

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, April 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 279 ~ 1 of 39

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Dairy Queen Ad
- 1- Service Notice: "Mick" Osterman
- 2- Class B, AA heading to "Sweet 16"
- 3- FB schedule interferes with 4-H Rodeo finals
- 3- SDHSAA seek input on foundation
- 4- 2 compete for place on SDHSAA board
- 4- Middle School Talent Show
- 5- Today in Weather History
- 6- Local Weather Forecast
- 7- Yesterday's Groton Weather
- 7- Today's Weather Climate
- 7- National Weather map
- 8 - Daily Devotional
- 9 - News from the Associated Press

Wednesday, April 19

NSU Match Contest, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Senior Menu: Scalloped potato with ham, peas, sunset salad, cookie, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: French toast sticks, links, fruit, juice, milk.
School Lunch: Tater tot hot dish, corn, fruit, carrots and dip.
Emmanuel Lutheran: League at 6:30 p.m., Confirmation at 7 p.m.
St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation at 3:45 p.m.
United Methodist: Wednesday Coffee at 9 a.m., Kid Zone at 3:30 p.m., Confirmation at 6 p.m.

Thursday, April 20

Senior Menu: Ranch chicken breast, boiled potato, baby carrots, cake with strawberries, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Egg Sausage biscuit, fruit, juice, milk.
School Lunch: Super nachos, fruit, broccoli and dip.
St. John's Lutheran: Quilting at 9 a.m.
United Methodist: UMW at 1:30 p.m.

Friday, April 21

Middle School Talent Show, 7 p.m., GHS Gym
Senior Menu: Meatballs, mashed potato and gravy, mixed vegetables, fruit cocktail, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Pancake on stick, fruit, juice, milk.
School Lunch: Pizza, green beans, fruit, ro-

Service Notice: "Mick" Osterman

Services for Gerald "Mick" Osterman, 76, of Groton will be 11:00 a.m., Friday, April 21st at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Groton. Pastor Marcia Sylvester will officiate. Burial will follow in Union Cemetery.

Visitation will be 5-7:30 p.m. at the church on Thursday with a prayer service at 7:30 p.m.

Mick passed away April 18, 2017 at Avera St. Lukes Hospital, Aberdeen.

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**

© 2017 Groton Daily Independent



Oven Fresh Sandwiches Hot Desserts Snack Melts

11 E Hwy 12, Groton ~ 397-8627

Logos: New DQ BAKES! OVER-HOT, DQ, Grill & Chill, Orange Julius

S.D. basketball, volleyball heading for 'Sweet 16'

By Dana Hess

For the S.D. Newspaper Association

PIERRE - Major changes are planned for the way boys' and girls' high school basketball and volleyball tournaments are held in South Dakota. On Tuesday, the South Dakota High School Activities Association board of directors approved the first reading of "Sweet 16" formats for all classes of basketball and volleyball.

The board had a lengthy discussion about the change as it applies to AA basketball. Board member Bud Postma of Madison said the choices for the board were keeping the regional tournaments or using a Sweet 16 format that would match up the top 16 teams in AA based on seeding points.

Some people are in favor of keeping the regional games, Postma said, while others say that the Sweet 16 format offers the best chance to ensure that the top eight teams are the ones playing in the state tournament.

"The new system will create a true tournament," said Randy Marso, activities director at Brandon Valley. "We have to do what's fair for kids."

In AA, regular season seed points would determine the top 16 teams to qualify for postseason play. Two teams would be left out of the tournament. The No. 1 seed would host the No. 16 seed and so on down the line. The eight winners would be the teams going to the state tournament.

Handbook changes like the ones considered Tuesday get their start in an advisory committee. Then they are voted on by the state's athletic directors before making their way to the SDHSAA board for final action.

The Class AA Sweet 16 proposal had a 7-0 vote in the advisory council and an athletic director vote of 10-8.

SDHSAA board member Jason Uttermark said there was a case to be made for keeping regional rivalries. He also noted a financial concern as the process for deciding the teams going to the state tournament would go from 22 games to eight.

"Financially, we're taking a bit hit," Uttermark said about the lost gate receipts. "I think it's a financially irresponsible decision."

The motion to adopt a Sweet 16 format in Class AA passed on a vote of 6-3. Casting the dissenting votes were Uttermark, Steve Morford of Spearfish and David Planteen of Langford.

Throughout the Sweet 16 discussions, a rift was apparent between East River and West River schools. Most East River schools approved of the new format while West River schools tended to testify against it, citing extra travel.

During the discussion of a Sweet 16 format for Class B-Class A already uses that format-Timber Lake Superintendent Dan Martin told the board "more travel time equates to loss of educational time."

Martin noted that with 84 schools in Class B, eight quality teams always make it to the state tournament.

In Class A and Class B, tournaments would decide the top two teams in each region. The remaining 16 teams would be seeded for games with the eight winners going to the state tournament.

Avon Superintendent Tom Culver said he believes "the majority of basketball fans would like to see a change in the way we qualify" teams for the state tournament.

As for the lost revenue, Hanson School District Superintendent James Bridge said schools would find a way to replace it.

"That's what South Dakota does," Bridge said. "They figure out how to do it."

The Sweet 16 format for Class B was approved on an 8-1 vote with Morford dissenting.

Sweet 16 formats were also approved for volleyball. The tournament changes will return to the SDHSAA agenda in June for a second reading.

New football schedule interferes with 4-H Rodeo finals

By Dana Hess

For the S.D. Newspaper Association

PIERRE - A year-long effort to change the high school activities calendar resulted in an earlier start for the football season to cut down on travel and avoid injuries from concussions. However, no one told 4-H Rodeo organizers about the change and now the first football game of the year conflicts with the 4-H Rodeo finals.

On Tuesday, the board of directors of the South Dakota High School Activities Association heard from representatives of 4-H Rodeo who said their organization was unaware until recently about the change. As it stands now, the first football game is set for Aug. 18 and the rodeo finals are planned for Aug. 18-20.

"We weren't kept in the loop on it," said Don Bergeson of 4-H Rodeo. "It creates an undo hardship."

Bergeson said as many as 580 participants gather in Fort Pierre for the rodeo finals. In many cases, he said, rodeo participants are also high school football players.

"It is a big deal for kids if they have to pick between football and rodeo," Bergeson said. He asked that the scheduling needs of 4-H Rodeo be considered by the association in the future.

Kasey Hanson of 4-H Rodeo said the organization has already been getting letters from parents concerned about the choice their children will have to make between taking part in rodeo or playing football. She said some 4-Hers may consider dropping out of rodeo all together if their chance to go to the finals conflicts with football.

Bergeson said school officials he talked to were unaware of the earlier start date for football.

Board chairman Steve Morford of Spearfish noted that revamping the high school activities calendar was a long process. If school officials didn't know about it, Morford said, "they weren't paying attention. It was actually a very lengthy decision."

Hanson asked if there was any way that the first football game could be moved to Thursday night so it wouldn't conflict with the rodeo finals.

SDHSAA Assistant Executive Director John Krogstrand said the process wasn't as easy as just changing a date on the calendar. He said moving the date would mean adjusting practice schedules which could in turn interfere with late summer baseball tournaments.

Krogstrand said the football schedules were already set for the 2017 and 2018 seasons. He said someone from 4-H should meet with the football advisory committee in the fall of 2018 when the schedules will be discussed for 2019 and 2020.

-30-

Activities association seeks member input on foundation

By Dana Hess

For the S.D. Newspaper Association

PIERRE - The South Dakota High School Activities Association is forming a committee to see what sort of relationship its member schools want the association to have with the SDHSAA Foundation.

SDHSAA Board chairman Steve Morford of Spearfish said Tuesday the new committee will be chaired by Donald Kirkegaard, superintendent of the Meade School District. The committee is charged with forming policies governing the interactions of the association and the foundation.

Morford said the committee, comprised of school officials from across the state, will work along the same lines as the group that offered suggestions for revamping the school activities calendar.

At the heart of the issue is the request by current corporate sponsors to have their donations directed to the foundation. In the past, those donations have been used by the association to offset some expenses for member schools like dues, postage, subscription fees, catastrophic insurance and liability insurance.

Those expenses cost just more than \$200,000 in the 2015-2016 school year for the association's 181 member schools. At its meeting in March, the SDHSAA board heard a request from the S.D. School Superintendents Association specifically asking that corporate contributions be used for ongoing expenses rather than being funneled to the foundation.

At its meeting Tuesday, the board heard from representatives of two of its corporate sponsors. Jason Wells of Farmers Union Insurance told the board that the company he represents wants its future donations to be directed to the foundation. Similar requests have been made by Sanford Health and the South Dakota National Guard.

Miles Beacom, representing First Premier Bank and Premier Bankcard, told the board that the best way to build for the future was to have First Premier's donations go toward the foundation.

"We want that money to go in the endowment," Beacom said.

Corporate sponsorships total \$300,000 per year for the association. Beacom said he knew that replacing that funding won't be easy.

"Short term could be tough," Beacom said. "Long term could be the biggest blessing in the world."

The banking executive said that an endowment with \$5 million to \$10 million could generate generous funding into the future.

The SDHSAA Board will address the concerns about the requests of corporate sponsors at its June 8 meeting.

-30-

Two compete for place on activities board

By Dana Hess

For the S.D. Newspaper Association

PIERRE - The next member of the South Dakota High School Activities Association Board of Directors will be from Brookings or Watertown.

Randy Soma, activities administrator at Brookings, and Steve Moore, athletic director at Watertown, were nominated to serve on the board at the SDHSAA annual meeting on Tuesday. Both are running for one open five-year term on the board.

Jason Uttermark, principal at Aberdeen Central, is leaving the board in June when his term expires.

Member schools have until May 30 to return their ballots.

Member schools will also vote on a constitutional amendment closing a loophole regarding the athletic eligibility of open enrollment students. In order to pass, an amendment to the organization's constitution needs to receive 60 percent of the vote.

-30-

Middle School Music Department to host 1st Annual Talent Show

On Friday April 21st, the Groton MS School Music Department will be hosting a talent show. The event will be held at the Groton High Old Gym at 7:00 pm. The talent show is a fundraiser for the MS Music Students to earn money for their future music trips. The show will consist of talent acts made up of middle school students and popcorn. For people that purchase tickets in advance there will be a drawing for special prizes at the end of the show. The general admission cost is \$5.00. Tickets will not be sold at the door, but a \$5.00 donation will be requested. The 6th Grade/JH Band and JH Show Choir will also perform. You can get your tickets from any MS Music Student. Come enjoy a fun-filled night of talent and music. Thank you all for your support!

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, April 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 279 ~ 5 of 39

Today in Weather History

April 19, 1955: An F2 tornado moved NNW from 16 miles Southwest of Aberdeen, in the Townships of Good Hope and Highland. Only the houses were left intact on the four farms that were torn apart. Also, an F2 tornado destroyed barns 8 miles Southeast of Gettysburg causing \$8,000 in damage. In Corson and Dewey Counties, two F0 tornadoes touched down, one after the other, causing over \$3,000 worth of damage and injuring two people. An additional F2 tornado moved NNW in Clear Lake and Richland Townships. Buildings were destroyed on five farms.

April 19, 1971: An unofficial rainfall amount of 6 inches in 24 hours was reported at White River. An official number of 4 plus inches was reported at Murdo, causing the washout of a railroad and derailment of a freight train. The Ghost Hawk Dam broke on the Rosebud Indian Reservation, and the flood waters damaged a trailer home and two cars. Flooding occurred along the Bad, White, and Little White Rivers and Pine Creek.

April 19, 2006: An intense spring snowstorm swept across the Dakotas, dumping up to 5 feet of snow. The heaviest snow fell in the Black Hills, with 59.4 inches at Lead, SD. Bowman, ND reported 18 inches. The storm closed highways including I-94 in North Dakota, cutting power to thousands and was responsible for at least four deaths. Further west, 1 to 3 feet of snow and 50 to 60 mph winds caused drifts up to 10 feet, widespread power outages, and livestock losses.

1775 - The first engagement of the Revolutionary War took place under clear crisp weather at Lexington-Concord. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1941 - The temperature at Sodus, NY, soared to 95 degrees. The next day Albany, NY, reported a record for April of 93 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1973 - Glenrock, WY, received 41 inches of snow in just 24 hours, and a storm total of 58 inches, to establish two state records. (18th-20th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1976 - The northeastern U.S. was in the midst of an early season heat wave, and the Boston Marathon took place in 90 degree heat. At Providence RI the mercury hit 98 degrees. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Forty cities in the central U.S. reported new record high temperatures for the date as readings soared into the 80s and lower 90s for Easter Sunday. Fort Smith AR reported a record high of 95 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Severe thunderstorms over the southeastern U.S. early in the day spawned a strong (F-3) tornado which destroyed seventeen homes and severely damaged thirty houses near Madison FL killing four persons and injuring eighteen others. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

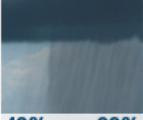
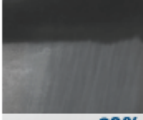
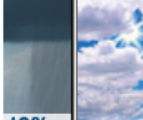




1989 - A dozen cities in the southwestern U.S. reported new record high temperatures for the date. The afternoon high of 98 degrees at Hanksville UT equalled their record for April. Tucson AZ reported their earliest 100 degree reading of record. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Five cities in the northeastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date as readings dipped into the 20s and upper teens. Elkins WV reported a record low of 20 degrees. Thunderstorms over the Southern Plains produced golf ball size hail at San Angelo TX, and up to four inches of rain in southwestern Oklahoma. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1996 - One of the most memorable tornado outbreaks in Illinois history occurred on April 19, 1996. During the day, 33 tornadoes were reported as supercells erupted and moved across the state during the afternoon and evening hours. Wind estimates in excess of 170 mph were associated with some of the stronger tornadoes, one of which ripped through nearby Ogden, IL. (University of Illinois WW2010)

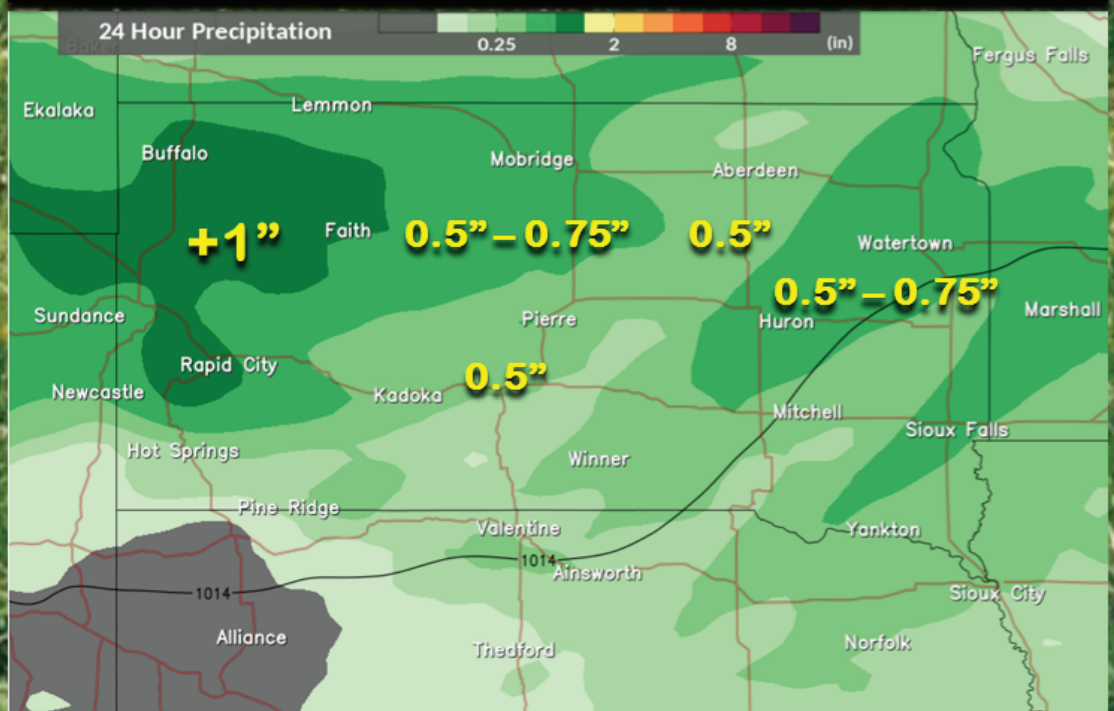
Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, April 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 279 ~ 6 of 39

Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
						
40% → 90%	80%	10%				
Chance Showers then Showers	Showers	Slight Chance Showers then Partly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 48 °F	Low: 39 °F	High: 60 °F	Low: 33 °F	High: 61 °F	Low: 37 °F	High: 65 °F

WIDESPREAD SOAKING RAIN SPREADS ACROSS SOUTH DAKOTA TODAY

Estimated Rainfall Forecast



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 4/19/2017 4:37 AM Central

Published on: 04/19/2017 at 4:46AM

The morning graphic displays the NAM model run accumulated rainfall and is fairly close to the forecast. It represents the general expectation of how much rainfall comes with this system. Rain is already widespread west river and will continue north and east over the course of the day. Precipitation will linger into the evening, departing the area early Thursday morning.

Groton Daily Independent

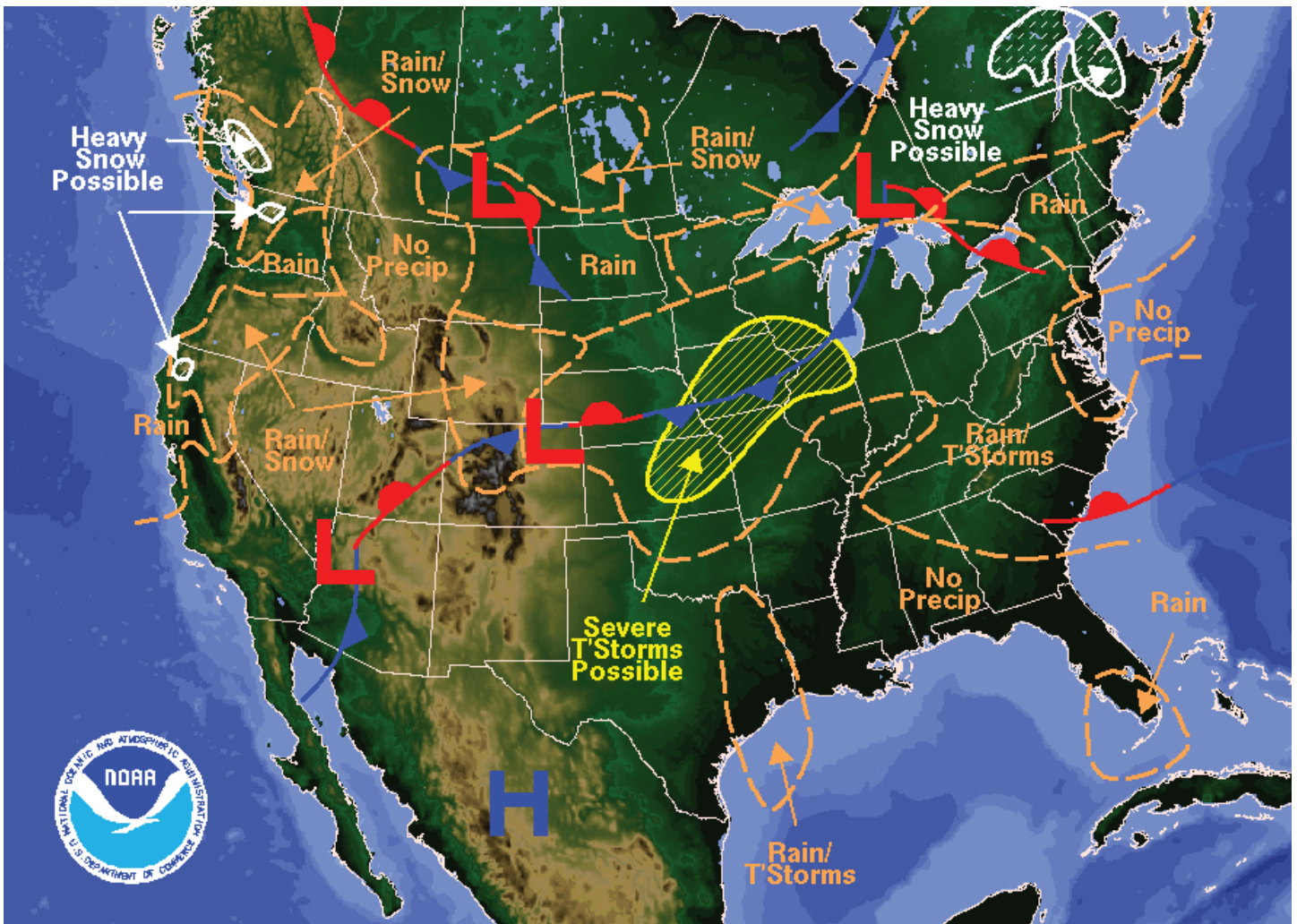
Wednesday, April 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 279 ~ 7 of 39

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 54.8 F at 5:13 AM
Low Outside Temp: 43.3 F at 11:58 PM
High Gust: 36.0 Mph at 5:12 AM
Snow: Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 91° in 1915
Record Low: 12° in 1988
Average High: 59°F
Average Low: 33°F
Average Precip in April.: 0.98
Precip to date in April.: 0.73
Average Precip to date: 3.16
Precip Year to Date: 1.32
Sunset Tonight: 8:25 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:39 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Wed, Apr 19, 2017, issued 4:39 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



NO ENEMIES YET, PASTOR

Six-year-old George listened very attentively to his pastor's sermon. As he and his father were leaving church he said, "Pastor, I heard you say that I should love my enemies. I'm only six and I don't have any. But I hope to have some next year when I'm seven."

Individuals tend to become enemies when they cannot agree on an issue or a course of action or a goal. The differences become insurmountable, positions harden and opinions become set in stone. We might say with certainty that we "make" our enemies. Unfortunately once we "make" an enemy that "enemy" usually lasts a lifetime.

On the other hand, friendships are formed when individuals have common likes and dislikes, goals and values. There are "common denominators" that draw them together and a sense of mutual trust. And we read in Proverbs, "A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in times of need."

Perhaps the greatest part of friendship is loyalty – standing with or alongside of someone when they are enduring times of distress or disappointment, sickness or struggles that never seem to end. When there are "calm seas and gentle winds" carrying us along life's journey, we can pretty much make it on our own.

But when the waves are crashing and the winds are howling – that's when we discover the true meaning of friendship and loyalty. There seems to be nothing as valuable as a friend. We need to make more – not enemies!

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to reach out and make friends with those who are our sisters and brothers in Christ so that we may grow together in loyalty and service. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 17:17 A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.

News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) _ These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Tuesday:

Mega Millions

08-29-30-43-64, Mega Ball: 6, Megaplier: 3

(eight, twenty-nine, thirty, forty-three, sixty-four; Mega Ball: six; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$37 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$80 million

Man brandishing weapons in video will not face charges

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police say a man asked to leave an anti-Muslim event in South Dakota who later appeared in a video on Facebook brandishing weapons will not face charges.

Sam Clemens, Sioux Falls Police Department spokesman, told the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2oldKpT>) that security officers believed the man had a weapon and asked him to leave. The man left and went to his vehicle.

A video the appeared on Facebook showing him in a vehicle holding up weapons and ammunition and saying: "Be scared."

He was wearing a t-shirt that said "I am Muslim," "I open carry ... And conceal carry," and "I am only dangerous if you are stupid."

Clemens said police and FBI determined he posed no threat and had done nothing illegal. Concealed carry is legal in South Dakota.

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

Bill protects adoption agencies that turn away gay couples

By KIM CHANDLER, Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Alabama might protect faith-based adoption organizations that refuse to place children with gay parents, or in other households, because of their religious beliefs.

The Alabama Senate on Tuesday approved legislation that prohibits the state from refusing to license faith-based adoption groups that refuse placements on religious grounds. Proponents said the bill is needed so the faith-based agencies can make placements without violating their faith. Critics derided it as blatant discrimination.

Sen. Bill Hightower, the Republican bill sponsor, said it would guarantee that the faith-based agencies can continue to operate and find homes for needy children.

"The need for adoption is so high. We need to have every avenue available," Hightower said.

Sen. Rodger Smitherman, D-Birmingham, said the legislation was not in the best interest of children needing homes.

"It isn't in the best interest of the child to deny them a qualified loving family simply because that family doesn't share all the tendencies of the placing agency's faith," Smitherman said.

State Rep. Patricia Todd, the state's only openly gay lawmaker, watched the debate on the Senate floor, saying she hoped lawmakers would realize that the legislation was blatant prejudice.

She said she believed the proponents knew few people from the LGBT community.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, April 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 279 ~ 10 of 39

"They make an assumption that all of us would be bad parents," said Todd, D-Birmingham.

The 23-9 Senate vote fell largely along party lines with Republicans in favor and Democrats against. The House of Representatives approved the bill last month. However, it must return to the House after senators added an amendment.

South Dakota, Michigan, North Dakota and Virginia have passed similar laws.

WWII era bombers fly over Doolittle Raiders memorial service

DAYTON, Ohio (AP) — World War II era B-25 bombers have flown over an Ohio memorial service marking the 75th anniversary of the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders' attack on Japan, credited with helping turn the tide the war.

The last Raider living is 101-year-old retired Lt. Col. Richard "Dick" Cole. He attended Tuesday's service at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force near Dayton. Lead plane co-pilot Cole came from his Com- fort, Texas, home.

Among the speakers was the son of Staff Sgt. David Thatcher, who died last year in Missoula, Montana. Cole planned a traditional toast to the 79th Raider to die, in a private ceremony with Thatcher relatives and others.

Three Raiders died trying to reach safety in China. Japanese soldiers executed three. One died in cap- tivity after the daring attack.

South Dakota lawmakers decline to study polygamous sect

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota lawmakers have decided against studying a secretive polygamous sect's outpost in the western part of the state.

Republican Rep. Tim Goodwin proposed looking into the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints' compound near Pringle. Goodwin wanted to look at issues including whether polygamy or sex trafficking are taking place there.

The idea was among more than 20 proposals, and lawmakers instead voted Tuesday to study a water issue and workforce housing.

House Speaker Mark Mickelson says it's up to law enforcement to investigate. Goodwin's proposal ranked low in a survey of lawmakers.

A sect leader didn't respond to a call or email from The Associated Press. Goodwin, whose district in- cludes the compound, says that he's not "giving up the fight."

State lawmakers to study water issue, workforce housing

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Lawmakers will study how the use of publicly-owned bodies of water over privately- owned land should be regulated, an issue that has vexed landowners and outdoor enthusiasts alike.

The Legislature's Executive Board voted Tuesday on topics to study ahead of the 2018 session, also de- ciding to approve a study on workforce housing. The two studies came from a list of more than 20 ideas.

The first study committee would look at nonmeandered waters, which are bodies of water —usually smaller in size — that weren't specially designated during government surveys in the late 1800s.

It would encompass issues including a recent state Supreme Court decision that said the South Dakota Legislature must determine if and how the public can use nonmeandered waters for recreation.

Since the high court decision, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks limited access to infrastructure on more than 20 lakes in the state. It came after Day County landowners filed a lawsuit seeking to secure injunctions against hunters and anglers and the department that would prevent public use of lakes on their property.

Hunter Roberts, a policy adviser to Gov. Dennis Daugaard, said that lakes have risen and created good fishing, but it's come at the cost of productive land that agriculture producers have lost.

Rich Widman, president of the South Dakota Wildlife Federation, said the issue goes beyond people who

want to use the water. He said losing access impacts taxpayers and will hurt businesses from bait shops to restaurants.

"Everybody has a dog in this fight you might say — or a fish in this fight," Widman said. "People need to realize that they better care about outdoor issues because it affects them not only for the recreational use, but also their pocketbooks."

Roberts said it's a tough issue that will take at least a summer study to give it the necessary due diligence.

The 15-member study committee is also set to look at private property protections, public access to waters, the regulation and management of nonmeandered waters and defining recreational use. House Majority Leader Lee Qualm is set to chair the panel.

Among proposed studies that didn't get chosen was a plan to look into a secretive polygamous sect's outpost in western South Dakota. Republican Rep. Tim Goodwin proposed looking into the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints' compound near Pringle, including whether polygamy or sex trafficking are taking place there.

House Speaker Mark Mickelson said it's up to law enforcement to investigate. Goodwin's proposal ranked low in a survey of lawmakers.

Escaped South Dakota prison inmate back in custody

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota prison inmate who was placed on escape status last week is back in custody.

Corrections officials say Sioux Falls police arrested inmate Michael Clark at a Sioux Falls residence on Tuesday afternoon. He is currently housed in the Jameson Annex to the South Dakota State Penitentiary.

Authorities say Clark left the Sioux Falls Community Work Center on Thursday to search for a job and didn't return.

Clark is serving eight years behind bars for grand theft in Charles Mix County. He's also serving time for burglary in Miner County.

NCAA hockey West Regional to remain in Dakotas next 2 years

GRAND FORKS, N.D. (AP) — The University of North Dakota will be the host for the NCAA men's hockey West Regional the next two seasons.

The NCAA says the 2018 West Regional Championship will be at the Denny Sanford Premier Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and the 2019 regional will be at Scheels Arena in Fargo, North Dakota.

Scheels Arena also was the site for the West Regional this year and in 2015.

Ticket information for the 2018 and 2019 events will be announced at a later date.

South Dakotan pole vaulter receives medal from 2008 Olympics

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — An assistant track coach at the University of South Dakota has been awarded a bronze medal for pole vaulting at the 2008 Beijing Olympics after the original winner was disqualified for doping.

Derek Miles, a three-time Olympian, placed fourth in the pole vaulting event in 2008. He reached the same height (18 feet, 8 ¼ inches) as Denys Yurchenko, but the Ukrainian won the bronze because he made fewer attempts.

Miles received his medal in a ceremony Monday.

Yurchenko was among several athletes who were stripped last year of their 2008 Olympic medals after the International Olympic Committee found banned substances during retesting.

U.S. Olympic Committee CEO Scott Blackmun said ensuring a doping-free Olympics is a top priority.

"Athletes like Derek deserve a level playing field," he said. "Not years after the competition ends, but each and every day when they take the field of play."

It wasn't guaranteed that Miles would receive a medal. Yurchenko initially refused to give up the medal,

and the International Olympic Committee rarely gives out replacements.

Sen. John Thune, a South Dakota Republican, chairs the Senate Commerce Committee, which oversees the U.S. Olympic Committee and held hearings on doping earlier this year. When Thune heard of Miles' case, he worked with his staff to ensure Miles would receive a medal.

"It's an amazing thing to have, to be an Olympic medalist," Miles said.

Miles has been a member of the university's coaching staff for the past 14 seasons and now serves as the associate director of track and field.

Ex-NFL star Aaron Hernandez dead after hanging self in cell

MILFORD, Mass. (AP) — Former NFL star Aaron Hernandez, who was serving a life sentence for a murder conviction and just days ago was acquitted of a double murder, died after hanging himself in his prison cell Wednesday morning, Massachusetts prisons officials said.

Hernandez, 27, was found by guards in his cell at the Souza-Baranowski Correctional Center in Shirley just after 3 a.m., Department of Correction spokesman Christopher Fallon said in a statement.

The former New England Patriots tight end was pronounced dead at UMass Memorial-HealthAlliance Hospital in Leominster about an hour later.

Hernandez was in a single cell in a general population housing unit in the maximum security state prison. He hanged himself using a bed sheet that he attached to a cell window, Fallon said.

Hernandez tried to block the cell door from the inside by jamming the door with various items, Fallon said.

Hernandez was moved to tears on Friday after he was acquitted of the 2012 fatal shootings of Daniel de Abreu and Safiro Furtado in Boston. Just before his acquittal, Hernandez was seen blowing kisses to the little girl he fathered with fiancée Shayanna Jenkins. Cameras captured the tender exchange.

But, Hernandez was still serving a life sentence without the possibility of parole for his conviction in the 2013 shooting of Odin Lloyd, who was dating his fiancée's sister.

Hernandez's lawyers did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Hernandez's death comes the same day the Patriots are making their visit to the White House today to mark their Super Bowl win. Team spokesman Stacey James said the Patriots were aware of the reports of Hernandez's death but didn't anticipate the club commenting Wednesday.

Massachusetts State Police remain on the scene investigating the death.

US VP Pence warns North Korea: 'The sword stands ready'

By KEN THOMAS and ROBERT BURNS, Associated Press

YOKOSUKA, Japan (AP) — From the wind-swept deck of a massive aircraft carrier, Vice President Mike Pence on Wednesday warned North Korea not to test the resolve of the U.S. military, promising it would make an "overwhelming and effective" response to any use of conventional or nuclear weapons.

Pence, dressed in a green military jacket, said aboard the hulking USS Ronald Reagan that President Donald Trump's administration would continue to "work diligently" with allies like Japan, China and other global powers to apply economic and diplomatic pressure on Pyongyang. But he told the sailors, "as all of you know, readiness is the key."

"The United States of America will always seek peace but under President Trump, the shield stands guard and the sword stands ready," Pence told 2,500 sailors wearing blue fatigues and Naval baseball caps on a sunny, windy morning aboard the carrier at the U.S. Yokosuka naval base in Tokyo Bay.

"Those who would challenge our resolve or readiness should know, we will defeat any attack and meet any use of conventional or nuclear weapons with an overwhelming and effective American response," Pence said.

The vice president said the U.S. would honor its alliance with Pacific Rim nations and protect freedom of navigation in the South China Sea, the sea lanes vital to global shipping where China has been staking claim to disputed territory.

From two continents, Pence and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis warned that North Korea's latest failed missile launch was a reckless act of provocation and assured allies in Asia that the U.S. was ready to work

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, April 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 279 ~ 13 of 39

to achieve a peaceful denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Mattis denounced North Korea's attempted missile launch as he began a Middle East tour, telling reporters traveling with him to Saudi Arabia, "the leader of North Korea again recklessly tried to provoke something by launching a missile," he said. The term "reckless" is one the North Koreans have used to describe ongoing large-scale U.S. and South Korean military exercises, which the North calls a dress rehearsal for an invasion.

Mattis did not identify the type of missile but said it was not of intercontinental range, meaning it could not reach U.S. territory. He did not comment on what might have caused the missile to fail.

Another official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss an intelligence matter, said the missile was a Scud variant that the U.S. calls a KN-17.

Mattis credited China with trying to help get the North Korea situation "under control" with the goal of denuclearizing the peninsula.

Pence's speech on the aircraft carrier followed meetings Tuesday in Tokyo with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, where he noted that "all options are on the table."

Abe said that it was a "matter of paramount importance for us to seek diplomatic efforts as well peaceable settlements of the issue."

"But at the same time," the prime minister said, "dialogue for the sake of dialogue is valueless and it is necessary for us to exercise pressure North Korea so that it comes forward and engages in this serious dialogue."

The Trump administration has signaled a forceful U.S. stance on North Korea's recent actions, dispatching Pence to the Demilitarized Zone dividing North and South Korea on Monday in a show of American resolve. But it remains unclear what might come next.

Behind the heated rhetoric, Trump's strategy in the region looks somewhat similar to predecessor Barack Obama's — albeit with the added unpredictability of a new president who has shown he's willing to use force.

Pence said Trump was hopeful China would use its influence in the region to pressure the North to abandon its weapons program. But the vice president expressed impatience with the unwillingness of North Korea to move toward ridding itself of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles.

In Moscow, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told reporters he hopes "there will be no unilateral actions like those we saw recently in Syria and that the U.S. will follow the line that President Trump repeatedly voiced during the election campaign."

China made a plea for a return to negotiations. Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said tensions need to be eased on the Korean Peninsula to bring the escalating dispute to a peaceful resolution. Lu said Beijing wants to resume the multi-party negotiations that ended in stalemate in 2009 and suggested that U.S. plans to deploy a missile defense system in South Korea were damaging its relations with China.

Burns reported from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. AP reporter Jonathan Lemire reported from New York.

Follow Ken Thomas on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/KThomasDC> and Burns at <http://twitter.com/@robertburnsAP>

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. GEORGIA HOUSE SEAT STILL UNDECIDED

A June 20 runoff between Democrat Jon Ossoff and Republican Karen Handel is an early barometer for Trump and both parties ahead of the 2018 midterm elections.

2. 'THE SHIELD STANDS GUARD AND THE SWORD STANDS READY'

From the deck of a massive aircraft carrier off Tokyo, Vice President Mike Pence warns North Korea not to test the resolve of the U.S. military.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, April 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 279 ~ 14 of 39

3. TRUMP SHAKING UP STATUS-QUO IN NORTH ASIA

In trying to get North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs, Pyongyang sees more volatility, China calls for calm and Japan weighs a retaliatory capability.

4. WHAT MAY HAVE MOTIVATED FRESNO SHOOTER

Before he shot to death three people at random, Kori Ali Muhammad, a 34-year-old black man, told police he wanted to kill as many white people as he could before he was captured.

5. MANHUNT ENDS IN UNLIKELY FASHION

Facebook slaying suspect Steve Stephens was undone when a worker at a McDonald's near Erie, Pennsylvania, recognized him at the drive-thru window.

6. WHERE TRUMP SUPPORT IS STRONG

Residents of Androscoggin County, Maine, backed a Republican for president for the first time in decades because many support his views on immigration, AP finds, even though the town has been bolstered by immigrants.

7. AP: PERU BACKSLIDING ON ILLEGAL LOGGING

The 2015 impoundment of a freighter in Houston carrying tons of Amazon rainforest wood represents a rare victory in the battle to preserve tropical forests.

8. HOW NAVY IS ADDRESSING FEMALE SAILORS

Defense contractor Electric Boat is designing what will be the first U.S. fleet of Navy submarines built specifically to accommodate female crew members.

9. NO SPINNING THIS ONE

Viewership of Fox News Channel's "O'Reilly Factor" drops without its vacationing and scandal-riddled host, Bill O'Reilly.

10. WHO'S WONDERING WHETHER HE'LL 'GET THAT ITCH AGAIN'

Michael Phelps hasn't gotten the urge to return to swimming, but the winningest athlete in Olympic history hasn't ruled out yet another comeback.

US students satisfied with life, but some foreigners happier

By MARIA DANILOVA, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The good news: American high school students are generally satisfied with their lives. But many of their peers in other countries are happier.

Asked to rank their life satisfaction on a scale from 0 to 10, American 15-year-olds gave an average mark of 7.4, according to a study conducted by the Paris-based Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, which was released Wednesday.

American students scored close to the average of 7.3 among OECD's 35 member countries. But students in some member countries are doing markedly better: an average Mexican high schooler rated life satisfaction at 8.2 out of 10. The Netherlands and Iceland had a level of 7.8 and Finland had 7.9. American students also reported higher levels of anxiety over tests, bullying or a feeling of not belonging at schools, compared with many of their peers.

What makes students feel good? According to the study, teacher and parental support, spending time with friends and being physically active make it more likely that a student will be satisfied with life. On the other hand, feeling anxiety over grades and spending too much time online are predictors of feeling dissatisfied. "In happy schools, teacher support — as perceived by students — tends to be much greater," said Andreas Schleicher, one of the authors of the report.

Does studying hard mean being miserable? Not always. In China, Korea and Japan, for example, students score well on reading and math, but are less satisfied with life, according to the study. And then there's Turkey, Greece or United Arab Emirates, where students scored poorly and aren't too happy.

But the authors highlight the cases of Netherlands, Finland and Switzerland, where good grades and high spirits exist side by side.

"High learning outcomes don't have to come at the expense of good life satisfaction," Schleicher said.

There are also some gender differences. Feeling very satisfied with one's life is more widespread among boys, while feeling low life satisfaction is more common among girls across most countries and cultures. Why that was the case was unclear from the report.

The 2015 study had a sample size of 540,000. Data were collected as part of the Program for International Student Assessment survey, or PISA, in 72 countries and are based on randomly sampled students who completed written tests and questionnaires. It was a pioneering international study that looked at student outcomes with a focus on their social and emotional well-being.

Tom Loveless, a fellow with the Brown Center on Education Policy with the Brookings Institution, was skeptical about the survey's methodology when looking at U.S. high school students. He said that at the time of the study, most 15-year-old sophomores would have spent a little over a year in their current high school and thus their well-being could have been shaped by other factors.

"The characteristics that make up "well-being" may be well established by then and influenced by parents, peers, schools, and teachers— not to mention life experiences— prior to the 10th grade," Loveless said.

Commenting on the study, Randi Weingarten, the head of the American Federation of Teachers, lamented that American teenagers were found to be less happy than some of their peers from other countries and said the focus should be not on tests, but on building a supportive environment. She criticized the Trump administration for seeking to cut funding for after-school programs for low-income families.

"Countries and schools that do well fight the fixation on testing, focusing instead on children's joy in and out of the classroom. They maintain a bully-free and inclusive environment, form partnerships with parents and community, and limit internet use," Weingarten said in a statement. "This data debunks President Trump's proposed federal funding cuts for programs like child nutrition, wraparound services in schools, school climate, and before- and after-school programs, and reaffirms why these programs have been funded for decades."

On the bright side, Schleicher said there are a few easy steps parents can take to make their children more satisfied with life.

"Just talking with their children is something that relates positively to life outcomes; having dinner together," Schleicher said. "These things are really simple for parents to do. They don't require an academic degree, they don't require hours of time."

McDonald's order trips up Facebook slaying suspect

By MICHAEL RUBINKAM, Associated Press

Facebook slaying suspect Steve Stephens was undone by a 20-piece Chicken McNuggets and an order of fries.

The man who police say shot a Cleveland retiree at random and posted video of the killing on Facebook pulled up to the drive-thru window of a McDonald's restaurant outside Erie, Pennsylvania, and waited for his order.

It was late Tuesday morning, almost lunchtime, and authorities were in the third day of an intensive manhunt for Stephens.

Now, more than 100 miles from the shooting, his time on the run was nearly up.

The attendant who took his money recognized the suspect and dialed 911. Stephens pulled up to the next window, where restaurant owner Thomas DuCharme Jr. and a supervisor tried stalling him by telling him his fries were delayed.

Stephens didn't want to wait. He took his McNuggets and whipped out of the parking lot, nearly hitting Gail Wheeler, 54, a retail operations manager from Erie who was on her way home from the grocery store.

"Two seconds later, I hear these sirens, and they come whipping past me," she told The Associated Press.

Wheeler followed behind for a couple miles. She said the chase slowed suddenly from 50 mph to about 20 mph when the road narrowed from four lanes to two.

One of the pursuing troopers picked his spot — in front of an abandoned school — and hit Stephens' bumper to get him to stop. The Ford Fusion did a half-turn and came to rest at the curb.

Police were starting to get out of their cruisers when "I heard a shot. It was loud and distinctive," Wheeler said.

"The next thing I know, they're approaching the car. The one officer just shook his head. He was closest to the car. ... They had their guns out but when he shook his head, they lowered their guns."

Stephens killed himself, authorities said.

State police Major William Teper Jr. said the trooper who bumped Stephens' car "saw him pull the gun out and shoot himself."

Associated Press researcher Monika Mathur in Washington contributed to this report.

Georgia House race down to 2 candidates, plus Trump, Pelosi

By **BILL BARROW**, Associated Press

DUNWOODY, Ga. (AP) — A Georgia congressional election in a historically conservative district is headed to a runoff that raises the stakes in an early measure for President Donald Trump and both major parties ahead of the 2018 midterm elections.

Democrat Jon Ossoff, a 30-year-old former congressional staffer, fell a few percentage points shy of an outright victory amid an 18-candidate scramble in Georgia's 6th Congressional District. Republican Karen Handel, a former Georgia secretary of state, finished a distant second, qualifying for the June 20 runoff.

The winner will succeed Republican Tom Price, who resigned the seat to join Trump's administration as health secretary. But the matchup in greater Atlanta's northern suburbs is just as much about Ossoff and Handel acting as proxies for the nation's roiled political atmosphere.

Leaders in both major parties agree the race offers a prime test run for 2018 elections, because the affluent, well-educated Georgia district is replete with the kind of voters Democrats must attract to reclaim a House majority and win more gubernatorial and Senate races.

For Democrats, Ossoff's near win in such a district — a Republican has held the seat since 1979, and Price won 62 percent of the vote in November — encourages the opposition movement that has flourished since Trump's election. Yet falling short also highlights the party's lingering power deficit in Washington and around the country.

"There is no doubt this is already a victory for the ages," Ossoff told his supporters, praising them for a campaign that has collected more than \$8.3 million, most of it from well beyond Georgia.

Having already endured several million in attacks from national Republican outfits, Ossoff said he's ready for more. "Bring it on!" he said.

For Republicans, Ossoff's strong performance acts as another wake-up call alongside a closer-than-expected win in a House special election last week in arch-conservative Kansas. It also serves notice that GOP candidates may always struggle to handle Trump's polarizing effects; he engenders an intense loyalty among his core supporters but alienates many independents and even Republicans.

Handel has treated Trump gingerly throughout, rarely mentioning him unless she's asked and even then cautioning she isn't a "rubber stamp" for anyone.

"I certainly support the president and will work with him where we agree," Handel told The Associated Press at one of her final campaign stops before polls opened. "But my job ... is to be the representative for the people of the 6th District, and that's what I believe regardless of who is the president."

That distinguished her from other Republican contenders she left to squabble over who is more loyal to Trump. One of Handel's closest competitors, technology executive Bob Gray, even donned hip waders for one television spot as he paid homage to the president by, literally, draining a swamp.

The campaigns, advocacy groups and even the president himself moved quickly to frame Tuesday's outcome in their favor.

Handel began to consolidate a fractured party. She trailed Ossoff by more than a 2-to-1 margin, but drew immediate endorsements from some of her fellow GOP candidates and national party leaders, including House Speaker Paul Ryan. She did not immediately get a nod from the conservative Club for Growth, a

Washington organization that spent six figures attacking her as a big-spending “career politician.”

Republicans believe a two-candidate scenario will embolden conservative voters and make it harder for Ossoff to campaign above the fray as he has thus far. “There will certainly be a clear contrast,” Handel told AP.

Trump, who took to social media in the campaign’s closing days to heckle Ossoff and encourage Republicans, crowed on his personal Twitter account: “Despite major outside money, FAKE media support and eleven Republican candidates, Big ‘R’ win with runoff in Georgia. Glad to be of help!”

In fact, Trump gave Ossoff his opening in the first place. The president barely edged Hillary Clinton here in November, falling short of a majority four years after Republican Mitt Romney got more than 60 percent of the presidential vote.

As Trump carried out his Twitter barrage against Ossoff earlier Tuesday, a White House spokeswoman insisted the race wasn’t a “referendum” on the president. He just “hopes to have a Republican elected,” Sarah Huckabee Sanders said.

Ossoff has capitalized on anti-Trump energy while still trying to appeal to independents and moderate Republicans — his only path to victory.

“This is not a story about me. This is a story about this community at this moment in history,” he said Tuesday night, casting the race as a choice about “the kind of country” the United States will be, though he never named Trump.

Republicans have made their own attempts at nationalizing the campaign.

A political action committee backed by Ryan and other House GOP leaders funneled more than \$2 million into attacks on Ossoff, tying him to national Democrats like House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi. The California Democrat remains an unpopular figure in the district.

Handel spends most of her efforts touting her record in public office, but makes a point to join in the Pelosi bashing. Ossoff, she says, is Pelosi’s “hand-picked” candidate.

Follow Barrow on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/BillBarrowAP> .

Police: Fresno gunman targeting whites chose 3 men at random

By SCOTT SMITH, Associated Press

FRESNO, Calif. (AP) — Three men were having a seemingly ordinary day in downtown Fresno, California, before they were singled out at random and killed by a black gunman targeting white victims, police said.

The men happened to be on the same block, but had no known connection to each other or to the shooter, Kori Ali Muhammad, who told police he wanted to kill as many white people as he could before he was captured.

One victim, a 34-year-old father of two preschoolers, was on the job when he was shot Tuesday in the passenger seat of a Pacific Gas & Electric utility truck. The driver wasn’t hit and sped toward the police department, but his partner couldn’t be saved.

Another victim, a 37-year-old man, had just picked up a bag of groceries Tuesday at a Catholic Charities building when he was gunned down.

Stephen Hughes, 66, said he and his wife rushed home Tuesday after receiving a frantic call from a neighbor to find a body draped in a blanket on the sidewalk leading to his front door.

“It looks like a guy carrying his groceries home from the store,” Hughes said.

The third victim, a 59-year-old man, was gunned down in the parking of the Catholic Charities building.

“These were unprovoked attacks,” Fresno police Chief Jerry Dyer said.

Two Latina women and a child crossed paths with Muhammad but were luckier. Muhammad pointed the gun at them as they sat in their car trying to flee, but didn’t shoot.

Muhammad, 39, is in custody and is expected to be charged with four counts of murder — for Tuesday’s three victims and 25-year-old Motel 6 security guard, Carl Williams, another white man who Muhammad shot last week. He also faces at least two additional charges of assault with a deadly weapon.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, April 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 279 ~ 18 of 39

Police had been looking for Muhammad in the Williams killing, and Muhammad said seeing his own name and picture in a press release Tuesday morning helped spur the rampage.

Muhammad had shorn off the braids featured in his wanted pictures and YouTube videos, fired 16 rounds in less than two minutes at four places within a block.

"I did it. I shot them," Muhammad told officers as they arrested him, according to the chief.

During the arrest, Muhammad shouted "Allahu Akbar," but Dyer said the shootings had "nothing to do with terrorism in spite of the statement he made."

"This is solely based on race," Dyer said.

Police are searching for the revolver Muhammad said he tossed into a pile of clothing. The gun may have been picked up by someone else, Dyer said.

On what appeared to be Muhammad's Facebook page, he repeatedly posted "#LetBlackPeopleGo" and encouraged "black warriors" to "mount up." A flurry of posts emerged in the past day.

He wrote that his "kill rate increases tremendously on the other side" and also posted about "white devils," themes he dwelled on in hip-hop videos that he posted on YouTube.

Muhammad has a criminal history that includes arrests on weapons, drugs and false imprisonment charges and making terrorist threats. He had been associated with gangs but he was not a confirmed member, police say.

Muhammad was charged in 2005 with possessing cocaine with intent to distribute, court records show. Federal prosecutors said at the time that he was also in possession of a 9mm semi-automatic handgun and two rifles after being convicted of a felony.

He claimed insanity, and his attorney requested a psychiatric examination for his client, saying Muhammad "appeared eccentric with some bizarre beliefs."

He also "suffered auditory hallucinations and had at least two prior mental health hospitalizations," according to court documents. His attorney said that Muhammad had "paranoia" and thought the justice system and his defense attorney were conspiring against him, court papers said.

The attorney who represented Muhammad in that case did not return a call for comment Tuesday.

Public records list Muhammad as Cory Taylor and other aliases with addresses in Fresno and Sacramento. Fresno's police chief said his former name was Cory McDonald. A woman who identified herself as Taylor's grandmother said Tuesday that the family last saw him on Easter Sunday. She hung up the phone before giving her name.

"I never would have thought he would do anything like this," said Muhammad's brother, who asked not to be identified by name. "I'm just kind of shocked."

Contributing to this report are Associated Press writers Sophia Bollag in Fresno; Kristin J. Bender, Olga R. Rodriguez and Janie Har in San Francisco; Jonathan J. Cooper and Don Thompson in Sacramento; Mike Balsamo in Los Angeles; and researcher Jennifer Farrar in New York City.

Phelps on comeback: 'We'll see if I get that itch again'

By PAUL NEWBERRY, AP National Writer

Michael Phelps hasn't gotten the urge to return to swimming.

Not yet anyway.

The winningest athlete in Olympic history is clearly enjoying marriage, fatherhood and a newfound willingness to speak out on contentious issues such as doping.

But, in a tantalizing concession that he hasn't totally closed the door on another comeback, Phelps told The Associated Press that it might be tough to stay away from the pool — especially if he attends the upcoming world championships in Budapest.

"The true test will be, if I do end up going over to the worlds this summer, do I have that itch again?" Phelps said Tuesday during a telephone interview.

He was already strongly considering his first comeback when he attended the 2013 championships in Barcelona, and there was no doubt he'd be back for his fifth Olympics when that meet ended.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, April 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 279 ~ 19 of 39

"I was just like, 'This is a joke. How can these guys be swimming this slow?'" recalled Phelps, who was especially motivated by a disappointing performance from the men's relay team. "We'll see if I get that itch again."

For now, he's happy with his post-swimming life, which includes a new sponsorship deal with Colgate in which he is pushing water conservation.

While Phelps still travels extensively, tending to various sponsors and business interests, he gets a lot more quality time with wife Nicole and their son, Boomer, who will celebrate his first birthday in a few weeks.

"He has started standing by himself a little bit from time to time," Phelps said. "He's on the move all the time now and loving it. He's killing it. It's so fun to watch him. Every day, it's something different, something special. It's a treat for me to see it face to face. It's wild. It's mind-blowing for Nicole and I. We still look at each other sometimes and go, 'Wow, we have a son. This is our son.'"

If Phelps returns to competitive swimming, the demands of training would surely cut heavily into his family time. That's why, if he tries to predict what the future might hold, it doesn't include a sixth Olympics at Tokyo in 2020.

"I'm having so many amazing experience, so many cool experiences, with my family," he said. "I don't see myself making a comeback. I have no desire right now to do it. I'm in the second chapter of my life. I have a lot of things I now want to accomplish. I'm realizing that more and more. This is a really cool opportunity for me to do some things I was not able to do when I was swimming."

That includes lending his still-considerable clout to issues that he considers important to swimming and the world.

In the lead-up to the Rio Games, Phelps talked for the first time about the scourge of doping, saying he wasn't sure if he had ever competed in a totally clean race, even while winning a record 23 gold medals and 28 medals in all.

In February, he took it a step further by testifying at a congressional hearing on improving anti-doping measures. He said athletes don't believe in the testing programs that are already in place, and he urged lawmakers to help "ensure the system is fair and reliable."

"Throughout my career, I never spoke out about anything," Phelps conceded. "I stayed in my lane and focused on what I was doing. To get out front and speak out on things that are passionate to me, to take different approaches to things I want to talk about in different walks of life, that's pretty cool and pretty special for me. The opportunities I have are absolutely amazing.

"Hopefully," he added, "I can change some things and make a difference."

He's doing a media blitz this week for his new deal with Colgate and the "Save Water" program, coinciding with Earth Day on Saturday.

"It completely blows my mind to think about how much you can waste when you brush your teeth twice a day," Phelps said. "If you leave the water running while you brush your teeth, it's wasting four to five gallons every time you do that. Every time. If we can get people to stop doing that, think how many millions of people in the world could contribute in just that small way."

Phelps said this second retirement, coming after an Olympics in which he won five gold medals and a silver with his new family along for the ride, has enabled him to truly appreciate the enormous accomplishments of his career.

He still feels like Rio was the perfect ending .

"I never had that moment before to sit back and think about what I had done," Phelps said. "I'm so stoked that I came back for (the 2016) Olympics. I finished exactly how I wanted."

Is he really finished?

Stay tuned.

Follow Paul Newberry on Twitter at www.twitter.com/pnewberry1963 . His work can be found at <http://bigstory.ap.org/content/paul-newberry> .

For more AP Olympic coverage: <https://www.apnews.com/tag/OlympicGames>

Arkansas inmates set to die Thursday claim innocence

By SEAN MURPHY and KELLY P. KISSEL, Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Lawyers for Arkansas inmates condemned to die Thursday in a planned double execution are claiming they are innocent and one of them says advanced DNA techniques could show he didn't kill a woman in 1993.

Their strategy to win stays of execution is in marked contrast to the first two inmates who faced the death chamber in Arkansas and were spared Monday by arguing they should not be put to death because of mental health issues.

Arkansas officials are vowing to press ahead with the Thursday executions despite the setback to plans to resume capital punishment after a 12-year hiatus.

Gov. Asa Hutchinson originally set out an aggressive schedule of eight lethal injections in 11 days that would have marked the most inmates put to death by a state in such a short period since the U.S. Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty in 1976. The state set such a compressed schedule because its supply of one of the lethal injection drugs expires at the end of April.

One of the inmates set to die Thursday, Stacey Johnson, says advanced DNA techniques could show that he didn't kill Carol Heath, a 25-year-old mother of two, in 1993 at her DeQueen apartment. The other inmate scheduled for Thursday, Ledell Lee, argued unsuccessfully Tuesday in a Little Rock courtroom that he be given a chance to test blood and hair evidence that could prove he didn't beat 26-year-old Debra Reese to death during a 1993 robbery in Jacksonville. An appeal is possible.

Lawyers are known to make multiple arguments to save their clients' lives in the final hours. The state and its lawyers say the inmates are seeking any legal approach they can find in their efforts to avoid death.

"It is understandable that the inmates are taking every step possible to avoid the sentence of the jury; however, it is the court's responsibility to administer justice and bring conclusion to litigation," Gov. Asa Hutchinson said Tuesday in an emailed statement. "It is that process that we are seeing played out day by day, and we expect it to continue.

"My job as governor is to work with the attorney general to make sure that justice is accomplished and the law of Arkansas is carried out, and that's what we're working every day to accomplish," he said.

Don Davis and Bruce Ward were supposed to be the first two executed. They won stays from the Arkansas Supreme Court on Monday after lawyers argued their mental health issues were similar enough to those raised in an Alabama case going before the U.S. Supreme Court next week.

The execution of a third inmate, Jason McGehee, had been set for April 27, but a federal judge put it on hold earlier this month, saying McGehee was entitled to a 30-day comment period after the Arkansas Parole Board told the governor that the inmate's clemency request had merit.

That leaves five men set for execution in an eight-day period starting Thursday. It's the quickest timetable in Arkansas since 1926, though state officials say waiting more than two decades to put some of the killers to death could hardly be characterized as swift.

"The families have waited far too long to see justice, and I will continue to make that a priority," Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge said late Monday.

Lawyers for the inmates set to be executed Thursday are relying primarily on claims the men are innocent. Johnson's attorney, Jeff Rosenzweig, wants a court to order new DNA testing on hair found in the victim's apartment and on clothing that prosecutors found at a rest stop and linked to Johnson.

"That's something we had sought from the state and federal courts and had been denied, and we're making another run at it and showing that there are new techniques that came into effect literally this year that can provide results that can bear on the case," Rosenzweig said.

Rosenzweig also represents two other inmates scheduled to die this month — Jack Jones and Kenneth Williams. He said neither man would raise innocence claims. They instead will rely again on whether the

sedative midazolam could present a risk of cruel and unusual punishment in violation of the U.S. Constitution. In addition to Lee's innocence claim, his lawyers want to know whether their client has an intellectual disability that wasn't properly investigated during his trials.

"Mr. Lee has never had the opportunity to have his case truly investigated, despite serious questions about guilt, and his intellectual disability," Lee's attorney, Cassandra Stubbs, said.

Separate from the inmates' legal challenges, a handful of drug companies are saying they don't want their products used in the executions. Two pharmaceutical companies filed a court brief last week asking a federal judge to block Arkansas from using their drugs, but the judge did not rule on that issue.

The medical supplier McKesson Corp. refiled its lawsuit Tuesday before a judge in Pulaski County. McKesson seeks an order that would force prison officials to return the company's supply of vecuronium bromide, one of three drugs used in the state's lethal injection protocol.

Follow Sean Murphy at www.twitter.com/apseanmurphy and Kelly P. Kissel at www.twitter.com/kisselAP.

High-profile Georgia congressional race heads to a runoff

By **BILL BARROW**, Associated Press

DUNWOODY, Ga. (AP) — A Georgia congressional election is headed to a runoff that will ratchet up the already significant national attention — and campaign cash — on a race that poses an early measure for President Donald Trump and both major parties ahead of the 2018 midterm elections.

Democrat Jon Ossoff, a 30-year-old former congressional staffer, and Republican Karen Handel, a former Georgia secretary of state, will meet in the June 20 runoff. But as they campaign across the northern suburbs of Atlanta, they will act largely as proxies for the roiled political atmosphere in Washington and across the country.

Ossoff led an 18-candidate field of Republicans, Democrats and independents, the entire slate placed on a single ballot to choose a successor to Republican Tom Price, who resigned to join Trump's administration as health secretary. But Ossoff fell shy of the majority required to claim Georgia's 6th Congressional District outright, opening the door to Handel, who finished a distant second but ahead of a gaggle of Republican contenders.

Republicans believe a two-candidate scenario will benefit them in a district that has been in Republican hands since 1978, when Atlanta suburbanites elected a young congressman named Newt Gingrich. But Ossoff's campaign maintains momentum, fueled by more than \$8 million in contributions from all over the nation, and liberal advocacy groups on Tuesday hailed his first-place finish as a success in its own right.

National leaders in both major parties agreed the Georgia race is a prime test run for the 2018 election cycle, because the affluent, well-educated district is replete with the kind of voters Democrats must win over to have any chance at reclaiming a House majority and winning more governor's races.

At the least, the results suggest Republicans have no easy answer for how to handle Trump in down-ballot races. He still engenders an intense loyalty among his core supporters but alienates many independents and even Republicans, leaving him unable to command a majority of the electorate. That was reflected in November, when Trump barely won the Georgia 6th over Hillary Clinton, falling shy of a majority just four years after Republican Mitt Romney garnered more than 60 percent of the presidential vote.

Given those fundamentals, Ossoff has tried to capitalize on the anti-Trump energy while still appealing to independents and moderate Republicans in the conservative district.

He demonstrated the tightrope through the final hours of the primary campaign.

"This is not about me. ... This is about the kind of community we want to live in. The kind of country we believe in," Ossoff told supporters Monday night, forgoing any mention of the president despite Trump attacking him on Twitter as a "super liberal" who wanted to raise taxes, protect criminals and allow illegal immigration.

Trump continued his Twitter barrage Tuesday, even as a White House spokeswoman insisted the race wasn't a "referendum" on the president. Sarah Huckabee Sanders made that case within hours of Trump

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, April 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 279 ~ 22 of 39

urging 6th District Republicans to vote and mocking Ossoff for not living in the district.

Ossoff acknowledges that he lives a few miles south of the district, in Atlanta, so that his girlfriend is closer to her work at Emory University's medical complex.

Republicans, meanwhile, have made their own attempts at nationalizing the race.

A political action committee backed by current Speaker Paul Ryan funneled more than \$2 million into attacks on Ossoff, mostly tying him to national Democrats such as House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi. Handel, meanwhile, called Ossoff Pelosi's "hand-picked" candidate. Pelosi remains an unpopular figure in the district, which includes GOP-leaning territory in three metro Atlanta counties: Cobb, Fulton and DeKalb.

Handel rarely if ever talked about Trump unless she was asked. But she also was careful not to criticize the new administration.

"I certainly support the president and will work with him where we agree," Handel told the Associated Press at one of her final campaign stops before polls opened. "But my job is not to go to Congress as a rubber stamp for anybody. My job is to be the representative for the people of the 6th District, and that's what I believe regardless of who is the president."

Handel left some of her Republican rivals to squabble over who would be more loyal to Trump. One of her closest competitors, technology executive Bob Gray, even donned hip waders for one television spot as he paid homage to one of the president's campaign signatures by, literally, draining a swamp

Associated Press reporter Catherine Lucey in Washington and Kathleen Foody in Alpharetta, Georgia, contributed. Follow Barrow at <https://twitter.com/BillBarrowAP> .

Timeline: Ivanka Trump goes to Washington, and sales surge

By ERIKA KINETZ, Associated Press

SHANGHAI (AP) — As Ivanka Trump builds a new political career as an adviser to her father, the commercial engine of her lifestyle brand is going strong. Sales, by some measures, have reached record highs this year.

Trump founded the brand in 2007 and still owns it, but stepped back from management and put its assets in a family-run trust before taking on an official role at the White House. Despite efforts to distance herself from her business to address ethical concerns, Trump remains, for many, the living embodiment of the brand that bears her name.

July 20, 2016: Ivanka Trump forms four new companies in Delaware to handle licensing contracts for baby products and costume jewelry.

July 21, 2016: Donald Trump accepts Republican nomination for president.

July 22, 2016: "Shop Ivanka's look from her #RNC speech," @IvankaTrump tweets, along with a link to her collection's \$138 blush sheath dress at Macy's online.

Sept. 29, 2016: Her company announces two new licensing agreements, for affordable fashion jewelry and baby accessories.

Nov. 8, 2016: Donald Trump wins the election. Sales of Ivanka merchandise on Lyst.com, a large e-commerce platform, bump 46 percent higher for the month.

Nov. 13, 2016: Ivanka Trump appears on "60 Minutes" to discuss her father's electoral win. Her jewelry company emails a "style alert" to reporters noting that she wore one of her "favorite" bangles, a \$10,800 bracelet from her own collection, on the show. Ensuing criticism prompts the brand to apologize.

Dec. 4, 2016: The New York Times reports that Ivanka Trump sat in on a meeting with her father and the prime minister of Japan, as her company negotiated a licensing deal with a firm the Japanese government owned a large stake in. The deal was put on hold, according to Abigail Klem, who now runs Ivanka Trump's brand.

Dec. 27, 2016: Ivanka Trump Marks LLC applies for five new trademarks covering purses, wallets and other leather goods in Puerto Rico, and clothing, including swimsuits and lingerie in the U.S., public records show.

Jan. 11, 2017: Ivanka Trump announces she will take a "formal leave of absence" from executive posi-

tions at the Trump Organization and her lifestyle brand.

Jan. 20, 2017: Donald Trump becomes the 45th president of the United States.

Feb. 8, 2017: Ivanka's company applies for two more clothing trademarks in the Philippines, where it already holds three marks, according to the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines.

Feb. 9, 2017: Speaking on the morning show "Fox and Friends," White House counselor Kellyanne Conway encourages viewers to, "go buy Ivanka's stuff," boasting about giving the brand "a free commercial." It apparently worked, sparking a 771 percent surge in the brand's sales that month on Lyst.com over Feb. 2016. The White House later "counseled" Conway for inappropriately promoting the brand.

Feb. 13, 2017: Trump meets with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at the White House.

Feb. 20, 2017: Ivanka Trump Marks LLC wins preliminary approval for a trademark covering branded leather handbags in China, where the company has 52 pending or registered trademarks listed in the government trademark database.

Feb. 22, 2017: Ivanka Trump Marks LLC applies for another trademark, covering perfume, among other things, in Canada, where it holds 22 pending or registered marks, according to the Canadian Intellectual Property Office.

March 1, 2017: Ivanka Trump Marks LLC applies for another new trademark in the Philippines, covering clothes and shoes.

March 3, 2017: Ivanka Trump is photographed disembarking from Air Force One in a stripe asymmetrical skirt from her own collection, available on Lyst.com for \$45.

March 6, 2017: China grants Ivanka Trump Marks LLC provisional approval for a trademark covering handbags.

March 29, 2017: Ivanka Trump joins her father's administration as an unpaid employee.

April 6, 2017: Ivanka Trump and her husband, Jared Kushner, sit next to Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife, Peng Liyuan, at a state dinner at Mar-a-Lago. That same day, China grants her company preliminary approval for three trademarks that confer monopoly rights to sell Ivanka brand jewelry, bags and spa services in the world's second-largest economy.

Associated Press researcher Fu Ting in Shanghai and reporters Anne D'Innocenzio in New York, Teresa Cerojano in Manila and Danica Coto in San Juan, Puerto Rico, contributed to this report.

Follow Kinetz on Twitter at twitter.com/ekinetz

Fresno shooter wanted to kill many white people, police say

By SCOTT SMITH, Associated Press

FRESNO, Calif. (AP) — A man wanted in the slaying of a security guard set out to kill as many white people as he could on Tuesday, gunning down three men on the streets of downtown Fresno before he was captured and admitted to the shootings, authorities said.

Kori Ali Muhammad, 39, was arrested shortly after the morning rampage that left three white men dead, police said. Muhammad, who is black, fired 16 rounds in less than two minutes at four places within a block, shooting men who appeared to be going about their day, authorities say.

During his arrest, Muhammad shouted "Allahu Akbar," but Fresno Police Chief Jerry Dyer said the shootings had "nothing to do with terrorism in spite of the statement he made."

"This is solely based on race," Dyer told reporters.

Muhammad on Tuesday first walked up to a utility truck and shot a Pacific Gas & Electric Co. employee sitting in the passenger seat. The driver of the truck, who is Latino, sped off to the police department for help, but the worker, a 34-year-old white man, died.

Muhammad then shot at another person and missed, police said. He aimed at a third, killing the 37-year-old on the sidewalk as he walked with a bag of groceries. The final victim, 58, was gunned down in the parking lot of a charity building, authorities said.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, April 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 279 ~ 24 of 39

Dyer said Muhammad approached a vehicle in between shootings, but he spared the lives of two Latina women who were in the car with a child.

"These were unprovoked attacks by an individual that was intent on carrying out homicides today. He did that," Dyer said.

Police had put out a news release hours before the shootings Tuesday, saying that Muhammad was armed and dangerous and wanted in the shooting death of a security guard at a Motel 6 last week. The guard, 25-year-old Carl Williams, was white.

Muhammad told officers at his arrest that he was the guy they were looking for, Dyer said.

"I did it. I shot them," Dyer said Muhammad told officers.

Police are searching for the revolver Muhammad said he tossed into a pile of clothing. The gun may have been picked up by someone else, Dyer said.

Muhammad faces four counts of murder and at least two additional charges of assault with a deadly weapon.

Stephen Hughes, 66, said he and his wife rushed home Tuesday after receiving a frantic call from a neighbor. Hughes came home to see a body draped in a blanket on the sidewalk leading to his front door.

He first thought the shooting was gang-related, but then he noticed the bag of groceries near the body. "It looks like a guy carrying his groceries home from the store," Hughes said.

On what appeared to be Muhammad's Facebook page, he repeatedly posted "#LetBlackPeopleGo" and encouraged "black warriors" to "mount up." A flurry of posts emerged in the past day.

He wrote that his "kill rate increases tremendously on the other side" and also posted about "white devils." On several occasions, he wrote updates that included the phrase "Allahu Akbar," meaning "God is great" in Arabic.

Muhammad has a criminal history that includes arrests on weapons, drugs and false imprisonment charges and making terrorist threats. He had been associated with gangs but he was not a confirmed member, police say.

Muhammad was charged in 2005 with possessing cocaine with intent to distribute, court records show. Federal prosecutors said at the time that he was also in possession of a 9mm semi-automatic handgun and two rifles after being convicted of a felony.

He claimed insanity, and his attorney requested a psychiatric examination for his client, saying Muhammad "appeared eccentric with some bizarre beliefs." A psychiatrist who examined Muhammad believed he had psychosis, Muhammad's attorney said in the court filing.

He also "suffered auditory hallucinations and had at least two prior mental health hospitalizations," according to court documents. His attorney said that Muhammad had "paranoia" and thought the justice system and his defense attorney were conspiring against him, court papers said.

The attorney who represented Muhammad in that case did not return a call for comment Tuesday.

Public records list Muhammad as Cory Taylor and other aliases with addresses in Fresno and Sacramento. Fresno's police chief said his former name was Cory McDonald. A woman who identified herself as Taylor's grandmother said Tuesday that the family last saw him on Easter Sunday. She hung up the phone before giving her name.

"I never would have thought he would do anything like this," sad Muhammad's brother, who asked not to be identified by name. "I'm just kind of shocked."

He described his brother as a funny and intelligent man.

Police say two of the victims may have been clients of Catholic Charities, which provides a variety of services for refugees, the homeless and those with disabilities.

Contributing to this report are Associated Press writers Sophia Bollag in Fresno; Kristin J. Bender, Olga R. Rodriguez and Janie Har in San Francisco; Jonathan J. Cooper and Don Thompson in Sacramento; Mike Balsamo in Los Angeles; and researcher Jennifer Farrar in New York City

Lowry bounces back, Raptors edge Bucks to even series at 1-1

By IAN HARRISON, Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Kyle Lowry shrugged off his Game 1 struggles in style, and got the Raptors back on level terms.

Lowry scored 22 points, including the clinching basket with less than 10 seconds to play, and Toronto beat the Milwaukee Bucks 106-100 on Tuesday night, evening their first-round playoff series at 1-1.

"I've been in the trenches with him before and he's always bounced back," Raptors coach Dwane Casey said. "That's just who he is. He's a competitor, he's a fighter. I just knew that he wasn't going to be satisfied with the way he played in the first game."

DeMar DeRozan had 23 points, Serge Ibaka added 13 of his 16 in the second half and Jonas Valanciunas had 10 points and 10 rebounds for the Raptors, who improved to 5-1 when playing Game 2 of a playoff series on their home court.

Game 3 is Thursday night in Milwaukee.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 24 points and 15 rebounds for the Bucks. Khris Middleton scored 20 points and Greg Monroe had 18.

Lowry scored just four points in Saturday's Game 1 loss, missing all six of his 3-point attempts.

He was much better in Game 2, going 6 for 12, including 2 of 5 from long range.

"We knew he was going to be more aggressive, we knew he was going to get his shot off," Antetokounmpo said. "Tonight he did a better job of shooting the ball and finding his teammates, too."

Of Lowry's six baskets, none was bigger than his step back jumper with 8.9 seconds remaining, which gave Toronto a 104-100 lead.

"The play was for DeMar to get a bucket," Lowry said. "That's our guy. He had two guys on him and he trusted us. He threw it to Serge and Serge gave it to me. For me, I just wanted to get to my spot. I knew there were five seconds on the shot clock and I wanted to get to my spot. I got to my spot and let it go."

While they couldn't snatch a second win away from home, Antetokounmpo said the Bucks had still managed to achieve something important.

"We definitely gained a lot of things out of these two games," he said. "We got their attention."

Toronto went 5 for 23 from behind the 3-point line in Game 1 but nearly tripled its output in Game 2, finishing 14 for 29.

"They made more 3s by halftime than they did in the whole game in Game 1," Bucks coach Jason Kidd said. "We've got to get those guys off the 3. That helped them."

Leading 84-83 through three quarters, Toronto opened the fourth with an 11-0 run that included a pair of 3-pointers by Ibaka, and a third from P.J. Tucker.

Milwaukee battled back, and a layup by Antetokounmpo cut it to 98-97 with 2:46 remaining, leading to a Raptors timeout.

Ibaka made a jumper to put Toronto up three but Antetokounmpo answered with a 3-pointer, tying it at 100-all with 2:03 left.

DeRozan broke the tie with a jumper and, after missed 3-pointers by Malcolm Brogdon and Matthew Dellavedova, Tucker missed a pair of free throws.

DeRozan grabbed the rebound on a missed jumper by Middleton, setting the stage for Lowry's decisive basket.

DeRozan scored 12 points in the first and Antetokounmpo made just one of six field goal attempts in the opening quarter as Toronto led 28-25.

Lowry scored 12 points in the second but Milwaukee scored the final five points of the half to keep it close. Toronto led 55-52 at the break.

DeMarre Carroll scored seven points in a 13-0 Toronto run that gave the Raptors a 73-60 lead midway through the third but the Bucks answered with a 15-4 run over the next three minutes. Toronto led 84-83 heading to the fourth.

TIP-INS

Bucks: Antetokounmpo missed six of his first eight field goal attempts. His only made basket in the first

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, April 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 279 ~ 26 of 39

quarter was a dunk. ... Antetokounmpo finished with seven assists.

Raptors: Ibaka started despite a sore left ankle sustained when he stepped on Antetokounmpo's foot in the third quarter of Game 1. ... Lowry had four rebounds and five assists. ... Former Toronto C Bismack Biyombo attended the

STEERING CLEAR OF SLUMPS

The Raptors have lost back-to-back games just once since the All-Star break, losing March 10 at Atlanta and March 11 at Miami.

TAKE TWO

Toronto is 6-6 all time in Game 2s.

UP NEXT.

The teams meet Thursday in Milwaukee.

Viewership of 'O'Reilly Factor' drops without Bill O'Reilly

By DAVID BAUDER, AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Through four days of Bill O'Reilly's vacation, his show's viewership declined by 23 percent in the hands of substitutes Dana Perino, Eric Bolling and Greg Gutfeld.

O'Reilly is on a nearly two-week vacation at the same time Fox News Channel's parent company looks into a woman's accusation that her career was slowed when she spurned his advances. Dozens of his show's advertisers have fled following reports of harassment settlements paid to other women. O'Reilly has denied any wrongdoing.

Despite the vacation, the pressure is staying on O'Reilly and 21st Century Fox, which is looking into at least one complaint about his behavior. The Wall Street Journal — a newspaper owned by the same Murdoch family that owns Fox News Channel — reported late Tuesday that Fox executives were "preparing to cut ties" with O'Reilly. A spokesman for 21st Century Fox declined to comment to the AP.

Earlier, attorney Lisa Bloom said she was representing a former clerical worker at Fox who complained that day to a hotline established at Fox about O'Reilly's behavior during her six months working there in 2008.

The woman, who is African-American, said O'Reilly referred to her as "hot chocolate" at one point when they were together alone, made grunting noises and leered at her cleavage and legs, Bloom said. The woman said she never had a direct conversation with O'Reilly.

The woman, who is not contemplating any legal action, reported being "very stressed and disillusioned" about her job and believed she would be fired if she complained to anyone, Bloom said.

Marc Kasowitz, O'Reilly's attorney, said that it was "outrageous that an allegation from an anonymous person about something that purportedly happened almost a decade ago is being treated as fact, especially where there is obviously an orchestrated campaign by activists and lawyers to destroy Mr. O'Reilly and enrich themselves through publicity driven donations."

It wasn't immediately clear who he was referring to.

Bloom, who represents another woman who has complained about O'Reilly's behavior, said she is not taking payment for the O'Reilly cases.

Later, Kasowitz said O'Reilly has been subject to a "brutal campaign of character assassination" that is unprecedented in more than 70 years. He said he had evidence that a smear campaign is being orchestrated by "far-left organizations," but he didn't immediately release any.

Nielsen company figures show that so far, viewers aren't as interested in "The O'Reilly Factor" without O'Reilly. Perino has done the best, with her 3.15 million viewers on Monday down 16 percent from O'Reilly's performance a week earlier. Bolling also showed a 16 percent drop from O'Reilly a week earlier, and he reached 3.11 million viewers.

The 2.32 million who watched Gutfeld on Friday was down 39 percent from the previous Friday and, alarmingly, was even lower than Tucker Carlson's audience at 9 p.m. Carlson usually benefits from O'Reilly's strong lead-in.

Still, the substitutes beat their cable news competition. And Fox pointed out that the network finished

last week ahead of all cable networks in viewership, as it has for much of this year.

O'Reilly's viewership spiked in the days following an April 2 New York Times report on the harassment allegations. In the week that followed, viewership increased to an average of 3.71 million, up 12 percent from the week before the report and 28 percent over the same week in 2016.

O'Reilly averaged nearly 4 million viewers a night for the first three months of 2017, his best performance ever. Viewership tends to drop with the arrival of daylight savings time.

Meanwhile on Tuesday, a women's group said it planned to hire an airplane with a banner, as well as drop off petitions at Fox News Channel's New York headquarters, calling for O'Reilly to lose his job at the network.

Prosecutors move to toss more than 21,000 tainted drug cases

By **BOB SALSBERG, Associated Press**

BOSTON (AP) — Prosecutors moved to throw out more than 21,000 drug convictions on Tuesday, five years after a chemist at the state drug lab was caught tampering with evidence and falsifying tests.

The state's highest court had ordered district attorneys in seven counties to produce lists by Tuesday indicating how many of approximately 24,000 cases involving Annie Dookhan they would be unable or unwilling to prosecute if the defendants were granted new trials.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts said Tuesday night that 21,587 cases had been recommended for dismissal. It said that would be the largest dismissal of criminal convictions in U.S. history.

The cases would be formally dismissed by court action, expected Thursday, the ACLU said.

"Today is a major victory for justice and fairness, and for thousands of people in the commonwealth who were unfairly convicted of drug offenses," Matthew Segal, legal director of the ACLU of Massachusetts, said Tuesday in a statement.

Dookhan pleaded guilty in 2013 to obstruction of justice, perjury and tampering with evidence after being accused of falsifying her work as far back as 2004. She was sentenced to three years in prison and was paroled last year.

Many of the drug case defendants have already completed their sentences, though some probably remain in prison because of other charges not contaminated by the lab scandal. About 2,000 cases had been resolved before Tuesday.

Suffolk County District Attorney Daniel Conley, whose jurisdiction includes Boston, moved on Tuesday to dismiss all but 117 of the approximately 7,500 suspect cases there. The remaining cases, he said, involve people with a history of violent crime and probation violations.

Cape and Islands District Attorney Michael O'Keefe moved for dismissal of more than 1,000 cases. Bristol County District Attorney Thomas Quinn said his office is seeking to throw out more than 1,500.

Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan said there are nine cases her office would prosecute again if a motion for a new trial were granted.

Also affected were thousands of cases in Essex, Plymouth and Norfolk counties.

While it's unknown how many cases Dookhan falsified, her conduct cast a cloud over the many thousands she worked on. As a result, in January, Massachusetts' Supreme Judicial Court said prosecutors would have to show that they could retry these cases without relying on evidence handled by Dookhan.

Prosecutors said Dookhan admitted testing only a fraction of a batch of samples, then listing them all as positive for illegal drugs. Her motive, they said, was to boost her productivity and burnish her reputation.

For those who have completed their sentences, wiping away their convictions will help them in other ways, such as employment, housing or immigration status, said Daniel Marx, an attorney who argued for the dismissals.

"Now, a majority of these wrongfully convicted individuals will have the opportunity to clear their records and move on with their lives," he said.

Anthony Benedetti, chief counsel of the Committee for Public Counsel Services, said some of the defen-

dants lost their jobs or homes and some have been deported.

"In many respects the damage has been done," Benedetti said. "Justice delayed is justice denied."

Associated Press writer Steve LeBlanc contributed to this report.

UK leader calls for early election to boost Brexit bid

By JILL LAWLESS, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Delivering the latest jolt in Britain's year of political shocks, Prime Minister Theresa May called Tuesday for a snap June 8 general election, seeking to strengthen her hand in European Union exit talks and tighten her grip on a fractious Conservative Party.

With the Labour opposition weakened, May's gamble will probably pay off with an enhanced Conservative majority in Parliament — but it's unlikely to unite a country deeply split over the decision to quit the EU.

May returned from an Easter break in the Welsh mountains to announce that she would make a televised statement on an undisclosed subject early Tuesday outside 10 Downing St. Speculation swirled and the pound plunged against the dollar amid uncertainty about whether she planned to resign, call an election or even declare war.

Since taking office after her predecessor David Cameron resigned in the wake of Britain's June 23 vote to leave the EU, May had repeatedly ruled out going to the polls before the next scheduled election in 2020. But on Tuesday, she said she had "reluctantly" changed her mind because political divisions "risk our ability to make a success of Brexit."

"We need a general election and we need one now," May said. "Because we have, at this moment, a one-off chance to get this done, while the European Union agrees its negotiating position and before the detailed talks begin."

For decades British prime ministers could call elections at will, but that changed with the 2011 Fixed-Term Parliaments Act, which established set polling days every five years. Now, the prime minister needs the backing of two-thirds of lawmakers and May said she would put her election call to the House of Commons on Wednesday.

"Let us tomorrow vote for an election. Let us put forward our plans for Brexit and our alternative programs for government and then let the people decide," May said.

Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the main opposition Labour Party, welcomed May's announcement, making it very likely she will get lawmakers' backing for an election.

May's governing Conservatives currently have a slight majority, with 330 seats in the 650-seat House of Commons.

With Labour demoralized and divided under left-wing leader Corbyn and the pro-EU Liberal Democrats holding just nine Commons seats, May is calculating that the election will bring her an expanded crop of Conservative lawmakers.

That would make it easier for her to ignore opposition calls for a softer EU exit — making compromises to retain some benefits of membership — and to face down hard-liners within her own party who want a no-compromise "hard Brexit" that many economists fear could be devastating.

Tim Bale, professor of politics at Queen Mary University of London, said that even for a cautious politician like May, the temptation of an early election was irresistible.

"She has a small majority, a big task ahead of her and a huge opinion poll lead," he said. "If you put all those things together they equal a general election."

Bale said a bigger majority would give May a new batch of loyal Conservative lawmakers and leave her less at the mercy of euroskeptics in her party "who otherwise could have made negotiations much more difficult."

May triggered a two-year countdown to Britain's exit from the EU last month, and high-stakes negotiations to settle divorce terms and agree on a new relationship are expected to start within weeks.

European Council President Donald Tusk tweeted that he had a "good phone call" with May about the election, and the council said the bloc's Brexit plans were unchanged by the announcement. Leaders of EU states are due to adopt negotiating guidelines at an April 29 summit, and the bloc will prepare detailed plans for the talks with Britain by late May.

Labour, the second-largest party in Parliament, campaigned for Britain to remain in the EU, but Corbyn said he would respect voters' decision to leave. He said Tuesday that Labour's election platform in June would be for a more equal society and economy, and "a Brexit that works for all."

Polls give May's Conservatives a double-digit lead over Labour, which could have its worst election showing in decades. But the election still carries risk for May, with voters' potentially wary at being asked to go to the polls again, less than a year after the EU referendum.

"I think actually it makes her look a little bit arrogant and a little bit complacent," said Liberal Democrat lawmaker Alistair Carmichael. "She's taking people for granted already and voters never like that."

The strongly pro-EU Liberal Democrats have seen thousands of new members join since the referendum and are likely to make gains. Leader Tim Farron said Tuesday that only his party can prevent a "disastrous hard Brexit."

Rather than helping the country unite, the election could widen divisions within the United Kingdom. The U.K. voted 52 percent to 48 percent to leave the EU, but Scotland backed remaining by a large majority, and Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon is seeking to hold a referendum on independence from the U.K.

Sturgeon said Tuesday that May was seeking "to crush the voices of people who disagree with her."

It was "all the more important," she said, "that Scotland is protected from a Tory (Conservative) Party which now sees the chance of grabbing control of government for many years to come and moving the U.K. further to the right — forcing through a hard Brexit and imposing deeper cuts in the process."

The Scottish National Party currently holds 54 of Scotland's 59 seats in the British Parliament, making it the third-largest party there.

Still, currency markets welcomed May's announcement as a harbinger of greater stability. The pound surged 0.7 percent against the dollar to \$1.2658, recovering from a 0.4 percent drop an hour earlier as rumors swirled about the surprise statement.

Associated Press writer Danica Kirka in London contributed to this report.

Trump targets visa program he says hurts American workers

By CATHERINE LUCEY and SCOTT BAUER, Associated Press

KENOSHA, Wis. (AP) — Turning back to the economic populism that helped drive his election campaign, President Donald Trump signed an order Tuesday he said should help American workers whose jobs are threatened by skilled immigrants.

At the headquarters of hand and power tool manufacturer Snap-on Inc., Trump signed an order that asks the government to propose new rules and changes that will stop what he called abuses in a visa program used by U.S. technology companies. Dubbed "Buy American and Hire American," the directive follows a series of recent Trump reversals on economic policies.

"We are going to defend our workers, protect our jobs and finally put America first," Trump declared, standing in front of an American flag fashioned out of wrenches.

Much like some prior orders, however, Trump's executive action Tuesday essentially looks for detailed reports rather than making decisive changes. In this case, the reports are about granting visas for highly skilled foreign workers and ensuring that government purchasing programs buy American made goods as required by law.

Trump chose to sign the directive at Snap-on Inc., based in Wisconsin, a state he narrowly carried in November on the strength of support from white, working-class voters. Trump currently has only a 41 percent approval rating in the state.

He campaigned last year on promises to overhaul U.S. trade and regulatory policy, but his executive or-

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, April 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 279 ~ 30 of 39

ders on those issues reflect the administration bowing somewhat to the limits of presidential power. Also, he has recently reversed several populist promises, including standing up to China, which he contended was manipulating its currency and stealing American jobs, and eliminating the Export-Import Bank, which he billed as wasteful subsidy.

But Trump returned to Tuesday to the economic tough talk of his campaign, saying: "We're going to make some very big changes or we are going to get rid of NAFTA for once and for all," referring to the Clinton-era U.S. trade pact with Canada and Mexico.

In his new directive, the president is targeting the H-1B visa program, which the White House says undercuts U.S. workers by bringing in large numbers of cheaper, foreign workers and driving down wages. The tech industry has argued that the H-1B program is needed because it encourages students to stay in the U.S. after getting degrees in high-tech specialties — and because companies can't always find enough American workers with the skills they need.

The new order would direct U.S. agencies to propose rules to prevent immigration fraud and abuse in the program. They would also be asked to offer changes so that H-1B visas are awarded to the most-skilled or highest-paid applicants.

The number of requests for H-1B visas declined this year by about 15 percent, or roughly 37,000 applications, but the total was still nearly 200,000, far more than the 85,000 limit.

Tuesday's order also seeks to strengthen requirements that American-made products be used in certain federal construction projects, as well as in various grant-funded transportation projects. The commerce secretary is to review how to close loopholes in existing rules and provide recommendations to the president within 220 days. The order also asks agencies to assess the use of waivers.

The trip brought Trump to the congressional district of House Speaker Paul Ryan, but Ryan was out of the country on a congressional trip. The president was greeted by Gov. Scott Walker outside Snap-on's headquarters.

During his remarks, Trump weighed in on another economic issue, promising to find a solution to a trade dispute with Canada that has left dairy farmers in Wisconsin and New York without a market they had for their product.

Trump said Canada has been "very, very unfair" to dairy farmers and "we're going to start working on that."

Canada has decided to impose import taxes on ultra-filtered milk, a protein liquid concentrate used to make cheese. It had been duty free but Canada changed course after milk producers there complained. About 70 dairy producers in both U.S. states are affected.

As for the visa program, Democratic lawmakers and organizations ranging from the pro-business Chamber of Commerce to the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation say they welcome proposals to improve the visa program, though not always in line with Trump's ideas.

Sen. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., urged Trump to skip further study and support her bill to rebuild U.S. infrastructure with American iron and steel. The Chamber of Commerce added that it would be a "mistake to close the door on high-skilled workers" who can contribute to the growth and expansion of American businesses and make the U.S. more competitive around the world.

Trump has long pledged to support American goods and workers, but his own business record is mixed. Many Trump-branded products, like clothing, are made overseas. His businesses have also hired foreign workers, including at his Palm Beach, Florida, club.

Snap-on makes hand and power tools, diagnostics software, information and management systems and shop equipment for use in agriculture, the military and aviation. In addition to 11 factories in the U.S., financial disclosures show it has plants in China, Argentina, Belarus, Brazil, Hungary, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

During his tour, Trump was shown metal boxes where cremated ashes are deposited. He called it "very depressing."

ton contributed to this report.

Some vets can go to CVS 'MinuteClinics' for minor illnesses

By HOPE YEN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some ailing veterans can now use their federal health care benefits at CVS "MinuteClinics" to treat minor illnesses and injuries, under a pilot program announced Tuesday by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The new program, currently limited to the Phoenix area, comes three years after the VA faced allegations of chronically long wait times at its centers, including its Phoenix facility, which treats about 120,000 veterans.

The Phoenix pilot program is a test-run by VA Secretary David Shulkin who is working on a nationwide plan to reduce veterans' wait times.

Veterans would not be bound by current restrictions under the VA's Choice program, which limits outside care to those who have been waiting more than 30 days for an appointment or have to drive more than 40 miles to a facility. Instead, Phoenix VA nurses staffing the medical center's help line will be able to refer veterans to MinuteClinics for government-paid care when "clinically appropriate."

Shulkin has made clear he'd like a broader collaboration of "integrated care" nationwide between the VA and private sector in which veterans have wider access to private doctors. But, he wants the VA to handle all scheduling and "customer service" — something that veterans groups generally support but government auditors caution could prove unwieldy and expensive.

On Wednesday, President Donald Trump plans to sign legislation to temporarily extend the \$10 billion Choice program until its money runs out, pending the administration's plan due out by fall. That broader plan would have to be approved by Congress.

"Our number one priority is getting veterans' access to care when and where they need it," said Baligh Yehia, the VA's deputy undersecretary for health for community care. "The launch of this partnership will enable VA to provide more care for veterans in their neighborhoods."

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., a long-time advocate of veterans' expanded access to private care, lauded the new initiative as an "important step forward."

"Veterans in need of routine health care services should not have to wait in line for weeks to get an appointment when they can visit community health centers like MinuteClinic to receive timely and convenient care," he said.

The Veterans Health Administration said it opted to go with a CVS partnership in Phoenix after VA officials there specifically pushed for the additional option. They cited the feedback of local veterans and the success of a smaller test run with CVS last year in Palo Alto, Calif.

Shulkin has said he wants to expand private-sector partnerships in part by looking at wait times and the particular medical needs of veterans in different communities. Successful implementation of his broader plan will depend on the support of key members of Congress such as McCain, who chairs the Armed Services Committee.

The VA did not indicate whether it received requests from other VA medical centers or how quickly it might expand the program elsewhere.

The current Choice program was developed after the 2014 scandal in Phoenix in which some veterans died, yet the program has often encountered long waits of its own. The bill being signed by Trump seeks to alleviate some of the problems by helping speed up VA payments and promote greater sharing of medical records. Shulkin also has said he wants to eliminate Choice's 30-day, 40 mile restrictions, allowing the VA instead to determine when outside care is "clinically needed."

Despite a heavy spotlight on its problems, the Phoenix facility still grapples with delays. Only 61 percent of veterans surveyed said they got an appointment for urgent primary care when they needed it, according to VA data.

Maureen McCarthy, the Phoenix VA's chief of staff, welcomed the new CVS partnership but acknowledged

a potential challenge in providing seamless coordination to avoid gaps in care. She said a veteran's medical record will be shared electronically, with MinuteClinic providing visit summaries to the veteran's VA primary care physician so that the VA can provide follow-up services if needed.

The VA previously experimented with a similar program last year in the smaller market of Palo Alto, a \$330,000 pilot to provide urgent care at 14 MinuteClinics. CVS says it's pleased the VA has opted to test out a larger market and says it's ready to roll the program out nationally if successful.

CVS, the biggest player in pharmacy retail clinics, operates more than 1,100 of them in 33 states and the District of Columbia.

"We believe in the MinuteClinic model of care and are excited to offer our health care services as one potential solution for the Phoenix VA Health Care System and its patients," said Tobias Barker, chief medical officer of CVS MinuteClinic.

Follow Hope Yen on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/hopeyen1>

AP Exclusive: Umps may soon take to mic to explain replays

By **BEN WALKER, AP Baseball Writer**

Adrian Gonzalez dives headfirst into home, seems to beat the tag by Cubs catcher Willson Contreras, but is called out. "Safe!" shout fans at Dodger Stadium who see replays on the board.

Umpires go to their headsets for a video review, and nearly three minutes later, the signal comes: Out! Want to hear exactly how disputed calls get decided, like that one in last year's NL Championship Series? Soon, we might.

While nothing is set, Major League Baseball and umps are expected to discuss a plan — most prominently used in the NFL — for crew chiefs to wear a microphone and explain replay rulings.

Under one possible scenario, they would start at the All-Star Game on July 11 in Miami, tweak the process over the season's second half and then go forward with the experiment in the playoffs.

People familiar with the talks spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because an agreement has not yet been reached.

Last year, MLB asked for the plate ump to wear a mic at the All-Star Game, but there wasn't enough time to do it.

The umpires are in the middle of their five-year labor deal and any change would involve negotiations, plus a comfort level on both sides that the system would be efficient, accurate and easy.

So no way to say for sure if fans at Camden Yards, Coors Field and ballparks across the majors will become familiar with the voices of veteran crew chiefs — be it country singer Joe West, ordained minister Ted Barrett or Dale Scott, once a Top 40 AM radio disc jockey.

"It would probably leave us scratching our heads less on some of them where we think the call is this and it's not," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. "I'm sure we're not always going to get the answers we want, but I don't necessarily think it's a bad idea."

Marlins reliever Brad Ziegler agrees that it might be nice to get an explanation on a call.

"They're supposed to say the call stands or the call's confirmed," he said. "The call stands' means you can't tell. A lot of times we don't get that ... they just signal out or safe. That's all we get on the field.

"They may announce it on the PA, but it doesn't seem like that is consistent in all parks. And the acoustics in the stadium here — we have a hard time hearing what's on the PA in the bullpen."

In the NFL, hearing refs announce "upon further review" has long been part of the lexicon. The lore includes what Ben Dreith said in a 1986 game, when Jets lineman Marty Lyons tangled with Buffalo quarterback Jim Kelly and was penalized for "giving him the business down there."

The NHL for some time has mic'ed up officials to explain coach's challenges, based on what the central replay booth tells them.

NBA crew chiefs put on headsets to watch reviews and talk with the replay center. Decisions are explained to the official scorer's table and the benches, and the public address announcers inform the crowd.

MLB has tried to speed up reviews this year, aiming for the umpires in the New York replay booth to

relay the final calls to the field in under 2 minutes.

"It'll take more time," Boston pitcher David Price said. "It's not going to make them any shorter."

As for making the replay system more informative and entertaining, "Yeah, until they have a problem with the umpire's mic," he said.

Marlins star Christian Yelich said a switch wouldn't affect him.

"The call's the call," he said. "Just because they tell you what they decided isn't going to change it."

But Girardi, for one, would like to get an explanation.

"We're not allowed to argue whatever the call is because the umpire that makes the call is not there. I've sometimes wanted to go on the headset," he said, laughing.

AP Baseball Writer Ronald Blum, AP Sports Writer Steven Wine and AP freelance writer Ken Powtak contributed to this report.

Man gets 25 years in 1979 case of missing boy Etan Patz

By COLLEEN LONG and JENNIFER PELTZ, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Almost four decades after first-grader Etan Patz set out for school and ended up at the heart of one of America's most influential missing-child cases, a former store clerk convicted of killing him was sentenced to at least 25 years in prison.

In a few angry words, Etan's father condemned the convicted man.

"Pedro Hernandez, after all these years, we finally know what dark secret you had locked in your heart," Stan Patz said. "I will never forgive you. The god you pray to will never forgive you. You are the monster in your nightmares."

His wife, Julie Patz, wiped tears from her eyes as she witnessed the culmination of a long quest to hold someone accountable for their son's disappearance. The case affected police practices, parenting and the nation's consciousness of missing children.

Hernandez, 56, didn't look at the Patzes, speak or react as he got the maximum allowable sentence: 25 years to life in prison, meaning he won't be eligible for parole until he has served the quarter-century.

The lead defense lawyer, Harvey Fishbein, told the court Hernandez wanted to express deep sympathy to the Patzes but also to say "he's an innocent man and he had nothing to do with the disappearance of Etan Patz."

Hernandez was a teenager working at a convenience shop in Etan's Manhattan neighborhood when the boy vanished in 1979, on the first day he was allowed to walk alone to his school bus stop.

Hernandez, who's from Maple Shade, New Jersey, confessed to choking Etan. But his lawyers have said he's mentally ill and his confession was false, and they vowed to appeal his conviction.

In a sign of the case's impact on the law enforcement officials and everyday people enmeshed in it, the courtroom audience Tuesday included Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr., police officers who worked the case and a half-dozen ex-jurors.

Etan was among the first missing children pictured on milk cartons. His case contributed to an era of fear among American families, making anxious parents more protective of kids who many once allowed to roam and play unsupervised in their neighborhoods.

"Through this painful and utterly horrific real-life story, we came to realize how easily our children could disappear," said Vance, a Democrat who made a 2009 campaign promise to revisit the case if elected.

The Patzes' advocacy helped to establish a national missing-children hotline and to make it easier for law enforcement agencies to share information about such cases. The May 25 anniversary of Etan's disappearance became National Missing Children's Day.

Still, Stan Patz said, he and his wife had doubted they would ever find out what happened to their child because there were "so many false leads, so many blind alleys. So many years went by."

"Now," he said after the sentencing, "I know what the face of evil looks like."

From the start, Etan's case spurred a huge manhunt and an enduring, far-flung investigation. But no

trace of Etan was ever found. A civil court declared him dead in 2001.

Hernandez didn't become a suspect until police got a 2012 tip that he'd made remarks years earlier about having killed a child in New York.

Hernandez then confessed to police, saying he'd lured Etan into the store's basement by promising a soda and choked him because "something just took over me." He said he put Etan, still alive, in a box and left it with curbside trash.

"I'm being honest. I feel bad what I did," Hernandez said in a recorded statement.

His lawyers say he confessed falsely because of a mental illness that makes him confuse reality with imagination. He also has a very low IQ.

The defense pointed to another suspect, a convicted child molester whom some investigators and prosecutors — and even Etan's parents — pursued for years. That man made incriminating statements years ago about Etan but denied killing him and has since insisted he wasn't involved in the boy's disappearance. He was never charged.

Hernandez's February conviction came in a retrial. His first trial ended in a jury deadlock in 2015.

Manhattan state Supreme Court Justice Maxwell Wiley said Tuesday he'd found prosecutors' case against Hernandez compelling. Hernandez, he said, "kept a terrible secret for 33 years."

United CEO says no one will be fired for dragging incident

By DAVID KOENIG, AP Airlines Writer

The CEO of United Airlines says no one will be fired over the dragging of a man off a plane — including himself.

CEO Oscar Munoz said Tuesday that he takes full responsibility "for making this right," and he promised more details later this month after United finishes a review of its policies on overbooked flights.

Company executives said it's too soon to know if the incident is hurting ticket sales.

United has been pummeled on social media — #BoycottUnited is a popular hashtag — and late-night television. Through Tuesday, its shares have fallen 4.4 percent since Flight 3411, wiping out nearly \$1 billion in market value, although some other airline stocks also declined in the same period.

After the market closed Monday, United reported a \$96 million first-quarter profit, down 69 percent from a year earlier largely because of higher costs for fuel, labor and maintenance. The revenue picture was looking better — evidence was growing that after two years of falling average fares, United will be able to push prices higher this year.

On a conference call to discuss those results, Munoz started by apologizing again for the April 9 scene on a United Express plane at Chicago's O'Hare airport. David Dao, a 69-year-old Kentucky physician, was bloodied and dragged off the plane by Chicago airport officers who had been summoned by United employees when Dao wouldn't give up his seat. The three officers have all been suspended.

Munoz and other executives vowed to treat customers with dignity, and said that what happened to Dao will never happen again.

Munoz's early statements on the incident were widely criticized. He initially supported employees and blamed Dao, calling him "disruptive and belligerent." On Tuesday, he was asked if the company ever considered firing anyone, including management.

"I'm sure there was lots of conjecture about me personally," said Munoz. He noted that the board of United Continental Holdings Inc. has supported him.

"It was a system failure across various areas," Munoz continued. "There was never a consideration for firing an employee."

Dao's lawyers have taken steps that foreshadow a lawsuit against the airline and the city of Chicago, which operates O'Hare Airport.

United announced two rule changes last week, including saying that it will no longer call police to remove passengers from overbooked planes. It is not clear whether United oversold Flight 3411, but the flight became overbooked when four Republic Airline employees showed up after passengers had boarded and demanded seats so they could commute to their next assignment, a United Express flight the next morning.

Some politicians and consumer advocates have called for a ban on overselling flights. Munoz declined to address that or other possible changes until the airline finishes a review by April 30.

Even in normal times, airlines closely — even daily — scrutinize numbers such as advance sales and occupancy levels on planes. Yet United officials said they couldn't measure whether the dragging has affected their business.

"It's really too early for us to tell anything about bookings and in particular last week because it was the week before Easter, that's normally a very low booking period," said United President Scott Kirby. He said that United's forecast for the April-through-June quarter has not changed.

Limited competition at many major airports could blunt any nascent boycott of United. Wall Street analysts have been mostly silent about the Dao incident, perhaps believing that it won't have a noticeable impact on United profits. They did not ask United management any questions about it on Tuesday's call.

Barclays analyst Brandon Oglenski told Munoz that "accidents happen ... hopefully, we can put this behind us." Back in December, the analyst had called United Continental the "most compelling stock" in the airline sector. The consensus estimate of 17 analysts surveyed by FactSet for United's full-year earnings has risen by 3 cents a share since the Dao incident.

Munoz said he has received "a lot of support" from United's high-end customers, although "obviously a lot of people have ideas and thoughts about how we can make things better."

David Koenig can be reached at <http://twitter.com/airlinewriter>

White House cancels meeting to decide stance on climate pact

By JILL COLVIN and SETH BORENSTEIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is still deliberating whether to keep the U.S. in an international agreement to reduce climate-warming carbon emissions, even though he has called climate change a hoax.

The White House postponed a meeting Tuesday where top aides were to have hashed out differences on what to do about the non-binding international deal forged in Paris in December 2015. The agreement allowed rich and poor countries to set their own goals to reduce carbon dioxide and went into effect last November, after the U.S., China and other countries ratified it.

Not all of Trump's advisers share his skeptical views on climate change — or the Paris pact.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said at his Senate confirmation hearing in January that he supports staying in the deal. However, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt, said last week that the Paris pact "is a bad deal for America."

Officials had planned to discuss options on Tuesday, with the goal of providing a recommendation to Trump, according to an administration official who spoke on condition of anonymity despite the president's criticism of the use of anonymous sources.

Spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders blamed the postponement of the meeting on scheduling conflicts among advisers who were expected to attend. Some of them, she said, wanted to accompany the president on his trip to Wisconsin on Tuesday, and the White House decided to reschedule its internal climate talks.

Trump pledged during the presidential campaign to pull out of the Paris accord, but has wavered on the issue since he won the presidency.

He told the editorial board of The New York Times in an interview last year that he was "looking at it very closely.... I have an open mind to it. We're going to look very carefully."

Yet some of his aides, including Pruitt, see the deal as standing in opposition to Trump's "America first" mantra.

"Paris is something that we need to really look at closely, because it's something we need to exit, in my opinion," Pruitt said in an interview last week with Fox News Channel's "Fox & Friends." "It's a bad deal for America. It was an America second, third or fourth kind of approach."

Under the agreement, the U.S. pledged to reduce its annual greenhouse gas emissions in 2025 by 26 to

28 percent below 2005 levels, which would be a reduction of about 1.6 billion tons of annual emissions. Besides continuing Obama's efforts to reduce U.S. heat-trapping gases, Trump has two general options.

One option is to pull the United States out of the non-binding agreement, which Obama enacted without U.S. Senate ratification. It typically takes countries four years to pull out of new international treaties, but because Obama enacted the accord as part of the 1992 Rio de Janeiro treaty, Trump could pull out of the older, broader treaty in one year.

Another option is to do nothing. Trump could publicly badmouth the treaty, but not formally withdraw from it. If the U.S. stays part of the agreement, which 125 nations or groups of nations have already ratified, and fails to reach its goal, technically nothing happens. There is no climate court, no enforcement action.

And because the agreement already went into force, nothing the United States does— even pulling out — can nullify the accord. It is in effect.

Nonetheless, a withdrawal or public announcement that the U.S. is abandoning its efforts to fight man-made climate change could spark repercussions individually from other nations, said Nigel Purvis, who was the top U.S. State Department environmental diplomat when George W. Bush pulled out of the 1997 Kyoto climate treaty.

"Any sign that the administration would not be serious will provoke an international reaction that would undermine the administration's foreign policy," said Purvis, an international attorney who served in Democratic and Republican administrations. Other countries, he said, take climate change seriously and could retaliate in trade deals or tariffs or balk on negotiations over international security costs.

Trump has already reversed some of the former president's efforts to scale back carbon emissions to try to halt climate change, including restrictions on coal plants and drilling.

White House spokesman Sean Spicer has said Trump will make up his mind on the Paris agreement before a summit of the Group of Seven leading industrial nations in Taormina, Italy in late May.

Associated Press writers Julie Bykowicz and Darlene Superville contributed to this report.

Follow Colvin and Borenstein on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/colvinj> and <https://twitter.com/borenbears>

John Glenn honored with launch of space station supply ship

By **MARCIA DUNN, AP Aerospace Writer**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — John Glenn's trailblazing legacy took flight Tuesday as a cargo ship bearing his name rocketed toward the International Space Station.

An Atlas rocket provided the late morning lift to orbit, just as it did for Glenn 55 years ago.

The commercial cargo ship, dubbed the S.S. John Glenn, holds nearly 7,700 pounds (3,500 kilograms) of food, equipment and research for the space station. It's due there Saturday, two days after the arrival of two fresh astronauts.

NASA's shipper, Orbital ATK, asked Glenn's widow, Annie, for permission to use his name for the spacecraft, following his December death.

Glenn, an original Mercury 7 astronaut, became the first American to orbit the Earth in 1962. He launched again in 1998 aboard shuttle Discovery at age 77, the oldest person ever in space. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery two weeks ago.

"It is clearly a chance one more time to show John Glenn's name emblazoned in space," said Frank Culbertson, a former astronaut who now heads Orbital ATK's space systems group.

Glenn was a courageous, pioneering leader who always promoted space and set a good example, Culbertson noted. "And I hope that putting his name on the space station is an inspiration to the next generation to aspire to do similar things, push the boundaries," he said.

Besides supplies, the capsule contains a banner showing Glenn in his orange space shuttle launch suit — it's the first thing the station astronauts will see when they open the craft — as well as memorabilia for his family. Because the launch was delayed a month by hydraulic problems at the pad and on the rocket, no Glenn family members were able to make it to Cape Canaveral, according to Culbertson.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, April 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 279 ~ 37 of 39

Orbital ATK — one of NASA's prime delivery services for the space station, along with SpaceX — normally uses its own Virginia-based Antares rockets to launch its Cygnus cargo ships, named after the swan constellation. But it opted for the United Launch Alliance's bigger Atlas V rocket in order to carry up a heftier load. A new, larger greenhouse is flying up, along with equipment needed for a spacewalk next month.

"Looks like we nailed the orbit once again," said Vern Thorp, a manager for the rocket maker.

NASA's 360-degree video streaming of the launch — the first such attempt for a live broadcast — didn't go as well. Something went wrong moments before liftoff, and the video skipped over the actual rising of the rocket from the pad. NASA said it would try again, perhaps on an upcoming SpaceX delivery mission.

Mission Control beamed up the launch broadcast for the three astronauts at the space station, which is orbiting 250 miles (about 400 kilometers) high. The American, Russian and Frenchman will be joined Thursday by another American and Russian who will take off from Kazakhstan.

SpaceX and Boeing are developing new capsules that could fly U.S. astronauts to the space station as early as next year. Boeing's Starliner capsule will fly on the Atlas V.

It was the last launch commentary for NASA spokesman George Diller, who is retiring next month after 37 years. His was the voice at liftoff for the final space shuttle flight, by Atlantis, in 2011, as well as the send-off of the Hubble Space Telescope in 1990 and all five Hubble-servicing missions — hundreds of rocket launches in all.

"We're really, really going to miss hearing your golden voice on console during launch, George," said Kennedy Space Center's director, Robert Cabana, patting him on the back.

Diller said his time at the space agency has been a "heck of a ride."

"I couldn't do better if I'd been riding a rocket."

Online:

NASA: https://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/main/index.html

Orbital ATK: <https://www.orbitalatk.com/>

Asian stocks slip on UK surprise election, weak earnings

By **YOUKYUNG LEE, AP Business Writer**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Asian stocks fell Wednesday after British Prime Minister Theresa May's surprise decision to hold early elections. Weak corporate earnings weighed on Wall Street investor sentiment.

KEEPING SCORE: Tokyo's Nikkei 225 was flat at 18,417.54 and South Korea's Kospi shed 0.5 percent to 2,136.85. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index fell 0.8 percent to 23,744.10 while the Shanghai Composite Index lost 1.2 percent to 3,159.89. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 was down 0.6 percent at 5,801.60. Stocks in Taiwan, Singapore and the Philippines also fell.

UK ELECTIONS: May called for an early general election in June, reversing her earlier stance, in hopes of securing a stronger parliamentary mandate for Britain's formal exit from the European Union. The pound climbed on expectations May might secure a better deal for Britain from EU thanks to moving the vote up from the next scheduled election in 2020. The announcement sent the pound higher but hammered the FTSE 100 index. The pound was trading at \$1.2822, down from \$1.2840 but still higher than the pre-announcement level.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "The surprise U.K. election has added to market nerves and volatility as traders assess the potential for increased geopolitical risk on several fronts," Ric Spooner, chief market analyst at CMC Markets, said in a commentary. "The outcome of the U.K. election now adds an element of short term uncertainty about how the Brexit negotiations will unfold."

WALL STREET: U.S. stocks declined Tuesday as investors unloaded stocks following disappointing financial reports from Johnson & Johnson and Goldman Sachs. The Standard & Poor's 500 index shed 0.3 percent to 2,342.19. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 0.6 percent to 20,523.28. The Nasdaq composite fell 0.1 percent to 5,849.47.

OIL: U.S. crude oil futures lost 11 cents to \$52.30 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mer-

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, April 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 279 ~ 38 of 39

cantile Exchange. The contract lost 24 cents to close at \$52.41 a barrel on Tuesday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, lost 15 cents to \$54.74 per barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 108.58 yen from 108.42 yen. The euro fell to \$1.0718 from \$1.0731.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, April 19, the 109th day of 2017. There are 256 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On April 19, 1967, Kathrine (cq) Switzer became the first woman to run the Boston Marathon (at that time, a men-only event) under an official number by registering without mentioning her gender; by her own estimate, she finished in 4 hours and 20 minutes. (Bobbi Gibb, running unofficially for the second time, finished in 3:27:17.) Former West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer died at age 91.

On this date:

In 1775, the American Revolutionary War began with the battles of Lexington and Concord.

In 1897, the first Boston Marathon was held; winner John J. McDermott ran the course in two hours, 55 minutes and 10 seconds.

In 1935, the Universal Pictures horror film "Bride of Frankenstein," starring Boris Karloff with Elsa Lanchester in the title role, had its world premiere in San Francisco.

In 1943, during World War II, tens of thousands of Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto began a valiant but ultimately futile battle against Nazi forces.

In 1951, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, relieved of his Far East command by President Harry S. Truman, bade farewell in an address to Congress in which he quoted a line from a ballad: "Old soldiers never die; they just fade away."

In 1966, Bobbi Gibb, 23, became the first woman to run the Boston Marathon at a time when only men were allowed to participate. (Gibb jumped into the middle of the pack after the sound of the starting pistol and finished in 3:21:40.)

In 1977, the Supreme Court, in *Ingraham v. Wright*, ruled 5-4 that even severe spanking of schoolchildren by faculty members did not violate the Eighth Amendment ban against cruel and unusual punishment.

In 1989, 47 sailors were killed when a gun turret exploded aboard the USS Iowa in the Caribbean. (The Navy initially suspected that a dead crew member had deliberately sparked the blast, but later said there was no proof of that.)

In 1993, the 51-day siege at the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas, ended as fire destroyed the structure after federal agents began smashing their way in; dozens of people, including sect leader David Koresh, were killed.

In 1995, a truck bomb destroyed the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 people. (Bomber Timothy McVeigh was later convicted of federal murder charges and executed.)

In 1997, two pizza deliverymen, Giorgio Gallara and Jeremy Giordano, were shot to death outside an abandoned house in Franklin, New Jersey; two teenagers, Thomas Koskovich and Jayson Vreeland, were later convicted of what prosecutors called a thrill killing and were sentenced to life in prison.

In 2005, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger of Germany was elected pope in the first conclave of the new millennium; he took the name Benedict XVI.

Ten years ago: Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid offered a bleak assessment of Iraq, saying the war was "lost," triggering an angry backlash by Republicans. A jury in Selmer, Tennessee, convicted Mary Winkler of voluntary manslaughter in the shooting death of her preacher-husband, Matthew. (Mary Winkler spent seven months in custody, with two months served in a mental facility.)

Five years ago: Republicans rammed an election-year, \$46 billion tax cut for most of America's employers through the House, ignoring a veto threat from President Barack Obama. (The measure went down to defeat in the Senate.) India announced the successful test launch of a new nuclear-capable missile. Levon Helm, drummer and singer for The Band, died in New York City at age 71. Greg Ham, a member

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, April 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 279 ~ 39 of 39

of the Australian band Men at Work, was found dead in his Melbourne home; he was 58.

One year ago: Front-runners Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton swept to resounding victories in New York's primary. Cuban revolutionary leader Fidel Castro delivered a valedictory speech to the Communist Party that he put in power a half-century ago, telling party members he was nearing the end of his life and exhorting them to help his ideas survive. It was announced that Michael Strahan was moving from the daily talk show he co-hosted with Kelly Ripa to work full-time on ABC's "Good Morning America."

Today's Birthdays: Actress Elinor Donahue is 80. Rock musician Alan Price (The Animals) is 75. Actor Tim Curry is 71. Pop singer Mark "Flo" Volman (The Turtles; Flo and Eddie) is 70. Actor Tony Plana is 65. Former tennis player Sue Barker is 61. Motorsports Hall of Famer Al Unser Jr. is 55. Actor Tom Wood is 54. Recording executive Suge Knight is 52. Singer-songwriter Dar Williams is 50. Actress Ashley Judd is 49. Singer Bekka Bramlett is 49. Latin pop singer Luis Miguel is 47. Actress Jennifer Esposito is 45. Actress Jennifer Taylor is 45. Jazz singer Madeleine Peyroux (PAY'-roo) is 43. Actor James Franco is 39. Actress Kate Hudson is 38. Actor Hayden Christensen is 36. Actress Catalina Sandino Moreno is 36. Actress-comedian Ali Wong (TV: "American Housewife") is 35. Actress Kelen Coleman is 33. Actor Zack Conroy is 32. Roots rock musician Steve Johnson (Alabama Shakes) is 32. Actor Courtland Mead is 30. Tennis player Maria Sharapova is 30.

Thought for Today: "There is a Law that man should love his neighbor as himself. In a few hundred years it should be as natural to mankind as breathing or the upright gait; but if he does not learn it he must perish." — Alfred Adler, Austrian psychoanalyst (1870-1937).