

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Thursday, May 18

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Regional Track at Milbank, noon.

**School Lunch:** Sack Lunch.

**Senior Menu:** French dip sandwich, macaroni salad, seasoned cabbage, Waldorf salad.

**United Methodist:** UMW at 1:30 p.m.

**St. John's Lutheran:** Quilting at 9 a.m.

## Friday, May 19

Faculty Inservice

**Senior Menu:** Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, tomato spoon salad, cookie, whole wheat bread.



## Playground equipment arrives

The new playground equipment for the Groton Baseball Complex arrived yesterday. Workers will soon begin the installation of the new equipment.

## City Council Agenda May 18 6pm

City Hall

- 1) Exe Session – Personnel 1-25-2 (1)

**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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**Hanlon Brothers  
Gravel Hauling**

New & Cleaning of  
Stockdams with our  
60' reach trackhoe

**605/395-6531**

## KIWANIS CLUB

LaVonne Helmer was program leader for Kiwanis Club on Wednesday, and she gave a book report on "This Old House."

No special business was discussed.

Next week's program leader is Reed Litch, followed by Tom Mahan and Tom Paepke.

## South Dakota Department of Revenue hosting border tax seminars in Aberdeen

PIERRE, S.D., -- The South Dakota Department of Revenue and the North Dakota Tax Department will collaborate for a pair of border tax seminars June 15 in Aberdeen.

The seminars are designed for those who do business in both South Dakota and North Dakota. Each course will take place at the Aberdeen South Dakota Department of Revenue office, located at 14 S. Main St., Suite 1-C.

The sales tax seminar, which begins at 9 a.m., will cover many of the basic differences in the application and reporting of sales and use tax between North Dakota and South Dakota. The course will also cover topics such as filing returns and applying for a license.

The construction contractors seminar begins at 1 p.m. and will present industry specifics such as the requirements for registration in North Dakota and South Dakota and the differences in taxes between the two states.

Both seminars are free of charge and will also be streamed online at the Department of Revenue's Facebook page.

The Department of Revenue recommends that attendees submit specific questions and additional topics for discussion ahead of time for in-depth coverage and education. To register for one of these seminars, submit a question or get more information on our educational calendar, please visit <https://apps.sd.gov/rv23education/classes.aspx>.

## Mowing Regulations For The State Right of Way

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Transportation would like to remind landowners of mowing regulations for the state right of way.

Administrative Rule 70:04:06:06 states: No mowing of the right of way may begin in the west river counties of Gregory, Lyman or Tripp before June 15 and east of the Missouri River before July 10. All mowing by permit must be completed by Sept. 1 each year.

In accordance with the administrative rule, abutting landowners on state highways are given preference to mow right-of-way ditches. Other persons wishing to mow must obtain a waiver from the abutting landowner.

Any person wanting to mow Interstate right-of-way ditches must apply for a permit, with preference being given to abutting landowners. Other persons wishing to mow must also obtain a waiver from the abutting landowner.

The application/permits needed for mowing the right of way for interstate, state-owned railroad right of way and the abutting landowner waiver are located on the DOT website at <http://sddot.com/resources/forms/>.

The department may mow medians and areas within the rights of way prior to June 15 to control noxious weeds and provide increased safety to the traveling public

For questions, please contact the appropriate area engineer, contact information is available here: <http://sddot.com/contact/>, or call the office of Operations Support at 605.773.3571.

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**SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT  
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**



**Larry Zimmerman  
Secretary**

## A Visit to the Cemetery

As Memorial Day approaches, it is a great time to pause and consider the true meaning of this holiday. Memorial Day represents one day of national awareness and reverence, honoring those Americans who died while defending our Nation and its values. While we should honor these heroes every day for the profound contributions they made to secure our Nation's freedom, we should especially commemorate them and their families on Memorial Day.

Let us never forget how fortunate we are to live in freedom and let us always commemorate our history and honor the sacrifices these heroes gave to protect that freedom.

Military life and ceremonies are inspired in tradition and symbolism and funerals for our fallen are no exception. Let me share with you some of the symbolism of military funeral honors.

The bestowing of military funeral honors is a way to show the nation's deep gratitude to those who have faithfully defended their country. This ceremony is the final demonstration a grateful nation provides to a veteran's family.

One of the best-known military traditions is the 21-gun salute or three volleys from rifles. This tradition comes from traditional battle ceasefires where each side would clear the dead. The firing of three volleys indicated that dead were cleared and properly cared for.

Originally composed to signal lights out, the somber tune of 'Taps' became a traditional way to pay tribute to service members honoring the extinguishing of a life.

At the end of a funeral the flag is removed from the casket and folded by the honor guard. With each fold representing something different – the first – liberty, second – unity, third – justice, fourth – perseverance, fifth – hardiness, sixth - valor, seventh – purity, eighth – innocence, ninth – sacrifice, tenth – honor, eleventh – independence and the twelfth fold – truth. In the folding, the red and white stripes are finally wrapped into the blue, as the light of day vanishes into the darkness of the night. Sometimes a few of the shells from the volleys may be inserted into the back fold before it is presented to the family as an expression of gratitude for the sacrifice they have made.

It has also been said that the three sides of a folded flag are symbolic of the three colors in the flag, the three sided hat of the colonial soldiers and the colonists, the three branches of the national government, the three primary documents of our land (Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights), and of course, the three famous words form the soldier's motto - duty, honor, and country.

While visiting a cemetery it's not unusual to see coins on a veteran's grave. The coins are symbolic that a friend was there. It's said that a penny means they visited and wanted to say thanks. A nickel means they trained at boot camp together, while a dime means they served together and a quarter signifies they were with the veteran when he/she passed away.

Whenever attending a funeral where military services are conducted, please go out of your way to thank the leaders from the service organizations that conducted the military funeral honors. They are all volunteers honoring one of their heroes.

As Memorial Day draws near, let us ponder the life they made possible for us by their commitment and sacrifice. They paid the ultimate price for freedom, and it is our duty to keep their legacy fresh in the memories of future generations.

<b>SOUTH DAKOTA WAR CASUALTIES BY ERA</b>	
WWI.....	554
WWII .....	1722
KOREAN WAR.....	160
VIETNAM WAR .....	192
DESERT STORM ERA .	36
TOTAL.....	2665

# **Water Restrictions**

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**Groton City Residents**



**Please**

**No Outdoor Watering**

**between**

**11am and 5pm**

**Effective immediately**

**& until further notice**

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## Today in Weather History

May 18, 1918: An estimated F2 tornado moved NNE from 5 miles NNW of Ferney, across the eastern edge of Groton. Homes were unroofed and barns were destroyed. Nine farms lost buildings. One man was injured in a barn, another in a car that was thrown from the road. Estimated damage was set at \$60,000. Tornadoes were also seen in Lincoln and Sanborn Counties in South Dakota.

Also, an estimated F2 tornado moved northeast through the townships of Akron and Artichoke in Big Stone County, Minnesota. About 300 farms had tornado damage. The funnel dissipated on Artichoke Lake.

May 18, 1960: Pierre received 1.96 inches of rain in less than 30 minutes which caused flash flooding. About 30 basements were flooded with an extensive cave-in damage at one home. Flash flooding from 2 to 3 inches of rain occurred near Presho, washing out county roads, three bridges, and a grain storage bin. Gettysburg also received 2.5 inches of rain.

May 18, 1996: A brief F0 tornado touchdown and cut a narrow path from 2 miles east of Willow Lake with no damage reported.

A 100 mph wind gust blew down 38 large trees on Highway 81 from the junction of Lake Norden corner on Highway 28 to the junction of the Hayti corner. Also, four double posted and five single posted signs were broken off, and one single posted steel sign was bent over.

1825 - A tornado (said to have crossed all of the state of Ohio) smashed into the log cabin settlement of Burlington, northeast of Columbus. (David Ludlum)

1960 - Salt Lake City UT received an inch of snow. It marked their latest measurable snowfall of record. (The Weather Channel)

1980 - Mount Saint Helens (in Washington State) erupted spewing ash and smoke sixty-three thousand feet into the air. Heavy ash covered the ground to the immediate northwest, and small particles were carried to the Atlantic coast. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Thunderstorms in Kansas, developing along a cold front, spawned tornadoes at Emporia and Toledo, produced wind gusts to 65 mph at Fort Scott, and produced golf ball size hail in the Kansas City area. Unseasonably hot weather prevailed ahead of the cold front. Pomona NJ reported a record high of 93 degrees, and Altus, OK, hit 100 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)






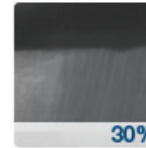

1988 - Low pressure anchored over eastern Virginia kept showers and thunderstorms over the Middle Atlantic Coast Region. Flash flooding was reported in Pennsylvania. Up to five inches of rain drenched Franklin County PA in 24 hours. (The National Weather Summary)

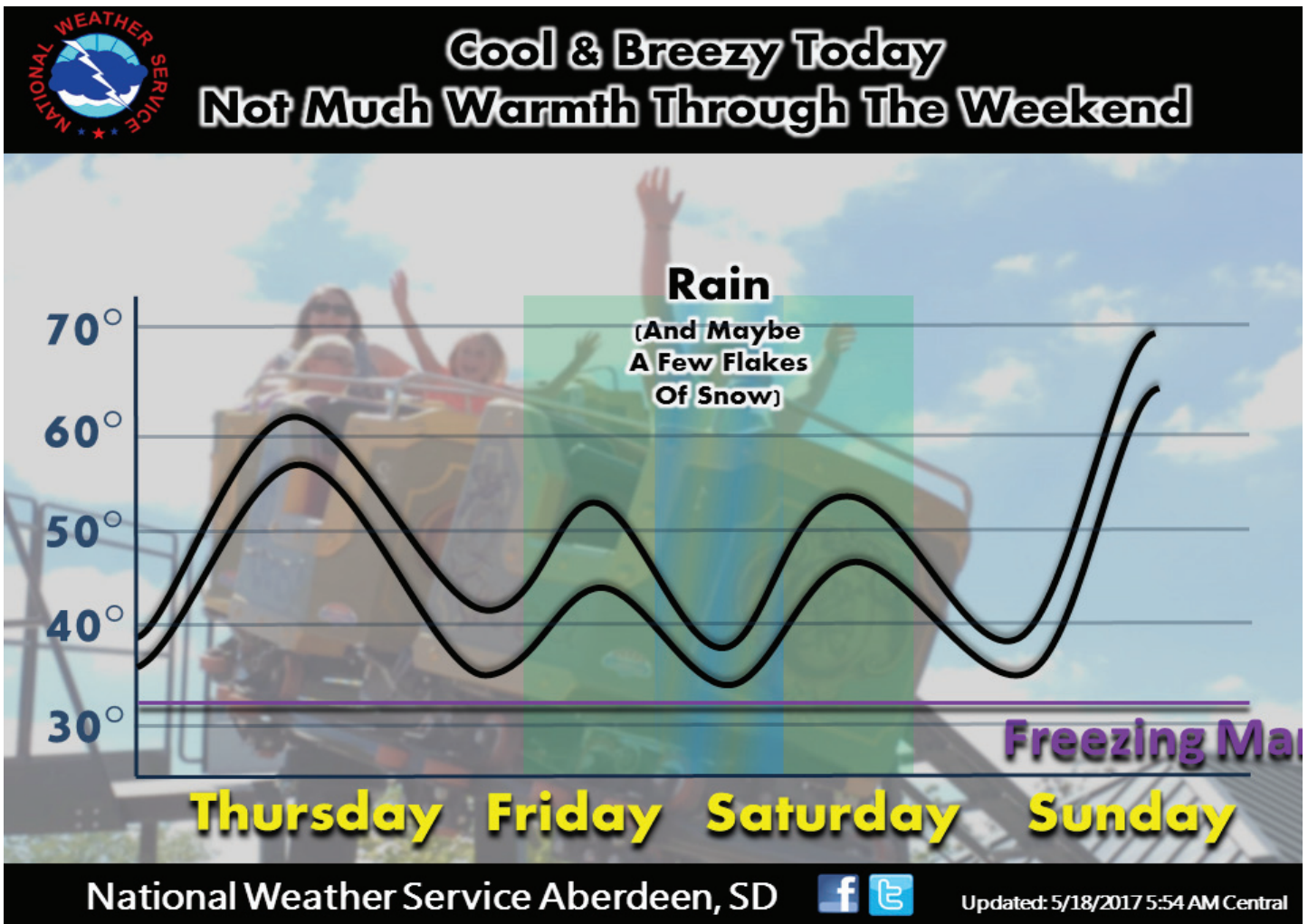
1989 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front produced severe weather from the Central Gulf Coast States to the Lower Missouri Valley during the day and evening. Thunderstorms spawned sixteen tornadoes, and there were 74 reports of large hail and damaging winds. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the central U.S. spawning a sixteen tornadoes, including a dozen in Nebraska. Thunderstorms also produced hail four inches in diameter at Perryton TX, wind gusts to 84 mph at Ellis KS, and high winds which caused nearly two million dollars damage at Sutherland NE. Thunderstorms deluged Sioux City IA with up to eight inches of rain, resulting in a record flood crest on Perry Creek and at least 4.5 million dollars damage. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
						
Mostly Sunny and Breezy then Sunny	Increasing Clouds	Mostly Cloudy then Slight Chance Rain	Chance Rain	Chance Rain	Chance Showers	Mostly Sunny
High: 61 °F	Low: 35 °F	High: 52 °F	Low: 38 °F	High: 51 °F	Low: 38 °F	High: 69 °F



Much below average temperatures are going to be with us through the weekend, along with a weather system that will bring another dose of rain - and hopefully just rain - Friday/Saturday. Temperatures will begin to recover towards the end of the weekend, but it looks like readings will remain below average for the first half of next week as well.

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## Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 57.9 F at 12:00 AM

Low Outside Temp: 50.3 F at 11:28 AM

High Gust: 34.0 Mph at 2:18 PM

Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

Record High: 100° in 1934

Record Low: 26° in 1915

Average High: 69°F

Average Low: 45°F

Average Precip in May: 1.85

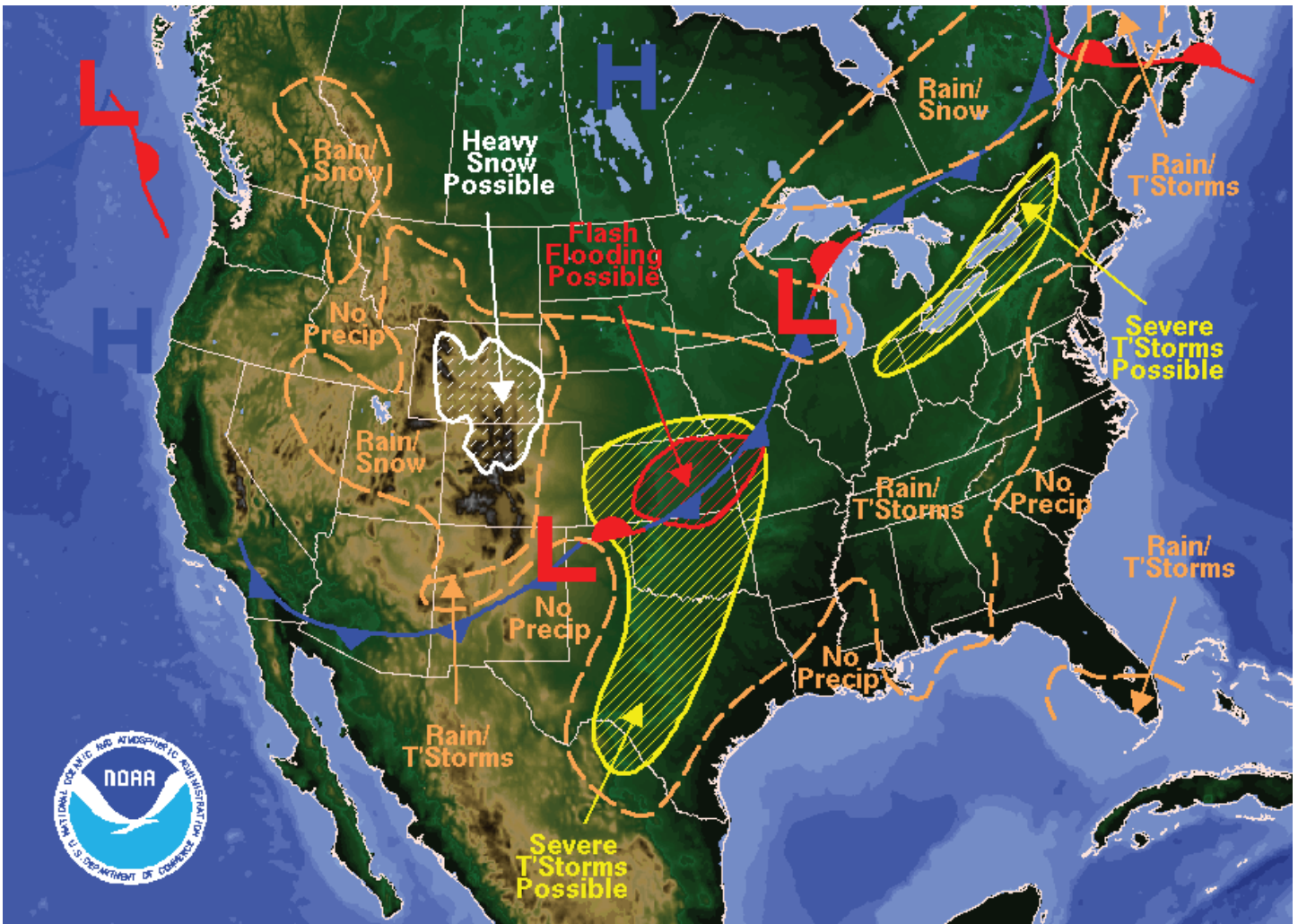
Precip to date in May: 0.78

Average Precip to date: 5.88

Precip Year to Date: 2.76

Sunset Tonight: 9:01 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:58 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Thu, May 18, 2017, issued 4:41 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Mcreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts





## DOES GOD ACTUALLY CARE FOR US?

Most of us are rather strange. We want to live long lives, but develop habits that shorten them. We want to be free, yet we make ourselves slaves to sin. We could be saints, but we choose to be sinners. We desire immortality but refuse it because we reject Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord - the only path to eternal life.

Long ago, David the Psalmist asked, "O Lord, what is man that You care for him, the son of man that You think of him?"

Often we neglect to think about the fact that we were created by God in His image. We did not evolve from nor ascend from some lower life. We are different from all animals in many ways - physically, mentally, socially - but most of all we have a spiritual nature that no living animal has.

We are what we are because God made us the way that we are. If God wanted us to be different from the way we are, we would be. What we do matters to God. What happens to each of us matters to God. We are created in His image and that of itself makes us uniquely different and special - especially to God.

This puzzled the Psalmist. So he decided to ask God, "Why bother at all with the human race?"

Years later the question was answered: because He loves us. Remember what Jesus said? "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

Man: different by design. Different because of God's love.

Prayer: Thank You, Father, for a love that is eternal and the opportunity to enjoy a life that is eternal. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 144:3 Lord, what are human beings that you care for them, mere mortals that you think of them?



## News from the Associated Press

### **South Dakota woman is sentenced in animal neglect case**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A woman charged with neglecting dozens of animals at her breeding facility near Rapid City has been sentenced to nearly 20 years of probation.

The Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2rf5rRa>) reported that 46-year-old Janell Gibson pleaded guilty to 20 counts of animal neglect Tuesday at the Pennington County Courthouse. Under a plea agreement, Gibson was also ordered to pay a \$55,000 fine to the local animal shelter and sentenced to 90 days of electronic monitoring.

Gibson won't be allowed to have domestic animals on her property or operate an animal-breeding facility or rescue center during her probation.

Law enforcement in December found three dead puppies and 76 live animals in various conditions of neglect at Gibson's facility in Creighton, a community about 70 miles (113 kilometers) east of Rapid City. The Humane Society of the Black Hills later gained ownership of the 48 dogs, 15 rabbits, 12 cats and one hen pheasant that were seized from the facility.

Deputy State's Attorney Carolyn Olson told Magistrate Judge Scott Bogue that the conditions of the animals were "really quite appalling."

In a statement to the court, Gibson admitted to failing to provide the animals with adequate sanitation and facilities.

Defense attorney Matthew Rappold said Gibson's permits to operate the kennel were revoked in February 2016. However, authorities allowed her to continue running the facility for another 11 months, Rappold said.

Authorities did not immediately shut down the facility because they wanted to give Gibson the chance to comply with regulations because she had a history of doing so, Olson said.

This version of the story corrects the 2nd paragraph to say Pennington County Courthouse and the 4th paragraph to say The Humane Society of the Black Hills.

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

### **Democrats to use grant for interns, grassroots organizers**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Democratic Party says it will use a \$10,000 grant to hire summer interns and organizers in tribal communities.

The party said Wednesday that the money came from the Democratic National Committee. It will go toward two paid internships through the summer and hiring seven grassroots organizers in tribal areas around the state.

Chairwoman Ann Tornberg says the grant is an encouraging sign that the Democratic National Committee is committed to helping Democrats in all 50 states.

She says the organizers will help the party build stronger relationships with tribal communities.

### **Bureau of Reclamation: South Dakota tribe repays \$54K**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation says a Native American tribe in South Dakota has repaid roughly \$54,000 in costs questioned by auditors.

The bureau said Wednesday that the tribe and the agency also agreed to increase oversight of financial reporting and agreements.

The bureau's decision came after an audit that found the tribe claimed \$1.44 million in costs for the operation and maintenance of a water system that were unsupported, unallowable or unreasonable.

The bureau found nearly the entire originally questioned amount was allowable, while \$54,190 in costs

were disallowed and required repayment.

Reclamation's Great Plains Regional Director, Michael Ryan, says the bureau made the decision after a careful review of the audit findings.

Tribal Chairman Boyd Gourneau says the tribe and the bureau worked cooperatively to reach the final number.

This story has been corrected to show the \$54,190 has been reimbursed.

## Native American tribe's cannabis consultant to face trial

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Roughly two years after an American Indian tribe began an ambitious push to open the nation's first marijuana resort in South Dakota, a consultant who helped pursue the stalled venture is heading to trial on drug charges.

Jury selection starts Thursday in the case of Eric Hagen, a consultant who worked with the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe on its operation about 45 miles north of Sioux Falls. Hagen was indicted on state marijuana charges months after the tribe destroyed their crop amid fears of a federal raid.

Here's a look at key information about the trial:

### WHAT'S GOING ON?

Hagen and fellow consultant Jonathan Hunt, officials with Monarch America, a Colorado-based company in the marijuana industry, were charged last year after assisting the tribe.

The Santee Sioux began a marijuana growing operation after the Justice Department outlined a new policy clearing the way for Indian tribes to grow and sell marijuana under the same conditions as some states that have legalized pot.

State Attorney General Marty Jackley warned against the idea from the outset. The tribe ultimately destroyed its crop in November 2015 after federal officials signaled a potential raid.

Jackley announced charges against Hagen and Hunt about nine months later. Hagen, 34, of Sioux Falls, has pleaded not guilty to charges of conspiracy to possess, possession and attempted possession of more than 10 pounds of marijuana.

He faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison on both the conspiracy and possession counts and 7 1/2 years on the attempted possession count. Hunt last year pleaded guilty to a drug conspiracy count after agreeing to cooperate with law enforcement.

Court documents say Hunt ordered marijuana seeds from a company in the Netherlands that were shipped surreptitiously to the tribe's office in 2015. Authorities say he and others cultivated the plants at the Flandreau grow facility before they were burned.

### LEGAL ISSUES

The state doesn't have jurisdiction over the tribe. But prosecutors argue that state courts have jurisdiction over non-Native Americans who commit "victimless" crimes in Indian Country, so Hagen can be prosecuted. Hagen's defense has argued that the federal government has jurisdiction.

### THE DEFENSE

Hagen's defense against the indictment is that the marijuana belonged to the tribe. Mike Butler, Hagen's attorney, said Jackley doesn't have jurisdiction to charge the tribe, so perhaps the prosecution is "an offshoot of his frustration that he couldn't impose his will on the tribe."

"The tribe voted to enact a law. The tribe paid for this stuff. The tribe ultimately voted to burn it. Not my client," Butler said. "It was the tribe's exclusive possession in this case."

Butler said law enforcement was fully informed and involved from the beginning of the venture. He pledged to appeal if Hagen is convicted.

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"This is a one-of-a-kind prosecution," said Tim Purdon, a former U.S. attorney for North Dakota. "That doesn't mean it's a bad one. It's just, this is truly groundbreaking."

## THE PROJECT

When tribal leaders initially touted their plan to open the resort on tribal land in Flandreau, President Anthony Reider said they wanted it to be "an adult playground."

They projected as much as \$2 million in monthly profits, with ambitious plans that included a smoking lounge with a nightclub, bar and food service, and eventually an outdoor music venue. They planned to use the money for community services and to provide income to tribal members.

Reider said after the marijuana was burned that federal officials had concerns about whether the tribe could sell marijuana to non-Indians, along with the origin of the seeds used for its crop.

Purdon, now a partner at the Minneapolis law firm Robins Kaplan, said that if Hagen is convicted, it would put a "huge chill on non-Native consultants working with tribes who are interested in exploring medical or adult use cannabis."

## THE TRIBE

Reider this week called the prosecutions of Hagen and Hunt "very unfortunate," saying that the tribe originally reached out to Monarch America about the project.

He said the Santee Sioux have looked into the possibility of growing marijuana again, but said they're waiting for more clarity at the federal level with President Donald Trump's new administration.

The grow facility hasn't been used since the marijuana crop was burned, Reider said.

"It's unfortunate that we were unable to be successful with the project," he said. "We were hoping with the revenues to do a lot of positive things for the tribe and the local community."

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

## Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press

American News, Aberdeen, May 17

Keep Spink County oil spill in perspective

Let's all take a deep breath.

In early April, there was a minor crude oil leak at the Dakota Access Pipeline pump station in Spink County.

Two barrels — about 84 gallons — were spilled, but pipeline officials say the oil was caught in a containment unit that is built for such an event. The spill was reported to the state, which put it on a public database. The state was not required to do anything more in informing the public.

While we do believe these spills are concerning and worthy of attention, we want to put this particular incident in perspective:

- 17,000 gallons: Keystone pipeline, South Dakota, 2016.
- 34,000 gallons: Hiland Crude pipeline, North Dakota, March 2014.
- 210 million gallons: Deepwater Horizon, Gulf of Mexico, 2010.
- 10.8 million gallons: Exxon Valdez, Alaska, 1989.

Not to make light of the situation but, by comparison, 84 gallons seems a drop in the bucket.

There were no photos of oil-covered pelicans (or, in Spink's case, pheasants). The April event did not happen near any water source. It was a minor spill, on property owned by Energy Transfer Partners, the developers of the Dakota Access Pipeline.

But, the outrage was big.

To hear the national media tell it, this spill clearly endangered the drinking water of the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Throughout the history of the Dakota Access Pipeline, the truth has been murky. Well-intentioned people

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have spoken out against the pipeline, without really learning too much about what is happening on the ground in places like Spink County.

Folks should be concerned about oil spills — any oil spills. Energy Transfer Partners should (and, we assume, does) treat every leak or spill as a serious infraction that should enact further safeguards.

At this newspaper, we knew this story would be big. The first DAPL oil spill in South Dakota — we say “first,” not just “only” — was going to attract attention.

American News reporter Shannon Marvel broke the story by sifting through a database cataloging oil spills.

Those who are concerned about these issues should already be looking at that database regularly.

But beyond that, those who are concerned can continue to stay informed, refrain from spreading false or misleading information or opinion, and hold the oil companies and regulators accountable so that the pipeline is safe and effective.

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Rapid City Journal, Rapid City, May 15

Now is time for town hall meetings

Lawmakers across the nation have been holding town hall meetings in recent weeks as the Republican majority in Congress works to implement the agenda that it promised to America.

The initial effort has focused on dismantling the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, which has raised concerns for millions of people who either purchase their health insurance through an exchange or were able to get health care through the expanded Medicaid program.

The decision to repeal and replace Obamacare has riveted the nation, hardly a surprise since affordable and accessible health care is a life-and-death issue. Lawmakers who held town hall meetings have provided a valuable service to their constituents by listening and responding to those concerns and then hopefully taking that information back to Washington as part of an effort to produce legislation that will benefit the people back home.

So far, however, South Dakota residents have had at best limited opportunities to share their views on health care reform with their lawmakers. When asked this week by the Journal editorial board if any town hall meetings will be held while the legislation is being crafted, the offices of Rep. Kristi Noem, Sen. John Thune and Sen. Mike Rounds said none are scheduled at this time.

Noem’s chief of staff said she held a town hall meeting earlier this year in Watertown, which is near her hometown of Castlewood in northeastern South Dakota, and “holds regular telephone town halls.” He also said she did not have time for a town hall meeting last week while the House was in recess. Yet, Noem, who is running for governor in the 2018 election, was in Sioux Falls on Thursday getting a tour of the Minnehaha County Jail and talked about cracking down on crime in South Dakota. She also was in Rapid City on Saturday to give the commencement address for Western Dakota Tech at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center.

A Thune staffer said that he held a town hall meeting in Aberdeen “a few weeks ago and an open forum in Madison.”

Sen. Rounds’ office said he has held many “coffee and conversation” events this year and that more than 30 health care organizations met with him in his office to discuss health care reform. He also has held a conference call with other health care stakeholders.

We, however, would like our lawmakers to hold town hall meetings focused exclusively on health care for the less prominent stakeholders — the citizens who don’t have the time or resources to fly to Washington, D.C., or want more than a cup of coffee with the senator.

While we have heard plenty about what they believe are the problems with Obamacare, we have heard little about their vision for health care reform beyond removing mandates and allowing people to shop across state lines for insurance.

We need to know how the Republican plan will reduce insurance rates without reducing health care costs. Where do they stand on pre-existing conditions? Do they support caps on coverage? What happens when an uninsured adult gets injured in an accident or is diagnosed with cancer? Who decides that person’s fate — the federal government, the states or the insurance companies?



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Our lawmakers need to listen to constituents' concerns and tell us specifically what kind of health care they support. Now is the time for them to listen to us and answer our questions.

The Daily Republic, Mitchell, May 16

Generosity in Gregory

The Gregory community achieved a fabulous feat recently.

The community secured a down payment for a new digital projector at The Hilltop Drive-In Theatre in Gregory, raising \$20,000 needed for the \$45,000 projector.

There's a special feeling about going out on a warm night under the stars to watch a film with family, friends or someone special, and Gregory area folks will get to hold onto that feeling.

The moviegoers and others in the area who helped raise the funds deserve a round of applause, and their generosity got us thinking about Mitchell's closed drive-in.

Four summers ago, The Starlite Drive-In Theatre in Mitchell shut down, leaving the town with a fantastic traditional movie-going experience at the Logan Luxury 5 Cinemas downtown, but without the unique experience of a drive-in that many younger Mitchell residents may have never had the chance to come across.

In the wake of the Gregory story in Tuesday's edition of The Daily Republic, some online commenters have asked why Mitchell can't do the same to support its local drive-in. Well, if those commenters want to support the project, we call on those asking for a Starlite revival to put their money where their mouths are.

We would love to see the Starlite back in action, with films new and old gracing the large white screen north of town. But that doesn't mean we're going to call upon Jeff Logan to shift course on a business decision he made years ago to close the Starlite.

So we challenge area residents who want to see the Starlite make its triumphant return to Mitchell to match the huge generosity displayed in the much smaller community of Gregory to collect the contributions needed to bring in a new digital projector. Perhaps one wealthy resident could kick in a hefty contribution to bring joy to the faces of thousands.

While the dream of bringing back the Starlite seems great, we understand it may not be economically viable at the moment. But to those who look west toward Gregory and witness the wonderful community spirit on display, maybe it's time you chip in a chunk of change and see if it turns the dream into a reality.

## Executive director hired for Booth Society in South Dakota

**KAIJA SWISHER, Black Hills Pioneer**

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — There's a new executive director at the Booth Society, the nonprofit friends group that supports the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and Archives in Spearfish: Karen Holzer started in the position April 1.

"It has been a personal goal to work in a people-centered, tourism-generated, historically-grounded atmosphere," Holzer said of why she chose to apply for the position when she saw it posted. "The Black Hills area provides options to pursue employment in those areas, and after moving here, I watched for opportunities."

Born and raised in Timber Lake, S.D., Holzer comes to the position with a 32-year career in the postal system, having lived in various locations across the state and serving as postmaster in Pollock and Salem. Holzer and her husband, Dave moved to Spearfish in 2014 to be closer to family. Their daughter, Terrilyn, and her family, live in Spearfish; their daughter, Kayla, and her family, live in Rapid City; and their son, Tevis, and his family, live in Volga.

The hiring process for the position began in January, when former executive director April Gregory took the museum archivist position with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and Archives.

Dr. Rachel Headley, president of the Booth Society board, said that 12 applications were received.

"Karen loves history and serving her community," she said of what stood out about Holzer as an applicant. "She goes beyond what she needs to do and finds ways of connecting to people through writing. Karen

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has experience running an entire office, including being the public face of an organization, managing the books, and so forth. It was clear that being the ED (executive director) would just be a matter of learning how we did things, instead of learning everything from scratch."

Headley added that the board is excited to start looking forward and thinking about new projects, such as updating the museum and expanding conservation activities.

"Our goals are to serve the Northern Hills community, to share our conservation and education mission with our guests, to continue to expand on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service plans and to raise funds to create an even more special experience for our visitors."

Holzer officially started her new position on April 1.

"The job is challenging, rewarding, and exciting," she said of her first weeks on the job. "I tend to thrive on challenge, and the director job is providing me with many challenges. The fish hatchery staff, volunteers, and board are great. They have been wonderful to work with and have provided me with support and information about the operation of the hatchery."

She added that she is looking forward to working with the seasonal volunteers from across the country who provide staffing for the hatchery gift shop and give tours of each of the hatchery's venues during the summer.

"I am also interested in learning about fisheries, their history, and their stories, along with the people who have worked and lived the fishery life," Holzer added. "D.C. Booth is fortunate to house national archives, and I am anxious to learn more."

Holzer remembers visiting the hatchery as a child and has brought her own children, and now grandchildren, to the site, and these memories and experiences now motivate her goals as executive director.

"My primary goal is to work with the staff and volunteers to provide a memorable unique D.C. Booth Fish Hatchery experience for our visitors," she said. "For years, generations of families have trekked to the fish hatchery to feed the fish, watch the ducks, and stroll through the grounds. Children came with their grandparents, and now those grown children are bringing their grandchildren to share the experience."

And of course, as executive director, she would be focused on advocacy, fundraising, special events, and membership, Holzer added.

When not working, Holzer enjoys reading and writing, road trips to local museums and attractions with her grandchildren, and history conferences and workshops.

"I enjoy history and studying how people's lives have created the world we live in," she said.

And her new position will provide the chance to see this theory in action at the more than century-old hatchery that receives thousands of visitors each year.

"We are thrilled to have Karen on board, and excited that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Carlos Martinez, facility director, hired two full-time employees in Mitch Adams and April Gregory," Headley said. "They will protect, grow, and care for the grounds and archive, and we are just delighted that they have joined the federal team."

In addition to Holzer, the Booth Society employs Nancy Cole, gift shop manager and administrative assistant.

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Information from: Black Hills Pioneer, <http://www.bhpioneer.com>

## South Dakota brothers restore dozens of old sports trophies

**TOM GRIFFITH, Rapid City Journal**

DEADWOOD, S.D. (AP) — For decades, they were cloaked in darkness and mostly forgotten.

But today, a trove of dozens of old trophies and plaques from past athletic competitions in the Lead-Deadwood area have found new life in a tangible and stunning display of sportsmanship.

After hundreds of hours of work, and with the assistance of several individuals and organizations in the Lead-Deadwood community, brothers Jim and Bob Phillips have painstakingly restored, polished and primed 73 remnants of the celebrated history and highly successful high school sports teams from the

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two towns' glory days.

The trophies and plaques, some quite ornate and all carrying the everlasting patina of time, are now on display in four remodeled trophy cases in the Deadwood Recreation Center, a building with origins dating to 1912.

"We can now share this history with the people who come to the Rec Center," Center Director John Tridle told the Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2pU3xny>). "This facility is located in an historic building in an historic town, and these trophies represent a lot of hard work by a lot of people over the years. They're a connection to our past."

A lifelong Northern Hills resident and 1964 graduate of Lead High School, 71-year-old Jim Phillips spent 27 years teaching in the Lead-Deadwood School District and 54 years coaching swim teams, Legion baseball, basketball, volleyball, track and football, before retiring in 2013. But he wasn't done yet and accepted a staff position at the Rec Center, where he often can be found opening the facility at 4 a.m.

When he was 60, he observed his milestone birthday by swimming the 1.5 miles of shark-infested waters between Alcatraz Island and the California coastline. Last year, to mark his 70th birthday, Phillips swam 14.77 miles from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Deadwood Recreation Center and, in the process, raised \$18,600 for the local swim teams.

"I did it just because I could," the slender retired coach said. "If you don't push your limits, your limits push you."

So when Phillips discovered dozens of aging trophies that had been stuffed in storage rooms and closets during a \$6 million Rec Center expansion project that occurred between 2008 and 2010, he decided to enlist the help of his older brother, Bob, and give the markers new life. In so doing, the Phillips brothers unraveled forgotten stories of athletic achievement and even a piece of their family's past.

A teacher for 35 years and a coach and referee for more than a quarter-century, Bob Phillips, who graduated from Lead High School in 1957, said each of the trophies and plaques represented a singular story of hard work, success and recognition.

"Jim and I have lived here all our lives and there's nothing like keeping our history alive," he said. "Each of these trophies represents kids being in the pool or on a basketball court or football field, pouring their hearts out for a team they loved. Each holds an individual story and each meant a different thing to a different kid. They had devoted so much of their life, so much of their energy, to earning that trophy."

While crediting his brother with performing the majority of the detailed restoration work, the elder Phillips said he was happy to contribute to the project and return the awards to a public setting.

"When they closed the Rec Center in late 2008 to make improvements, all of the trophies got put away and were forgotten about for the next decade," Jim Phillips said. "They were put in storage rooms and closets, got broken and dirty, and some just disappeared."

But 51 of those prized plaques and trophies remained. And, after 250 hours of meticulous work and 10 trips to a trophy shop in Rapid City for replacement parts, the brothers were ready to put them back on display. But they lacked any trophy cases in which to house the awards.

"One day my brother, Bob, was giving us a tour of the Black Hills Mining Museum in Lead, for which he serves as secretary," Jim Phillips recalled. "He had a bunch of trophy cases from the old Homestake Visitor Center that he had gotten permission to donate. We were down in the deepest, darkest regions of the mining museum with a flashlight when we found a bunch of other trophies stored in this dungeon."

Then, a realization.

"So, hark and alas, I had a new project."

While the Phillipses were returning that second batch of trophies to tip-top condition, they pondered how they could remodel the dated cases to display their wares. That's when local resident David Cote, who regularly works out at the Rec Center, learned of the project and offered his assistance.

"David is a big woodworker who has a shop, and he said, 'If you need any help, just say the word,'" Jim Phillips said. "It was probably one of the worst offers he ever made in his life because we took him up on it. He worked on the cases for weeks and added doors, casters and lights. David was invaluable."

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Shortly after the sparkling trophy collection went on display and older residents began gazing at individual inscriptions, another Rec Center regular, Brian Greba, set his eyes on a free-throw contest championship trophy that had been presented to Pluma School in 1962. The prize awarded to his small school, closed now for nearly a half-century, had his name on it.

"I handed him that trophy and he got tears in his eyes," Jim Phillips said. "He just stood there and held that trophy, absolutely speechless. We made the guy cry."

Another small trophy found in the basement of the mining museum dates to the 1908-09 school year. Presented to the Class of 1911 for winning the inter-school girls basketball championship, the solid silver cup is exquisite and beautifully engraved.

Curious about the stories behind other trophies, the Phillips brothers enlisted research assistance from City Archivist Mike Runge. Using archived newspapers and other sources, Runge searched available databases and uncovered names and dates tied to many of the awards, printed out the information and presented it to the Phillips brothers.

"When Lead and Deadwood high schools merged, a substantial part of Deadwood's history moved to Lead," Runge noted. "But each of these trophies provides tangible proof of the history that is still around us and still lives on."

As the Phillips brothers reviewed Runge's findings, they stumbled on one piece of information they said still raises the hair on their arms.

"We were interested in this nice trophy for the 1930 State Declamatory Championship," Jim Phillips said. "Mike Runge had discovered the names of all the team members and, unbelievably, our mother, Marian Peterson, was on that team.

"Oh my God, it still gives me goose bumps," he added. "We had no idea that mom was a debater. It was definitely a goose-bump moment."

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

## Summer means trauma season for Avera's Careflight crew

SARA BERTSCH, The Daily Republic

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — Calmly, yet with a certain intensity, flight nurse Audrey Smeenck absorbs the information coming across her radio.

A special tone sounded, alerting her that someone is in need of an air transport. And since she's on call today, it's her job to respond.

Because it could cost somebody's life.

"Time's a ticking bomb for our patients," said Smeenck, who has been a flight nurse for Avera Careflight for two years, and a nurse for seven. "It's amazing that we can do our jobs and provide the service that we do quickly. And it's so rewarding to start somebody's heart back up or get a breathing tube in, knowing they'll have another day to live."

Smeenck is one member of a three-person core team that responds to each flight request. The core team consists of a flight medic, a flight nurse and a pilot, who have 15 minutes to grab their gear and get into the air. The pad, located on the rooftop of the Avera McKennan hospital in Sioux Falls, isn't far away, but they jog, sometimes run, to the helicopter.

And these trips to the helipad are increasing, as "trauma season" hits full swing.

The summer marks one of the busiest times of the year, which means more flights, including the Mitchell area.

And when flight paramedics and nurses hit the sky, they have one goal in mind: save the patient.

"Our biggest focus is providing critical care transport," said flight medic Chad Jones, who has been a flight medic with Avera for eight years. "And then our second focus is to act as quickly as we can."

This is a daily occurrence for Smeenck, Jones and everyone who is part of the Avera Careflight crew, which averages 2.4 calls per 24 hours. Working in 12-hour shifts, the crew can travel up to 125-mile radius



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of the Sioux Falls base with the helicopter — formally called Eurocopter EC-145, and described by Jones as the “cadillac of EMS helicopters.”

Of the flights from Sioux Falls, the helicopter, also referred to as the roto-wing, makes 1,000 flights. The other 800 flights are completed by Avera’s fixed-wing aircrafts, or King-Air 200, which can travel further distances.

All flights are tracked, and hospital officials have created a top-20 list in the Avera coverage region for calls and flight requests. Mitchell is No. 3, according to Anna Vanden Bosch, the Careflight clinical care manager with Avera.

The average number of patients transported from Davison County is approximately 90, but overall, there are approximately 1,800 flights per year out of Sioux Falls. There are two bases, in Sioux Falls and Aberdeen, which allows for areas such as Mitchell to be dually covered.

And with each flight, the same adrenaline rush hits the crew, Vanden Bosch said, even after 10 years on the job.

“It’s pretty awesome to think inside this little tiny box how you’re going to provide care to those patients,” Vanden Bosch told The Daily Republic (<http://bit.ly/2qjtY6S>).

This “little tiny box” Vanden Bosch refers to is the limited space in the back of the helicopter filled to the brim with medical supplies and equipment.

There’s always one medic and one nurse that respond. Sometimes a respiratory therapist tags along if needed, according to Jones. And it’s his job as a medic to make the call as more details spill from the radio signals.

Though space is limited, Jones said, the helicopter can still carry all of the necessary supplies, which includes a cardiac monitor, radios, medicine, blood, oxygen tanks, to name a few.

“I like to say this is like an ER room with wings pretty much. Everything you get in an ER, we have to be able to do here,” Jones said, referring to the helicopter.

The helicopter flies at 150 mph, and cuts time — in comparison to driving — in half, which is “dramatically cutting down your out-of-hospital time,” said Lee Bollock, the director of emergency services at Avera McKennan.

But it comes with a price. The cost of an emergency air transport often exceeds \$10,000, Bollock said. It does not fluctuate or decrease depending on type of care provided.

There are four full-time pilots trained for the roto-wing aircrafts, and two full-time mechanics. For fixed-wing aircraft, which has dual-pilots operating, there are 17 full-time pilots. For medical personnel, there are 13 nurses and 13 paramedics, each trained specifically for air transport.

And training is no easy task.

For flight medics and nurses there is a 12-week minimum orientation into the Avera Careflight program, according to Bollock. The flight nurses and paramedics must be certified within two years of hire in flight-specific certifications.

And for the equipment on board, Vanden Bosch said she expects the crew to know to memorize the feel and location of everything.

“We have to know those bags inside out and with our eyes closed. You never know when you’re going to get there in the dark,” she said, referring to the bags the medics and nurses take to the patient. “You better know what’s in that bag and where it’s at when you’re sitting in a ditch and it’s dark. You better be able to grab in it. We literally do that.”

But on top of training, Bollock and Vanden Bosch said each of the flight medics and nurses often have extensive backgrounds in urgent care.

The pilots, on the other hand, have no medical-specific training, but are very experienced in flight and most of the time have military backgrounds.

Bollock has been the director of emergency services for three years, and it’s an area he enjoys a lot.

“There’s really no better feeling than saving somebody’s life. You can’t really top that. And I try to instill that into these guys, too ...” Bollock said. “We get to make a difference each and every day, and it drives

me and it drives a lot of other people.”

Seeing that drive, Bollock said he is very confident with the staff and the flight services provided by the pilots, mechanics, medics and nurses.

“They’re very passionate about what they do and it makes them really good professionals,” he said.

Vanden Bosch estimates that about half of the calls transported by the Careflight team are cardiac-related. This could be anything from heart attacks to full cardiac arrests.

But no matter what the emergency, the flight crew is equipped to handle it — no matter where it is.

Each core team member, with countless flights under their belt, have landed in all sorts of locations, including golf courses, people’s front or back yards, the interstate, exit ramps, cow pastures and baseball fields.

And with each take-off and landing, the same adrenaline rush hits, Smeenck said, and it’s “amazing.”

“It’s almost like a piece of heaven,” Smeenck said, referring to flying. “And you know you’re so close to God ... It’s the best feeling ever to do this job. I can’t explain. It gives you goosebumps and a lot of joy in my heart.”

Each call brings a different experience, but Smeenck, Vanden Bosch and Jones all agree that it’s the positive outcomes that are the most memorable, and the families will often find the crew later, expressing their gratitude and a hug, or two.

It’s not always a positive outcome, but luckily for the Careflight crew, it was estimated that less than 10 percent of the patients die while being transported, Vanden Bosch said.

“There’s that urge and fight to fight for that patient, because you don’t want to lose them,” Vanden Bosch said. “ ... But every single one of us, at the end of the day, you see a lot of bad but it’s good.”

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

## Pagan worship group scrutinized in South Dakota prison

**JOHN HULT, Argus Leader**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — When Jody Hadley arrived at the South Dakota State Penitentiary in 2003 on a kidnapping charge, he wasn’t an especially nice guy.

But the man who’d once held an elderly Worthing couple hostage and stolen their car said he learned a lot about morality in the 12 years that passed before his release.

Most of it came from Asatru, an ancient pagan religion whose modern adherents send prayers to Odin, Thor or Freya and abide by principles called the “Nine Noble Virtues,” among them honor, courage, fidelity, discipline and perseverance.

Without it, Hadley suspects he’d have remained rudderless.

“Asatru helped me become a better person. When I first went to prison, I was a dirtbag. I lied, I was a thief,” Hadley told the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2pPNIVd>). “Because of Asatru, I am an honorable man.”

Hadley founded the Asatru religious group at the penitentiary that still meets, although its relationship with the prison hasn’t always been cordial.

Last week, Hadley heard that correctional officers found a copy of a white supremacist essay called “88 Precepts” inside a member’s cell.

The discovery led the Department of Corrections to shut down the group’s study meetings, at least temporarily. The DOC reinstated meetings this week.

That upset Hadley and Sam Lopez, an Asatru practitioner from Sioux Falls whose son practices in prison.

Asatru is not about racism, Lopez said.

“One idiot does not a community make,” said Lopez.

Neither of them is particularly surprised about the development, though.

Asatru and its offshoots have drawn neo-nazis and white supremacists for years, particularly behind prison walls.

The author of “88 Precepts,” now-deceased white supremacist and convicted racketeer David Lane,

latched on to a version of the Nordic religion called "Wotanism," Lane preferred "Wotan" as both a stand-in for "Odin" and an acronym for "Will of the Aryan Nation."

The extremist embrace of paganism has forced regular worshippers into a steady struggle for legitimacy, according to Heidi Beirich of the Southern Poverty Law Center.

"They do oftentimes get caught in a box where people think they're all racists, and it's not true," said Beirich, whose organization tracks hate groups in the U.S. "It's quite unfair. A lot of these pagan religious are pretty progressive."

Prison officials are often at the center of the controversy. Hate-related speech and paraphernalia are barred from prison, but courts have generally ruled that religion is protected in prison by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

It's not uncommon for inmates with racist views to sue for the right to meet as a group by organizing as a religious group.

Department of Corrections spokesman Michael Winder did not offer details on the incident itself, but said only that the group is under investigation for potential violations of prison policy.

"While individual members are not currently permitted to meet as a group, they are all permitted, and are encouraged, to practice their faith on an individual basis," Winder said. "Those members who are ultimately found to have not violated policy will be permitted to meet again as a group."

Winder said the group's right to meet has been reinstated.

Hadley said Asatru and Native American groups commonly sparred with prison officials over rituals, group meetings and religious artifacts during his time behind bars.

Much of the Asatru trouble has to do with pagan symbols that now stand-in as symbols of racism in the modern imagination, he said. Long before the swastika was adopted by Nazi Germany, Hadley said, it served as a pagan signifier.

Hadley was once questioned in prison about a Thor's hammer tattoo on his chest, for example.

The hammer symbol is also ancient in origin, but extremists wear it today. Ryan Giroux, a white supremacist sentenced to life plus 83 years in prison for a shooting spree in Mesa, Arizona, has the hammer tattooed on his chin.

Hadley's tattoo has nothing to do with racism, he said, and he had to convince the Department of Corrections as much. The situation was frustrating, he said.

"They tried to write me up for gang activity, even though I was the only one who had it," said Hadley.

Hadley and Lopez both say the Sioux Falls group offers rehabilitative value for inmates.

"It really is building community for these guys, so when they get out, it makes it easier for them to do well and harder to screw up," Lopez said.

Hadley said he's proof of that. He went from a man who didn't think twice about stealing from his own family to one who holds his family in high regard, and that he wouldn't have without spiritual influence.

"I ran that group for 10 years," Hadley said. "I always stressed that it's about loving who you are where you come from, not hating other people for who they are and where they come from."

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

## Man accused of killing teens is sentenced to life in prison

ATLANTA (AP) — A man accused of killing two 17-year-olds behind a supermarket in an Atlanta suburb has been sentenced to life in prison without parole.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reports (<http://on-ajc.com/2pLwKTo>) that Jeffrey Hazelwood was sentenced Wednesday after he pleaded guilty but mentally ill to murder charges.

Carter Davis and Natalie Henderson were shot to death Aug. 1 in Roswell.

Fulton County Superior Court Judge Shawn Ellen LaGrua had earlier ruled that Hazelwood was competent to stand trial based on reports from a clinical psychologist.

Henderson was preparing for her senior year at Roswell High School when she was killed.

Davis had lived in Rapid City, South Dakota, during part of his high school years before moving to Georgia. He was about to start his senior year at River Ridge High School.

Information from: The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, <http://www.ajc.com>

## Authorities ID Nebraska motorcyclist killed in South Dakota

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have identified a Nebraska man who died in a motorcycle crash in southeastern South Dakota's Yankton County.

The Highway Patrol says 60-year-old Joseph Pinkelman, of Crofton, Nebraska, tried to pass a vehicle and collided with an oncoming car on U.S. Highway 81. The crash happened mid-day Saturday north of the city of Yankton.

Pinkelman was thrown from his motorcycle and died at the scene. The driver of the car wasn't hurt.

## Inmate missing from Rapid City apprehended across the state

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have captured a state prison inmate who was placed on escape status after leaving a minimum-security facility in Rapid City without authorization earlier this month, but another inmate remains on the loose.

Corrections officials say Calvin McCloskey and Dylan Fast Horse went missing from the Rapid City Community Work Center on May 7. McCloskey was apprehended in Minnehaha County on Tuesday, but Fast Horse remains at large.

Separately, the American News reports that the Brown County Sheriff's Office also is looking for an inmate. Twenty-year-old Joseph Pahl didn't return from a treatment program Monday evening.

## Soundgarden singer Chris Cornell dies at age 52 in Detroit

By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY, AP Entertainment Writer

Rocker Chris Cornell, who gained fame as the lead singer of the bands Soundgarden and later Audioslave, has died at age 52.

Cornell, who had been on tour, died Wednesday night in Detroit, Cornell's representative Brian Bumbery said in a statement to The Associated Press. Cornell had performed a Detroit concert with Soundgarden that night.

Bumbery called the death "sudden and unexpected" and said his wife and family are in shock. The statement said the family would be working closely with the medical examiner to determine the cause and have asked for privacy.

News of Cornell's death prompted scores of tweets expressing sadness. Aerosmith guitarist Joe Perry tweeted: "Very sad news about Chris Cornell today. A sad loss of a great talent to the world, his friends and family. Rest In Peace."

With his powerful, nearly four-octave vocal range, Cornell was one of the leading voices of the 1990s grunge movement with Soundgarden, which emerged as one of the biggest bands out of Seattle's emerging music scene, joining the likes of Nirvana, Pearl Jam and Alice in Chains.

Formed in 1984 by Cornell, guitarist Kim Thayil and bassist Hiro Yamamoto, Soundgarden's third studio album, "Badmotorfinger," in 1991 spawned popular singles "Jesus Christ Pose," "Rusty Cage" and "Outshined" that received regular play on alternative rock radio stations.

Cornell also collaborated with members of what would become Pearl Jam to form Temple of the Dog, which produced a self-titled album in 1991 in tribute to friend Andrew Wood, former frontman of Mother Love Bone.

Three years later, Soundgarden broke through on mainstream radio with the album "Superunknown," which debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 and was nominated for a Grammy for Best Rock Record in



1995. It included hit singles "Spoonman," "Fell on Black Days," "Black Hole Sun," "My Wave" and "The Day I Tried to Live."

Soundgarden disbanded in 1997 due to tensions in the band, and Cornell pursued a solo career. In 2001, he joined Audioslave, a supergroup that included former Rage Against the Machine members Tom Morello, Brad Wilk and Tim Commerford. The band released three albums in six years and also performed at a concert billed as Cuba's first outdoor rock concert by an American band, though some Cuban artists have disputed that claim.

Audioslave disbanded in 2007, but Cornell and Soundgarden reunited in 2010 and released the band's sixth studio album, "King Animal" in 2012.

Cornell also released four solo studio albums and a solo live album. He released the single "The Promise" in March on iTunes, with all proceeds going to the International Rescue Committee, a global humanitarian aid, relief, and development non-governmental organization.

In addition to his music, Cornell also became involved in philanthropy and started the Chris and Vicky Cornell Foundation to support children facing challenges, including homelessness, poverty, abuse and neglect.

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Associated Press writer Dennis Waszak in New York contributed to this report.

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This story has been corrected to show that Soundgarden reunited in 2010, not 2012.

## Special counsel abruptly named to probe Trump-Russia ties

By ERIC TUCKER, JULIE PACE and NANCY BENAC, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department appointed former FBI Director Robert Mueller as a special counsel to lead a federal investigation into allegations that Donald Trump's campaign collaborated with Russia to sway the 2016 election that put him in the White House. Mueller will have sweeping powers and the authority to prosecute any crimes he uncovers.

The surprise announcement to hand the probe over to Mueller, a lawman with deep bipartisan respect, was a striking shift for Trump's Justice Department, which had resisted increasingly loud calls from Democrats for an outside prosecutor. It immediately escalated the legal stakes — and the potential political damage — for a president who has tried to dismiss the matter as partisan witch hunt and a "hoax."

Trump took a swipe at the move in a Twitter post Thursday morning, saying: "With all of the illegal acts that took place in the Clinton campaign & Obama Administration, there was never a special council (sic) appointed"

The announcement, the latest in the shock-a-day Washington saga, was made by deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein. The White House counsel's office was alerted only after the order appointing Mueller was signed, said a senior White House official, who was not authorized to speak publicly by name and commented only on condition of anonymity.

In a written statement, Trump insisted anew there were no nefarious ties between his campaign and Russia.

"A thorough investigation will confirm what we already know — there was no collusion between my campaign and any foreign entity," he declared. "I look forward to this matter concluding quickly."

Mueller's broad mandate gives him not only oversight of the Russia probe, but also "any matters that arose or may arise directly from the investigation." That would surely include Trump's firing last week of FBI Director James Comey.

Mueller, a former federal prosecutor at the Justice Department, was confirmed as FBI director days before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks that would ultimately shape his tenure. The FBI's counterterrorism mission was elevated in those years, as the U.S. intelligence agencies adjusted to better position America to prevent another attack of such magnitude. He was so valued that President Barack Obama asked him to stay on two years longer than his 10-year term.

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Comey succeeded him, appointed by Obama.

Mueller was appointed Wednesday by Rosenstein, who had faced criticism as the author of a memo that preceded Comey's firing. Rosenstein said the appointment was "necessary in order for the American people to have full confidence in the outcome."

Republicans have largely stood behind Trump in the first months of his presidency as the FBI and congressional investigations into Russia's election meddling intensified. But GOP lawmakers have grown increasingly anxious since Trump fired Comey, who had been leading the bureau's probe — and after Comey associates said he had notes from a meeting in which Trump asked him to shut down the investigation into the Russia ties of former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn.

First reactions from Congress were mainly positive.

House Speaker Paul Ryan said the appointment was consistent with his goal of ensuring that "thorough and independent investigations are allowed to follow the facts wherever they may lead."

Republican Jason Chaffetz of Utah, chairman of the House Oversight Committee, said Mueller was a "great selection. Impeccable credentials. Should be widely accepted."

And not a moment too soon, Democrats said.

"I believe Mueller will be independent, he will be thorough and he will be fair and he's not going to be easily swayed," said Elijah Cummings of Maryland, top Democrat on the oversight panel. Cummings has vigorously urged such an appointment, suggesting it could lead to accusations of obstruction of justice.

In the 1990s, Democrats complained that independent counsel Kenneth Starr, who investigated President Bill Clinton, overstepped his authority.

The latest political storm, coupled with the still-potent fallout from Trump's recent disclosure of classified information to Russian diplomats at the White House, has overshadowed all else in the capital and beyond. Stocks fell sharply on Wall Street Wednesday as investors worried the latest turmoil in Washington could hinder Trump's pro-business agenda.

Trump has repeatedly slammed the FBI and congressional investigations as a "hoax" and blamed disgruntled officials at intelligence agencies for leaking information related to the probes. During a commencement address Wednesday at the Coast Guard Academy, he complained bitterly about criticism he's faced.

"No politician in history, and I say this with great surety, has been treated worse or more unfairly," he said. "You can't let the critics and the naysayers get in the way of your dreams. ... I guess that's why we won. Adversity makes you stronger. Don't give in, don't back down. ... And the more righteous your fight, the more opposition that you will face."

No less a commentator than Russia's Vladimir Putin called the dramatic charges swirling around Trump evidence of "political schizophrenia spreading in the U.S." He offered to furnish a "record" of the Trump-diplomats meeting in the Oval Office if the White House desired it.

There was no word on what that record might entail, a question many were likely to raise in light of Trump's recent warning to Comey that he had "better hope" there were no tapes of a discussion they'd had.

The White House has disputed Comey's account of his February conversation with Trump concerning Flynn but has not offered specifics. Several congressional Republicans said Wednesday that if Trump did suggest that Comey "let this go" regarding Flynn's Russian contacts, it was probably just a joke, light banter.

Both of the explosive revelations — that the president pressed his FBI director to drop a federal investigation before later firing him, and that he disclosed classified information to senior Russian officials — came from anonymous sources, and the White House was quick to denounce the leaks and deny any impropriety. Trump aides said he never tried to squelch the Flynn investigation nor made inappropriate disclosures to the Russians.

On Capitol Hill, Comey was clearly the man in demand, with three committees working to seat him at their witness tables soon, two in the Senate and one in the House.

The Senate intelligence committee also asked acting FBI Director Andrew McCabe to turn over any notes Comey might have made regarding discussions he had with White House or Justice Department officials about Russia's efforts to influence the election.

McCabe had other matters on his mind, too. He was one of four potential candidates to lead the FBI

that Trump was interviewing. The others were former Connecticut Sen. Joe Lieberman, former Oklahoma Gov. Frank Keating and Richard McFeely, a former top FBI official.

Trump is preparing to leave town Friday on his first foreign trip, and aides have been hopeful the journey will be a chance for the administration to get back on track after weeks of chaos and distractions.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., speculated Trump was probably happy to get out of town — “and a lot of us are glad he’s leaving for a few days.”

His advice to the president: “Stay disciplined, stay focused and deliver on the world stage.”

Separately, McClatchy News Service reported Wednesday that before Trump took office, Flynn had blocked an Obama administration military plan, opposed by Turkey, against the Islamic State group. Unknown to the Obama administration, Flynn had been paid more than \$500,000 to advocate for Turkey’s interests.

McClatchy says Flynn declined to OK a request from Obama officials to approve a military operation involving the IS stronghold of Raqqa, effectively delaying the operation. The Trump team had been asked since the operation was likely to be carried out after Trump took office. Turkey has long opposed U.S. forces working with Kurdish forces.

The plan was eventually approved by the Trump administration, but not until after Flynn had been fired.

Associated Press writers Deb Riechmann, Eileen Sullivan, Erica Werner, Matthew Daly and Mary Clare Jalonick contributed to this report

## Jury acquits Tulsa officer in shooting of unarmed black man

By JUSTIN JUOZAPAVICIUS, Associated Press

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — A jury on Wednesday acquitted a white Oklahoma police officer who says she fired out of fear last year when she killed an unarmed black man with his hands held above his head.

The family of Terence Crutcher burst into tears and expressed outrage after jurors found Tulsa officer Betty Jo Shelby not guilty of first-degree manslaughter in the Sept. 16 shooting. About 100 demonstrators later gathered outside the courthouse and some briefly blocked a main street.

“Let it be known that I believe in my heart that Betty Shelby got away with murder,” Crutcher’s father, the Rev. Joey Crutcher, said after the verdict was announced.

A lawyer for Shelby said the officer was “elated” that the jury found her not guilty.

“She’s ready to get back to her life,” defense attorney Shannon McMurray said.

Shelby looked stone-faced when the verdict was read, but Crutcher’s family was quickly ushered out of the courtroom sobbing and wailing.

At least four of the 12 jurors were crying as they left the courtroom and they did not look at either the family of Crutcher or Shelby. The jury comprised eight women and four men and included three African-Americans.

Shelby testified that she fired her weapon out of fear because she said Crutcher didn’t obey her commands to lie on the ground and appeared to reach inside his SUV for what she thought was a gun. Crutcher was unarmed.

Prosecutors told jurors that Shelby overreacted. They noted Crutcher had his hands in the air and wasn’t combative — part of which was confirmed by police video taken from a dashboard camera and helicopter that showed Crutcher walking away from Shelby, hands held above his head.

Shelby’s attorneys argued that in the two minutes before cameras began recording the encounter, Shelby repeatedly ordered Crutcher to stop walking away from her and get on the ground.

Shelby also said she feared Crutcher was under the influence of PCP, a powerful hallucinogenic known as Angel Dust that makes users erratic, unpredictable and combative.

An autopsy showed PCP was in Crutcher’s system, and police said they found a vial of it in his SUV.

Crutcher’s family said police attempted to “demonize” Crutcher over the drug possession to deflect attention from the fact officers didn’t find a gun inside his SUV.

The killing of 40-year-old Crutcher was among a spate of officer-involved shootings in recent years that

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helped galvanize the Black Lives Matter movement and prompted calls for more police accountability.

About 100 demonstrators gathered in a plaza outside the courthouse Wednesday evening to protest the verdict. They chanted: "No justice, no peace. No racist police." A smaller group later briefly blocked a major downtown road but dispersed peacefully. Police kept a relatively low profile, standing about a block away.

Marq Lewis, organizer of the local civil rights group We The People Oklahoma, said the verdict was a blow to Tulsa's black community.

"When is it going to stop — just officer-related shootings? When will the police change policy?" he asked.

Tulsa has a long history of troubled race relations dating back to a 1921 race riot that left about 300 black residents dead. In 2015, a poorly trained white volunteer deputy, Robert Bates, shot and killed a black man after Bates said he mistakenly reached for his gun rather than a Taser. The shooting led to the departure of the sheriff.

A Tulsa jury convicted the then-74-year-old Bates of second-degree manslaughter and he was sentenced to four years in prison.

Mayor G.T. Bynum said he respected the jury's decision in the Shelby case and called for more resources to implement community policing in the city.

"This verdict does not alter the course on which we are adamantly set," he said. "It does not change our recognition of the racial disparities that have afflicted Tulsa historically. It does not change our work to institute community policing measures that empower citizens to work side by side with police officers in making our community safer."

Tulsa County District Attorney Steve Kunzweiler charged Shelby six days after Crutcher was killed. An affidavit accused her of "becoming emotionally involved to the point that she overreacted."

Defense attorney McMurray argued that prosecutors rushed to charge Shelby for political reasons, fearing civil unrest like the angry street protests that erupted in Charlotte, North Carolina, after the fatal shooting of 43-year-old Keith Lamont Scott four days after Crutcher was killed. But the reaction in Tulsa was more muted, with protests but no violence.

## Rouhani looks to beat hard-liner as Iran prepares to vote

By ADAM SCHRECK, Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani staked his political future on opening Iran ever so slightly to the outside world and overcoming hard-liners' opposition to secure a historic nuclear deal in exchange for relief from crippling sanctions.

He'll soon find out if voters think it's enough to keep him in the job.

The 68-year-old cleric, a moderate within Iran's political system, has history on his side as Iranians vote for president Friday. No incumbent president has failed to win re-election since 1981, when Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the current supreme leader and most powerful man in Iran, became president himself.

Political analysts and the scant polling data that's available suggest Rouhani will come out on top among the four candidates left running, though an outright win is by no means assured. Failure to secure a majority Friday would send the two top vote-getters into a runoff a week later.

His supporters streamed into downtown Tehran streets thick with police for rallies that lasted into the early hours Thursday, just ahead of a 24-hour no-campaigning period before the vote. Wearing Rouhani's signature purple on ribbons and loosely draped headscarves, they honked, cheered and chanted slogans in support of Mir Hossein Mousavi, one of two Iranian opposition leaders under house arrest since 2011 who back Rouhani.

The rallies were largely peaceful even as Rouhani supporters faced off against smaller crowds supporting his main rival, hard-liner Ebrahim Raisi, though police rushed reinforcements to break up Rouhani rallies that grew large enough to block traffic.

Working against Rouhani is a sense among many Iranians that the 2015 nuclear deal, which saw Iran accept limits on its atomic energy program, has failed to deliver an economic windfall.

"No matter who's the next president, whoever comes to power should bring a better economy," hair stylist Reza Ghavidel said.



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Although nuclear-related sanctions were lifted because of the deal, other U.S. and other international sanctions remain in effect. That leaves banks and many big corporations wary of doing business with Iran.

Unemployment, meanwhile, remains stuck in the double digits, with nearly a third of Iranian youth out of work, according to the International Monetary Fund.

"This election is about the economy. I don't think most voters are thinking about the soul of the nation right now," said Cliff Kupchan, the chairman of the Eurasia Group. "The numbers are looking better ... but the voters aren't feeling it."

Rouhani's stiffest challenge comes from Raisi, a law professor and former prosecutor who heads an influential religious charitable foundation with vast business holdings. He is seen by many as close to Khamenei, and has even been talked about as a possible successor to him. Khamenei has stopped short of endorsing anyone.

Raisi won the support of two major clerical bodies and promised to boost welfare payments to the poor. His populist posture, anti-corruption rhetoric and get-tough reputation — bolstered by his alleged role condemning inmates to death during Iran's 1988 mass execution of thousands of political prisoners — are likely to energize conservative rural and working-class voters.

In a bid to woo younger voters, he has even turned to appearing in a viral video next to a tattooed, once-underground rapper named Amir Tataloo — despite his own history of supporting the cancellation of concerts on moral grounds.

Mostafa Hashemitaba, a pro-reform figure who previously ran for president in 2001, and Mostafa Mirsalim, a former culture minister, also remain in the race.

The ruling system put in place after the 1979 Islamic Revolution combines conservative clerical oversight and state control over large parts of the economy with tightly regulated but still hotly contested elections for key government posts. All candidates for elected office must be vetted, a process that excludes anyone calling for radical change, along with most reformists. No woman has been approved to run for president.

Under Iran's system, the president is subordinate only to the supreme leader, who is chosen by a clerical panel and has the ultimate say over all matters of state. The presidency is still a powerful post, with considerable influence over domestic policy, the state bureaucracy and foreign affairs.

A victory for Rouhani could lead to a further loosening of limits on personal freedom, while a hard-line win could set Iran up for a renewed bout of confrontation with the West at a time when U.S. President Donald Trump has called for a tougher line on Iran.

Trump will be in Saudi Arabia, Iran's regional rival, as votes are tallied. He will meet with Sunni Arab leaders who are opposed to Iran's backing of Syrian President Bashar Assad and remain skeptical of its regional intentions.

Whoever wins Friday's vote could help shape the choice of the next supreme leader, and in turn the direction of the country.

Khamenei is 77 years old and only the second person in Iran's history to hold the top job. He underwent prostate surgery in 2014, prompting speculation about his health.

The president is one of three members on a temporary council that takes over the supreme leader's duties should his post become vacant until a successor is named by the panel known as the Assembly of Experts. Rouhani and Raisi both sit in that assembly.

"The game is very complicated and multi-layered. Everyone's thinking about the next four years and the succession of Ayatollah Khamenei," said Saeid Golkar, an expert on authoritarian regimes and Iran at Northwestern University.

The three-week campaign has been marked by boundary-pushing politicking among what were originally six candidates.

Rouhani has come out swinging against hard-liners, including the powerful Revolutionary Guard, which plays an outsized but unelected role in Iranian politics. In one memorable debate moment, he criticized the Guard for launching a ballistic missile bearing the words "Israel must be wiped out" in Hebrew.

Turnout will be key — no more so than for Rouhani. Reformists and moderates tend to fare better when more voters make it to the polls, and a head-to-head runoff against Raisi is something he will want to

avoid. City council elections alongside the presidential vote are likely to attract more voters in the first round, and the start of the holy month of Ramadan late next week could keep voters home during a runoff, Golkar said.

Associated Press writers Nasser Karimi in Tehran and Jon Gambrell in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, contributed to this report.

Follow Adam Schreck on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/adamschreck](http://www.twitter.com/adamschreck).

## 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. DOJ APPOINTS SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR TRUMP-RUSSIA PROBE

Former FBI Director Robert Mueller is tapped to oversee the investigation into allegations that Trump's campaign and the Kremlin collaborated to influence the 2016 presidential election.

### 2. WHY MUELLER'S APPOINTMENT RAISES THE STAKES

White House and campaign records may be subpoenaed, and Trump's presidential privilege to keep West Wing conversations private could be challenged.

### 3. FAMILIAR FACE AGAIN TAKES ON BIG MISSION

Mueller transformed the FBI into a battle-hardened terrorism-fighting force. Now, he finds himself in the political crucible rocking the Beltway.

### 4. WHO IS SET FOR A CRITICAL ELECTION

President Rouhani, a moderate, faces a hardliner as Iran goes to the polls Friday with the nation's future interaction with the outside world at stake.

### 5. OKLAHOMA JURY ACQUITS WHITE OFFICER WHO KILLED UNARMED BLACK MAN

Betty Jo Shelby was acquitted of first-degree manslaughter after saying she fired out of fear last year when she killed Terence Crutcher, who was holding his hands above his head.

### 6. GRUNGE ROCK LOSES AN ICON

Soundgarden frontman Chris Cornell was on tour in Detroit when he died at age 52, his representative says.

### 7. WHO A REPUBLICAN LEADER SAYS WAS BANKROLLING TRUMP

A report says House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy said last year that he thought Putin was paying the Republican presidential candidate, a remark McCarthy's spokesman calls "a failed attempt at humor."

### 8. HOW A LAS VEGAS POLICE OFFICER SUBDUED AN UNARMED MAN WHO DIED

Authorities say the officer used a stun gun seven times and a mixed martial arts chokehold that is not approved by the department.

### 9. WHERE DEATH IS GOING GREEN

Caskets made of paper and coffins made of wicker on display at a recent Hong Kong funeral industry trade show reflect a trend toward "green burials."

### 10. BALL TALKS BILLION-DOLLAR BRAND, BUT BIDDERS COULD BALK

LaVar Ball, the outspoken father of former UCLA star Lonzo Ball, says that it will now cost a shoe company \$3 billion to make a deal with his Big Baller Brand.

Poll says blacks less likely to have enough for retirement

By MARIA INES ZAMUDIO, For The Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Older white Americans are nearly twice as likely as African-Americans to say they've saved enough for retirement, a new poll found.

The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research survey also found that African-Americans and Latinos have less financial security than whites and will rely on fewer sources of income during retire-

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ment. The retirement savings gap between white and other minority groups extends beyond pensions, 401(k)s or other retirement accounts.

The survey shows older white Americans are also more likely to collect Social Security benefits, inherit money from their families or receive income from the sale of a home or other physical assets.

The disparity in retirement readiness is a sign that the structural inequalities black and Latino workers face during their working years extend into retirement. For example, the unemployment rate among African-Americans is twice that of whites. On top of that, blacks earn less than whites with similar education and experience, research shows.

"Having good saving habits is good but black and Latino workers are just always worse off and it makes every aspect of saving for retirement harder," said Matthew Rutledge, an economist at the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College.

About 38 percent of older white Americans said they had sufficient money for retirement compared with 20 percent for African-Americans.

Four in 10 older Americans say they think they'll outlive their retirement savings.

"Black and Latino families benefit from being close," Rutledge said, adding that family members help to care for children and the elderly. "But it doesn't pay off when compared to whites family's (financial) contributions."

Families not only pass down money, but also information on how to handle finances.

"They have learned better savings behavior from the previous generation," he said. "Older Americans who received financial help from family are less likely to have racked up credit card debt or student loans. They can save (for retirement) rather than paying off debt."

The poll showed whites are significantly more likely, compared to African-Americans and Latinos to say they have a retirement account. They're also more likely than African-Americans to say they will have income from the sale of physical assets.

But even when it comes to the most basic form of income during retirement, whites are more likely to say they will receive Social Security payments — 82 percent compared to 62 percent for African-Americans and 60 percent for Latinos, the survey found.

The situation is so dire that some older African-Americans and Latinos have no sources of income for retirement —14 percent compared to 4 percent of whites, the survey found.

Maria Villanueva, 69, is one of them. Villanueva doesn't collect Social Security payments because she didn't pay into the system. Villanueva immigrated illegally to California in the 70s to work as a farmworker and became a legal resident after the Immigration Reform and Control Act was signed into law. The single mother worked as a domestic worker but was paid in cash.

"I didn't know I had to pay into Social Security," she said in Spanish. "All my life I've taken care of everyone except myself."

Villanueva hoped she would be able to work into older age but she can't because of various chronic illnesses including diabetes and arthritis. She now relies on government assistance and food stamps. She provides for her 15-year-old granddaughter.

"I try not to think about the future because I don't know what's going to happen tomorrow," she said. "What if I go to sleep tonight and I don't wake up tomorrow?"

Retired members of minority groups tend to have lower incomes and are more likely to describe their financial situation as "somewhat poor or very poor" compared to white Americans. Black Americans were also more likely to say they sometimes fall behind on bills, the poll found.

John Jackson, 66, of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, contributed to an Individual Retirement Account when he worked as a manager. Now, two years into retirement, he said he's not sure if his savings and Social Security will be enough.

Jackson, who is black, says there are many people worse off than him and that's why he doesn't like to complain. Worst case scenario, he said, he has a big loving family who could take care of him.

"I know God will take care of me," he said.

Some white Americans also are fearful about having enough for retirement. For example, Karen Brooks, a 52-year-old university professor living in a suburb outside Seattle, said she's concerned whether she's saved enough.

Brooks is, by most standards, better off financially than Jackson. She has a pension from her work as a school teacher. She is also contributing about 15 percent of her current income to a retirement account and she may even receive a small inheritance. But her biggest source of worry is that she didn't save when she went back to graduate school.

"I'm pretty smart and I've done well," she said. "I'm saving for retirement but I don't know if it's going to be enough. It's frightening even talking about it now."

The survey was conducted Feb. 14 through March 13 by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research with funding from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

It involved interviews in English and Spanish with 1,683 people aged 50 and older nationwide who are members of NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. It includes oversamples of 332 African Americans and 308 Hispanics. Results from the full survey have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3.0 percentage points.

**EDITOR'S NOTE** — Maria Ines Zamudio is studying aging and workforce issues as part of a 10-month fellowship at The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, which joins NORC's independent research and AP journalism. The fellowship is funded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

Online:

AP-NORC: <http://www.apnorc.org/>

## **Donald Trump Jr., Dubai business partner discuss 'new ideas'**

**By JON GAMBRELL, Associated Press**

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Donald Trump Jr. traveled to Dubai and met a billionaire business partner in the city-state, discussing "new ideas" as the Emirati's real estate firm still lists possible plans for future joint projects while Trump's father is in the White House.

The Trump Organization has said it won't make new foreign deals while Donald Trump serves as America's 45th president. That didn't affect the Trump International Golf Club in Dubai's opening in February, while a previously planned Trump-branded golf course designed by Tiger Woods is still being built nearby.

Both projects are being built by Dubai's DAMAC Properties, owned by Emirati billionaire Hussain Sajwani. His company has paid the Trump Organization's subsidiaries between \$1 million to \$5 million for the projects, according to a U.S. Federal Election Committee report submitted in May 2016.

Sajwani's Instagram account posted a picture Tuesday night showing him with Trump, who now runs the Trump Organization with his brother Eric, at a table covered in a spread of Middle Eastern food and a plate of French fries.

"It was great having my dear friend and business partner Donald Trump Jr. over for lunch," a caption with the photo read. "Discussing new ideas and innovation always make our meetings even more interesting."

DAMAC did not respond to a request for comment about the meeting. However, recent regulatory filings made by the company suggest possible future plans with the Trump Organization.

DAMAC mentioned the Trump Organization in a prospectus for a sukuk, a type of Islamic bond, launched in April on the NASDAQ Dubai exchange. That filing noted DAMAC's "product expansion also includes branding arrangements with ... the Trump Organization." It also listed plans for a "luxury boutique hotel to be operated by the Trump Organization" at DAMAC Hills, a massive development of villas and apartment buildings in Dubai's desert that surrounds the newly opened Trump golf course.

Similar language had been included in previous regulatory filings by DAMAC, but its presence in documents after Trump's election suggests the real estate company is keeping its options open. Days before



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becoming president, Trump had told journalists that DAMAC had offered the Trump Organization \$2 billion in deals after his election, something DAMAC also confirmed.

Meanwhile, a quarterly earnings filing Monday made by DAMAC's holding company listed a newly created subsidiary called Trump International Golf Club LLC, in which it described as holding a 100 percent legal and economic interest. The UAE-based entity lists its principal activity as being the "golf club," without elaborating.

The Trump Organization has no new deals in the works in Dubai, company spokeswoman Amanda Miller said Wednesday. The company declined to answer other questions.

DAMAC's first-quarter net profits of \$240 million were down 16 percent compared to last year's \$285 million. The lower profits come as weak global oil prices squeeze Mideast countries, whose citizens form about half of DAMAC's clientele.

DAMAC's managing director also resigned Thursday, the company said in a regulatory filing. It offered no reason for his departure.

Experts have raised concerns that existing Trump business abroad could run afoul of the so-called "emoluments clause" of the U.S. Constitution. That clause bars public officials from accepting gifts or payments from foreign governments and companies controlled by them without the consent of Congress. Already, a liberal-funded watchdog group has filed a lawsuit citing the clause.

Others criticize Trump family members for traveling with Secret Service details while on private business trips, something afforded to them as direct relatives of the president.

While in Dubai, Trump also gave a commencement speech Sunday at the American University in Dubai, a private university founded in 1995 that has some 2,700 students. The university did not announce Trump would be making a commencement speech on its website ahead of time.

"When I look back on what my father did in this past election, and the risk he took, to me I'm far more impressed with the fact that he tried than by the fact he actually won," Trump said in the 14-minute speech. "For a billionaire to step away from an amazing life and spend \$75 million to go up against an incredible Republican field and then go up against one of the great political machines ever assembled... to do that was amazing."

"We believed in his message and not necessarily the contrived message that was put out there in the media," he added.

The university did not answer repeated emails and telephone calls asking if Trump received any payment for his speech. Security guards turned away an Associated Press journalist at the university's gate Wednesday.

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Associated Press writer Julie Bykowicz in Washington contributed to this report.

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Follow Jon Gambrell on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/jongambrellap](http://www.twitter.com/jongambrellap) . His work can be found at <http://apne.ws/2galNpz> .

## Lookin At Lee eyes Preakness glory after strong run in Derby

By DAVID GINSBURG, AP Sports Writer

BALTIMORE (AP) — Charging hard down the stretch, Lookin At Lee barely missed winning the Kentucky Derby as a 33-1 long shot.

His second-place finish seemingly impressed no one.

Lookin at Lee has received little attention at Pimlico Race Course this week and is a 10-1 underdog in the Preakness behind Always Dreaming, the 4-5 favorite in Saturday's race after outlasting Lookin At Lee by a mere 2 3/4 lengths at Churchill Downs.

What gives?

"We don't worry about that too much," Lookin at Lee assistant trainer Scott Blasi said after Wednesday's draw. "He's a blue-collar horse and probably easy to overlook, but he's not for us."

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Lookin At Lee hasn't won a race since last August but has finished in the money in seven of 10 career races. On April 15, Lookin At Lee finished 1 1/2 lengths behind Classic Empire and a length behind runner-up Conquest Mo Money in the Arkansas Derby.

He's a gritty competitor, which goes a long way toward explaining his impressive run in the slop two weeks ago.

"His personality and gamesmanship are what gave us confidence in him going into the Derby," trainer Steve Asmussen said. "You have no control over how the other horses run, but you always feel Lookin At Lee is going to do his best."

Lookin At Lee was ridden expertly in Kentucky by jockey Corey Lanerie, who never sat on the horse until hopping on board in the paddock before the Derby. Lanerie rallied the bay colt along the rail, passing most of the field before coming up short at the end.

At one point, he thought: "I'm going to win the Derby!"

It almost happened, but ...

"Always Dreaming just wouldn't come back," Lanerie said. "You come so close and you don't get it done, it's tough. But to run second on only my third Kentucky Derby mount, it was pretty special."

Though the odds maker at Pimlico may not have been impressed, Todd Pletcher, the trainer of Always Dreaming, expects another close race on Saturday.

"I think he's a very good horse," Pletcher said of Lookin At Lee. "He ran a terrific race in the Kentucky Derby. We were fortunate to win. I thought he ran a very good second, so that makes him certainly a horse you have to keep your eye on for this race."

Speaking from experience, Blasi expects Lookin At Lee to build on his showing at Churchill Downs.

"Very proud of his effort in the Derby," Blasi said. "Historically, I think the horses that have run well in the Derby run back well in the Preakness. We've won this race twice with Curlin and Rachel Alexandra, both coming back off two weeks rest, and we're very familiar and very comfortable with what's getting ready to happen."

## Trump interviews 4 candidates to post of FBI director

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Four potential candidates to lead the FBI — including former Connecticut Sen. Joe Lieberman — have met with President Donald Trump and Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

Former Oklahoma Gov. Frank Keating; Andrew McCabe, currently the bureau's acting director; and Richard McFeely, a former top FBI official, also went to the White House for interviews on Wednesday.

The meetings came more than a week after Trump fired James Comey from his post as FBI director.

Trump said Monday that the search for a successor to Comey was "moving rapidly." He also has said he could name a candidate by the end of the week, before he departs Friday afternoon on his first overseas trip as president. The Senate must confirm whoever Trump nominates.

Press Secretary Sean Spicer informed reporters about the meetings as Trump flew to Washington after addressing U.S. Coast Guard Academy graduates in Connecticut.

Asked as he left the White House whether he would say 'yes' if Trump offered him the job, Keating said, "I'm a public servant." He added, "Let's just say we had a good conversation."

Lieberman gave a thumbs-up to reporters camped out on the White House driveway and said "It was a good meeting."

McFeely departed without comment. Reporters did not see McCabe when he left the complex.

Lieberman served in the Senate for more than two decades and was the Democratic vice presidential nominee in 2000 with then-Vice President Al Gore. Lieberman lost his 2006 Democratic primary bid but won Senate re-election as a third party candidate.

Lieberman spoke at the 2008 Republican National Convention on behalf of his friend, Arizona Sen. John McCain, and did not seek re-election in 2012. He has served as co-chairman of No Labels, a centrist group that promotes bipartisanship.

Keating, a Republican, was a two-term governor of Oklahoma and led the state during the deadly 1995 bombing of a federal building in Oklahoma City. A former FBI agent, Keating served in the administrations of Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush.

McCabe became acting director following Comey's dismissal on May 9. The veteran FBI official made headlines for congressional testimony last week that rejected the White House's claim that Comey had lost the support of rank-and-file agents. He also disputed the administration's characterization of an investigation into potential coordination between Russia and the Trump White House.

Several other candidates have withdrawn from consideration, including Rep. Trey Gowdy of South Carolina and Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, both Republicans; Alice Fisher, the former head of the Justice Department's criminal division; and Michael Garcia, a former U.S. attorney from Manhattan.

Associated Press reporter Eric Tucker contributed to this report.

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## LeBron, Love help Cavs rout Celtics 117-104 in Game 1

By KYLE HIGHTOWER, AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — So much for the Cavaliers being rusty.

LeBron James embarrassed every defender Boston threw at him and Cleveland picked up where it left off following a long layoff, rolling to a 117-104 victory Wednesday night in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals.

James had 38 points, nine rebounds and seven assists.

Kevin Love added a playoff career-high 32 points and had 12 rebounds to help the Cavaliers improve to 9-0 in the first three rounds of the playoffs. They opened 10-0 last season en route to their first NBA title.

"It was our two bigs that set the tone — Kev and Double-T (Tristan Thompson), they were phenomenal," James said. "I saw it in Kev this morning. I knew what type of game he was going to have. So he came through for us."

But there's no denying it has started with James, who has scored at least 35 points in five straight games.

Cavaliers coach Tyronn Lue said James' efficiency continues to make things easier for everyone on both ends.

"He's playing at a high level. And that's the reason why we're riding him so much," Lue said. "When LeBron's playing at that level other guys just have to be solid and we have a good chance to win."

Game 2 is Friday night in Boston.

Coming off a 10-day break, James and Cavaliers raced to an early lead were never threatened.

"You can't dig yourself in a big hole like that against them," Boston coach Brad Stevens said.

James scored at will in the first half and the Cavs built a 26-point lead. Love opened up the floor for James, burying outside jumpers and forcing Boston to leave defenders one-on-one with James.

Avery Bradley and Jae Crowder led the Celtics with 21 points each. Isaiah Thomas had 17 points. Coming off a Game 7 victory over Washington on Monday night, Boston missed 11 of its first 14 shots.

"They were the better team tonight. They hit us first. They were more physical," Thomas said. "We can't let that happen again."

Love averaged a quiet 13.8 points in the first two rounds, then broke out against a Boston team that knocked him out of the 2015 playoffs when he became tangled with Kelly Olynyk and dislocated his shoulder.

The shoulder was working just fine Wednesday, and he scored in the paint and from the outside.

"We wanted to come in and set the tone and dictate the game. We felt like we did a good job doing that," Love said. "It wasn't just me. Everybody was moving the ball, passing the ball well."

Things got a little testy in the third quarter when Boston's Marcus Smart and Cleveland's Thompson got nose-to-nose and had to be separated by referees. Some jawing continued briefly before James stepped in to pull Thompson away.

Smart and Thompson were called for a double foul on the play, but got tangled again a few minutes later. This time, Smart fell to the floor during that exchange, drawing a foul on Thompson.

The Celtics found some energy after the incident, closing the third quarter on an 11-3 run to pull to 92-75. It didn't last long, though, as the Cavs quickly got the lead back up to 20.

James picked apart every defender that the Celtics threw at him in the first half.

He backed down defenders to set up 15-foot fade away jumpers. Other times, he simply took defenders off the dribble or sliced through double-teams on the way to layups.

Boston also seemed content to make every switch created by Cleveland screens, leading to some awkward matchups for James in the first half.

The Celtics couldn't get anything working when they had the ball, held to just 35 percent from the field in the first half and 2 for 16 from beyond the arc.

#### TIP-INS

Cavaliers: Since Game 5 of NBA finals, Cleveland has won a franchise-record 12 straight playoff games. ... The Cavs hold a 33-4 playoff record against Eastern Conference opponents (16-3 on the road)

Celtics: Finished with 14 turnovers, and were outrebounded 32-27. ... Lost at home for the first time since Game 2 of first round against Chicago.

#### DEFENSIVE ADJUSTMENTS

One of the Celtics' issues all night was not sending help when James got into one-on-one situations.

Crowder was the primary defender on him and said that must be the top priority as they look to adjust for Game 2.

He said the help must come often and faster.

"He has to see bodies behind me," Crowder said. "Obviously he got comfortable with what we were doing on the defensive end, and he had his way.

More AP NBA: [apnews.com/tag/NBAbasketball](http://apnews.com/tag/NBAbasketball)

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## Special prosecutor abruptly named to probe Trump-Russia ties

By ERIC TUCKER, JULIE PACE and NANCY BENAC, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department abruptly appointed former FBI Director Robert Mueller Wednesday night as a special counsel to lead a federal investigation into allegations that Donald Trump's campaign collaborated with Russia to sway the 2016 election that put him in the White House. Mueller will have sweeping powers and the authority to prosecute any crimes he uncovers.

The surprise announcement to hand the probe over to Mueller, a lawman with deep bipartisan respect, was a striking shift for Trump's Justice Department, which had resisted increasingly loud calls from Democrats for an outside prosecutor. It immediately escalated the legal stakes -- and the potential political damage -- for a president who has tried to dismiss the matter as partisan witch hunt and a "hoax."

The announcement, the latest in the shock-a-day Washington saga, was made by deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein. The White House counsel's office was alerted only after the order appointing Mueller was signed, said a senior White House official, who was not authorized to speak publicly by name and commented only on condition of anonymity.

In a written statement, Trump insisted anew there were no nefarious ties between his campaign and Russia.

"A thorough investigation will confirm what we already know — there was no collusion between my campaign and any foreign entity," he declared. "I look forward to this matter concluding quickly."

Mueller's broad mandate gives him not only oversight of the Russia probe, but also "any matters that arose or may arise directly from the investigation." That would surely include Trump's firing last week of FBI Director James Comey.



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Mueller, a former federal prosecutor at the Justice Department, was confirmed as FBI director days before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks that would ultimately shape his tenure. The FBI's counterterror mission was elevated in those years, as the U.S. intelligence agencies adjusted to better position America to prevent another attack of such magnitude. He was so valued that President Barack Obama asked him to stay on two years longer than his 10-year term.

Comey succeeded him, appointed by Obama.

Mueller was appointed Wednesday by Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, who had faced criticism as the author of a memo that preceded Comey's firing. Rosenstein said the appointment was "necessary in order for the American people to have full confidence in the outcome."

Republicans have largely stood behind Trump in the first months of his presidency as FBI and congressional investigations into Russia's election meddling intensified. But GOP lawmakers have grown increasingly anxious since Trump fired Comey, who had been leading the bureau's probe — and after Comey associates said he had notes from a meeting in which Trump asked him to shut down the investigation into the Russia ties of former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn.

First reactions from Congress were mainly positive.

House Speaker Paul Ryan said the appointment was consistent with his goal of ensuring that "thorough and independent investigations are allowed to follow the facts wherever they may lead."

Republican Jason Chaffetz of Utah, chairman of the House Oversight Committee, said Mueller was a "great selection. Impeccable credentials. Should be widely accepted."

And not a moment too soon, Democrats said.

"I believe Mueller will be independent, he will be thorough and he will be fair and he's not going to be easily swayed," said Elijah Cummings of Maryland, top Democrat on the oversight panel. Cummings has vigorously urged such an appointment, suggesting it could lead to accusations of obstruction of justice.

In the 1990s, Democrats complained that independent counsel Kenneth Starr, who investigated President Bill Clinton, overstepped his authority.

The latest political storm, coupled with the still-potent fallout from Trump's recent disclosure of classified information to Russian diplomats at the White House, has overshadowed all else in the capital and beyond. Stocks fell sharply on Wall Street Wednesday as investors worried the latest turmoil in Washington could hinder Trump's pro-business agenda.

Trump has repeatedly slammed the FBI and congressional investigations as a "hoax" and blamed disgruntled officials at intelligence agencies for leaking information related to the probes. During a commencement address Wednesday at the Coast Guard Academy, he complained bitterly about criticism he's faced.

"No politician in history, and I say this with great surety, has been treated worse or more unfairly," he said. "You can't let the critics and the naysayers get in the way of your dreams. ... I guess that's why we won. Adversity makes you stronger. Don't give in, don't back down. ... And the more righteous your fight, the more opposition that you will face."

No less a commentator than Russia's Vladimir Putin called the dramatic charges swirling around Trump evidence of "political schizophrenia spreading in the U.S." He offered to furnish a "record" of the Trump-diplomats meeting in the Oval Office if the White House desired it.

There was no word on what that record might entail, a question many were likely to raise in light of Trump's recent warning to Comey that he had "better hope" there were no tapes of a discussion they'd had.

The White House has disputed Comey's account of his February conversation with Trump concerning Flynn but has not offered specifics. Several congressional Republicans said Wednesday that if Trump did suggest that Comey "let this go" regarding Flynn's Russian contacts, it was probably just a joke, light banter.

Both of the explosive revelations — that the president pressed his FBI director to drop a federal investigation before later firing him, and that he disclosed classified information to senior Russian officials — came from anonymous sources, and the White House was quick to denounce the leaks and deny any impropriety. Trump aides said he never tried to squelch the Flynn investigation nor made inappropriate disclosures to the Russians.

On Capitol Hill, Comey was clearly the man in demand, with three committees working to seat him at

their witness tables soon, two in the Senate and one in the House.

The Senate intelligence committee also asked acting FBI Director Andrew McCabe to turn over any notes Comey might have made regarding discussions he had with White House or Justice Department officials about Russia's efforts to influence the election.

McCabe had other matters on his mind, too. He was one of four potential candidates to lead the FBI that Trump was interviewing. The others were former Connecticut Sen. Joe Lieberman, former Oklahoma Gov. Frank Keating and Richard McFeely, a former top FBI official.

Trump is preparing to leave town Friday on his first foreign trip, and aides have been hopeful the journey will be a chance for the administration to get back on track after weeks of chaos and distractions.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., speculated Trump was probably happy to get out of town — "and a lot of us are glad he's leaving for a few days."

His advice to the president: "Stay disciplined, stay focused and deliver on the world stage."

Separately, McClatchy News Service reported Wednesday that before Trump took office, Flynn had blocked an Obama administration military plan, opposed by Turkey, against the Islamic State group. Unknown to the Obama administration, Flynn had been paid more than \$500,000 to advocate for Turkey's interests.

McClatchy says Flynn declined to OK a request from Obama officials to approve a military operation involving the IS stronghold of Raqqa, effectively delaying the operation. The Trump team had been asked since the operation was likely to be carried out after Trump took office. Turkey has long opposed U.S. forces working with Kurdish forces.

The plan was eventually approved by the Trump administration, but not until after Flynn had been fired.

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Associated Press writers Deb Riechmann, Eileen Sullivan, Erica Werner, Matthew Daly and Mary Clare Jalonick contributed to this report

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This story has been corrected to correct attribution in 9th paragraph, beginning 'Mueller was. Quote is from Rosenstein, not Mueller.

## Asian stocks slide as Trump's mounting woes rattle investors

By **KELVIN CHAN, AP Business Writer**

HONG KONG (AP) — Asian stock benchmarks skidded lower Thursday following Wall Street's worst day in months as Washington's political chaos made investors more nervous about risky assets and the outlook for President Donald Trump's business-friendly proposals.

**KEEPING SCORE:** Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index slid 1.7 percent to 19,479.84 and South Korea's Kospi lost 0.7 percent to 2,276.50. Hong Kong's Hang Seng shed 0.6 percent to 25,143.35 and the Shanghai Composite index in mainland China dipped 0.2 percent to 3,099.24. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 skidded 1.3 percent lower to 5,709.50. Benchmarks in Taiwan, New Zealand and Southeast Asia also lost ground.

**TRUMP'S TROUBLES:** New developments in the political crisis facing Trump have rattled investors, ending a long period of calm in the markets. The turmoil stemmed from a published report that revealed Trump asked now-fired FBI Director James Comey to drop an investigation into former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn. The White House denied it. The appointment of former FBI Director Robert Mueller as a special prosecutor was announced after U.S. trading closed. He will have broad powers to investigate allegations Russia and Trump's campaign collaborated to influence the election last year and to prosecute any crime he uncovers.

**TRADER TALK:** "The market is now trying to unwind expectations of 'Trumponomics,' which includes \$1 trillion of infrastructure plans, unprecedented tax reform and financial deregulation," said Margaret Yang, an analyst at CMC Markets. "Even if President Trump were to prise himself out of these crises, the market thinks that his ambitious reform plans will be discounted and considerably delayed."

**WALL STREET:** Major U.S. benchmarks suffered big losses. The Standard & Poor's 500 index had its largest drop since September, sliding 1.8 percent to 2,357.03. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 1.8

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percent to 20,606.93. The Nasdaq composite index gave up 2.6 percent to 6,011.24.

CURRENCIES: The dollar stabilized against its peers after being dragged down by Trump-related concerns. The euro slipped to \$1.1153 from \$1.1159 in late trading Wednesday. The dollar strengthened to 111.17 yen from 110.82 yen.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude oil futures slipped 15 cents to \$48.92 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 41 cents, or 0.8 percent, to close at \$49.07 per barrel on Wednesday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, fell 19 cents to \$52.02 a barrel in London.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, May 18, the 138th day of 2017. There are 227 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 18, 1927, in America's deadliest school attack, part of a schoolhouse in Bath Township, Michigan, was blown up with explosives planted by local farmer Andrew Kehoe, who then set off a bomb in his truck; the attacks killed 38 children and six adults, including Kehoe, who'd earlier killed his wife. (Authorities said Kehoe, who suffered financial difficulties, was seeking revenge for losing a township clerk election.)

On this date:

In 1642, the Canadian city of Montreal was founded by French colonists.

In 1765, about one-fourth of Montreal was destroyed by a fire.

In 1896, the Supreme Court, in *Plessy v. Ferguson*, endorsed "separate but equal" racial segregation, a concept renounced 58 years later in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*.

In 1897, a public reading of Bram Stoker's new horror novel, "Dracula," was staged in London.

In 1926, evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson vanished while visiting a beach in Venice, California. (McPherson reappeared more than a month later, saying she'd escaped after being kidnapped and held for ransom, an account that was greeted with skepticism.)

In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a measure creating the Tennessee Valley Authority.

In 1944, during World War II, Allied forces occupied Monte Cassino in Italy after a four-month struggle with Axis troops.

In 1953, Jacqueline Cochran became the first woman to break the sound barrier as she piloted a Canadair F-86 Sabre jet over Rogers Dry Lake, California.

In 1967, Tennessee Gov. Buford Ellington signed a measure repealing the law against teaching evolution that was used to prosecute John T. Scopes in 1925.

In 1973, Harvard law professor Archibald Cox was appointed Watergate special prosecutor by U.S. Attorney General Elliot Richardson.

In 1980, the Mount St. Helens volcano in Washington state exploded, leaving 57 people dead or missing.

In 1991, Helen Sharman became the first Briton to rocket into space as she flew aboard a Soviet Soyuz spacecraft with two cosmonauts on an eight-day mission to the Mir space station.

Ten years ago: The White House and Congress failed to strike a deal after exchanging competing offers on an Iraq war spending bill that Democrats said should set a date for U.S. troops to leave. France's new president, Nicolas Sarkozy (sahr-koh-ZEE'), named a radically revamped cabinet which included seven women among its 15 members.

Five years ago: Social network Facebook made its trading debut with one of the most highly anticipated IPOs in Wall Street history; however, by day's end, Facebook stock closed up only 23 cents from its initial pricing of \$38. In his first meeting with President Barack Obama, French President Francois Hollande (frahn-SWAH' oh-LAWND') declared he would withdraw all French combat troops from Afghanistan by year's end. The Olympic flame arrived in Britain, the country hosting the 2012 Olympics. Renowned German baritone Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, 86, died in Starnberg.

One year ago: In an unusual move, Republican candidate Donald Trump released a list of 11 potential

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Supreme Court justices he would consider if elected president (not included was Trump's eventual first pick for the nation's highest bench, Neil Gorsuch). A judge in Ottawa, Kansas, sentenced a man to death for the killing of two men, a woman and her 18-month-old daughter on a farm in 2013.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Bill Macy is 95. Actress Priscilla Pointer is 93. Hall-of-Fame sportscaster Jack Whitaker is 93. Actor Robert Morse is 86. Actor Dwayne Hickman is 83. Baseball Hall of Famer Brooks Robinson is 80. Actress Candice Azzara is 76. Bluegrass singer-musician Rodney Dillard (The Dillards) is 75. Baseball Hall of Famer Reggie Jackson is 71. Country singer Joe Bonsall (The Oak Ridge Boys) is 69. Rock musician Rick Wakeman (Yes) is 68. Rock singer Mark Mothersbaugh (Devo) is 67. Actor James Stephens is 66. Country singer George Strait is 65. Rhythm-and-blues singer Butch Tavares (Tavares) is 64. Actor Chow Yun-Fat is 62. Rock singer-musician Page Hamilton is 57. Contemporary Christian musician Barry Graul (MercyMe) is 56. Contemporary Christian singer Michael Tait is 51. Singer-actress Martika is 48. Comedian-writer Tina Fey is 47. Rapper Special Ed is 43. Rock singer Jack Johnson is 42. Country singer David Nail is 38. Rhythm-and-blues singer Darryl Allen (Mista) is 37. Actor Matt Long is 37. Actor Allen Leech is 36. Christian-rock musician Kevin Huguley (Rush of Fools) is 35. Christian singer Francesca Battistelli is 32. Actor Spencer Breslin is 25. Actress Hala Finley (TV: "Man With a Plan") is 8.

Thought for Today: "The hardest job kids face today is learning good manners without seeing any." — Fred Astaire, American dancer-actor (1899-1987).