

Groton Daily Independent

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FOR SALE

MARCY MWM900 Home Gym for sale. Asking \$100. Contact Brian at 397-7180.

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**

Dakota Brush

Brooms, Brushes, Mops, Can Liners, Paper Products.

Get Ready for Spring With
Wash Brushes & Squeegees

397-9337

104 N. Main, Groton

Friday, June 2

Senior Menu: Stir fry beef with rice, oriental blend vegetables, honey fruit salad, whole wheat bread.

Legion: at Milbank Tourney

U12: Groton scrimmage on Nelson Field, 6 p.m., 2 games

U10: hosts Britton for 1 game, 7:30 p.m., Falk Field.

U8 Blue & Red: hosts Britton for 2 games, 6 p.m., Falk Field

Saturday, June 3

Legion: at Milbank Tourney

U10: at Aberdeen Tourney (vs. Jamestown Blue at 10:30 a.m. and Milbank at 2:30 p.m.)

U12: at Aberdeen Tourney (vs. Welke at 9:30 a.m. and Mobridge at 1:30 p.m.)

Sunday, June 4

St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship at 9 a.m.

United Methodist Church: Conde worship with communion, 9 a.m.; coffee fellowship time, 10 a.m., Groton worship with communion, 11 a.m.

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

First Presbyterian: Bible Study at 9 a.m., Worship at 10 a.m.

Heaven Bound Ministries: No Worship.

Legion: at Milbank Tourney

Jr. Teener: hosts Clark, 2 p.m., 2 games

U10: at Aberdeen Tourney (vs. Bismarck at 9:30 a.m.. Tourney is a pool play so there will be another game at 1:30 p.m. or 3:30 p.m.)

U12: at Aberdeen Tourney (vs. Huron at 9 a.m. and Watertown at 1 p.m.)

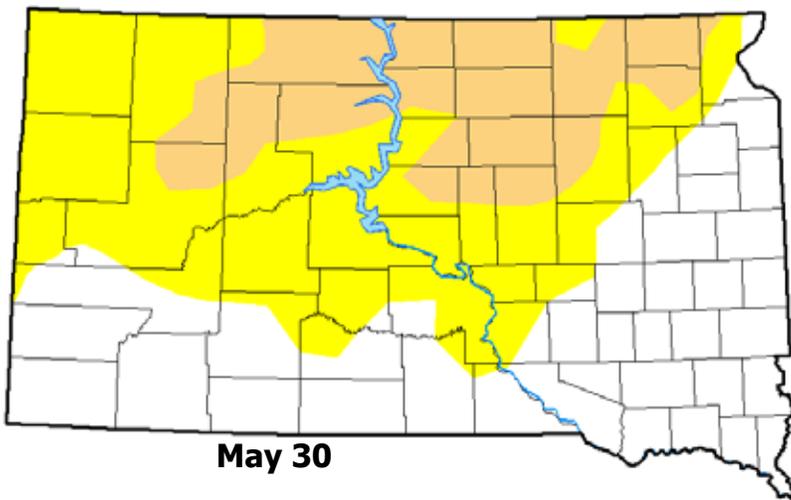
GROTON KIWANIS CLUB

Tom Mahan was program leader for Wednesday's Kiwanis Club dinner meeting. Tom introduced Al Soulek, of Schwan Financial, in Aberdeen. Al spoke on financial planning.

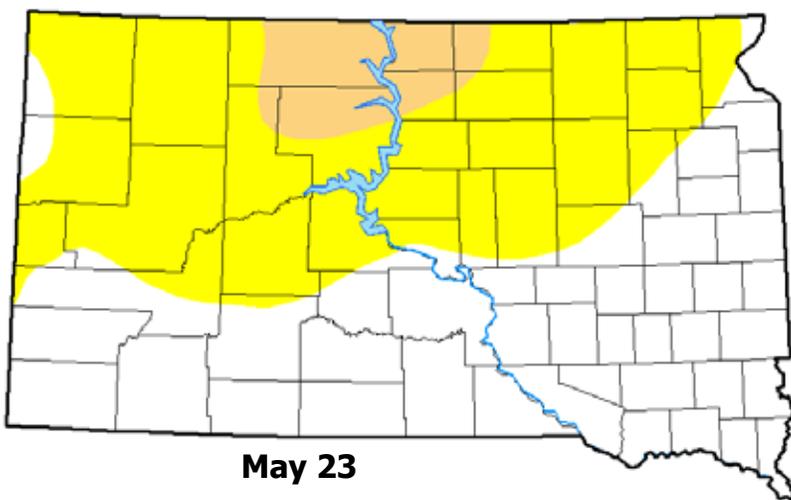
President Tom Paepke appointed Reed Litch, Mike Ehresman and Lee Schinkel to the nominating committee for next year's officers.

Twelve members and guest attended the meeting.

Drought Monitor



May 30



May 23

Objective short term blends indicated conditions quickly deteriorating in the Dakotas and eastern Montana. Less than one-half inch of precipitation has fallen (50 percent of normal) during the last 30 days and percentiles were in the D1-D3 range. This prompted the expansion of both D0 and D1 in the area. Based on USDA's crop progress report released on May 30, North Dakota's pasture and range conditions are rated 21 percent poor to very poor while its topsoils and subsoils were rated at 36 percent and 23 percent, respectively. South Dakota's pasture and range conditions are rated 26 percent poor to very poor and subsoils were rated at 38 percent and 39 percent, respectively. Montana's pasture and range conditions are rated 17 percent poor to very poor while its topsoils and subsoils were rated at 34 percent and 20 percent, respectively.

In Colorado, cooler than normal temperatures have slowed the snow melt resulting in below average streamflow conditions in the Yampa, White and Colorado Rivers. Streams are particularly sensitive to these patterns as the flows normally begin to peak this time of year. The remaining snowpack across the region remains above normal across the Upper Colorado River Basins and eastern Colorado for this time of year. The small pocket of abnormal dryness in central Colorado is reflective of drier than normal areas of vegetation and soils.

Water: A Better Beverage

BROOKINGS, S.D. - This summer, when reaching for a cool beverage, consider the most healthy, available option - water.

"Water is a vital nutrient for the body and staying hydrated plays an important part in staying healthy," said Ann Schwader, SDSU Extension Nutrition Field Specialist.

Schwader went on to explain that our bodies need water to help with digestion, provide moisture to skin and other tissues, remove toxins from the body, regulate blood circulation and body temperatures and to transport nutrients and oxygen to the cells throughout the body.

"Water is a preferred beverage choice because it contains no calories, fat or cholesterol; it's also generally inexpensive," Schwader said.

How much is needed?

Water is an important nutrient for the body, but everyone's needs are different, Schwader explained. "How much water you need depends on body size, gender, age, health status, exercise intensity and if you are pregnant or nursing," she said.

Most healthy people meet their fluid needs by drinking when thirsty and drinking healthy beverage choices with meals.

"Drink plenty of water if you are very active, live or work in hot conditions or if you are an older adult," Schwader said.

Do you know how many calories are in your favorite beverages?

Calories from drinks can really add up, Schwader explained. "So it's important to read the Nutrition Facts labels on beverage products. Check the serving size and the number of servings in the can, bottle, or container to stay within calorie needs," she said.

Schwader encouraged South Dakotans to limit sugar sweetened beverages such as sodas, sports drinks, energy drinks, lemonade, sweetened iced teas and juice drinks or cocktails.

"These beverages aren't so thirst quenching or hydrating and are often high in calories," she said.

Easy ways to make better beverage choices

- Take a refillable water bottle with you to work or when you're running errands.
- Drink water with meals and snacks.
- Add pizzazz to water with a twist of lemon, lime or other fruit, cucumber or mint.
- Try seltzer water if you prefer the carbonation of soda.
- Make water, low-fat or fat-free milk, or 100% juice an easy option in your home by having ready-to-go containers filled in your refrigerator.
- Choose water when eating out. You'll save money and reduce calories.
- Read the label. Check calories, sugar, caffeine, and fat before you drink a beverage.
- To ensure your water stays cold and flavorful all day, try freezing herbs and fruits in your ice cubes.
- Reduce the juice. Start by filling your cup or water bottle a quarter of the way with juice and fill the rest with water.

Drink up!

Try the following healthy beverage recipes; they are easy to serve anytime.

Flavored Water Recipes Courtesy of Oregon State University Extension

Cucumber Water

Add 1/2 cucumber

1 gallon water

Preparation: Slice crosswise into thin slices. Leave skin on for color.

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Strawberry Kiwi

12 to 16 strawberries (about 1 pint)

2 kiwis

1 gallon water

Preparation: Peel the kiwi. Slice both fruits into thin slices.

Herb Water

10 small leaves of your herb of choice (mint, basil, rosemary) or a small sprig

1 gallon water

Preparation: Tear or crush the leaves to release the flavor.

Preparation Tips:

- Wash all fresh fruits, veggies and herbs. Trim away any damaged or bruised areas on produce before adding to water.
- Mash the fruit or vegetable to release the most flavor.
- Remove citrus slices from plastic containers after 1 hour.
- Refrigerate for several hours or overnight to allow the most flavoring.
- Do not mix batches. Use it up; clean the container; make a fresh batch.
- Water will last up to 3 days in the refrigerator.

Fruit Juice Spritzer Courtesy of the University of Maryland Extension

Ingredients:

2-1/2 cups orange juice

1 cup pineapple juice

1 liter club soda or seltzer water

Instructions:

Mix juices in a pitcher and add club soda.

Stir and serve over ice.

More information

For additional information about the benefits of drinking water, check out Penn State Extension's Make It Water. Are you looking for quick, easy, and delicious beverage recipes? See West Virginia University Extension Service's Fruit-Infused Water Recipes.

Gov. Dugaard Proclaims June as "Great Outdoors Month"

PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Dugaard has proclaimed June as "Great Outdoors Month" in South Dakota joining with many states across the nation to celebrate the nature and resources of their states.

In the proclamation, Gov. Dugaard noted that South Dakota leads the way in encouraging families and children into the great outdoors. This celebration of the great outdoors is designed to promote safe, healthy fun and connect individuals and families to nature.

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) provides opportunities to connect with nature through events, hikes, trails and educational programs in their continued effort to protect, enhance and care for South Dakota's state parks. Throughout the month of June, GFP will host day camps, archery lessons, disc-golf demonstrations, kids' fishing derbies, educational nature programs and environmental events.

Notable events taking place throughout the month of June include:

June 3: National Trails Day

A day set aside to celebrate America's magnificent trail systems and their countless supporters and volunteers. State parks across South Dakota will host trail-related events that day.

June 3-11: National Fishing and Boating Week

National Fishing and Boating Week is the perfect reason to get out on the water and experience the joys of boating and fishing.

June 10: National Get Outdoors Day

National Get Outdoors Day is an annual event to encourage healthy, active outdoor fun.

June 14-16: Becoming an Outdoors Family

Becoming an Outdoors Family is the perfect event to get your family excited about the outdoors and all it has to offer.

For a complete list of events, visit our online calendar at gfp.sd.gov.

Labor Day Camping Reservations in State Parks Open Soon

PIERRE, S.D. – This weekend, the South Dakota State Parks are opening up camping reservations for Labor Day weekend.

Reservations for a Friday, Sept. 1, arrival open on June 3 at 7 a.m. CST. Labor Day is one of the most popular camping weekends of the year, and spots fill up quickly.

To reserve your spot, visit campsd.com. Reservations open at 7 a.m. CST, 90 days prior to arrival. Reservations can be made 24 hours a day.

Camping fees are paid at the time a reservation is made, and a park entrance license is required in addition to camping fees.

Custer State Park is currently accepting reservations for all campsites. Group lodges at South Dakota state parks statewide are also accepting reservations at this time.

For more detailed information on making reservations or to view the 90-day window calendar, visit gfp.sd.gov or contact the Division of Parks and Recreation at 605.773.3391 or email parkinfo@state.sd.us.

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Dear EarthTalk: I heard that the Pope urged President Trump to keep the U.S. in the Paris climate accord. Since when has the Catholic church been involved in environmental politics?

—Janine Morse, Rome, NY

Concern for the health and well-being of the planet has always been part of the biblical tradition. "Sacred Scripture calls believers to care for God's creation and all of God's children," reports the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), an assembly of church leaders from across the country. "God calls us as His stewards to care for the garden He created."

At their Vatican meeting in late May, Pope Francis gave U.S. President Donald Trump a copy of the 2015 papal encyclical calling for urgent, drastic fossil fuel emissions cuts to stave off climate change. Credit: DonkeyHotey, FlickrCC.

Examples abound through the centuries of influential Catholics taking conservation seriously, from St. Francis' 1225 canticle dedicated to praising the Lord through stewardship of "Sister Mother Earth / who sustains and governs us" to Pope Paul VI's 1971 call for Catholics to take up the mantle of environmental protection as a key social imperative to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops 2001 "pastoral statement." That implored Catholics around the world to do their part in reining in greenhouse gas emissions for "the future of God's creation and the one human family."

More recently, Pope Francis has prioritized climate as a key social concern of the Catholic church. His 2015 "encyclical"—an important papal letter that gets distributed to Catholic congregations around the world—called for urgent, drastic fossil fuel emissions cuts to stave off climate change.

"As a chemist by background and with a team of scientists and an observatory at the Vatican, the Pope is clear that climate change is the greatest threat life our Earth has ever seen—and that it is caused by humans," reports Earth Ministry, a non-profit dedicated to engaging the faith community in environmental stewardship and advocacy. "And as a priest, he stands in protection and care for his flock, 1.2 billion Catholics world-wide, and for all God's children, especially the poorest."

An important part of the battle against global warming for Francis is the relationship between global poverty and environmental destruction: When people don't have the resources to sustain themselves they are far less likely to be good stewards of the planet, and in turn may suffer the most from a quickly warming climate.

And unlike some of his predecessors, Pope Francis isn't afraid to mix it up with politicians. He bestowed a copy of the 2015 encyclical upon a visiting President Trump earlier this month—just before Trump's self-imposed deadline to decide whether or not to keep the United States in the Paris climate accord.

Catholicism is hardly the only major religion concerned about climate change. After all, global warming is non-denominational, affecting people all over the world regardless of their religious beliefs. Whether or not a given religion's national or global leadership is pushing for carbon mitigation, individual congregations can do their part based on the priorities of their memberships. One easy way to get your church, synagogue, mosque or other religious institution on the right track is by signing on with the Interfaith Power & Light (IPL) movement that works with congregations to fight global warming through the promotion of energy conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy. IPL also helps lobby policymakers to advance clean energy initiatives at local, state and national levels.

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Today in Weather History

June 2, 1891: An estimated F3 tornado moved northeast, passing one mile south of Hazel, where three people were killed in a barn. The farm home was entirely swept away. A horse was seen being carried in the air for 400 yards. The tornado was estimated to be on the ground for about 5 miles.

After touching down, an estimated F2 tornado moved northeast along the eastern edge of Watertown, where a barn was destroyed, and debris was scattered for a half mile. Two homes were leveled 5 miles northeast of Watertown. Near Waverly, one person was injured in the destruction of a flour mill. This tornado was estimated to be on the ground for about 15 miles.

June 2, 1964: Some bitter cold temperatures were observed during the early morning hours on the 2nd. Some low temperatures include; 27 degrees 12 miles SSW of Harrold; 28 degrees in Andover and 23 N of Highmore; 29 degrees 4 NW of Gann Valley, Redfield, and 2 NW of Stephan; 30 degrees in Castlewood and 1 W of Highmore; 31 degrees in Britton, 1 NW of Faulkton, and in Kennebec; and 32 degrees in McLaughlin.

June 2, 2008: Several supercell thunderstorms rolled southeast from northwest South Dakota into central South Dakota bringing large hail, damaging winds, and flash flooding during the late afternoon and evening hours. The large hail, up to baseball size, and high winds killed a large number of birds, pheasants, grouse, and rabbits. Thousands of acres of grassland and cropland along with countless shelter belts received minor to major damage in Stanley and Hughes County. The large hail also knocked out many windows and damaged the siding of tens of buildings and homes in both Stanley and Hughes counties. Many roads and cropland were also affected by flash flooding throughout Hughes and Stanley counties. Very heavy rain of over 3 inches caused flash flooding in many parts of Pierre into the early morning hours. Many roads were reportedly flooded with 1 to 2 feet of water. Several homes in southeast Pierre received sewer backup. Also, several homes on Grey Goose Road received flood damage. A Federal Disaster Declaration was issued for Hughes and Stanley counties mainly for the flooding. Tennis ball hail broke most of the west side windows out of the house near Mission Ridge in Stanley County. Hail up to the size of baseballs fell in Pierre breaking some windows out of homes and vehicles. Very heavy rains of 2 to 4 inches fell across much of Stanley County causing extensive flash flooding. Seventeen roads also sustained some form of damage from the flooding.

1889: The same storm that caused the historic dam failure in Johnstown, PA, also affected Washington, D.C. The streets and reservations in the center of the city and all the wharves and streets along the riverfront were under water. Pennsylvania Avenue was flooded from 2nd to 10th Streets. The Potomac River crested at the Aqueduct Bridge at 19.5 feet on June 2. Additionally, damage occurred on Rock Creek, with the Woodley Lane Bridge washed away. Considerable damage occurred to machinery plants and material at the Navy Yard.

1917: The temperature at Tribune, Kansas dipped to 30 degrees to establish a state record for the month of June.

1998: Frostburg, Maryland on June 2, 1998, at 9:45 PM - This was part of a killer outbreak of tornadoes that moved southeast from Pennsylvania. The storm entered Garrett County, Maryland striking the town of Finzel. It then moved up and over Big Savage Mountain in Allegany County and ripped through the northern portion of Frostburg. It reached its peak strength as it crossed the ridge. Winds were estimated between 210 and 250 mph (F4 on the Fujita Tornado Damage Scale). This was the first tornado to "officially" be rated an "F4" in the State of Maryland. The National Weather Service adopted the Fujita Damage Scale in 1973. The total damage path of the Frostburg tornado was over 25 miles long (8 miles in Allegany County) and up to a half mile wide. Along most of its path, it was producing winds over 125 mph (F2 or stronger). The damage path was continuous as it moved up and down over 2000-foot mountain ridges. The fact that no one was killed in Maryland was attributed to 5 to 10 minutes warning that was well communicated to people in Frostburg over television, radio, scanners, telephones and sirens. People took quick action to move to their basements. A mother and child rode out the storm as it destroyed their house hiding under a table in the basement. They were shaken but unharmed. A jacket from Frostburg homes was found 25 miles away. A diploma was found near Winchester, Virginia, 60 miles away and a bill was found near Sterling Virginia (about 100 miles away).

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Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
						
Sunny then Sunny and Breezy	Chance T-storms	Becoming Sunny	Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 94 °F	Low: 61 °F	High: 87 °F	Low: 55 °F	High: 87 °F	Low: 55 °F	High: 84 °F

Hot Today

Showers & Storms possible late this afternoon into this evening

Today HOT! showers/storms by mid afternoon over central SD 90s	Tonight showers/storms diminishing as they slide east 54-64°	Saturday 80s
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Main Threats: Strong winds, hail, heavy rain, lightning

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

www.weather.gov/abr

GRAPHIC CREATED:
6/2/2017 4:13 AM

Published on: 06/02/2017 at 4:23AM

Hot today, with the warmest weather of the season so far, as temperatures climb into the low to mid 90s. This will be out ahead of an approaching cold front from western South Dakota, that will bring showers and thunderstorms to the region later this after and evening as it slides east. Isolated strong to severe storms with gusty winds are possible, and will tend to weaken or dissipate overnight. Dry and warm weather is then expected Saturday into Monday night.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 85.5 F at 5:15 PM

Low Outside Temp: 50.8 F at 12:30 AM

High Gust: 25.0 Mph at 12:42 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 95° in 1934

Record Low: 30° in 1946

Average High: 73°F

Average Low: 50°F

Average Precip in June: .022

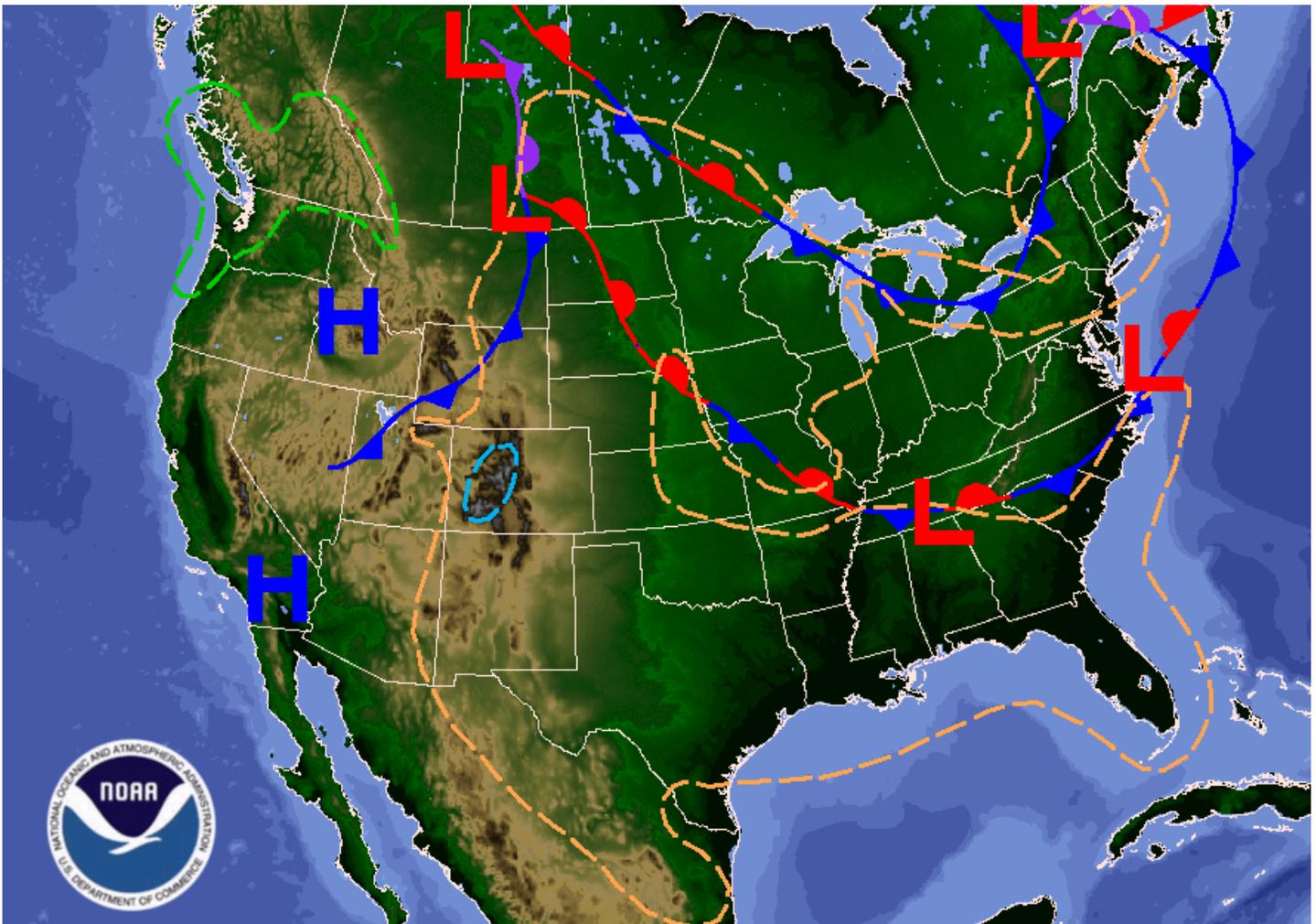
Precip to date in June: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 7.36

Precip Year to Date: 3.19

Sunset Tonight: 9:16 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:47 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Fri, Jun 02, 2017, issued 4:32 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain

Rain and T'Storms

Rain and Snow

Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)

Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)

Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)

Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

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CREATING PERSONAL HAPPINESS

It was a cold afternoon as a well-dressed gentleman walked to a waiting limousine. A homeless man approached him and said, "Sir, would you please help me – please, Sir?"

"Here's a dollar," said the man gruffly, "not because you deserve it, but because it gives me a certain amount of happiness to contribute to your well-being."

"Oh, thank you, Sir," he said, "but why not make it fifty dollars and really make yourself happy?"

Our giving reflects our attitude about God's faithfulness. That's why Paul wrote, "Don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. God loves the person who gives cheerfully! And God will provide everything you need!"

Often we hesitate to give more generously to God because we worry about having enough money to meet our needs should we encounter difficult times. We want to be certain that we have enough for today and a little for tomorrow – should it come. But God, Paul promises, will provide for everything that we need.

Could it be that we fail to be more generous because we do not know what tomorrow will bring? Will sickness strike? Will we lose our job? Inherit a fortune? Receive an unexpected gift? Is it not a lack of trust in the goodness of God that causes us to hold on to what we have rather than holding on to the promise of the fact that He will provide for whatever we need?

Prayer: Lord, perhaps we are afraid to give because we fear the unknown. Your Word, Father, assures us of Your love and faithfulness when we fully trust in You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: 2 Corinthians 9:7– Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

News from the Associated Press

Sturgis to be South Dakota's honorary capital for a day

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — Sturgis is getting the chance to serve as the honorary South Dakota capital for a day.

The event is set for Tuesday. Gov. Dennis Daugaard's office says activities will include a main street walk and a roundtable meeting.

Community members will be able to speak with Daugaard, who will also give a speech at a community social to be held at the Harley-Davidson Plaza.

First Lady Linda Daugaard will be reading at a Sturgis City Park event hosted by the Sturgis Public Library. Children are invited to story time.

Woman suspected of robbing Spearfish credit union arrested

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — It didn't take long for authorities to arrest a woman suspected of robbing a Spearfish credit union.

The suspect entered Black Hills Federal Credit Union Thursday morning and demanded money. She did not display a weapon.

The woman left in a silver Dodge with Colorado license plates and was spotted heading east on Interstate 90. Within a half-hour, officers arrested a 54-year-old Spearfish woman during a traffic stop. Cash was allegedly recovered from the vehicle.

The Black Hills Pioneer (<http://bit.ly/2rgjVQi>) reports it's the second time a bank has been robbed in Spearfish in the last two weeks. In both cases, the suspect is a woman.

On May 18, a 22-year-old woman from Belle Fourche is accused of robbing Pioneer Bank and Trust. She later turned herself in.

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

South Dakota city begins construction on sculpture series

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Construction has begun on what will be a series of 12 identical sculptures on an 84-acre patch of barren ridge line in a South Dakota city.

The Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2qEYf1g>) reported that James Bailey of Bailey Associates, Inc. — the company spearheading the project — hasn't disclosed what the 26-foot-tall granite and titanium sculptures in downtown Rapid City will represent.

According to project documents filed with the city's planning commission in March 2016, people can pay a fee to have their names engraved on dedication plaques attached to the sculptures.

Bailey said he plans to build the structures so they last.

"The upright structures foundation will be below the ground surface and will be made of a long-lasting concrete reinforced with stainless steel," his letter of intent to the city reads.

The sculpture park will be accessible from a trailhead once construction is complete. Bailey has proposed building a private parking lot for visitors. The area will only be open to the public from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays.

Bailey expects the first sculpture to be completed in 2016 and the others will be built "as there is demand."

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

SD Supreme Court upholds woman's Sturgis cocaine conviction

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The state Supreme Court has rejected an appeal from a woman convicted of having cocaine in a portable toilet at the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

The high court in a Wednesday opinion upheld Shelly Stanley's conviction and sentence.

Police in 2015 responded to a report of a man and woman entering a port-a-potty and overheard what seemed to be a drug transaction inside.

One officer knocked and identified himself, and another saw Stanley put a plastic bag into the toilet after the man inside opened the door. After an officer retrieved the bag of powder from atop a waste pile, analysis confirmed it contained cocaine.

The court rejected arguments from Stanley including that she had an expectation of privacy in the port-a-potty and that authorities' eavesdropping amounted to a warrantless search.

\$3.8 billion Dakota Access oil pipeline begins service

By BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The \$3.8 billion Dakota Access pipeline began shipping oil for customers on Thursday, as Native American tribes that opposed the project vowed to continue fighting.

Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners announced that the 1,200-mile line carrying North Dakota oil through South Dakota and Iowa to a distribution point in Illinois had begun commercial service. The Dakota Access pipeline and the Energy Transfer Crude Oil Pipeline from Illinois to the Gulf Coast together make up the \$4.8 billion Bakken Pipeline system, which ETP said has commitments for about 520,000 barrels of oil daily.

"The pipeline will transport light, sweet crude oil from North Dakota to major refining markets in a more direct, cost-effective, safer and more environmentally responsible manner than other modes of transportation, including rail or truck," the company said in a statement.

Grow America's Infrastructure Now, a coalition of businesses, trade associations, and labor groups that benefit from infrastructure development, issued a statement saying projects such as Dakota Access "are key components to unlocking our nation's economic potential and creating jobs."

Four Sioux tribes in the Dakotas are still fighting in federal court in Washington, D.C., hoping to persuade a judge to shut down the line. Tribes and environmental groups fear it might pollute water sources. More than half a year of protests in North Dakota resulted in 761 arrests before President Donald Trump's administration and the courts allowed the pipeline to be completed earlier this year.

"Now that the Dakota Access pipeline is fully operational, we find it more urgent than ever that the courts and administration address the risks posed to the drinking water of millions of American citizens," Standing Rock Sioux Chairman Dave Archambault said in a statement. "This pipeline became operational today, yet it has already leaked at least three times."

The leaks came as the line was being prepared for service. The Dakota Access pipeline and a feeder line leaked more than 100 gallons of oil in western North Dakota in separate incidents in March, and the Dakota Access line leaked 84 gallons of oil in northern South Dakota in April. No waterways were affected.

Follow Blake Nicholson on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/NicholsonBlake>

EU, China back climate pact after Trump pullout

By LORNE COOK and FRANK JORDANS, Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Top officials from China and the European Union were set Friday to reaffirm their commitment to a landmark climate change agreement, a day after President Donald Trump said he was pulling the United States out of the Paris accord.

Climate issues were expected to dominate discussions between Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, who is leading a large delegation of ministers to Brussels, and EU Council President Donald Tusk and European

Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker.

Speaking to European business leaders alongside Li, Juncker said EU-China ties are underpinned by “a rules-based international system.”

Brussels and Beijing believe in “the full implementation, without nuances, of the Paris climate agreement,” Juncker said, and underlined that there can be “no backsliding.”

In Berlin, German Chancellor Angela Merkel insisted that the U.S. withdrawal won’t prevent the rest of the world from pressing ahead with efforts to curb global warming.

“Nothing can and will stop us from doing so,” she said in a brief statement to reporters.

Merkel, whose country hosts this year’s international climate summit, said Trump’s decision was “extremely regrettable and that’s putting it very mildly.”

At their short summit, the EU and China — two of the world’s major polluters — are set to reaffirm their stance on global warming.

According to a draft, they will express their determination “to forge ahead with further policies and measures for effective implementation of their respective nationally determined contributions.”

European heavyweights France, Germany and Italy said in a joint statement on Thursday that they regretted Trump’s decision to withdraw from the accord, while affirming their “strongest commitment” to implement its measures.

While Trump said the United States would be willing to rejoin the accord if it could obtain more favorable terms, the three European leaders said the agreement cannot be renegotiated, “since it is a vital instrument for our planet, societies and economics.”

Germany’s environment minister, Barbara Hendricks, told reporters in Berlin that other countries will fill the leadership vacuum but none will be expected to make up the shortfall in emissions reductions caused by Washington’s exit.

Hendricks said the absence of \$500 million contributions from the United States to the Green Climate Fund will be felt from 2018, but suggested the gap could be filled with “other financing mechanisms, for example through the World Bank.”

The Green Fund is designed to help poor countries adapt to climate change and bypass some of the heavily polluting technologies formerly used by rich countries.

Poor countries are predicted to be among the hardest hit by global warming, with some predicting tens of millions of “climate refugees” in coming decades.

The leader of the country to next hold the rotating presidency of the European Union called Trump’s decision “very bad, very negative.”

Estonian Prime Minister Juri Ratas told The Associated Press that the Paris accord “was, and still is a very important goal to achieve.”

Estonia takes over the rotating six-month presidency from Malta at the end of the month.

Jordans contributed to this report from Berlin. Raf Caser contributed from Tallinn, Estonia.

Defense Sec’y Mattis seeks continuity in policy toward Asia

By ROBERT BURNS, AP National Security Correspondent

SINGAPORE (AP) — The Trump administration is aiming for continuity in Asia policy, sticking broadly with the approach its predecessors have taken by emphasizing diplomacy and cooperation with allies, U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Friday.

Mattis outlined the Trump administration’s approach in remarks to reporters traveling with him to Singapore, where he will deliver a policy speech at an international security conference Saturday and meet with several Asian counterparts.

He spoke of “reinforcing the international order” while seeking a “peaceful, prosperous and free Asia” — echoes of the traditional U.S. policy goals — without mentioning the narrower challenges of a nuclear North Korea and a rising China. He is expected to discuss North Korea and China in his Saturday speech.

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Upon arriving in Singapore, Mattis scheduled meetings Friday with Singaporean and Asian officials. President Donald Trump raised doubts in Asia when he took office following a campaign in which he sharply criticized Japan and South Korea for not pulling their weight as treaty allies. So far, however, the administration has been more supportive.

"As a Pacific nation, we have enduring interests and commitments in the Asia-Pacific region," Mattis said aboard his aircraft, referring in part to U.S. defense treaties with Japan, South Korea, Thailand and the Philippines.

"Accordingly, we are demonstrating the priority this administration places on maintaining stability alongside our allies and partners," he added. The Pentagon's role, he said, is to reinforce alliances, strengthen U.S. military capabilities to deter war in Asia, and help enable countries to sustain their own security.

Mattis is mindful of emerging threats in Asia, starting with North Korea's development of nuclear weapons and missiles with sufficient range to deliver nuclear strikes on U.S. territory.

Trump has said he is leaning more heavily on China — North Korea's only significant ally — to contain that threat. At the same time, the administration has repeated the Obama's administration's criticisms of China for reclaiming land in areas of the South China that several other nations claim as their own. It's unclear how far China will go to help on North Korea in the face of South China Sea tensions.

Trump also has used gunboat diplomacy by speaking of a U.S. naval "armada" within range of North Korea and noting the presence of U.S. nuclear submarines in the region.

The U.S. Navy has two aircraft carrier strike groups in waters off the Korean Peninsula, and on Thursday those groups — led by the USS Carl Vinson and the USS Ronald Reagan — began three days of joint exercises, the first in that area since the 1990s.

David Helvey, Mattis' senior adviser on Asia policy, told reporters on the way to Singapore that the dual carrier exercise is not intended as a provocation. He called it routine but acknowledged that it is the first of its kind in about 20 years.

The exercises are intended to reassure allies, he said, and to keep U.S. forces ready for any crisis.

"This is not about sending a message directly to North Korea," Helvey said, adding, "I don't expect this to change North Korea's behavior."

In line with Mattis's emphasis on helping allies defend their own territory while strengthening U.S. military muscle in the region, the U.S. has deployed a missile defense system in South Korea known as a Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense system. It is intended to protect South Korea from a potential North Korean missile strike.

The new South Korean government has complained that it was not aware of the extent of THAAD deployments on its territory in recent weeks, but Helvey said the U.S. had consulted with Seoul "throughout this process" of deploying the THAAD.

Mattis's trip is his second to Asia since he took over the Pentagon Jan. 20. He has put heavy emphasis on nurturing alliances and building new partnerships in Asia, echoing the approach of the Obama administration, which built closer ties to India, Singapore, Indonesia and Vietnam, and began a rotation of Marine contingents in Australia.

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. HOW TRUMP-STYLE DECISION-MAKING LOOKS

His withdrawal from the Paris climate accord is the latest example of a U.S. president that craves drama but is also prone to second-guessing and indecisiveness.

2. DOZENS DIE FROM SMOKE IN PHILIPPINE CASINO

A gunman storms Resorts World Manila and uses gasoline to set gambling tables on fire, creating clouds of smoke that swept through the crowds and killed at least 36 people, police say.

3. TRUMP ASKS SUPREME COURT TO REINSTATE TRAVEL BAN

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The White House contends that its ban on travelers from six mostly Muslim countries would make the U.S. safer.

4. WHERE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION AGREES WITH OBAMA

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis says he is aiming for continuity in Asia policy, emphasizing diplomacy and cooperation with allies.

5. IN DAMASCUS, A SENSE OF NORMALCY RETURNS

Across the Syrian capital, new shops are sprouting up, business is brisk, and some people who fled the civil war years ago are contemplating a return.

6. US JOB MARKET SETTLING INTO SWEET SPOT

Few economists foresee another downturn looming, in part because the recovery from the recession has been steady with little sign of overheated pressures.

7. 'I KNEW THEM ALL'

California sixth grader Ananya Vinay was so confident in her ability to spell every word at the Scripps National Spelling Bee that she wrote her winner's speech before she even showed up for the competition.

8. WHAT STATE HAS BECOME BELLWETHER FOR ANIMAL RIGHTS

Connecticut becomes the first state to allow court-appointed advocates to represent animals in cruelty and abuse cases.

9. 'A DAY IN THE LIFE' 50 YEARS IN THE MAKING

Liverpool is celebrating The Beatles' 50th anniversary of the release of the Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band album with song, cinema, performance and fireworks.

10. JUST KD

LeBron James had a simple explanation for what stood out in Cleveland's Game 1 loss to Golden State in the NBA Finals: standout play from Kevin Durant.

Attacker sets fire in crowded Philippine casino, killing 36

By JIM GOMEZ, Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — A gunman stormed a crowded Manila casino early Friday and used gasoline to set gambling tables on fire, creating clouds of smoke that killed at least 36 people, police said. The gunman fled with more than \$2 million in stolen casino chips, then forced his way into a room in an adjoining hotel and killed himself.

Authorities suspect the man, who has not yet been identified, was trying to rob the casino at Resorts World Manila, a complex of hotels, restaurants, stores and a sprawling multi-floor gambling area.

"Either he lost in the casino and wanted to recoup his losses or he went totally nuts," said Metropolitan Manila police chief Oscar Albayalde. While an Islamic State group-linked Filipino said on social media that "lone wolf soldiers" from the group were behind the attack, police noted the man didn't shoot anyone he encountered. The only gunshot wound was a guard at the complex who accidentally shot himself, authorities said.

"He would have shot all the people gambling" if his goal was terrorism, national police chief Ronald dela Rosa said. None of the bodies had gunshots, authorities said.

Police saw no connection to nearly two weeks of fighting with Muslim militants aligned with the Islamic State group in the southern city of Marawi.

Dela Rosa said security video showed the gunman ignoring a guard who tried to question him at the complex's entrance, then going straight to the casino. He stuffed a backpack with gambling chips, fired his assault rifle at TV screens and set gambling tables on fire by pouring gasoline onto them from a 2-liter bottle he carried, dela Rosa said. It was not clear how he smuggled the gasoline and rifle into the crowded casino.

The gunman, whom dela Rosa described as "white, with a mustache," about 6 feet tall and English speaking, fled the gambling area and barged into a room on the 5th floor of Maxims Hotel, which is part of the Resorts complex. He lay down on the bed, covered himself with a blanket, doused himself with gasoline

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and then set himself on fire, dela Rosa said. He carried no identity documents, police said.

The bag of high-value gambling chips — with an estimated worth of 113 million to 130 million pesos, or more than \$2 million — was found in a toilet.

The attack sent hundreds of people fleeing through the complex and into the night. A South Korean died of a possible heart attack suffered during the evacuation, the Foreign Ministry said. More than 70 people suffered mostly minor injuries in the stampede to escape.

Ronald Romualdo, a maintenance worker at Resorts World, said he and his colleagues heard gunshots and saw people smashing the windows on the second and third floors to escape.

"We took out a ladder to save them. We were able to save many of them," he said. "But one woman I was trying to save fell from the second floor. ... I could not carry her." He said the woman was not moving after she fell, but he didn't know what happened to her.

About 90 minutes after the attack began, Resorts World Manila said on its Facebook page that it was on lockdown following reports of gunfire and it was working to ensure the safety of guests and workers.

As news of the attack spread, President Donald Trump offered America's thoughts and prayers to the Philippines.

"It is really very sad as to what's going on throughout the world with terror," he said from the White House Rose Garden. Trump said he was "closely monitoring the situation."

The SITE Intelligence Group, a U.S. terrorism monitor, said an Islamic State group-linked Filipino operative who provides daily updates on the clashes in Marawi claimed IS "lone wolf soldiers" were responsible for the attack.

An English message by the operative was distributed across several pro-IS Telegram chat groups, SITE said. According to SITE, he wrote: "The lone wolf soldiers of Khilafah attack the heart of Kufar the city of Manila in Resort World."

The unrest in Marawi has sparked fears that militants might attack elsewhere to divert the focus of thousands of troops trying to quell the siege. But dela Rosa said, "We cannot attribute this to terrorism without concrete evidence."

Associated Press journalists Teresa Cerojano, Joeal Calupitan and Bullit Marquez contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to show that the dollar value of the stolen chips was more than \$2 million, not \$200,000.

For President Trump, decisions accompanied by drama

By CATHERINE LUCEY and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — With President Donald Trump, decisions are often served with a side of drama.

From the White House Rose Garden, Trump revealed his plans for the United States to leave the Paris climate change accord, a long-awaited announcement he had put off until after his first international trip. Building the suspense, some White House officials floated the possibility the day before that he was leaning toward an exit, but cautioned that the president could change his mind. The decision followed months of debate with aides arguing opposing positions.

But there was, in the end, little ambiguity to Trump's pronouncement.

"I cannot in good conscience support a deal that punishes the United States," Trump told a packed audience in the sunny garden as well as those watching on TV. "We're getting out. But we will start to negotiate and see if we can get a better deal. If we can, great. If we can't, that's fine."

The closely watched announcement — which the president, a former reality TV star, teased in showbiz fashion with a tweet the night before — was just the latest example of Trump-style decision-making.

In this White House, reaching resolution is often a spectacle, loaded with internal debate and public jockeying, presided over by a leader who seeks to wring out every dramatic moment before an audience, but who is also prone to second-guessing and indecisiveness.

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Trump typically conducts a drawn-out, very public decision-making process. He likes to seek others' opinions, whether from his staff, his circle of friends and business peers or even dinner guests at his Mar-a-Lago resort. He's been known to be swayed by what he sees on television. And he is often persuaded by whatever opinion he hears most recently, which is kept in mind by allies and adversaries alike.

His administration was split on what to do about the Paris agreement. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and the president's daughter and influential adviser, Ivanka Trump, were among those who counseled him to stay in, perhaps with modifications. Chief strategist Steve Bannon pushed an exit to fulfill "America First" campaign promises.

The day before his announcement Trump baited reporters in the Oval Office when asked about the agreement. "You're going to find out very soon," he said.

Former campaign aide Sam Nunberg said Trump typically wanted to hear a wide range of ideas and advice when making a decision, though he said he always found the process to be organized.

"He's very inclusive. He really likes to hear a lot of different views," said Nunberg, who was not involved in the Paris process. "He's not like Barack Obama who's going to read a 200-page treatise. He operates by talking to experts."

While Nunberg acknowledged Trump knew how to build suspense, he added that "the longer he takes, it's because he knows it's a big decision."

This isn't the first time Trump has applied a complicated process to a policy or personnel decision.

Also dramatic was Trump's consideration of the North American Free Trade Agreement, which he had promised to exit during his campaign. But after some aides indicated he was moving toward withdrawing from the deal in April, a flurry of eleventh-hour international diplomacy pushed Trump to change his mind.

Trump also relished keeping the public in suspense over his Supreme Court pick, until he announced during a prime-time address that he had selected Justice Neil Gorsuch. In his remarks he asked, "So was it a surprise?"

His vice presidential search was also drawn out over weeks to maximize interest and drama.

Unlike his predecessors, who shielded the decision-making from the outside world, Trump mused about contenders in interviews and had them make audition-style appearances at campaign rallies. Once he settled on Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, Trump was seized with doubt and asked senior staff about changing his pick, only to be talked out of it.

During the transition period, Trump paraded prospective hires through the Trump Tower lobby in New York and welcomed them over a weekend to his golf club in Bedminster, New Jersey, posing with them for journalists.

The most high-profile visitor that weekend was former Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney, who was in the running for secretary of state. Trump reveled in a transparent vetting process for that job, meeting several times with Romney, who had previously been a harsh critic. After dining together in New York, Romney praised Trump's "message of inclusion and bringing people together."

Trump's open vetting of Romney drew a remarkably public rebuke of Romney from former campaign manager Kellyanne Conway, part of his transition team. Conway went on television and said Trump's backers felt "betrayed" by Romney and questioned whether he was right choice.

Romney didn't get the job.

Conway's move, questioned at the time, foreshadowed a White House where aides aired dissent more publicly than in previous administrations, often on television where they suspected the president would see it. Others in Washington picked up on that tactic: Republican lawmakers on both sides of the health care debate used TV appearances to lobby the president.

Follow Lucey on Twitter at http://twitter.com/@catherine_lucey and Lemire at <http://twitter.com/@JonLemire>

Trump asks Supreme Court to reinstate travel ban

By MARK SHERMAN and SADIE GURMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration has asked the Supreme Court to immediately reinstate its ban on travelers from six mostly Muslim countries, saying the U.S. will be safer if the policy is put in place.

The Justice Department filing to the high court late Thursday argued that the federal appeals court in Richmond, Virginia, made several mistakes in ruling against the Trump travel policy.

Immigration officials would have 90 days to decide what changes are necessary before people from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen may resume applying for visas. It takes a majority of the court, at least five justices, to put the policy into effect.

The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals called the national security concerns an after-the-fact justification for a policy that was "rooted in religious animus and intended to bar Muslims from this country." The appeals court ruled against reinstating the travel policy by a 10-3 vote last week.

The Justice Department is "confident that President Trump's executive order is well within his lawful authority to keep the nation safe and protect our communities from terrorism," spokeswoman Sarah Isgur Flores said. "The president is not required to admit people from countries that sponsor or shelter terrorism, until he determines that they can be properly vetted and do not pose a security risk to the United States."

The administration also wants to be able to suspend the refugee program for 120 days, a separate aspect of the policy that has been blocked by a federal judge in Hawaii and is now being considered by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Trump signed his first executive order on travel a week after he took office in January. It applied to travelers from the six countries as well as Iraq and took effect immediately, causing chaos and panic at airports as the Homeland Security Department scrambled to figure out who the order covered and how it was to be implemented.

A federal judge blocked it eight days later, an order that was upheld by a 9th Circuit panel. Rather than pursue an appeal, the administration said it would revise the policy.

In March, Trump issued a narrower order, but federal courts that have examined it so far have blocked it as well.

Durant makes his mark in Game 1 of NBA Finals for Warriors

By JOSH DUBOW, AP Sports Writer

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — LeBron James had a simple explanation for what stood out in Game 1 of the NBA Finals: KD.

With a motivated Kevin Durant playing some of the best basketball of his career and taking the pressure off Stephen Curry, Golden State dominated Cleveland 113-91 in Game 1 on Thursday night and showed that Cavaliers-Warriors III might not look anything like the previous showdowns.

"You take one of the best teams that we had ever assembled last year, that we saw in the regular season and in the postseason, and then in the offseason you add a high-powered offensive talent like that and a great basketball IQ like that, that's what stands out," James said. "I mean, it's no if, ands, or buts. It is what it is. We've got to figure out how to combat that, which is going to be a tough challenge for us."

"But that's what stands out."

Durant finished with 38 points, eight rebounds and eight assists, didn't commit a single turnover and spent much of the night guarding James on the defensive end in an impressive return to the Finals stage five years after his only previous trip with Oklahoma City.

Durant lost to James and the Miami Heat in five games in 2012 and then James and the Cavs knocked off the 73-win Warriors in a seven-game thriller last June.

But with Durant added to a mix that includes fellow All-Stars Curry, Draymond Green and Klay Thompson, this year's Warriors proved to be too tough for James and Cleveland to handle in Game 1.

"He can just go get a bucket," Green said. "That's one of the things that we need, a guy who can go get a bucket, get to the foul line. ... That's huge for us. You are talking one of the best players in the game."

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To have a game like that when he's playing that way, it's tough to beat. Thirty-eight, 8, 8, zero turnovers? We're real tough to beat when he's doing that."

Durant played well in his first Finals trip but didn't have the help he has now with a two-time MVP in Curry, one of the league's best two-way players in Thompson and a do-it-all demon like Green.

With his big output in Game 1, Durant joined Hall of Famers Rick Barry, Michael Jordan and Shaquille O'Neal as the only players to score at least 25 points in each of his first six Finals games.

"This is what every player wants to be, is the highest level of basketball," Durant said. "That's what you dream about as a kid, is to play at the highest level. I wouldn't do my teammates any good if I wasn't just enjoying the moment."

Durant provided a conundrum for Cleveland's defense. While the Cavs mostly left Harrison Barnes open last season and thrived when he made just 5 of 32 shots in the final three games as the Cavs overcame a 3-1 deficit to win the title, that wasn't an option with Durant.

There were a handful of times Cleveland was more focused on Curry and the 3-point shooters, but Durant made them pay with six first-half dunks. His presence also forced James to work on the defensive end, sapping some needed energy he needs on offense if Cleveland is going to keep up with Golden State.

Durant also did a good job defensively in his 1-on-1 matchups with James, who still managed 28 points, 15 rebounds and eight assists but also turned the ball over eight times.

"Kevin's a competitor," Green said. "Obviously being that he's guarding LeBron, he's taking that challenge on. And I expect nothing less out of him, being the competitor that he is."

Durant's presence also benefited Curry, who hit six 3-pointers on the way to a 28-point night. Curry shot just 40 percent in the Finals a year ago and had more turnovers (30) than assists (26) as he nursed injuries to his knee and ankle.

But after winning the first two games a year ago before blowing the 3-1 lead, the Warriors aren't about to get ahead of themselves even if Cavs coach Tyronn Lue called them "the best I ever seen."

"A lot of us have been through both sides of a championship run and a Finals," Curry said. "You're not going to see crazy celebrations. You're not going to see us getting ahead of ourselves. We're going to enjoy what we do on the floor and going to be passionate about it and have each other's backs when we're out there, but every 48 minutes is a separate event."

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

European leaders: climate change deal can't be renegotiated

By **KIRSTEN GRIESHABER** and **FRANK JORDANS**, Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Top European leaders pledged Thursday to keep fighting against global warming as President Donald Trump announced he was pulling out of the Paris climate accord, but they rejected his suggestion that the deal could later be renegotiated.

The leaders of France, Germany and Italy said in a joint statement that they regretted the United States' decision to withdraw from the accord, but affirmed "our strongest commitment" to implement its measures and encouraged "all our partners to speed up their action to combat climate change."

While Trump said the United States would be willing to rejoin the accord if it could obtain more favorable terms, the three European leaders said the agreement cannot be renegotiated, "since it is a vital instrument for our planet, societies and economics."

President Emmanuel Macron of France repeated that belief in an English-language speech from the presidential palace, unprecedented from a French president in an address at home. He said, "I do respect this decision but I do think it is an actual mistake both for the U.S. and for our planet."

"Wherever we live, whoever we are, we all share the same responsibility: make our planet great again," Macron added.

The European Union's top climate change official, Miguel Arias Canente, said in a statement that Trump's decision to leave the Paris accord made it "a sad day for the global community," adding that the bloc

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"deeply regrets the unilateral decision."

Canete also predicted that the EU would seek new alliances from the world's largest economies to the most vulnerable island states, as well as U.S. businesses and individuals supportive of the accord.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement "a major disappointment" and said it was "crucial that the United States remains a leader on environmental issues," according to his spokesman.

Fiji's Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, who in November will chair an annual climate summit in Germany, said he was deeply disappointed by Trump's decision and did what he could to try to persuade Trump to stick with the agreement as nations tackle "the greatest challenge our planet has ever faced." He said he was convinced the U.S. will eventually rejoin.

Bainimarama said the decision is a grave disappointment for places like his Pacific island nation and U.S. coastal cities like New York and Miami that are vulnerable to climate change. He promised to do all he can to continue to forge a grand coalition to accelerate the momentum that has built since the Paris agreement.

Norway's largest pension fund with 53 billion euro (\$59.5 billion) in assets under its management said it would continue to invest in renewable energy despite the American president's decision, saying in a statement that "Donald Trump is jumping off a train that has already left the station."

Chief executive Odd Arild Grefstad cited the growth of renewable energy in U.S. states such as Texas, New York and California as signs that "the world has started the transition from fossil to a renewable economy."

Japan, Australia, New Zealand and South Korea also regretted the U.S. move and reiterated their commitment to implement the agreement. In Tokyo, an irate Koichi Yamamoto, the environment minister, said "I'm not just disappointed, but also feel anger."

Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso drew parallels to the U.S. setting up a plan to establish the League of Nations after World War I, only to back out later.

"Who created the League of the Nations? It was the United States who set up the League of the Nations. Then, once it started, who didn't join in? The United States. I think that's just how they are," he told reporters.

In Mexico, former President Vicente Fox criticized Trump's move, saying on Twitter: "He's declaring war on the planet itself."

Fox, who has clashed with Trump since last year's presidential campaign, said the U.S. leader's decision "condemns this generation and those to come" and would leave "a dark legacy just to satisfy your greediness."

The U.S. Conference of Mayors said it strongly opposed Trump's action and vowed to continue efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions blamed for global warming.

New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu, the group's vice president, said withdrawal from the agreement was "shortsighted" and called climate change a grave threat to coastal communities such as his, as well as the nation and the world.

Inventor and entrepreneur Elon Musk said he would keep his promise to end his participation in two presidential councils after Trump issued his decision.

"Climate change is real. Leaving Paris is not good for America or the world," the CEO of electric car maker Tesla Inc. tweeted shortly after Trump officially withdrew the U.S. from the global climate pact.

Meanwhile, General Motors, the No. 1 U.S. automaker, said it would continue its commitment to "creating a better environment." The automaker highlighted its development of the Chevrolet Bolt electric vehicle with 238 miles of range on a single charge and a net price of less than \$30,000.

Bill Ford, chairman of the Ford Motor Co., also weighed in, saying: "We believe climate change is real, and remain deeply committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in our vehicles and our facilities."

Before Trump announced his decision Thursday afternoon, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang told reporters during a visit to Berlin that fighting global warming was a "global consensus" and an "international responsibility."

Without mentioning the U.S. specifically, Li said that "China in recent years has stayed true to its commitment" and pointed out that his was one of the first countries to ratify the 2015 Paris Agreement.

While traveling abroad last week, Trump was repeatedly pressed to stay in the deal by European leaders

and Pope Francis. Withdrawing would leave the United States as one of just three countries outside the agreement. The other two are Syria and Nicaragua.

Russia joined the chorus speaking out for the climate accord. Speaking to reporters on Thursday before Trump's decision was announced, a spokesman for President Vladimir Putin said Russia "thinks highly" of the accords and sees no alternative to it. Spokesman Dmitry Peskov added that its implementation will not be as effective "without the key signatories."

Scientists say Earth is likely to reach more dangerous levels of warming sooner if the U.S. retreats from its pledge because America contributes so much to rising temperatures. Calculations suggest withdrawal could release up to 3 billion additional tons of carbon dioxide a year — enough to melt ice sheets faster, raise seas higher and trigger more extreme weather.

Associated Press writers David Rising and Frank Jordans in Berlin, Nataliya Vasilyeva in Moscow, Gregory Katz in London, Lorne Cooke in Brussels, Gerry Shih in Beijing, Peter Orsi in Mexico City, Sylvie Corbet in Paris, Colleen Barry in Milan, Dee-Ann Durbin in Detroit, Matthew Daly in Washington and Edith M. Lederer at the United Nations contributed.

36 die from smoke in Philippine casino after gunman set fire

By JIM GOMEZ, Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — A gunman stormed a casino in the Philippine capital and torched gambling tables in the crowded space, creating a choking level of smoke that killed at least 36 people, authorities said. The gunman stuffed a backpack with casino chips before he fled but was found dead in an adjacent hotel early Friday of an apparent suicide.

The bodies were found in the smoky gambling room by firefighters and all died from suffocation and smoke inhalation, Metropolitan Manila police chief Oscar Albayalde said. None of the bodies had gunshot wounds.

The attack sent hundreds of people fleeing into the night outside the Resorts World Manila complex and produced a claim of terrorism that police stressed had no evidence to support it. The violence unfolded as government forces were engaged in a second week of fighting against Islamic State group-aligned militants in the southern city of Marawi.

"He would have shot all the people gambling there" if it had been terrorism, national police chief Ronald dela Rosa said.

Authorities suspect the motive was robbery. "It's either he lost in the casino and wanted to recoup his losses or he went totally nuts," Albayalde said.

Dela Rosa said security footage showed the gunman ignoring a guard who tried to question him at the entrance. He did not hurt the guard but went straight to the gambling area, dela Rosa said.

The gunman stole gambling chips, shot TV screens and set gambling tables ablaze by pouring gasoline on them, dela Rosa said. It was not clear how the gunman smuggled gasoline and an assault rifle into the crowded casino, but the assailant did not fire at people he encountered.

The man carried a 2 liter soda bottle and may have an extra container of gasoline as well, Albayalde said. The room was carpeted and the tables were combustible, he said, and all the bodies were found in the smoky gambling room. Investigators were going to check if the water sprinklers in the hotel worked.

More than 70 people suffered mostly minor injuries in the stampede to escape. The only gunshot wound was a guard at the complex, who accidentally shot himself when the suspect entered the room, authorities said. A South Korean died of a possible heart attack suffered during the evacuation, the country's Foreign Ministry said.

Ronald Romualdo, a maintenance worker at Resorts World, said he and his colleagues heard gunshots and saw people smashing the windows on the second floor and third floor to escape.

"We took out a ladder to save them. We were able to save many of them," he said. "But one woman I was trying to save fell from the second floor. ... I could not carry her." He said the woman was not moving

afterward, but he didn't know what happened to her.

About 90 minutes after the attack began, Resorts World Manila said on its Facebook page that it was on lockdown following reports of gunfire and it was working to ensure the safety of guests and workers.

The national police chief said the gunman apparently barged into a room at the 5th floor of the Maxims hotel connected to the mall and casino, laid on the bed, blanketed himself, doused himself with gasoline then set himself on fire. The bag of gambling chips worth 113 million pesos (\$226,000) was found in a toilet.

The suspect was English-speaking but had no identification cards. Dela Rosa described him as "white, with a mustache" and about 6 feet tall. He said the man's car at the parking lot was being examined.

As news of the attack had spread, President Donald Trump offered the thoughts and prayers of the American people to the Philippines.

"It is really very sad as to what's going on throughout the world with terror," he said from the White House Rose Garden. Trump said he was "closely monitoring the situation" and would continue to provide updates.

The SITE monitoring service, which tracks white supremacist and jihadist activity online, said an Islamic State-linked Filipino operative who provides daily updates on the ongoing clashes in Marawi claimed "lone wolf soldiers" of the Islamic State group were responsible for the attack.

An English message by the operative was distributed across several pro-IS Telegram chat groups, SITE said. According to SITE, the message says the attacker intended to burn the casino because the activities inside were haram, or forbidden by Islam.

The unrest in Marawi had sparked fears that militants might attack elsewhere to divert the focus of the thousands of troops trying to quell the siege. But dela Rosa said "We cannot attribute this to terrorism without concrete evidence."

Associated Press journalists Teresa Cerojano, Joeal Calupitan and Bullit Marquez contributed to this report.

Unflappable Ananya Vinay wins National Spelling Bee

By **BEN NUCKOLS**, Associated Press

OXON HILL, Md. (AP) — Ananya Vinay never looked all that impressed by any of the words she was given in the finals of the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

The 12-year-old from Fresno, California, showed little emotion and didn't take much time as she plowed through word after word. Sometimes she would blurt out questions, with little intonation — "Part of speech?" "Language of origin?" — and sometimes she didn't even bother.

Unflappable to the end, Ananya seized the opportunity when her steely opponent, Rohan Rajeev, flubbed a simple-looking but obscure Scandinavian-derived word, "marram," which means a beach grass. She calmly nailed two words in a row, ending on "marocain," which means a type of dress fabric of ribbed crepe, to win the 90th Scripps National Spelling Bee on Thursday.

"I knew them all," Ananya said.

Ananya barely cracked a smile even when her parents and younger brother stormed onto the stage to embrace her as the confetti fell. And she took time to console Rohan, who remained in his seat, wiping tears from his eyes.

"It's like a dream come true," Ananya said. "I'm so happy right now."

Later, she flashed a broad and toothy grin as she lingered on stage accepting congratulations. She will take home more than \$40,000 in cash and prizes.

It was the first time since 2013 that the bee declared a sole champion. After three straight years of ties, the bee added a tiebreaker test this year, and it looked like it might come into play as Ananya and Rohan duelled for 21 of the allotted 25 championship rounds.

Ananya was on the radar of some veteran bee watchers but didn't come in with a high profile. Her score on the written spelling and vocabulary test would have been high enough to make the top 50 last year,

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but she missed a relatively easy word, "multivalent," on stage.

"She panicked. It was not a hard word," said her father, Vinay Sreekumar. "I think she learned from that and she consciously worked on it, how you shouldn't panic, just focus on the word."

As a sixth-grader, she could have come back for two more years, had she fallen short. Now, she'll return only in a ceremonial role to help present the trophy to next year's winner. And she'll have to find time to watch her beloved Golden State Warriors in the NBA Finals while enjoying the champion's whirlwind media tour.

For Rohan, a 14-year-old eighth-grader from Edmond, Oklahoma, it was his first and only time on the national stage, but he's competed for years in other bees and he sought tutelage from another Oklahoman, Cole Shafer-Ray, who finished third two years ago. Rohan's close call was even more heartbreaking.

Ananya is the 13th consecutive Indian-American to win the bee and the 18th of the past 22 winners with Indian heritage, a run that began in 1999 with Nupur Lala's victory, which was featured in the documentary "Spellbound." Like most of her predecessors, she honed her craft in highly competitive national bees that are limited to Indian-Americans, the North South Foundation and the South Asian Spelling Bee, although she did not win either.

Mira Dedhia, trying to become the first offspring of a past competitor to win, finished third. Her mother, Lekshmi Nair, competed from 1988-1990 but never came close to the title.

Before Ananya and Rohan began their lengthy duel, the primetime finals were marked by surprising eliminations of better-known spellers. Shourav Dasari, a past winner of both minor-league bees, was described as the consensus favorite as the ESPN broadcast began. He had the most swagger of the finalists, at one point spelling the word "Mogollon" as soon as he heard it and turning around to return to his seat.

He was felled in fourth place by a killer word, "Struldbrug," that was coined by Jonathan Swift in his novel "Gulliver's Travels" and had no recognizable roots or language patterns to fall back on.

"I was honestly, absolutely shocked. It was stunning," former speller Jacob Williamson said. "Shourav is one of the greatest spellers of all time and he's probably the best speller that never won."

Follow Ben Nuckols on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/APBenNuckols>.

Curry, Durant power Warriors past Cavs in Game 1, 113-91

By JANIE McCAULEY, AP Sports Writer

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Kevin Durant drove through the lane untouched for dazzling dunks. He dished off even when he could have slammed it home, and did it all on defense.

Oh, he hit from long range, too.

What a dominant NBA Finals opener with the Warriors.

Durant finished with 38 points, eight rebounds and eight assists to lead Golden State past LeBron James and the defending champion Cleveland Cavaliers, 113-91 on Thursday night in Game 1.

As this highly anticipated rematch tipped off at last, the biggest difference from last year was clear.

"KD," James said.

Stephen Curry did his share by scoring 28 points with six 3-pointers and 10 assists as this sure-to-be thrilling trilogy began, a long-expected, spectacular grand finale envisioned ever since that July day Durant left Oklahoma City to join the loaded Warriors.

"We could be a lot better than we were tonight but in the Finals you get a 'W,' we'll take it," Durant said.

James wound up with 28 points, 15 rebounds and eight assists a day after dealing with bigotry far away from basketball. Someone painted a racial slur — the N-word — on the gate of his Los Angeles home, leaving James to address racism rather than his seventh straight Finals appearance or stopping KD. James said he would do his best to be ready for the series opener when his mind was elsewhere, concerned for his wife and children back in Ohio.

"We did a great job of covering the 3-point line but other than that they played a hell of a game," James said.

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Durant punished Cleveland for leaving him free, taking the ball to the hoop for emphatic dunks as a man on a mission to deliver what he came for: a championship. He had six slams in the first half alone for the Warriors, who at 13-0 are already the first team to go this far in a postseason unblemished.

"They're the best I've ever seen," Cavs coach Tyronn Lue said. "They're 13-0. They're constantly breaking records every year."

Game 2 in the series is Sunday night back at Oracle Arena with its deafening sellout crowd.

Once his night was finally done, Durant found mother Wanda at the end of the Warriors bench and held her in a warm embrace.

He had won the first battle with King James.

"Those are two big household names, so we know you guys and the fans are going to want to see that and pick up on it," said acting Warriors coach Mike Brown, facing a Cleveland franchise that fired him not once but twice. "I'm sure LeBron probably thinks he could play better, and you tip your hat off to KD."

Kyrie Irving, who hit the deciding 3-pointer with Curry's hand in his face last June as Cleveland rallied from a 3-1 series deficit to win its first championship, scored 24 points on 10-of-22 shooting. Kevin Love grabbed 21 rebounds and scored 15 points, while Tristan Thompson was held scoreless and to four boards.

Durant's only other Finals ended at the hands of LeBron and Miami in 2012. He shot 14 for 26 in his fifth 30-point performance this postseason, receiving a rousing ovation when he sat down for good with 2:16 remaining.

Curry sported a fresh haircut for the occasion and the two-time reigning MVP initially wore a black sleeve on his shooting arm to protect a tender elbow that still had some swelling, but he quickly removed it and found his stroke. He shot 11 for 22, 6 of 11 on 3s.

The sleeve didn't feel right, but Curry joked of his arm wear, "As a little kid I always wanted to be like Allen Iverson and that was the only way I could really come close."

This marks the first time in NBA history the same two teams played in three straight Finals and just the fourth time it has happened in the four major sports leagues.

Golden State finally warmed up after nine days off, while the Cavs had a six-day break since beating Boston in the Eastern Conference finals.

Warriors starting center Zaza Pachulia returned after missing the final two games at San Antonio with a bruised right heel and contributed eight points and six rebounds.

Golden State's four turnovers tied an NBA Finals low.

TIP-INS

Cavaliers: James' 3-pointer in the third quarter moved him past Reggie Miller (320) for second place on the NBA postseason list, which is led by Ray Allen with 385. ... Cleveland committed 12 of its 20 turnovers in the first half — "20 in the Finals is not going to get it done," Irving said.

Warriors: Coach Steve Kerr had hoped to feel well enough to return to the bench but stayed behind the scenes in the locker room as he continues to deal with complications from back surgery nearly two years ago. "My heart goes out to him," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said. ... Curry became the fifth player in NBA history with 300 career playoff 3s after coming in with 295. ... Klay Thompson, playing more stellar defense while missing all five of his 3-point tries and scoring just six points, notched his 77th career postseason game to tie Jeff Mullins for most in franchise history.

More AP NBA: www.apnews.com/tag/NBAbasketball

Friday's US jobs report for May likely to show steady gains

By JOSH BOAK, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Exactly eight years after the Great Recession ended, the U.S. job market has settled into a sweet spot of steadily solid growth.

The 4.4 percent unemployment rate matches a decade low. Many people who had stopped looking for jobs are coming off the sidelines to find them. More part-timers are finding full-time work. About all that's

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still missing is a broad acceleration in pay.

On Friday, when the government releases the jobs report for May, that pattern is likely to extend itself. The consensus expectation of economists is that the Labor Department will report that employers added 176,000 jobs, according to a survey by FactSet, a data provider. That's right in line with the monthly average of 174,000 over the past three months.

All told, it's evidence of an American economy that is running neither too hot nor too cold, with growth holding at a tepid but far from recessionary 2 percent annual rate. Few economists foresee another downturn looming, in part because the recovery from the recession has been steady but grinding, with little sign of the sort of overheated pressures that normally trigger a recession.

The jobs report will be released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time.

Separate reports Thursday solidified expectations that job growth for May was healthy. Payroll processor ADP reported that in a private survey of companies, it found that a hefty 253,000 jobs were added in May, mostly among companies with fewer than 500 workers.

Nor are layoffs much of a concern. Weekly applications for unemployment benefits, which tend to reflect the pace of layoffs, averaged a low 238,000 over the past four weeks, according to the Labor Department.

The government's monthly jobs report produces a net gain by estimating how many jobs were created and comparing that figure with how many it estimates were lost.

The unemployment rate is expected to have remained in May at 4.4 percent, a low figure that historically has reflected a healthy job market. If hiring maintains its current pace, it would exceed population growth, and the unemployment rate should eventually fall even further.

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, estimates that monthly job growth above 80,000 or so should cause the unemployment rate to fall.

"I think 4 percent unemployment is dead-ahead, and we'll probably go past that," he said.

Still, the jobs report produces several different measures of unemployment, and the broadest gauge might be most critical to watch Friday. This particular measure includes not only the officially unemployed but also part-time workers who would prefer full-time jobs and people who want a job but aren't actively looking for one and so aren't counted as unemployed.

Known as the "U-6" rate, this measure is one of the favorite metrics for Trump administration officials. The U-6 has plunged since January to 8.6 percent in April, a 0.8 point decline.

The decline in that measure is an encouraging sign that jobless people who had given up hope of working are now being hired. If that trend continued in May, a falling U-6 would point to a strengthening economy despite weak growth during the first three months of the year.

But the influx of job seekers can also inflict a drag on pay growth. As more people start seeking jobs, employers begin to have less incentive to raise pay. It's only when employers face a shallow pool of job applicants that they tend to feel compelled to raise pay in hopes of hiring people who fit their needs.

Annual growth in average hourly earnings was a so-so 2.6 percent in April. And whatever meaningful pay raises that exist are going disproportionately to managers and supervisors. For workers who aren't supervisors, average hourly pay has risen just 2.3 percent. In a healthy economy, average pay gains would typically grow roughly 3.5 percent a year.

Of the 211,000 jobs added in April, more than a quarter were in the generally lower-paying leisure and hospitality industry — hotels, restaurants and amusement parks. Health care and social assistance added nearly 37,000 jobs and professional services 39,000.

The Trump administration has designated the pace of hiring for good-paying skilled jobs in construction, manufacturing and mining as among the key categories it monitors for economic health. Those three sectors were relatively weak in April.

The construction sector added just 5,000 jobs in April and 1,000 jobs in March. A rebound could occur in May because construction activity has been improving. The government has reported that housing starts are up 5.3 percent year-to-date, while construction spending has risen 5.8 percent year-to-date.

Wisconsin mill that exploded had been reprimanded on safety

By TODD RICHMOND, Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — A Wisconsin corn mill that exploded late Wednesday night was reprimanded by federal safety inspectors six years ago for not taking precautions against dust explosions, which are a major hazard in handling grain, records show.

The blast at the Didion Milling Plant in Cambria, a rural village about 45 miles (72.42 kilometers) northeast of Madison, left at least two people dead. Columbia County Sheriff Dennis Richards confirmed the body of the second worker was found late Thursday afternoon. Emergency crews were still searching for a third worker. Nearly a dozen other employees were taken to area hospitals. None of the workers have been identified.

The cause of the blast remained unknown as of Thursday afternoon, Didion officials said. U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration investigators were on the scene.

At a news conference Thursday evening, Cambria Fire Chief Cody Doucette said a smaller fire occurred in a different part of the facility on Monday. Investigators were working to determine whether there was a link between that fire and Wednesday night's explosion, Doucette said.

"The safety and security of our employees is our top priority," Didion Vice President of Operations Derrick Clark said in a news release. "Over the past 44 years, the Didion team has grown to be a close-knit family, and we ask for your prayers during this difficult time."

The plant processes corn for ethanol and other uses. A review of online OSHA records shows the plant was cited in January 2011 for exposing its workers to dust explosion hazards. The records state that plant filters lacked an explosion protective system.

The agency ordered the mill to correct the problem by April 2011. The records show Didion paid a \$3,465 fine and the case was closed in September 2013. OSHA hasn't cited the plant for anything since, the records show.

Dust explosions are a serious problem in handling grain, according to the U.S. Agriculture Department. There were five grain dust explosions in the United States last year and two of the incidents resulted in fatalities, Purdue University said in an annual report. Keeping facilities clean of dust and equipment in good working order to reduce the possibility of igniting the dust are critical to preventing explosions, the report said.

Dust explosions can occur when high concentrations of dust particles are suspended in the air in a confined space during grain handling and a spark from something like a cigarette butt ignites it, according to the USDA's website.

Emails sent to several Didion officials Thursday and a voicemail left for Vice President of Sales Jeff Dillon weren't immediately returned. A note posted on the company's website said the company would be closed until further notice.

Nearly two dozen fire departments and four police departments responded. Cambria Village President Glen Williams said the fire was contained by early Thursday and there were no evacuations in the area.

Doucette said some area residents briefly lost power after the blast. Schools in the Cambria-Friesland district also closed Thursday because of the incident.

The district houses early childhood through 12th grade in one building about an eighth of a mile from the plant, Superintendent Timothy Raymond said. School officials wanted to be sure the danger was over on Thursday, he said. Classes were set to resume on Friday.

The number of employees inside the building during the explosion fluctuated through the day Thursday. Sheriff Richards initially said 16 people were in the plant. Village of Cambria officials later said 17 were inside before revising the number back to 16.

In addition to the two fatalities, two other plant employees were treated and released. Eleven more were taken to area hospitals via ambulance and helicopter.

Cambria is a community of about 770 people. Williams, the village president, said the plant is an economic anchor for the entire area. Raymond, the schools superintendent, said his district plans to have counselors on hand when students return Friday.

"Quite a few of the employees live in the village and surrounding area. So it's going to affect the whole area. Not just the shock of the event, but the economic hardship to the families," Williams said.

OSHA spokesman Scott Allen said personnel from the federal agency were on the scene Thursday to begin an investigation. The agency has six months to complete its work.

The company employs more than 200 people. It has offices and a soybean plant in Jefferson County to the southwest, the mill and an ethanol plant in Cambria and an oil packaging plant in Green Lake County to the north, according to the company website.

Brothers John and Dow Didion began Didion Milling in 1972 and construction on the Cambria corn mill was completed in 1991, according to the website. The company's corn products are used in brewing beer as well as in making chips, breakfast cereals, bathroom moldings, steel and ethanol.

Associated Press writer Gretchen Ehlike in Milwaukee contributed to this report.

AP Explains: Why China is stepping up against climate change

By MATTHEW BROWN, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — By backing off the U.S. commitment to address climate change, President Donald Trump leaves an opening for a chief economic rival, China, to expand its increasing dominance in the renewable energy industry. In reacting to Trump's announcement that he was withdrawing the U.S. from the Paris climate accord, China reaffirmed its commitment to the landmark agreement and is poised to spend heavily in coming years on renewables.

Yet the world's most populous country remains heavily reliant on coal to generate electricity and power its steel mills — a habit that could be hard to break without stifling its economic aspirations. Here's a look at some of the trends and challenges that could shape China's — and the world's — energy future.

BEIJING'S COMMITMENT TO CURBING POLLUTION

China's rush to renewables has been driven largely by local pollution from power plants and factories that frequently blankets Beijing and other major cities, endangering public health and driving some residents overseas. Economic opportunity has also played a role, with massive investments in solar and wind helping dramatically drive down the cost for renewables worldwide.

China already accounts for more than one-third of global wind energy capacity. It recently surpassed Germany to become number one in solar capacity.

Renewables employ more than 3.6 million people in China — more than a third of the industry's global total. It plans to add another 13 million jobs in the sector by 2020 with investments of \$144 billion in new solar projects, \$100 billion in wind and \$70 billion in hydropower. That also should help China to reach its commitment under the Paris accord to cap greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

"China has expressed very clear signals that it wants to take more leadership in terms of promoting trade and global cooperation against climate change," said Frank Yu, a China-based renewables consultant for the firm Wood Mackenzie. "The retreat of the U.S. actually gives China more opportunity to lead these global efforts."

ENERGY STILL DOMINATED BY COAL

Notwithstanding China's embrace of renewables, coal still dominates the nation's fuel mix, accounting for 62 percent of total energy consumption in 2016. Coal production fell over the past several years, with a slowing economy as one factor.

In January, China announced the suspension or cancellation of plans to build an additional 100 coal-fueled power plants. Yet dozens more are still expected to be built and China's also bankrolling plants in other countries. It's by far the largest consumer of coal worldwide, producing 3.41 billion tons of the fuel last year — more than four times the volume in the U.S., the second largest coal consumer. Largely as a result, China is also the top emitter of greenhouse gasses blamed for worsening climate change.

Coal production is rebounding this year, up 2.5 percent during the first four months compared to the

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same period in 2016, according to China's National Bureau of Statistics.

Trump cited China's continued emissions as one justification for withdrawing from the climate accord, which the Republican said unfairly burdened U.S. industries. A Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman said Friday in response to Trump's remarks that as a "responsible major power" China would continue to promote the Paris agreement and fulfill its obligation "100 percent."

CONVERTING COAL TO GAS

Coal has suffered a steep and sustained decline in the U.S. since cheap, abundant supplies of cleaner-burning natural gas supplanted it as the main fuel for power generation. China's gas supplies are far more limited, hurting its prospects as a replacement fuel.

One option that's being pursued in the country's western provinces is to convert coal into synthetic natural gas. That could help curb air pollution blamed for urban smog and, researchers say, potentially stave off tens of thousands of premature deaths annually.

But converting coal to gas would also produce more of the carbon dioxide that's the main driver behind climate change, first in manufacturing the gas and again in burning it. Meanwhile, the renewables boom has proven too much for China's electricity grid to fully absorb, causing some energy to go to waste.

Follow Matthew Brown on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/matthewbrownap>

Asian markets rally; Tokyo stocks up as yen falls

By YOUKYUNG LEE, AP Business Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Asian stock markets rallied Friday as investor sentiment was boosted by signs of continued improvement in the U.S. job market. Tokyo stocks jumped to the highest level in nearly two years.

KEEPING SCORE: Nikkei 225 jumped 1.4 percent to 20,139.31 as the yen weakened against the dollar. South Korea's Kospi rose 0.9 percent to 2,363.07. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index gained 0.2 percent to 25,861.46. Australia's S&P/ASX advanced 0.9 percent to 5,789.10 but Shanghai Composite Index fell 0.5 percent to 3,088.04. Stocks in Taiwan, Singapore and other Southeast Asian countries were higher.

US ECONOMY: On Thursday, U.S. payroll processor ADP said it found in a private survey of companies that 253,000 jobs were added in May. The result was significantly higher than expected and lifted investor sentiment before the U.S. government releases more comprehensive jobs report later on Friday. In addition to how many jobs U.S. added last month, analysts are also keen to see how much average hourly earnings grew.

KOREA GROWTH: Bank of Korea said its updated reading of the South Korean economy showed that Asia's fourth-largest economy expanded 1.1 percent during the January-March period on a quarterly basis, revised up from 0.9 percent released in April. That was the strongest rate in six quarters and solidified expectation that the central bank would revise up its annual growth outlook next month. Exports and the construction sector led the recovery.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "U.S. data has given the equity bulls some inspiration," Chris Weston, chief market strategist at IG in Melbourne, Australia, said in a daily commentary. He added "it gives us hope at least that tonight's non-farm payrolls will be close enough to the consensus print."

WALL STREET: U.S. markets closed at record-high levels on Thursday. The Standard & Poor's 500 index ended at 2,430.06, up 0.8 percent. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 0.6 percent to 21,144.18, and the Nasdaq composite rose 0.8 percent to 6,246.83.

OIL: Benchmark U.S. crude oil rose fell 26 cents at 48.10 per barrel in electronic trading on New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell 4 cents to settle at \$48.36 per barrel on Thursday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, fell 23 cents to settle at \$50.40 a barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 111.64 yen from 111.35 yen while the euro strengthened slightly to \$1.1218 from \$1.1216.

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, June 2, the 153rd day of 2017. There are 212 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 2, 1897, Mark Twain was quoted by the New York Journal as saying from London that "the report of my death was an exaggeration." (Twain, in London to cover Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee for the Journal, was responding to a report in the New York Herald that he was "grievously ill" and "possibly dying.")

On this date:

In 1863, during the Civil War, Union Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman wrote a letter to his wife, Ellen, in which he commented, "Vox populi, vox humbug" (The voice of the people is the voice of humbug).

In 1886, President Grover Cleveland, 49, married Frances Folsom, 21, in the Blue Room of the White House. (To date, Cleveland is the only president to marry in the executive mansion.)

In 1924, Congress passed, and President Calvin Coolidge signed, a measure guaranteeing full American citizenship for all Native Americans born within U.S. territorial limits.

In 1941, baseball's "Iron Horse," Lou Gehrig, died in New York of a degenerative disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; he was 37.

In 1946, Italy held a referendum which resulted in the Italian monarchy being abolished in favor of a republic.

In 1953, the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II took place in London's Westminster Abbey, 16 months after the death of her father, King George VI.

In 1966, U.S. space probe Surveyor 1 landed on the moon and began transmitting detailed photographs of the lunar surface.

In 1976, Arizona Republic investigative reporter Don Bolles was mortally injured by a bomb planted underneath his car; he died 11 days later. (Prosecutors believed Bolles was targeted because he had written stories that upset a liquor wholesaler; three men were convicted of the killing.)

In 1983, half of the 46 people aboard an Air Canada DC-9 were killed after fire broke out on board, forcing the jetliner to make an emergency landing at Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport.

In 1986, for the first time, the public could watch the proceedings of the U.S. Senate on television as a six-week experiment began.

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan announced he was nominating economist Alan Greenspan to succeed Paul Volcker as chairman of the Federal Reserve Board.

In 1997, Timothy McVeigh was convicted of murder and conspiracy in the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City that killed 168 people. (McVeigh was executed in June 2001.)

Ten years ago: U.S. authorities said four Muslim men had been prevented from carrying out a plot to destroy John F. Kennedy International Airport, kill thousands of people and trigger an economic catastrophe by blowing up a jet fuel artery running through populous New York residential neighborhoods. (Three of the men were later sentenced to life in prison; the fourth was sentenced to 15 years behind bars.)

Five years ago: Ousted Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was sentenced to life in prison after a court convicted him on charges of complicity in the killing of protesters during the 2011 uprising that forced him from power (Mubarak was later acquitted, and freed in March 2017). Character actress Kathryn Joosten, best known as the crotchety, nose-y Karen McCluskey on "Desperate Housewives," died in Westlake Village, California, at age 72. Richard Dawson, 79, a British-born entertainer who made his mark in the 1960s television sitcom "Hogan's Heroes" and who later became a popular TV game show host, died in Los Angeles.

One year ago: House Speaker Paul Ryan endorsed Donald Trump's bid for president, telling The Associated Press his goal was to make sure the GOP was "at full strength in the fall." President Barack Obama,

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speaking at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado, implored the next generation of U.S. military leaders not to give in to isolationism or pull back from U.S. leadership in the world, drawing a contrast with a foreign policy vision laid out by Donald Trump. Autopsy results showed superstar musician Prince died of an accidental overdose of fentanyl, a powerful opioid painkiller.

Today's Birthdays: Actress-singer Sally Kellerman is 80. Actor Ron Ely is 79. Filmmaker and movie historian Kevin Brownlow is 79. Actor Stacy Keach is 76. Rock musician Charlie Watts is 76. Actor Charles Haid is 74. Movie director Lasse (LAH'-suh) Hallstrom is 71. Actor Jerry Mathers is 69. Actress Joanna Gleason is 67. NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman is 65. Actor Dennis Haysbert is 63. Comedian Dana Carvey is 62. Actor Gary Grimes is 62. Pop musician Michael Steele is 62. Rock singer Tony Hadley (Spandau Ballet) is 57. Actor Liam Cunningham is 56. Actor Navid Negahban is 53. Singer Merril Bainbridge is 49. TV personality-producer Andy Cohen ("The Real Housewives" TV franchise) is 49. Rapper B-Real (Cypress Hill) is 47. Actress Paula Cale is 47. Actor Anthony Montgomery is 46. Actor-comedian Wayne Brady is 45. Actor Wentworth Miller is 45. Rock musician Tim Rice-Oxley (Keane) is 41. Actor Zachary Quinto is 40. Actor Dominic Cooper is 39. Actress Nikki Cox is 39. Actor Justin Long is 39. Actor Deon Richmond is 39. Actress Morena Baccarin is 38. Rhythm-and-blues singer Irish Grinstead (702) is 37. Rock musician Fabrizio Moretti (The Strokes) is 37. Olympic gold medal soccer player Abby Wambach is 37. Country singer Dan Cahoon (Marshall Dyllon) is 34. Singer-songwriter ZZ Ward is 31. Actress Brittany Curran is 27. Actor Sterling Beaumon is 22.

Thought for Today: "Whatever it is that makes a person charming, it needs to remain a mystery." — Rex Harrison, English actor (born 1908, died this date in 1990).