

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Tuesday, May 9

**Senior Menu:** New England ham dinner, fruit cocktail cake, ice cream, whole wheat bread.

**School Lunch:** Submarines, sweet tots, fruit.

**School Breakfast:** Boscoss stick, fruit, juice, milk.

**Groton Schools:** Track at Britton, 2 p.m.

**United Methodist:** Bible Study, 10 a.m.

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

## Wednesday, May 10

**Senior Menu:** Lemon baked fish, rice pilaf, peas, peach crisp, whole wheat bread.

**School Lunch:** Garlic cheese bread, broccoli and dip, mixed vegetables, fruit.

**School Breakfast:** Pancake on stick, fruit, juice, milk.

**United Methodist:** Wednesday coffee time, 9 .m.; Finance meeting, 6 p.m.

**Emmanuel Lutheran:** League at 6:30 p.m.; Confirmation at 7 p.m.

## Thursday, May 11

**Senior Menu:** Turkey, mashed potatoes with gravy, baby glazed carrots, cheesecake with strawberry glaze, dinner roll.

**School Lunch:** Cook's choice.

**School Breakfast:** Cereal, yogurt, fruit, milk, juice.

**Groton Schools:** Girls golf at Madison, 11 a.m.

## Friday, May 12

**Senior Menu:** Hearty Vegetable Beef SOup, chicken salad sandwich, Mandarin oranges, Oat-meal raisin cookie.

**School Lunch:** Ham and cheese, smiley potato, carrots and dip, fruit.

**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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## Dr. Schwan receives Poling Award

E. Gordon Poling Administrator Award Winner: Dr. Anna Schwan, pictured with Ashley Seeklander and Jodi Sternhagen. The Poling nominee must have demonstrated an understanding of the counseling profession and unqualified support of it and must be in some kind of supervisory position over counselors, counselor-interns, or students of counseling. Seeklander and Sternhagen nominated Dr. Schwan for the award. Pictured are Seeklander, Dr. Schwan and Sternhagen.



Photo from SD Counseling Assoc. Facebook Page

## Seven applicants so far for MS/HS Principal

Superintendent Joe Schwan reported at the school board meeting Monday night that there are seven applicants for the middle/high school principal. He has extended the deadline for applicants by two weeks to May 19th, hoping to get about 20 applicants. Dr. Anna Schwan has resigned as the Groton Area middle/high school principal and is taking a teaching position at Northern State University.

Business Manager Michael J. Weber reported that the school district's new evaluation will bring in an additional \$43,000 local general fund taxes. The new evaluation is \$1.329 billion, compared to \$1.233 billion last year.

The agreement with the North Central Special Education Cooperative was approved. There are now nine schools in the coop as Edmunds Central is a new member. The annual fee is based on K-12 enrollment, which is different from the past. Previously it was based on enrollment numbers of PK-12.

Alexa Schuring will be the new JK/K teacher next year. Superintendent Joe Schwan reported that it was a very competitive pool of applicants with 22 applying for the job.

Todd Peterson was hired as the middle school special education teacher. He was previously from Sioux Falls and brings in 21 years of experience to special education.

Dr. Anna Schwan reported that Keri Pappas attended the Academic Excellence Awards Banquet on April 24. Several middle school students received a 1+ rating at the middle school band festival held Saturday in Webster. They were Rease Jandel, Braden Freeman, Erin Unzen and Hunter Kassube.

Dr. Schwan also reported that the President's Award for Educational Excellence was announced with the students having a GPA of 3.5 or higher and standardized test achievement at the 85th percentile or higher in math or reading and they are Nathan Fjelstad, Patrick Gengerke, Alexis Harder, Thane Henschel, Landon Marzahn, Keri Pappas, Erin Smith and Trey Wright.

Work is going very well on the elementary school project. Superintendent Joe Schwan reported that the footings and foundation walls have been poured and tested and backfilling has been done. Dahme Construction has been working to install the necessary storm drains which run south from the parking area along the fence and connect on the southeast corner of the elementary lot. Schwan reported that contractors are working very well together.

## Colestock places fourth at Groton Invite

Payton Colestock placed fourth at the Groton girls golf invitational held Monday at the Olive Grove Golf Course. She had a score of 95. Other Groton golfers were Ashley Flihs with a score of 109, Taylor Holm with a 123, Portia Kettering with a 144 and Jennie Doeden with a score of 180.

## New at GDI Living Heart Fitness



Vicki Jorgenson was the first person to use the new elliptical machine at the GDI Living Heart Fitness. A new treadmill was also added. Special thanks to Jordan, Doug, Wes and Kelby for helping to haul the "beasts" into the center!



## Kosel is top fundraiser for Hoops for Heart

Jeslyn Kosel, fourth grade student at Groton Area Elementary School, was the top fundraiser for the second straight year for the Hoops for Heart. She is pictured with the prizes that she earned. Previously, her sister, Julianna, was the top fundraiser for Hoops for Hearts for two years.

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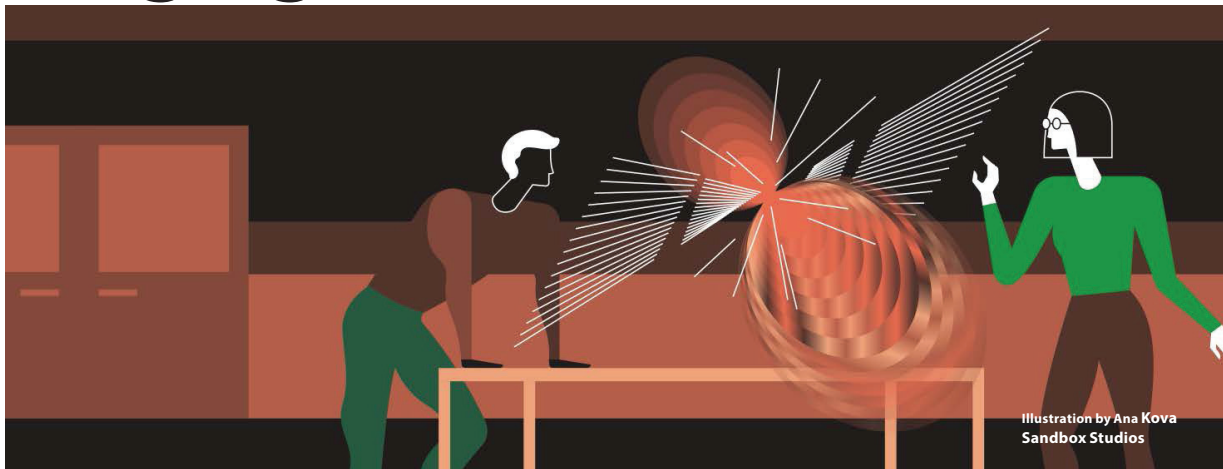
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## Deep Thoughts

Notes from the underground by Communications Director Constance Walter

Monday, May 8, 2017

# Forging Elements Inside Stars



The nuclear burning inside collapsing stars produces all the elements in the universe heavier than iron. Carbon, nitrogen and calcium—even the lead, gold and the rock beneath our feet come from stars. And researchers with the Compact Accelerator System for Performing Astrophysical Research (CASPAR) want to know how that happens.

Using a low-energy accelerator located on the 4850 Level of Sanford Lab, they'll fire a beam of alpha particles at various targets to try to mimic the nuclear fusion that occurs deep inside stars.

"The idea of studying stellar processes from deep underground may seem outlandish," said Daniel Robertson, technical coordinator for the CASPAR collaboration. "But in doing so, we hope to unravel the secrets of energy generation and the elemental production that makes stars shine."

Robertson will discuss the CASPAR experiment Thursday, May 11, during his Deep Talks presentation, "Forging Elements Inside Stars."

A research assistant professor

at Notre Dame's Nuclear Science Laboratory and a visiting researcher at CERN in the cryogenics division, Robertson initially began his work with the DIANA (Dual Ion Accelerators for Nuclear Astrophysics) experiment. It transitioned to CASPAR in 2013.

The 50-foot-long accelerator system was used above ground at Notre Dame for more than 10 years before being moved to Sanford Lab in 2015. It is fully assembled and its control system has undergone initial testing. Operations could begin this week.

"We are poised at the point of first ion beam production," Robertson said. "With the go-ahead for first beam,

CASPAR will become only the second accelerator lab of its kind in the world, and the only one in the United States."

Frank Strieder, the principal investigator for CASPAR and associate professor of physics at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, will join Robertson at the Deep Talks presentation. Strieder, who worked for more than 20 years with LUNA (Laboratory for Underground Nuclear Astrophysics) at Gran Sasso Laboratory in Italy, is eager to begin operations.

"A better understanding of the stars, allows researchers a greater understanding of the universe," Strieder said.

Deep  
talks  
Science for Everyone

Thursday, May 11, Sanford Lab Homestake Visitor Center, 160 W. Main, Lead, S.D. Social hour, 5 p.m.; talk, 6 p.m. Free beer from Crow Peak Brewing Company in Spearfish is available for those 21 and older. Deep Talks is sponsored by Sanford Lab, the Sanford Lab Homestake Visitor Center, Lynn's Dakota Mart and Crow Peak Brewing Company in Spearfish.

## South Dakota Gas Prices Stabilize

May 8, 2017 – South Dakota's gas price average has stabilized at \$2.36 per gallon which is the same as last week and one month ago. Although we're 18 cents over last year, the highest 2017 gas price average in the state has been \$2.40 on April 13.

Today's national average price for regular unleaded gasoline is \$2.35 per gallon, which is four cents less than one week and one month ago, and 14 cents more than the same date last year. "AAA says the trending decline is due to an unseasonable glut of gasoline in the U.S. market, record high refinery production rates, moderate demand and a recent drop in crude oil prices," said Marilyn Buskohl, spokeswoman for AAA South Dakota.

Last week according to GasPrices.AAA.com, 46 states saw prices drop – some by at least 9 cents - with prices remaining steady in other parts of the country.

Current Price Averages per Gallon of Regular Gasoline

Sioux Falls – \$2.24, down 3 cents from one month ago ... up 18 cents since 5/8/16

Rapid City – \$2.42, up 3 cents from one month ago ... up 23 cents since 5/8/16

South Dakota – \$2.36, same as one month ago ... up 18 cents since 5/8/16

U.S. – \$2.35, down 4 cents from one month ago ... up 14 cents since 5/8/16

### Quick Stats

The nation's top ten markets with the largest weekly decreases include: Ohio (-9 cents), Michigan (-9 cents), Indiana (-9 cents), Illinois (-7 cents), Delaware (-6 cents), Kentucky (-6 cents), Missouri (-6 cents), Florida (-5 cents), Kansas (-5 cents) and Maryland (-4 cents).

The nation's top ten markets with the biggest changes in the last year include: Alaska (+44 cents), Hawaii (+42 cents), Washington (+40 cents), Oregon (+34 cents), New Jersey (+30 cents), New Mexico (+27 cents), Montana (+26 cents), North Dakota (+24 cents), Nevada (+21 cents) and Pennsylvania (+21 cents).

### Global Market Dynamics

Market watchers say oil prices may start to rebound after encouraging remarks from the Russian and Saudi Arabian energy ministers over the weekend. The energy ministers stated that there is budding consensus to extend production cuts beyond the June 30 deadline and into 2018, signaling that OPEC and non-OPEC producers are willing to take necessary steps to rebalance the market. Since the cuts were enacted, U.S. oil production has increased more than 10 percent since mid-2016 to a total of 9.3 million barrels per day and close to levels of the world's top producers – Russia and Saudi Arabia.

With some market predictions suggesting that U.S. production could soon reach 10 million barrels per day, OPEC and its partners must continue to restrict supply if their market correction goals are to be achieved. Additionally, U.S. drillers added 6 more oil rigs, bringing the total rig count to 703 and marking 16 weeks of growth, according to last week's data from energy services firm Baker Hughes Inc. The U.S. rig count is now up a whopping 375 oil rigs when compared to last year's count at this time. Continued increases in the supply and exploration of crude will certainly counter OPEC's efforts to rebalance the market. Only time will tell if supply restrictions and rising demand will shorten the oversupply – and ultimately lead to higher retail prices at the pump.

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## Today in Weather History

May 9, 1999: Torrential rains of two to five inches fell in Lyman County during the late evening hours which caused flash flooding on Medicine Creek. The KOA Campgrounds near Kennebec were flooded including the main facility. Several roads were also flooded and damaged along Medicine Creek. Storm total rainfall in Kennebec was 3.40 inches. Also, a weak F0 tornado touched down briefly three miles south of Reliance with no damage reported. Winds gusting to 70 mph knocked over a 4000-bushel holding bin near Revillo.

1918: An F4 tornado moved across Floyd, Chickasaw, and Winneshiek Counties in northeast Iowa from two miles north of Pearl Rock to Calmar. Two people died just east of Calmar when the tornado was a mile wide. Losses in and near Calmar totaled \$250,000. Overall, this tornado killed seven people and injured 15 others.

1933: An estimated F4 tornado moved through Monroe, Cumberland, and Russell Counties in Kentucky along a 60-mile path. The town of Tompkinsville, KY was the hardest hit with 18 people killed. Overall, 36 people lost their lives.

1966: Record snows fell in the northeastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania, including 3.1 inches at Pittsburgh and 5.4 inches at Youngstown Ohio. Snow also extended across parts of New York State with eight inches reported in the southern Adirondacks.

1977 - A late season snowstorm hit parts of Pennsylvania, New York State, and southern and central New England. Heavier snowfall totals included 27 inches at Slide Mountain NY and 20 inches at Norwalk CT. At Boston it was the first May snow in 107 years of records. The heavy wet snow caused extensive damage to trees and power lines. The homes of half a million persons were without power following the storm. (9th-10th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1985 - Lightning struck some trees about 150 yards away from a home in Alabama, and followed the driveway to the home. The charge went through the house and burned all the electrical outlets, ruined appliances, and blasted a hole in the concrete floor of the basement. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Unseasonably warm weather spread from the Pacific Northwest to the Upper Mississippi Valley. Fifteen cities reported record high temperatures for the date. It was the fourth day of record warmth for Eugene OR and Salem OR. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - A massive cyclone in the central U.S. produced severe thunderstorms from eastern Texas to the Upper Ohio Valley. A strong (F-3) tornado ripped through Middleboro KY causing more than 22 million dollars damage. Thunderstorms in east central Texas produced hail three and a half inches in diameter at Groesbeck, and near Fairfield. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)


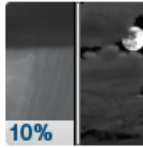





1989 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front in the south central U.S. produced golf ball size hail and wind gusts to 62 mph at Mira LA, and during the morning hours drenched Stuttgart AR with five inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990: The 1990 Machilipatnam Cyclone was the worst disaster to affect Southern India since the 1977 Andhra Pradesh cyclone. This category four on the Saffir-Simpson scale had a severe impact on India, with over 967 people reported having been killed. Over 100,000 animals also died in the cyclone with the total cost of damages to crops estimated at over \$600 million (1990 USD).

1995: An F3 tornado produced \$10 million in damages along its 40-mile path across central Illinois. The tornado caused significant damage in Cantrall where three homes were destroyed, 10 had major damage, and 11 had minor damage. The roof and interior of a grade school suffered extensive damage. The tornado passed about 2 miles southeast of the new NWS Office in Lincoln, Illinois.

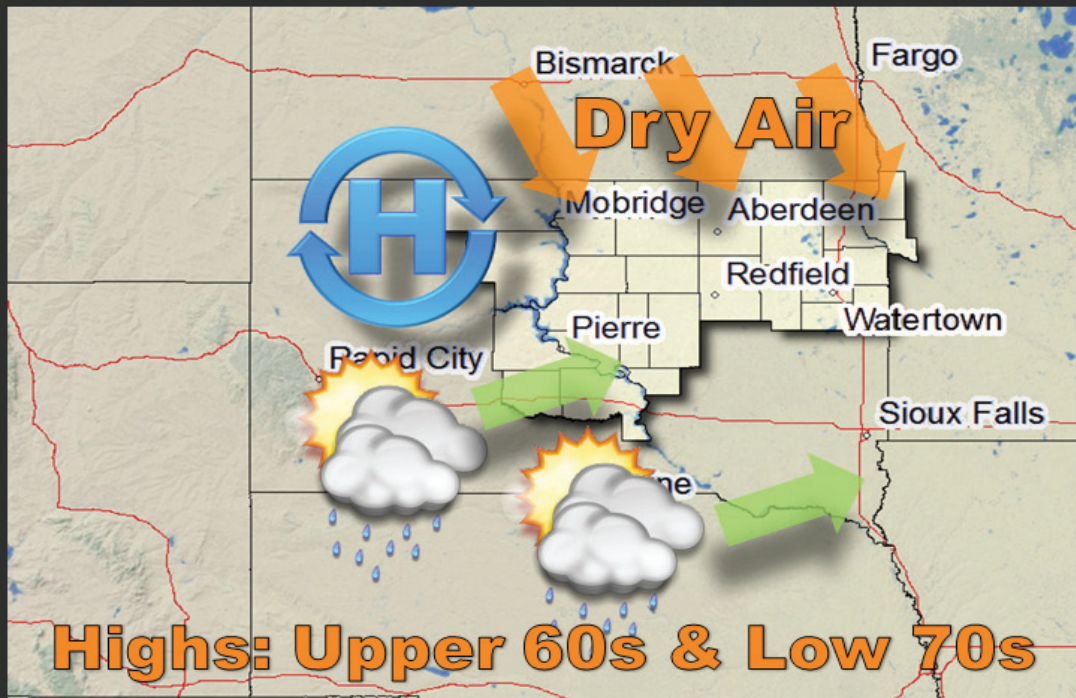
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| Today   | Tonight   | Wednesday   | Wednesday Night   | Thursday   | Thursday Night  | Friday  |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mostly Sunny then Slight Chance Showers   | Slight Chance Showers then Mostly Cloudy  | Partly Sunny  | Mostly Clear  | Mostly Sunny   | Partly Cloudy   | Mostly Sunny  |
| High: 70 °F   | Low: 46 °F  | High: 73 °F   | Low: 43 °F  | High: 74 °F  | Low: 46 °F  | High: 75 °F   |

## Mild And Mostly Dry

Isolated Light Showers Moving In From Nebraska Fighting Dry Air From The North



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 5/9/2017 4:45 AM Central

Published on: 05/09/2017 at 4:49AM

Light shower activity moving north out of Nebraska will encounter high pressure and dry air. Any showers that do make it into central and northeast South Dakota will be light with little expected moisture. Dry conditions continue through the week with near average temperatures.

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## Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 74.8 F at 11:37 AM

Low Outside Temp: 49.3 F at 11:52 PM

High Gust: 36.0 Mph at 3:11 PM

Snow:    Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

Record High: 93° in 1992

Record Low: 21° in 1966

Average High: 67°F

Average Low: 42°F

Average Precip in May: 0.92

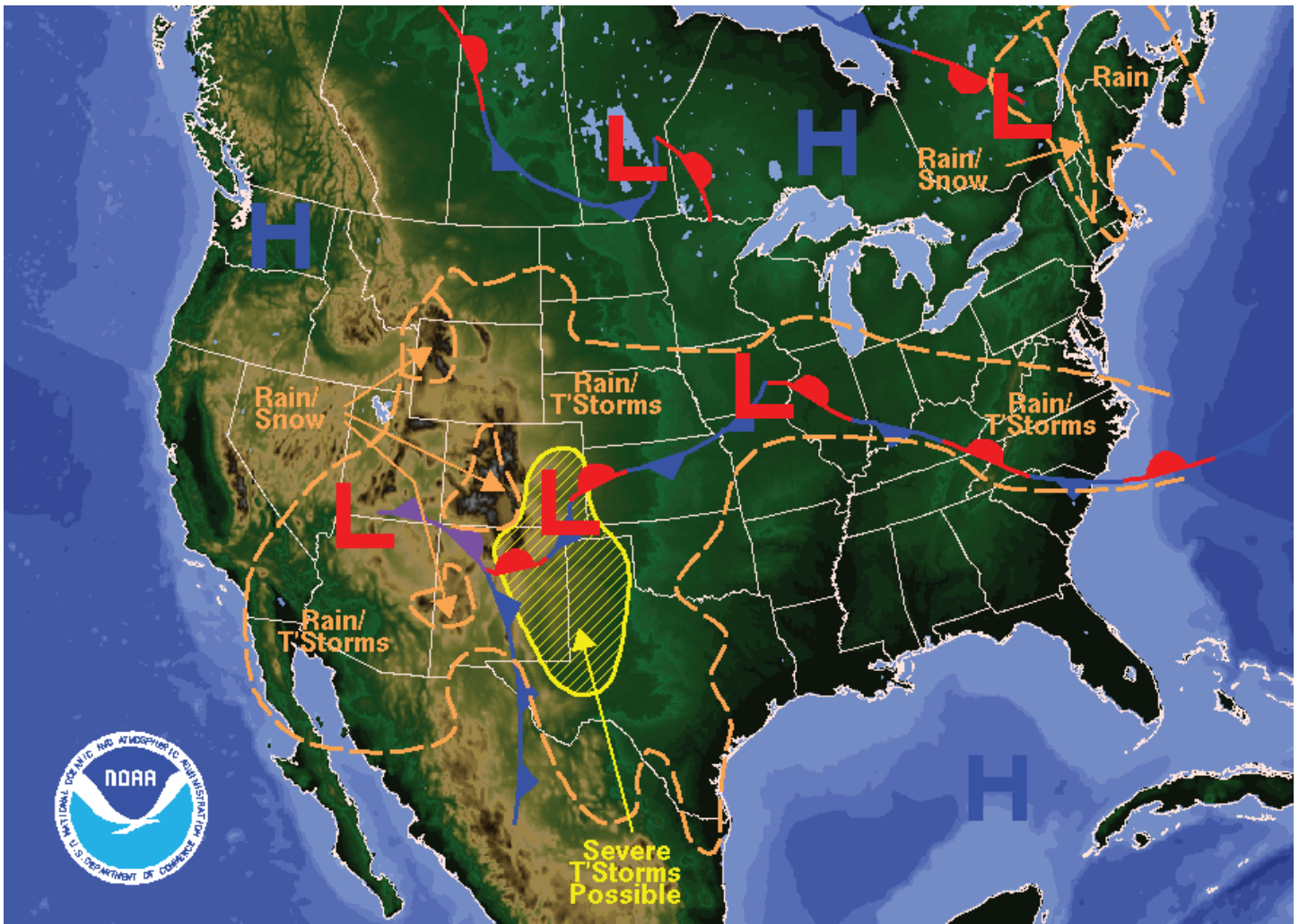
Precip to date in May: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 4.95

Precip Year to Date: 1.98

Sunset Tonight: 8:50 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:08 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Tue, May 09, 2017, issued 4:21 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Mcreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



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## WATCHING OUR WORDS

Years ago, while serving as a Navy chaplain, I was ordered to "park my car" in a specially designated area and stand beside it. I was rather amazed that a chaplain and an officer would be subjected to such scrutiny. I had my uniform on with the proper "symbols" to announce my status. Why I, of all people, was being searched, I asked. Looking at me as he would have looked at any other person, he said in a quiet, yet stern voice, "Just a routine matter, Sir." Only later was I told that a critical item was missing from the armory. He was ordered to carefully guard against anything leaving the installation without the commanding officer's approval.

David went to God with an unusual request: "Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord; keep a watch over the door of my lips." David knew that he might say something that could be dangerous and destructive to others. But he had a solution: Ask God for a guard to control his speech. He did not want any evil words to exit his mouth that could harm others. No doubt he had been harmed by the words of others and knew how painful harmful words could be.

Jesus said, "Nothing that enters a man from the outside can make him unclean...for from within, out of a man's heart, come evil thoughts (that) make a man 'unclean.'" Jesus knew how to stop "harmful words and deeds." Keep them away from me and me away from them.

David was aware of this. So, he also asked God for something else that was very important: "Let not my heart be drawn to what is evil." Why? Evil in - evil out.

Prayer: Lord, Your advice is so practical and purposeful. May it "take over" our hearts and keep us from evil. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 141:3 Set a guard over my mouth, Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips.

## News from the Associated Press

### **Ex-Sioux Falls chief arrested on suspicion of child porn**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say former Sioux Falls Fire Rescue Chief Jim Sideras has been arrested for suspected possession of child pornography.

The Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office said Monday that the charges are the result of a search warrant carried out last week.

A court filing says that an email address linked to Sideras received at least two emails with child pornography attached from an email account under investigation by the Massachusetts State Police.

Sideras was to leave his post at the end of June after serving almost 34 years with Sioux Falls Fire Rescue, but city officials fired him last week.

It wasn't clear if Sideras has an attorney. He hasn't answered telephone calls for comment from The Associated Press since the search warrant was carried out.

### **Dakota Alliance Soccer Club to host Daniel Ohayon tourney**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The Dakota Alliance Soccer Club will host the 30th annual Daniel Ohayon Memorial Invitational Soccer Tournament in Sioux Falls this weekend.

The tournament will involve 175 teams ages U9 to U19. More than 2,000 soccer players and their families are expected to come to the Sioux Falls area.

The tourney will include 22 fields at Yankton Trail Park, seven fields at Tomar Park and four fields at the Sanford Sports Complex. Teams are coming from five states as well as F.C. Northwest from Canada.

On Saturday night, the invitational will play host to the inaugural game for Sioux Falls' newest semi-pro soccer team, the Sioux Falls Thunder, playing Fargo.

The Ohayon Invitational is in its 30th year and is named after the late longtime Dakota Alliance soccer coach Daniel Ohayon.

### **Senate confirms Trump's choice for Air Force secretary**

**By RICHARD LARDNER, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate has confirmed Heather Wilson as Air Force secretary, making her President Donald Trump's first service secretary nominee to be approved by the GOP-led chamber after fits and starts for several others.

Senators voted 76-22 Monday to approve Wilson, who represented New Mexico in the House before becoming a defense industry consultant. Her post-congressional work drew scrutiny for several Democrats, who had questioned an arrangement with government laboratories that paid her \$20,000 a month. Wilson denied any impropriety.

Sen. Jack Reed of Rhode Island, the top Democrat on the Armed Services Committee, said he voted against Wilson's nomination because of his lingering concerns with the payments. Reed also cited as troubling a call Wilson made a decade ago while still a member of Congress to a federal prosecutor handling a politically charged corruption probe.

Trump's attempts to fill the other two service secretary jobs have failed so far. His picks for secretaries of the Army and Navy were forced to withdraw from consideration.

Mark Green, Trump's second choice for Army secretary, stepped aside late last week amid growing criticism over his remarks about Muslims, and gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans.

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The president's first pick to be the Army's top civilian, Vincent Viola, dropped out in early February because of financial entanglements, and about three weeks later Philip B. Bilden, the Navy secretary nominee, withdrew for similar reasons.

The Trump administration has been slow to fill many other senior civilian posts at the Pentagon, leaving Defense Secretary Jim Mattis short of the support he needs to manage the nation's vast military enterprise. The Senate Armed Services Committee is holding confirmation hearings Tuesday for three important financial positions at the Defense Department: comptroller, deputy comptroller and director of cost assessment and program evaluation.

After serving five terms in Congress from New Mexico, Wilson collected nearly half a million dollars in questionable payments from federally funded nuclear labs, the Energy Department's inspector general said in a 2013 report. Wilson failed to provide documentation for the consulting work she did to earn \$20,000 a month from the Los Alamos and Sandia national labs in New Mexico from January 2009 to March 2011, the report said.

Wilson deflected questions about the payments, saying during her Senate confirmation hearing that she'd performed the work and that the inspector general had found no fault with her.

The telephone call referenced by Reed, the senator from Rhode Island, was made by Wilson in October 2006 to David Iglesias, a U.S. attorney in New Mexico. Iglesias was one of seven federal prosecutors fired a few months later by the Bush administration. At the time, Iglesias was handling a number of public corruption cases. Reed said the call raised the possibility Iglesias may have felt pressured by Congress in an ongoing investigation. Wilson said she did nothing improper.

Wilson served as an Air Force officer in Europe during the 1980s and was on the National Security Council staff under President George H.W. Bush during the fall of the Berlin Wall. She graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1982 and later earned master's and doctoral degrees as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University in England. Wilson is the first graduate of the academy to hold the service's top civilian post.

Wilson said that once confirmed she would resign as president of the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology. She'd also assured the Defense Department's general counsel that she would divest of stocks she holds in companies that do work for the U.S. military, including Intel, IBM, Honeywell and Raytheon.

Sen. John McCain of Arizona, the Republican chairman of the Armed Services Committee, called Wilson a "proven leader" and said she would lead the service to a stronger future.

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Reach Richard Lardner on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/rplardner>

## **South Dakota planting advances, thanks to warm, dry weather**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota farmers are making progress on their spring planting, thanks to warmer, drier weather.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says while last week began with rain and snow in some places, it ended with highs in the 80s and low 90s statewide. There were 5.5 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday.

Topsoil moisture declined with the drier weather. Topsoil moisture supplies were rated 24 percent short or very short, 73 percent adequate and 3 surplus.

Spring wheat planting was 94 percent, which is above the 90 percent at this time last year and the five-year average of 81 percent. Spring wheat was 71 percent emerged, about the same as 72 percent a year ago but way ahead of the 51 percent average.

## Missing 3-year-old boy found safe in southern North Dakota

ELLENDALE, N.D. (AP) — Authorities say a missing 3-year-old boy has been found safe after an all-night search in southern North Dakota.

Dickey County Emergency Manager Charlie Russell says the boy was found a couple of miles from his home, which is about six miles southeast of Ellendale near the South Dakota border.

Russell tells KFGO-AM (<http://bit.ly/2qiP7Pm>) the child was spotted about 9 a.m. Monday near a bridge on the Maple River. The boy was tired and hungry, but otherwise OK.

The boy had wandered away from his home about 8 p.m. Sunday. The North Dakota State Patrol, authorities from Dickey and Brown counties, South Dakota deputies and the Civil Air Patrol took part in the search along with volunteers on all-terrain vehicles.

Information from: KFGO-AM, <http://www.kfgo.com>

## Trump tabs Minnesota Justice Stras for federal appeals court

By STEVE KARNOWSKI, Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Minnesota Supreme Court Associate Justice David Stras, who was nominated by President Donald Trump to the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Monday, once clerked for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and believes in a limited role for the judiciary.

Stras, 42, a former University of Minnesota Law School professor, was on Trump's list of possible Supreme Court nominees. The 8th Circuit serves Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, and Arkansas.

The nomination is subject to Senate confirmation. Sen. Al Franken, a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said in a statement he would take a close look at Stras' record. He criticized a nomination process that he said "relied heavily on guidance from far-right ... special interest groups."

Stras planned to issue a statement later Monday.

When Stras was appointed to the Minnesota court in 2010 by then-Gov. Tim Pawlenty, Thomas traveled to Minnesota to administer the oath.

"I remain mindful that the role of a judge is a limited one, and that judges can't solve every problem," Stras said then. "But at the same time, judges play a crucial role in safeguarding liberty and protecting the rights of all citizens."

Stras has held to those beliefs, said Peter Knapp, a professor at Mitchell Hamline School of Law.

He cited a 2014 ruling overturning the criminal conviction of a man who failed to pay child support. Larry Nelson was convicted under a statute that obligated him "to provide care and support" to his children. His lawyers argued that the state failed to prove he didn't provide "care" to them. In a majority opinion written by Stras, the court concluded that the law required the state to prove that Nelson failed to provide BOTH care AND support.

"He said 'And means and,'" Knapp said, noting that the Legislature changed the law in its next session.

Retired Justice Alan Page, a former Minnesota Viking who was the state's first black Supreme Court justice, said Stras is not an ideologue and they often ended up on the same side despite their different backgrounds and experiences.

"I suspect there are those who would be surprised we agreed with each other as much as we did," Page said.

Stras' departure would give Democratic Gov. Mark Dayton another seat to fill on a state Supreme

Court where his appointees already hold a 4-3 majority.

Associated Press writer Kyle Potter contributed to this story from St. Paul.

## Lyman county man arrested on first-degree murder charge

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Attorney General Marty Jackley says a Lyman County man has been arrested after an incident this month in which a 7-week-old infant died.

Jackley and Lyman County States Attorney Steve Smith said Monday that the man was arrested Saturday on one count of first-degree murder. If convicted of first-degree murder, the penalty would be death or a mandatory life sentence.

Court records didn't list an attorney for the man who could comment on his behalf.

## South Dakota tourism outlook strong, despite no big events

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota officials expressed optimism Monday that the state will have another strong tourism season this summer, even without major anniversaries that have drawn large numbers of visitors in recent years.

Tourism Secretary Jim Hagen said preliminary information for the 2017 summer season looks positive, even without landmark events. The 75th Sturgis Motorcycle Rally was held in 2015, and last year marked the 75th anniversary of the completion of the Mount Rushmore National Memorial and the centennial celebration for the National Park Service.

"When we look at some of the stats that are coming in, we really feel very hopeful, despite not having these epic anniversaries, that it's going to be another solid summer," Hagen said.

The peak summer tourism period typically runs from about Memorial Day into September. Gov. Dennis Daugaard is hoping for the state's "best travel season ever" this year, he said after a tourism event in Sioux Falls.

The state Department of Tourism says hotel revenue was up in the first quarter of 2017 compared to the same period last year, and visits to many national parks also increased.

Visits in the first quarter to the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site are up more than 57 percent over last year, according to the department. Superintendent Eric Leonard said that the site drew roughly 100,500 people in 2015 and about 134,000 visitors in 2016, and he's aiming for 150,000 this year.

Leonard in part attributes the growth to a highly visible visitor center finished in 2014 that has since been populated with exhibits.

"We're really excited for the summer," he said. "There's a lot going on here."

The tourism department has said last year was the seventh consecutive year of economic growth for tourism in South Dakota. A study by Tourism Economics found that 13.9 million people visited South Dakota in 2016, an increase of 1.4 percent from the previous year.

Visitors spent \$3.8 billion last year — a jump of 1.5 percent — and generated more than \$279 million in state and local taxes. The study also found tourism supported more than 53,000 jobs in South Dakota last year.

## South Dakota looks to cut number of deer hunting licenses

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department wants to cut the number of deer hunting licenses and tags available for the next two years for the state's two largest deer seasons

by more than 10,000.

Proposals presented Thursday would cut doe licenses more drastically, with the East River seeing a 44 percent reduction, to just under 13,000 tags, and the West River seeing a 33 percent reduction, to about 5,800 tags, the Capital Journal reported (<http://bit.ly/2qJH1z4> ).

Buck tags in the East River would be reduced by 5 percent to just under 18,900. Buck tags in the West River would see a 2 percent drop, to just over 16,000.

The department says that last year, 44 percent of East River deer hunters were successful, while 53 percent of hunters in the West River were successful.

However, Black Hills had a hunter success rate of about 72 percent in 2016. It ties with 2015 for having the highest hunter success rate in the late five years. The Black Hills season proposal asks for an increase of about 200 licenses, raising the license total to 4,300.

The East River season proposal also contains a request for a new hunting unit along the Missouri River in Brule county. It would be comprised only of public land and have 30, single-tag firearm licenses issued.

The proposals are scheduled to receive a public hearing and commission vote June 8.

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Information from: Pierre Capital Journal, <http://www.capjournal.com>

## **Flandreau tribe sues state over contractor's excise tax**

FLANDREAU, S.D. (AP) — The Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe is suing the state of South Dakota over a contractors' excise tax tied to the expansion of its Royal River Casino.

The tribe says the state is intruding into tribal sovereignty and is breaking federal laws that regulate commerce on reservations. The state says it's entitled to the contractors' excise tax for the casino expansion.

The Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2qSXzSy> ) says it's not the first time the Flandreau and the state have been at odds. The tribe recently announced plans to grow and sell marijuana on the reservation. After drawing the ire of state officials, the tribe withdrew its plans.

The tribe's multi-million dollar project doubles the number of casino slots to 1,000. The tribe argues its gaming compact does not include a provision authorizing the state to collect the excise tax.

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

## **Paddleboat leaks oil-diesel mix into Pierre-area marina**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A paddleboat moored in the Oahe Downstream Recreation Area Marina leaked fuel oil and diesel when water came over the back of the boat and sunk its lower end into the shallows near the shore.

Authorities say only a small amount of an oil-diesel mix leaked into the water on Friday, and they don't believe any of it drifted out of the marina. The Pierre Fire Department deployed booms at the scene to contain and collect the mix.

The Capital Journal reports (<http://bit.ly/2qhjeH7> ) that a damage estimate to the boat owned by Steamboat Inc. wasn't immediately available.

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Information from: Pierre Capital Journal, <http://www.capjournal.com>

## South Dakota's Mr. Basketball and Miss Basketball named

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's Mr. Basketball and Miss Basketball were named over the weekend.

O'Gorman's Matt Cartwright matched a school record with 68 3-pointers. He shot 56 percent from the field and scored 505 total points, second most in school history, leading O'Gorman to the Class AA championship. He'll play for Augustana next year.

Sanborn Central/Woonsocket's Myah Selland averaged 20 points, 8 rebounds and nearly 5 assists per game, while contributing 84 steals and 60 blocks on defense. The future South Dakota State Jackrabbit finishes her high school career with 2,219 points, 964 rebounds and more than 500 assists.

## Exit polls in South Korea forecast win for liberal Moon

By **HYUNG-JIN KIM and KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Exit polls in South Korea forecast that liberal candidate Moon Jae-in will win an election Tuesday to succeed ousted President Park Geun-hye.

Official results weren't expected for hours, but the exit poll of about 89,000 voters at 330 polling stations, jointly commissioned by three major television stations and released just after polls closed, showed Moon receiving 41.4 percent of the vote.

His two main rivals, conservative Hong Joon-pyo and centrist Ahn Cheol-soo, were expected to garner 23.3 percent and 21.8 percent, respectively, according to the exit poll, which had a margin of error of 0.8 percentage points.

Such polls are merely a snapshot of the stated intentions of certain voters.

The final opinion surveys released last week showed Moon, the Democratic Party candidate, had about a 20 percentage point lead over his two main challengers.

A win by Moon would end a decade of conservative rule in South Korea and could result in sharp departures from recent policy toward nuclear-armed North Korea.

Moon has called for engagement with North Korea, saying that the hard-line approach favored by conservative governments did nothing to prevent the North from expanding its nuclear bomb and missile programs and only reduced South Korea's voice in international efforts to deal with its rival.

The winning candidate will be officially sworn in as South Korea's new president after the election commission finishes the vote count and declares the winner Wednesday morning. This forgoes the usual two-month transition because Tuesday's vote was a by-election to choose a successor to Park, whose term was to end in February 2018.

Following months of protests by millions and impeachment by lawmakers, Park was removed from office and arrested in March over corruption allegations. The new South Korean president will still serve out a full, single five-year term.

"I gave all my body and soul (to the election) to the very end," Moon, 64, told reporters Tuesday after casting his ballot in Seoul.

Moon was chief of staff for the last liberal president, the late Roh Moo-hyun, who sought closer ties with North Korea by setting up large-scale aid shipments to the North and by working on now-stalled joint economic projects.

Hong, an outspoken former provincial governor who pitched himself as a "strongman," described the election as a war between ideologies and questioned Moon's patriotism.

After voting, Hong said the election was a "war of regime choices between people, whether they decide to accept a North Korea-sympathizing leftist government or a government that can protect the

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liberty of the Republic of Korea," South Korea's formal name.

Park's trial later this month on bribery, extortion and other corruption charges could send her to jail for life if she is convicted. Dozens of high-profile figures, including Park's longtime confidante, Choi Soon-sil, and Samsung's de facto leader, Lee Jae-yong, have been indicted along with Park.

Moon frequently appeared at anti-Park rallies and the corruption scandal boosted his push to re-establish liberal rule. He called for reforms to reduce social inequalities, excessive presidential power and corrupt ties between politicians and business leaders. Many of those legacies dated to the dictatorship of Park's father, Park Chung-hee, whose 18-year rule was marked by both rapid economic rise and severe civil rights abuse.

As a former pro-democracy student activist, Moon was jailed for months in the 1970s while protesting against the senior Park.

Many analysts say Moon, if elected, likely won't pursue drastic rapprochement policies because North Korea's nuclear program has progressed significantly since he was in the Roh government a decade ago.

A big challenge for whoever wins will be U.S. President Donald Trump, who has proven himself unconventional in his approach to North Korea, swinging between intense pressure and threats and offers to talk.

"South Koreans are more concerned that Trump, rather than North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, will make a rash military move, because of his outrageous tweets, threats of force and unpredictability," Duyeon Kim, a visiting fellow at the Korean Peninsula Future Forum in Seoul, wrote recently in Foreign Affairs magazine.

"It is crucial that Trump and the next South Korean president strike up instant, positive chemistry in their first meeting to help work through any bilateral differences and together deal with the North Korean challenge," she said.

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Associated Press writer Foster Klug contributed to this report.

## 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. POST-PARK ERA UNFOLDING IN SOUTH KOREA

Exit polls in South Korea are forecasting a win by liberal candidate Moon Jae-in in an election to succeed ousted President Park Geun-hye.

### 2. CHILD WEBCAM SEX BUST REVEALS RISING ABUSE

Pedophiles in the U.S., Canada, Europe and Australia pay facilitators in the Philippines to sexually abuse children, directing their moves through online livestreaming services, The AP finds.

### 3. US SEEKS EVIDENCE OF HAITIAN CRIMES AS IT WEIGHS THEIR STAY

The Trump administration would then decide whether to allow them to continue participating in a humanitarian program that's shielded tens of thousands from deportation since a devastating earthquake in 2010, The AP learns.

### 4. WHERE NEW FRENCH LEADER IS UNTESTED

Emmanuel Macron will quickly discover that foreign policy — an area not yet in his comfort zone — will eat up buckets of his time.

### 5. HOW SERIAL STREET SHOOTER CASE WAS CRACKED



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Phoenix police are crediting the tips they received as a former city bus driver is arrested, but not before nine people were slain.

## 6. COURT SKEPTICAL OF TRUMP TRAVEL BAN ARGUMENT

The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Virginia, appears unconvinced that it should ignore the Republican's promises on the campaign trail to bar Muslims from entering the country.

## 7. OBAMA STARTS DEFINING NEW ROLE IN AGE OF TRUMP

The former U.S. president is emerging for a series of paid and unpaid speeches, drawing sharp contrasts with the Republican even as he avoids saying the new president's name.

## 8. FUNDS DRY UP FOR OREGON TIMBER COUNTRY

Voters in some counties will have to decide whether to approve more taxes to keep libraries open and sheriff's deputies on the streets.

## 9. JIMMY KIMMEL ZINGS CRITICS

In his return to late-night TV, the comedian argued again that all Americans deserve the level of health care given his infant son.

## 10. WHAT LA LEADERS ARE AIMING TO DO

Los Angeles is trying to sell their plan to host the Olympic Games to visiting members of the International Olympic Committee, as the 2024 and 2028 Olympics are both in play.

## Back on TV, Kimmel zings critics of his health care plea

By LYNN ELBER, AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jimmy Kimmel zinged his critics as he returned to late-night TV and resumed arguing that Americans deserve the level of health care given his infant son.

Back on ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live" Monday after a week's absence, he said baby Billy is recovering well from open-heart surgery for a birth defect and thanked well-wishers. Then he charged back into the fraught topic.

"I made an emotional speech that was seen by millions, and as a result of my powerful words on that night, Republicans in Congress had second thoughts about repeal and replace" of the Affordable Care Act, he joked. "I saved health insurance in the United States of America!"

"What's that? I didn't save it? They voted against it anyway?" Kimmel said. The House approved the American Health Care Act last week.

He dismissed those who labeled him an elitist — as a youngster, his family bought powdered milk because they couldn't afford fresh, he said — and pretended to repent for his previous comments.

"I'd like to apologize for saying that children in America should have health care. It was insensitive, it was offensive, and I hope you can find it in your heart to forgive me," Kimmel said.

He took on former Rep. Newt Gingrich, saying his claim that all children would receive the same surgery as Kimmel's son in an emergency fell short of addressing what follows.

"That's terrific if your baby's health problems are all solved during that one visit. The only problem is that never, ever happens. We've had a dozen doctor's appointments since our son had surgery," Kimmel said.

Kimmel brought on a current GOP lawmaker, U.S. Sen. Bill Cassidy of Louisiana, a physician, who had suggested that the Senate's upcoming health care legislation should have a "Jimmy Kimmel test" of covering pre-existing conditions but in a fiscally conservative way.

During a satellite interview with Cassidy, Kimmel asked about his position on issues including uninsured workers and protection of children under a revised health care bill.

The senator called on viewers to contact their representatives and urge support of final legislation

that fulfills President Donald Trump's promise to lower premiums combined with coverage that passes the Kimmel standard.

Kimmel called for his namesake test to guarantee that no family be denied medical care, emergency or otherwise, because they can't afford it.

"You're on the right track," Cassidy said, but the country has to be able to pay for it.

"Don't give a huge tax cut to millionaires like me," Kimmel replied.

On last Monday's show, the host detailed how Billy's routine birth April 21 suddenly turned frightening when he was diagnosed with a hole in the wall separating the right and left sides of the heart and a blocked pulmonary valve, a condition known as tetralogy of Fallot with pulmonary atresia. He successfully underwent surgery, but will face more as he grows.

Using his son as an example, Kimmel called for health care for all and for pre-existing conditions to remain covered as provided by the Affordable Care Act passed under President Barack Obama.

"If your baby is going to die and it doesn't have to, it shouldn't matter how much money you make. ... Whether you're a Republican or a Democrat or something else, we all agree on that, right?" he said.

The video of Kimmel's tearful monologue went viral, drawing praise by some, including Obama, and harsh criticism from others.

## **AP Exclusive: US looks for evidence of crimes by Haitians**

**By ALICIA A. CALDWELL, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is taking the unusual step of hunting for evidence of crimes committed by Haitian immigrants as it decides whether to allow them to continue participating in a humanitarian program that has shielded tens of thousands from deportation since an earthquake destroyed much of their country.

The inquiries into the community's criminal history were made in internal U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services emails obtained by The Associated Press. They show the agency's newly appointed policy chief also wanted to know how many of the roughly 50,000 Haitians enrolled in the Temporary Protected Status program were taking advantage of public benefits, which they are not eligible to receive.

The emails don't make clear if Haitian misdeeds will be used to determine whether they can remain in the United States. The program is intended to help people from places beset by war or disasters and, normally, the decision to extend it depends on whether conditions in the immigrants' home country have improved enough for them to return. But emails suggest Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly, who will make the decision, is looking at other criteria.

"I do want to alert you ... the secretary is going to be sending a request to us to be more responsive," Kathy Nuebel Kovarik, the USCIS head of policy and strategy, wrote on April 27. Addressing the inability of agency employees to gather the requested information about wrongdoing, she said: "I know some of it is not captured, but we'll have to figure out a way to squeeze more data out of our systems."

The request for criminal data for an entire community is unorthodox. The law doesn't specify it should be a consideration for Temporary Protected Status and the government has never said it would use criminal rates in deciding if a country's citizens should be allowed to stay under this program. Introducing new criteria is likely to cause consternation among law-abiding Haitians who may feel they are being penalized for the wrongdoing of their compatriots.

But the request fits in with President Donald Trump's broader, tough-on-immigration focus that is a core demand of his political supporters. He has enhanced efforts to arrest people living illegally in the

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United States and sought, unsuccessfully so far, to suspend refugee arrivals and temporarily block visitors from seven Muslim-majority countries. He has accused those in the U.S. illegally of fueling criminality in the U.S.

It is unclear if the agency is asking such questions about other recipients of the temporary protection, including immigrants from Honduras and El Salvador.

The Homeland Security Department said Kelly has not made a final decision about Temporary Protected Status for Haiti and declined to comment on the process.

Temporary Protected Status is intended to be just that, temporary. The Obama administration included Haiti in the program shortly after the January 2010 earthquake that killed as many as 300,000 people and devastated schools, hospitals, homes and even entire neighborhoods. Since then, Haitians have been eligible to stay regardless of how they entered the United States — legally or illegally — as long as they were residing in the U.S. before Jan. 12, 2011.

Eligibility for Haitians has been extended several times and is set to expire July 22. The Trump administration must decide by May 23 so that it can provide 60 days' notice about its plans.

USCIS' acting director has recommended letting the program expire. In an April 10 memo first reported by USA Today, James McCament said Haiti is no longer in crisis despite its poverty and political instability. However, he wants to allow the Haitians to stay until January so they have time to make arrangements to voluntarily leave. If they don't depart the U.S. by then, the government could move to deport them.

Still, Homeland Security's Kelly has the final word.

The emails inquiring about misdeeds were sent from April 7 to May 1.

In her first week on the job, Kovarik, the policy chief, asked officials how often Haitians with temporary status have been convicted of "crimes of any kind," and how many have taken advantage of public benefits. She asked for that information in four separate emails. She also asked how much money Haitians have sent home and how often they've traveled back to Haiti. Left unsaid is that frequent travel could suggest improved conditions.

"Please dig for any stories (successful or otherwise) that would show how things are in Haiti - i.e. rebuilding stories, work of nonprofits, how the U.S. is helping certain industries," Kovarik wrote on April 28. "We should also find any reports of criminal activity by any individual with TPS. Even though it's only a snapshot and not representative of the entire situation, we need more than 'Haiti is really poor' stories."

The emails were largely directed to non-political employees. They responded by saying much of the data were not available or were difficult to find in government records systems.

Criminal fingerprint records, for instance, don't generally indicate if a suspect has Temporary Protected Status. And the employees said the public benefits request was almost impossible to answer because TPS participants aren't eligible for most.

About the only firm information Kovarik's queries turned up, according to the emails, is that Haiti benefited from about \$1.3 billion in remittances from the United States in 2015. Officials said they could only guess how much came from the temporarily protected group, which comprise only a fraction of the estimated 954,000-strong Haitian diaspora in the United States.

Maria Odom, a former Citizenship and Immigration Services ombudsman who served during the Obama administration, said she was puzzled by the inquiries about criminal activities. She said the government already checks criminal histories of applicants and denies protections to those who've broken U.S. laws.

"You should not craft a humanitarian policy based on the few," Odom said.

Follow Alicia A. Caldwell on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/acaldwellap](http://www.twitter.com/acaldwellap)

## Oregon timber counties struggle as federal support dries up

By GILLIAN FLACCUS, Associated Press

ROSEBURG, Ore. (AP) — So much timber money once flowed into this rural Oregon county that its leaders set up committees to find ways to spend it.

Today, Douglas County's library system is on life support, and its sheriff's department is on track to lose funding.

Nearly 30 years after environmental protections slashed logging in federal forests, Oregon counties like this one that thrived on timber revenues for decades are struggling to provide basic services. These so-called timber counties received hundreds of millions of dollars during logging's long heyday, and since then the federal government has continued to pour money in to make up for timber's downfall.

Now the money has dried up and people are reluctant to tax themselves, leaving leaders scrambling and public institutions in free fall.

Commissioners in Douglas County, which once received \$50 million in annual profits from logging on federal lands, have slashed health services, cut nearly 300 jobs and started charging for landfill use and parking at parks. The county's main library will close June 1 because voters rejected a tax, and voters in nearby Josephine County must decide May 16 whether to restore limited tax dollars to libraries and fund county response to 911 calls.

Democratic U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden recently joined other Western lawmakers in a last-ditch effort to restore federal assistance — but local officials aren't optimistic.

"Most of the citizens have become accustomed to receiving that outside money, and now that that money is gone, we have to be self-sufficient — or at least more self-sufficient," Josephine County Sheriff Dave Daniel said.

Yet anti-tax sentiment is strong here, where President Donald Trump dominated in November.

Voters in these counties have rejected tax levies for public services nearly a dozen times before, including for public safety and libraries. Many residents feel county leaders are quick to come to voters and must do more to bring back timber dollars, said Jim Rafferty, who opposes raising taxes in Josephine County.

"I'm not saying that we're opposed to public safety. That's not the message," he said. "The message is for the county commissioners to roll up their sleeves and fund the sheriff when they can, rather than give us this rhetoric."

The economic spiral playing out in western Oregon is interwoven with themes that have emerged across the American West: Anger over federal land policy, debate about the limits of environmental regulation and the question of who has the right to benefit from federal lands.

Communities across the American West have long received revenues from logging on federal land, but a quirk of history made the timber wealth of more than a dozen counties in Oregon even greater — and makes their current plight unique.

These 18 timber counties stretch from Portland to the California line. They contain 3,281 square miles (8,498 square kilometers) of densely forested territory that is the central character in a tale of rapid Western expansion and century-old corruption.

The Oregon & California Railroad got the lands in the 1860s for a rail line. The project spurred growth in Oregon but also inspired large-scale land fraud that led to the indictment of a U.S. senator and two congressmen.

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In the scandal's wake, the federal government in 1916 took back the land, but locals argued that cheated them of a tax base on land ripe for logging.

Federal legislation tailored to compensate the counties created a cash cow: 75 percent of the logging receipts from those lands go to the counties, with no restrictions.

During the 1980s, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management was selling 1 billion board feet (2.4 million cubic meters) of timber a year, producing so much money that some of the counties did not assess property taxes. Most also get 25 percent of timber receipts from national forests within their borders under a separate program.

But in the early 1990s, conservation groups won lawsuits to protect spotted owl and salmon habitat, and logging on federal land dropped by 90 percent. Federal dollars to ease the counties' transition has been shrinking for years and was not renewed this year.

The adjustment has been whiplash in communities where unemployment rises to 8 and 9 percent.

Kate Lasky, executive director of Josephine Community Libraries Inc., runs a nonprofit foundation that has kept the libraries open with donations and volunteers.

The May 16 ballot measure would add 39 cents per \$1,000 in taxes for voters in a special district of the precincts around the library's branches. A previous county-wide levy failed.

"I have to focus on those people who want to support their community," Lasky said. "We need to do that for generations, not just for next year."

A public safety levy on the same ballot asks for 93 cents per \$1,000. If that fails, residents who call 911 won't get any help from sheriff's deputies, said Daniel, the county sheriff, who handed out 17 lay-off warnings last month.

The Oregon State Police, which has been providing limited patrol coverage, says it can't help more of the measure fails.

"We're just bracing ourselves for the impact," Daniel said.

In Douglas County, officials in the 1990s realized there would be a drop-off in funding and started building up reserves, but those funds are almost gone.

"Literally, and I'm not kidding, we had committees that just sat around and figured out how to spend the money. That's no joke. That was their job," Douglas County Commissioner Gary Leif said of timber's peak.

"What I fear — what I know — is going to happen, is that we will have to go to the people and say, 'We've cut everything down to the bones. There's nowhere else to cut.'"

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Follow Gillian Flaccus on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/gflaccus>

## Obama starts defining his new role in the age of Trump

By JULIE PACE, AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former President Barack Obama is starting to define his new role in the age of Donald Trump.

After dropping out of sight for a pair of glamorous island getaways, Obama is emerging for a series of paid and unpaid speeches, drawing sharp contrasts with Trump even as he avoids saying the new president's name. He's wielding his influence overseas, offering his support for some of the international political candidates who are clamoring for his endorsement. His aides are engaging in real-time political combat with Trump, including revealing Monday that Obama personally warned his successor against tapping embattled Michael Flynn as his national security adviser.

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Obama's swift return to the spotlight has been cheered by some Democrats, who are still sifting through the wreckage of the party's crushing defeats in the November election. But the attention surrounding Obama has also magnified the vacuum for new Democratic leadership, a reality that aides say is not lost on the former president.

"He's acutely aware that when the former president speaks, he consumes a lot of the oxygen," said Eric Schultz, Obama's senior adviser. "He wants to make sure we make room for the next generation of leaders."

With that in mind, Obama is picking his spots carefully.

During a speech Sunday night in Boston, he urged members of Congress to have "courage" as Trump presses for the repeal of his signature health care law, recalling the Democrats who were swept into office with him in 2009, but lost their seats after casting votes in favor of the "Obamacare" measure. But he avoided a lengthy defense of the law Democrats muscled through in 2010 and did not critique the bill House Republicans passed last week.

In an unusual move for a former president — particularly one who just handed the White House to the opposing party — Obama taped a video endorsing Emmanuel Macron, the eventual winner of the French presidential election. He backed Macron after Trump appeared to side with nationalist candidate Marine Le Pen, calling her the strongest candidate on terrorism and borders.

Obama advisers say the former president is still navigating his role in international politics, but he is willing to consider requests for support from overseas candidates. Later this month, he'll appear alongside German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who faces elections later this year, for a panel on democracy.

Obama's stop in Germany will coincide with Trump's first visit to Europe as president, likely setting up a stark contrast between the 44th and 45th presidents on the world stage.

The former president is said to be reluctant to get into a tit-for-tat with Trump over every tweet or critique from the White House briefing room. But he has plenty of proxies willing to jump in for him, including on Monday, when three former Obama administration officials said Obama had personally warned Trump against hiring Michael Flynn as national security adviser.

Flynn, who is at the center of the controversy surrounding Trump's campaign and Russia, was fired after less than a month. The revelation from Obama advisers appeared to be sparked by Trump's attempts to shift some of the blame for Flynn's troubles to Obama by noting that the previous administration renewed the former military intelligence director's clearance even after he was fired in 2014.

Obama and Trump haven't spoken since the inauguration, though an aide said Obama would take Trump's call if the Republican reached out. The two spoke frequently during the transition, and Trump spoke about his surprise at their good relationship.

But Trump stunned Obama advisers with his March 4 tweets accusing Obama of wiretapping his New York skyscraper during the election, an explosive allegation that has been denied by FBI Director James Comey and other national security officials.

"I wouldn't say I've been exactly great to him, either," Trump acknowledged in a recent interview with The Washington Times.

Obama's re-entry in public life hasn't been all smooth sailing. He was sharply criticized by Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, his party's most prominent liberals, for his plans to receive \$400,000 to speak at a September health care conference put on by the Wall Street firm Cantor Fitzgerald.

The former president is said to have been unbothered by the criticism. Still, he and wife Michelle Obama moved swiftly to announce a \$2 million donation for a summer jobs program in their home town of Chicago.

Warren and Sanders represent one flank of the Democratic Party that's trying to take control as the party tries to rebuild ahead of the 2018 midterm elections. Obama is expected to campaign and fund-raise for candidates as those contests draw near, but his supporters are clear-eyed about his own role as the party tries to recalibrate.

"The onus is on the next generation to lead the party in the Trump era," said Dan Pfeiffer, a longtime Obama White House and campaign adviser.

Follow Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC>

## Former official says she warned White House about Flynn

By ERIC TUCKER and EILEEN SULLIVAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former acting Attorney General Sally Yates says she bluntly warned the Trump White House in January that new National Security Adviser Michael Flynn "essentially could be blackmailed" by the Russians because he apparently had lied to his bosses about his contacts with Moscow's ambassador in Washington.

The congressional testimony Monday from Yates, an Obama administration holdover fired soon after for other reasons, marked her first public comments about the concerns she raised and filled in basic details about the chain of events that led to Flynn's ouster in February.

Her testimony, coupled with the revelation hours earlier that President Barack Obama himself had warned Donald Trump against hiring Flynn shortly after the November election, made clear that alarms about Flynn had reached the highest levels of the U.S. government months before. Flynn had been an adviser to Trump and an outspoken supporter of his presidential candidacy in the 2016 campaign.

Yates, appearing before a Senate panel investigating Russian interference in the election, described discussions with Don McGahn, the Trump White House counsel, in which she warned that Flynn apparently had misled the administration about his communications with Sergey Kislyak, the Russian ambassador.

White House officials, including Vice President Mike Pence, had insisted that Flynn had not discussed U.S.-imposed sanctions with Kislyak during the presidential transition period. But they asked Flynn to resign after news reports indicated he had lied about the nature of the calls.

"We felt like it was critical that we get this information to the White House, in part because the vice president was unknowingly making false statements to the public and because we believed that Gen. Flynn was compromised with respect to the Russians," Yates said.

"To state the obvious," she added later, "you don't want your national security adviser compromised with the Russians."

She said she was briefing the Trump White House so that officials could take "the action that they deemed appropriate" and that she believed the Russians already had the same information.

Yates' questioning by a Senate panel investigating Russian interference in the presidential election was just one portion of a politically charged day that began with combative tweets from Trump and continued with disclosures from Obama administration officials about a private Oval Office conversation between Obama and his successor.

Republican senators in the hearing repeatedly pressed Yates on an unrelated matter — her refusal to defend the Trump administration's travel ban — and whether she was responsible for leaking classified information. She said she was not.

Trump shouldered into the conversation in the morning, tweeting that it was the Obama administration, not he, that had given Lt. Gen. Flynn "the highest security clearance" when he worked at the

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Pentagon. Trump made no mention of the fact that Flynn had been fired from his high position by the Obama administration in 2014.

Yates filled in new details of the events of Jan. 26, describing contacting McGahn in the morning and telling him she had something sensitive to discuss in person. Later that day, at the White House, she told him there was an alarming discrepancy between how Trump officials, including Pence, were characterizing Flynn's contacts with Kislyak and what intelligence officials knew to be true based on recordings they'd reviewed.

The pair spoke several times over the next two days, with McGahn asking Yates how Flynn had fared during an interview with the FBI earlier that week — she did not answer — and why it was the concern of the Justice Department if White House officials had misled each other.

Flynn's forced resignation followed media reports that he had discussed U.S.-imposed sanctions on Russia with Ambassador Kislyak, which was contrary to the public representations of the Trump White House.

Yates herself, a longtime federal prosecutor, was fired by Trump on Jan. 30 after refusing to defend his travel ban. James Clapper, director of national intelligence under Obama, also testified Monday. He retired when Trump took office.

Separately Monday, former Obama officials said that Obama had raised general concerns about Flynn with Trump and had told the incoming president there were better people for the national security post.

Trump's press secretary Sean Spicer said in response that if Obama "was seriously concerned" about Flynn's connections to Russia or other foreign countries, he should have withheld Flynn's security clearance. Flynn served under Obama as defense intelligence chief before Obama dismissed him.

Trump repeatedly has said he has no ties to Russia and isn't aware of any involvement by his aides in any Russian interference in the election. He's dismissed FBI and congressional investigations into his campaign's possible ties to the election meddling as a "hoax" driven by Democrats bitter over losing the White House.

After the hearing Monday, Trump tweeted: "The Russia-Trump collusion story is a total hoax, when will this taxpayer funded charade end?"

The Associated Press reported last week that one sign taken as a warning by Obama officials about Flynn's contacts with Kislyak was a request by a member of Trump's own transition team made to national security officials in the Obama White House for the classified CIA profile of Kislyak.

The AP interviewed multiple former U.S. officials, most of whom spoke on the condition of anonymity in order to discuss sensitive national security information.

Yates' warning about Flynn capped weeks of concern among top Obama officials, former officials told the AP. Obama himself told one of his closest advisers that the FBI, which by then had been investigating Trump associates' possible ties to Russia for about six months, seemed particularly focused on Flynn.

Yates, a longtime federal prosecutor and Obama administration holdover, had been scheduled to appear weeks ago before the House intelligence committee, but that hearing was canceled.

The subcommittee that held Monday's hearing is running one of multiple congressional probes into the Russia interference, along with House and Senate intelligence panels. All the committees are led by Republicans.

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White House Correspondent Julie Pace contributed to this report.



## Warriors await challenge after cruising to 8-0 in playoffs

By KAREEM COPELAND, AP Sports Writer

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The Golden State Warriors are four wins from their third consecutive trip to the NBA Finals — and likely a third straight showdown with the Cleveland Cavaliers.

With four All-Stars, including two MVPs, it's not hard to see why.

The Warriors eliminated the Utah Jazz in a sweep Monday night and are 8-0 in the postseason for the first time in franchise history. The Cavaliers, coincidentally, also swept their first two opponents.

For Golden State, the games mostly haven't been close. Only one victory, Game 3 against the Portland Trail Blazers, was decided by fewer than 11 points, and the Warriors never trailed in three of the four games against Utah. The trio of Stephen Curry, Kevin Durant and Draymond Green has been consistently dominant, and Golden State's elite length and athleticism on defense have been stifling.

"We are mostly impressed with how we are playing our brand of basketball," Green said. "We really imposed our will on the other team. That's big. In the playoffs, you let a team get in a groove and it's hard to win games like that.

"We have imposed our will all eight games. That's important on the offensive and defensive end, and if you can do that, with the talent that we have, with the experience that we have, it will be tough to beat us."

In the Western Conference finals, Golden State will face the winner of the Spurs and Rockets, who are tied 2-2.

The Warriors are averaging a playoff-high 115.3 points per game, ahead of the Cavaliers' 114.5. Golden State is allowing 98.8 points in the postseason to lead all teams still alive and has a playoff-best 96.9 defensive rating.

The offense has come in waves. One second, it's Curry shining, then Durant or Green the next. All-Star Klay Thompson has been in a bit of a slump, but still scored 21 points in the 121-95 victory Monday night.

Even as games have gotten more physical, Golden State has stayed strong on the ball and kept turnovers to a minimum, said interim coach Mike Brown. The Warriors' 11.5 turnovers per game lead all teams still playing, and Brown thinks combining that with their elite shooting and defense makes for a peerless combination.

"We feel like have good shooters, good scorers and we would rather take a bad shot than us trying to make a hero play," Brown said. "And we have a tendency, at times, to try to make hero plays with the basketball because these guys all appreciate each other. For the most part, they want to make the pass to somebody as opposed to making the shot. They get some sort of satisfaction out of it.

"It doesn't matter if Steph comes down, crosses half-court and launches it. At least we got a shot at the rim. We feel like most of those are going to go in at the end of the day, so we're good with it."

The Warriors have been without coach Steve Kerr since Game 3 of the first round and haven't missed a beat. He remains out after having a spinal cord leak procedure at Duke University on Friday, and there is no timetable for his return. He and Brown speak regularly, but that's an obstacle to overcome.

Jazz coach Quin Snyder raved about the culture Kerr has created.

"They demonstrate it in everything that they do," Snyder said. "When a team kind of lives who they are, that is a unique group. They all believe in each other and they are willing to sacrifice for one another.

"Just the unselfishness that that group plays with and the care they have for one another on the court. They've got each other's backs."

So far, the Warriors have only been slowed during self-created lulls, like when the Jazz cut a 26-point

second-quarter lead down to five before Golden State got back in gear.

The competition will get tougher, though. In the conference finals, they'll have to deal with either San Antonio's Kawhi Leonard or Houston's James Harden, and both players are better than any the Warriors have seen so far this postseason.

And then there's LeBron James, likely waiting in the finals.

"They're a historically great team," Jazz forward Gordon Hayward said. "They make you pay for mistakes. You have to be almost perfect every possession or they turn it into an 8-0 run, 9-0 run, 10-0 run. So you can't have mental lapses against a team like this."

More AP NBA: <https://apnews.com/tag/NBAbasketball>

## Los Angeles could land Olympic Games, but which year?

By **EDDIE PELLIS** and **MICHAEL R. BLOOD**, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Leaders in Los Angeles will guide their International Olympic Committee guests from the Hollywood Hills to Santa Monica Beach to a construction site that will someday be a \$2.6 billion NFL stadium that can also host soccer games.

If this week's tour is a success, Los Angeles will earn the chance to host its third Olympics.

But which Olympics?

Officially, Los Angeles and Paris are the only two bidders left for the 2024 Games that will be awarded in September at a meeting of Olympic leaders in Lima, Peru. On the table, however, is a proposal to use that meeting to dole out the next two Olympics — 2024 and 2028 — one to each city.

IOC President Thomas Bach said he wants to avoid producing so many losers in the multimillion-dollar Olympic-bidding game. Unsaid is Bach's need to avoid another bidding debacle, similar to the 2024 contest, if the rules remain the same for 2028.

The 2024 race began with five cities, but slowly, awkwardly, tapered down to two, after Rome; Hamburg, Germany; and Budapest, Hungary; all pulled out. And that's not including the embarrassment the U.S. Olympic Committee suffered when its first candidate city, Boston, stepped aside because of tepid — or, some might say, barely existent — public support.

Like Paris, Los Angeles is sticking to the party line, insisting it is in the mix only for 2024.

"Los Angeles is the right city for 2024 at this important time for the Olympic Movement and is only bidding for 2024," LA 2024 Chairman Casey Wasserman said.

The 2024-28 issue is hardly the only unpredictable factor in a bidding process that has grown more confusing, even as the number of candidates dwindled.

A look at the key issues Los Angeles faces as it hosts the evaluation visit Tuesday through Friday:

**POLITICS:** When President Donald Trump first issued his executive order temporarily banning refugees and immigrants from seven predominantly Muslim countries, it threw some Olympic sports into flux: Namely, the U.S. wrestling team was scheduled for a trip to Iran, which was one of the banned countries.

That issue was worked out, and Trump's order is stalled in court, but his presence will certainly be felt.

"Both countries have a lot going on politically that can be game-changers at any minute," said Jules Boykoff, a professor at Pacific University in Oregon who has written widely on the Olympics movement.

When centrist Emmanuel Macron defeated far-right candidate Marine Le Pen in France's presidential election, it took some uncertainty out of the Paris bid. Meanwhile, Trump's populist, "America-first" message is hardly the arms-wide-open stance the Olympics embrace. And yet, for his part, Trump is backing the bid, certainly knowing this is the kind of win he'd love to be a part of — the U.S. hasn't

hosted a Summer Games since 1996 — even if he plays a nominal role.

**COST:** Los Angeles is pledging to stage the Games for a grand total of \$5.3 billion, which would be around one-third of what Tokyo is expected to spend for 2020. It's a claim that speaks to Bach's mandate to keep costs down and stop spending billions on stadiums that don't get used much once the Olympics end.

A strong point of the Los Angeles bid, certain to be showcased during the visit, is that 95 percent of the proposed venues are already built, including the Los Angeles Coliseum, which would host the opening ceremonies, same as it did in 1932 and 1984.

**TRAFFIC:** The 2016 cinematic tribute to the sort of dreams that can come true in Los Angeles, "La La Land," opened, fittingly enough, with a musical number taking place amid gridlocked cars on the freeway during rush hour. That traffic is as much a symbol of LA as the "Hollywood" sign or the NBA's Lakers, and it's certain officials will do their best to keep their guests far away from the snarls this week.

The bid promises to bring 100 percent of ticketed spectators to competition sites by public transportation or systems designed for spectators, such as shuttle buses. There are also memories of 1984, when traffic wasn't much of a problem in part because many of the locals left town or stayed off the freeways.

**ENTHUSIASM:** Time and again bid leaders have touted a poll, conducted by Loyola Marymount University, which found 88 percent of respondents wanted Los Angeles to host the Olympics.

As the vote and any potential Games get closer, those numbers will certainly change.

Already in question is an LA24 claim that more than 1 million Facebook users said they wanted to see the Olympics in Los Angeles.

A report prepared for The Associated Press last month found that Los Angeles saw an explosion of support over a six-week period from places such as Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Indonesia. In Bangladesh, for instance, supporters of the bid rose from a few dozen to more than 113,000 in the span of six weeks.

LA stands by the numbers.

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Pells reported from Denver.

## For over a year, serial killing suspect went undiscovered

By **ASTRID GALVAN**, Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — For more than a year, Phoenix police were stumped by a string of killings in which a shooter stalked victims after dark and gunned them down as they stood outside their homes or sat in their cars. Nine people were killed in all in a case dubbed the Serial Street Shooter.

Police fielded thousands of tips, went door-to-door in a largely Hispanic neighborhood of Phoenix where the shootings happened and analyzed ballistics from a different, unrelated serial shooting case. On Monday, they announced they had arrested a former city bus driver in the killings while providing scant detail about what motivated him or details about how they made a break in the case, other than to credit tips.

Aaron Juan Saucedo, 23, faces 26 felony counts of homicide, aggravated assault and drive-by-shooting for 12 shootings that took place between August 2015 and July 2016, Phoenix Police Chief Jeri Williams said.

The investigation into the serial killings had focused on what authorities said were seven fatal shootings. But police on Monday said they had tied Saucedo to nine killings in all — eight random victims and one man that he knew.

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Saucedo was a bus driver for the city of Phoenix through a temp agency for several months in July through August 2015, Phoenix police said. Records show Saucedo was pulled over for allegedly running a red light on Oct. 27, 2015, just a month after the first killing.

On Monday, Williams and Mayor Greg Stanton appeared alongside other top officials, including Maricopa County's top prosecutor, to announce the break in a case that had appeared largely stalled in recent months as leads and tips dried up.

"This case plagued our community for more than a year ... and left behind a trail of victims that included mothers, sons, brothers, sisters and families still mourning the loss of their loved ones," William said.

Police say they don't know what motivated Saucedo and that he didn't have any connection to any of the eight people who were killed. They said they'd be giving out the \$75,000 reward offered for tips, but they wouldn't reveal details about whether the money was going to one person or multiple people.

The case finally broke when Saucedo was arrested last month in connection with the August 2015 fatal shooting of a man, 61-year-old Raul Romero, who had a relationship with Saucedo's mother. Authorities investigated Saucedo more closely and connected him to the serial killings.

The Associated Press was unable to reach Saucedo's public defender on Monday.

Police say that after Romero's killing, Saucedo struck again about four months later in killing 22-year-old Jesse Olivas, who was gunned down on New Year's Day 2016 while standing in front of a home.

The suspect then went on a killing spree from March of last year through July, police said.

In the end, nine people were killed in 12 separate shootings. All of the killings were random except for the first one, Williams said. "We hope that our community will rest a little easier and that our officers will get a little more sleep knowing that the wheels of justice are finally in motion," she said.

Gisela Castro, the mother of shooting victim Manuel Castro-Garcia, said news of the arrest felt like she was reliving the day she was told her son had been killed. Castro-Garcia, 19, was fatally shot on June 10, 2016.

"For one part I'm happy because there's going to be justice in my son's death and others' deaths and that person is not gonna do more damage. But my son is not coming back," Castro said. "I waited every day for justice, but things don't change. The pain is the same."

Castro said her son was a noble person who studied and worked hard and was loved by everyone he knew. She said he was never a trouble-maker and preferred playing basketball with friends over partying.

"The only thing I can say is thank God there's going to be justice and we leave it in God's hands. May God bless (Saucedo), and I'm not anybody to wish bad upon him," she said.

Marina Smith, the partner of 21-year-old Diego Verdugo-Sanchez, who was gunned down on April 1, 2016, said she welcomed news of the arrest but was still struggling with his loss.

Smith was seven months pregnant with the couple's child when Verdugo-Sanchez was fatally shot in front of a home.

Smith said she had grown frustrated over the past year as detectives kept her in the dark about the investigation. "The fact of them finding somebody, at least it was some type of news," she said.

Police say Saucedo shot at two teenage boys on March 17, 2016, striking one of them in the arm. The suspect struck again the next day but didn't kill anyone.

The next shooting didn't happen until April 1, 2016, when Verdugo-Sanchez was fatally shot.

Police also have linked Saucedo to the April 19, 2016, death of 60-year-old Krystal White; the June 3, 2016, death of Horacio de Jesus Pena; and to the killings of two women, Angela Linner and Stefanie Ellis, and 12-year-old girl Maleah Ellis on June 12, 2016. He killed Manny Castro Garcia on June 10,

2016, police said.

In the most recent attack on July 11, 2016, a 21-year-old man and his 4-year-old nephew escaped injury after the gunman shot at a vehicle they were sitting in.

## **Yates: Alarm about Russian blackmail led to warning on Flynn**

**By ERIC TUCKER and EILEEN SULLIVAN, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former acting Attorney General Sally Yates told Congress Monday she bluntly warned the Trump White House in January that new National Security Adviser Michael Flynn “essentially could be blackmailed” by the Russians because he apparently had lied to his bosses about his contacts with Moscow’s ambassador in Washington.

The testimony from Yates, an Obama administration holdover fired soon after for other reasons, marked her first public comments about the concerns she raised and filled in basic details about the chain of events that led to Flynn’s ouster in February.

Her testimony, coupled with the revelation hours earlier that President Barack Obama himself had warned Donald Trump against hiring Flynn shortly after the November election, made clear that alarms about Flynn had reached the highest levels of the U.S. government months before. Flynn had been an adviser to Trump and an outspoken supporter of his presidential candidacy in the 2016 campaign.

Yates, appearing before a Senate panel investigating Russian interference in the election, described discussions with Don McGahn, the Trump White House counsel, in which she warned that Flynn apparently had misled the administration about his communications with Sergey Kislyak, the Russian ambassador.

White House officials, including Vice President Mike Pence, had insisted that Flynn had not discussed U.S.-imposed sanctions with Kislyak during the presidential transition period. But the White House asked Flynn to resign after news reports indicated he had misled officials about the nature of the calls.

“We felt like it was critical that we get this information to the White House, in part because the vice president was unknowingly making false statements to the public and because we believed that Gen. Flynn was compromised with respect to the Russians,” Yates said.

“To state the obvious,” she added later, “you don’t want your national security adviser compromised with the Russians.”

She said she had briefed the Trump White House so that they could take “the action that they deemed appropriate” and that she believed the Russians already had the same information about the calls.

Yates’ questioning by a Senate panel investigating Russian interference in the presidential election was just one portion of a politically charged day that began with combative tweets from Trump and continued with disclosures from Obama administration officials about a private Oval Office conversation between Obama and his successor.

Republican senators in the hearing repeatedly pressed Yates on an unrelated matter — her refusal to defend the Trump administration’s travel ban — and whether she was responsible for leaking classified information. She said she was not.

Trump shouldered into the conversation in the morning, tweeting that it was the Obama administration, not he, that had given Lt. Gen. Flynn “the highest security clearance” when he worked at the Pentagon. Trump made no mention of the fact that Flynn had been fired from his high position by the Obama administration in 2014.

Yates filled in new details of the events of Jan. 26, describing contacting McGahn in the morning and telling him she had something sensitive to discuss in person. Later that day, at the White House,

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she told him there was an alarming discrepancy between how Trump officials, including Pence, were characterizing Flynn's contacts with Kislyak and what intelligence officials knew to be true based on recordings they'd reviewed.

The pair spoke several times over the next two days, with McGahn asking Yates how Flynn had fared during an interview with the FBI earlier that week — she did not answer — and why it was the concern of the Justice Department if White House officials had misled each other.

Yates herself, a longtime federal prosecutor, was fired by Trump on Jan. 30 after refusing to defend his travel ban. James Clapper, director of national intelligence under Obama, also testified Monday. He retired when Trump took office.

Separately Monday, former Obama officials said he had raised general concerns about Flynn with Trump and had told the incoming president there were better people for the national security post.

Trump's press secretary Sean Spicer said in response that if Obama "was seriously concerned" about Flynn's connections to Russia or other foreign countries, he should have withheld Flynn's security clearance. Flynn served under Obama as defense intelligence chief before Obama dismissed him.

Trump repeatedly has said he has no ties to Russia and isn't aware of any involvement by his aides in any Russian interference in the election. He's dismissed FBI and congressional investigations into his campaign's possible ties to the election meddling as a "hoax" driven by Democrats bitter over losing the White House.

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Yates' warning about Flynn capped weeks of concern among top Obama officials, former officials told the AP. Obama himself told one of his closest advisers that the FBI, which by then had been investigating Trump associates' possible ties to Russia for about six months, seemed particularly focused on Flynn.

Yates had been scheduled to appear weeks ago before the House intelligence committee, but that hearing was canceled.

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White House Correspondent Julie Pace contributed to this report.

## **Snoop Dogg wants to create music festival in dad's hometown**

MAGNOLIA, Miss. (AP) — Rapper Snoop Dogg says he wants to create a music festival in his father's hometown so he can perform in Mississippi.

"We always stop in New Orleans but we never book a show here. We might as well do it ourselves because my booking agent just won't do it," he said during a weekend stop in Magnolia, a south Mississippi city of about 2,400 near the Louisiana state line.

The rapper born Calvin Broadus stopped in Magnolia on his way to the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, where he performed Saturday, to discuss his plans for "Snoop Fest" with the mayor, the McComb Enterprise-Journal reported Monday (<http://bit.ly/2pe7x3T>).

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"We want to try to get it done this year, but if not, we will definitely do it next year," Mayor Anthony Witherspoon said.

He said Magnolia is a great venue because it's 90 minutes from Jackson, Hattiesburg, Baton Rouge and New Orleans.

It's about 17 miles (27.4 kilometers) north of the Louisiana state line and just a few more from Britney Spears' hometown of Kentwood, Louisiana.

Snoop Dogg said the festival's first day would feature blues, gospel and country acts for the "aunts, grandmas and uncles," with hip-hop and rhythm and blues on the second day. He would close the festival.

"I think the first should have what the heritage of Mississippi is about and then the second day should be about the generation that took it to another level," he said.

Snoop said he wants to bring back Mississippi natives Brandy and Ray J Norwood of McComb, David Banner of Jackson, Souljia Boy of Batesville and newcomer La'Porsha Renae, also of McComb, and to give a shot to some performers who are still local.

"We can give the top five hottest artists a chance to open up," he said.

The rapper said he wants to do something that reaches out to everyone. He said he comes to Mississippi three or four times a year, but only his family sees him.

"I want to do something so that everyone will get to see me," he said. "If I wanted to do a show and leave, I could've done that. I wanted to do something to make a mark here. I just wanted to make an impact on the people here because I know how much I mean to them."

## Mexico and police chief slam Texas' new 'sanctuary city' ban

By PAUL J. WEBER, Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The Mexican government, San Antonio's police chief and others slammed Texas' new "sanctuary cities" law on Monday, saying that requiring local law enforcement to help enforce U.S. immigration law could lead to racial profiling and will fan distrust of the police by the state's many Hispanics.

The law, which takes effect in September and which critics say is the most anti-immigrant since a 2010 Arizona law, will allow police officers to ask about the immigration status of anyone they detain, including during routine traffic stops. Republican Gov. Greg Abbott signed the law Sunday evening on Facebook Live with no advanced warning. A few dozen people protested outside his mansion in Austin on Monday.

San Antonio police chief William McManus ripped into the Republicans who pushed the law through despite the objections of every big-city police chief in the state. The Migration Policy Institute estimates that Texas is home to more than 1.4 million people who are in the country illegally, including 71,000 living in the San Antonio area.

McManus and the other police chiefs, including those in Dallas and Houston, say it will create a chilling effect that will cause immigrant families to not report crimes or come forward as witnesses over fears that talking to local police could lead to deportation. Critics also fear it will lead to the racial profiling of Hispanics and put officers in an untenable position.

"It's either skin color or language. What else does someone have to base it on?" McManus said, referring to an officer's reason for inquiring about a person's immigration status. "That leads to profiling. Profiling leads to lawsuits. In my opinion, there is nothing positive this bill does in the community or law enforcement."

Nevertheless, McManus said his department will abandon a policy that prohibits officers from asking

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about a person's immigration status.

"We're going to have to take it off the books," said McManus, adding that it will probably have to spend a year now training his roughly 2,400 officers on immigration law.

The law also drew rebuke from Mexico, which is Texas' largest trading partner and shares close ties to the state. The country's foreign ministry said in a news release that the law could trample on the rights of Mexican citizens who choose to live just across the border and promised to "closely follow" the situation after the law takes effect.

"These types of actions criminalizes even more the topic of immigration, foments racial discriminatory acts and reduces collaboration between the immigrant community and local authorities," the ministry said.

The law also requires police chiefs and sheriffs — under the threat of jail and removal from office — to comply with federal requests to hold criminal suspects in jail for possible deportation. Republicans have a strong majority in the Legislature and shoved aside Democratic objections, even as President Donald Trump's efforts to withhold federal funding for sanctuary cities have hit roadblocks in federal courts.

"Isn't this quasi-insane that we have to pass a law to force law enforcement officers to comply with the law?" Abbott said Monday on "Fox and Friends."

Texas took the unusual step Monday afternoon of asking a federal court in Austin to preemptively find the law constitutional in anticipation of lawsuits from cities and minority rights groups. One of the first legal challenges came from the League of United Latin American Citizens on behalf of a small border town near the Mexico border called El Cenizo. The city has had a "safe haven" ordinance since 1999 that prohibits city employees from asking about a person's immigration status, according to lawsuit, which LULAC attorney Luis Vera said was filed in federal court Monday.

The term "sanctuary cities" has no legal definition, but Republicans want local police to help federal immigration agents crack down on criminal suspects in the U.S. illegally.

Opponents blast the Texas bill as a version of Arizona's immigration crackdown law, SB 1070, which sparked protests and led to legal challenges in 2010. But the Texas and Arizona bills are not identical. Whereas the Arizona law originally required police to try to determine the immigration status of people during routine stops, the Texas bill doesn't instruct officers to ask.

Texas doesn't currently have any cities which have formally declared themselves sanctuaries for immigrants.

But Sally Hernandez, the sheriff of Travis County, which includes liberal Austin, has refused to honor federal requests to detain immigrants if the suspects weren't arrested for immigration offenses or serious crimes such as murder. Hernandez softened her policy after Abbott cut funding to the county, saying decisions would be made on a case-by-case basis. She said before Abbott signed it that she would conform to the ban if it became law.

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This story has been corrected to reflect that there are an estimated 71,000 people living in the San Antonio area who aren't in the country legally, not more than 1 million.

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Associated Press writer Will Weissert contributed to this report.

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Follow Paul J. Weber on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/pauljwebe>



## Travel ban arguments focus on Trump's comments about Muslims

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER, Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — A challenge to President Donald Trump's revised travel ban appears to hinge on whether a federal appeals court agrees that the Republican's past anti-Muslim statements can be used against him.

The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals wrestled Monday with whether the court should look beyond the text of the executive order to comments made by Trump and his aides on the campaign trail and after his election in order to determine whether the policy illegally targets Muslims.

"That's the most important issue in the whole case," said Judge Robert King, who was appointed to the court by President Bill Clinton.

The panel of 13 judges peppered both sides with tough questions but gave few clues as to how they might rule. The judges did not immediately issue a decision on Monday.

A federal judge in Maryland who blocked the travel ban in March cited Trump's comments as evidence that the executive order is a realization of his repeated promise to bar Muslims from entering the country.

The administration argues that the court shouldn't question the president's national security decisions based on campaign promises.

"This is not a Muslim ban. Its text doesn't have to anything to do with religion. Its operation doesn't have anything to do with religion," Acting Solicitor General Jeffrey Wall told the appeals court.

The countries were chosen because they present terrorism risks and the ban applies to everyone in those countries regardless of religion, Wall said. Further, the banned countries represent a small fraction of the world's Muslim-majority nations, lawyers for the administration say.

Omar Jadwat, an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union, noted that Trump's call for a "total and complete shutdown" of Muslims entering the U.S. remained on his campaign website even after he took office. That call, which was still online earlier Monday, appeared to have been taken down by the afternoon hearing.

Jadwat claims the administration has failed to provide a legitimate national security reason for the policy.

"The order is completely unprecedented in our nation's history," Jadwat said.

Several judges expressed skepticism about the idea that the court would blind itself to Trump's comments about Muslims.

"Don't we get to consider what was actually said here and said very explicitly?" asked Judge James Wynn Jr., who was appointed by President Barack Obama.

Another judge said he was worried about the idea of a court opening the door to using a president's past to evaluate the constitutionality of a policy.

"Can we look at his college speeches? How about his speeches to businessmen 20 years ago?" asked Judge Paul Niemeyer, who was tapped by President George H.W. Bush.

The first travel ban in January triggered chaos and protests across the country as travelers were stopped from boarding international flights and detained at airports for hours.

After a three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals refused in February to let the travel ban take effect, the administration tweaked the order and issued a new one.

The new version made it clear the 90-day ban covering those six countries doesn't apply to those who already have valid visas. It removed language that would give priority to religious minorities and erased Iraq from the list of banned countries.

But critics said while the new executive order impacts fewer people, it remains a realization of Trump's

promised Muslim ban and cannot stand.

The ACLU and National Immigration Law Center brought the case on behalf of several organizations, as well as people who live in the U.S. and fear the executive order will prevent them from being reunited with family members from the banned countries.

Elite universities, democratic attorneys general and former foreign policy and national security officials like ex-Secretary of State Madeleine Albright called on the court to block the travel ban.

Meanwhile, a group of 12 state attorneys general and the governor of Mississippi argued that the action is not a "pretext for religious discrimination" and should be allowed to take effect.

Attorneys for the president likely see the moderate 4th Circuit as friendlier territory than the 9th Circuit, which conservatives have long accused of being too liberal. Three 9th Circuit judges appointed by Clinton are scheduled to hear a more-sweeping challenge to Trump's revised travel ban next week.

While the 4th Circuit was long considered one of the most conservative appeals courts in the country, it moved to the center under Obama, who appointed six of the 15 active judges.

Two Republican-appointed judges — Judge Allyson Duncan and Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson III — didn't hear the travel ban case. Wilkinson's daughter is married to the acting solicitor general. It was not immediately clear why Duncan was recused.

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This story has been corrected to reflect that Judge Niemeyer was appointed to the court by President George H.W. Bush, not President Ronald Reagan.

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Associated Press reporter Sarah Rankin contributed to this report.

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Follow Alanna Durkin Richer at <http://twitter.com/aedurkinricher> . Read more of her work at <http://apne.ws/2hIhzDb>

## Drop dead gorgeous teenage girl shows up for prom in coffin

PENNSAUKEN, N.J. (AP) — A New Jersey high school student who hopes to become a funeral director has surprised her classmates by arriving at her prom in an open prop coffin .

Megan Flaherty says she mainly wanted to have fun while attending Pennsauken High School's junior prom Saturday. The 17-year-old says she checked with her date to make sure he had no reservations about her plans.

Flaherty's open coffin slid out of the back a hearse. She then stepped out of the coffin on the hand of her date and smiled as other prom goers looked on in amazement.

Photos and video of Flaherty's entrance have become an online topic.

Many commenters seem to like the entrance, with some joking Flaherty was "drop dead gorgeous." But others say her actions were insensitive and tasteless.

## DA: Suspect in doctors' slaying did not shoot at police

By DENISE LAVOIE, AP Legal Affairs Writer

BOSTON (AP) — The investigation into the killings of two doctors in their luxury penthouse condominium took a surprise turn Monday when prosecutors corrected earlier accounts by authorities who said police shot a suspect after he opened fire on them inside the couple's apartment.

Suffolk County District Attorney Daniel Conley held a news conference to correct details of the investigation. In addition to saying the suspect did not fire at police, Conley also clarified earlier statements by Boston Police Commissioner William Evans, who said he believed the doctors knew their assailant.

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Bampumim Teixeira was charged with two counts of murder Monday in the killings of Dr. Richard Field and Dr. Lina Bolanos, two anesthesiologists who planned to marry.

Teixeira received three gunshot wounds after police confronted him in the condo Friday night. Police initially said officers opened fire on Teixeira after he shot at them while they were responding to a report of a gunman in the apartment.

During Teixeira's hospital arraignment Monday afternoon, prosecutor John Pappas described that same scenario. But late Monday, Conley said Teixeira did not shoot at police.

Conley said police were sent to the building after Field, in his final moments of life, texted a friend to report "a gunman in the house."

He said police entered the apartment and were confronted by Teixeira. He said police — in the darkened apartment — believed Teixeira either pointed or fired a gun at them. Authorities now believe that one officer responded by firing his weapon, then other officers also fired their guns.

Conley said police found a BB gun or a "replica gun" inside a backpack in the apartment.

"We are simply informing the public to correct the record," Conley said.

Conley also said there is "no evidence whatsoever" at this point to conclude Teixeira had a personal relationship with Field or Bolanos.

Conley said authorities do not know why Teixeira "would attack them so viciously" in their home.

Pappas said police found a backpack near the front door that was filled with jewelry they believe belonged to Bolanos.

Authorities released few details during Teixeira's arraignment. They did not say how the couple was killed or how Teixeira managed to get through security and get up to the 11th floor of the building, where the couple lived. Conley did say a knife was found at the scene.

Teixeira, 30, lay in his bed at Tufts Medical Center covered up to his chin by a blanket during the arraignment. He kept his eyes closed through most of the proceeding.

Steven Sack, a court-appointed attorney for Teixeira, entered not-guilty pleas on his behalf to two counts of murder. He did not argue for bail.

Pappas said Teixeira was shot in the hand, abdomen and leg during the shootout with police. Teixeira mumbled, "Thank you," at the end of the arraignment.

Teixeira, of Chelsea, had recently been released from jail after serving time for larceny. Last June, he passed a note demanding money at a Boston bank. He committed the same crime two years earlier, prosecutors said.

Bolanos, 38, was a pediatric anesthesiologist at Massachusetts Eye and Ear and an instructor at Harvard Medical School.

Field, 49, also an anesthesiologist, worked at North Shore Pain Management.

Jeffrey MacDowell, a patient of Field's, said he was "a cut above" other doctors he has seen for back problems.

"He is the reason I can walk today without being in excruciating pain," MacDowell said.

MacDowell said he recently hugged Field for making him feel better and told him, "You're lucky I don't kiss you."

"You can't do that with many doctors. I will dearly miss him and am worried about my future without him treating me," he said.

Dr. Sunil Eappen, chief medical officer and chief of anesthesia at Massachusetts Eye and Ear, said he first met Bolanos when she was a young researcher.

"I watched her mature and blossom from a young medical school graduate to a fabulous experienced pediatric anesthesiologist," he said.

Eappen said she performed her job with both great skill and compassion.

"Everyone at Mass. Eye and Ear really loved her," he said. "It is desperately hard for all of us to fathom that our friend who never failed to brighten our days is no longer with us."

Associated Press writers Mark Pratt and Crystal Hill in Boston and Christina Paciolla in Philadelphia contributed to this report.

## North Korea claims plot reveals US state-sponsored terrorism

By ERIC TALMADGE, Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — After arresting two American university instructors and laying out what it says was an elaborate, CIA-backed plot to assassinate Kim Jong Un, North Korea is claiming to be the victim of state-sponsored terrorism — from the White House.

The assertion comes as the U.S. is considering putting the North back on its list of terror sponsors. But the vitriolic outrage over the alleged plan to assassinate Kim last month is also being doled out with an unusually big dollop of retaliation threats, raising a familiar question: What on earth is going on in Pyongyang?

North Korea's state-run media announced Sunday that an ethnic Korean man with U.S. citizenship was "intercepted" two days ago by authorities for unspecified hostile acts against the country. He was identified as Kim Hak Song, an employee of the Pyongyang University of Science and Technology.

That came just days after the North announced the detention of an accounting instructor at the same university, Kim Sang Dok, also a U.S. citizen, for "acts of hostility aimed to overturn" the country. Their workplace is North Korea's only privately funded university and has a large number of foreign teachers, including Americans.

What connection, if any, the arrests have to the alleged plot is unknown. But they bring to four the number of U.S. citizens now known to be in custody in the North.

"Obviously this is concerning," White House spokesman Sean Spicer told reporters Monday. "We are well-aware of it, and we are going to work through the embassy of Sweden ... through our State Department to seek the release of the individuals there."

Sweden handles U.S. consular affairs in North Korea, including those of American detainees.

The others are Otto Warmbier, serving a 15-year prison term with hard labor for alleged anti-state acts — he allegedly tried to steal a propaganda banner at his tourist hotel — and Kim Dong Chul, serving a 10-year term with hard labor for alleged espionage.

The reported arrest of another "Mr. Kim" — the North Korean man allegedly at the center of the assassination plot — is more ominous.

According to state media reports that began Friday, he is a Pyongyang resident who was "ideologically corrupted and bribed" by the CIA and South Korea's National Intelligence Service while working in the timber industry in Siberia in 2014. The Russian far east is one of the main places where North Korean laborers are allowed to work abroad.

The reports say Kim — his full name has not been provided — was converted into a "terrorist full of repugnance and revenge against the supreme leadership" of North Korea and collaborated in an elaborate plot to assassinate Kim Jong Un at a series of events, including a major military parade, that were held last month.

They allege Kim was in frequent contact through satellite communications with the "murderous demons" of the NIS and CIA, who instructed him to use a biochemical substance that is the "know-how

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of the CIA" and that the hardware, supplies and funds would be borne by the South Korean side.

Kim Jong Un attended the military parade on April 15 and made several other appearances around that time to mark the anniversary of his late grandfather's birthday.

The initial reports of the plot concluded with a vow by the Ministry of State Security to "ferret out to the last one" the organizers, conspirators and followers of the plot, which it called "state-sponsored terrorism."

The North Korean reports also said a "Korean-style anti-terrorist attack" would begin immediately. Follow-up stories on the plot have focused on outraged North Koreans demanding revenge.

It's anyone's guess what a "Korean-style" attack might entail.

North Korea is known for its loud and belligerent rhetoric in the face of what it deems to be threats to its leadership, and the reference to ferreting out anyone involved in the plot could suggest not only action abroad but possible purges or crackdowns at home.

"I wonder if Kim Jong Un has become paranoid about the influence Americans are having on North Koreans, and about the possibility of U.S. action against him," said Bruce Bennett, a senior defense analyst and North Korea expert at the RAND Corporation. "Will Kim increase his internal purges of North Korean elites? Will he focus on North Korean defectors, people who the regime would like to silence? Or will he do both?"

Tensions between North Korea and its chief adversaries — the U.S. and South Korea — have been rising over Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programs, as well as joint U.S.-South Korean military exercises that include training for a possible "decapitation strike" to kill the North's senior leaders.

Bennett noted that such training has been included and expanded upon in annual wargames hosted by South Korea, which were bigger than ever this year.

The wargames, called Key Resolve/Foal Eagle, just finished, without any signs of North Korean retaliation.

But the current rhetoric from Pyongyang has a somewhat familiar ring to it. Case in point: the movie "The Interview" in 2014.

In June that year, the North denounced the Seth Rogen comedy, which portrays the assassination of Kim Jong Un for the CIA by two American journalists, as "a most wanton act of terror and act of war." A few months later, hackers broke into Sony Pictures Entertainment computers and released thousands of emails, documents, Social Security numbers and other personal information in an attempt to derail the movie's release.

The U.S. government blamed North Korea for the attack. Pyongyang denies involvement, but has praised the hackers.

The North's claims of a plot to kill Kim Jong Un with a biochemical agent also have an eerie similarity to the assassination of his estranged half brother, Kim Jong Nam, at an airport lobby in Malaysia in February.

In that attack, seen by many as orchestrated by the North, two young women who were allegedly tricked into thinking they were taking part in a television game show, rubbed the deadly VX nerve agent onto the face of the unsuspecting victim, who died soon after.

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Talmadge is the AP's Pyongyang bureau chief. Follow him on Twitter @EricTalmadge and Instagram at erictalmadge.

## **\$54 million fight over vacant Superman Building is settled**

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — A \$54 million lawsuit over the state's tallest building, called the Superman Building, has been settled just before a trial was scheduled to begin in federal court.

The owner of the Providence skyscraper had sued its former tenant, Bank of America, saying the bank allowed it to fall into disrepair. The Charlotte, North Carolina-based bank had countersued, arguing it spent millions of dollars on maintenance before it moved out four years ago.

The owner, High Rock Westminister Street, based in Newton, Massachusetts, and the bank said they were pleased to have settled the lawsuit.

"High Rock looks forward to exploring options to make the most of its ownership of the building," a joint statement said. "Bank of America looks forward to continuing its long-standing partnership with the city and people of Providence."

The terms of the settlement weren't disclosed. A trial had been set to begin Monday.

The 26-story building has been vacant for years and has become a symbol of Rhode Island's economic decline.

It was the tallest skyscraper in New England when it opened in 1928 as the Industrial National Bank Building and became the most recognizable feature on the Providence skyline. The Art Deco-style skyscraper, at the heart of downtown, got its superhero nickname because of its similarity to the Daily Planet headquarters in the old TV show.

High Rock has said in court that Bank of America took such bad care of the building over a period of years that the limestone facade is crumbling, among other problems.

Bank of America had said that it spent tens of millions of dollars on maintenance and repairs on the building during its lease and contended that High Rock decided to sue so it could get the money it needs to convert the building into apartments.

## **Oregon timber counties struggle as federal support dries up**

**By GILLIAN FLACCUS, Associated Press**

ROSEBURG, Ore. (AP) — So much timber money once flowed into this rural Oregon county that its leaders set up committees to find ways to spend it.

Today, Douglas County's library system is on life support, and its sheriff's department is on track to lose funding.

Nearly 30 years after environmental protections slashed logging in federal forests, Oregon counties like this one that thrived on timber revenues for decades are struggling to provide basic services. These so-called timber counties received hundreds of millions of dollars during logging's long heyday, and since then the federal government has continued to pour money in to make up for timber's downfall.

Now the money has dried up and people are reluctant to tax themselves, leaving leaders scrambling and public institutions in free fall.

Commissioners in Douglas County, which once received \$50 million in annual profits from logging on federal lands, have slashed health services, cut nearly 300 jobs and started charging for landfill use and parking at parks. The county's main library will close June 1 because voters rejected a tax, and voters in nearby Josephine County must decide May 16 whether to restore limited tax dollars to libraries and fund county response to 911 calls.

Democratic U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden recently joined other Western lawmakers in a last-ditch effort to restore federal assistance — but local officials aren't optimistic.

"Most of the citizens have become accustomed to receiving that outside money, and now that that

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money is gone, we have to be self-sufficient — or at least more self-sufficient,” Josephine County Sheriff Dave Daniel said.

Yet anti-tax sentiment is strong here, where President Donald Trump dominated in November.

Voters in these counties have rejected tax levies for public services nearly a dozen times before, including for public safety and libraries. Many residents feel county leaders are quick to come to voters and must do more to bring back timber dollars, said Jim Rafferty, who opposes raising taxes in Josephine County.

“I’m not saying that we’re opposed to public safety. That’s not the message,” he said. “The message is for the county commissioners to roll up their sleeves and fund the sheriff when they can, rather than give us this rhetoric.”

The economic spiral playing out in western Oregon is interwoven with themes that have emerged across the American West: Anger over federal land policy, debate about the limits of environmental regulation and the question of who has the right to benefit from federal lands.

Communities across the American West have long received revenues from logging on federal land, but a quirk of history made the timber wealth of more than a dozen counties in Oregon even greater — and makes their current plight unique.

These 18 timber counties stretch from Portland to the California line. They contain 3,281 square miles (8,498 square kilometers) of densely forested territory that is the central character in a tale of rapid Western expansion and century-old corruption.

The Oregon & California Railroad got the lands in the 1860s for a rail line. The project spurred growth in Oregon but also inspired large-scale land fraud that led to the indictment of a U.S. senator and two congressmen.

In the scandal’s wake, the federal government in 1916 took back the land, but locals argued that cheated them of a tax base on land ripe for logging.

Federal legislation tailored to compensate the counties created a cash cow: 75 percent of the logging receipts from those lands go to the counties, with no restrictions.

During the 1980s, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management was selling 1 billion board feet (2.4 million cubic meters) of timber a year, producing so much money that some of the counties did not assess property taxes. Most also get 25 percent of timber receipts from national forests within their borders under a separate program.

But in the early 1990s, conservation groups won lawsuits to protect spotted owl and salmon habitat, and logging on federal land dropped by 90 percent. Federal dollars to ease the counties’ transition has been shrinking for years and was not renewed this year.

The adjustment has been whiplash in communities where unemployment rises to 8 and 9 percent.

Kate Lasky, executive director of Josephine Community Libraries Inc., runs a nonprofit foundation that has kept the libraries open with donations and volunteers.

The May 16 ballot measure would add 39 cents per \$1,000 in taxes for voters in a special district of the precincts around the library’s branches. A previous county-wide levy failed.

“I have to focus on those people who want to support their community,” Lasky said. “We need to do that for generations, not just for next year.”

A public safety levy on the same ballot asks for 93 cents per \$1,000. If that fails, residents who call 911 won’t get any help from sheriff’s deputies, said Daniel, the county sheriff, who handed out 17 lay-off warnings last month.

The Oregon State Police, which has been providing limited patrol coverage, says it can’t help more of the measure fails.

"We're just bracing ourselves for the impact," Daniel said.

In Douglas County, officials in the 1990s realized there would be a drop-off in funding and started building up reserves, but those funds are almost gone.

"Literally, and I'm not kidding, we had committees that just sat around and figured out how to spend the money. That's no joke. That was their job," Douglas County Commissioner Gary Leif said of timber's peak.

"What I fear — what I know — is going to happen, is that we will have to go to the people and say, 'We've cut everything down to the bones. There's nowhere else to cut.' "

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Follow Gillian Flaccus on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/gflaccus>

## **Obama to deliver keynote speech in Italy on food security**

MILAN (AP) — Former U.S. President Barack Obama is in Milan to deliver a keynote speech on food security and the environment, two issues that he has long worked on.

The visit was his first public foreign foray since leaving the presidency.

Obama arrived Monday, greeted by former Premier Matteo Renzi, a political ally who is mounting a comeback after resigning when his referendum on constitutional reforms failed.

Renzi welcomed Obama in a Facebook post, calling him "a friend and great leader ... who still has much to say and give to world politics."

Obama made a few tourist stops in Italy's fashion and finance capital before attending a dinner hosted by an Italian think tank attended by friends and business leaders. He will give a speech on food security on Tuesday afternoon.

## **UN climate talks begin amid uncertainty over US position**

BONN, Germany (AP) — Despite uncertainties about whether the United States will remain committed to the Paris climate accord under President Donald Trump, envoys convened talks Monday in Germany on implementing the details of the deal to combat global warming.

During ten days of talks in the western city of Bonn, officials will try to agree on how to implement the 2015 Paris Agreement to cut carbon emissions, a treaty that former U.S. President Barack Obama's government played a leading role in forging.

The Paris accord calls for limiting the global average temperature increase since the industrial revolution to 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) or less — a goal that has been called ambitious.

Patricia Espinosa, head of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change that is hosting the Bonn talks, said it was important to make progress on the nuts and bolts of the agreement before November's annual climate summit. Her agency's budget is also up for discussion.

Espinosa refused to comment on the impact of a possible U.S. withdrawal from the talks or even the entire climate change accord.

"I would rather wait until a decision has been taken," she said.

The White House postponed a meeting that had been planned Tuesday to discuss whether to withdraw from the Paris deal that Trump has said he would "cancel" — or find a way to back away from emissions targets set by the Obama administration.

Fiji, which holds the presidency of the upcoming climate summit, said it was important to press ahead with the talks.

"Irrespective of the position of particular countries, I think it's very important that we continue to



move this process forward," said Fiji envoy Nazhat Shameem Khan. "That's the short answer to the issue about the United States."

## Asian shares mixed as China tightens market oversight

By ELAINE KURTENBACH, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Shares were mixed in Asia on Tuesday after record highs on Wall Street overnight. Chinese markets lost ground on news of further tightening of market oversight by regulators.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 index edged 0.1 percent lower to 19,879.98 and the Shanghai Composite index dropped 0.5 percent to 3,062.88. Australia's S&P ASX 200 lost 0.3 percent after a report of weak retail sales data. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index gained 0.2 percent to 24,630.42 and shares in Taiwan and Southeast Asia were higher.

SOUTH KOREA ELECTION: South Korea's markets were closed Tuesday for the presidential election. On Monday, the benchmark Kospi rallied 2.3 percent on expectations the vote will help ease the uncertainties brought on by the influence peddling scandal that led to Park Geun-hye's impeachment. While the policy stances of the leading candidates are similar, "the filling of the political vacuum could go a long way to benefiting the economy," Jingyi Pan of IG said in a commentary.

CHINA REGULATORS: New guidelines issued by the China Banking Regulatory Commission on management of loan collateral suggest a further tightening of oversight amid complaints over abuses and excess lending.

WALL STREET: Trading was calm and investors have turned their attention to strong earnings reports following the French presidential election. The Standard & Poor's 500 index ended flat at 2,399.38, up by just 0.09 points. The Dow Jones industrial average likewise edged up a fraction of a percent, adding 5.34 points to 21,012.28. The Nasdaq composite rose 1.90 points, or less than 0.1 percent, to 6,102.66.

THE QUOTE: "Corporate earnings have been phenomenal, the best quarter in five years," said Phil Orlando, chief equity strategist at Federated Investors. "The earnings recession that was about seven or eight quarter long is definitively behind us. It's over."

FRANCE: The French CAC 40 fell 0.9 percent on Monday, but that followed a 7.4 percent surge in the previous two weeks.

CURRENCIES: The euro had been climbing against the dollar in recent weeks as expectations built for a Macron victory. The euro rose to \$1.0927 from \$1.0925 on Monday. The dollar slipped to 113.23 Japanese yen from 112.25 yen. The British pound rose \$1.2942 from \$1.2939.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude gained 2 cents to \$46.25 in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It settled at \$46.43 per barrel on Monday. Brent crude, the international standard, rose 4 cents to \$49.38 a barrel.

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AP Business Writer Stan Choe in New York contributed to this report.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, May 9, the 129th day of 2017. There are 236 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 9, 1754, a political cartoon in Benjamin Franklin's Pennsylvania Gazette depicted a snake cut into eight pieces, each section representing a part of the American colonies; the caption read, "JOIN, or DIE."

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On this date:

In 1814, the Jane Austen novel "Mansfield Park" was first published in London.

In 1864, Union Maj. Gen. John Sedgwick was killed by a Confederate sniper during the Civil War Battle of Spotsylvania in Virginia.

In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson, acting on a joint congressional resolution, signed a proclamation designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

In 1926, Americans Richard Byrd and Floyd Bennett supposedly became the first men to fly over the North Pole. (However, U.S. scholars announced in 1996 that their examination of Byrd's flight diary suggested he had turned back 150 miles short of his goal.)

In 1936, Italy annexed Ethiopia.

In 1945, with World War II in Europe at an end, Soviet forces liberated Czechoslovakia from Nazi occupation. U.S. officials announced that a midnight entertainment curfew was being lifted immediately.

In 1951, the U.S. conducted its first thermonuclear experiment as part of Operation Greenhouse by detonating a 225-kiloton device on Enewetak Atoll in the Pacific nicknamed "George."

In 1961, in a speech to the National Association of Broadcasters, Federal Communications Commission Chairman Newton N. Minow decried the majority of television programming as a "vast wasteland."

In 1974, the House Judiciary Committee opened public hearings on whether to recommend the impeachment of President Richard Nixon. (The committee ended up adopting three articles of impeachment against the president, who resigned before the full House took up any of them.)

In 1980, 35 people were killed when a freighter rammed the Sunshine Skyway Bridge over Tampa Bay in Florida, causing a 1,400-foot section of the southbound span to collapse.

In 1987, 183 people were killed when a New York-bound Polish jetliner crashed while attempting an emergency return to Warsaw.

In 1994, South Africa's newly elected parliament chose Nelson Mandela to be the country's first black president.

Ten years ago: Vice President Dick Cheney pressed Iraq's leaders to do more to reduce violence and achieve political reconciliation during a trip to Baghdad that was punctuated by an explosion that shook windows at the U.S. Embassy where Cheney was visiting. Pope Benedict XVI began his first papal trip to Latin America as he arrived in Brazil.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama declared his unequivocal support for same-sex marriage in a historic announcement that came three days after Vice President Joe Biden spoke in favor of such unions on NBC's "Meet the Press." Presumptive Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney repeated his opposition to gay marriage, telling reporters in Oklahoma City, "I believe that marriage is between a man and a woman." Hair stylist Vidal Sassoon, 84, died in Los Angeles.

One year ago: Filipinos went to the polls to elect Rodrigo Duterte, the controversial, tough-talking mayor of Davao city, to be their country's next president.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-writer Alan Bennett is 83. Rock musician Nokie Edwards (The Ventures) is 82. Actor Albert Finney is 81. Actress-turned-politician Glenda Jackson is 81. Producer-director James L. Brooks is 80. Musician Sonny Curtis (Buddy Holly and the Crickets) is 80. Singer Tommy Roe is 75. Singer-musician Richie Furay (Buffalo Springfield and Poco) is 73. Actress Candice Bergen is 71. Pop singer Clint Holmes is 71. Actor Anthony Higgins is 70. Singer Billy Joel is 68. Blues singer-musician Bob Margolin is 68. Rock singer-musician Tom Petersson (Cheap Trick) is 67. Actress Alley Mills is 66. Actress Amy Hill is 64. Actress Wendy Crewson is 61. Actor John Corbett is 56. Singer Dave Gahan (GAHN) (Depeche Mode) is 55. Actress Sonja Sohn is 53. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is 49. Rapper Ghostface Killah is 47. Country musician Mike Myerson (Heartland) is 46. Actor Chris Diamantopoulos

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(dy-uh-MAN'-toh-POO'-lehs) is 42. Rhythm-and-blues singer Tamia (tuh-MEE'-ah) is 42. Rock musician Dan Regan (Reel Big Fish) is 40. Actor Daniel Franzese is 39. Rock singer Pierre Bouvier (Simple Plan) is 38. Actress Rosario Dawson is 38. Rock singer Andrew W.K. is 38. Figure skater Angela Nikodinov is 37. Actress Rachel Boston is 35. TV personality Audrina Patridge is 32. Actress Grace Gummer is 31.

Thought for Today: "There is nothing to fear except the persistent refusal to find out the truth, the persistent refusal to analyze the causes of happenings." — Dorothy Thompson, American journalist and author (1894-1961).