

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Saturday, April 29

4 p.m.: Piano recital at GHS Gym

## Sunday, April 30

**St. John's Lutheran:** Worship at 9 a.m., Sunday School at 10 a.m.

**Emmanuel Lutheran:** Worship at 9 a.m., Sunday School at 10 a.m.

**United Methodist:** Jed Morehouse baptism/ blessings shower, Conde Worship at 9 a.m., Coffee Fellowship at 10 a.m., Groton Worship at 11 a.m., Sunday School begins after children's sermon.

**Catholic Parish:** Mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church at 9 a.m., then at St. Joseph in Turton at 11 a.m.

**Heaven Bound Ministries in Pierpont:** Worship at 10 a.m.

3 p.m.: Heaven Bound Ministries worship at the nursing home.

## Monday, May 1

**School Lunch:** Meatballs, mashed potatoes, corn, fruit, tea bun.

**School Breakfast:** Breakfast pizza, fruit, juice, milk.

**Senior Menu:** Lemon chicken breast, creamy noodles, spinach salad, baked apple slices, whole wheat bread.

**Emmanuel Lutheran:** Bible Study at 6:30 a.m.

**Groton School:** Girls varsity golf at Lee Park in Aberdeen at 10 a.m., 7th/8th grade track at Redfield at 2 p.m., Kiwanis Athletic Banquet at 6:30 p.m.

**City Council:** 7 p.m. at Groton Community Center

**United Methodist:** Evening Bible Study at 7 pm.

**Open:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

**The cardboard/paper**

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

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## GROTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

May 1, 2017 – 7pm  
Groton Community Center

- 1) Minutes
- 2) Financial Report
- 3) Bills
- 4) Sine Die
- \*\*\*\*\*
- 5) Convene 130th Council – Oath of Office
- 6) Election of Officers
- 7) Appoint Attorney
- 8) Appoint Advisory Committees
- 9) Motion to approve bills each meeting & authorize the Finance Officer to pay payroll and all regular monthly bills in a timely manner to avoid penalties and take advantage of discounts.
- 10) Department Reports – Public Works – Terry Dwight & Shawn
- 11) Baseball Update
- 12) Heartland Report
- 13) NW Energy Letter
- 14) Executive Session – Legal & Personnel – 1-25-2 (1) & (3)



## I can't take it any more!

This tulip seemed to say that it can't take the cold weather any more. For the fourth straight morning, temperatures have dipped into the mid 20s in the morning hours.

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WE'RE TICKLED PINK!  
AND HAPPY TO SAY  
A BABY GIRL IS ON THE WAY!

JOIN US FOR A COME AND GO  
BABY SHOWER HONORING  
MOM-TO-BE

McKinsey Smith  
MAY 20, 2017  
9:30 TO 11 A.M.  
STEVE AND CAROL SMITH HOME  
1104 North Main Street, Groton

McKinsey is registered at Target



## *50th Anniversary*

Dave and Mary Blackmun are celebrating 50 years of marriage. Please join family and friends for an open house Saturday, April 29th, at Olive Grove golf course in Groton, SD from 2-4 pm. No gifts please.

**John Thune**  
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



## **A Bright Forecast** By Sen. John Thune

If you live in South Dakota, you know how quickly the weather can change. One minute it's warm and sunny, and in the blink of an eye, you're in the middle of a torrential downpour. From harsh winters to hot summers, we get a little of everything. And as folks in some parts of South Dakota recently discovered, it doesn't matter what the calendar says, winter will end when it's good and ready.

Accurately forecasted weather is important for a lot of reasons. There's the obvious, like whether or not you'll need an umbrella before you head to work. There's the not-so-obvious, like the fact that South Dakota farmers depend on long-term weather forecasts to help determine when they'll need to plant crops each spring. Perhaps most importantly, though, when it comes to extreme weather, like severe thunderstorms or tornadoes, timely and accurate weather forecasts can help save lives.

The National Weather Service (NWS) recently held a statewide tornado drill in South Dakota, so no matter what it looked like outside, most folks throughout the state probably heard the ominous howl of local tornado sirens. While these sirens are integral tools that help keep people safe, consumers can now have severe weather alerts sent directly to mobile devices, like cell phones or even smart watches – an idea hardly imaginable when I was a kid.

I've seen South Dakota weather – the good, the bad, and the ugly – which is why I've spent months working with a bipartisan group of senators to pass sweeping weather research and forecasting legislation, which was recently signed into law. The new law encompasses numerous ideas authored by Republicans and Democrats from both the House and Senate. A writer for the Washington Post's Capital Weather Gang called these reforms, collectively, "the first major piece of weather legislation adopted since the 1990s."

I authored several provisions of the new law, including one that will improve seasonal and subseasonal forecasts, which will help farmers make more informed decisions about when it's the most opportune time to plant certain crops. I also authored a provision that will require the NWS to designate at least one warning coordination meteorologist at each of the 122 weather forecasting offices throughout the country. These NWS employees will collaborate with local officials, including the media, to increase the usefulness of emergency weather communication.

The new law also takes several meaningful steps toward improving tornado forecasting and accuracy. It tasks the NWS with improving its watches and warning system, which would make these alerts easier to understand and hopefully give individuals additional time to take necessary safety steps. The law will also require the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to study and identify radar coverage gaps to help determine ways to better protect communities throughout the country.

There are few issues that affect every single American. Weather is one of them. So, it's no coincidence that our bill was one of the first to make it to the president's desk this year. It's a good, common-sense law and one that will hopefully have a positive and lasting effect on the American people for years to come.

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## Today in Weather History April 23, 2002:

April 29, 1942: An estimated F3 tornado moved east through Marshall County, destroying almost every building on a farm northeast of Kidder. Barns were heavily damaged on two other farms. One person was reported killed, with five others injured.

1905 - The town of Taylor, in southeastern Texas, was deluged with 2.4 inches of rain in fifteen minutes. (The Weather Channel)

1910: The temperature at Kansas City MO soared to 95 degrees to establish a record for the month of April. Four days earlier the afternoon high in Kansas City was 44 degrees following a record cold morning low of 34 degrees.

1963 - A tornado, as much as 100 yards in width, touched down south of Shannon, MS. The tornado destroyed twenty-seven homes along its eighteen mile path, killing three persons. Asphalt was torn from Highway 45 and thrown hundreds of yards away. Little rain or snow accompanied the tornado, so it was visible for miles. (The Weather Channel)

1973 - The Mississippi River reached a crest of 43.4 feet, breaking the previous record of 42 feet established in 1785. (David Ludlum)

1987: A storm off the southeast coast of Massachusetts blanketed southern New England with heavy snow on the 28 through the 29th. Totals of three inches at Boston, 11 inches at Milton, and 17 inches at Worcester Massachusetts were records for so late in the season. Princeton Massachusetts was buried under 25 inches of snow.

1988 - Thunderstorms produced large hail and high winds in central Texas. Baseball size hail was reported at Nixon, and wind gusts to 70 mph were reported at Cotulla. Heavy rain in Maine caused flooding along the Pemigewasset and Ammonoosuc Rivers. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

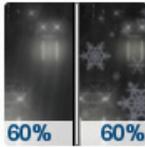
1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in Arkansas, Louisiana and eastern Texas, with more than 70 reports of large hail and damaging winds. Softball size hail was reported at Palestine TX. Hail as large as tennis balls caused ten million dollars damage around Pine Bluff AR. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - A storm system crossing northern New Mexico blanketed parts of the Rocky Mountain Region and the Northern High Plains with heavy snow, and produced blizzard conditions in central Montana. Much of southern Colorado was buried under one to three feet of snow. Pueblo tied an April record with 16.8 inches of snow in 24 hours. Strong canyon winds in New Mexico, enhanced by local showers, gusted to 65 mph at Albuquerque. Afternoon temperatures across the Great Plains Region ranged from the 20s in North Dakota to 107 degrees at Laredo TX. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1991: Southeast Bangladesh was devastated by a tropical cyclone with sustained winds of approximately 155 mph in the during the late night hours. A 20-foot storm surge inundated the offshore islands south of Chittagong and pushed water from the Bay of Bengal inland for miles. Best estimated put the loss of life from this cyclone between 135,000 and 145,000 people.

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Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
						
Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny then Slight Chance Rain	Rain Likely then Rain/Snow Likely	Rain/Snow Likely then Chance Rain	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny then Chance Showers
High: 58 °F	Low: 33 °F	High: 55 °F	Low: 35 °F	High: 56 °F	Low: 35 °F	High: 62 °F



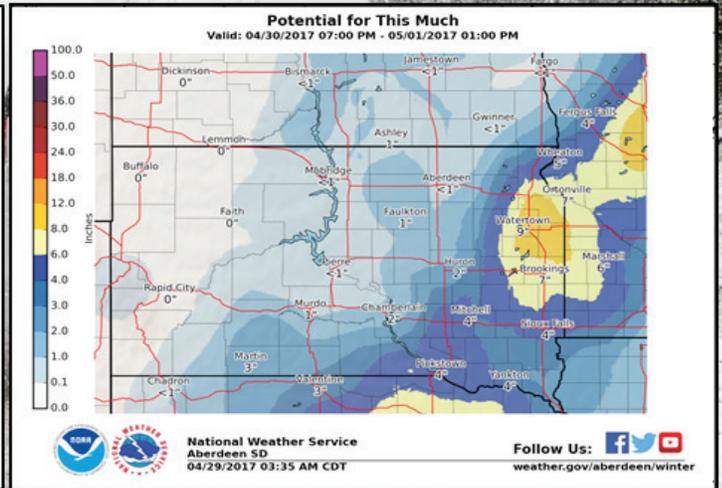
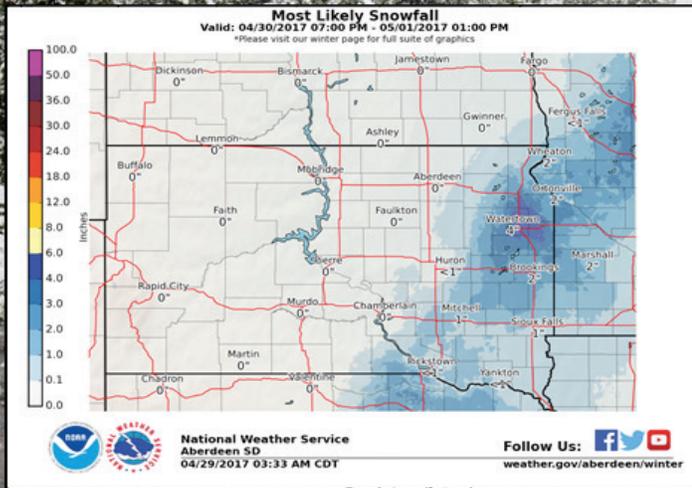
## Potential for Snow Increasing!

*Snowfall forecast has increased with amounts from 4 to 6 inches likely*



### Most Likely Snowfall

### Worst Case Scenario



**\* Potential for greatest accumulations between 1am Monday and 7am Monday**

## National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD


[weather.gov/Aberdeen](http://weather.gov/Aberdeen)

[National Weather Service Aberdeen](https://www.facebook.com/NWSAberdeen)

[@NWSAberdeen](https://twitter.com/NWSAberdeen)
Updated: 4/29/2017 5:22 AM Central

Published on: 04/29/2017 at 5:37AM

Models are still showing a storm system affecting eastern South Dakota Sunday and Monday, with generous amounts of rain, and SNOW! Confidence is increasing in there being several inches of snow across portions of east central and northeast South Dakota, as well as into west central Minnesota. Precipitation in the form of rain will initially move into eastern South Dakota during the day Sunday. Rain is expected to change to snow across portions of eastern South Dakota, especially along the I-29 corridor and in higher elevations of the Coteau region. Snow will last into Monday morning before changing back to rain as the storm exits the area. With temperatures hovering in the lower 30s Sunday night and Monday morning, it will only be a difference of a few degrees with who sees more snow than rain, and elevation could be key for some folks. The most likely snowfall is for 4 to 6 inches near Watertown and surrounding areas. Locally higher amounts are possible as is highlighted in the \"worst case\" scenario graphic. These amounts highlight some of the higher end potential advertised by models. Stay tuned to the latest forecasts!

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## Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 52.8 F at 6:39 PM

Low Outside Temp: 29.5 F at 7:14 AM

High Gust: 24.0 Mph at 11:24 AM

Snow: Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

Record High: 92° in 1934

Record Low: 16° in 1966

Average High: 64°F

Average Low: 38°F

Average Precip in April.: 1.76

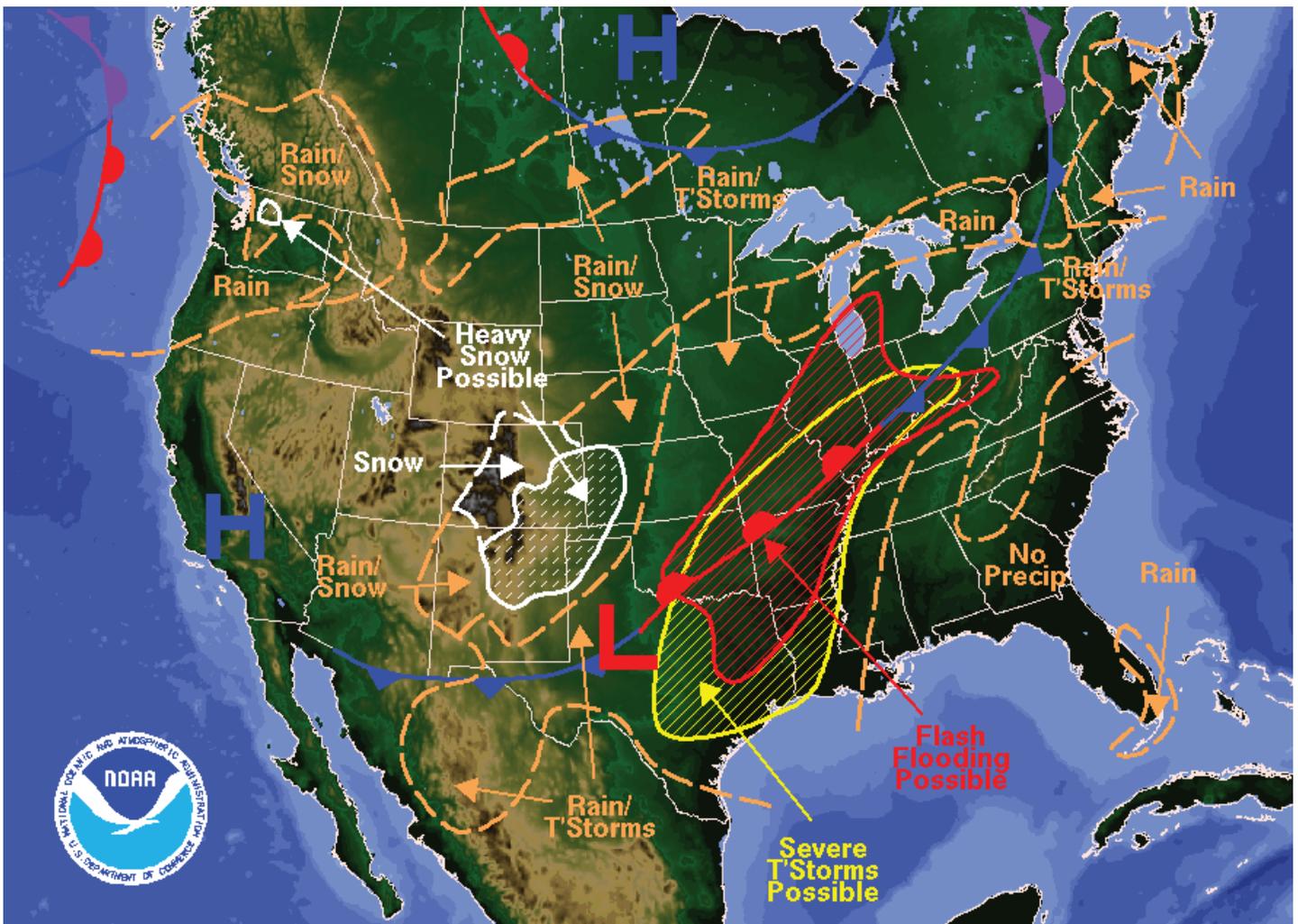
Precip to date in April.: 1.09

Average Precip to date: 3.94

Precip Year to Date: 1.68

Sunset Tonight: 8:38 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:22 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sat, Apr 29, 2017, issued 4:49 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Mcreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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## NOT IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOD!

Mr. Williams always took great care to encourage his students. Each day he would challenge them to do and be their best.

One Monday morning he decided to begin the week asking each student to share their goals in life.

"Matt," he asked the sad looking child in the front row, "what do you want to be when you grow up?"

"Possible," came the forlorn reply.

"What do you mean, 'possible', Matt?" he wondered.

"Well," he said in a hopeless voice, "my Dad's always saying to me, 'Son, you are impossible.' So, some-day I want to know what it's like to be possible, I guess."

Jesus on many occasions dispelled the "myth of the impossible." On one occasion He said, "Nothing will be impossible for you." On another, He promised, "With men this is impossible, but not with God. All things are possible." Then again He said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

Paul said, "I can do everything with the help of Christ who gives me the strength I need." And he did! He was a warrior who became the ultimate witness. He was the one who approved the stoning of Stephen yet he became one of God's most famous saints. He was the one who demonstrated to us that freedom comes from surrendering our plans to the plan that God has for us. He was the one who first proclaimed that forgiveness and eternal life are available to anyone who believes!

Prayer: Help us, Heavenly Father, to look beyond what we are to what we can become when we make ourselves available to Your transforming power. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

## News from the Associated Press

### Brood stock collection to aid recovery of pallid sturgeon

PLATTSMOUTH, Neb. (AP) — The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission has collected endangered pallid sturgeon from the Missouri River to breed the fish in a hatchery and restock the river next year.

State workers and 166 volunteers collected 105 pallid sturgeon from Plattsmouth to the south of Nebraska City in early April. Crews used 200-foot-long trotlines with 40 hooks per line baited with night crawlers. Nineteen sturgeon were shipped to Gavins Point National Fish Hatchery near Yankton, South Dakota, as potential brood fish.

The fish will be spawned in the hatchery, and the offspring nurtured for up to a year before being stocked back into the Missouri River.

The pallid sturgeon is native to the Missouri and Mississippi river systems. It was federally listed as endangered in 1990 because of population declines.

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

06-13-18-20-31, Mega Ball: 13, Megaplier: 4

(six, thirteen, eighteen, twenty, thirty-one; Mega Ball: thirteen; Megaplier: four)

Estimated jackpot: \$61 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$113 million

### Changes come to 1 of world's largest indigenous gatherings

By RUSSELL CONTRERAS, Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Thousands of dancers in traditional, vibrant regalia on Friday officially opened the Gathering of Nations — one of North America's most prominent American Indian powwows.

Dancers from across the United States, Canada and Mexico launched the event with a grand entry for a powwow that is expected to attract as many as 100,000 attendees to New Mexico's largest city this week. The powwow will feature a number of competitions for dancers, drummers and performers.

One of the world's largest gatherings of indigenous people, which runs through Saturday, comes after the Dakota Access Pipeline protests in North Dakota became a historic display of Native American solidarity.

The event in Albuquerque has grown over the years but will have a new, smaller space for dancers and other performers from across the U.S. Still, organizers say the new venue expands opportunities for the Indian Market and live entertainment outside the powwow.

Here are some things to know:

#### NEW VENUE

Expo New Mexico, site of the annual state fair, holds 11,500 people, a drop from the 15,000 that the

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previous facility could accommodate.

However, the floor for performances is bigger. Larry Yazzie, the event's official announcer, said attendees will notice better acoustics during the powwow and a more intimate experience.

When it was held at the University of New Mexico's basketball arena, attendees often complained about parking and leaving their cars in unattended areas. Expo New Mexico has a larger parking lot and security on hand, said Dan Mourning, facility general manager.

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## ENTERTAINMENT STAGE

The new venue allows more space and flexibility for live entertainment outside the powwow. Stage 49 will feature contemporary Native American music and entertainment, including the all-female melodic death thrash band, Suspended.

In addition to Aztec dancers and traditional music, the stage will feature non-Native performers such as Bronx-born DJ Logic and guitarist Vernon Reid of the band Living Colour.

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## INDIAN MARKET

Organizers say there will be more space for shopping and an exhibition of Native artifacts from throughout the Americas. This year's Indian Market features more than 800 artists, crafters and traders from around the world.

In the past, vendors were packed into a small space and their numbers were limited. Now, organizers say they have more flexibility for the indoor market that will allow shoppers to browse easier.

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## PIPELINE PROTESTS

The powwow comes as Native Americans keep discussing protests of the Dakota Access Pipeline in North Dakota, said Tara Gatewood, host and producer of syndicated public radio show Native America Calling.

Some activists who won't be at the Gathering of Nations likely will be at follow-up protests in Washington, D.C., New York and in other parts of the country, Gatewood said.

Yazzie says the event is nonpolitical and won't seek to focus on the pipeline protests. But many of the attendees journeyed to North Dakota for the protests and the event will acknowledge the "water protectors."

The Standing Rock Sioux and other tribes said the pipeline threatens their sovereignty, religious rights and water supply. The Crow tribe — a traditional foe of the Sioux — joined the demonstrations.

In February, authorities dispersed the last remaining holdouts ahead of the spring flooding season.

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Follow Russell Contreras on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/russcontreras> .

## **Federal prosecutors to hold office hours in Pine Ridge**

PINE RIDGE, S.D. (AP) — The U.S. Attorney's Office in South Dakota is going to hold weekly office hours on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

The federal prosecutors say they'll be on the reservation each Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The goal is to give citizens better access and ease communication. Residents will be able to talk about crime on the reservation, ask about existing cases or seek information.

The office is inside the Bureau of Indian Affairs office.

Anyone who wants to meet with a representative from the U.S. Attorney's Office is encouraged to schedule an appointment, or simply stop by.

## Man accused of threats arrested again after alleged meth use

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A man accused of livestreaming himself brandishing weapons and making threats outside an anti-Islam event is back in custody.

Authorities say 45-year-old Ehab Abdulmutta Jaber of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, was arrested again on a drug charge after testing positive for methamphetamine, a violation of his bond.

Jaber was charged earlier with making terroristic threats and possessing meth after allegedly making a Facebook video after he was kicked out of an April 9 event called "Sabotaging America: Islam's March Toward Supremacy."

He posted bond Tuesday and was required to undergo drug testing.

Authorities say the nature and severity of the charges warranted Jaber's new arrest. Attorney General Marty Jackley says stronger bond conditions are needed for Jaber.

The Lincoln County Public Defender's Office, which is representing Jaber, had no comment.

## Eagle 'chop shop' case offers window into trafficking trade

By JAMES NORD and STEVE KARNOWSKI, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A two-year undercover operation that led to indictments against 15 people for illegally trafficking eagles and other migratory birds offers a rare window into the black market for eagle carcasses, feathers, parts and handicrafts, including one alleged dealer who called himself the "best feather man in the Midwest."

The indictments announced this week in Rapid City, South Dakota, portray an illicit trade carried out through face-to-face meetings, emails, texts and personal introductions. Eagle heads or wings can fetch hundreds of dollars, though sellers sometimes trade goods such as bear claws, buffalo horn caps or animal hides. The eagle parts are often used in Native American-style handicrafts.

"This was the illegal black market trafficking of eagles and eagle parts for profit," South Dakota U.S. Attorney Randy Seiler said. "It basically was a chop shop for eagles."

Eagles are the national symbol of the United States and they're widely considered sacred by American Indians. Federal law limits possession of eagle feathers and other parts to enrolled members of federally recognized tribes who use them in religious practices. Bald eagles once nearly disappeared from most of the U.S. but flourished under federal protections and came off the endangered list in 2007. Hunting them generally remains illegal.

Dan Rolince, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's assistant special agent in charge of law enforcement for the region, said he expects the new cases to be among the largest his agency has handled as more charges are added. The cases involve as many as 250 eagles — most of them shot — but span more than 40 species of protected birds.

Rolince said buyers generally make purchases through online contacts or word of mouth, and that it's difficult to determine the size of the market.

"It's prevalent enough that we were able to make a case of this size in a relatively short period of time," he said.

The defendants include people from Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming.

One case accuses a Rapid City family, Troy Fairbanks and his two adult sons, who are enrolled members of the Standing Rock and Lower Brule Sioux tribes. The father ran a Native American dance troupe called Buffalo Dreamers that performed at venues such as the Crazy Horse Memorial and Custer State Park in the Black Hills. But they also did a large trade in eagle parts and feathers, according to their

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indictment.

Fairbanks bragged to an unnamed "cooperating individual" that he was the "best feather man in the Midwest," boasting that 19 people in the Los Angeles area wanted to buy from him, his indictment says. Fairbanks also claimed in May 2015 he could acquire 60 eagles by winter of that year.

By that point, with over a year of deals worth thousands of dollars under their belts, the "cooperating individual" had gained the trust of Fairbanks, who believed that person wasn't a law enforcement officer "because you would have popped me by now," his indictment says.

A man who answered a telephone number for Buffalo Dreamers hung up when a reporter identified himself and didn't respond to a subsequent text message. Federal court records don't list an attorney for the 54-year-old Fairbanks, who hasn't returned emails sent to an address listed in the indictment requesting comment since Monday.

Another group included Juan Mesteth, an enrolled member of the Oglala Sioux. An unnamed "confidential informant" made contact with Mesteth in the Pine Ridge area of South Dakota.

After Mesteth and the informant conducted a couple of deals, Mesteth introduced the informant to his connections in Wyoming who could supply whole carcasses and took them eagle hunting, according to the indictment.

Mesteth doesn't have a listed phone number and court records don't list an attorney who could comment on his behalf.

Authorities haven't disclosed how much the defendants are thought to have profited.

There are legitimate ways to obtain eagle parts for religious purposes. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service operates the National Eagle Repository to provide Native Americans with eagle carcasses, parts and feathers. Indians can also inherit them within their families or receive them as gifts.

Seiler, in the news conference announcing the indictments, accused the defendants of a lack of reverence for the birds.

"There was no cultural sensitivity. There was no spirituality," Seiler said. "There was no tradition in the manner in which these defendants handled these birds."

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Karnowski reported from Minneapolis.

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Follow James Nord on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/Jvnord> . Follow Steve Karnowski at <https://twitter.com/skarnowski> .

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This story has been corrected to show that Dan Rolince is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's assistant special agent in charge of law enforcement for the region, not the agency's regional law enforcement chief.

## **Military veteran recognized for service decades after death**

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota businessman who served in the Spanish-American War is finally receiving military recognition nearly half a century after his death.

The Aberdeen News (<http://bit.ly/2qeeRZW> ) reported Thomas Jefferson Henegar's family will be able to place a military marker on his headstone at Riverside Memorial Cemetery in May after a lengthy journey to verify his military service.

Cindy Mohr, Henegar's granddaughter, says the records of his service were destroyed in a 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis. According to the center, the fire destroyed between 16 million and 18 million military records.

Mohr's mom, Dolores Forrest spent years compiling information in an attempt to get recognition for her father. When Forest died in 2014, Mohr took over.

Mohr turned to Sam Olson, an Americanism officer, and Aaron Walberg, Brown County Veterans Service officer, for help.

"We kept running into dead ends," Olson said. "I finally asked Cindy if she could send me photos, and from there we were able to find out (Henegar) had medals."

They discovered a photo of Henegar in uniform wearing two small medals given out for service in the Spanish-American War. Sen. John Thune's office assisted in the research by requesting the necessary military records.

Walberg said the age of Henegar's case made it unique.

"It's really a neat deal," Walberg said. "These are guys that served in the late 1800s, and here we are 119 years later setting a military marker to commemorate his service to this country. It just goes to show you it's never too late."

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Information from: Aberdeen American News, <http://www.aberdeennews.com>

## Buyers: Hotel sale to change tourism in South Dakota town

KEYSTONE, S.D. (AP) — The new owners of nearly 50 tourist-based hotels, restaurants and shops in a small western South Dakota town say they plan to take local tourism to the next level.

The Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2qewJXm>) reports that Presidential Hospitality made the multi-million-dollar purchase of properties in Keystone from developer Bill Durst, who plans to retire.

The deal includes several businesses scattered throughout Keystone's busy summer travel corridor. The area annually sees nearly 3 million visitors who make their way to nearby Mount Rushmore.

A \$2 million project to update two existing hotels is already underway, but the full cost of the deal wasn't disclosed. The deal also involves seasonal and permanent jobs for 115 employees.

"I think it's important to pass the torch to a new generation of business owners who understand our community and what makes this area unique," Durst said in a statement.

Presidential Hospitality plans to rebrand some hotels to become part of nationally franchised brands, with the goal of attracting more travelers beyond the peak summer tourist season.

"It's the kind of opportunity where we can bring in the right kind of brands that work, but also put our own design and concepts into it to orchestrate a really awesome experience for the people who are visiting Mount Rushmore," said Mark Connelly of Presidential Hospitality.

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Information from: Rapid City Journal, <http://www.rapidcityjournal.com>

## State agents to investigate trooper's fatal shooting

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — State investigators will review the fatal shooting of a man by a state trooper in Rapid City.

Attorney General Marty Jackley says the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation will step in at the request of the Highway Patrol. The fatal shooting happened Thursday about 5 p.m. following a standoff at an apartment complex.

Officials say Tim Holmgren called police to the apartment for a welfare check, then pointed a pistol at the responding officer, who retreated and called for backup. Officers from a number of agencies responded.

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Police say the 53-year-old man waved the pistol outside his window and refused officer's commands. Authorities say he was shot when he aimed the gun at officers. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Immigration arrests increase in region compared to 2016

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — New data from the federal government shows immigration arrests in Minnesota and four surrounding states increased about 80 percent since President Donald Trump took office, compared to the same time in 2016. But, the number of arrests is in line with the level earlier in President Barack Obama's second term.

Under the Trump administration, 620 immigrants have been taken into custody in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa and Nebraska by federal agents from the St. Paul office of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The Star Tribune (<http://strib.mn/2poDpzq>) reports about a quarter of those arrested don't have criminal convictions, compared to 10 percent of similar arrests last year.

ICE spokesman Shawn Neudauer says ICE doesn't target people who don't have criminal records, but he says agents can't ignore them either.

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Information from: Star Tribune, <http://www.startribune.com>

## Security tight as pope celebrates open-air Mass in Cairo

By NICOLE WINFIELD and HAMZA HENDAWI, Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Military helicopters flew overhead and police fanned out in force Saturday as Pope Francis celebrated an open-air Mass for Egypt's tiny Catholic community on the final day of a visit aimed at comforting Christians following a series of attacks by Islamic militants.

Despite the security concerns, Francis zoomed around the Cairo sports stadium in an open-topped golf cart before the start of Mass, evidence of his desire to be close to his flock at all costs.

The crowd cheered him wildly, waving Egyptian and Holy See flags and swaying to hymns sung by church choirs. The defense ministry's stadium has a capacity of 25,000, but only about 15,000 people attended — a reflection that Catholics represent less than 1 percent of Egypt's 92 million people.

In his homily, Francis urged them to be good and merciful to their fellow Egyptians, saying "the only fanaticism believers can have is that of charity!"

"Any other fanaticism does not come from God and is not pleasing to him!" he said.

It was a very pastoral message after Francis on his first day demanded that Muslim leaders renounce religious fanaticism that leads to violence. Francis made the appeal during a landmark visit to Cairo's Al-Azhar, the revered, 1,000-year-old seat of Sunni Islam learning that trains clerics and scholars from around the world.

Security was exceptionally tight around the stadium and in the upscale neighborhood where Francis spent the night, with uniformed and plain-clothed police stationed every meter (yard) or so along his motorcade route. Police used metal detectors to check vehicles for explosives and armed guards stood watch, some on rooftops, their faces covered.

But Francis decided to forego the bullet-proof "popemobile" that his predecessors used on foreign trips and drove through Cairo in a simple Fiat, his window rolled down.

"He is a messenger of peace, he is really a messenger of peace," said Amgad Eskandr before the Mass got under way at the stadium. "All his words talk about peace, call for peace, push for peace which is great."

His gestures sent a defiant message to the extremist Islamic State group, whose local affiliate in Egypt

has vowed to target Egypt's Christians to punish them for their support of President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi.

As defense minister, El-Sissi had led the military ouster of the Islamist Mohammed Morsi, Egypt's first freely elected president whose one-year rule proved divisive.

Already, attacks against Christians in northern Sinai, the epicenter of the insurgency, have forced hundreds of families to flee the region, seeking refuge elsewhere in Egypt. Recent attacks on churches — one in Cairo in December and twin Palm Sunday attacks in cities north of the Egyptian capital — have claimed at least 75 lives and injured scores.

The attacks led to heightened security at churches nationwide and the declaration by el-Sissi of a state of emergency.

Francis strongly backed the government's crackdown on the extremists Friday, saying Egypt was uniquely placed to bring peace to the region and "vanquish all violence and terrorism."

He also paid tribute to the victims of a December bombing at central Cairo's St. Peter's church, which is located in close proximity to the St. Mark's cathedral, the seat of the Coptic Orthodox Church. Blood on one of the church walls remains along with pictures of the victims in remembrance of the attack.

His visit drew praise from Egyptian Catholics, who haven't seen a pope in their land since St. John Paul II visited in 2000.

"I think he is a man of peace and I think he will be like John Paul II, he will be a saint," said Mariam Fayek from the stadium grounds.

What is at stake in Egypt, home to one of the world's oldest Christian communities, is to prevent a repeat of what happened in Iraq in the years that followed the 2003 ouster of dictator Saddam Hussein, when militants of al-Qaida — the IS forerunner in Iraq — systematically targeted the country's ancient Christian minority and forced many to flee.

Pope Tawadros II, the spiritual leader of Egypt's Coptic Orthodox Christians, is a close el-Sissi ally who has tirelessly advocated Muslim-Christian harmony. "Egyptians are united in pain and in joy," he told Francis on Friday.

After Mass on Saturday, Francis meets with Catholic priests and seminarians before returning to Rome.

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Associated Press writer Maria Grazia Murru contributed to this report.

## **N. Korean missile test fails hours after UN meeting on nukes**

**By FOSTER KLUG and KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — A North Korean mid-range ballistic missile apparently failed shortly after launch Saturday, South Korea and the United States said, the third test-fire flop just this month but a clear message of defiance as a U.S. supercarrier conducts drills in nearby waters.

North Korean ballistic missile tests are banned by the United Nations because they're seen as part of the North's push for a nuclear-tipped missile that can hit the U.S. mainland. The latest test came as U.S. officials pivoted from a hard line to diplomacy at the U.N. in an effort to address what may be Washington's most pressing foreign policy challenge.

President Donald Trump said on Twitter, "North Korea disrespected the wishes of China & its highly respected President when it launched, though unsuccessfully, a missile today. Bad!" He did not answer reporters' questions about the missile launch upon returning to the White House from a day trip to Atlanta.

North Korea didn't immediately comment on the launch, though its state media on Saturday reiterated

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the country's goal of being able to strike the continental U.S.

The timing of the North's test was striking: Only hours earlier the U.N. Security Council held a ministerial meeting on Pyongyang's escalating weapons program. North Korean officials boycotted the meeting, which was chaired by U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement that the missile flew for several minutes and reached a maximum height of 71 kilometers (44 miles) before it apparently failed.

It didn't immediately provide an estimate on how far the missile flew, but a U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive matters, said it was likely a medium-range KN-17 ballistic missile. It broke up a few minutes after the launch.

Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, speaking after a meeting of Japan's National Security Council, said the missile is believed to have traveled about 50 kilometers (30 miles) and fallen on an inland part of North Korea.

Analysts say the KN-17 is a new Scud-type missile developed by North Korea. The North fired the same type of missile April 16, just a day after a massive military parade where it showed off its expanding missile arsenal, but U.S. officials called that launch a failure.

Some analysts say a missile the North test fired April 5, which U.S. officials identified as a Scud variant, also might have been a KN-17. U.S. officials said that missile spun out of control and crashed into the sea.

Moon Seong Mook, a South Korean analyst and former military official, says that the North would gain valuable knowledge even from failed launches as it continues to improve its technologies for missiles. The South Korean and Japanese assessments about Saturday's launch indicate that the North fired the missile from a higher-than-normal angle to prevent it from flying too far, he said.

"They could be testing a variety of things, such as the thrust of the rocket engine or the separation of stages," Moon said. "A failure is a failure, but that doesn't mean the launch was meaningless."

The two earlier launches were conducted from an eastern coastal area, but Saturday's missile was fired in the west, from an area near Pukchang, just north of the capital, Pyongyang.

South Korea's Foreign Ministry denounced the launch as an "obvious" violation of United Nations resolutions and the latest display of North Korea's "belligerence and recklessness."

"We sternly warn that the North Korean government will continue to face a variety of strong punitive measures issued by the U.N. Security Council and others if it continues to reject denuclearization and play with fire in front of the world," the ministry said.

The North routinely test-fires a variety of ballistic missiles, despite U.N. prohibitions, as part of its weapons development. While shorter-range missiles are somewhat routine, there is strong outside worry about each longer-range North Korean ballistic test.

Saturday's launch comes at a point of particularly high tension. Trump has sent a nuclear-powered submarine and the USS Carl Vinson aircraft supercarrier to Korean waters, and North Korea this week conducted large-scale, live-fire exercises on its eastern coast. The U.S. and South Korea also started installing a missile defense system that is supposed to be partially operational within days, while their two navies began joint military drills later Saturday.

The South Korean navy said the drills are aimed at "deterring North Korea's provocations and displaying the firm alliance between the United States and South Korea."

On Friday, the United States and China offered starkly different strategies for addressing North Korea's escalating nuclear threat as Tillerson demanded full enforcement of economic sanctions on Pyongyang and urged new penalties. Stepping back from suggestions of U.S. military action, he even offered aid to North Korea if it ends its nuclear weapons program.

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The range of Tillerson's suggestions, which over a span of 24 hours also included restarting negotiations, reflected America's failure to halt North Korea's nuclear advances despite decades of U.S.-led sanctions, military threats and stop-and-go rounds of diplomatic engagement. As the North approaches the capability to hit the U.S. mainland with a nuclear-tipped missile, the Trump administration feels it is running out of time.

Chairing a ministerial meeting of the U.N. Security Council on Friday, Tillerson declared that "failing to act now on the most pressing security issue in the world may bring catastrophic consequences."

His ideas included a ban on North Korean coal imports and preventing its overseas guest laborers, a critical source of government revenue, from sending money home. And he warned of unilateral U.S. moves against international firms conducting banned business with Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programs, which could ensnare banks in China, the North's primary trade partner.

Yet illustrating the international gulf over how best to tackle North Korea, several foreign ministers on the 15-member council expressed fears of a conflict on the Korean Peninsula, which was divided between the American-backed South and communist North even before the 1950-53 Korean War. The conflict ended with no formal peace treaty. And while danger always has lurked, tensions have escalated dramatically as the North's young leader, Kim Jong Un, has expanded a nuclear arsenal his government says is needed to avert a U.S. invasion.

No voice at Friday's session was more important than that of China, a conduit for 90 percent of North Korea's commerce and a country Trump is pinning hopes on for a peaceful resolution to the nuclear crisis. Trump, who recently hosted President Xi Jinping for a Florida summit, has sometimes praised the Chinese leader for a newfound cooperation to crack down on North Korea and sometimes threatened a go-it-alone U.S. approach if Xi fails to deliver.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi said China would adhere to past U.N. resolutions and wants a denuclearized peninsula. But he spelled out no further punitive steps his government might consider, despite Tillerson's assertions in an interview hours ahead of the council meeting that Beijing would impose sanctions of its own if North Korea conducts another nuclear test.

Wang put forward a familiar Chinese idea to ease tensions: North Korea suspending its nuclear and missile activities if the U.S. and South Korea stop military exercises in the region. Washington and Seoul reject the idea.

Tillerson said the U.S. does not seek regime change in North Korea, and he signaled American openness to holding direct negotiations with Pyongyang. The U.S. also could resume aid to North Korea once it "begins to dismantle its nuclear weapons and missile technology programs," he said. Since 1995, he added, Washington has provided more than \$1.3 billion to the impoverished country.

But the prospects for any more U.S. money going there appeared bleak. Even negotiations don't seem likely.

Tillerson said the North must take "concrete steps" to reduce its weapons threat before talks could occur. Six-nation nuclear negotiations with North Korea stalled in 2009. The Obama administration sought to resurrect them in 2012, but a deal to provide food aid in exchange for a nuclear freeze soon collapsed.

"In a nutshell, (North Korea) has already declared not to attend any type of talks which would discuss its nuclear abandonment, nuclear disbandment," Kim In Ryong, North Korea's deputy U.N. ambassador, told The Associated Press. His government declined to attend Friday's council meeting.

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AP writers Matthew Pennington and Lolita C. Baldor in Washington and Edith Lederer at the United Nations contributed to this story.

## Experts: Long road ahead for Trump offshore drilling order

By JASON DEAREN and JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

President Donald Trump's executive order seeking to find new ocean expanses in the Atlantic and the Arctic for offshore drilling isn't likely to reach its goals anytime soon, but instead will kick off a yearslong review and legal battle.

Trump signed the order Friday aimed at dismantling a key part of former President Barack Obama's environmental legacy.

"This executive order starts the process of opening offshore areas to job-creating energy exploration," he said. "It reverses the previous administration's Arctic leasing ban and directs Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to allow responsible development of off-shore areas that will bring revenue to our treasury and jobs to our workers."

Despite Trump's assertion that the nation needs to wean itself of foreign oil, U.S. oil imports have declined in recent years as domestic production boomed amid improved drilling techniques opening up once unreachable areas.

And environmental law and policy experts questioned Trump's authority to reverse Obama's withdrawal of certain areas in the Arctic or Atlantic to drilling, a question likely to be decided in the courts.

"It's not quite as simple as the president signs something and it undoes the past," said Sean Hecht, a University of California, Los Angeles environmental law professor.

For instance, Obama used his authority under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to protect Arctic areas from oil drilling late last year, a move Trump's order seeks to undo. At the time, Obama administration lawyers said they were confident that move would be upheld in court.

Legal experts say the law has never been used by a president to remove protections, just to create them.

Trump's order also directed Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross to conduct a review of marine monuments and sanctuaries designated this past decade. Obama issued monument proclamations under the Antiquities Act, including the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument in the Atlantic, which protected that swath of sea from drilling.

Legal scholars said Trump would enter uncharted waters if he seeks to undo a national monument proclamation in an effort to remove environmental protections.

Under Trump's order, Interior Secretary Zinke will start to review the government's plan that dictates which federal locations are open to offshore drilling, known as the 5-year plan.

The administration can redo the 5-year-plan, but it's a long process. Zinke said the leases scheduled under the existing plan would remain in effect during the review, which he estimated would take years before any new leases are possible.

Still, Pam Gibling, an Austin, Texas-based environmental attorney who represents energy companies said Trump's order is welcome to her clients despite the limitations they see.

"Every one of these orders is primarily aspirational. But it is starting to change the lens through which government is talking about fossil fuels," she said.

The new 5-year plan could indeed open new areas of oil and gas exploration in waters off Virginia, Georgia and North and South Carolina, where drilling has been blocked for decades. Many lawmakers in those states support offshore drilling, and Alaska's governor and its Washington delegation all supported the order.

But the plan faces opposition from the fishing industry, tourism groups and even the U.S. military, which has said Atlantic offshore drilling could hurt military maneuvers and interfere with missile tests

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needed to help protect the East Coast.

More than 120 coastal communities from New Jersey to Florida have passed resolutions opposing any Atlantic drilling.

"Allowing offshore drilling is a forever decision that will forever change our way of life for the worse," said Frank Knapp, president of Columbia, South Carolina-based Business Alliance for Protecting the Atlantic Coast.

Environmental groups are preparing for the fight to come, saying that opening up vast areas to drilling harms whales, walrus and other wildlife and exacerbates global warming.

"We will go to court to enforce the law and ensure President Obama's protections remain in place," Trip Van Noppen, president of the environmental legal organization Earthjustice, said in a statement.

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On Twitter, follow Jason Dearen and Jill Colvin at <http://twitter.com/JHDearen> and <https://twitter.com/colvinj>

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Colvin reported from Washington, where Associated Press writer Matthew Daly also contributed to this report.

## Correspondents' dinner lacks glitter without Trump

By JOCELYN NOVECK, AP National Writer

The annual dinner of the White House Correspondents' Association is taking place without its traditional star.

This year the president of the United States, Donald Trump, has decided to stay away from an event in which he would be a prime target of biting humor.

That's dulled the glitter emanating from celebrities who usually come to the Saturday night dinner as guests of media outlets. Absent a busload of big names, the event is focusing on the First Amendment and the crucial role of the press in a democracy.

There will be, as usual, a comedian emceeding the event, which will air on C-SPAN: Hasan Minhaj, of "The Daily Show."

A president hasn't declined to attend since Ronald Reagan in 1981, though he was recovering from an assassination attempt.

## Trump to NRA: 'You have a true friend in the White House'

By LISA MARIE PANE, Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — For nearly a decade, gun owners felt like they were living on pins and needles, worried about gun rights being taken away and feeling as though their way of life was scorned and under attack.

All those fears disappeared the moment Donald Trump was elected president and, this weekend, National Rifle Association members gathering for the gun lobby's annual meeting are celebrating and rejoicing.

A year ago, Trump was addressing the NRA as a candidate. Friday offered a homecoming of sorts as President Trump thanked its members for their support. They responded with cheers as he rattled off the names of several of his appointees — from newly installed Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch to Attorney General Jeff Sessions — and boos for his usual foes: Hillary Clinton and the media.

The first sitting president to address the NRA since 1983, Trump made it clear in a stump-style speech

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that he wasn't wavering in his support for gun rights: "The eight-year assault on your Second Amendment freedoms has come to a crashing end."

Mike Van Durme, a retired environmental police officer in New York and co-author of a book on hunter safety, said it's been a relief to have a president in the White House who is a gun owner and supportive of gun rights.

"It was eight years of being frustrated and sad that the guy who is supposed to represent us embarrassed me," Van Durme said, describing Barack Obama as disrespectful of members of law enforcement and the military and too deferential to foreign leaders. "The guy we just saw here? Like the song says, 'He's proud to be an American.'"

During the campaign, the NRA poured more than \$30 million into Trump's effort. Trump himself has said he has a concealed-carry permit and owns guns and son Donald Trump Jr. is a well-known hunter and key supporter of efforts to ease restrictions on the sales of suppressors. During the campaign, Trump promised to do away with Obama's efforts to strengthen background checks and to eliminate gun-free zones at schools and military bases.

Trump's address was reminiscent of his election rallies. He told NRA members he would not back away from defending the right to bear arms.

"You have a true friend and champion in the White House," he said.

Leading up to his taking the stage, the NRA played a video with snippets of various celebrities and political pundits poo-pooing the chances of Trump being elected president interspersed with Election Night newscasts as state after state came in for Trump. The underdog emerging victorious proved popular to those in the crowd who view Trump as their champion — most especially when it comes to gun rights.

Still, his appearance in Atlanta sparked protests from people advocating for stricter gun control measures.

Lorraine Bascombe, who works in the health care industry and lives in suburban Atlanta, said she expected any Republican president to favor fewer regulations on gun purchases. But she worries Trump won't listen to people who want "sensible, safe" gun control.

Bascombe said Republicans "stalled and prevented" Obama from increasing restrictions on gun sales, a stalemate she found frustrating.

"The NRA has so much lobbying power and I don't see that changing anytime soon," she said. "That's my angst."

Protesters were particularly worried about efforts to push for federal legislation to make any state's concealed-carry permits valid nationwide, which they fear will effectively turn the weakest gun standards in the nation into the law of the land. The GOP-led Congress already passed a resolution to block a rule that would have kept guns out of the hands of certain people with mental disorders, and Trump quickly signed it.

White House press secretary Sean Spicer said on the plane trip from Washington that NRA members supported Trump during the election based on his strong commitment to gun rights. He also cited Trump's appointment of Gorsuch to the Supreme Court.

"I know the NRA is glad to have a justice in that seat who is such a staunch defender of the Constitution," he said.

For Ty Smith, who as a college student in north Georgia helped organize students to vote for Trump, having the president in the same room gave him chills. "I would do anything for this man," he said.

Smith said he found it inspiring to have a sitting president address the NRA. "For me, I feel like he's

fighting for me," he said.

Associated Press writers Jonathan Lemire, Bill Barrow and Kathleen Foody contributed to this report.

Lisa Marie Pane can be followed on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/lisamariepane>

## **Trump to spend Day 100 in office talking tough on trade**

**By JILL COLVIN and PAUL WISEMAN, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is marking his 100th day in office by talking tough on trade.

The White House says the president will sign an executive order Saturday that will direct his Commerce Department and the U.S. trade representative to perform a comprehensive study of the nation's trade agreements. The aim is to determine whether America is being treated fairly by its trading partners and the 164-nation World Trade Organization.

The venue for the signing of the executive order is a shovel factory in Pennsylvania's Cumberland County. In the evening, the president will appear at a rally in Harrisburg to cap the occasion of his first 100 days in office.

## **Philly fans give everyone the boos they wanted**

**By ROB MAADDI, AP Pro Football Writer**

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The City of Brotherly Love turned a boring event into an entertaining show. About 100,000 vocal fans gave everyone what they wanted and expected from Philadelphia: Boos!

Tired of hearing about tossing snowballs at Santa Claus 49 years ago or how they cheered Michael Irvin's career-ending injury in 1999, Philly fans let everyone have it during the second and third rounds of the NFL draft Friday night.

They booed NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, of course, whenever he popped on stage. They jeered Cincinnati's selection of Oklahoma running back Joe Mixon and even Cleveland's pick of Notre Dame quarterback DeShone Kizer.

But former Cowboys receiver Drew Pearson stole the show and earned the loudest boos of all.

Pearson began with: "How 'bout them Cowboys!" He then trolled fans by thanking them "for allowing me to have a career in the NFL" and bragging about the "five-time world champions."

Pearson pumped his fist and screamed over the boisterous crowd to announce Dallas' second-round pick: Colorado cornerback Chidobe Awuzie.

He said Goodell encouraged him to talk about the Cowboys-Eagles rivalry.

"It was fun," Pearson said.

After that, it seemed every team representative tried to incite louder boos.

Former Redskins linebacker London Fletcher told fans he expected more "for as many hits as I put on your running backs and receivers."

Fletcher ended by proclaiming: "Hail to the Redskins!"

NFL executive vice president Troy Vincent, a former Eagles All-Pro cornerback, jokingly waved him off the stage.

Former Giants linebacker Jessie Armstead raised both fists in the air to show off two Super Bowl rings. So he heard it, too.

Almost every pick that wasn't related to the Eagles got booed.

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An estimated crowd of 100,000 people gathered on Thursday and many were back for the second night.

They turned the Art Museum area into a giant tailgate party, chanting "E-A-G-L-E-S!" and singing "Fly, Eagles, Fly!"

Eagles long snapper Jon Dorenbos drew a rousing ovation when he announced the team's third-round pick and declared Eagles fans were the best in the country. They also cheered when the team selected injured Washington cornerback Sidney Jones in the second round.

The Huskies secondary saw three members — cornerbacks Kevin King and Jones and safety Budda Baker — taken in the first 11 picks.

King, one of five players who were on hand and were not taken in the opening round, went to Green Bay with the first pick of the night and talked about learning from Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers and wanting to earn a gold, Hall of Fame jacket.

The most notable selection occurred when the Bengals took Mixon at No. 48 overall. Mixon was uninvited to the scouting combine because he was videotaped punching a woman in the face, breaking bones. He hit Amelia Molitor during an altercation at a restaurant, and was suspended from the team for a year.

Mixon came back and had two strong seasons. In 2016, he was an All-Big 12 performer who set the school record for all-purpose yardage in a season.

Fans in the draft theater booed lustily when Bengals Hall of Famer Anthony Munoz announced the choice. Cincinnati has a history of bringing players with off-field problems to the roster.

"For some of our fans, probably (they'll) pause for a second," Bengals coach Marvin Lewis said. "But this thing's got to move forward, and he's got to move on. He's lived with this since the day it's occurred."

Another running back who dropped to Round 2 was Florida State All-American Dalvin Cook. He slipped from the first round because of off-field issues and some injury concerns. Cook fills the void created by Adrian Peterson's departure.

Cleveland finally got its quarterback at No. 52 with Kizer. The Browns have started 26 quarterbacks since 1999, when they returned as an expansion team.

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## US economy expanded at weakest pace in 3 years

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy turned in the weakest performance in three years in the January-March quarter as consumers sharply slowed their spending. The result fell far short of President Donald Trump's ambitious growth targets and underscores the challenges of accelerating economic expansion.

The gross domestic product, the total output of goods and services, grew by just 0.7 percent in the first quarter following a gain of 2.1 percent in the fourth quarter, the Commerce Department reported Friday.

The slowdown primarily reflected slower consumer spending, which grew at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 0.3 percent after a growth rate of 3.5 percent in the fourth quarter. It was the poorest quarterly showing in more than seven years.

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Despite the anemic first-quarter performance, the U.S. economy's prospects for the rest of the year appear solid. Growth is expected to be fueled by a revival in consumer spending, supported by continued strong job growth, accelerating wage gains and record stock levels.

Weakness in the first quarter followed by a stronger expansion in the spring has become a pattern in recent years. The government's difficulty with seasonal adjustments for the first quarter has been a chronic problem and may have shaved as much as 1 percentage point off growth this year.

The sharp slowdown in consumer spending in the first quarter was attributed to a collection of temporary factors: warmer weather, which shrank spending on heating bills, a drop-off in auto sales after a strong fourth quarter and a delay in sending out tax refund checks, which also dampened spending.

Sal Guatieri, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets, said he expected consumer and government spending to bounce back, leading to a much stronger second quarter.

"Still, the report will mark a rough start to the administration's high hopes of achieving 3 percent or better growth, not the kind of news it was looking for to cap its first 100 days in office," Guatieri said in a note to clients.

Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, one of the administration's top economic policymakers, said that the weak first quarter performance showed the need for the new policies Trump is offering.

"We need the president's tax plan, regulatory relief, trade negotiations and the unleashing of (the) American energy sector to overcome the dismal economy inherited by the Trump administration," Ross said in a statement.

He said that strong business and consumer sentiment "must be released from the regulatory and tax shackles constraining economic growth."

Averaging the two quarters, they forecast growth of around 2 percent for the first half of this year. That would be in line with the mediocre performance of the eight-year economic expansion, when growth has averaged just 2.1 percent, the poorest showing for any recovery in the post-World War II period.

Trump had repeatedly attacked the weak GDP rates during the campaign as an example of the Obama administration's failed economic policies. He said his program of tax cuts for individuals and businesses, deregulation and tougher enforcement of trade agreements would double growth to 4 percent or better.

In unveiling an outline of the administration's tax proposals on Wednesday, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said he believed growth above 3 percent would be achievable.

Many economists are more skeptical. They are forecasting growth of this year around 2.2 percent. That would be an improvement from last year's 1.6 percent, the weakest showing in five years, but far below Trump's goal. Many analysts believe that the impacts of Trump's economic program will not be felt until 2018 because they are not expecting Congress to approve some version of Trump's tax program until late this year.

The GDP report released Friday was the first of three estimates the government will make of first quarter growth.

The 0.7 percent increase was the worst showing since GDP contracted by 1.2 percent in the first quarter of 2014.

In addition to weaker consumer activity, the first quarter slowdown also reflected a cutback in restocking of store shelves. The slowdown in inventory rebuilding cut nearly a percentage point from growth in the first quarter. Also acting as a drag was a reduction in government spending, which fell at a 1.7 percent annual rate with both the federal government and state and local governments seeing cuts.

On the positive side, business investment rose at a 9.4 percent rate, helped by a record surge in

spending in the category that tracks spending in the energy sector. This category had seen sharp cutbacks in recent quarters, reflecting reductions in exploration and drilling as energy prices declined. Housing construction was also strong, growing at a 13.7 percent rate, the fastest pace in nearly two years.

Trump noted the weak 2016 GDP performance in a tweet Wednesday and contended that "trade deficits hurt the economy very badly." For the first quarter, trade was actually a small positive after a major drag in the fourth quarter.

## Washington DBs popular in 2nd round, Mixon to Bengals

By BARRY WILNER, AP Pro Football Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — It's Philly, so of course they booed.

Roger Goodell heard it. Cincinnati's selection of Oklahoma running back Joe Mixon intensified it. And Drew Pearson incited the fans at the NFL draft Friday night by lauding — and lauding and lauding — the hated Dallas Cowboys.

Not everything got jeered on the second day of the grab bag. The most popular group in the second round came from nearly 3,000 miles away from Philadelphia: the Washington Huskies secondary.

Three members — cornerbacks Kevin King and Sidney Jones, safety Budda Baker — were taken in the first 11 picks Friday night.

None of those choices drew the attention that Cincinnati's pick at No. 48 overall did: Mixon, who was uninvited to the scouting combine because he was videotaped punching a woman in the face, breaking bones.

He punched Amelia Molitor during an altercation at a restaurant, and was suspended from the team for a year. He came back and had two strong seasons. In 2016, he was an All-Big 12 performer who set the school record for all-purpose yardage in a season.

Fans in the draft theater booed lustily when Bengals Hall of Famer Anthony Munoz announced the choice. Cincinnati has a history of bringing players with off-field problems to the roster.

"For some of our fans, probably (they'll) pause for a second," Bengals coach Marvin Lewis said. "But this thing's got to move forward, and he's got to move on. He's lived with this since the day it's occurred."

Another running back who dropped to Round 2 was Florida State All-American Dalvin Cook. He slipped from the first round because of off-field issues and some injury concerns. Cook is a big-play guy and the Vikings, of course, let go of Adrian Peterson this year.

"You've got to accept things as a man, and I just was waiting my turn," Cook said.

The Steelers took a local standout, running back James Conner of Pitt. Conner overcame cancer to return to the Panthers, and now he gets to stay home in the pros.

Earlier, King's extra-long stay at the draft turned out to be a short stint.

The Washington cornerback was taken by Green Bay as the first selection in the second round. One of five players who were on hand and were not taken in the opening round, the 6-foot-3 former safety isn't particularly speedy, but has the size and aggressiveness pro teams seek.

Plus, the Packers, who acquired the spot from Cleveland in a deal Thursday night through which the Browns got Miami tight end David Njoku, were ravaged by injuries in the secondary last season.

"I am a playmaker, somebody who will go get the ball," King said. "I think everyone wants somebody like that in the secondary.

"Last night, it had nothing to do with me. When my name was called, that's when it had something

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to do with me.”

King was joined by secondary mate Baker on Friday night when Arizona took the Washington safety. Then the Eagles added yet another Huskies defensive back, selecting Jones. Jones tore his Achilles tendon at his pro day and might not be healthy for the 2017 season.

Through 64 selections, 18 defensive backs had gone, the most for two rounds of any draft.

Cleveland was expected to add a quarterback at some point and did so at No. 52 with Notre Dame's DeShone Kizer. The Browns have started 26 quarterbacks since 1999, when they returned as an expansion team.

Two more QBs went Friday: Davis Webb of Cal to the Giants and C.J. Beathard of Iowa to San Francisco, both in the third round.

Accompanied by former Eagles quarterback Ron Jaworski, an icon in Philadelphia, Goodell thanked the city and the fans — folks in the theater still booed him, but not when “Jaws” repeated the tribute.

Then Jaworski admitted he had been the object of the boo-birds in Philadelphia during his career, drawing cheers. But the jeers were back, as loud as ever, when Goodell stepped back to the microphone to open the second night.

They reached a crescendo when Pearson came onstage to announce the Cowboys' choice at No. 60. With every boast about America's Team and every Cowboys name Pearson uttered, the noise level increased.

“I want to thank the Eagles fans for allowing me to have a career in the NFL,” Pearson said with a wide smile.

Seattle, which also traded out of the first round, was at it again. On Thursday, the Seahawks sent the No. 26 overall to Atlanta, then also dealt the No. 31 slot it received from the Falcons to San Francisco in what was a wild opening night of the draft.

Instead of using the 34th spot, Seattle traded it to Jacksonville, which grabbed Alabama tackle Cam Robinson, projected by many as a first-rounder. With their picks of running back Leonard Fournette and Robinson, the Jaguars are trying to build a ground game around inconsistent quarterback Blake Bortles.

Seattle finally made a pick, taking Michigan State defensive tackle Malik McDowell with the third selection of the night.

Oddly, the first five spots in the second round were traded.

So was the ninth, where Minnesota went for Cook.

Chicago, which made headlines with a massive trade to move up one spot on Thursday to get QB Mitchell Trubisky, dug into Division II in the second round, taking tight end Adam Shaheen of Ashland.

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For more NFL coverage: <http://www.pro32.ap.org> and [http://www.twitter.com/AP\\_NFL](http://www.twitter.com/AP_NFL)

## **Congress settles for stopgap to avoid government shutdown**

**By ERICA WERNER and ALAN FRAM, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress took the easy way out to keep the government open on the eve of Donald Trump's 100th day in office, passing a weeklong stopgap spending bill Friday that amounted to more of a defeat for the president than a victory.

Lawmakers cleared the measure easily and Trump signed it with just hours to spare before the shutdown deadline at midnight. But with Trump marking his presidency's milestone Saturday, he did not wring any major legislation out of Congress, despite a renewed White House push to revive the House GOP's health care bill in time for a vote that could give him bragging rights.

House leaders are still short of votes for the revised health bill, though they could bring it to the floor

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next week if they find the support they need. House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy said the plan was to pass the bill "as soon as possible."

Also next week lawmakers plan to pass a \$1 trillion package financing the government through Sept. 30, the end of the 2017 fiscal year.

The temporary spending bill keeps the government functioning through next Friday, to allow lawmakers time to wrap up negotiations on the larger measure. The Senate sent the stopgap bill to Trump by voice vote Friday after the House approved it by a lopsided 382-30 margin.

"Today's measure shows the American people that we are making a good-faith effort to keep our government open," said Rep. Pete Sessions, R-Texas. "While this is not ideal, I support this effort to provide our colleagues with more time to reach a final agreement on legislation to fund the government through the fiscal year."

The struggle over both bills was embarrassing to the GOP, which has Trump in the White House and majorities in Congress. Yet even with unified control, it's proving an uphill fight for Republicans to make good on seven years' worth of promises to repeal and replace former President Barack Obama's health care law.

"I'm disappointed that it doesn't go quicker," Trump said of his interactions with Congress, in an interview airing Friday on Fox News Channel.

At least 18 Republicans, mostly moderates, said they oppose the health care legislation, and many others remained publicly uncommitted. That puts party elders in an uncomfortable spot because if 22 Republicans defect, the bill will fail, assuming all Democrats oppose it.

House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., wants to avoid an encore of last month's embarrassment, when he abruptly canceled a vote on a health care overhaul because of opposition from moderates and conservatives alike.

Republicans have recast the health bill to let states escape a requirement under Obama's 2010 law that insurers charge healthy and seriously ill customers the same rates. The overall legislation would cut the Medicaid program for the poor, eliminate Obama's fines for people who don't buy insurance and provide generally skimpier subsidies. Centrist Republicans were the primary target of lobbying by the White House and GOP leaders.

Meanwhile negotiations moved ahead on the longer-term spending bill, which would fund the day-to-day operations of virtually every federal agency. Most of the core decisions about agency budgets have been worked out, but unrelated policy issues — such as a Democratic request to help the cash-strapped government of Puerto Rico with its Medicaid burden — are among the hold-ups.

Democrats denied Trump a win on obtaining an initial down payment for his oft-promised border wall with Mexico, while anti-abortion lawmakers steered clear of even attempting to use the measure to try to cut off federal funds for Planned Parenthood. But Trump and defense hawks have procured a \$15 billion infusion for the Pentagon and funds for other border security accounts such as detention beds for people entering the country illegally.

Republicans also are pressing for policy wins on blocking environmental regulations such as Obama's sweeping expansion of the Clean Water Act. But Democrats, whose votes are needed to pass the measure, are pushing back.

Democrats praised a \$2 billion funding increase for the National Institutes of Health — rejecting steep cuts proposed by Trump — as well as additional funds to combat opioid abuse and fund Pell Grants for summer school. A provision extending health care for 22,000 retired Appalachian coal miners and their families had yet to be finalized, though it's a priority of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and other coal-state lawmakers like Democrat Joe Manchin of West Virginia.

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The catchall spending bill is the first major piece of bipartisan legislation during Trump's short tenure. Democrats have been actively involved in the talks, which appear on track to produce a lowest-common-denominator measure that won't look much different than a deal that could have been reached on Obama's watch.

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Associated Press writers Andrew Taylor, Mary Clare Jalonick and Kevin Freking contributed to this report.

## **Trump: North Korea 'disrespected' China with missile test**

**By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Friday that North Korea had "disrespected" China by attempting to launch another ballistic missile.

Trump has said he is counting on Chinese President Xi Jinping to encourage North Korea to give up its pursuit of ballistic missile and nuclear weapons programs. Trump has also said he thinks Xi will do the right thing. China is North Korea's benefactor.

But Trump has also threatened to go it alone if Xi fails to deliver.

South Korea's military said Friday afternoon that North Korea had fired the missile from an area near the capital of Pyongyang, but provided no details.

U.S. and South Korean officials said the launch apparently failed, with the missile breaking apart a few minutes after launch.

Trump did not answer reporters' questions about the missile launch as he entered the White House after he returned from a daytrip to Atlanta. Shortly afterward, press secretary Sean Spicer said the White House was aware of the launch and Trump had been briefed on it.

Trump apparently reserved his comment about the launch for Twitter, writing on the social media site: "North Korea disrespected the wishes of China & its highly respected President when it launched, though unsuccessfully, a missile today. Bad!"

Trump has threatened North Korea with military action if it continues developing nuclear and ballistic missile programs. But he has also said he would prefer to resolve the issue through diplomacy.

Hours before the launch, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson chaired a U.N. Security Council meeting devoted to the North Korea issue and called for new sanctions against Pyongyang. Tillerson also urged other countries to exert pressure on North Korea.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said his country would adhere to past U.N. resolutions and wants a denuclearized Korean peninsula, but spelled out no further punitive steps his government might consider — despite Tillerson's assertions in an interview hours ahead of the council meeting that Beijing would impose sanctions of its own if North Korea conducts another nuclear test.

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## **Today in History** **By The Associated Press**

Today in History

Today is Saturday, April 29, the 119th day of 2017. There are 246 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 29, 1992, a jury in Simi Valley, California, acquitted four Los Angeles police officers of almost

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all state charges in the videotaped beating of motorist Rodney King; the verdicts were followed by several days of rioting in Los Angeles resulting in 55 deaths.

On this date:

In 1429, Joan of Arc entered the besieged city of Orleans to lead a French victory over the English.

In 1798, Joseph Haydn's oratorio "The Creation" was rehearsed in Vienna, Austria, before an invited audience.

In 1817, representatives of the United States and Britain concluded the Rush-Bagot Agreement, which limited the number of naval vessels allowed in the Great Lakes.

In 1861, the Maryland House of Delegates voted 53-13 against seceding from the Union. In Montgomery, Alabama, President Jefferson Davis asked the Confederate Congress for the authority to wage war.

In 1916, the Easter Rising in Dublin collapsed as Irish nationalists surrendered to British authorities.

In 1945, during World War II, American soldiers liberated the Dachau (DAH'-khow) concentration camp. Adolf Hitler married Eva Braun inside his "Führerbunker" and designated Adm. Karl Doenitz (DUHR'-nihtz) president.

In 1957, the SM-1, the first military nuclear power plant, was dedicated at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

In 1967, Aretha Franklin's cover of Otis Redding's "Respect" was released as a single by Atlantic Records.

In 1977, Pope Paul VI and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Donald Coggan, participated in a Christian unity service in the Vatican's Sistine Chapel.

In 1987, Ronnie DeSillers, a 7-year-old liver recipient whose story had prompted thousands of Americans, including President Ronald Reagan, to lend support, died at a Pittsburgh hospital while awaiting a fourth transplant.

In 1997, Staff Sgt. Delmar Simpson, a drill instructor at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland, was convicted of raping six female trainees (he was sentenced to 25 years in prison and dishonorably discharged). A worldwide treaty to ban chemical weapons went into effect. Astronaut Jerry Linenger and cosmonaut Vasily Tsibliyev (sihb-BLEE'-yehv) went on the first U.S.-Russian space walk. Pulitzer Prize-winning newspaper columnist Mike Royko died in Chicago at age 64.

In 2011, Britain's Prince William and Kate Middleton were married in an opulent ceremony at London's Westminster Abbey.

Ten years ago: A man shot and killed two people when he opened fire in the parking lot of the Ward Parkway Center in Kansas City, Missouri; the gunman was killed by a police officer inside the mall. (Police believed the gunman had also beaten to death his neighbor, Patricia Ann Reed.) An elevated section of highway that carried motorists from the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge to a number of freeways was destroyed after heat from an overturned gasoline truck caused part of one overpass to crumple onto another. St. Louis Cardinals relief pitcher Josh Hancock, 29, was killed in the crash of his sport utility vehicle.

Five years ago: Despite past differences, President Barack Obama and former President Bill Clinton began a summer fundraising blitz with an event in McLean, Virginia. An out-of-control SUV plunged more than 50 feet off the side of a New York City highway overpass and landed on the grounds of the Bronx Zoo, killing all seven people aboard, including three children.

One year ago: Hundreds of rowdy protesters broke through barricades and threw eggs at police outside a hotel in Burlingame, California, where Donald Trump addressed the state's Republican convention. Sharing a Vatican stage with Pope Francis, Vice President Joe Biden urged increased funding for

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cancer research during a conference on regenerative medicine. North Korea sentenced Kim Dong Chul, a U.S. citizen of Korean heritage, to 10 years in prison after convicting him of espionage and subversion. Joey Meek, a friend of Dylann Roof, the white man later convicted of killing nine black parishioners during a Bible study at a Charleston, South Carolina, church, pleaded guilty to lying to federal authorities. (Meek was sentenced in March 2017 to more than two years in prison.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Keith Baxter is 84. Bluesman Otis Rush is 82. Conductor Zubin Mehta is 81. Disgraced financier Bernard Madoff is 79. Pop singer Bob Miranda (The Happenings) is 75. Country singer Duane Allen (The Oak Ridge Boys) is 74. Singer Tommy James is 70. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., is 67. Movie director Phillip Noyce is 67. Country musician Wayne Secrest (Confederate Railroad) is 67. Comedian Jerry Seinfeld is 63. Actor Leslie Jordan is 62. Actress Kate Mulgrew is 62. Actor Daniel Day-Lewis is 60. Actress Michelle Pfeiffer is 59. Actress Eve Plumb is 59. Rock musician Phil King is 57. Country singer Stephanie Bentley is 54. Actor Vincent Ventresca is 51. Singer Carnie Wilson (Wilson Phillips) is 49. Actor Paul Adelstein is 48. Actress Uma Thurman is 47. International Tennis Hall of Famer Andre Agassi is 47. Rapper Master P is 47. Actor Darby Stanchfield is 46. Country singer James Bonamy is 45. Gospel/rhythm-and-blues singer Erica Campbell (Mary Mary) is 45. Rock musician Mike Hogan (The Cranberries) is 44. Actor Tyler Labine is 39. Actress Megan Boone is 34. Actress-model Taylor Cole is 33. Actor Zane Carney is 32. Pop singer Amy Heidemann (Karmin) is 31. Pop singer Foxes is 28.

Thought for Today: "Show me somebody who is always smiling, always cheerful, always optimistic, and I will show you somebody who hasn't the faintest idea what the heck is really going on." — Mike Royko (1932-1997).