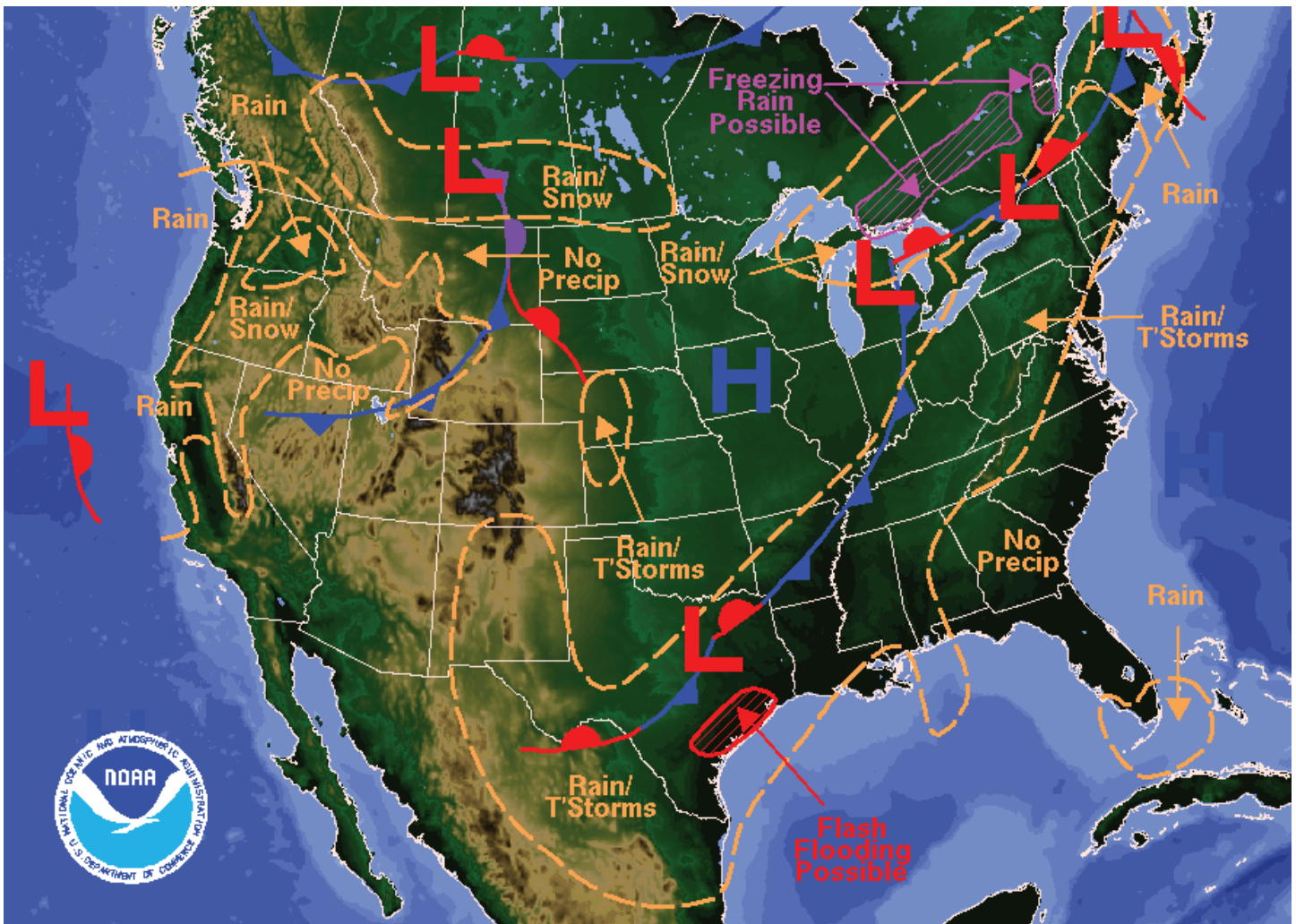
Precip to date in April.: 0.13

Average Precip to date: 2.70

Precip Year to Date: 0.72

Sunset Tonight: 8:15 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:53 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Tue, Apr 11, 2017, issued 4:25 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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## WHY NOT YOUR BEST?

A well-dressed gentleman stepped from a taxi cab in New York whistling half-heartedly as he collected his briefcase and umbrella. A newsboy, just a few feet away, listened for a brief moment and said, "You're not much of a whistler are you? Listen to how good I am!"

When the newsboy finished, he asked the gentleman, "Can you do better?"

"Indeed I can," came the reply. The man was an expert whistler who was in New York for a performance. And then he whistled his very best to the astonishment of the young newsboy.

Puzzled, the young boy looked at him and then asked, "Why were you doing so poorly when you got out of the cab?"

Solomon wrote the book of Ecclesiastes to challenge God's followers to live lives with meaning and purpose. "Whatever you do," he wrote, "do well!" He very clearly and convincingly encourages us to enjoy life as a gift from God and to focus on doing our very best – always. If you are a whistler, whistle the best you can all of the time – not only during a "performance" in front of an audience. After all, we are all "performing" whatever we do before God our Creator. We are always on "stage" demonstrating our gratitude for the gifts He's given us.

We must always be aware of the fact that no matter where we are or what we are doing we are responsible to bring honor and glory to God. We must always "do well."

Prayer: Lord of our lives, it is never what we have, but what we do with what You have given us. May we do our best with each of the gifts You have given us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Ecclesiastes 9:10 Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might;

## News from the Associated Press

### **Sioux Falls man accused to trying to expose guard to HIV**

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls man is accused of assaulting a hospital security officer last month and trying to deliberately expose the officer to HIV.

A Minnehaha County grand jury indicted 37-year-old James Aboui Majak on charges of intentional exposure to HIV, two counts of simple assault and assault by contact with bodily fluids.

Authorities say they were called to a hospital on March 16 for a disorderly subject. Sioux Falls Police Lt. Michael Colwill said Majak scratched a security staff member in the face and then tried to spit in that person's face.

Colwill says Majak then made comments about his being HIV positive. Authorities were able to arrest and charge Majak following the incident.

The Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2oZ84FU>) reports court records don't say whether Majak is HIV positive or not.

Information from: Argus Leader, <http://www.argusleader.com>

### **Police: Death of man who was at protest camps not suspicious**

MANDAN, N.D. (AP) — Authorities say the death of a Southern California man who was known to be at camps protesting the Dakota Access pipeline does not appear suspicious.

The Morton County Sheriff's Office says a fisherman found the body of 35-year-old Damjan Nedelkovski of Glendale, California, floating near the shoreline of the Cannonball River in North Dakota on Sunday.

An autopsy found no trauma to the body. The cause of death is pending.

Friends and family last had contact with Nedelkovski in late October. His stepbrother filed a missing person report in November.

Protesters staged months of demonstrations to try to stop the flow of oil through the four-state pipeline, saying the pipeline will pollute water and damage Native American sacred sites. Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners says the line is safe.

### **Shantel Krebs raises \$140K in South Dakota congressional bid**

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Shantel Krebs' congressional campaign said Monday that she raised roughly \$140,000 during her first 18 days in the race, outpacing her Republican primary opponent in first-quarter fundraising.

Krebs' campaign contributions exceeded fellow Republican Dusty Johnson, whose campaign has said he took in more than \$127,000 in the first quarter of 2017. They are competing to succeed U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem, who is running for governor.

Krebs, who serves as secretary of state, announced her House candidacy March 13, and the first-quarter reporting period ended March 31. Johnson announced his bid last year.

"I am truly humbled by the overwhelming support we have seen in the opening weeks of this campaign," Krebs, who served previously as a state legislator, said in a statement. "I recognize the commitment made by many across South Dakota to contribute their hard-earned money in support of our campaign."

Krebs said she had about \$133,000 in the bank, while Johnson has said he ended the quarter with over \$200,000 on hand. Johnson said his campaign will be "very competitive from a money standpoint."

"We've got more cash on hand. We've raised more money," he said. "I think that will continue to be the case, and we're looking forward to being able to use those resources to tell our story."

Johnson was previously a member of the Public Utilities Commission and later served as Gov. Dennis Daugaard's chief of staff.

## Chicago, United lambasted over man dragged off plane

By CARYN ROUSSEAU and DON BABWIN, Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Several minutes after a passenger recorded a video watched around the world that showed security officers dragging another passenger off an overbooked United Express flight at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, a smaller snippet of video showed an even more troubling scene.

There stood the passenger who had been dragged on his back to the front of the plane, appearing dazed as he spoke through bloody lips and blood that had spilled onto his chin.

"I want to go home, I want to go home," he said.

The treatment of the passenger on Sunday night prompted outrage and scorn on social media, and anger among some of the passengers on the flight as the unidentified man was evicted.

The incident risks a backlash against United from passengers who could boycott the airline as the busy summer travel season is about to begin. For Chicago, it is another public relations nightmare, adding to its reputation as a city unable to curb a crime wave in some neighborhoods, which President Donald Trump has highlighted with critical tweets.

The embarrassing incident spiraled out of control from a common air travel issue — an overbooked flight. United was trying to make room for four employees of a partner airline, meaning four people had to get off the flight to Louisville.

At first, the airline asked for volunteers, offering \$400 and then when that didn't work, \$800 per passenger to relinquish a seat. When no one voluntarily came forward, United selected four passengers at random.

Three deplaned but the fourth, a man who said he was a doctor and needed to get home to treat patients on Monday, refused.

Three men, identified later as city aviation department security officers, got on the plane. Two officers tried to reason with the man before a third came aboard and pointed at the man "basically saying, 'Sir, you have to get off the plane,'" said Tyler Bridges, a passenger whose wife, Audra D. Bridges, posted a video on Facebook.

One of the security officers could be seen grabbing the screaming man from his window seat, across the armrest and dragging him down the aisle by his arms.

Other passengers on Flight 3411 are heard saying, "Please, my God," "What are you doing?" "This is wrong," "Look at what you did to him" and "Busted his lip."

"We almost felt like we were being taken hostage," said Tyler Bridges. "We were stuck there. You can't do anything as a traveler. You're relying on the airline."

United Airlines' parent company CEO Oscar Munoz late Monday issued a letter defending his employees, saying the passenger was being "disruptive and belligerent."

While Munoz said he was "upset" to see and hear what happened, "our employees followed established procedures for dealing with situations like this."

Chicago's aviation department said the security officer who grabbed the passenger had been placed on leave.

"The incidence on United Flight 3411 was not in accordance with our standard operating procedure and the actions of the aviation security officer are obviously not condoned by the Department," the department said in a statement.

After a three-hour delay, United Express Flight 3411 took off without the man aboard.

Airlines are allowed to sell more tickets than seats on the plane, and they routinely overbook flights because some people do not show up.

It's not unusual for airlines to offer travel vouchers to encourage people to give up their seats, and there are no rules for the process. When an airline demands that a passenger give up a seat, the airline is required to pay double the passenger's one-way fare, up to \$675 provided the passenger is put on a flight that arrives within one to two hours of the original. The compensation rises to four times the ticket price, up to \$1,350, for longer delays.

When they bump passengers, airlines are required to give those passengers a written description of

their compensation rights.

Last year, United forced 3,765 people off oversold flights and another 62,895 United passengers volunteered to give up their seats, probably in exchange for travel vouchers. That's out of more than 86 million people who boarded a United flight in 2016, according to government figures. United ranks in the middle of U.S. carriers when it comes to bumping passengers.

ExpressJet, which operates flights under the United Express, American Eagle and Delta Connection names, had the highest rate of bumping passengers last year. Among the largest carriers, Southwest Airlines had the highest rate, followed by JetBlue Airways.

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Associated Press Writer David Koenig contributed to this report.

## **Tillerson: Russia must choose between Assad and the US**

**By JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press**

LUCCA, Italy (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson issued an ultimatum to Russia on Tuesday: Side with the U.S. and likeminded countries on Syria, or embrace Iran, militant group Hezbollah and embattled Syrian leader Bashar Assad.

As he embarked on a trip to Moscow following urgent meetings in Italy with top diplomats, Tillerson said it was unclear whether Russia had failed to take seriously its obligation to rid Syria of chemical weapons, or had merely been incompetent. But he said the distinction "doesn't much matter to the dead."

"We cannot let this happen again," the secretary of state said.

"We want to relieve the suffering of the Syrian people. Russia can be a part of that future and play an important role," Tillerson added in remarks to reporters. "Or Russia can maintain its alliance with this group, which we believe is not going to serve Russia's interests longer term."

Russia's foreign ministry said in a statement that it hoped for "productive talks." It said the outcome of the discussions is important not only for the Russia-U.S. relationship, but "for the overall atmosphere on the world stage."

Tillerson is traveling to Russia several days after a chemical attack in Syria and a U.S. air strike on a Syrian government base that Moscow on Tuesday dismissed as "an act of aggression." Moscow is a staunch ally of President Bashar Assad whom the United States blamed for the chemical attack.

Since the U.S. launched airstrikes against Assad's forces in retaliation for a chemical attack on civilians last week, Trump administration officials have offered mixed messages about whether Washington believes Assad definitely must surrender power — and when. Tillerson said it was clear the U.S. saw no role for Assad in Syria's future, given that he had lost legitimacy.

"It is clear to all of us that the reign of the Assad family is coming to an end," he said. "But the question of how that ends and the transition itself could be very important in our view to the durability, the stability inside of a unified Syria."

"That's why we are not presupposing how that occurs," Tillerson added.

He said the cease-fire talks that Russia and Iran have helped broker in the Kazakh capital, Astana, could generate momentum toward broader talks about a political transition — if the Astana talks succeed in creating a durable cease-fire. The resulting political talks would take place under the auspices of the United Nations process in Geneva.

"To date, Astana has not achieved much progress," Tillerson said.

Tillerson spoke after a meeting of the "likeminded" countries was hastily arranged on the sidelines of the summit of the Group of Seven industrialized economies in Italy, days after the U.S. for the first time launched airstrikes against Assad's forces.

A key focus since the chemical attack has been on increasing pressure on Russia, Assad's strongest ally, which has used its own military to keep Assad in power. The U.S. and others have said that Russia bears responsibility for the deaths of civilians at the hands of Assad given Moscow's role in guaranteeing the 2013 deal in which Assad was supposed to have given up his chemical weapons arsenal.

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The U.S. raised the stakes significantly on Monday when a senior U.S. official said Washington has made a preliminary conclusion that Russia knew in advance of Syria's chemical weapons attack. Yet the U.S. has no proof of Moscow's involvement, said the official, who wasn't authorized to speak publicly on intelligence matters and demanded anonymity.

That accusation will hang over Tillerson's visit to Moscow, where he plans to meet with Russia's foreign minister, Sergey Lavrov, and possibly with Russian President Vladimir Putin. The Kremlin declined to say whether Putin would meet with Tillerson, in line with its usual practice of not announcing such meetings ahead of time.

The United States has sought to minimize expectations for the trip or the likelihood that the U.S. will leave with any concessions from Russia regarding its support for Assad. Instead, the U.S. is hoping to use the visit — the first by a Trump Cabinet official to Russia — to convey its expectations to Moscow and then allow the Russians a period of time to respond.

Though intended to punish Assad for a chemical weapons attack, the U.S. strikes last week served to refocus the world's attention on the bloody war in Syria, now in its seventh year. Diplomats gathered in Italy as U.S. officials in Washington floated the possibility of new sanctions on the Syrian and Russian military, plus the threat of additional U.S. military action if Assad's government continues attacking civilians.

At Tuesday's meeting in the walled Tuscan city of Lucca, the G-7 countries were joined by diplomats from Muslim-majority nations including Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates. The inclusion of those countries is important because the U.S. strategy for Syria involves enlisting help from Mideast nations to ensure security and stability in Syria after the Islamic State group is vanquished.

Reach Josh Lederman on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/joshledermanAP>

## 10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

### 1. TILLERSON WARNS RUSSIA ON ASSAD ALLIANCE

The U.S. secretary of state tells Moscow to side with Washington and likeminded countries on Syria, or embrace Iran, militant group Hezbollah and embattled Syrian leader Assad.

### 2. BRIEF MARRIAGE PRECEDES SAN BERNARDINO SHOOTING

Cedric Anderson, 53, walked into his estranged wife's elementary school class and opened fire, killing her and an 8-year-old student before fatally shooting himself, authorities say.

### 3. BOMBARDMENT IN MOSUL TAKES HEAVY TOLL ON CIVILIANS

Iraqi government forces trying to wrest back the western half of the city from Islamic State group fighters are relying on heavier firepower.

### 4. ANOTHER SNIPPET OF VIDEO SHOWS TROUBLING SCENE

The Chicago passenger who had been dragged on his back to the front of a United Express plane later appeared dazed as he spoke through bloody lips.

### 5. DEMOCRATS FACE UPHILL CLIMB WITH ELECTORATE

Delivering a unifying message that resonates with anti-Trump protesters as well as white working-class voters in the Rust Belt and other presidential battlegrounds remains elusive.

### 6. 'SLIDING INTO CATASTROPHE'

Two months after South Sudan declared a famine, aid workers say the severe hunger has become more widespread than expected.

### 7. ATTORNEY GENERAL TO TOUR ARIZONA-MEXICO BORDER

Sessions has made immigration enforcement a key priority, saying he will speed up deportations of immigrants in the country illegally who were convicted of federal crimes.

### 8. TEXAS VOTER ID LAW AGAIN FOUND DISCRIMINATORY

The latest judicial ruling is significant because it raises the possibility of the state being stripped of the right to unilaterally change its election laws without federal approval.

## 9. PROSTATE CANCER TESTS NOW OK WITH FEDERAL PANEL

With their doctor's help, men have to decide whether to take an imperfect PSA test that has a small chance of detecting a deadly cancer.

## 10. US, CANADA, MEXICO FAST-TRACKING WORLD CUP BID PROCESS

The North American bid to host the 2026 World Cup has asked FIFA for a decision in June 2018, two years ahead of schedule, AP learns.

## Tillerson, top diplomats hold urgent meeting on Syria crisis

By JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

LUCCA, Italy (AP) — With fresh urgency but scant solutions, U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and top foreign diplomats held an urgent meeting Tuesday to strategize on a way forward to end the protracted civil war in Syria.

A meeting of the "likeminded" countries was hastily arranged on the sidelines of a Group of 7 industrialized economies in Italy, days after the U.S. for the first time launched airstrikes against Syrian President Bashar Assad's forces. It came hours before Tillerson was to make a tense trip to Moscow to press Russia's leaders to finally abandon their support for Assad.

Though intended to punish Assad for a chemical weapons attack, the U.S. strikes last week served to refocus the world's attention on the bloody war in Syria, now in its seventh year. Diplomats gathered in Italy as U.S. officials in Washington floated the possibility of new sanctions on the Syrian and Russian military, plus the threat of additional U.S. military action if Assad's government continues attacking civilians.

At Tuesday's meeting in the walled Tuscan city of Lucca, the G-7 countries were joined by diplomats from Muslim-majority nations including Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates. The inclusion of those countries is important because the U.S. strategy for Syria involves enlisting help from Mideast nations to ensure security and stability in Syria after the Islamic State group is vanquished.

Seated around long tables in an ornate, red-walled room, the diplomats smiled and exchanged pleasantries but made no remarks as photographers were allowed in briefly for the start of the meeting. The session lasted roughly an hour.

A key focus since the chemical attack has been on increasing pressure on Russia, Assad's strongest ally, which has used its own military to prop up Assad in Syria. The U.S. and others have said that Russia bears responsibility for the deaths of civilians at the hands of Assad given Moscow's role in guaranteeing the 2013 deal in which Assad was supposed to give up his chemical weapons arsenal.

The U.S. raised the stakes significantly on Monday when a senior U.S. official said Washington has made a preliminary conclusion that Russia knew in advance of Syria's chemical weapons attack last week. Yet the U.S. has no proof of Moscow's involvement, said the official, who wasn't authorized to speak publicly on intelligence matters and demanded anonymity.

That accusation will hang over Tillerson's visit to Moscow, where he plans to meet with Russia's foreign minister and possibly with Russian President Vladimir Putin. The Kremlin declined to say whether Putin would meet with Tillerson, in line with its usual practice of not announcing such meetings ahead of time.

The United States has sought to downplay expectations for the trip or the likelihood that the U.S. will leave with any concessions from Russia regarding its support for Assad. Instead, the U.S. is hoping to use the trip — the first by a Trump Cabinet official to Russia — to convey its expectations to Moscow and then allow the Russians a period of time to respond.

Yet even as the U.S. seeks to project a sense of urgency about the Syria crisis, Washington has struggled to explain a hazy strategy that has yet to clarify key questions: whether President Bashar Assad must go, how displaced Syrians will be protected and when America might feel compelled to take further action.

Successive attempts by top Trump administration officials to articulate a plan have only furthered the appearance of a policy still evolving. In the absence of answers, other countries seem to be moving ahead on their own terms.

Tillerson himself raised fresh expectations for aggressive U.S. action — and not only in Syria — as he visited Sant'Anna di Stazzema, a Tuscan village where the Nazis massacred more than 500 civilians during



World War II. As he laid a wreath, he alluded to the Syria chemical attack.

"We rededicate ourselves to holding to account any and all who commit crimes against the innocents anywhere in the world," Tillerson said.

Though such comments hint at a more activist U.S. foreign policy focused on preventing humanitarian atrocities, President Donald Trump has consistently suggested he prefers the opposite approach. His new administration has generally downplayed human rights concerns while promoting an "America First" strategy de-emphasizing the concerns of foreign nations.

No component of Trump's Syria policy has engendered more confusion than Assad's future — an issue that similarly befuddled the Obama administration, whose once-adamant position that Assad must go softened substantially by the time President Barack Obama left office in January.

Leading up to the U.S. missile attack, Trump's administration had said that Assad's future was up to the Syrian people. Then Trump, the day after the assault, said his thinking about Assad had changed. Tillerson answered a question about effecting regime change by saying the U.S. was organizing a coalition to do just that.

Yet after Trump's retaliatory strike, the position became less clear. Some officials, like Tillerson, said the U.S. was confident Syrians would choose on their own to push Assad aside, while suggesting the U.S. wouldn't mandate it. U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley and others said that ousting Assad was indeed a U.S. goal, but only one of several.

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Associated Press writers Jill Lawless, Colleen Barry and Lolita C. Baldor contributed to this report.

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Reach Josh Lederman on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/joshledermanAP>

## **'Worst nightmare': Parents wait in agony after shooting**

**By AMANDA LEE MYERS and JOHN ROGERS, Associated Press**

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (AP) — For Elizabeth Barajas it had been an hours-long nightmare waiting to learn the fate of the daughter she had dropped off at school a couple of hours before police reported gunfire in a classroom that left two adults and one child dead and another child wounded.

Then, in some ways, the nightmare became worse.

Barajas learned her daughter, Marissa Perez, had been sitting at her desk Monday morning when a gunman stormed into her classroom, shot her teacher to death, killed one of her classmates and wounded another before killing himself.

"I don't know what to do. I don't know what to tell her," Barajas said as the two held each other and sobbed after the ordeal that sent police flooding onto the campus of San Bernardino's North Park School.

As Marissa and about 600 other students were shepherded to safety, Barajas and hundreds of other parents raced to the school. There they would endure an agonizing four-hour wait before learning that all but two of their children were physically if not emotionally unharmed.

"She just said she was scared. As soon as she saw the guy with the gun, she went under the table. She keeps telling me 'My teacher got shot, my friend got shot,'" Barajas said as she clutched her daughter's blood-stained sweatshirt.

Marissa said the shooter didn't say a word as he opened fire. One of her friends was hit, she added, as she pointed to her abdomen.

Police identified the gunman as Cedric Anderson, 53, of Riverside. They believe he arrived at the school intending to kill his estranged wife, North Park teacher Elaine Smith, and accidentally shot the two children.

Many of the parents of the school's 600 students were at home when the blaring sounds of emergency vehicle sirens shattered the morning quiet of their neighborhood.

Amberly Raffle, who had left her son with his pre-kindergarten class earlier that morning, said she wasn't sure what the sirens were about until her sister-in-law ran to her house to tell her there was a problem at the school.

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"Policemen were everywhere and ambulances, firetrucks, helicopters," she said of the scene she saw. "I got really scared then."

It was "every parent's worst nightmare," said Holly Penalber as she wiped tears from her face while waiting to hear the fate of her 9-year-old son and 7-year-old daughter.

Penalber, a Riverside County sheriff's deputy, was on a training assignment when she began getting frantic texts from her husband and mother, saying something bad had happened at the school.

Then she waited hours outside a nearby high school where parents were eventually reunited with their children. She was too nervous to join Barajas and others in the library, saying there were more rumors than information there. But eventually she heard from someone who had seen her children and assured her they were safe.

"It was such a sigh of relief. But I won't feel good until I hold my kids," she said.

One of the first parents to be reunited with a child was Raffle, who cried tears of joys as she embraced her son.

"He doesn't really know what happened," she said. "I think we're blessed because of that."

Barajas is concerned about what witnessing the shooting will do to her daughter.

"They can't just tell us your kids are fine," she said. "Obviously my kid is not fine. She witnessed what happened to her teacher and the other students, and all they said is your kids are safe, your kids are fine."

Associated Press Writer Christopher Weber contributed to this story from San Bernardino. Rogers reported from Los Angeles.

## Jets zip through narrow Star Wars Canyon, drawing visitors

By **BEN MARGOT** and **JULIE WATSON**, Associated Press

DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK, Calif. (AP) — Silence and stillness settled over the deep, sunbaked gorge as a pair of photographers sat on a cliff, waiting.

Then the rumbling started. As it grew louder, they scrambled into position.

Within seconds, a thunderous roar reverberated from the steep, narrow canyon as an F-18 fighter jet streaked through it, passing beneath their feet. It came so close they could see the pilots' expressions.

This deafening show that was over in a flash is a fairly common sight at Death Valley National Park, 260 miles (415 kilometers) east of Los Angeles, where U.S. and foreign militaries train pilots and test jets in the gorge nicknamed Star Wars Canyon.

Photographers — some capturing images for work, others for fun — along with aviation enthusiasts and others have been traipsing to the remote 4,688-square-mile (12,142-square-kilometer) park in growing numbers to see the jets soaring below the rim of what's officially called Rainbow Canyon, near the park's western entrance.

It earned its nickname because its mineral-rich soil and rocky walls in shades of red, gray and pink draw to mind a landscape in a galaxy far, far away — Tatooine, the home planet of "Star Wars" character Luke Skywalker.

The unusually close-up view of military planes zooming through the craggy gorge has become so popular the National Park Service is considering making it an attraction, with informational signs about the training that dates back to World War II.

Park Service officials recently discussed erecting signs and possibly paving a spot for cars because so many people are driving to the canyon to see the training, park spokeswoman Abby Wines said.

Wines understands the rush people get from seeing the jets up close. Once she was doing technical canyoneering, hanging from a rope on a 180-foot vertical, when a jet roared over her head but below the canyon rim.

"It's the loudest thing I have ever heard in my life," she said. "It was a scary experience since I was holding onto the rope and not anything else." She also felt a sense of awe.

But on days when one jet passes after another, the noise gets to her.

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Elsewhere in the park, the jets also have made it tough when performing the living history show at Scotty's Castle, a Spanish mission-style villa reflecting early California architecture. The villa recently closed until further notice because of flood damage. But when it was open, it was "disruptive to act like it is 1939 while two military jets are circling, pretending to be in a dogfight above your head," Wines said.

On a February day, planes careened through Star Wars Canyon 18 times. One pilot performed barrel rolls over the pass.

Jets zip through the gorge at 200 to 300 mph (322 to 483 kph) and can fly as low as 200 feet from the canyon floor. But the canyon's walls are so steep, the aircraft are still several hundred feet below the rim.

Training at the canyon doesn't happen every day, so the photographers who make the trek to see them sometimes sit in folding chairs, waiting in the heat, and spy no jets at all.

Jason Watson, who works in information technology at Stanford University's law school and does freelance photography, recently made his seventh trip to the gorge.

He's seen as many as 30 photographers spread out across the mile-long rim at different vantage points. "You can meet anyone from anywhere in the world there," Watson said.

The photographers develop a comradery as they share in the thrill of standing above the speedy jets. The aviators interact with them too, giving a thumbs-up or even flashing a "Hi Mom" sign as they whiz by. "They know the photographers are there," Watson said. "They're aware of the following."

Watson reported from San Diego.

## Alabama GOP left to regroup after Gov. Bentley debacle

By KIM CHANDLER, ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE and JAY REEVES, Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Alabama Republicans who pledged honest government when they won control of the state now have what might be their toughest job yet: picking up the pieces after a third top GOP leader was run out of office in only nine months.

Gov. Robert Bentley pleaded guilty to misdemeanor campaign finance charges and resigned Monday rather than face the possibility of more severe charges and impeachment by the Legislature, which was reviewing allegations linked to his alleged affair with a female aide.

Appearing sullen during a plea hearing and later proclaiming his love for the state during a farewell address, Bentley joined House Speaker Mike Hubbard and Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore on the sidelines of power after being forced from positions atop a branch of government in Montgomery.

Hubbard was convicted of felony ethics violations last June and is free on bond while appealing. Moore is suspended from his job as the head of the state's judiciary after being convicted in September of violating judicial ethics with an order against same-sex marriage.

Bentley's replacement, GOP Lt. Gov. Kay Ivey, promised an open administration after months of news reports and rumors about the 74-year-old governor's alleged affair with an adviser nearly three decades his junior.

"It will be transparent. And it will be honest," Ivey said.

But sensing an opening in a deeply conservative state where Christian values play well at election time, state Democrats pounced.

"Republican corruption has spread like kudzu throughout our state," Democratic Party chair Nancy Worley said in a statement.

She added: "To get elected, Republicans told Alabamians they were the party of integrity and family values, yet they govern by fattening their own pockets, having love affairs, and disrespecting the founding principles of our government."

Alabama's GOP Steering Committee had called for Bentley's resignation, as had the Republican leaders of both the House and Senate.

Bentley, a 74-year-old family-values conservative who won two terms partly because of his reputation for moral rectitude, was first engulfed in scandal a year ago after recordings surfaced of him making sexually

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charged comments to 45-year-old political adviser Rebekah Caldwell Mason.

Last week, the Alabama Ethics Commission cited evidence that Bentley broke state ethics and campaign laws and referred the matter to prosecutors who could have sought felony charges tougher than the misdemeanors to which Bentley pleaded guilty.

Just days later, an investigative report prepared for the House Judiciary Committee said Bentley encouraged an "atmosphere of intimidation" to keep the story under wraps and directed law enforcement officers to track down and seize the recordings. The report portrayed the governor as paranoid and obsessed with trying to keep the relationship secret.

The committee on Monday started what was expected to be days of hearings leading to a vote on possible impeachment, but Bentley's departure stopped the process cold. He invoked his Christian faith during a farewell address in the Capitol.

"There've been times that I let you and our people down, and I'm sorry for that," Bentley said in the old House chamber of Alabama's Capitol after he pleaded guilty.

One misdemeanor charge against Bentley stemmed from a \$50,000 loan he made to his campaign in November that investigators said he failed to report until January. State law says major contributions should be reported within a few days. The other charge stemmed from his use of campaign funds to pay nearly \$9,000 in legal bills for Mason last year.

"He did what he did and he deserves now to be called a criminal," said Ellen Brooks, a retired district attorney overseeing the state investigation.

The plea agreement specified that Bentley must surrender campaign funds totaling nearly \$37,000 within a week and perform 100 hours of community service as a physician. The dermatologist also cannot seek public office again, but he said he plans to help the state in some, unspecified way.

Ivey became Alabama's second female governor. The first was Lurleen Wallace, wife of segregationist and four-term Gov. George C. Wallace. She ran as a surrogate for her still-powerful husband in 1966 when he couldn't seek re-election because of term limits. She won but died in office in 1968.

Reeves reported from Birmingham, Alabama.

## US Official: Russia knew Syrian chemical attack was coming

By ROBERT BURNS and LOLITA C. BALDOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States has made a preliminary conclusion that Russia knew in advance of Syria's chemical weapons attack last week, but has no proof of Moscow's involvement, a senior U.S. official says.

The official said Monday that a drone operated by Russians was flying over a hospital as victims of the attack were rushing to get treatment. Hours after the drone left, a Russian-made fighter jet bombed the hospital in what American officials believe was an attempt to cover up the usage of chemical weapons.

The U.S. official said the presence of the surveillance drone over the hospital couldn't have been a coincidence, and that Russia must have known the chemical weapons attack was coming and that victims were seeking treatment.

The official, who wasn't authorized to speak publicly on intelligence matters and demanded anonymity, didn't give precise timing for when the drone was in the area, where more than 80 people were killed. The official also didn't provide details for the military and intelligence information that form the basis of what the Pentagon now believes.

Another U.S. official cautioned that no final American determination has been made that Russia knew ahead of time that chemical weapons would be used. That official wasn't authorized to speak about internal administration deliberations and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The allegation of Russian foreknowledge is grave, even by the standards of the currently dismal U.S.-Russian relations.

Although Russia has steadfastly supported Syrian President Bashar Assad's government, and they've

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coordinated military attacks together, Washington has never previously accused Moscow of complicity in any attack that involved the gassing of innocent civilians, including children. The former Cold War foes even worked together in 2013 to remove and destroy more than 1,300 tons of Syrian chemical weapons and agents.

Until Monday, U.S. officials had said they weren't sure whether Russia or Syria operated the drone. The official said the U.S. is now convinced Russia controlled the drone. The official said it still isn't clear who was flying the jet that bombed the hospital, because the Syrians also fly Russian-made aircraft.

U.S. officials previously have said Russians routinely work with Syrians at the Shayrat air base where the attack is supposed to have originated. U.S. officials say the chemical weapons were stored there and that those elements add to the conclusion that Russia was complicit in the attack.

Last Thursday 59 Tomahawk missiles were fired on the government-controlled base in the United States' first direct military action against Assad's forces.

The U.S. has been focusing its military action in Syria on defeating the Islamic State group.

On Monday, Col. John J. Thomas, a U.S. military spokesman, said the U.S. has taken extra defensive precautions in Syria in case of possible retaliation against American forces for the cruise missile attack.

Thomas told reporters at the Pentagon that the increased emphasis on defensive measures to protect U.S. troops on the ground in Syria led to a slight and temporary decline in offensive U.S. airstrikes against IS in Syria.

There has been no Syrian retaliation so far for the cruise missile attack, which destroyed or rendered inoperable more than 20 Syria air force planes, he said.

Thomas said the U.S. intends to return to full offensive air operations against IS as soon as possible.

## **Brief marriage precedes fatal San Bernardino school shooting**

**By CHRISTOPHER WEBER and MICHAEL BALSAMO, Associated Press**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A brief marriage and quick estrangement came before a man walked into his wife's elementary school class and opened fire without saying a word, killing her and an 8-year-old student and wounding a 9-year-old student before fatally shooting himself, authorities said.

Some six weeks earlier, 53-year-old Cedric Anderson was a newlywed calling his 53-year-old wife Karen Smith an "angel" in one of many social media posts professing his love.

San Bernardino police have said nothing of what might have motivated Anderson to open fire in the special-education classroom at North Park Elementary School on Monday.

"No one has come forward to say they saw this coming," police Chief Jarrod Burguan said, though Anderson had a history of weapons, domestic violence and possible drug charges that predated the marriage.

What appears to be his Facebook page features many public declarations of his love for Smith between statements of religious devotion before his last public post on March 15.

"She knows when to ignore me," Anderson said with a laugh in a short video posted Feb. 27. "Well, it makes a happy marriage."

Anderson had posted that he "loved being married to Karen Smith-Anderson!" and posted a photo of the two of them on March 4 in what he described as a date night.

The page also had several photos of his wedding to Smith and their honeymoon among the scenic red rocks of Sedona, Arizona.

But Smith left him about a month and a half after their late-January marriage, police and family members said.

Smith's mother, Irma Sykes, said her daughter had been friends with Anderson for about four years before they got married.

"She thought she had a wonderful husband, but she found out he was not wonderful at all," Sykes told the Los Angeles Times. "He had other motives," Sykes said. "She left him and that's where the trouble began. She broke up with him and he came out with a different personality. She decided she needed to leave him." She did not elaborate further.

Sykes said her daughter was a dedicated teacher who took up the profession about 10 years ago after

her four children grew up.

School staffers knew Anderson, who followed the proper protocol and got into the school through the front office by saying he had to drop something off for Smith, school district officials said.

Smith was his target and the two boys were hit as he was firing at her, Police Chief Jarrod Burguan said. He emptied and reloaded the gun before turning it on himself.

There were 15 students in the special needs classroom ranging from first to fourth grade, along with two adult aides, Burguan said.

Eight-year-old Jonathan Martinez was airlifted to a hospital, where he was declared dead. The 9-year-old boy, whose name was not released, remained hospitalized Monday night.

The 600 other students at the school were bused to safety at California State University's San Bernardino campus, several miles away, after many walked off campus hand-in-hand, escorted by police.

Panicked parents had to wait hours before being reunited with them at a nearby high school.

Holly Penalber, whose 9-year-old son and 7-year-old daughter attend the school, called it "every parent's worst nightmare." She said the long wait was "frustrating but also understandable."

The shooting came 15 months after a terror attack in San Bernardino that killed 14 people and wounded 22 others at a meeting of county employees. Husband-and-wife shooters Syed Rizwan Farook and Tashfeen Malik were later killed in a gunbattle with authorities.

Once a major rail hub and citrus producer, the city of 216,000 people filed for bankruptcy in 2012 after struggling to pay its employees despite steep cuts to the budget. It was hit hard by the great recession, seeing rises in unemployment and violent crime.

An overflow crowd gathered at sunset at Our Lady of the Assumption Church in San Bernardino to mourn and pray for the victims and survivors of Monday's shooting. One man wore a shirt that read "stop the violence in SB."

"Sometimes all we can do is cry. And today is the day for that," Bishop Gerald R. Barnes told the gathering. "We'll get up again. We'll move on. We'll become stronger. But today is the day to cry."

Associated Press writers Amanda Lee Myers, Brian Melley, John Rogers and Andrew Dalton contributed to this story.

Follow Christopher Weber on Twitter at @webercm.

## North Korea calls US aircraft carrier dispatch outrageous

By ERIC TALMADGE, Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — North Korea is vowing tough counteraction to any military moves that might follow the U.S. move to send the USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier and its battle group to waters off the Korean Peninsula.

The statement from Pyongyang comes as tensions on the divided peninsula are high because of U.S.-South Korea wargames now underway and recent ballistic missile launches by the North. Pyongyang sees the annual maneuvers as a dress rehearsal for invasion, while the North's missile launches violate U.N. resolutions.

"We will hold the U.S. wholly accountable for the catastrophic consequences to be entailed by its outrageous actions," a spokesman for its Foreign Ministry was quoted as saying by the state-run Korean Central News Agency late Monday.

The statement comes just after U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said U.S. missile strikes against a Syrian air base in retaliation for a chemical weapon attack carry a message for any nation operating outside of international norms.

He didn't specify North Korea, but the context was clear enough.

"If you violate international agreements, if you fail to live up to commitments, if you become a threat to others, at some point a response is likely to be undertaken," Tillerson told ABC's "This Week."

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The North has long claimed the U.S. is preparing some kind of assault against it and justifies its nuclear weapons as defensive in nature.

"This goes to prove that the U.S. reckless moves for invading the DPRK have reached a serious phase of its scenario," the North's statement said. "If the U.S. dares opt for a military action, crying out for 'preemptive attack' and 'removal of the headquarters,' the DPRK is ready to react to any mode of war desired by the U.S."

North Korea's formal name is the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

U.S. Navy ships are a common presence in the Korean region and are in part a show of force. On Saturday night, the Pentagon said a Navy carrier strike group was moving toward the western Pacific Ocean to provide more of a physical presence in the region.

President Donald Trump's national security adviser, H.R. McMaster, described the decision to send the carrier group as "prudent."

## Judge again finds discrimination in Texas' voter ID law

By PAUL J. WEBER, Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A judge Monday again ruled that Republican lawmakers deliberately designed a strict voter ID law to disadvantage minorities and effectively dampen their growing electoral power.

It amounted to the second finding of intentional discrimination in Texas election laws in as many months — a separate court in March ruled that Republicans racially gerrymandered several congressional districts when drawing voting maps in 2011, the same year the voter ID rules were passed.

Neither ruling has any immediate impact. But the decisions are significant because it raises the possibility of Texas being stripped of the right to unilaterally change its election laws without federal approval. Forcing Texas to once again seek federal permission — known as "preclearance" — has been a goal of Democrats and minority rights groups since the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the requirement in 2013.

The latest voter ID ruling by U.S. District Judge Nelva Gonzales Ramos of Corpus Christi comes more than two years after she likened the ballot-box rules in Texas, known as SB 14, to a "poll tax" meant to suppress minority voters. On Monday, she reaffirmed that conclusion after an appeals court asked her to go back and re-examine her findings.

The Texas law requires voters to show one of seven forms of identification at the ballot box. That list includes concealed handgun licenses — but not college student IDs — and Texas was forced under court order last year to weaken the law for the November elections.

"Proponents touted SB 14 as a remedy for voter fraud, consistent with efforts of other states. As previously demonstrated, the evidence shows a tenuous relationship between those rationales and the actual terms of the bill," Gonzales Ramos wrote.

The state could once again appeal, which is what one of the top deputies of Republican Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton appeared to suggest would happen while testifying to lawmakers just as the ruling came down. Brantley Starr, a deputy first assistant attorney general, acknowledged that Texas could be dragged back under preclearance but noted there was little precedent.

"It's possible. It's our belief that you'd have to have multiple instances of discriminatory purpose," he said.

Later Monday, Paxton spokesman Marc Rylander remarked, "We're disappointed and will seek review of this ruling at the appropriate time."

The Texas law was softened in August to allow people without a driver's license or other photo ID to sign an affidavit declaring that they have an impediment to obtaining required identification. Republican lawmakers, who have denied they adopted voting laws in 2011 with discriminatory purpose, are now trying to make that flexibility permanent under legislation that Gov. Greg Abbott could sign later this year.

Texas election officials, however, have acknowledged that hundreds of people were allowed to bypass the state's toughest-in-the-nation voter ID law and improperly cast ballots in the November presidential election by signing a sworn statement instead of showing a photo ID. A recent Associated Press analysis

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of roughly 13,500 affidavits submitted in Texas' largest counties found at least 500 instances in which voters were allowed to get around the law by signing an affidavit and never showing a photo ID — despite indicating that they possessed one.

In February, President Donald Trump's administration reversed the federal government's position on the Texas voter ID law, announcing that it would no longer continue challenging the rules as the U.S. Justice Department did under President Barack Obama.

Follow Paul J. Weber on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/pauljweber](http://www.twitter.com/pauljweber)

## US Soccer: Trump encouraging a World Cup with Mexico, Canada

By **ROB HARRIS, AP Global Soccer Writer**

Far from impeding a World Cup bid, souring diplomatic relations between the United States and Mexico emboldened those country's soccer leaders to find common ground through pursuing one of the biggest events in sports.

The U.S. could have gone it alone trying to host the 2026 World Cup, but it is seeking goodwill from FIFA and its neighbors by joining forces with Mexico and Canada.

"Especially with what's going on in the world today, we believe this is a hugely positive signal and symbol of what we can do together in unifying people," U.S. Soccer Federation President Sunil Gulati said at Monday's bid launch, "especially in our three countries."

Gulati didn't directly mention President Donald Trump in that particular remark, but the impact of the policies of the fledging administration on a World Cup bid involving feuding neighbors was a constant theme during the event atop the Freedom Tower in lower Manhattan.

Trump has derided Mexico as a source of rapists and criminals, and vowed to build a wall on the border. Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto recently canceled a trip to Washington over Trump's insistence that Mexico pay for the wall.

Such tensions are at odds with the apparent glowing endorsement by Trump of Mexico's participation in a World Cup bid that currently faces no competitors.

"We have very specifically addressed this with the president," Gulati said of the Trump controversies. "He is fully supportive of the joint bid, encouraged the joint bid, and is especially pleased with the fact Mexico is participating."

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment, and Gulati later clarified that he had not directly spoken to Trump.

"I'm not on the phone with the president or sitting down to dinner with him," Gulati said. "But he knows what we want to do."

Gulati maintained that he's "not at all concerned about some of the issues that other people may raise."

Another of those issues are Trump's plans — since stopped by courts — to bar new visas for people from Iran, Syria, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen and Libya. FIFA President Gianni Infantino said last month that all players, team officials, and support staff from the 48 finalists "need to have access to the country, otherwise there is no World Cup. That is obvious."

The 2026 World Cup will be the first tournament since FIFA expanded the field from 32 nations. A triple-hosted tournament poses logistical challenges trying to accommodate 48 teams, but the plethora of soccer facilities in North America offers some certainty to FIFA after likely challenging tournaments in Russia in 2018 and Qatar in 2022.

"A good signal to the rest of the world is that this can be done without necessarily building infrastructure or venues specifically for one event," Gulati said.

The U.S., which hosted the World Cup in 1994, would dominate by staging 60 games, including all from the quarterfinals and on.

Mexico and Canada would have to settle for 10 games each. As a consolation, Mexico wants the opener at its 87,000-capacity Azteca Stadium if it becomes the first three-time World Cup host.



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The U.S., Mexico, and Canada all expect to qualify automatically — as the last co-hosts South Korea and Japan did in 2002 — but the FIFA Council has the final decision on the 2026 slots. The quota of finalists for CONCACAF, the North and Central American and Caribbean region, will double to at least six under the new format.

The hosting rights are due to be awarded by FIFA in 2020.

Africa and South America are eligible to bid but no countries from those continents have publicly declared an interest.

“We heard something about Morocco,” Gulati said, “but we don’t know yet.”

Argentina and Uruguay are keen on co-hosting the centenary World Cup in 2030.

FIFA rules currently prevent 2026 bidders from Europe and Asia because they will have hosted the previous two tournaments.

The U.S. participated in the 2018 and 2022 bidding contest but lost in a hotly disputed vote that sparked corruption investigations. The fallout from the two FIFA executive committee votes included the forced departure of long-standing president Sepp Blatter and the criminal indictments in the U.S. of more than 40 people.

The procedure will change for the 2026 World Cup with the entire FIFA membership, which stands at 211, having a vote.

Details of the host cities for 2026 are yet to be announced but the U.S. portion of the bid will rely on the gleaming stadiums opened by the NFL in the past two decades.

Among the possible venues are MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey (82,500 capacity); AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas (80,000); Levi’s Stadium in Santa Clara, California (68,500); Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Massachusetts (66,000); and Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia (69,500).

Atlanta’s Mercedes-Benz Stadium (71,000) is set to open this year and an 80,000-seat stadium for the Los Angeles Rams in Inglewood, California, in 2019. The Washington Redskins also hope for a new home.

Chicago’s Soldier Field is the only one of the 1994 venues likely to be used, having undergone a complete renovation. Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida, also has been modernized and a soccer-style roof over the seats was added.

As well as the Azteca Stadium in Mexico, there are relatively new venues in Monterrey (BBVA Bancomer, 52,000, 2015) and Guadalajara (Estadio Chivas, 45,000, 2010).

Canada’s largest arena is Commonwealth Stadium (56,000) in Edmonton, Alberta, which was renovated ahead of the 2015 Women’s World Cup. BC Place in Vancouver, British Columbia (54,500) was used in 2015. Montreal’s Olympic Stadium (56,000) and Toronto’s Rogers Centre (53,000) are less ideal for soccer in their current states.

Rob Harris is at [www.twitter.com/RobHarris](http://www.twitter.com/RobHarris) and [www.facebook.com/RobHarrisReports](http://www.facebook.com/RobHarrisReports)

AP Sports Writers Eric Nunez and Ronald Blum in New York contributed to this report.

## Trump jobs demands force automakers into political conflict

By TOM KRISHER, AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — President Donald Trump’s relentless push for more manufacturing jobs has forced the auto industry into a delicate dance of contradictions in order to keep him happy, tell the truth, and avoid alienating customers in both red and blue states.

Toyota did the waltz with Monday’s announcement that it would spend \$1.33 billion to retool its gigantic factory in Georgetown, Kentucky, an investment in the heart of Trump country that has been planned for years.

Trump wasn’t included in a company statement sent on Friday in advance of the announcement, but Kentucky’s governor and both of the state’s U.S. senators were quoted. In a paragraph added Sunday evening, Trump claimed credit for the investment, saying it is “further evidence that manufacturers are

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now confident that the economic climate has greatly improved under my administration.”

The company said the Trump quote was added at the administration’s request, but the White House said Toyota requested it and pointed to a poll of manufacturers showing record optimism. Later Monday, Toyota said that it had asked the White House for a Trump quote.

Either way, an investment of that size takes years to plan, and Toyota confirmed that it’s been in the works four or five years, long before Trump was elected. The company is switching its midsize Camry sedan, long the top-selling car in America, to new underpinnings that make it more modern and fun to drive. Although the investment doesn’t add jobs, it sustains 8,200 workers at the plant, which also manufactures the Toyota Avalon and Lexus ES 350 cars.

The dealings with Toyota show how businesses — especially automakers whose brands cater to both ends of the political spectrum — must tread carefully when dealing with Trump or other politicians. Depending on their response, they run the risk of angering a president who has authority to regulate their industry or alienating customers who are on both sides of the political divide.

“That’s kind of the reality of the situation you’re operating in,” said Joseph Holt, a University of Notre Dame associate professor who specializes in business ethics and leadership. “I think it’s a shame that they have to do this dance, but I understand why they’re doing it.”

All politicians play the same game as Trump, taking credit for accomplishments they had nothing to do with, said Erik Gordon, a business professor at the University of Michigan. What makes Trump unique is the demand for jobs announcements was done publicly rather than in private conversations, Gordon said.

Many CEOs grudgingly supported President Barack Obama’s health care plan even though they disagreed with it, Gordon said.

“With President Trump, the difference is the volume is up to 11 or 12 instead of at 10,” he said. “I don’t find him to be that different in terms of what he wants credit for, and putting the arm on people to get on his program, other than he does it publicly.”

Detroit automakers are in the most precarious position, Gordon said, because they are perceived as more American. Take General Motors. Its Chevrolet brand, with the top-selling Silverado pickup truck, caters largely to America’s mid-section, which largely voted for Trump. But GM’s Cadillac luxury brand wanted so much to distance itself from the Midwest that it moved its offices to Manhattan, which supported Democrat Hillary Clinton.

If GM either confronts Trump or is continually in his Twitter sights, that could upset the automaker’s lucrative customer base in the Midwest. If the company is too supportive, it could hurt GM’s efforts to grow Cadillac sales on the mostly blue coasts.

That’s why with few exceptions, GM, Ford and Fiat Chrysler have made jobs announcements that largely were in the works long ago, Gordon said.

Because the country is so politically polarized, a social-media fueled PR mistake for or against an issue could touch off a boycott that can quickly hurt a company, Gordon said.

“Now the companies are really under the magnifying glass,” he said. “Many customers want to know who you are and what you stand for before they even think about your product.”

Holt and others say companies shouldn’t allow such deception and would be better off in the long run by not playing politics.

While the Trump administration was showing a commitment to manufacturing with the announcement, it may send a different message to government regulators such as the Environmental Protection Agency or the Occupational Safety and Health Administration should there be any problems with a factory, said Robert Weissman, president of the consumer advocacy group Public Citizen.

“Do those agencies feel constrained from enforcing the law because the president has just associated himself with that company or investment?” Weissman asked. “It’s just on its face inappropriate.”

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Economics Writer Josh Boak contributed from Washington.

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## After talks, Chinese region sees risks to trade, US visits

By LOUISE WATT, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — After repeatedly bashing China on the campaign trail, President Donald Trump met his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping for the first time last week at Trump's Florida estate.

In speeches, Trump had labeled Beijing a "tremendous problem," accusing it of unfairly manipulating its currency and trying to "rape our country" with unfair trade policies. Shortly after his election, he upended decades of diplomatic precedent by taking a call from the president of Taiwan and suggested he might use the island China considers its own territory as a bargaining chip in China-U.S. relations.

Since taking office, however, Trump has endorsed the "One China" policy that has underwritten U.S. relations with China for decades and backed off on his threats to impose a 45 percent import tax on Chinese goods and formally declare China a currency manipulator.

While in Florida, Xi said the two delegations established a good working relationship, and Trump told reporters that he and Xi made "tremendous progress" in their talks, but neither leader was specific. Observers said the meeting appeared to indicate Trump recognized the importance of keeping ties stable between the world's two largest economies.

Following the meeting, here's how a selection of people in Beijing, Hong Kong and Taipei, Taiwan, view America at this early stage of Trump's presidency.

### BEIJING

Housewife Wang Haiping, 44, said she sees frictions ahead as Trump seeks to maintain U.S. dominance over a rising China.

"Trump certainly wants the U.S. to remain the most powerful country in the world, but the fact is that China might catch up with the U.S. in a few years," Wang said.

Wang said she wants to send her 13-year-old daughter to the U.S. for college study, but is concerned about hardening attitudes toward foreigners under the administration.

"Before I send my child to the U.S. to study, I probably need to ask again: 'Is the U.S. still a safe place?' As minority groups become less accepted in American society, the U.S. is no longer an ideal destination for Chinese students to study."

Du Jiarui, 65, retired from a state-owned quality inspection company, said he thought the Trump-Xi meeting was productive and went a long way in promoting good China-U.S. relations, which also benefit other countries.

"President Trump is not a person who behaves according to the rules," said Du, who helped to import American industrial technology and products during his career. As to whether Trump's policies will be good for both Americans and people of other countries, "You really need to wait and see," Du said.

"There are still some potential risks over the South China Sea and trade issues, and I do hope the two governments can handle these issues properly," said Du, referencing China's increasingly robust assertions of its territorial claim to virtually the entire strategic waterway in which the U.S. navy has long operated.

### HONG KONG

Businessman Dennis Shia, 50, thinks that Trump's trade policies could be ultimately self-defeating.

"For products like ours, America totally depends on imports so they should not make policies that are unfavorable (to the import countries)," said Shia, the CEO of a lighting manufacturer, most of whose products are sold to the U.S. and Canada. "This will only increase the price paid by their consumers."

"We did think the U.S. might raise the import tax, but we don't worry that America will suddenly start manufacturing on a large scale what we are making," Shia said. He has been considering exporting half-finished goods to America and so the finishing process can be done there and treated as American-made under tax laws.

Politics and military disputes could also upset the China-U.S. trading relationship, Shia said.

"At the moment, China needs America a lot more than how America needs China," Shia said. "The U.S. buys a lot more Chinese goods than the amount of American goods sold to China. In this way, America

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has more bargaining power than us. I can say it is very effective for them to use an economic strategy.”

## TAIPEI

Lin Fei-fan, 28, a political science graduate student at Taiwan National University, was chiefly concerned with Trump’s policy toward Taiwan after he backed down over the “One China” policy in keeping with Beijing’s wishes.

“From Taiwan’s point of view, we don’t want Taiwan to become a bargaining chip at their negotiating table,” said Lin, who had been a leader of the “Sunflower Movement,” a group of student protesters who opposed closer relations between Taiwan and the mainland and occupied the national legislature and premier’s office in 2014.

The movement helped propel Tsai Ing-wen of the independence-leaning Democratic Progressive Party into the presidency in last year’s elections. China has since given her the cold shoulder, cutting off contacts between the two governments in June and bringing diplomatic and economic pressure to bear in hopes of compelling her to sign on to Beijing’s political formula that Taiwan and mainland China constitute a single Chinese nation.

Although the U.S. State Department said before the meeting that Washington had “moved on” from the Taiwan issue, Lin said it was too early to tell what the outcome of the meeting between Trump and Xi would be.

AP journalists Peng Peng in Beijing, Josie Wong in Hong Kong, and Johnson Lai in Taipei, Taiwan, contributed to this report.

Follow Louise Watt on Twitter at [twitter.com/louise\\_watt](https://twitter.com/louise_watt)

## Investigation of Trump’s charity wins Pulitzer Prize

By **JENNIFER PELTZ and DEEPTI HAJELA, Associated Press**

NEW YORK (AP) — The biggest U.S. news story of 2016 — the tumultuous presidential campaign — yielded a Pulitzer Prize on Monday for the Washington Post reporter who not only raised doubts about Donald Trump’s charitable giving but also revealed that the candidate had been recorded crudely bragging about grabbing women.

David A. Fahrenthold won the prize for national reporting, with the judges citing stories that examined Trump’s charitable foundation and called into question whether the real estate magnate was as generous as he claimed.

Fahrenthold’s submission also included his story about Trump’s raunchy behind-the-scenes comments during a 2005 taping of “Access Hollywood.” His talk about groping women’s genitals rocked the White House race and prompted a rare apology from the then-candidate.

In another election-related prize, Peggy Noonan of The Wall Street Journal won the Pulitzer for commentary for columns that “connected readers to the shared virtues of Americans during one of the nation’s most divisive political campaigns.”

The judges said Fahrenthold’s reporting “created a model for transparent journalism,” a model he built partly by using Twitter to publicize his efforts and let Trump see what he was doing. The president “can expect to see more of me on Twitter,” said Fahrenthold, now part of a team looking at Trump businesses.

American journalism’s most distinguished prizes also recognized work that shed light on international financial intrigue and held local officials accountable.

The New York Daily News and ProPublica won the Pulitzer in public service for uncovering how authorities used an obscure law, originally enacted to crack down on prostitution in Times Square in the 1970s, to evict hundreds of people, mostly poor minorities, from their homes.

“Thanks to this investigation, New York now sees how an extremely muscular law, combined with aggressive policing, combined with a lack of counsel, combined with lax judges produced damaging miscarriages of justice,” Daily News Editor in Chief Arthur Browne said. The Daily News reporter credited with most of the work was Sarah Ryley.

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ProPublica's managing editor, Robin Fields, said the project was "the type of collaboration that ProPublica had in mind" when the independent, nonprofit organization was launched nine years ago.

The New York Times' staff received the international reporting award for its work on Russian President Vladimir Putin's efforts to project Moscow's power abroad. The award in feature writing went to the Times' C.J. Chivers for a story about a Marine's descent into violence after returning home from war.

Winners ranged from partnerships spanning hundreds of reporters to newspapers as small as The Storm Lake Times, a twice-weekly, 3,000-circulation family-owned paper in Iowa. Co-owner Art Cullen won the editorial writing award for challenging powerful corporate agricultural interests in the state.

Cullen said he was stunned by the win. "Nobody's ever heard of us before," he said with a laugh.

The prize for explanatory reporting went to the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, McClatchy and the Miami Herald, which amassed a group of over 400 journalists to examine the leaked "Panama Papers" and expose the way that politicians, criminals and rich people stashed money in offshore accounts.

Meanwhile, the Herald's Jim Morin won the award for editorial cartooning. He also won in 1996.

Eric Eyre of The Charleston Gazette-Mail received the investigative reporting prize for articles showing that drug wholesalers had shipped 780 million hydrocodone and oxycodone pills to West Virginia in six years, as 1,728 people fatally overdosed on the painkillers. Eyre obtained Drug Enforcement Administration records that leading drug wholesalers had fought in court to keep secret.

The staff of the East Bay Times in Oakland, California, received the breaking news reporting award for its coverage of a fire that killed 36 people at a warehouse party and for its follow-up reporting on how local officials hadn't taken action that might have prevented it.

Executive Editor Neil Chase said the award was "tremendously humbling," but "you have to pause and realize that 36 people died in the fire, and this story should have never happened."

The staff of The Salt Lake Tribune received the local reporting award for its work on how Brigham Young University treated sexual assault victims. The series prompted the Mormon school to stop conducting honor code investigations into students who reported being sexually assaulted.

Hilton Als, a theater critic for The New Yorker, won in the criticism category. The judges praised how he strove to connect theater to the real-world, "shifting landscape of gender, sexuality and race."

Freelancer Daniel Berehulak received the breaking news photography award for his images, published in The New York Times, documenting Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's crackdown on drug dealers and users. Berehulak won the feature photography Pulitzer in 2015 for his work on the Ebola outbreak in Africa.

This year's feature photography winner was E. Jason Wambsgans of the Chicago Tribune, for his portrayal of a 10-year-old boy who had been shot.

Amid concern about fake news and the role of the media, "it's just a very important time to try to help people see the importance of great journalism in their lives and in the democracy," prize administrator Mike Pride said as the awards were announced at Columbia University.

Arts prizes are awarded in seven categories, including fiction, drama and music. Among the arts winners, Colson Whitehead took the fiction prize for "The Underground Railroad," a novel that combined flights of imagination with the grimmest and most realistic detail of 19th-century slavery. Playwright Lynn Nottage won her second drama Pulitzer, for "Sweat."

This is the 101st year of the contest, established by newspaper publisher Joseph Pulitzer. Public service award winners receive a gold medal; the other awards carry a prize of \$15,000 each.

Associated Press writers Jessica Gresko in Washington and David Fischer in Miami contributed to this report, along with AP radio correspondent Warren Levinson.

## Asian shares mostly lower as North Korean tensions simmer

By **ELAINE KURTENBACH, AP Business Writer**

TOKYO (AP) — Shares were mostly lower Tuesday in Asia amid growing wariness over tensions with North Korea. A stronger yen pulled Japanese shares lower.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 stock index slipped 0.5 percent to 18,708.49 as Toshiba and other big manufacturers lost ground. Hong Kong's Hang Seng sank 0.8 percent to 24,063.28 and the Shanghai Composite index lost 0.5 percent to 3,252.67 and South Korea's Kospi fell 0.6 percent to 2,119.86. Australia's S&P ASX 200 gained 0.4 percent to 5,938.70. Shares in Southeast Asia were mixed.

KOREAS: North Korea said there could be "catastrophic consequences" after the U.S. ordered the USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier and its battle group to waters off the Korean Peninsula. Tensions were already high with U.S.-South Korea wargames underway, following recent ballistic missile launches by the North that have rattled neighboring countries.

ANALYST VIEWPOINT: "The markedly unusual move had been explained as a reaction towards North Korea's provocations and has fueled concerns that further tensions may emerge. Certainly with the hardening of the stance by the new U.S. leader, the concern could very much be justified," Jingyi Pan of IG said in a commentary.

TOSHIBA: Shares in Toshiba Corp. slipped 1.9 percent by midday Tuesday, ahead of the possible release of its earnings report for April-December, which has been delayed twice already. Further delay could result in the troubled electronics and energy giant being de-listed.

WALL STREET'S LEAD: Overnight trading offered scant direction, drifting between small gains and losses ahead of the Good Friday holiday. The Standard & Poor's 500 index gained 0.1 percent to 2,357.16 and the Dow Jones industrial average was steady at 20,658.02. The Nasdaq composite index added 0.1 percent, to 5,880.93.

ENERGY: Benchmark crude oil added 2 cents to \$53.10 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It closed higher Monday for the fifth day in a row, adding 84 cents, or 1.6 percent, to \$53.08 a barrel. Brent crude, the standard for international oil prices, gained 6 cents to \$56.04 a barrel. It jumped 74 cents, or 1.3 percent, to \$55.98 a barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar fell to 110.94 yen from 111.15 yen late Friday as investors shifted into the traditionally "safe haven" currency. The euro strengthened to \$1.0596 from \$1.0588.

Alex Veiga contributed to this report.

Follow Alex Veiga on Twitter at [twitter.com/\\_AlexVeiga](https://twitter.com/_AlexVeiga)

His work can be found at <http://bigstory.ap.org/content/alex-veiga>

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, April 11, the 101st day of 2017. There are 264 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On April 11, 1947, Jackie Robinson of the Brooklyn Dodgers played in an exhibition against the New York Yankees at Ebbets Field, four days before his regular-season debut that broke baseball's color line. (The Dodgers won, 14-6.) "Monsieur Verdoux," Charlie Chaplin's dark comedy about a Bluebeard-like figure, received a hostile reception at its premiere in New York.

On this date:

In 1689, William III and Mary II were crowned as joint sovereigns of Britain.

In 1713, the Treaty of Utrecht was signed, ending the War of the Spanish Succession.

In 1865, President Abraham Lincoln spoke to a crowd outside the White House, saying, "We meet this evening, not in sorrow, but in gladness of heart." (It was the last public address Lincoln would deliver.)

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In 1921, Iowa became the first state to impose a cigarette tax, at 2 cents a package.

In 1945, during World War II, American soldiers liberated the Nazi concentration camp Buchenwald in Germany.

In 1951, President Harry S. Truman relieved Gen. Douglas MacArthur of his commands in the Far East.

In 1965, dozens of tornadoes raked six Midwestern states on Palm Sunday, killing 271 people.

In 1970, Apollo 13, with astronauts James A. Lovell, Fred W. Haise and Jack Swigert, blasted off on its ill-fated mission to the moon.

In 1979, Idi Amin was deposed as president of Uganda as rebels and exiles backed by Tanzanian (tan-zuh-NEE'-uhn) forces seized control.

In 1980, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission issued regulations specifically prohibiting sexual harassment of workers by supervisors.

In 1981, President Ronald Reagan returned to the White House from the hospital, 12 days after he was wounded in an assassination attempt. Race-related rioting erupted in the Brixton district of south London.

In 1996, 7-year-old Jessica Dubroff, who'd hoped to become the youngest person to fly cross-country, was killed along with her father and flight instructor when her plane crashed after takeoff from Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Ten years ago: North Carolina's top prosecutor dropped all charges against three former Duke University lacrosse players accused of sexually assaulting a stripper at a party, saying the athletes were innocent victims of a "tragic rush to accuse." MSNBC announced it was dropping its simulcast of the "Imus in the Morning" radio program, responding to growing outrage over host Don Imus' on-air reference to the Rutgers women's basketball team as "nappy-headed hos." (CBS Radio followed suit the next day.) Death claimed author Kurt Vonnegut in New York at age 84 and actor Roscoe Lee Browne in Los Angeles at age 84.

Five years ago: George Zimmerman, the Florida neighborhood watch volunteer who fatally shot 17-year-old Trayvon Martin, was arrested and charged with second-degree murder. (He was acquitted at trial.) A California prison panel denied parole to mass murderer Charles Manson in his 12th bid for freedom. A University of California task force said that UC Davis police should not have used pepper-spray on student demonstrators in an incident that prompted national outrage. Algeria's first president, Ahmed Ben Bella, 95, died in Algiers.

One year ago: Secretary of State John Kerry visited the memorial to Hiroshima's atomic bombing, delivering a message of peace and hope for a nuclear-free world. Nationally syndicated radio host Doug Banks, a longtime fixture in Chicago radio and television, died at 57.

Today's Birthdays: Ethel Kennedy is 89. Actor Joel Grey is 85. Actress Louise Lasser is 78. Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Ellen Goodman is 76. Movie writer-director John Milius is 73. Actor Peter Riegert is 70. Movie director Carl Franklin is 68. Actor Bill Irwin is 67. Country singer-songwriter Jim Lauderdale is 60. Songwriter-producer Daryl Simmons is 60. Rock musician Nigel Pulsford is 56. Actor Lucky Vanous is 56. Country singer Steve Azar is 53. Singer Lisa Stansfield is 51. Rock musician Dylan Keefe (Marcy Playground) is 47. Actor Johnny Messner is 47. Actor Vicellous (vy-SAY'-luhs) Shannon is 46. Rapper David Banner is 43. Actress Tricia Helfer is 43. Rock musician Chris Gaylor (The All-American Rejects) is 38. Actress Kelli Garner is 33. Singer Joss Stone is 30. Actress-dancer Kaitlyn Jenkins is 25.

Thought for Today: "We think in generalities, but we live in detail." — Alfred North Whitehead, British philosopher (1861-1947).