

# Groton Daily Independent

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Part of the north lane on US 12 was poured yesterday as they dry weather is allowing for good progress.

**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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### 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 a.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, Oatmeal raisin cookie.

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

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

**Groton Schools:** NEC Track at Clark, 11 a.m.; D.A.R.E. graduation at 2 p.m.



## Audrey Wanner is quad winner at Britton-Hecla

Audrey Wanner was a quadruple winner at the Britton-Hecla track meet held Tuesday. She won the long jump, the triple jump and was on the winning 400m relay and 800m relay teams. Payton Maine won the 300m hurdles, Eliza Wanner won the 100m dash, Jessica Bjerke won the discus and the girls 1600m relay and medley relay teams were also winners.

Treyton Diegel was a triple winner for the boys, winning the 800m run and was on the winning 1600m and 3200m relay teams. Jonathan Doeden was a double winner in individual events, taking the 300m hurdles and the 200m dash. Lee Williams was also a double winner in individual events with a win the 100m dash and the 400m dash. McClain Lone won both throwing events, Bennett Shabazz won the triple jump, Austin Jones won the high jump and the medley relay team placed first.

### Girls' Division

**100m Hurdles:** 2, Payton Maine, 18.0.

**300m Hurdles:** 1, Payton Maine, 52.24; 2, Eliza Wanner, 59.15.

**100m Dash:** 1, Eliza Wanner, 13.52; 3, Heather Lone, 23.85; 3, Kaylin Kucker, 15.14.

**200m Dash:** 2, Nicole Marzahn, 30.15; 3, Tady Glover, 30.50; 5, Kaylin Kucker, 31.65.

**1600m Run:** 6, Emily Thompson, 6:16.

**400m Relay:** 1, (Audrey Wanner, Katie Koehler, Harleigh Stange, Eliza Wanner), 52.87.

**800m Relay:** 1, (Audrey Wanner, Payton Maine, Katie Koehler, Harleigh Stange), 1:54.69.

**1600m Relay:** 1, (Eliza Wanner, Heather Lone, Jodi Hinman, Emily Thompson), 4:56.55.

**Medley Relay:** 1, (Kaylin Kucker, Tady Glover, Jodi Hinman, Emily Thompson), 5:02.88.

**High Jump:** 3, Katie Koehler, 4-3; 4, Nicole Marzahn, 4-1.

**Long Jump:** 1, Audrey Wanner, 16-9; 2, Harleigh Stange, 15-5.5; 5, Nicole Marzahn, 13-10.5; Tady Glover, 13-3.25.

**Triple Jump:** 1, Audrey Wanner, 35-9; 2, Katie Koehler, 32-1.5; 4, Tady Glover, 27-9.5; 5, Nicole Marzahn, 27-0.5.

**Discus:** 1, Jessica Bjerke, 114; 2, Taylor Holm, 111-2; 3, Nicole Fey, 101-4; 4, Jennie Doeden, 91-11; 5, Madison Sippel, 98-6; Kaycie Hawkins, 84-8.

**Shot Put:** 2, Jessica Bjerke, 33-10.5; 3, Taylor Holm, 33-1.5; 4, Jennie Doeden, 31-6; 5, Nicole Fey, 31-1; 6, Kaycie Hawkins, 30-11; Madison Sippel, 30-7.5.

### Boy's Division

**110m Hurdles:** 3, Lucas Hinman, 19.34; 4, Garrett Schroeder, 20-14.

**300m Hurdles:** 1, Jonathan Doeden, 44.14; 3, Tylan Glover, 48.46; 5, Garrett Schroeder, 52.56.

**100m Dash:** 1, Lee Williams, 11.5; 2, Tylan Glover, 11.5; 4, Jonathan Doeden, 11.82; 5, Jackson Oliver, 11.9; 6, Garrett Schroeder, 23.79.

**200m Dash:** 1, Jonathan Doeden, 24.75; 3, Darien Shabazz, 25.50; 5, Jackson Oliver, 25.52; 5, Garrett Schroeder, 27.30.

**400m Dash:** 1, Lee Williams, 54.81; 4, Austin Jones, 59.21.

**800m Run:** 1, Treyton Diegel, 2:15.16; 4, Bradon Keith, 2:23; 5, Mitchell Koens, 2:26.

**1600m Run:** 4, Mitchell Koens, 5:50.34.

**400m Relay:** 2, (Trevor Pray, Darien Shabazz, Jackson Oliver, Lucas Hinman), 47.27.

**800m Relay:** 2, (Trevor Pray, Jackson Oliver, Darien Shabazz, Lee Williams), 1:40.02.

**1600m Relay:** 1, (Treyton Diegel, Bennett Shabazz, Lee Williams, Sean Schuring), 53.56.

**3200m Relay:** 1, (Treyton Diegel, Brandon Keith, Austin Jones, Mitchell Koens), 9:32.

**Medley Relay:** 1, (Trevor Pray, Lucas Hinman, Bennett Shabazz, Sean Schuring), 3:48.18.

**High Jump:** 1, Austin Jones, 55.

**Long Jump:** 2, Lucas Hinman, 18-5.5; 3, Tylan Glover, 17-4.

**Triple Jump:** 1, Bennett Shabazz, 39-5.5.

**Discus:** 1, McClain Lone, 132-9; 2, Luke Thorson, 121-11; 5, Grady O'Neill, 96-6.

**Shot Put:** 1, McClain Lone, 45-6; 2, Luke Thorson, 38-2.5; Grady O'Neill, 29-6.

## May is Noxious Weed Control Awareness Month

PIERRE, S.D. -- Gov. Dennis Daugaard has declared May as South Dakota "Noxious Weed Control Awareness Month." The designation highlights the importance of managing noxious weeds, which negatively affect agriculture, water quality, recreational opportunities and wildlife.

Noxious weeds cost landowners over \$80 million annually in lost productivity of range and cropland. Noxious weeds have infested nearly two and a half million acres in South Dakota. Federal agencies estimate that noxious weeds are spreading on federal public lands at a rate of 4600 acres per day.

"To protect the state's lands, the South Dakota Weed and Pest Control Commission formulates a weed and pest program for the prevention, suppression, control and eradication of weeds and pests in South Dakota," said Ron Moehring, state weed and pest supervisor. "Noxious weeds threaten the integrity of all lands in South Dakota. The commission and the South Dakota Department of Agriculture work in close cooperation with all state agencies and SDSU Extension, to educate the public about noxious weeds."

There are seven weeds listed on South Dakota's "Noxious Weed List." They are: Canada thistle, Leafy spurge, Hoary cress, Perennial sow thistle, Purple loosestrife, Saltcedar and Russian knapweed.

"In addition to the seven state noxious weeds, each county may select no more than eight weeds or pests that can be declared locally noxious in their county, once approved by the commission," said Moehring. "Examples of locally noxious weeds in South Dakota are Musk & Plumeless Thistle, Absinth Wormwood, Yellow Toadflax, Spotted Knapweed and Bull Thistle.

Report any new noxious weed sightings to your county weed and pest supervisor or the South Dakota Department of Agriculture.

## Social Security Helps Small Businesses

Social Security is one of the cornerstones of financial security for the nation. So are small businesses. Millions of Americans own and operate small businesses, making the "mom and pop" shop — from retailers to restaurants — one of the nation's most valuable resources. National Small Business Week started on April 30, making this a perfect time to tell you more about how Social Security helps this not-so-small industry.

Small businesses can take advantage of our Business Services Online suite of services. These services allow organizations, businesses, individuals, employers, attorneys, non-attorneys representing Social Security claimants, and third-parties to exchange information with Social Security securely over the internet. For small business owners, we've made it especially easy to file W-2s online to help ensure the privacy of their employees' personal information. You can register and create your own password to access Business Services Online at [www.socialsecurity.gov/bsa](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/bsa)

Social Security's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) was established in October 1979 pursuant to Public Law 95-507. The law assigned the office the task of fostering the use of small and disadvantaged businesses as federal contractors. To accomplish this, the OSDBU develops and implements appropriate outreach programs aimed at heightening the awareness of the small business community to the contracting opportunities available within Social Security.

The OSDBU encourages buyers and program officials to consider small businesses, and to support all the socio-economic contracting programs in place under the Federal Acquisition Regulations.

You can learn more about the OSDBU at [www.socialsecurity.gov/agency/osdbu](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/agency/osdbu).

## Prepare Your Kids for the Real World by Turning Monthly Bills into Lessons By Nathaniel Sillin

When you're a kid, a few dollars can seem like all the money in the world. It can take weeks, sometimes months, to save up your allowance. When you finally decide to spend it, you might realize that \$10 or \$20 isn't as much as it seems.

As a parent, you can help your children build important money management skills by providing experiences for them at a young age. Leading by example is a good way to start, and it can help instill good values and money habits. However, you'll also want your children to get their hands dirty.

Open up your books. The value of money is a lesson you learn over time. For young children, games, such as Peter Pig's Money Counter, or activities that help them identify coins and bills could be a good place to start. Older children may be ready to see how much things really cost. Going over bank or credit card statements, you could explain why you made each purchase and look for savings opportunities.

You can also turn a monthly bill into a teaching moment. Children might not realize how leaving the lights, heat or AC on can affect your monthly bills. You can sit down together and compare each month's bill to the bill from the previous year. The practice of reviewing and comparing bills can help children understand that their actions have financial consequences.

They'll also start to learn how much it costs to keep your home comfortable. That's a valuable lesson, one I didn't truly learn until I had my first apartment. You could take a similar approach to the groceries or other monthly expenses.

Help your children earn an income. Knowing the numbers is only part of the picture. It'll be difficult for children to practice managing money if they don't have any money to manage. But how, when and why children should receive an allowance is a debate for many parents.

Whether you pay a chore-based allowance or offer payment based on extra work, you could use a personal finance app that lets children see how much they'll earn for each task. There are a variety of apps designed for different age groups, and some let kids create virtual accounts where they can track their earnings, spending and progress towards financial goals.

You can also help children find ways to earn money from outside the family. Organizing a yard sale could be a chance for them to help you clean out the home, practice bargaining and learn valuable lessons in entrepreneurship. Even a lemonade stand or bake sale requires that they buy supplies, work to earn money and put aside some of their earnings to pay for more supplies later.

Make your kids responsible for their bills. With a steady income comes increased responsibility. Make teenagers the boss of a bill, with real consequences for late payments.

The mobile phone or internet bill could be a good place to start. Figure out an appropriate portion for them to take on and require them to pay you each month. If they're late, they lose internet access or their phone until they can pay their balance. When they don't have enough saved to pay the bill, offer work opportunities for them to make money.

Once they take responsibility for their first monthly bill, you can also share how you manage the household's finances. Show them what it's like to keep multiple bills organized each month, make payments by writing checks or setting up auto-pay. Then explain how late payments can lead to fees, affect your credit and (just like with their phone) get services shut off.

Bottom line: Understanding how much it costs to manage a home and the importance of paying your bills on time can help you avoid costly mistakes. Some people learn these lessons once they're at college or living on their own, but you can help give your kids a leg up by taking a proactive approach to their financial education.

Nathaniel Sillin directs Visa's financial education programs. To follow Practical Money Skills on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney](http://www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney).





**From left to right Mr. Austin Fordham, Kylie Kassube, Emily Thompson, and Mrs. Desiree Yeigh**

## **HS Students receive honor of being accepted into All State Band**

On Saturday March 25th, Emily Thompson and Kylie Kassube proudly represented Groton Area in South Dakota's 66th Annual High School All State Band. The event was located in Sioux Falls, SD at O'Gorman High School. The audition process to be accepted into All State Band is very vigorous and competitive. Students attend a judged audition that consists of scales, playing a solo, playing a learned etude, and sight reading in front of a qualified judge. A written test is also required. Emily and Kylie spent about a year preparing for the audition process. Emily auditioned for the percussion section. Only fourteen students are selected and Emily was number five in the state. Kylie auditioned for clarinet the section. Forty students are selected and Kylie was number twenty five in the state. A total of 101 students auditioned for the clarinet section.

The guest conductors for this prestigious event was Dr. Myron Welch and Dr. Elva Kaye Lance. Emily and Kylie were both placed in the Lewis Band and were under the direction of Dr. Welch. Dr. Welch spent more of his teaching career at the University of Iowa for twenty eight years. Before teaching in Iowa Dr. Welch also taught at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. Dr. Welch did an excellent job with the students and put on a fantastic concert that received a standing ovation. Welch was personable, humorous, and hardworking with the students.

Congratulations Emily and Kylie! You made Groton Area extremely proud!

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## Today in Weather History

May 10, 1982: An F3 tornado was first sighted six miles west of Tintah, Minnesota. The storm moved into the town of Tintah and then northeastward, dissipating north of Wendell. Two farms, sites were damaged west of Tintah. Nearly one dozen farm buildings were destroyed, and 50 cows were killed. Hail as large as softballs preceded the tornado into Tintah where there was extensive damage. A school and church received heavy damage, two railroad cars were overturned, homes and grain buildings were damaged and utility poles and trees were uprooted.

1880: A tornado estimated to be F4 intensity moved across 20 miles of Scott and Morgan Counties in central Illinois. The tornado touched down near Alsey and moved northeast, passing 8 miles south of Jacksonville. The tornado was strongest in the Pisgah area, where 30 buildings were destroyed. Seven people were killed.

1905 - A deadly tornado hit the town of Snyder, OK, killing 87 persons. The tornado leveled 100 homes in Snyder, and destroyed many others. The large and violent tornado killed a total of 97 persons along its 40 miles path across southwestern Oklahoma. Its roar could reportedly be heard up to twelve miles away. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1953: Four, F4 tornadoes touched down in parts of eastern Minnesota and western Wisconsin. One F4 tornado moved northeast from northeast of Fountain City, Wisconsin to Colburn, Wisconsin. Total damage from this storm was \$1 million dollars, and it caused ten injuries.

The second F4 tornado moved from 5 miles southwest of Chester, Iowa to 4 miles northeast of Chatfield, Minnesota. One man was killed as his barn was destroyed one mile southeast of Wykoff. A rural school was leveled 3 miles south of Chatfield as well.

The third F4 tornado moved northeast and passed about 2 miles northwest of St. Charles, Minnesota. Farms were torn up all along the track. An infant was killed, and four other people were injured in a car that was thrown 100 feet. Overall this tornado killed one person and injured 11 people.

The final F4 tornado moved across Rusk, Price, and Taylor counties in Wisconsin. Over \$150,000 worth of damage resulted. An F3 tornado moved northeast across Clayton County, Iowa. At least 60 head of cattle were killed. A farmer was carried 700 feet but suffered only minor injuries.

1966 - Morning lows of 21 degrees at Bloomington-Normal and Aurora, IL, established a state record for the month of May. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Summer-like "Father's Day" type weather prevailed in the north central and western U.S. for "Mother's Day", as seventeen cities reported record high temperatures for the date. Jamestown ND soared to a record high of 96 degrees. Thunderstorms along the Central Gulf Coast deluged Lillian AL with 14.5 inches of rain, and nearby Perdido Key FL with 12.8 inches of rain. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced hail and high winds over the Atlantic Coast Region and the Gulf Coast States marking the end of a five day episode of severe weather associated with a cyclone tracking out of the Great Basin into southeastern Canada. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front crossing the Plateau Region produced wind gusts to 75 mph at Butte MT, and gusts to 77 mph at Choteau MT. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

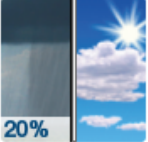


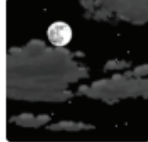



1990 - A spring storm produced heavy snow in Upper Michigan and eastern Wisconsin. Totals ranged up to 12 inches at Marquette MI, with eight inches reported at Muskego WI and Hartford WI. The heavy wet snow, and winds gusting to 35 mph, damaged or destroyed thousands of trees, and downed numerous power lines. Total damage from the storm was more than four million dollars. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

2010: On this day, Oklahoma experienced its largest tornado outbreak since May 3, 1999. Fifty-five twisters tore through the state, including two rated EF4. The EF4 storms took three lives and injured 81 people. Ironically, both EF4 tornadoes struck Norman, Oklahoma, home of the Storm Prediction Center and the National Severe Storms Laboratory. Fourteen additional tornadoes hit Oklahoma during May 11-13. The May 10 disaster racked up insured property losses of \$2 billion.

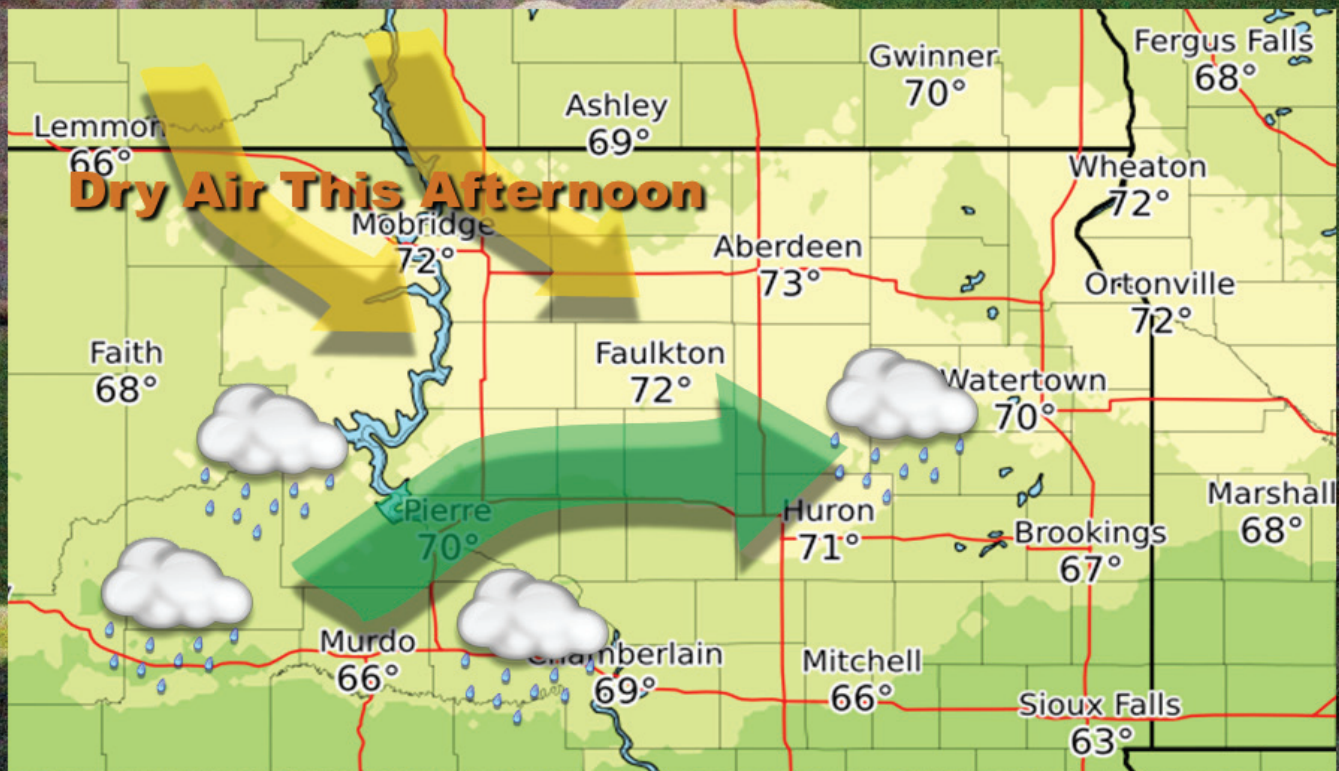


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Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
						
Slight Chance Showers then Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 73 °F	Low: 41 °F	High: 71 °F	Low: 45 °F	High: 80 °F	Low: 50 °F	High: 81 °F

## Rain West River This Morning Weakening And More Isolated North And East Today



Published on: 05/10/2017 at 4:42AM

An area of light rain moving out of west river will result in some moisture for central and possibly northeast South Dakota before the system dissipates. Drier air will move in from North Dakota later today, allowing temperatures to warm into the upper 60s and low 70s. The rest of the work week will be dry with a warm up towards the weekend.

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## Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 70.2 F at 3:35 PM

Low Outside Temp: 40.4 F at 6:18 AM

High Gust: 18.0 Mph at 10:33 AM

Snow:    Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

Record High: 95° in 1911

Record Low: 20° in 1981

Average High: 67°F

Average Low: 42°F

Average Precip in May: 1.03

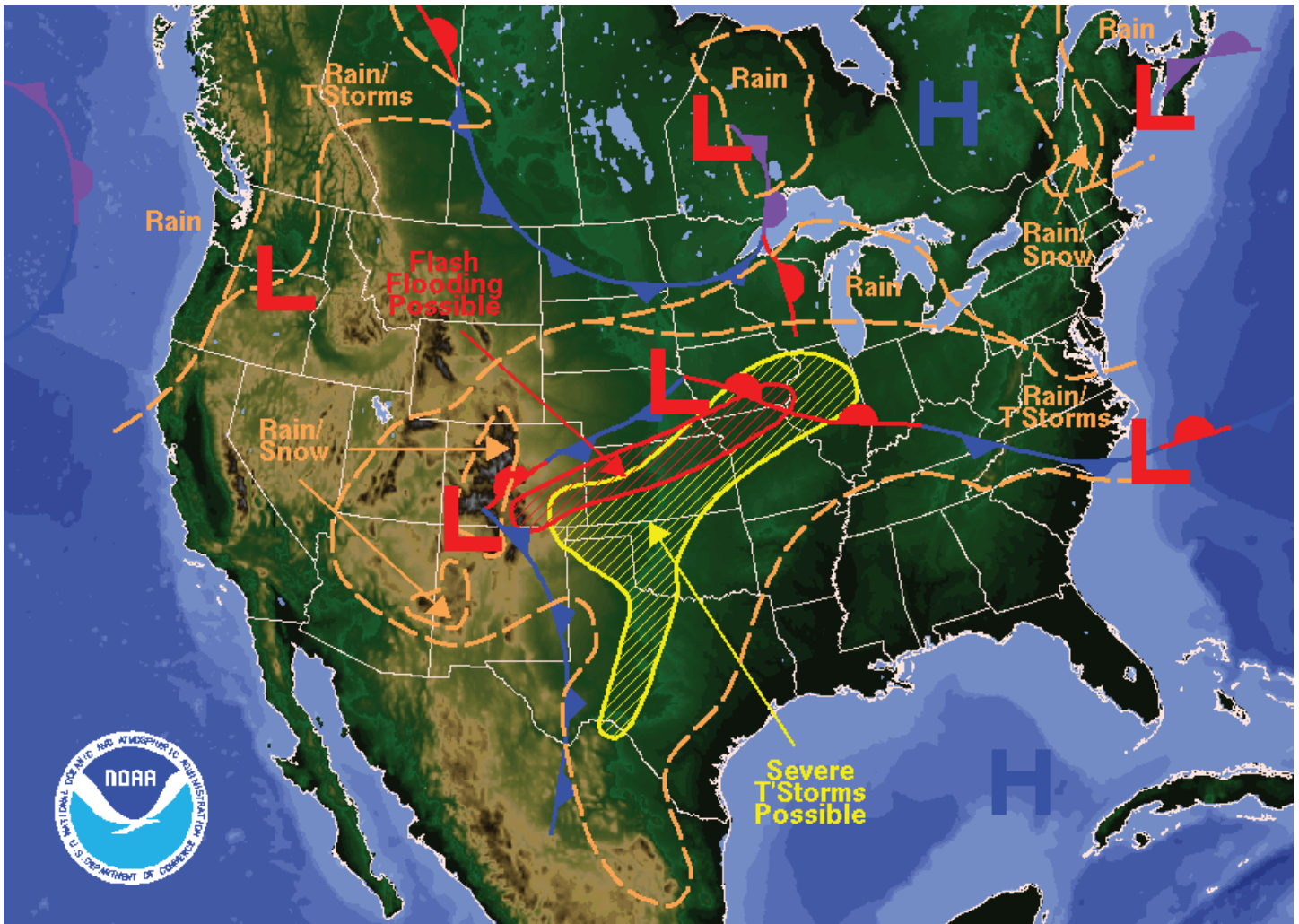
Precip to date in May: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 5.06

Precip Year to Date: 1.98

Sunset Tonight: 8:51 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:07 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Wed, May 10, 2017, issued 4:33 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Mcreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts





## A STRONG HEART

After walking for what seemed to be miles, he stopped at the corner of an apple orchard to admire the beautiful apples. The owner of the orchard noticed him and asked, "Son, are you trying to steal my apples?"

"No, sir," he replied, "I'm trying not to. But my trying not to is losing to my wanting to."

It was that way with David. Deep in his heart he wanted to do what was right. But one day he realized that his friendship with evil men was a strong force that was often more powerful than his desire to do the right things.

As his walk with the Lord grew stronger he began to realize that there was a power beyond human power and if he wanted to, he could choose victory over defeat by depending on that power. He was able to move from being overcome by their power to overcoming temptation and sin by calling upon God's power.

So, he went to God in prayer and asked, "Let not my heart be drawn to what is evil, to take part in evil deeds with men who are evildoers; let me not eat of their delicacies."

One of the most powerful thoughts that the devil places in our minds is that we are human and that God realizes we may be overcome by temptation and sin. It's so easy to rationalize sin's power and our weakness.

But Paul refused to accept that excuse. "There is no temptation that is more powerful than God's power. And He'll provide a way of escape if you want it," he added.

Prayer: Lord, help us to confront our excuse of being human as a reason to sin. May we run to You for safety. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 141:4 4 Do not let my heart be drawn to what is evil so that I take part in wicked deeds along with those who are evildoers; do not let me eat their delicacies.

## News from the Associated Press

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

06-29-45-69-73, Mega Ball: 11, Megaplier: 5

(six, twenty-nine, forty-five, sixty-nine, seventy-three; Mega Ball: eleven; Megaplier: five)

Estimated jackpot: \$25 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$165 million

### Texas House OKs letting adoption groups deny non-Christians

By MEREDITH HOFFMAN, Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Many state-funded Texas adoption and foster care agencies routinely deny non-Christian, gay, and unmarried applicants on religious grounds — and legislation that got initial approval in the state House on Tuesday is designed to protect them from potential lawsuits from doing so.

The private organizations, which are paid by the state to place foster children with adoptive families, want to continue the practice and are seeking legal protections through Texas' "Freedom to Serve Children Act," which the GOP-controlled chamber approved 94-51 late Tuesday night.

A final vote will be needed Wednesday to send the measure to the state Senate, which is even more conservative.

The bill would be the nation's second allowing state-funded adoption agencies to reject families on religious grounds. South Dakota passed similar legislation in March but it's too soon to measure its practical effects. While the Texas proposal may not pass constitutional muster, that hasn't stopped the state's lawmakers before, who have in recent years approved a voter ID law and abortion restrictions that were overturned in court.

Randy Daniels, vice-president of Child and Family Services for the Dallas-based Christian child welfare organization Buckner International, said religious agencies are terrified of lawsuits for turning away parents.

"We want to make sure we can practice within the framework of our sincerely held religious beliefs," said Daniels.

Buckner only accepts Christian heterosexual couples who have been married for at least four years, in addition to some single individuals — which is more liberal than many other faith-based groups, which refuse single parents, said Daniels.

"These are our requirements, and we're clear, this is just who we are," said Daniels. "We want to make sure that groups like Buckner continue to have a place at the table because we bring solutions."

Republican sponsors of Texas' bill say it is designed to retain providers by shielding them from possible court fights.

"We want to make reasonable accommodations so everyone can participate in the system," said state Rep. James Frank of Wichita Falls. "Everyone is welcome. But you don't have to think alike to partici-

pate.”

Megan Lestino, vice-president of public policy for the National Adoption Council, said she knows of faith-based adoption agencies denying LGBT and other prospective parents around the country — which upsets families but does not violate the law unless the state fails to present other options.

“Equal protection requires that there’s another option for every family,” said Lestino. “And there typically is some option for every family.”

Four states have passed legislation protecting private adoption agencies only, which Cooper said was seen by some to “codify” existing practices and fall within legal limits. South Dakota, and now Texas, seek to go further.

Frank said his bill directs state child services to ensure that other outside adoption providers without religious objections are made available to help would-be adoptive parents who get turned away by any who do raise objections.

But Rebecca Robertson, the American Civil Liberties Union of Texas’ legislative and policy director, said the state — whose only faith providers are Christian — is lacking in such options.

“If organizations are turning people away and those people are unable to be served that’s a violation,” she said. “I know this bill would make that happen at multiple levels in this state welfare system.”

Robertson also said the proposal violates the Constitution since it involves taxpayer dollars.

“When Texans come to the table, the government has to treat all Texans the same,” she said. “This is state-sponsored discrimination.”

During lengthy debate, opponents said the measure fails to prioritize the needs of adoptive and foster children.

“I truly want to see something that doesn’t create so much concern and fear,” said Rep. Donna Howard, an Austin Democrat. “That we recognize there are a wide variety of beliefs and non-beliefs and all should be guaranteed services and should not be denied services on the basis of their beliefs or of their gender identity.”

The chamber’s Republican majority defeated Democratic modifications to the bill that would have required adoption agencies to document their rejection of families.

“It’s one thing to protect providers’ rights to refuse to provide a service they do not agree with, but I also want to make sure the kids are protected,” said Rep. Eddie Rodriguez, also a Democrat from Austin, who proposed one such unsuccessful amendment.

Frank said his bill was designed to draw as many participants as possible into adoption and foster care and said those who say the bill is discriminatory misunderstand it.

“I hope the message that gets tweeted out at the end of this is that Texas is open for anybody and everybody,” said Frank.

## Signs to be dedicated in honor of 5 Highway Patrol troopers

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Highway Patrol says highway signs will be dedicated next week to honor the five Highway Patrol troopers who have died in the line of duty.

The signs are set to be dedicated as part of National Police Week. Highway Patrol Superintendent Col. Craig Price says it’s another way to honor the troopers and help the public better understand “what they did for all of us.”

The Department of Transportation created the signs, which will be placed near the locations where the troopers died. The troopers are Patrolman Bernard Benson, Trooper Steven Hoffman, Trooper Oren Hindman, Trooper Verlyn Mettler and Patrolman H.N. Brownie Russell.



Online: [http://dps.sd.gov/enforcement/highway\\_patrol/call\\_to\\_honor\\_remembering.aspx](http://dps.sd.gov/enforcement/highway_patrol/call_to_honor_remembering.aspx)

## South Dakota voters may see open primaries amendment in 2018

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Supporters of a proposed constitutional amendment that would switch South Dakota to an open primary system for some political offices say they plan to put the measure before voters in 2018.

The effort includes veterans of a campaign last year for a similar amendment that didn't pass, but backers of the new proposal say they've learned lessons from the previous push. Joe Kirby, chairman of the group proposing the constitutional amendment, said it would apply to primaries including those for the state Legislature, governor and congressional offices.

For example, in a gubernatorial race under the plan, there would be an open primary in which the top two vote-getters would advance to the general election.

Supporters say the measure would be fairer because many elections now are effectively decided in partisan primaries closed to independent voters. In South Dakota, the Democratic primary is open to independents, while the Republican primary is closed.

"It's awful simple. It's all about fairness," said Kirby, who lives in Sioux Falls. "Our slogan is: 'Let all voters vote.'"

There are roughly 123,000 independents, 169,400 Democrats and 254,000 Republicans in South Dakota, according to secretary of state's office voter registration totals. Republican Party Chairman Dan Lederman and Democratic Party Chairwoman Ann Tornberg didn't immediately return telephone messages requesting comment from The Associated Press.

Amendment supporters would have to submit nearly 28,000 valid signatures to the secretary of state by November 2017 for the amendment to appear on the 2018 ballot. Kirby said supporters hope to start gathering signatures over the summer, with a goal of turning in 40,000 at the end of the drive. He said fundraising for the push hasn't started, but that backers are working on outreach to find people around the state to carry petitions when the time comes.

"We may collect more," said De Knudson, treasurer for Open Primaries South Dakota. "We're very committed to this effort."

Knudson, a former Sioux Falls City Council member, said that she thinks more and more people are becoming so disenchanted with bickering between political parties that the concept of open primaries is appealing to many across the country.

New York nonprofit Open Primaries put more than \$1 million toward passing the 2016 constitutional amendment, which received 44.5 percent support. Spokesman Jeremy Gruber said the group hasn't made any decisions about the new proposal in South Dakota.

"We haven't made any specific plans in terms of how we will participate in the effort to bring open primaries to South Dakota, but we're very supportive of the work that's going on," Gruber said.

## Careflight crew works to save lives in helicopters

SHANNON MARVEL, Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — There's limited room inside a helicopter, but working within that space to provide critical medical care is something the Avera Careflight crew must know how to do.

The smaller environment with fewer resources poses challenges that grounded medical personnel don't encounter, said Anna Vanden Bosch of Sioux Falls, a clinical care manager for Careflight.

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But even with the tight space, the helicopter packs plenty of accessories.

"There's a lot of equipment that's unique to our environment. We have a video laryngoscopy. We always carry blood on every flight, which is unusual, but it's a very life-saving thing," Vanden Bosch told the Aberdeen American News (<http://bit.ly/2pUrFqd>).

A video laryngoscopy is a tool used to see down a person's throat to determine whether there's an obstruction.

One procedure the crew is trained to perform is creating a "surgical airway." That involves making an incision in the patient's neck to provide an alternative airway when there's an obstruction.

Flight nurse Bobby Hegge of Sioux Falls said the hospital provides the crew with the autonomy necessary to keep a critical-care patient alive until the helicopter can get to a medical center that offers a higher level of care.

"There are facilities that frequently call us that we'll go to repeatedly, like Redfield, Oakes (N.D.), Mobridge," he said. "We'll either transport them to Fargo (N.D.) or we'll take them to Sioux Falls. If we have a motor vehicle accident, we'll usually bring them back (to Aberdeen) where we'll stabilize them and assess them, then if they need further higher care we'll take them to Sioux Falls or Fargo for that care."

Traveling at high elevations in rural areas often puts the crew out of radio and cellphone range.

"A lot of times we're just kind of on our own so we can't phone a friend or doctor to ask them for advice," Hegge said. "So they train us for a lot more for complex interventions and situations and trust us to do the right thing."

The team uses specialized equipment that can adapt to its environment, Vanden Bosch said.

"We have specialized ventilator, monitors and IV pumps that are very specific to air transport. Even altitude affects our patients. There's also the noise, vibrations and the most important thing is watching our environment to make sure we as a crew, along with the patient, get home safely," she said.

Ten people comprise the tight-knit Aberdeen Careflight team tasked with providing emergency medical care to patients who are far removed from a hospital or clinic. There are other Careflight stations in Mitchell, Sioux Falls, Yankton and Marshall, Minn.

John Kirk, one of Aberdeen's four Careflight pilots, spent years rescuing people in the Coast Guard before turning to a civilian career helping those in emergency situations. He said he has 22 years of flying experience.

"A lot of the pilots you'll find in this industry are ex-military. In fact, almost exclusively," said Kirk, from Sioux City, Iowa.

With eight years of experience, Hegge said the extra training required of the Careflight crew is worthwhile, but being a member of the team is challenging.

"It's not for everyone, that's for sure," he said.

Vanden Bosch has worked as flight transport clinical care manager for 10 years.

"There's a lot of other expectations, like getting off late. I think a lot of our families know that. At the end of the day, you're not necessarily going to get off at 7 p.m.," she said.

Rarely does the crew allow anyone other than the patient to ride along in the helicopter.

"Typically we don't take anybody else. The aircraft is small. You can take one more, we have one more seat in the aircraft. But typically there's a lot of good reasons not to take them along," Kirk said. "It's not because we're heartless, it's because we're focused on the patient care, and to have an extra person on there really inhibits their ability to work with the patient. If it's a loved one, it can be really difficult to watch — some procedures look awful, but it's for their own good."

The bill for Careflight services can often exceed \$10,000, and crew members say they do their best to

avoid passing expenses along to patients and their family members.

To that end, the helicopter won't pick up a person and start medical care if the person is going to die, Vanden Bosch said.

However, she said, the Careflight can respond to a call and provide medical treatment at no cost to the patient. A person is only billed for Careflight services if he or she is transported by the helicopter.

As a pilot, Kirk is very attuned to the environment, particularly the weather conditions. He pays close attention to the weather radar and constantly updates his flight plan as conditions change.

"We're on call, and I don't know when we're going to get a flight, so you always have to be prepared," he said.

Conditions that compromise safety are considered when determining whether Careflight will respond to a call.

"Our pilot in command is our No. 1 safety priority, we would never jeopardize that," Vanden Bosch said. "Obviously, we live in South Dakota where weather changes very quickly and that can change, but we're trained that nobody has to go on it unless we're all OK with it. I think on the backside, I don't think people realize how much goes into the preparation for the flight. There's so much safety that goes into it. That's our priority."

Even so, there can be problems.

In 2002, three members of a Careflight crew and a patient were killed when the helicopter crashed in a field near Doland. The cause of the crash was determined to be pilot error.

A Careflight helicopter pilot crash landed near Aberdeen in 2012 after the engine started to make strange noises.

Vanden Bosch said the mechanics of the helicopter are closely monitored throughout the day, drastically decreasing the chances of breakdown.

Much of the time, the Careflight team is on standby in the event there's a call. But the crew also helps at the Avera St. Luke's Hospital.

"We'll help out in the emergency room if a critical patient comes in, just to give them some extra hands, because we're all on the same team," Hegge said.

The job is both physically and emotionally demanding, but it's worth it, Vanden Bosch said.

"I think at the end of the day it's not about the save, it's about the whole community and family that you're there to benefit," she said.

"Unfortunately you do have those patients that will pass away, but you will never forget those families that you stood there, side by side with them to provide that care. Obviously I think pediatrics have a soft spot in a lot of people's hearts, and it's not that any one person's life is more valuable than the other, but it's always harder (when a child is involved). I always think that they haven't lived their life and it's always harder," Vanden Bosch said.

After difficult transfers, crew members take time to decompress. They tend to understand each other.

"Sometimes it's not even saying anything to each other, it's just respecting each other and knowing that it was hard," Vanden Bosch said.

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

## **South Dakota man recovering from accident that paralyzed him** **TOM GRIFFITH, Rapid City Journal**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Mark Schuh of Rapid City was living a full, contented life.

The 46-year-old worked hard at his successful professional painting service catering to contractors



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who built high-end homes in the Black Hills. He helped raise two step-children from his wife's previous marriage in a loving environment. He spent weekends hunting and fishing, and took occasional vacations as a reward for the couple's labors.

But, as enduring evidence of the fragility of human beings, and how quickly life can change forever in a single instant, Schuh's active life as he knew it came to an end in a few terrifying seconds last July 26.

That day, Schuh was working at a custom home off Rimrock Highway west of Rapid City. As he and a co-worker in his painting business loaded 100-pound doors into his trailer, intent on bringing them to his shop for a coat of stain, the half-ton wall of doors cascaded downward, struck Schuh in the head, and left him injured and dazed on the floor of his trailer.

As he lie there awaiting an ambulance, his head hanging in the well of the trailer's door, Schuh said he simply tried to remain calm, which aided his breathing that had become restricted.

"I thought maybe I had a pinched nerve or something," he told the Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2p1bwMX>). "The hit I took to my head was so light, and it only left a small scratch on the left side of my forehead. No bleeding, no nothing. Of course, I had never been in that situation before. I thought, 'Well they'll get me to the hospital and give me some muscle relaxers.'"

As the 45-minute wait for the ambulance seemed to stretch into eternity, Schuh's parents, Duane and Carrie, arrived from their nearby home after being alerted to the accident by one of the contractors who was at the job site. They found their only son stretched out on the trailer floor, conscious, but unable to move.

"After the call, the thought went through my head that something bad had happened, and I prayed all the way over there that it wouldn't be really bad," Schuh's mother recalled. "We got there, and I walked up to the trailer, and the guy working with Mark said, 'Don't jar the trailer.'"

Carrie Schuh stuck her head into the trailer and asked her son if he was OK, and he said he was. But her motherly instincts told her otherwise.

"I looked at my husband, and we both knew he wasn't OK," Carrie Schuh said. "You could tell he was in extreme pain. We waited about 15 minutes for the ambulance to arrive, and it was the longest 15 minutes of my life. His dad told me later that as soon as he saw Mark he knew it wasn't good. He wasn't positioned the way a person would be if he could move himself."

With clarity and deep understatement, she added: "It wasn't a good day."

Placed on a backboard, his head immobilized, and rushed by ambulance to Rapid City Regional Hospital, Schuh's wife, Josette, beat them there after also receiving a call from a contractor. Upon seeing her husband for the first time after the accident, with doctors and nurses scurrying to treat emergency room patients, the first thing Schuh did was apologize to his wife for being such a bother.

For Schuh, memories of that morning and the ensuing days are somewhat of a blur.

"I remember being unloaded from the ambulance," he said. "I remember them saying they would have to cut my clothes off. I don't remember a whole lot after that. I don't remember people coming to see me over the next few days."

Shortly after Schuh's arrival in the ER, and following a CT-scan, a doctor entered the injured man's exam room to find a flock of Schuhs, including Josette, parents Duane and Carrie, step-daughter Candace Wurdeman, Josette's mother Connie, and Mark's sister Paula Arthur.

The doctor informed the gathering that Schuh had fractured his C3 and C5 vertebrae and that he had a vertebral artery dissection, a flap-like tear of the inner lining of the vertebral artery located in the neck which supplies blood to the brain.

"The spinal cord was not severed; it was still intact, which was a blessing," Josette recalled. "But there was shock. What do we do?"

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As Schuh lie paralyzed in his hospital bed, unable to move anything from the neck down, the doctor began discussing options which included surgery, or a less-invasive plan to brace his neck, administer steroids, and allow time to heal the fractures. Meanwhile, nurses were prepping a surgical suite in case the family elected surgery, the doctor said.

"We had about 10 minutes to make that decision," Josette recalled. "Everybody gave their input and the general consensus was, let's not rush into surgery if it's not life-threatening right now. Bracing would be less invasive with less chance for infection or other complications. We agreed to hold off, and we wanted to get another opinion."

Eight days later, Schuh was airlifted to Craig Rehabilitation Hospital in Englewood, Colo., one of the top-rated rehabilitation hospitals for brain and spinal injuries in the U.S. On the flight were the Schuh, Josette, two nurses and two pilots. For Josette, the flight to Colorado was terrifying.

"It was the scariest flight I was ever on," she said. "It was such a traumatic time in our lives, but I had to be with Mark, and I did it."

Three days after arriving at Craig hospital, on Aug. 6, nurses wheeled Schuh into an operating room at Swedish Hospital, a respected Trauma One surgical center, where neurosurgeons fused his C2 to his T2 with two titanium rods and 12 screws designed to increase stability of his decompressed spinal cord.

Still incapacitated from the neck down, Schuh would remain at Craig Hospital for three months, receiving occasional visitors, before returning to Rapid City on Oct. 27. For the middle-aged couple, the return to the Black Hills was greeted with some trepidation.

"It felt really good to be home," Schuh said. "But it was also scary for both of us, because that support system wasn't there anymore. We knew there would be challenges and Craig Hospital prepared us for that. But when we got home, it was reality, and we had to deal with that."

The stark reality of living with a quadriplegic — a person who has lost movement due to paralysis of all four limbs — or the "new normal" as Josette is apt to call it, didn't take long to surface after the Schuhs returned to their four-level home in a quiet neighborhood on Rapid City's west side.

One of the Schuhs' living room couches was displaced to make room for a hospital bed, where Mark now spends the majority of his time with a flat-screen television and the drapes tightly drawn to block prying eyes. Their dining room table was removed as well, to accommodate a wheel-in shower where Josette and caregivers attend to her husband's daily sanitary needs.

Shortly after the accident, the couple canceled a planned November trip to Mexico. When they returned home from Craig Hospital, they sold Josette's car and replaced it with a handicapped conversion van, a \$53,000 "necessity" they had not anticipated.

As the loss of Mark's healthy income accompanied his injury, they began receiving a modest Social Security disability stipend of \$1,400 a month, but they're still wrestling with their insurance company, Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, which has twice denied coverage of in-home assistance.

"They don't feel a quadriplegic needs home health care assistance for daily care," Josette said with a shrug. So, they recently met with a local advocacy group to gain assistance and advice and pressure the insurance company to cover the costs.

From the time the ambulance picked up Schuh from the accident scene on July 26 until today, total medical costs have approached \$1 million. Meanwhile, the Schuhs' income, insurance and disability payments don't come close to covering costs from the accident or its aftermath.

Local ambulance charges were \$3,000, air ambulance costs were \$32,000, neurosurgeons charged \$32,000 plus expenses tied to a five-day stay at Swedish Hospital. Craig Hospital invoices averaged \$4,000 per day for Schuh's three-month treatment at the Colorado facility.

Meanwhile, the Schuhs are saddled with \$1,200 in monthly insurance premiums, \$2,500 per month

in home health care costs, and spent \$65,000 on a motorized wheelchair, an additional \$2,500 on a wheelchair seat lift, \$700 for a portable shower, \$1,000 on an electrical Hoyer lift that helps transfer the patient from his bed to his wheelchair, and \$3,000 on a mattress-turning system that moves Schuh six to nine times per hour so he doesn't suffer from bedsores.

The burdensome debt led the Schuhs to sell off their prized fishing boat that they'd only owned for a year. The fifth-wheel trailer they treasured in their rare idle hours and Mark's custom motorcycle are now listed for sale.

They would like to build or buy a one-level ranch house to rid themselves of the obstacles posed by their current multi-level home, but the Schuhs say time will tell if they'll ever be able to afford it.

While reluctant to discuss the most intimate details of their personal relationship, Josette credited Craig Hospital with providing an educational class on maintaining intimacy in their marriage in the aftermath of the life-changing accident.

"They let us know that it's still possible," she said. "I hold Mark's hand when we're driving in the van and we still kiss and hug. Human touch is huge for anybody in this situation, because it improves the feeling of isolation experienced by any paralyzed person."

Meanwhile, in the midst of their tragedy, the Schuhs have come to recognize the importance of family and expressed deep gratitude for the neighbors, including Darald and Joann McElroy from across the street, who have hand-delivered two meals a week to the Schuhs for many months.

A pub crawl conducted in January by the Black Hills Home Builders, of which Mark was a member, netted more than \$12,000 to help defray the Schuhs' medical costs, and a November benefit at the Moose Club raised additional funds. A March 11 benefit at Big J's Roadhouse in Humboldt, S.D., arranged by three of Mark's uncles and aunts, also contributed to defray their expenses.

"It makes you feel that there are still good people in the world," Schuh said from his home hospital bed. "These are just a handful of many individuals and groups that have made their love known."

And, while it would be easy for Mark Schuh to be mad at the world for his unforeseen plight and the unwelcome challenges that await him in the future, he still awakes each morning with no malice in his heart and a determination to tackle the next obstacle.

"It was an accident," he said matter-of-factly. "There's no one to blame. It could have happened to anyone or no one."

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

## Program helps autistic teen find job archiving history

PHU NGUYEN, *Capital Journal*

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Conner Ulmen, now a senior at T. F. Riggs High School, has been spending about four hours a week at the state archives helping to digitize old publications published by the South Dakota State Historical Society under the supervision of archivist Matthew Reitzel.

Ulmen recently completed the project of digitizing the *Wi-Iyohi*, a monthly bulletin published from April 1947 to Nov. 1970, Reitzel said. Currently, he is working on archiving the collection of Frank Hughes Jr., who was the businessman involved with the early planning of Mt. Rushmore, he said.

"I enjoy my work," Ulmen told the *Capital Journal* (<http://bit.ly/2qiq1Ar>). "If I find something interesting I will read through it,"

The job helps satisfy his curiosity about history and computers, he said.

Reitzel said Ulmen's work helps provide valuable online resources for researchers for their studies.

"There are over 2,400 images that he has scanned for the entire run of *Wi-Iyohi*," Reitzel said.



"We're glad that Conner was able to do it for us," Reitzel said. "Otherwise, it wouldn't be done. We don't have the time for it."

Ulmen, a student diagnosed with autism, got the job with help from his mother, Cheryl Ulmen, who in turn learned about Project Skills — a paid work experience program funded by the South Dakota Department of Human Services to help high school students with disabilities — through her son's teachers.

Cheryl Ulmen said the program has helped her son a lot.

"Project Skills has given Conner an improved sense of accomplishment and confidence in his ability to perform a job outside of the school environment," she said.

Cheryl Ulmen said Conner has learned many things, too.

"He has learned to take direction in learning and improving on workplace tasks, as well as communicating with his boss in regard to scheduling conflicts when things get busy or he has appointments come up. This type of professional interaction with supervisors who are patient and understand that he does not always pick up on some of the common social intricacies of the work environment has been wonderful for him," Cheryl Ulmen said.

Cheryl Ulmen urged other parents to learn about Project Skills when the child reaches the age to work.

"It can play a key role in helping them transition into the next phase of their life. It has certainly been a confidence-building experience for Conner," she said.

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

## **Study: Fed program surprisingly beneficial to WA sage grouse**

**By NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS, Associated Press**

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — A new study of sage grouse in Eastern Washington found a surprisingly large benefit from a federal program that subsidizes farmers to plant year-round grasses and native shrubs instead of crops.

The study concluded that is probably the reason that sage grouse still live in portions of Washington's Columbia River Basin.

"Without these lands, our models predict that we would lose about two thirds of the species' habitat, and that the sage grouse would go extinct in two of three sub-populations," said Andrew Shirk of the University of Washington's Climate Impacts Group.

The study was conducted by the UW, plus state and federal researchers, and will appear in an upcoming issue of the Journal of Wildlife Management.

Sage grouse are ground-dwelling, chicken-sized birds found in 11 Western states, from North Dakota to California. As few as 200,000 remain in the U.S., down from a peak population of about 16 million. The males are known for their strutting courtship ritual on breeding grounds, and they produce a bubble-type sound from a pair of inflated air sacks on their necks.

Federal officials in 2015 opted not to list sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act but announced federal land-use restrictions. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will review the bird's listing status within five years.

The Conservation Reserve Program, established in 1985, is voluntary and pays farmers to plant agricultural land with environmentally beneficial vegetation on 10- to 15-year contracts.

Of the roughly 24 million acres planted through the program in the U.S., about 1.4 million acres are in Eastern Washington.

"From the outset, it was envisioned that the CRP program would be good for wildlife," Shirk said. "But

I don't think anyone expected that it would be this valuable."

Will McDow, who works to protect sage grouse for the Environmental Defense Fund, said the report was good news.

"It's a great example of public-private partnerships," McDow said Tuesday. "It's something to celebrate."

In Eastern Washington, the sage grouse population has stabilized at about 1,000 birds. They live in three main places: the Yakima Training Center, Moses Coulee, and Crab Creek area.

The Yakima Training Center is a U.S. Army facility where the native sagebrush habitat is mostly intact. But the other two areas are heavily agricultural, with irrigated farmland and dryland wheat fields. The birds would likely not have survived there without the CRP program, the study found.

Sage grouse in other Western states are threatened mostly by oil and gas exploration and other types of development.

Previously, studies of sage grouse across their range in the United States suggested Eastern Washington agricultural areas would not be hospitable for the birds. Washington's habitat is a relatively small island separated from the broader sagebrush seas in Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon and Nevada, the study said.

"The other studies generally predicted that Eastern Washington was a place that shouldn't support sage grouse because most of the habitat was converted to agricultural lands," Shirk said. "And yet they're still here."

The authors' results show that without the federally-subsidized CRP lands dominated by native grass and big sagebrush, sage grouse in Eastern Washington would only have about one-third the amount of usable habitat, and the two subpopulations in agricultural areas would become so small that they would likely go extinct.

A harsh winter, for example, could decimate a small population, Shirk said.

The study found that if Washington's CRP lands were extended to be near existing sage grouse populations, the birds' habitat could be increased by as much as 63 percent.

"We have seen CRP help grassland birds across the country," McDow said.

## **Report: Kansas, Texas lead nation on abortion restrictions**

**By ROXANA HEGEMAN, Associated Press**

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — More than half of U.S. women of reproductive age live in states with unneeded restrictions on abortion facilities, according to an analysis released Tuesday by a research group that supports abortion rights.

The report from Guttmacher Institute comes after a U.S. Supreme Court decision last year struck down a widely replicated Texas law that required abortion clinics to have hospital admitting privileges and meet hospital-like standards for outpatient surgery. The court held the regulations were medically unnecessary and unconstitutionally limit a woman's right to an abortion.

Americans United for Life countered that Guttmacher is a partisan organization that opposes "long-standing and commonsense" abortion regulations. It said in an email that the abortion industry is trying desperately to redefine a scientific debate that it is losing as more studies show abortion is harmful to women and their unborn children.

"The one truly irrefutable scientific fact in the abortion debate is the humanity of the unborn child; if they come up with a scientific report proving that wrong, we're all ears," said Mary Kay Culp, executive director for Kansans for Life.

The Supreme Court ruling prompted Guttmacher to look at state laws it says are not based in science. It analyzed abortion clinic restrictions such as mandating abortion providers have nearby hospital admitting privileges, imposing hospital-like standards for clinics, requiring waiting periods or banning abortions after 20 weeks.

The review found Kansas and Texas each have the most such unnecessary restrictions in the nation, followed by Louisiana, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

"The legislatures in Kansas and Oklahoma are well known as incubators for abortion restrictions and places where other states look to for new restrictions," said Elizabeth Nash, state issues manager at Guttmacher.

Twenty-eight states have at least two abortion clinic restrictions — which means 53 percent of women of the reproductive ages between 15 and 44 — live in states with multiple restrictions tied to misinformation, Nash said.

## Opponents of uranium mine cite water concerns at hearing

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Water quality is a major concern for opponents of a proposed uranium mine in southwest South Dakota.

Some opponents argued during a public hearing Monday that the proposed Powertech mine is within the boundaries of an area meant for the Great Sioux Nation and that the U.S. doesn't have water or mineral rights there, The Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2q2jXcl>) reported. Others fear the mine will pollute groundwater.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which hosted the hearing, has issued two draft permits to Powertech for the mine. The agency is taking public comments until May 19 before making a final decision.

Groundwater at the mining site would be used to leach uranium deposits from rocks in a process known as "in situ" mining. The water would then be treated to remove radioactive and other hazardous substances before being injected back into aquifers underground. The process' byproduct would be disposed into wells about 2,000 feet below the ground surface.

If approved, the proposal would allow Powertech to create up to 4,000 production wells and to inject waste fluid through as many as four deep well disposals.

"In situ leaching will allow poisons into our Black Hills aquifers," Carol Hayse of rural Nemo said during the public hearing Monday.

Rapid City rancher Marvin Kammerer said groundwater is precious in the drought-prone plains. He said the water should be protected for use by local residents, not by outside corporations. He argued that despite treatment, the water would still be polluted — and he asked EPA and company officials if they would drink the water.

"I would be glad to drink the treated water after it comes out of the plant," said Mark Hollenbeck, project director for Powertech.

Hollenbeck said most of the comments did not directly address the permits.

"They've just expressed a general disdain for uranium mining," he said.

If Powertech's EPA permits are finalized, the company would need additional permits before it could start mining.

## **Newborn died of blunt force trauma to the head**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — An autopsy in Lyman County shows a newborn suffered four skull fractures and died of blunt force trauma to the head. Her father is in custody.

Lyman County sheriff's deputies were sent to a home in Vivian Thursday after the father called 911 and said his 7-week-old daughter wasn't breathing. The child was pronounced dead at a hospital a short time later.

The Daily Republic of Mitchell cites a court affidavit that says the father initially told investigators his daughter fell off a bed and twice hit her head on his chin and lip. The document says the father admitted to state investigators a couple days later that he struck the baby and that she hit her head on a dresser when he threw her toward her bassinet.

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Information from: The Daily Republic, <http://www.mitchellrepublic.com>

## **Pennington County Courthouse renovation behind schedule**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A county official says the more than \$2 million renovation of the Pennington County Courthouse's south entrance will be finished two months behind schedule.

The Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2qNRXMi>) reports that it will be finished Dec. 15 instead of Oct. 20. The public will be able to use the courthouse's main doors again once the work is finished.

Mike Kuhl is construction project manager at the county's Buildings and Grounds Department. He says project managers didn't expect such a cold winter, which froze soil that had been dug up.

Extra time needed to lay a new foundation was a bigger reason for the delay. Kuhl says a specialty subcontractor had to come in from Denver for the work.

The courthouse was originally built in 1922.

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

## **Wagner Speedway resuming races; first event is Friday night**

WAGNER, S.D. (AP) — After the 2016 racing season never left the garage at Wagner Speedway, the green flag is about to drop in 2017.

The Daily Republic reports (<http://bit.ly/2qVwy0a>) that the season-opening race is scheduled Friday at the three-eighths-mile dirt track that's considered one of the fastest tracks in South Dakota.

The speedway didn't run regular races last year, with track ownership citing expenses and time as major factors.

Volunteer and racer Lynn Fischer says there's been a lot of interest in South Dakota and Nebraska in resuming racing. The track will run a 15-night schedule on Friday nights this summer, with the season championship scheduled Sept. 4.

The speedway has added new lights and light poles, along with three new caution lights. Off the track, the main grandstand bleachers have been upgraded.

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Information from: The Daily Republic, <http://www.mitchellrepublic.com>



## Trump firing Comey shrouds Russia probe in doubt, turmoil

By ERIC TUCKER, EILEEN SULLIVAN and JULIE PACE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's stunning firing of FBI Director James Comey throws into question the future of a counterintelligence investigation into the Trump campaign's possible connections to Russia and immediately raised suspicions of an underhanded effort to stymie a probe that has shadowed the administration from the outset.

Democrats likened Tuesday's ouster to President Richard Nixon's "Saturday Night Massacre" and renewed calls for the appointment of a special prosecutor, and some Republicans also questioned the move.

In his letter to Comey, Trump said the firing was necessary to restore "public trust and confidence" in the FBI. The administration paired the letter with a scathing review by Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein of how Comey handled the investigation into Democrat Hillary Clinton's email practices, including his decision to hold a news conference announcing its findings and releasing "derogatory information" about Clinton.

While Comey has drawn anger from Democrats since he reopened the email investigation in the closing days of last year's campaign, they didn't buy that justification for his firing Tuesday. Several Republicans joined them in raising alarms of how it could affect probes into possible coordination between Trump associates and Russia to influence the 2016 presidential election.

Trump will now appoint a successor at the FBI, which has been investigating since late July, and who will almost certainly have an impact on how the investigation moves forward and whether the public will accept its outcome.

"James Comey will be replaced by someone who will do a far better job, bringing back the spirit and prestige of the FBI," he tweeted early Wednesday.

Earlier, the president bristled on his Twitter account over criticism of his move, labeling the Senate minority leader 'Cryin' Chuck Schumer.'

Schumer had told Trump in a phone call earlier that he thought dumping Comey was a mistake. Trump tweeted that Schumer had recently said he no longer "have confidence" in Comey. "Then acts so indignant," Trump said of his fellow New Yorker.

In one of the strongest statements by Republicans, Sen. Richard Burr of North Carolina, chairman of the Senate intelligence committee, said, "I am troubled by the timing and reasoning of Director Comey's termination."

"His dismissal further confuses an already difficult investigation by the committee," Burr said.

The firing renewed longstanding demands by Democrats for a special prosecutor, especially since the White House has said the firing of Comey was carried out upon the recommendation of senior Justice Department leadership, including Rosenstein, who is overseeing the Russia investigation since Attorney General Jeff Sessions recused himself because of previously unreported contacts with the Russian ambassador.

It was only the second firing of an FBI director in history. President Bill Clinton dismissed William Sessions amid allegations of ethical lapses in 1993.

Democrats compared the ouster to Nixon's decision to fire the independent special prosecutor overseeing the Watergate investigation in 1973, which prompted the resignations of the Justice Department's top two officials.

"This is Nixonian," Sen. Bob Casey, D-Pa., declared on Twitter. "Outrageous," said Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden, calling for Comey to immediately be summoned to testify to Congress about the status of the

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Trump-Russia investigation. Rep. Adam Schiff of California, top Democrat on the House intelligence committee, said the White House was "brazenly interfering" in the probe.

Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona said Congress must form a special committee to investigate Russia's interference in the election.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said only: "Once the Senate receives a nomination, we look forward to a full, fair and timely confirmation process to fill the Director position. This is a critical role that is especially important as America faces serious threats at home and abroad."

Comey was speaking to agents at the FBI's field office in Los Angeles when the news broke. Television screens in the office began flashing the news, and Comey initially chuckled, according to a law enforcement official who was present and spoke on condition of anonymity. But Comey finished his speech before heading into an office and did not reappear in the main room. He later left Los Angeles on a plane to return to Washington.

Comey's firing was the latest and most significant White House-driven distraction from the Russia investigations, which Trump has ridiculed and dismissed as a "hoax." He has denied that his campaign was involved in Russia's election meddling.

In his brief letter to Comey, Trump thanked him for telling him three times "that I am not under investigation." The FBI has not confirmed that Comey ever made those assurances to the president. In public hearings, Comey has declined to answer when asked if Trump is under investigation, urging lawmakers not to read anything into that statement.

Comey, 56, was nominated by President Barack Obama for the FBI post in 2013 to a 10-year term, though that appointment does not ensure a director will serve the full term.

Praised frequently by both parties for his independence and integrity, he spent three decades in law enforcement. Before the past months' controversies, the former deputy attorney general in the George W. Bush administration was perhaps best known for a remarkable 2004 standoff with top officials over a federal domestic surveillance program. In March of that year, Comey rushed to the hospital bed of Attorney General John Ashcroft to physically stop White House officials in their bid to get his ailing boss to reauthorize a secret no-warrant wiretapping program.

But his prominent role in the 2016 presidential campaign raised questions about his judgment and impartiality. Though the FBI did not recommend charges against Clinton for mishandling classified information, Comey was blisteringly critical of her decision to use a personal email account and private internet server during her four years as secretary of state.

Comey strongly defended his decisions during a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing last week. He said he was "mildly nauseous" at the thought of having swayed the election but also said he would do the same again.

Clinton has partially blamed her loss on Comey's disclosure to Congress less than two weeks before Election Day that the email investigation would be revisited. Comey later said the FBI, again, had found no reason to bring any charges.

Trump disagreed with Clinton's assessment, tweeting that Comey actually "was the best thing that ever happened to Hillary Clinton in that he gave her a free pass for many bad deeds!"

Clinton's advisers were stunned by Trump's decision Tuesday. Former campaign spokesman Brian Fallon said that while he believed Comey had "inflicted severe damage" on the FBI, "the timing and manner of this firing suggest that it is the product of Donald Trump feeling the heat on the ongoing Russia investigation and not a well thought out response to the inappropriate handling of the Clinton investigation."

Given angst by members of Congress in both parties over Comey's dismissal, it's unlikely a permanent

FBI director will be in place soon. The FBI will be led in the interim by Andrew McCabe, Comey's top deputy.

AP writers Darlene Superville, Ken Thomas, Vivian Salama, Catherine Lucey and Sadie Gurman in Washington and Michael Balsamo in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

## **AP Exclusive: More inconsistencies in Flynn consulting work**

**By STEPHEN BRAUN and CHAD DAY, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Targeted in widening investigations of his foreign entanglements, President Donald Trump's former national security adviser, Michael Flynn, is at odds with his former Turkish client over two unusual payments totaling \$80,000 that Flynn's firm sent back last year to the client. The disagreement points to inconsistencies in Flynn's accounts to the U.S. government about his work for foreign interests.

Flynn's company, Flynn Intel Group, told the Justice Department in March that the two \$40,000 payments were consulting fees for unspecified work. But Turkish businessman Ekim Alptekin has told The Associated Press that the payments from Flynn's firm were refunds for unperformed lobbying.

The difference matters because Flynn's foreign business relationships and the veracity of his disclosures are under scrutiny by congressional, military and intelligence inquiries. Congressional committees and the Pentagon's inspector general are separately examining whether Flynn was fully forthcoming about his foreign contacts and earnings from organizations linked to the governments of Russia and Turkey. His firm's Turkish work occurred while he was a top Trump campaign adviser.

On Monday, former Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates told senators that Flynn's misstatements about his contacts with Russia's ambassador to the U.S. raised concerns that he could be targeted for blackmail. Yates also cited the possibility that Flynn could have broken federal law by operating as a paid foreign agent for the Turkish client without U.S. government permission.

The retired Army lieutenant general and former chief of the Defense Intelligence Agency formally told the Justice Department in March that his now-defunct Flynn Intel Group was paid \$530,000 for operating as a foreign agent for Alptekin's firm, Inovo BV, and performing work that could have benefited the Turkish government. That filing — prompted by Justice Department pressure — came just weeks after Trump fired Flynn from his national security post. The president has said he made the decision after it became clear Flynn had misled Vice President Mike Pence about conversations with Russia's ambassador to the U.S.

The paperwork Flynn filed with the Justice Department raised new questions because it cited two consulting payments back to Alptekin's company without specifying what, if any, work was performed.

Alptekin told The Associated Press in an email that the payments were refunds guided by a verbal agreement he worked out last year with Flynn Intel that set out how much Flynn's firm was to receive each month for lobbying and other contractual work. When Alptekin didn't see any lobbying work, he said, he asked Flynn Intel to refund \$80,000 to his firm.

But Flynn's filing with the Justice Department did not disclose those discussions or the payment arrangements cited by Alptekin.

The U.S. foreign agent law requires disclosure of all written and verbal contracts and modifications. National security law experts said the failure to disclose such discussions could spur additional scrutiny of Flynn if Justice Department officials were to determine the missing material was legally significant.

The law "says disclosure has to include material fact and makes it a crime to omit such material," said

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Stephen I. Vladeck, a professor and national security law expert at the University of Texas School of Law.

Flynn's foreign agent filing included only one contract signed by Flynn and Alptekin. The contract did not mention any adjustments made verbally, Alptekin's lobbying demands, arranging for allotting payments or any consulting role for Alptekin's company, Inovo BV.

In the filing, Flynn's firm said the description of each payment back to Inovo as a "consultancy fee" came from the firm's accounting records. Similar "consultancy fee" entries described payments to other members of the team hired for the work.

Asked about the discrepancies between Alptekin's statements and the filing, Flynn's attorney, Robert Kelner, said: "We'll stick with what's in the filing." Kelner declined to answer additional questions from the AP about the payment arrangement.

In a brief statement Tuesday, Alptekin again said the payments to his firm from Flynn Intel were refunds for unperformed work. Alptekin also suggested that Flynn Intel's description of the payments as consulting fees was an accounting error.

In Monday's Senate hearing, Yates told Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., that Flynn could face legal trouble for failing to disclose his foreign work and payments properly. Leaders of a bipartisan House inquiry into Flynn's foreign earnings have said they found no evidence that Flynn asked for permission from the Defense Department or the State Department to accept foreign payments, though they said any likely penalty for that violation would be fines, not prosecution. The Defense Department's inspector general is investigating.

Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, who leads the inquiry as chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, told the AP he had not looked into Flynn's foreign agent disclosures but he "would urge the Justice Department to pursue that if they feel it's necessary." The panel's senior Democrat, Rep. Elijah Cummings of Maryland, added that Flynn's "work on behalf of Turkey while a top national security adviser for President Trump's campaign raises grave questions."

Flynn Intel's work last year centered on developing evidence for a criminal case against Fethullah Gulen, a Turkish Muslim cleric living in Pennsylvania. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan wants Gulen extradited because he believes Gulen inspired last year's attempted coup against him. The Obama administration rebuffed Turkey's extradition requests.

It's unclear whether the Trump administration will change that stance, though U.S.-Turkish relations have warmed under Trump, who congratulated Erdogan after a recent referendum expanded his presidential powers. International monitors called the referendum an undemocratic power grab.

Alptekin said he disagrees with Flynn Intel's decision to register with the Justice Department as a foreign agent because he says the work wasn't orchestrated by the Turkish government and he doesn't have any ties to Erdogan's administration. But Alptekin serves on an economic committee overseen by Turkey's finance ministry. In its Justice Department filing, Flynn Intel also disclosed that Alptekin had consulted with Turkish government officials about the Gulen-related work.

Flynn and Alptekin have yet to provide full and consistent explanations.

Alptekin initially said last fall that his company paid only tens of thousands of dollars, but later acknowledged that the \$530,000 in payments listed in Flynn's foreign agent filing was correct.

Alptekin also told the AP that his firm and Flynn Intel had agreed verbally in August to divide monthly \$200,000 installments for lobbying, public relations, research and other work. That arrangement specified Flynn's firm would be paid \$40,000 a month for lobbying and \$15,000 a month for public relations, Alptekin said.

Alptekin justified the two \$40,000 payments— one in September and the other in October— as refunds, saying he saw no evidence that Flynn Intel performed any lobbying.



But Flynn's firm reported lobbying activity. It registered with Congress as a lobbyist in September, midway through the contract. And Flynn Intel and a contracted public relations firm disclosed in their paperwork with the Justice Department that it had lobbied a House committee and an Arkansas state official.

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Follow Chad Day on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ChadSDay>

## **AP releases in-depth review of its coverage of Nazi Germany**

**By DAVID CRARY, Associated Press**

NEW YORK (AP) — The Associated Press has conducted an in-depth review of its operations in Nazi Germany, concluding that the news agency acted as "forthrightly and independently as possible." But the review also found AP handled some situations inadequately.

The review was undertaken after an article published last year contended that the AP allowed Nazi propagandists to exert some influence over its news photo report in the 1930s by maintaining a photo subsidiary in Germany, registered under a restrictive Nazi press law.

The author, historian Harriet Scharnberg, also identified AP German photographers who were drafted into or joined Nazi military propaganda units during World War II, some while still being paid by AP.

AP's review disputed Scharnberg's conclusion that the news agency was in any way complicit with the Nazi regime during the years 1933-41, when the agency was present in the country. The AP was kicked out of Germany when the United States entered World War II in December 1941.

"We recognize that AP should have done some things differently during this period, for example protesting when AP photos were exploited by the Nazis for propaganda within Germany and refusing to employ German photographers with active political affiliations and loyalties," the report says.

"However, suggestions that AP at any point sought to help the Nazis or their heinous cause are simply wrong," it adds.

"Due in large part to the AP's aggressive reporting, the dangers of the Nazis' ambitions for domination in Europe and its brutal treatment of its opponents were revealed to the wider world."

The report spells out instances in which AP editors clashed with Nazi censors and also demanded that stronger steps be taken to keep the AP German photo service free of Nazi propaganda. It also cites AP reporting in the 1930s that alerted readers in the United States to the acts of anti-Semitism and cruelty of the Nazi regime both in words and photos.

AP Executive Editor Sally Buzbee said the AP's coverage of Nazi Germany reflected its core newsgathering principles.

"It is essential to cover tyrannical regimes and other undemocratic movements, when possible from within the borders they control, in order to accurately relay what is happening inside," she said. "That is what we do, without compromising AP's independence or standards."

"AP believes it is important to know one's own story — warts and all — and so we have re-examined the period, taking a hard look," says the report's introduction, written by John Daniszewski, AP's vice president and editor at large for standards.

The report was written by Larry Heinzerling, an adjunct assistant professor at the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism and retired AP deputy international editor, with contributions by AP investigative researcher Randy Herschaft.

Research began more than a year ago with a review of previously unexamined AP archives. That

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review was then extended to other records — including U.S. military documents, and the oral histories and personal papers of deceased employees. Scharnberg also was interviewed.

The report notes that Louis P. Lochner, the AP's Berlin bureau chief from 1928-41, was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1939 for his comprehensive coverage of the Nazi regime, including the Nazis' anti-Semitic policies and actions. A German-American and former World War I peace advocate who personally despised the Nazis, Lochner was aware that some critics back home viewed him as pro-Nazi, particularly when he was covering Nazi military victories in the first years of World War II.

Among the report's key findings for the period 1933-41:

—The AP's German photo service, established as a subsidiary in 1931, provided photos to German media after Nazis took power in 1933. The Nazis quickly brought the AP German photo service and all other German media companies under the supervision of the Propaganda Ministry. While AP management insisted that its German photo service production stay neutral, German staff members faced constant pressure from Propaganda Ministry officials about the AP's photo output, "with some doing a better job of resisting Nazi demands than others."

—AP's photo captions when they appeared in German media often were rewritten or published under misleading or offensive headlines. While the AP protested and fought against Nazi attempts to censor the AP itself, the review found no evidence that AP protested these abuses by pro-Nazi media. Current AP practice requires a strong response when AP customers willfully distort the meaning of AP content.

—After resisting for two years, the AP in late 1935 submitted to an anti-Semitic edict that all people working in German media must be of German "Aryan" origin. AP's German photo service let go six employees considered Jewish by the Nazis, while helping them to find work elsewhere. "The AP made the difficult decision to comply because it believed it was critical for AP to remain in Germany and gather news and photos during this crucial period," the report said. With AP's aid, all of these employees emigrated and survived the Holocaust.

—AP's Berlin-based American reporters and German photographers covered the first part of World War II from 1939-41 from the German side of the battle lines. The United States had not yet entered the war but some of this coverage was criticized from within the U.S. Embassy in Berlin as channeling German official views and disinformation; AP executives in New York assessed the accusations and rejected the criticism, stating that AP reports reflected events as seen by the reporters.

—A few of AP's German employees held pro-Nazi views and covered the German side of the war enthusiastically. One staff and then freelance photographer employed by the AP German service was Austrian-born Franz Roth, an ardent Nazi who traveled as a war photographer with the Waffen SS to several fronts before and after the AP's expulsion from Germany. He died as a combat photographer in 1943.

—After 1939, the German government drafted several AP German photo service employees to serve with propaganda units accompanying troops to cover the fighting, requiring that the resulting photos be pooled for use by German media while their salaries still were paid by AP Germany. AP management at the time believed their photography had news value in spite of the restrictions caused by traveling with German forces.

Among the report's key findings for the period 1942-45:

—With the U.S. entry into the war against Germany in December 1941, AP's American staff members were arrested and interned for five months before being deported in a prisoner exchange. The AP German picture service was seized, handed over to the German Foreign Ministry and put under control of a Waffen SS photographer, Helmut Laux. Most German former AP personnel were forced into Laux's operation; others were sent to military units.

—In an arrangement reached in neutral Portugal in 1942 between Laux and the local AP correspondent, Laux's operation gathered and sent regular packets of German-censored photos from Germany and German-occupied Europe to AP's New York and London office via Lisbon. In exchange, with the knowledge and approval of U.S. wartime officials, AP sent photographs from the U.S. to neutral countries for ultimate distribution inside Germany. The exchange was approved by AP's New York headquarters and AP annual reports at the time made public that the AP was receiving photos from Nazi-German-occupied areas.

With one known exception, the AP report says, the AP images that appeared in German publications through this arrangement during the war were unaltered by the Germans, but captions were rewritten by German propagandists to conform to official Nazi views.

According to the report, AP's management in New York considered obtaining the German photos an important way to fulfil its mission to cover the war as comprehensively as possible.

"Although the exchange necessitated dealing with the Nazi regime, it was the AP's belief then and now that the photos gave the U.S. public a much fuller picture of the war than could have been obtained otherwise," says the AP report. "That included scenes of fighting on the Russian front, the results of bombings of German cities and Germany's falling war fortunes."

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Online:

<https://www.ap.org/about/history/ap-in-germany-1933-1945/>

## **Moon's rise to power in S Korea causes worries, hopes abroad**

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

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Which of South Korea's neighbors and allies stand to benefit most from liberal Moon Jae-in's ascension to the presidency this week?

It might be North Korea, which sees Moon as an advocate of a softer approach to ridding the North of nuclear weapons. This in turn could set off alarms in a more conservative Washington. Beijing, meanwhile, likely hopes to win big concessions from Moon, and Tokyo worries he'll upset a delicate arrangement meant to settle the two countries' difficult past.

Here's a look at how South Korea's neighbors see Moon, Seoul's first liberal leader in a decade, as he seeks to put an ambitious, possibly jarring foreign policy into play.

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### **NORTH KOREA**

North Korea, as of Wednesday afternoon, had yet to comment officially on Moon's election, but experts say there's no reason for it to dislike his win.

Even so, North Korea's relations with Moon's conservative predecessor, Park Geun-hye, were extremely bad, so it is almost certain to be cautious about any Moon proposals for increased engagement.

It may welcome a controlled boost in economic ties — or even a bilateral summit in its capital under the right conditions, an idea Moon has already floated — but its primary worry is likely to remain national security.

On that front, Moon's options to generate major change could be severely limited by South Korea's alliance with the United States and whatever position toward North Korea that President Donald Trump decides to take.

Park's decision to allow the United States to base a state-of-the-art missile defense system known by the acronym THAAD in South Korea's territory to cope with North Korean nuclear threats is a major

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irritant.

There's widespread opposition in South Korea to the THAAD deployment and loud protests from China, which also sees the system as a security threat. But challenging Washington over THAAD might be difficult for Moon.

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## UNITED STATES

Trump administration officials may worry about Moon's softer approach to North Korea, but they also likely know he won't push for any radical policies on the North or any other issues that would hurt the decades-long alliance.

During his campaign, many conservatives worried that Moon's election would cause problems with Washington, Seoul's most important ally, because of his engagement policy on North Korea would clash with Trump's push to maximize pressures on the country. Moon also said he would review the THAAD deployment.

But North Korea's nuclear weapons program has made remarkable progress since Moon worked for a liberal government that engaged the North with big aid shipments and economic cooperation projects 10 years ago. It's highly unlikely that Moon will pursue the same level of rapprochement that past liberal governments took.

Earlier this month, South Korean officials said the THAAD system was already operating, and experts say it will be extremely difficult now for Moon to ask Washington to withdraw it.

Taking the oath of office in Seoul on Wednesday, Moon said he will further bolster the alliance and "immediately fly to Washington if necessary" for the sake of peace on the Korean Peninsula.

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## CHINA

Beijing will be hoping for concessions from Moon to get relations back on track after months of Chinese fury over South Korea's decision to deploy THAAD.

China maintained an unyielding stance even after the deployment went ahead, apparently hoping that Moon would either reverse that decision or be chastised sufficiently to eschew any similar steps in the future.

South Korean experts say Moon will try to show he's making efforts to soothe Chinese anger but that it's too late to call for THAAD's withdrawal.

Beijing says the system threatens China's own security because its radar system is able to peer deep into the country's northeast and monitor its flights and missile launches.

Recent months have seen widening commercial retaliation against South Korean business interests in China, ranging from the cancellation of visits by popstars and actors to boycotts of the Lotte chain of department stores and the shutdown of work on an amusement park being built in China by the company. Chinese group tours to South Korea have also been canceled, while anti-Korean sentiment has proliferated online.

Beijing may also be heartened by renewed South Korean outreach to North Korea because that could divert attention from China's own role as the North's most important diplomatic and economic partner.

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## JAPAN

After the obligatory congratulations, Japan is cautiously watching to see how relations with South Korea evolve under Moon, known for his tough stance on wartime history and territorial issues.

Moon's more conciliatory approach to North Korea adds to uncertainty in bilateral and trilateral coop-



eration with the United States, given Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's vocal support for Trump's increased pressure on the North.

Japan is particularly concerned about the "comfort women" issue, a legacy of Japanese atrocities during the war that still haunts relations between the two sides. Moon opposes a 2015 agreement signed by Park that was heralded as a final settlement for Korean women who were among many sexually enslaved in Japanese military brothels before and during World War II. Moon has called for a renegotiation of the pact.

The two countries are also at odds over a "comfort woman" statue that was built outside the Japanese consulate in the southern South Korean city of Busan after the agreement was signed.

Moon has also raised skepticism over closer security cooperation with Japan, such as a bilateral military information sharing agreement, and emphasized Seoul's territorial claim on a disputed island between the two countries.

"Will Mr. Moon pursue a 'pro-North, anti-Japan' stance?" the conservative Yomiuri newspaper said in an editorial Wednesday. South Korea plays a crucial role in regional stability, it said. "We hope the new administration values cooperation with Japan and the U.S. and develops realistic security and foreign policies."

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Associated Press writers Eric Talmadge and Mari Yamaguchi in Tokyo and Christopher Bodeen in Beijing contributed to this report.

## **Tunnel collapse latest safety issue at nuclear site** **By NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS and MANUEL VALDES, Associated Press**

RICHLAND, Wash. (AP) — The collapse of an underground tunnel containing radioactive waste that forced workers at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation to shelter in place is the latest incident to raise safety concerns at the sprawling site that made plutonium for nuclear bombs for decades after World War II.

Officials detected no release of radiation Tuesday and no workers were injured, said Randy Bradbury, a spokesman for the Washington state Department of Ecology.

No workers were inside the tunnel when it collapsed, causing soil on the surface above to sink 2 to 4 feet (half to 1.2 meters) over a 400 square foot (37 square meters) area, officials said.

The tunnels are hundreds of feet long, with about 8 feet (2.4 meters) of soil covering them, the U.S. Department of Energy said.

The anti-nuclear group Beyond Nuclear said the incident helped show "radioactive waste management is out of control."

Democratic U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell of Washington said worker safety must be the priority.

"My thoughts are with the first responders who are working to assess the situation on the ground," she said.

Worker safety has long been a concern at Hanford, which is located about 200 miles (322 kilometers) southeast of Seattle.

Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson filed a lawsuit last fall against the Energy Department and its contractor, Washington River Protection Solutions, contending vapors released from underground nuclear waste tanks posed a serious risk to workers.

Ferguson said that since the early 1980s, hundreds of workers have been exposed to vapors escaping from the tanks and that those breathing the vapors developed nosebleeds, chest and lung pain, headaches, coughing, sore throats, irritated eyes and difficulty breathing.

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Lawyers for the Energy Department have said no evidence has been provided showing workers have been harmed by vapors.

The cause of the collapse was not immediately known. It was discovered Tuesday as part of a routine inspection and occurred during a massive cleanup that has been underway since the 1980s and costs more than \$2 billion a year. The work is expected to take until 2060 and cost more than \$100 billion.

Hanford officials said they were studying the area of the collapse to determine how to create a barrier between the contaminated equipment in the tunnel and the outside air.

Workers near the site were evacuated and hundreds of others farther away were told to remain indoors for several hours, the federal agency said.

Non-essential workers among the labor force of 9,000 at the site were sent home early along a safe route.

"No action is currently required for residents of Benton and Franklin counties," the Energy Department said, referring to the nearly 300,000 residents near the site about 200 miles southeast of Seattle. "There is no indication of a release of contamination at this point."

U.S. Energy Secretary Rick Perry was briefed on the incident that Washington Gov. Jay Inslee called a serious situation.

"Ensuring the safety of the workers and the community is the top priority," said Inslee, a Democrat who previously represented the Hanford region in Congress.

The accident occurred at a plant known as the Plutonium Uranium Extraction Facility, or PUREX, located in the middle of the 500-square-mile (1,295-square-kilometer) Hanford site — half the size of Rhode Island.

The PUREX building is the length of three football fields and was used to recover plutonium from irradiated fuel rods.

Hanford for decades made plutonium for nuclear weapons and is now the nation's largest depository of radioactive defense waste, with about 56 million gallons of waste, most of it in 177 underground tanks.

As part of the huge, ongoing cleanup, rail cars full of radioactive waste were often driven into tunnels and buried.

The senior Democrat on the House Energy and Commerce Committee said he is requesting that the Energy Department brief the committee on the root cause of the collapse.

New Jersey Rep. Frank Pallone said the incident underscores the need for the department to take all necessary precautions to ensure the safety and security of workers.

The committee oversees the department's management of the cleanup efforts.

The Hanford site was built during World War II and made plutonium for most of the U.S. nuclear arsenal, including the bomb dropped on Nagasaki, Japan, at the end of the war.

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Geranios reported from Spokane, Washington. Associated Press writer Matthew Daly in Washington, D.C., contributed to this story.

## S. Korea's leader willing to visit North, talk to US, China

By KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — New South Korean President Moon Jae-in said as he took office Wednesday that he is open to visiting rival North Korea under the right conditions to talk about its aggressive pursuit of nuclear-tipped missiles.

Moon's softer stance on North Korea could create friction with Washington, which has swung from

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threats of military action to hints of dialogue as it seeks to formulate a policy under President Donald Trump.

South Korea's first liberal leader in a decade, Moon also said he'll "sincerely negotiate" with the United States, Seoul's top ally, and China, South Korea's top trading partner, over the contentious deployment of an advanced U.S. missile-defense system in southern South Korea. The system has angered Beijing, which says its powerful radars allow Washington to spy on its own military operations.

In a speech at the National Assembly, Moon pledged to work for peace on the Korean Peninsula amid growing worry over the North's expanding nuclear weapons and missiles program.

"I will quickly move to solve the crisis in national security. I am willing to go anywhere for the peace of the Korean Peninsula — if needed, I will fly immediately to Washington. I will go to Beijing and I will go to Tokyo. If the conditions shape up, I will go to Pyongyang," Moon said.

Moon assumed presidential duties early in the morning after the National Election Commission finished counting Tuesday's votes and declared him winner of the special election necessitated by the ousting of conservative Park Geun-hye, whose downfall and jailing on corruption charges is one of the most turbulent stretches in the nation's recent political history.

At his first news conference at the presidential Blue House, Moon introduced his nominees for prime minister, the country's spy chief and his presidential chief of staff. The usual circumstances of the election and immediate transition into office meant Moon inherited several officials from Park's government, and he has moved quickly to replace them.

The nomination of Lee Nak-yeon as prime minister was seen as an attempt to get more support from the southwestern liberal stronghold where Lee had served as governor and lawmaker. Lawmakers must approve Lee for the country's No. 2 job, which was largely a ceremonial post before Park's removal made current Prime Minister Hwang Kyo-ahn a government caretaker.

Moon's pick for National Intelligence Service chief is Suh Hoon, a longtime intelligence official Moon said would be the right man to push reforms at NIS, which has long been accused of meddling in domestic politics. The NIS nomination does not require lawmakers' approval, although Suh must first go through a National Assembly hearing.

Talking to reporters, Suh endorsed Moon's call for a summit meeting with North Korean ruler Kim Jong Un, although saying it would be difficult for such a meeting to take place soon, considering the tension over the North's nuclear program.

"The talk about a South-North summit is a little premature, but regardless of that, there's a need for a summit meeting," Suh said. "If conditions ripen and provide opportunities to significantly lower military tension in the Korean Peninsula and open a path toward solving the North Korean nuclear problem, which is the most urgent threat to our security, then I think (Moon) will be able to go to Pyongyang."

In his earlier speech at the National Assembly, Moon thanked the millions of South Koreans who peacefully protested for months seeking the ouster of Park, who was impeached and arrested in March and faces a trial later this month that could send her to prison for life if she is convicted. Moon also offered a message of unity to his political rivals — Moon's Democratic Party has only 120 out of 300 seats in the National Assembly, so he may need broader support while pushing his key policies.

"Politics were turbulent (in the past several months), but our people showed greatness," Moon said.

"In face of the impeachment and arrest of an incumbent president, our people opened the path toward the future for the Republic of Korea," said Moon, referring to South Korea's formal name. To his rivals, Moon said, "We are partners who must lead a new Republic of Korea. We must put the days of fierce competition behind and hold hands marching forward."

Moon began his duties earlier in the day by receiving a briefing about North Korea from Army Gen.

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Lee Sun-jin, chairman of South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff, and he visited a national cemetery in Seoul where he wrote in a visitor book: "A country worth being proud of; a strong and reliable president!"

The leaders of China, Japan and other countries sent their congratulations. South Korea's relations with Japan are strained by the Japanese military's sexual exploitation of South Korean women during World War II, and relations with China have been irritated over the THAAD anti-missile system deployment. Moon made a campaign vow to reconsider THAAD.

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. WHAT TRUMP'S FIRING OF COMEY SIGNALS

It throws into question the future of a counterintelligence probe into his campaign's possible connections to Russia and raises suspicions of an underhanded effort to stymie it.

### 2. TRUMP MEETING WITH PUTIN'S TOP DIPLOMAT

White House talks with Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov marks the highest level, face-to-face contact with Russia of his young presidency.

### 3. MOON OPEN TO DETENTE WITH NORTH KOREA

The new South Korean president says he's open to visiting Kim Jong Un under the right conditions to talk about Pyongyang's pursuit of nuclear-tipped missiles.

### 4. 'TO GET TO PARADISE, BLOW YOURSELF UP'

Two Iraqi boys who escaped Islamic State captivity tell the AP that the militants forced hundreds of boys into training to become fighters and suicide bombers.

### 5. LEGACY OF 'TUSKEGEE SYPHILIS STUDY' PERSISTS

One of the most infamous episodes in U.S. medical history — where black men in the segregated South intentionally weren't treated for STDs — is still affecting descendants to this day.

### 6. WHERE US IS FIGHTING DRUG SMUGGLING AT SEA

A high-tech U.S. Coast Guard cutter in the eastern Pacific patrols the biggest narcotics smuggling corridor in the world to stop cocaine getting to American cities.

### 7. HOW THIS IRANIAN ELECTION IS DIFFERENT

The campaign has seen a former president disobey Iran's supreme leader and open discussion of a 1980s mass execution, testing what can be discussed in public and online.

### 8. US NUCLEAR SITE LONG A CAUSE FOR CONCERN

The collapse of an underground tunnel containing radioactive waste at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in Washington state is the latest incident to raise safety concerns.

### 9. FEWER REFUGEES ENTERING AMERICA DESPITE TRAVEL BAN SETBACKS

The number of refugees arriving in the U.S. dipped to a six-year low in March, apart from a period in 2013 when the federal government was shut down.

### 10. 'WE HAVEN'T AGED A DAY'

It was a rare TV reunion as Stephen Colbert played host to a gang of fellow "Daily Show" alums on a special edition of CBS' "The Late Show."



## Trump to meet top Russian diplomat at the White House

By JULIE PACE and VIVIAN SALAMA, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump will meet Wednesday with Vladimir Putin's top diplomat at the White House, officials say, marking the highest level, face-to-face contact with Russia of the American leader's young presidency. It would also signal that the two countries have improved ties that Trump recently described as being at an "all-time low."

Trump's talks with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will take place after the Russian's meetings earlier in the day with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson.

A Russian plan to stabilize Syria after more than six years of civil war is the most urgent foreign policy topic on the agenda. But the meeting will be impossible to separate from the Trump administration's unfolding political drama in Washington, where FBI and congressional investigations are looking into possible collusion between Trump campaign associates and the Kremlin related to last year's presidential election. U.S. intelligence agencies have asserted that Moscow meddled in the election to help Trump's chances of victory.

The stigma of the Russia probes has been impossible for Trump to shake. Trump on Tuesday abruptly fired FBI Director James Comey, ousting the nation's top law enforcement official in the midst of the bureau's investigation into Trump's ties with Russia.

Less than a month into Trump's presidency, he fired his national security adviser, Michael Flynn, saying Flynn misled senior administration officials about his pre-inauguration talks with Sergey Kislyak, Russia's ambassador in Washington.

In a Senate hearing Monday, former acting Attorney General Sally Yates said she bluntly warned Trump's White House in January that Flynn "essentially could be blackmailed" by the Russians because he apparently had lied to his bosses about his contacts with Kislyak.

Trump has said he has no ties to Russia and isn't aware of any involvement by his aides in any Russian election interference. He calls the various investigations a "hoax" driven by Democrats still bitter that their candidate, Hillary Clinton, was defeated last year.

But in the meantime, his hopes for a possible rapprochement with Moscow, so regularly repeated during the campaign, have been derailed. Ties soured further in April after the U.S. blamed a Russian ally, Syrian President Bashar Assad, for a deadly chemical weapons attack on civilians and Trump ordered that some 60 cruise missiles be fired at a Syrian air base in response.

After Tillerson visited Putin and Lavrov in Moscow on April 12, Trump said flatly, "Right now we're not getting along with Russia at all."

Still, Tillerson's meeting provided a blueprint for how the former Cold War foes might go about improving ties.

A main focus is Syria, where both governments want to end a civil war that has killed up to 400,000 people, contributed to a global refugee crisis and allowed the Islamic State group to emerge as a global terror threat. The continued fighting between rebels and Assad's military has complicated U.S. efforts to defeat IS.

Lavrov will be coming to the American capital with a Russian plan to end the violence, after hashing out an agreement with Iran and Turkey last week.

It focuses on the creation of four de-escalation zones. Critical details still need to be finalized and the U.S. response has been cautious, with top officials such as Defense Secretary Jim Mattis saying they're still studying the concept and its various unanswered questions. The would-be safe zones would not cover areas where the U.S.-led coalition is fighting IS.

Despite the lack of clarity, the possibility of a meeting between Trump and Lavrov would in itself be a

sign of some progress.

The Russian diplomat hasn't visited Washington at all since 2013, a year before Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea region and two years before it intervened militarily in Syria to help Assad remain in power.

## **LA Olympic organizers putting their plans on display**

**By MICHAEL R. BLOOD and BETH HARRIS, Associated Press**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Los Angeles Olympic organizers are putting their plans on display at a time of uncertainty in the race for the 2024 Games.

Members of the International Olympic Committee are in Southern California this week to inspect stadiums and arenas that could become future Olympic venues.

But there's a big unknown.

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 Peru. The IOC is considering a proposal to use that meeting to award the next two Olympics — 2024 and 2028. That means one to each city.

Like Paris, L.A. says it's only interested in 2024.

Members of the IOC will be in Southern California for several days of meetings and tours, including stops at the Rose Bowl and the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

The contest for the 2024 Games has been messy.

The race began with five cities, but Rome, Hamburg, Germany, and Budapest, Hungary, all pulled out.

The IOC is eager to keep costs in check after decades of runaway spending, and L.A. has made its lean budget a selling point.

The L.A. bid requires no new construction of permanent venues. It projects spending \$5.3 billion, which would be around one-third of what Tokyo is expected to spend for 2020.

## **Far fewer refugees entering US despite travel ban setbacks**

**By MEREDITH HOFFMAN, Associated Press**

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Somali refugee Mohamoud Saed was elated when he learned that his wife and eight children had completed the lengthy refugee application process that would allow them to join him in the U.S., reuniting the family for the first time in seven years.

But the Saeds never made the trip to the Atlanta suburbs because their travel documents expired during the legal wrangling over President Donald Trump's executive orders to limit the refugee program and ban travel from several countries, including Somalia. They are now living in a refugee camp in Ethiopia, desperate for a permanent, peaceful home.

The family's case illustrates how Trump's travel bans have caused the number of refugees coming into the U.S. to plummet in the last two months, despite his executive orders largely being blocked in the courts. The number of refugees arriving in the U.S. dipped to 2,070 in March, which was a six-year low except for a period in 2013 when the federal government was shut down. The figure was slightly higher in April, 3,200, but it was still much lower than the months preceding Trump's order.

An executive order signed by Trump in January decreased the refugee limit from 110,000 to 50,000 this fiscal year, but the cap was not blocked in court until mid-March. That caused the State Department to tightly rein in monthly arrivals when the cap was in effect.

"This program simply can't be turned on and off like a faucet," said Erol Kekic, executive director of

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the Immigration and Refugee Program for Church World Service, one of the world's largest resettlement organizations.

Many approved refugees like the Saeds had their travel documents expire during that time, forcing them to restart the whole process and leaving them in limbo. The 56-year-old Saed, who was a doctor in Somalia before he fled the nation's civil war, is anxiously awaiting their arrival while struggling with kidney issues that he hopes could be solved with a transplant from one of his family members.

"You can't imagine how I'm feeling, missing my family," Saed said.

Conservatives praise the decrease but insist a total halt in admissions is necessary. Refugee groups say the drop has forced them to lay off employees while trapping thousands of people in war-torn nations, overflowing refugee camps and dangerous living conditions amid the world's largest refugee crisis in modern history.

At the same time, Republican-controlled legislatures have been doing their part to limit the flow of refugees into their states.

Tennessee recently followed other states in suing the federal government to ban refugees in its state, and more than a dozen states have withdrawn from the federal resettlement program.

Texas recently became the largest state to withdraw from the program, and its Legislature is now moving to abolish the state's Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs. Both withdrawal from the program and abolishing the office are largely symbolic gestures, since non-profits are now tasked with coordinating refugee admissions. But state officials said they hope to put pressure on the federal government to keep its anti-resettlement fight.

"I think it would be a good idea to have a time-out on the whole resettlement program," said Texas state Sen. Don Huffines, a Republican from Dallas who authored the bill abolishing the refugee office. "We've got to keep Texas safe."

The U.S. resettlement process provides more stringent background checks than any other mode of entry in the country, and there is no evidence that refugees are more likely to commit violent acts. According to analysis conducted by the Cato Institute, a libertarian policy think tank, the chance of an American being murdered by a refugee in a terrorist attack is just 1 in 3.64 billion per year.

The legal challenges returned the refugee cap number to 110,000, but the slowdown from January to March and actions in Congress mean the U.S. will likely come nowhere close to reaching that number by the end of the fiscal year in October. The U.S. is currently on pace for about 60,000, but a State Department spokesman said the agency was "not in a position to speculate as to the final number of refugees that will be admitted by the end of Fiscal Year 2017."

"Tickets were canceled, exit permits were canceled," said Kay Bellor, vice president of programs for the resettlement agency Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services. "You can't just turn around and say, 'everybody get back on the plane.'"

Congress has approved a budget for only 75,000 for this fiscal year. A U.S. State Department spokesman said the country is now resettling 900 refugee arrivals weekly, to remain within that budget.

And Trump can set his preferred limit for fiscal year 2018 — likely a steep drop from former President Obama's 110,000, said Anna Greene, senior director of policy for U.S. programs with the resettlement agency International Rescue Committee.

Resettlement agencies get paid per refugee, causing them to cut back once the flow slowed down. Church World Service cut about 600 of its 640 employees in Sub-Saharan Africa but later rehired some of them, said Kekic.

Local resettlement groups around the U.S., aboard a roller coaster of fluctuating refugee admissions, have been forced to cut staff and to inform clients that relatives slated to join them in the U.S. may

never arrive.

"This is one of the most challenging times that we've seen in refugee service," said Aaron Rippenroeger, president of Refugee Services Texas. "Were operating in a dramatically unstable management environment."

Follow Meredith Hoffman on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/merhoffman>

## Asian stock markets see moderate gains

By YOUKYUNG LEE, AP Business Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Asian stocks markets logged moderate gains on Wednesday after Wall Street closed mixed as investors assessed implications of political events around the world. Weaker than expected Chinese inflation data underscored concern that the economy is losing steam.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 gained 0.2 percent to 19,875.34 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index rose 0.8 percent to 25,088.27. China's Shanghai Composite index climbed 0.3 percent to 3,088.63. But South Korea's Kospi fell 1.0 percent to 2,269.34. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 advanced 0.7 percent to 5,883.00.

MOON RISES: Moon Jae-in, South Korea's newly elected liberal president, took office Wednesday. Moon said he would visit North Korea under the right conditions. Domestically, he promised social and economic reforms including creating jobs, curbing excessive power of founding families who control big businesses and ending corruptions between big businesses and politicians. But South Korea's benchmark Kospi fell for the first time in four sessions, retreating from a record high set on the eve of Tuesday's election.

CHINA INFLATION: Consumer prices rose in April, with inflation at 1.2 percent, but factory-gate producer costs fell slightly from the month before, for the first time in almost a year.

ANALYST'S VIEW: "Further ahead, producer price inflation should continue to wane as policy tightening weighs on economic activity. Consumer price inflation, meanwhile, may inch up further but should remain below 2.0%. The upshot is that hopes for a sustained reflation in China are fading," Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economic said in a commentary.

WALL STREET: The Nasdaq composite index ticked higher to another record Tuesday, its third straight day of setting an all-time high, but other indexes closed lower. The Nasdaq rose 0.3 percent to 6,120.59. The Standard & Poor's 500 index slipped 0.1 percent to 2,396.92. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 0.2 percent to 20,975.78.

OIL: Benchmark U.S. crude added 30 cents to \$46.18 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell 55 cents to settle at \$45.88 per barrel on Tuesday. Brent crude, the international standard, gained 30 cents to \$49.03. It fell 61 cents to close at \$48.73 per barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The euro strengthened to \$1.0897 from \$1.0876 while the dollar fell to 113.68 Japanese yen from 113.99 yen.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, May 10, the 130th day of 2017. There are 235 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 10, 1869, a golden spike was driven in Promontory, Utah, marking the completion of the first



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transcontinental railroad in the United States.

On this date:

In 1774, Louis XVI acceded to the throne of France.

In 1775, Ethan Allen and his Green Mountain Boys, along with Col. Benedict Arnold, captured the British-held fortress at Ticonderoga, New York.

In 1863, during the Civil War, Confederate Lt. Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson died of pneumonia, a complication resulting from being hit by friendly fire eight days earlier during the Battle of Chancellorsville in Virginia.

In 1865, Confederate President Jefferson Davis was captured by Union forces in Irwinville, Georgia.

In 1924, J. Edgar Hoover was named acting director of the Bureau of Investigation (later known as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, or FBI).

In 1933, the Nazis staged massive public book burnings in Germany.

In 1940, during World War II, German forces began invading the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Belgium and France. The same day, British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain resigned, and Winston Churchill formed a new government.

In 1941, Adolf Hitler's deputy, Rudolf Hess, parachuted into Scotland on what he claimed was a peace mission. (Hess ended up serving a life sentence at Spandau Prison until 1987, when he apparently committed suicide at age 93.)

In 1960, the nuclear-powered submarine USS Triton completed its submerged navigation of the globe.

In 1977, Academy Award-winning actress Joan Crawford died in New York.

In 1984, the International Court of Justice said the United States should halt any actions to blockade Nicaragua's ports (the U.S. had already said it would not recognize World Court jurisdiction on this issue).

In 1994, Nelson Mandela took the oath of office in Pretoria to become South Africa's first black president. The state of Illinois executed serial killer John Wayne Gacy, 52, for the murders of 33 young men and boys.

Ten years ago: British Prime Minister Tony Blair announced he would step down June 27. (Blair was succeeded by fellow Labourite Gordon Brown.) The Democratic-controlled House, by a vote of 255-171, defeated legislation to require the withdrawal of U.S. combat troops from Iraq within nine months. A federal jury in Santa Ana, California, convicted Chinese-born engineer Chi Mak of conspiring to export U.S. defense technology to China. (Mak was later sentenced to 24½ years in federal prison.)

Five years ago: Presumptive Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney apologized for "stupid" high school pranks that might have gone too far and moved quickly to stamp out any notion that he'd bullied schoolmates because they were gay. JPMorgan Chase said it had lost \$2 billion in six weeks in a trading portfolio designed to hedge against risks the company took with its own money. In Syria, twin suicide car bombs exploded outside a military intelligence building, killing 55 people. Legendary car designer Carroll Shelby, 89, died in Dallas.

One year ago: With his White House dreams fading, Bernie Sanders added another state to his tally against Hillary Clinton with a win in West Virginia; Republican Donald Trump also won there and in Nebraska, a week after he cleared the field of his remaining rivals. A man went on a stabbing rampage in Taunton, Massachusetts, killing two people and assaulting and stabbing more in a house and a shopping mall before being shot dead by an off-duty sheriff's deputy. Stephen Curry became the first unanimous NBA MVP, earning the award for the second straight season after leading the defending champion Warriors to a record-setting season.

Today's Birthdays: Author Barbara Taylor Bradford is 84. Rhythm-and-blues singer Henry Fambrough

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(The Spinners) is 79. Actor David Clennon is 74. Writer-producer-director Jim Abrahams is 73. Singer Donovan is 71. Singer-songwriter Graham Gouldman (10cc) is 71. Singer Dave Mason is 71. Actor Mike Hagerty is 63. Sports anchor Chris Berman is 62. Actor Bruce Penhall is 60. Former Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., is 59. Actress Victoria Rowell is 58. Rock singer Bono (BAH'-noh) (U2) is 57. Rock musician Danny Carey (Tool) is 56. Actor Darryl M. Bell is 54. Playwright Suzan-Lori Parks is 54. Model Linda Evangelista is 52. Rapper Young MC is 50. Actor Erik Palladino is 49. Rock singer Richard Patrick (Filter) is 49. Actor Lenny Venito is 48. Actor Dallas Roberts is 47. Actress Leslie Stefanson is 46. Actor-singer Todd Lowe is 45. Country musician David Wallace (Cole Deggs and the Lonesome) is 45. Actress Andrea Anders is 42. Race car driver Helio Castroneves is 42. Rock musician Jesse Vest is 40. Actor Kenan Thompson is 39. Rhythm-and-blues singer Jason Dalyrimple (Soul For Real) is 37. Rock musician Joey Zehr (The Click Five) is 34. Singer Ashley Poole (Dream) is 32. Actress Odette Annable is 32. Actress Lindsey Shaw is 28. Actress Lauren Potter is 27. Olympic gold medal swimmer Missy Franklin is 22.

Thought for Today: "The art of being wise is the art of knowing what to overlook." — William James, American psychologist and philosopher (1842-1910).