

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, March 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 257 ~ 1 of 59

“There’s nothing more  
addictive or incredible  
in life than reinventing  
yourself and allowing  
yourself to be  
different  
every day.”

-Thalia



Chicken Soup  
for the Soul

Removal, Grinding, Chipping, Trimming

605-725-WOOD

Mason Dinger: 605-216-6098

Trevor Zeck: 605-216-8910



DAKOTA TREE  
COMPANY

**The Ipswich track  
meet scheduled for  
Tuesday, April 3rd  
has been  
CANCELLED.**

- 1- Living Stations of the Cross Tonight
- 1- Track meet cancelled
- 1- Dakota Tree Company Ad
- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 2- GT Robotics launches fundraiser
- 3- Geese flock to golf course
- 3- Groton Care & Rehab ad
- 3- Sun Dial Manor Ad
- 4- Tech Institute tuition set
- 4- Bowling Scores
- 4- Farmers Union PSA ad
- 5- 2018 legislators chip away at initiated measure process
- 8- Today in Weather History
- 9- Today's Forecast
- 10- Yesterday's Weather
- 10- National Weather map
- 10- Today's Weather Almanac
- 11- Daily Devotional
- 12- 2018 Groton Community Events
- 13- News from the Associated Press

## Living Stations of the Cross to be presented March 28th

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church will again be portraying "The Living Stations of the Cross" on Wednesday, March 28, 2018 at 7 pm. There will be refreshments served afterwards. The Confirmation Class and HS Class will be the actors. Hannah Lewandowski and Luke Thorson are the co-Senior directors and Wyatt Locke and Alexis Simon are the co-Junior Directors. Wyatt and Alexis will take over next year and become the senior directors. The event will be Livestreamed at GDILIVE.COM.

**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**

## GT Robotics launches fundraiser

### Why are we selling raffle tickets?

We need the money to purchase parts for our robots. Parts break, wear out or need to be updated. Every year we need to replace some parts. Also, VEX is introducing a new control and motor system. VEX is telling us this will improve the durability and stability of the electronic system. Our five teams have had five cortexes break this year and forty motors fail. We have not seen pricing yet but rumors say it will be cost about \$1000 per team.

### Why does GT Robotics have to raise the money?

We are a self-supporting organization. The school provides us with a room to work in, and allows us use of a bus or van, if we provide fuel. Thank them when you talk to a school board member or one of the administration. All other expenses are paid by GT Robotics. Each year, GT Robotics spends about \$10,000.

### What expenses are there?

Parts, metal for structure, motors, electrical wiring, Cortex (micro-computer), nuts, bolts, tools, and tool boxes, fuel for the bus, tournament fees, VEX registration fees, computers (for programming and research).

### How else does GT Robotics raise money?

GT Robotics works the concession stand at school sporting events whenever we can. We solicit donations from local organizations and businesses in Groton and Aberdeen. Each member also pays a \$50 membership fee.

### Where did the prizes come from?

The greenhouse was a project of Mr. Donley's tech class. They did a great job, didn't they?! GT Robotics will be covering the cost of materials.

The 55" TV was donated by the Groton American Legion. Thank You!

The iPad Mini was donated by the Wambachs. Thank you!

The \$50 Dairy Queen Gift card was donated by the Smiths. Thank you!

### Who do I talk to if I want more information?

You may talk to any member of GT Robotics or our coach Jim Lane. His phone is 605-397-7013





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Olive Grove Golf Course was Geese Haven on Monday as flocks of geese took refuge on the golf course.



## Maintenance Supervisor Wanted:

Under the direction of the Facility Administrator, the Maintenance Supervisor oversees the daily operations of the Maintenance. Performs maintenance and repair of physical structures of buildings.

## Day Shift C.N.A. Wanted

Sign-on Bonus

☆☆☆ **\$1,500 for CNAs** ☆☆☆

Contact Brynn Pickrel or Nellie Hatfield at 605-397-2365 or apply in person.

EOE/AA/M/F/V/D-Drug Free Workplace



1106 N. 2nd Street, Groton



Sun Dial Manor in Bristol is accepting applications for **full time and part time CNA's**. 12 hr. shifts- days and nights (SIGN ON BONUS OFFERED)

## DIETARY OPENINGS

Full time cook, 8 hr. shifts (WITH SIGN ON BONUS)

Part time Dietary Tech

For more information, call 605-492-3615

## Tech institute tuition and state fees set for 2018-19

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. – The South Dakota Board of Technical Education approved 2018-19 state tuition and fees at the state's four technical institutes at its meeting today. The overall cost per credit hour will be \$157. Students will pay \$116 per credit hour in state tuition, which is a \$2 per credit hour increase. The following state fees will hold steady:

Facility fee: \$35 per credit hour

Maintenance and repair: \$5 per credit hour

Postsecondary transition fee\*: \$1 per credit hour

\*Postsecondary transition fees are used to support staff and activities designed to assist students in the transition to postsecondary education. This fee was formerly referred to as the technology fee.

"The leaders of our state technical institutes recognize the importance of affordability for students," said Nick Wendell, executive director of the South Dakota Board of Technical Education. "While tuition will go up slightly in 2018-19, the increase adopted by the board today is smaller than has occurred in each of the past five years."

## Groton Coffee Cup League

**Team Standings:** James Valley 31, Ten Pins 28, Jungle Lanes 20, Kens 17.

**High Games:** Vicki Walter 171, Joyce Watler 166, Gert Erickson 160

**High Series:** Joyce Walter 460, Vicki Walter 453, Gert Erickson 397

## Conde National League

**Team Standings:** Mets 28, Pirates 27, Braves 22, Colts 21, Cubs 19, Giants 15

**Men's High Games:** Lance Frohling 224, 192; Butch Farmen 214, 187; Larry Frohling 187

**Men's High Series:** Lance Frohling 597, Butch Farmen 565, Larry Frohling 469

**Women's High Games:** Joyce Walter 203, 194; Michelle Johnson 185; Alice Severson 182

**Women's High Series:** Joyce Walter 563, Alice Severson 491, Michelle Johnson 488



All auto owners!

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& grow your local economy  
by choosing low carbon  
**Super Premium E30's**

94 octane, more power,  
same mileage, fewer  
carbon deposits, lower  
maintenance costs,  
slashed benzene & related  
genotoxic, carcinogenic  
tailpipe emissions;

\*see sdfu.org's E30 tab for  
info, E30 prices\locations.

**\*Farmers Union's  
PSA: Courtesy Merle  
Anderson (Merle is 94  
year old founder of Ace  
and legendary ethanol  
supporter... "because it is  
the right thing to do")**

## 2018 legislators chip away at initiated measure process

By DIRK LAMMERS

PIERRE, S.D. – South Dakota lawmakers took aim at the state's century-old initiated measure and referendum process during the 2018 legislative session, passing nearly a dozen bills to tighten citizens' rights to propose their own laws.

Many of the measures emerged from the interim Initiative and Referendum Task Force, a bipartisan group that met during the spring, summer and fall of 2017. Several others came directly from GOP leaders such as House Speaker Mark Mickelson, who said he's fed up with out-of-state interests using the process to advance their own interests.

South Dakota in 1898 became the first state to allow citizens to initiate their own proposed laws out of fear that the state's legislators and governor could succumb to the influence of East Coast railroad money, but Mickelson said the process is "being cluttered and crowded out by folks that don't live here."

"So now, we get used as a testing ground because we've got cheap media markets and low ballot signature requirements to get on," Mickelson said.

Grassroots groups such as Dakota Rural Action opposed the vast majority of the bills, saying they're part of a chilling process that has been chipping away at citizens' constitutional rights.

"We did not ask for the plethora of bills coming out of that task force, many of which, in our opinion, undermine the process," said Rebecca Turk, Dakota Rural Action's lobbyist.

The 2017 Legislature created the interim task force after voters in November 2016 passed a sweeping campaign finance reform bill (later repealed by legislators) and a victims' rights bill backed by out-of-state interests.

One measure put forward by the task force, Senate Joint Resolution 1, aims to raise the passage threshold for initiated constitutional amendments from a simple majority to a 55-percent margin. The resolution passed both chambers, putting the issue on the November ballot.

Task force chairman Sen. Jim Bolin, R-Canton, said the change is necessary to protect the state's constitution.

Sen. Reynold Nesiba, D-Sioux Falls, one of two task force members to oppose the idea, sees no sense in raising the vote threshold to an arbitrary number, but his opposition centers much on timing. Voters are still fuming over the Legislature's 2017 repeal of Initiated Measure 22, the 2016 ballot initiative that sought to reform state campaign finance and ethics laws, he said.

"Bringing this up right now a year after we had that contentious conversation is really horrible timing and is disrespecting the peoples' voice in South Dakota," Nesiba said.

Lawmakers during the 2018 session also considered 16 bills on initiated measures and referendums during the 37-day session, passing 11 and defeating five.

House Bill 1177, a non-task-force bill sponsored by Rep. Drew Dennert, R-Aberdeen, and Sen. Jeff Monroe, R-Pierre, requires that circulated petitions include the name, phone number and email address of the circulator and a statement about whether that person is a volunteer or is being paid. Paid circulators must also reveal how much they are being paid.

The original version required petition circulators to provide a residential address, but that was removed by amendment out of safety and privacy concerns.

Mickelson, R-Sioux Falls, said the signature-collection process in South Dakota has become anonymous, with the job often performed by folks who don't reside in the state. He said the goal is to shed some light on who is doing the work.

Senate Minority Leader Billie Sutton unsuccessfully urged colleagues to vote down the bill, saying it strips power from grassroots organizations and residents.

"I think it could have a chilling effect on volunteers having to go through a little bit of an onerous process," said Sutton, D-Burke.

House Bill 1196, a non-task-force bill sponsored by Mickelson, further raises the stakes against out-of-state-circulators.



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It requires each circulator to file a sworn affidavit with the secretary of state providing seven personal details, including the current state in which the petition circulator is licensed to drive, a driver license number, the current state of voter registration, the length of time at the current street address and two previous addresses.

Turk noted the ludicrous nature of two of the bill's additional disclosure demands:

- One requires that circulators provide the current physical street address of their immediate family. "People don't necessarily live in the same state as their immediate family," she said.

- Another requires that circulators sign a sworn statement indicating they plan to stay in the state of South Dakota after gathering signatures. "What if they don't?" Turk asked.

Rep. David Lust, R-Rapid City, said he understands HB 1196's intent but called the expansive legislation a "terrible overreach" and "a litigator's dream."

"This has gotten way off the rails," Lust told his fellow House State Affairs Committee members.

Few heeded Lust's warning, as the committee approved the measure by an 8-4 margin. It passed the House and Senate and awaits the signature of Gov. Dennis Daugaard.

House Bill 1007, which was advanced by the task force, requires that no initiated measure embrace more than one subject. Rep. Tona Rozum, R-Mitchell, said the bill is in response to voters' 2016 passage of IM 22, which dealt with at least five subjects: campaign limits, campaign finance, task force creation, democracy credits and a legislative appropriation.

Voters approved IM 22 on a 52 percent to 48 percent vote, prompting state legislators to file suit and secure an injunction to block the law from taking effect. Calling IM-22 "unworkable," Mickelson convinced legislators to repeal the measure and replace it with several weakened provisions. Voters in November will make another attempt at campaign finance and ethics reform with Constitutional Amendment W.

House Bill 1304, a non-task-force bill sponsored by Mickelson and Sen. Blake Curd, R-Sioux Falls, makes two changes to the challenge process for ballot initiatives and referendums. It allows challengers to use the secretary of state's signature verification results in court and it would require that the sponsor, not the attorney general, to defend against any challenge.

Other less controversial bills tweaking the process, all introduced by the task force, won passage during the session:

- House Bill 1004 ensures that the Board of Elections has the ability to determine the size of the petition and the font size.

- House Bill 1005 simplifies the language regarding the effect of a vote on certain ballot measures.

- House Bill 1006 expands the role of the Legislative Research Council in commenting on submitted ballot initiative and referendum language, allowing the director to make substantive comments in addition to making style and form corrections. The bill also limits the time the LRC must respond, essentially blacking out the dates from Dec. 1 through the end of the legislative session in March.

- Senate bills 9 and 13 require that sponsors of initiated measures and amendments include fiscal notes when the proposed legislation could affect the state budget.

- Senate Bill 10 determines that if two or more passed initiated measures or amendments to the Constitution contradict each other, the one earning the most votes wins.

- Senate Bill 11 requires that sponsors of initiatives or initiated constitutional amendments submit a copy of the measure to the Legislative Research Council for review and comment not more than six months before it may be circulated for signatures.

Legislators did reject five measures related to the initiated measure and constitutional amendment process:

- Mickelson's House Bill 1201 sought to require petition sponsors to disclose the total amount of compensation, consideration or other remuneration received for their efforts. It was killed on the House floor 34-32.

- House Bill 1275, sponsored by Speaker Pro Tempore Rep. Steven Haugaard, R-Sioux Falls, would have expanded the signature requirements for ballot initiatives by requiring that signatures be gathered from qualified electors from a majority of the senate districts. House members rejected the measure on

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a 20-45 vote.

- House Bill 1302, sponsored by Rep. Chip Campbell, R-Rapid City and Sen. Lance Russell, R-Hot Springs, sought to prohibit initiated measure or constitutional amendment ballot groups from paying petition circulators. It was unanimously killed in the House State Affairs Committee.

- Senate Bill 12, put forth by the task force but defeated on the Senate floor 16-17, would have required petition circulators make available the full text of a ballot measure to petition signers instead of requiring that the full text be placed on the petition.

- Senate Bill 124, sponsored by several members of the task force but not endorsed by the full group, would have provided a felony penalty for certain violations of petition circulation laws. The Senate Judiciary Committee killed the bill on a 6-1 vote.

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## Today in Weather History

March 28, 1977: A slow-moving storm system affected South Dakota from March 28th through March 30th, 1977. The storm produced heavy snow in the west and thunderstorms in the east. Northerly winds gusting to 50 miles an hour in the West created blizzard conditions as the snow totals mounted. Some areas in western Butte, Pennington, northern Shannon, and Lawrence counties received over 20 inches of snow. With drifts exceeding 6 to 8 feet many people in western South Dakota thought it was the worst blizzard in a quarter century. A few locations in the northern Black Hills received over 4 feet of snow. Because of blocked roads, westbound traffic was halted on I-90, and many schools and businesses were forced to close for several days. Across the eastern portion of the state rains of over 1" fell in many areas. Milbank even reported walnut size hail.

1920: The worst tornado disaster of record occurred in Chicago, IL as a tornado killed 28 persons and caused three million dollars damage. This tornado was part of an outbreak which saw 38 tornadoes hit the Midwest and the Deep South states. Over 380 people died, and at least, 1,215 were injured during the Palm Sunday outbreak.

1935: On this date through March 31st, a great dust storm descended on Amarillo, Texas reducing visibility to zero for a six-hour period.

1963: A decision was handed down in the case of Whitney Bartie vs. the United States of America. Bartie sued the U.S. Weather Bureau for negligence in failing to provide a warning about Hurricane Audrey in 1957. Bartie's wife and five children were killed after the 12-foot storm surge struck Cameron Parish, LA on the morning of June 27, 1957. It was ruled that the evidence presented did not establish negligence on the part of the Weather Bureau.

1917 - Thane Creek, AK, reported a snow cover of 190 inches. (The Weather Channel)

1984 - A violent outbreak of tornadoes hit the Carolinas. Thunderstorms spawned 22 tornadoes during the late afternoon and evening hours which killed 57 persons and injured 1248 others. Nearly half the deaths occurred in mobile homes. A tornado from near Tatum SC to southern Cumberland County NC was 2.5 miles in width at times. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A blizzard raged from southern Nebraska to central Iowa. Snowfall totals ranged up to 17 inches at Blue Hill NE. Winds gusted to 68 mph at Carroll IA. High winds produced snow drifts twenty feet high in western Iowa, and produced wind chill readings as cold as 30 degrees below zero in Nebraska. The snowfall total of 9.4 inches at Omaha NE was a record for the date. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Severe thunderstorms in central Oklahoma produced hail up to four inches in diameter causing 35 million dollars in southern Oklahoma County. Baseball size hail and seven inches of rain caused another eighteen million dollars damage in Stephens County. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Unseasonably warm weather prevailed from the Southern and Central Plains to the Atlantic coast. Eighteen cities reported new record high temperatures for the date. The afternoon high of 81 degrees at Beckley WV was a record for March, and the high of 90 degrees in downtown Baltimore MD tied their March record. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - A storm system brought heavy snow to the west central and southern mountains of Wyoming, and high winds to the Wasatch Mountains of northern Utah. Snowfall totals in Wyoming ranged up to ten inches at the Snowy Ski Range Area, and the storm pushed the snowfall total for the month at Cheyenne above 37 inches, surpassing their previous record for March of 35 inches. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

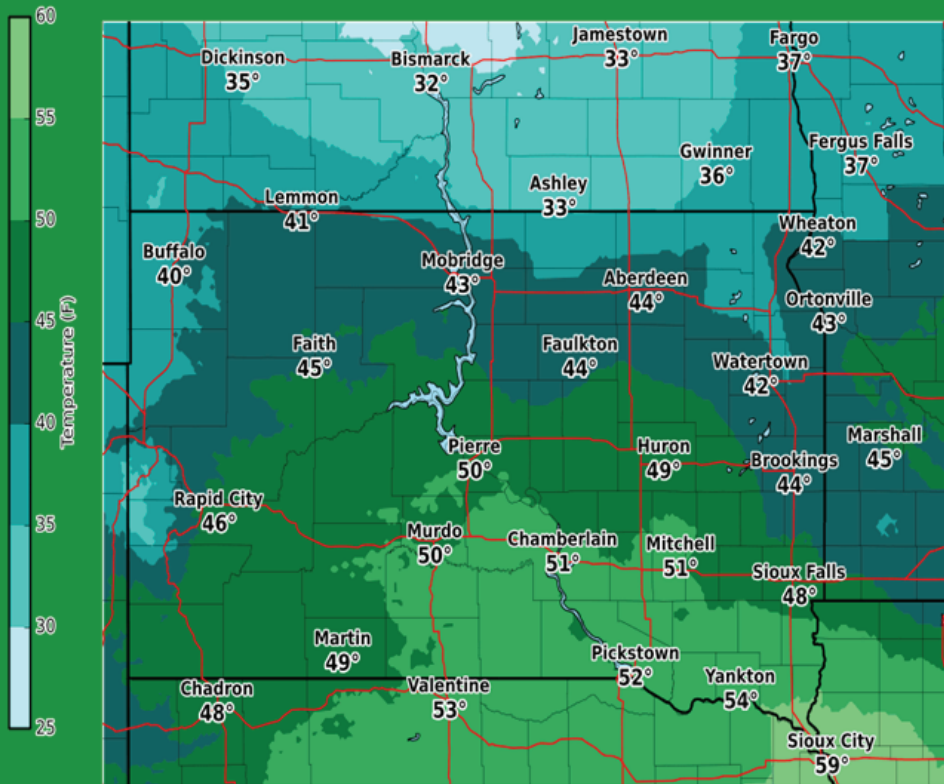


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Wed Mar 28	Thu Mar 29	Fri Mar 30	Sat Mar 31	Sun Apr 1	Mon Apr 2	Tue Apr 3
43°F	40°F	38°F	25°F	32°F	38°F	34°F
20°F	22°F	14°F	8°F	18°F	18°F	31°F
SW 22 MPH	NW 6 MPH	N 10 MPH Precip 40%	N 16 MPH	W 11 MPH Precip 20%	SSW 11 MPH Precip 20%	NNE 13 MPH

## A Bit Cooler Today



Much Colder  
Starting  
Fri/Sat!



Light  
Snow/Rain  
Possible  
Thursday  
Night  
Through  
Friday Night



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 3/28/2018 4:28 AM Central

Published on: 03/28/2018 at 4:35AM

With high pressure over the region, temperatures are expected to be a bit cooler today. However, the bigger news is for the weekend. A very cold air mass up north will slide into the region beginning Thursday night, and should stick around through Easter. Light snow or rain is also expected with this system, especially across northern and western South Dakota.

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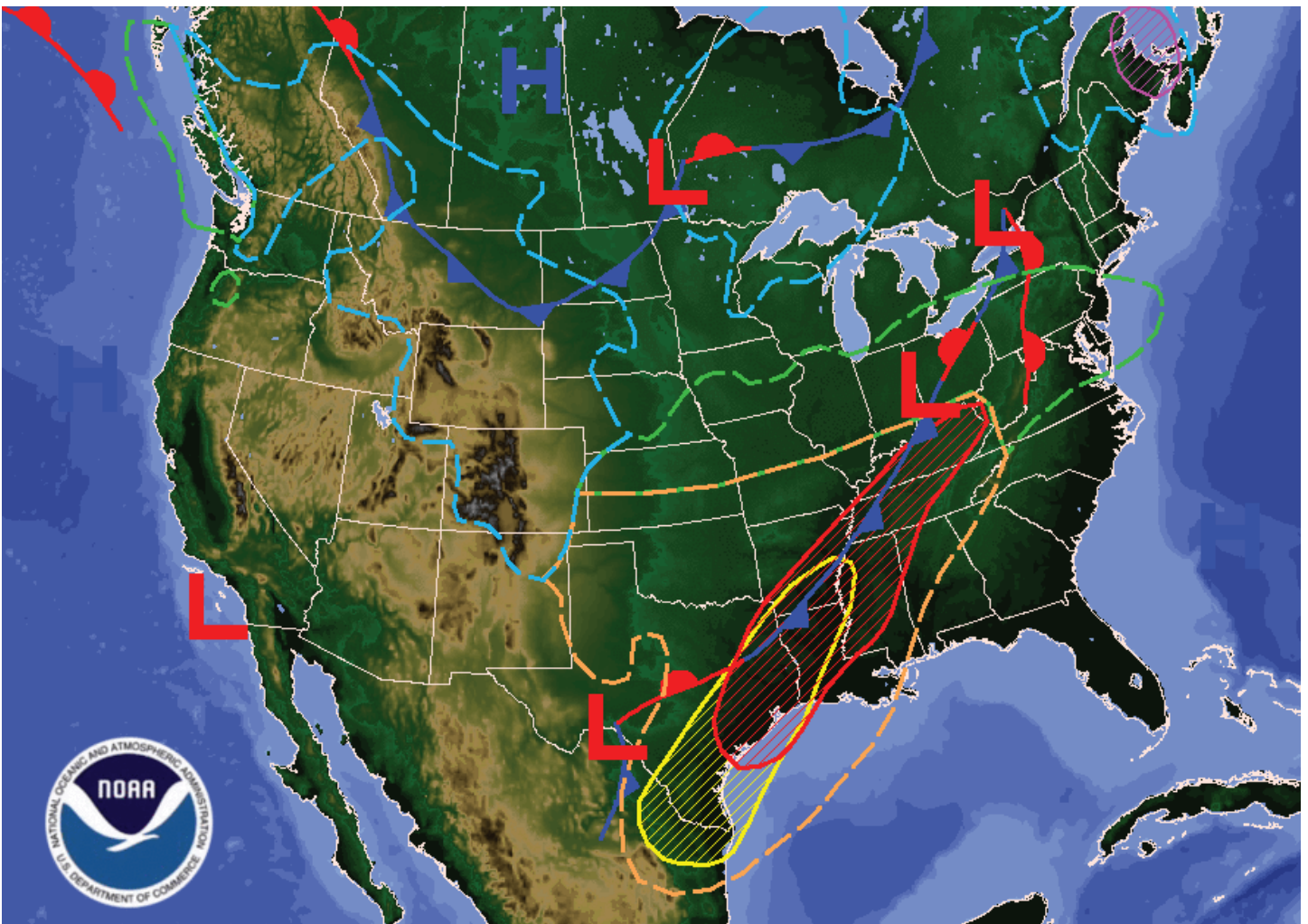
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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 54.6 F at 4:17 PM**  
**Low Outside Temp: 26.5 F at 6:37 AM**  
**Wind Chill:**  
**High Gust: 19.0 Mph at 3:31 PM**  
**Precip: 0.52**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 82° in 1946**  
**Record Low: -10° in 1913**  
**Average High: 46°F**  
**Average Low: 25°F**  
**Average Precip in March: 1.01**  
**Precip to date in March: 1.66**  
**Average Precip to date: 2.03**  
**Precip Year to Date: 2.07**  
**Sunset Tonight: 7:56 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:19 a.m.**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Wed, Mar 28, 2018, issued 4:08 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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## MY GOD! MY JOY!

A professor of philosophy stood before his class and said, "The whole world is desperately searching for joy and happiness. But no one has been able to find its source. Psychologists cannot find it, physicians cannot find it, comedians cannot find it. It has eluded everyone. Some feel that they have been close to its source only to discover that they were on the wrong path. It is so very elusive and all were left disillusioned and disappointed."

Even the word happiness is deceptive. It gives its self away. The root of the word is "hap" which means "chance." Human happiness is dependent on the chances and changes in life. It is something which life may give and then suddenly take away.

A diagnosis of cancer, a crash in the stock market, a new management team at work - even a change in the weather can take away the passing sensation of joy and happiness.

But there is a sure, certain source of joy and happiness - or gladness as the Bible calls it - that is available to everyone who seeks it. It cannot be destroyed or disturbed; it provides a serenity that is immovable. It "covers" loss and grief, pain and sickness, darkness and death. No one or nothing can destroy it.

The writer of Psalm 97 said, "Lord, may Your people rejoice in You; and praise Your holy name." God will give His everlasting joy and gladness to those who place their faith, hope and trust in Jesus Christ, His Son. His peace and presence are promised to His beloved.

Prayer: We thank You, Heavenly Father, for the joy that is ours today and every day through Your Son our Savior. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 97:12 Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, And give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.

## 2018 Groton SD Community Events

- Groton Lion's Club Bingo- Wednesday Nights 6:30pm at the Groton Legion (Year Round)
- 11/18/2017-3/31/2018 Groton Lion's Club Wheel of Meat- Saturday Nights 7pm at the Groton Legion (Fall/Winter Months)
- 1/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 3/24/2018 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 4/13/2018 Elementary School Carnival, 5 p.m.
- 5/5/2018 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 5/27/2018 Historic Trinity Church Pump Organ Concert.
- 5/28/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program at the Cemetery, Lunch to follow at the American Legion (Memorial Day)
- 6/14/2018 Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
- 6/15/2018 SDSU Golf at Olive Grove
- 6/16/2018 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 7/4/2018 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 7/22/2018 Summer Fest (4th Sunday in July)
- 9/8/2018 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 10/6/2018 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/12/2018 Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2018 Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
- 11/10/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/01/2018 Olive Grove Golf Course 2018 Holiday Party
  
- Best Ball Golf Tourney
- SDSU Golf Tourney
- Sunflower Golf Tourney
- Santa Claus Day
- Fireman's Stag
- Tour of Homes
- Crazy Dayz/Open Houses
- School Events



## News from the Associated Press

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

07-25-43-56-59, Mega Ball: 13, Megaplier: 3

(seven, twenty-five, forty-three, fifty-six, fifty-nine; Mega Ball: thirteen; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$458 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$40 million

### National Music Museum at USD to expand

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota museum that boasts one of the world's largest collections of musical instruments is about to get bigger.

The National Music Museum at the University of South Dakota plans to add about 16,000 square feet at an estimated cost of \$9.5 million.

The expansion will add two floors plus an underground level to the existing Carnegie building.

Funding has already been raised privately by the museum's board, with up to \$1.5 million of that amount to be covered by the University of South Dakota.

KELO.com reports the expansion includes new exhibit space, a gallery dedicated to temporary exhibits, a new performance hall and a new conservation lab.

The museum has 1,200 instruments on display and more than 15,000 in its holdings. A groundbreaking date will be announced soon.

### Small airline Great Lakes suspends flight operations

By The Associated Press

Great Lakes Airlines, which operated small turboprop planes between destinations in the West and Midwest, has suspended flying.

The airline says in a note on its website that it stopped scheduled flights at midnight Monday but has not filed for bankruptcy protection and continues to operate parts of its business.

The airline did not immediately respond to messages on Tuesday.

Great Lakes served fewer than a dozen destinations, linking big cities including Los Angeles, Phoenix and Denver with smaller destinations like Telluride, Colorado, and Prescott, Arizona.

On its website, the airline is giving instructions for refunds.

The company says partner Aerodynamics Inc. will operate Great Lakes Jet Express flights between Denver and Pierre and Watertown, South Dakota.

### Board approves tuition increase for tech school students

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Board of Technical Education has approved a slight tuition increase at the state's four technical institutes for the upcoming school year.

The board voted Tuesday for the \$2-per-credit hour increase, which officials anticipate will generate roughly \$355,000 in additional revenue. The board says students will pay \$116 per credit hour in state tuition, with an overall cost of \$157 per credit hour in tuition and fees.

A board document says the increase equates to \$60 more per year for an average full-time student. Board of Technical Education executive director Nick Wendell says state tech institute leaders recognize the importance of affordability for students. He says the board's tuition increase is smaller than those in each of the past five years.

## Sioux Falls withholds park audit after 5-year-old drowns

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls officials have declined to release a copy of a 2016 safety audit of Falls Park after a 5-year-old Iowa girl drowned in the area.

City officials used the audit last week to argue that the park's safety precautions are adequate after authorities recovered the body of Maggie Zaiger, who died March 18 after falling into the Big Sioux River at Falls Park. Maggie's mother and some elected officials have called for more safety measures at the park, including a fence or barricade near the river's edge.

The Argus Leader filed a formal request with the city under South Dakota's open records law March 20 seeking a copy of the document.

The day following Maggie's death, Sioux Falls Emergency Manager Regan Smith said in a briefing that the audit was conducted by an independent loss control specialist in partnership with the city and the South Dakota Public Assurance Alliance, the city's insurance company.

Any existing documents relating to the audit belong to Assurance Alliance, said Heather Hitterdal, a spokeswoman for Mayor Mike Huether.

"We have learned that the city did not contract with any third-party loss control specialist to do the review, rather the city's risk sharing pool, the South Dakota Public Assurance Alliance (SDPAA), did. We have referred the record request to the SDPAA," Hitterdal said in an email. "Documents, if any, would be in the custody of the SDPAA."

The newspaper made a formal request for the audit from the insurance company Monday.

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

## Candidate filing deadline Tuesday for June primary election

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The Secretary of State's office says it's time for candidates to file their nominating petitions for the June primary election.

The office says the filing deadline is Tuesday. Candidates can also send petitions using registered mail by 5:00 p.m. to their county auditor for county races and the Secretary of State's office for statewide or legislative contests.

The primary election will be held June 5.

## County commission repeals turkey barn building permit

IPSWICH, S.D. (AP) — The Edmunds County Commission has rescinded a turkey barn building permit so it can be reconsidered at a Wednesday planning and zoning meeting.

The American News reports the decision came during a Monday public hearing sparked by a petition appealing the building permit. The planning and zoning commission granted the permit earlier this month.

Mary Curtis says she lives within a half-mile of the proposed barn. She says the March 8 planning and zoning commission meeting's agenda wasn't published on the county's website, contrary to open meetings law.

County commission Chairman Robert Olson conceded the agenda wasn't published online, and the panel sent the permit back to the planning and zoning board.

Sixty-one county residents signed a petition calling on commissioners to retract the permit. Curtis says she's worried about odors from the barn.

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

## **Snowmobile season closing in Black Hills**

LEAD, S.D. (AP) — The snowmobile season is coming to a close in the Black Hills.

The season ends on Saturday. South Dakota district parks manager Shannon Percy says the start of the season in December and early January was slow, but then more snow arrived in February and March to make for a good season on the trails.

Percy tells KOTA-TV the Black Hills are generally rated in the top five in the nation for snowmobile trails. Three-hundred-50 miles of trails run through the Black Hills.

Information from: KOTA-TV, <http://www.kotatv.com>

## **Porcupine woman to plead guilty in beating death of toddler**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Pine Ridge Reservation woman accused of beating her 2-year-old son to death after he wet his bed has reached a plea deal with prosecutors.

The Rapid City Journal reports 30-year-old Katrina Shangreaux, of Porcupine, is to plead guilty to second-degree murder in the death of 2-year-old Kylen Shangreaux in July 2016. She says in court documents she'd been drinking alcohol and taking pain medication.

She could face life in prison. A sentencing date wasn't immediately scheduled.

Shangreaux's mother and the boy's grandmother, Sonya Dubray, has pleaded not guilty to hindering the investigation.

The boy's father is serving time in federal prison for abuse and neglect of a son with a different woman.

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

## **Pierre man arrested after theft of newspaper carrier's truck**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A Pierre man is jailed after police say he stole a pickup truck full of newspapers and led officers on a high-speed chase west of Fort Pierre.

Pierre Police Chief Jason Jones says the newspaper carrier had just begun delivering 246 papers shortly before 2:30 a.m. Monday when his truck was stolen.

A Stanley County sheriff's deputy spotted the truck and tried to stop it, and a chase ensued. It ended when the driver lost control and the truck rolled.

The 19-year-old driver was arrested on several charges including drunken driving and grand theft.

The paper carrier was able to finish his routes with help from another Capital Journal employee.

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

## **Beetles no longer epidemic in Black Hills National Forest**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Aerial surveys indicate that 4,700 acres of the Black Hills National Forest in South Dakota and Wyoming were affected by mountain pine beetles last year.

That's higher than the 2,500 acres that were affected in 2016 but still below what the U.S. Forest Service considers an epidemic.

The mountain pine beetle is native to the Black Hills forest ecosystem. The most recent epidemic lasted from 1996 to 2016 and affected about 450,000 acres. There have been several others dating to the late 1890s, each lasting eight to 13 years.

## North Dakota to ask feds for money for pipeline protest cost

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The state of North Dakota still plans to go after the federal government to recoup costs associated with policing the Dakota Access oil pipeline protests in the state.

Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem tells The Bismarck Tribune he plans to file a claim with the Army Corps of Engineers and possibly other federal agencies. If it's rejected, the state might sue.

Protests in 2016 and 2017 brought thousands of pipeline opponents to the state who at times clashed with police, resulting in 761 arrests over a six-month span.

The state's protest-related costs total nearly \$38 million. Texas-based pipeline developer Energy Transfer Partners has given North Dakota \$15 million to help with the bills. The state also has received a \$10 million grant from the U.S. Justice Department for the same purpose.

Information from: Bismarck Tribune, <http://www.bismarcktribune.com>

## Delores Taylor, co-star of 'Billy Jack' films, dies at 85

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Delores Taylor, who co-starred with her husband Tom Laughlin in his productions of the "Billy Jack" series of films, has died in Southern California, her daughter said Monday. She was 85.

Teresa Laughlin told The Associated Press that Taylor died March 23 of natural causes at the Motion Picture and Television Fund Home near Los Angeles. She said her mother had suffered from dementia.

Taylor was born in 1932 in Winner, South Dakota. She grew up near the Rosebud Indian Reservation, an experience which she drew from when creating the namesake character of the "Billy Jack" films in the 1970s.

Taylor starred in three of the four "Billy Jack" films in which she played a teacher whose progressive school is defended by Billy Jack — a half-white, half-Native American Vietnam veteran who had come to hate war. The films became counterculture favorites.

Billy Jack was first seen in the 1968 biker movie "Born Losers," but became widely known after "Billy Jack," the second of four films Laughlin made about him (only three made it to theaters).

"Billy Jack" was released in 1971 after a long struggle by Laughlin to gain control of the low-budget, self-financed movie, a model for guerrilla filmmaking. The film became a surprise hit and the theme song, "One Tin Soldier," was a hit single for the rock group Coven.

Taylor was nominated for a Golden Globe for New Star of the Year in 1972.

Her daughter said Taylor was a "reluctant" celebrity and preferred her roles of wife, mother and grandmother.

"She loved performing but didn't enjoy the Hollywood trappings," Teresa Laughlin said.

Taylor is survived by two sisters, three children and five grandchildren. Tom Laughlin died in 2013.

## Judge: Man unfit for trial in Sioux Falls double killing

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A judge has ruled a man incompetent to stand trial on charges he killed his mother and nephew in Sioux Falls in 2016.

Minnehaha County Circuit Judge Bradley Zell ruled Monday that 25-year-old Heath Otto is unable to help his attorneys in his defense.

Otto's trial was put on hold in January after his attorneys said a doctor found him incompetent.

Authorities allege Otto killed his mother, 48-year-old Carol Simon, and his 7-year-old nephew, Brayden Otto, at a Sioux Falls mobile home in November 2016. Authorities say Heath Otto told police he strangled them and slit their throats because his mother was sick and his nephew was handicapped. He faces murder charges.

The Argus Leader reports prosecutors may seek a re-evaluation if Otto's condition improves.

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



## South Dakota lawmakers unable to override governor's vetoes

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota lawmakers failed Monday to override Gov. Dennis Daugaard's vetoes, including proposals to move up the start date for introducing legislation and to give home-schooled students another path to a state scholarship.

The Legislature met for the final day of the 2018 legislative session to debate vetoes from the Republican governor, but lawmakers didn't muster the two-thirds margin required to overcome any of his three regular vetoes. Daugaard last week rejected the three bills and issued two style-and-form vetoes of measures from the session that convened Jan. 9.

"I'm pleased that the Legislature agreed with me — or at least a sizeable enough minority agreed with me that the vetoes were sustained," Daugaard said after the votes.

Republican Sen. Jack Kolbeck, the sponsor of the scholarship bill, unsuccessfully pushed for an override, saying it sought to "create fairness."

All students who get at least a 28 ACT score or 1250 SAT score are eligible for the Opportunity Scholarship for residents who attend South Dakota colleges. Students who complete specific coursework at accredited high schools can be eligible with a lower ACT score of 24. The bill would have allowed home-schoolers such a path.

"We're denying a lot of people who are very talented from having the scholarship because we've set an artificial limit," said Republican Sen. Lance Russell, a bill supporter.

Daugaard argued in his veto message the bill would hold home-schoolers to a lower standard than public or private high schools graduates, writing that there's no accreditation requirement for home-school courses. The push didn't advance out of the Senate.

Across the Capitol rotunda, representatives voted not to override Daugaard's rejection of a bill that aimed to impose new requirements for college tuition assistance programs.

The veto override attempt for a measure that would have allowed lawmakers to pre-file legislation earlier also fell short in the House. GOP Rep. Elizabeth May, the sponsor, said it was about improving transparency for South Dakota citizens.

Right now, lawmakers can file bills within 30 days of a legislative session. The bill would have allowed lawmakers to file up to 10 bills after the official canvass in an election year and July 1 during an odd-numbered year until the session's start.

Daugaard wrote in his veto letter that the bill would have given legislators the ability to seek media attention throughout the year by filing a bill to address "any newsworthy topic." He called that a "grandstanding tactic that is all too common in Washington, D.C."

Looking forward, the Legislature's Executive Board voted on two topics to study ahead of next year's session. It will examine access to mental health services in South Dakota and the increasing need for special education in schools.

Lawmakers on Monday officially adjourned the 2018 legislative session, which was Daugaard's last as governor. He gave a speech to legislators, saying they can be proud of a successful session as they return home. House Speaker Mark Mickelson also isn't running for re-election.

"For those of you, well, who are leaving with me, and for those of you who are staying behind: a wise man once told me, 'Opportunity and security seldom travel the same path,'" Mickelson said. "It's been a pleasure serving with you."

## New South Dakota education standards mirror Common Core

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Secretary of Education Don Kirkegaard announced the state has officially replaced its Common Core standards.

But a newspaper analysis by the Argus Leader indicated that nearly 75 percent of the new South Dakota State Standards approved last week by the state Board of Education were taken verbatim or almost verbatim from Common Core.

Math standards matched Common Core at a slightly higher rate than English overall, but both subjects were between 60 and 65 percent identical to former standards, according to the analysis.

The last time South Dakota updated its reading, writing and math standards was when it adopted Common Core in 2010. Common Core standards have received pushback throughout the state and efforts to remove them have been thwarted over the years.

Two parents sued Gov. Dennis Daugaard and the state in 2015, alleging that South Dakota's adoption of the Common Core standards was illegal. A judge ruled against them.

State legislators proposed a bill last year that would've replaced Common Core with standards from Massachusetts, but it failed in the Senate Education Committee.

Nicole Osmundson is a Sioux Falls parent who helped review the new standards because of her skepticism of Common Core.

"We took every single standard, looked at it — it was painstaking at times, to be honest — and fit it to the needs of South Dakota students," Osmundson said.

She said if the standards mirror what they were before, it's because they're good standards.

Kirkegaard said it's not unusual for standards to look similar after a revision. He said the focus should be on the changes that are unique to the state.

"Our standards are going to be similar to standards across the nation, but they really are ours," he said.

The new standards will be fully implemented this fall.

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

## South Dakota men's basketball coach headed for Utah State

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — University of South Dakota men's basketball head coach Craig Smith has accepted the same position at Utah State in the Mountain West Conference.

Smith spent four seasons with South Dakota tallying a 79-55 record, including a record 26 wins this season. The Coyotes captured the 2016-2017 Summit League Championship and have played in the post-season in each of the past two seasons.

Smith earned the 2016-2017 Summit League Coach of the Year honors along with being named the NABC District 12 Coach of the Year.

The university says a national search for a new head coach begins immediately.

## Major street construction project begins in Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A \$12 million street construction project is getting underway in Sioux Falls.

The 2018 flagship project will divert traffic on the city's west side during the first phase that begins Monday. Six-thousand drivers using Ellis Rd. are finding alternative routes. The project is expected to take eight months.

The Argus Leader says it will expand the current two-lane rural roadway into a four-lane concrete street with a median and turn lanes at select intersections. Storm drainage, water main and streetlight networks will also be upgraded.

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

## Bright light on family of Sacramento police shooting victim

By SOPHIA BOLLAG and DON THOMPSON, Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — A blinding national spotlight is shining on the family of Stephon Clark, the 22-year-old unarmed black man killed by Sacramento police last week.

"You don't know what it's like until you experience it," Clark's uncle, Curtis Gordon, told The Associated Press in an interview Tuesday. "You can see it on TV, it's totally OK to deal with those realities when it's

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just through a television and they're not in your home. It's different now."

Television cameras and national media were there Monday for a news conference where Gordon supported Clark's grandmother, who sobbed uncontrollably as she recounted the shooting and asked why something significantly less lethal than a barrage of 20 bullets could not have been used by police.

They were there Tuesday morning when the city's first black police chief pleaded for calm after more than a week of unrest and later in the day when Clark's brother and supporters disrupted a City Council meeting and then demonstrators for a second time blocked thousands of NBA fans from entering the arena for the hometown Kings game.

They will be there Wednesday for Clark's wake and on Thursday when the Rev. Al Sharpton plans to give the eulogy at Clark's funeral.

For all the angst and raw emotions, grieving and weary family members are skeptical that any substantive change will result before the next young black man dies from police gunfire and siphons away the national media and banner headlines.

"So we appreciate the conversation, but conversation without implementation of some true reformation means nothing," Gordon said. "It brought us to this moment, but what about tomorrow? What about next week?"

"You know, sadly, I have no confidence in America and the fact that I will probably hear another story sometime this year of an innocent life lost over excessive police force. It's so common, you're numb to it."

Clark was killed March 18 when two Sacramento police officers responding to a report of someone breaking car windows fatally shot him in his grandparents' backyard. Police say they believe Clark was the suspect and he ran when a police helicopter responded, then did not obey officers' orders.

Police say they thought Clark was holding a gun when he moved toward them, but he was found only with a cellphone.

The California attorney general's office on Tuesday joined the investigation, a move Sacramento Police Chief Daniel Hahn said he hopes will bring "faith and transparency" to a case that he said has sparked "extremely high emotions, anger and hurt in our city."

Attorney General Xavier Becerra's office will provide oversight of the investigation and conduct a review of the police department's policies and use-of-force training. The decision of whether to bring criminal charges against the officers involved remains with District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert, although Becerra said his office could also bring charges.

Clark's family is skeptical that the investigation will provide appropriate results, Gordon said.

"It's all talk at this point," he said. "Show me."

African-Americans have been dealing with implicit and explicit bias for centuries, Gordon said. Many factors play a role but he said one necessity is for police forces to do a better job weeding out those who should not be officers.

Clark's family is leaning on their faith as they face a public wake Wednesday and a two-hour funeral Thursday, both at Bayside of South Sacramento Church. Clark leaves behind a fiancée and two children, ages 1 and 3.

"We trust in a spiritual realm, in our Creator, to give us undiscovered strength," Gordon said.

"We will make it through this. And that's the thing, 'cause it's bigger than us and we have to accept that. We carry that torch for Stephon."

## Kim, Xi portray strong ties after NKorea leader's China trip

By GILLIAN WONG and KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — With smiles and firm handshakes, North Korea and China used a surprise summit this week to show that despite recent tensions, Pyongyang still has a powerful backer and Beijing will not be sidelined in discussions about the fate of its unpredictable neighbor.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's secretive talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing appear aimed at improving both countries' positions ahead of Kim's anticipated meetings with South Korean Presi-

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dent Moon Jae-in and U.S. President Donald Trump in the coming weeks.

A key objective for Beijing is to reassert its relevance to the talks, from which it has been excluded. China has appeared increasingly shut out as its relations with the North deteriorated and Pyongyang reached out to Seoul and Washington.

"Kim Jong Un's visit shows that China is not marginalized, but playing a leading role. This saves China a lot of face," said Pang Zhongying, a North Korea expert at Renmin University in Beijing.

"North Korea once again is taking advantage of China," Pang said. "It plays the China card, showing South Korea and the U.S.: China is still my ally."

Official reports from both countries on Wednesday depicted in effusive terms warm ties between the leaders in an effort to downplay recent tensions over Kim's development of nuclear weapons and long-range missiles.

In the reports, "Kim reaffirms the traditional friendship between the two countries as if nothing had ever happened, when the relationship had plummeted to unprecedented lows," said Bonnie Glaser, an Asia expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Ties in recent months have frayed as China supported tougher U.N. sanctions on North Korea and suspended coal and iron ore imports. Pyongyang last year seemingly sought to humiliate Beijing by timing some of its missile tests for major global summits in China.

Kim made the visit to China at Xi's invitation, China's official Xinhua News Agency said, in his first trip to a foreign country since he took power in 2011. Xinhua said the trip ran from Sunday to Wednesday but appeared to include travel time from Pyongyang on the special armored train that Kim traveled on, which secretly arrived in Beijing on Monday and left Tuesday afternoon.

Rumors of Kim's presence began circulating on Monday night, with the spotting of his special train, Chinese security teams and official delegations at the border city of Dandong and various points in Beijing.

Although China sought to keep Kim's visit secret, and described it Wednesday as "unofficial," it accorded him full honors due to a head of state, including a formal welcoming ceremony and troop review at the Great Hall of the People in central Beijing.

Xi and his wife, Peng Liyuan, also hosted a banquet for Kim and his wife, Ri Sol Ju, and they watched an art performance together, Xinhua said.

"We speak highly of this visit," Xi told Kim, according to Xinhua.

For China, the visit also projects to its public that Xi is firmly in charge of steering Beijing's relations with North Korea in a way that favors China's interests.

"Here is Xi Jinping saying, 'Don't worry, everything is going to be great,'" Glaser said.

Trump tweeted Wednesday that he had received a message from Xi saying that his meeting with Kim "went very well" and that Kim "looks forward to his meeting with me."

"For years and through many administrations, everyone said that peace and the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula was not even a small possibility," he tweeted. "Now there is a good chance that Kim Jong Un will do what is right for his people and for humanity. Look forward to our meeting!"

Analysts say Kim would have felt a need to consult with China ahead of summits with Moon and Trump. His famously reclusive father, Kim Jong Il, made his first visit to China as North Korean leader in May 2000, reportedly to consult with the Chinese leadership ahead of his summit with South Korea's then-leader, Kim Dae-jung.

China would also not want Kim's first foreign meeting to be with someone other than Xi.

"This is China asserting its regional hegemony and influence, saying, 'Hey, you talk to me first,'" said Michael Kovrig, senior adviser for Northeast Asia at the International Crisis Group.

In video aired by China's state broadcaster China Central Television, Kim appeared reserved and collected as he sat at a long table across from Xi. Kim wore horn-rimmed glasses and was shown jotting down notes and speaking in a calm manner. In contrast, while meeting with South Korean envoys earlier this month, Kim was shown by his state media frequently smiling, bursting into laughter, proposing toasts and waving at departing limousines.

Kim was described by Xinhua as saying that his country wants "reconciliation and cooperation" with



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South Korea, with which it is technically still at war. He also said North Korea is willing to hold a summit with the United States, according to Xinhua.

North Korean state media, however, didn't carry Kim's comment about his plans to talk with the United States. The North has yet to officially confirm its interest in a summit between Kim and Trump.

North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency published Kim's personal letter to Xi, dated Wednesday, in which he said he was satisfied that the leaders confirmed their "unified opinions" on mutual issues.

Kim also called for more meetings with Xi and other Chinese officials and asked Xi to visit North Korea at a time convenient for him, to which Xi "gladly accepted," KCNA said.

"For the North Koreans, it is in their best interests to enter any meetings with Moon or Trump having shored up and repaired to a certain extent their relations with Beijing," said Paul Haenle, director of the Carnegie-Tsinghua Center for Global Policy in Beijing.

The North's diplomatic outreach this year follows a tense 2017 when it conducted its most powerful nuclear test to date and tested three intercontinental ballistic missiles designed to target the U.S. mainland.

The developments are being interpreted as the North being desperate to break out of isolation and improve its economy after being squeezed by heavy sanctions. Analysts think Kim may have been seeking promises from Beijing that it wouldn't hit the North too hard with sanctions if the talks with Washington and Seoul fall apart and the North starts testing nuclear weapons and missiles again.

"At least one of the things that Kim would want out of these meetings is a way forward to begin to ease those sanctions and support from China in that effort," said Glaser, the Asia expert.

China remains North Korea's only major ally and chief provider of energy, aid and trade that keep the country's broken economy afloat.

In addition to the trip being his first abroad as leader, Kim's talk with Xi was his first meeting with a foreign head of state. Kim's father had visited China several times during his rule, lastly in May 2011, months before his death that December.

"It's most proper that my first overseas trip would be the capital of the People's Republic of China," Kim Jong Un said, according to the North's KCNA. "It's also one of my noble duties to value the North Korea-China friendship as I do my own life."

Kim reported from Seoul, South Korea. Associated Press writers Foster Klug in Seoul, and Christopher Bodeen and researcher Shanshan Wang in Beijing contributed to this report.

## Maryland redistricting case comes before Supreme Court

By MARK SHERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court is taking up its second big partisan redistricting case of the term amid signs the justices could place limits on drawing maps for political gain.

The justices are hearing arguments Wednesday in an appeal filed by Republicans in Maryland. They complain that Democrats who controlled the state government in 2011 drew a congressional district for the express purpose of ousting the Republican incumbent and replacing him with a Democrat.

In Wisconsin, Democrats are challenging legislative districts drawn by Republicans statewide. Those districts gave Republicans a huge majority in a state that otherwise is closely divided between the parties.

The Supreme Court has never struck down districts for being too partisan.

A decision in favor of opponents of partisan gerrymandering could cut into the political power of the dominant party in states in which one party controls the state government.

The court is expected to issue decisions in both cases by late June.

Maryland's 6th Congressional District had been centered in rural, Republican-leaning northwestern Maryland and had elected a Republican to Congress for 20 years. Incumbent Rep. Roscoe Bartlett won re-election in 2010 by 28 percentage points.

But in the 2011 redistricting, Democrats altered the district to take in some Democratic suburbs of

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Washington, D.C. The new district had 62,000 fewer Republicans and 33,000 more Democrats. Bartlett lost the 2012 election by 21 percentage points.

Republican voters who sued over the changes said the state violated their First Amendment rights.

Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh, a Democrat, is defending the district as competitive for both parties. Frosh said the district has elected a moderate Democrat, and in 2014, a friendlier year for Republican candidates, the victory margin of Democratic Rep. John Delaney dropped to less than 2 percentage points, though it rose again in 2016.

Republican Gov. Larry Hogan is siding with the voters who sued, saying partisan gerrymandering results "in real and concrete harms to our democratic republic." Hogan has proposed a nonpartisan redistricting commission.

Over the past 16 months, courts struck down political districting plans drawn by Republicans in North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. Federal judges threw out a state legislative map in Wisconsin and a congressional plan in North Carolina. In Pennsylvania, the state Supreme Court invalidated the state's congressional districts and replaced them with a court-drawn plan.

The Supreme Court has put the drawing of new maps on hold in North Carolina and Wisconsin, but refused to block the Pennsylvania court's adoption of revised congressional districts for this year's elections.

## Does Omarosa now bow down to Trump after criticizing him?

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Omarosa Manigault Newman once predicted that "every critic, every detractor will have to bow down to President Trump." Now the question for the former White House aide and "Apprentice" contestant is whether that counts for her, too.

Starring in another reality TV show after resigning from the West Wing, Manigault Newman unleashed one criticism after another of her longtime friend Donald Trump and former White House colleagues, testing the widely held view that few people are ever really exiled from Trump's orbit.

Manigault Newman said she was "haunted" every day by Trump's tweets and "attacked" by colleagues when she tried to intervene. She said he tweets in his underwear in the early morning. She compared leaving the White House to being freed from a plantation, a reference to her one-time status as the only black member of the White House senior staff.

If that wasn't enough, she said the country will not be OK under Trump, and teased that she may tell everything in a book.

The ill feelings may well be mutual.

Trump, who called Manigault Newman a "good person" after she left the White House, referred to her as "the worst" in a speech at a press dinner where the president traditionally jabs at friends and foes alike.

The White House dismisses Manigault Newman as someone Trump has now fired four times: thrice from "The Apprentice" and once from the White House last December.

Armstrong Williams, a longtime friend of Manigault Newman, said the fact that Trump name-checked her in the Gridiron dinner speech this month "means she's on his mind." He doesn't think she had fallen out of favor because of her nationally broadcast criticisms.

"Here's the key: The president has not tweeted about anything that Omarosa has done since she left. That's significant," said Williams, a conservative commentator. "He's tweeted about (Steve) Bannon and everybody else, but he has not tweeted or pushed back in any way against Omarosa."

Bannon is the former White House chief strategist whom Trump publicly broke with after a book about Trump's first year in office quoted Bannon criticizing some of Trump's adult children. Trump then accused Bannon of "losing his mind."

Others fired by Trump, including his first campaign manager, Corey Lewandowski, and his first chief of staff, Reince Priebus, remain in contact with the president.

During her stint on CBS' "Celebrity Big Brother," where Manigault Newman and other celebrities lived under constant surveillance in a shared house until voted out, she steered clear of Trump's third rail, his

family. But she let loose on the president and Vice President Mike Pence.

In one whispered conversation, she said working for Trump was "like a call to duty," but "I was haunted by the tweets every single day, like 'What is he going to tweet next?'" When she tried to intervene, Manigault Newman said through tears, "all of the people around him attacked me."

When asked if people should be worried, Manigault Newman nodded her head and said, "It is going to not be OK. It's not."

She criticized Pence in a later episode, saying he'd be more extreme than Trump. "So everybody that's wishing for impeachment might want to reconsider their lives. We would be begging for days of Trump back if Pence became president," she said. "He's extreme. I'm Christian. I love Jesus. But he thinks Jesus tells him to say things. I'm like, 'Jesus ain't saying that.'"

The conversations eventually came around to Trump's tweets. Manigault Newman was asked who monitors them.

"He's up in his underwear or something at 4 in the morning. Who's going to monitor that?" she said. "Remember, the bad tweets happen between 4 and 6 in the morning. Ain't nobody up there but Melania" — Trump's wife. Manigault Newman then commented on the large diamond the first lady wears on her left ring finger and said Trump "can do whatever he wants. She ain't saying nothing."

It was unclear whether her criticisms were genuine or whether she was trying to curry favor with her castmates to avoid eviction. (She didn't win.)

Manigault Newman, who declined to comment for this story, passed up a chance to repeat her criticisms during a recent appearance on "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" after the reality TV show ended.

When asked if everything will be OK under Trump, she told Colbert, "You'll have to wait and see."

She did tell Colbert that she plans to focus on her ministry. Last April, she married John Allen Newman, senior pastor at a Baptist church in Jacksonville, Florida, during a ceremony at Trump's hotel near the White House. The website of Mount Calvary Baptist Church says she was licensed to preach in 2011 and later ordained and served as assistant pastor.

"My calling to the ministry is more important than anything else that I've done and I don't want to neglect it," Manigault Newman told Colbert.

Whether that means she's done bashing Trump remains to be seen.

In her first interview after leaving the White House, she told ABC's "Good Morning America" that "when I can tell my story, it is a profound story that I know the world will want to hear."

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Follow Darlene Superville on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/dsupervilleap>

## **Palestinians prepare mass demonstrations along Gaza border**

**By FARES AKRAM, Associated Press**

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Gaza's embattled Hamas rulers are imploring people to march along the border with Israel in the coming weeks in a risky gambit meant to shore up their shaky rule, but with potentially deadly consequences.

Beginning Friday, Hamas hopes it can mobilize large crowds to set up tent camps near the border. It plans a series of demonstrations culminating with a march to the border fence on May 15, the anniversary of Israel's establishment, known to Palestinians as "the Nakba," or catastrophe.

The group aims to mobilize hundreds of thousands of people for the effort, though it hasn't been able to get such turnouts at past rallies. Nonetheless, a jittery Israel is closely watching and vowing a tough response if the border is breached.

"When we march to the border, the organizers will decide then what to do," said Ismail Radwan, a Hamas official. Warning Israel against targeting the protesters, he said "the occupation should not commit any stupidity in confronting the Palestinian crowds."

Hamas says the demonstration is meant to draw attention to the plight of hundreds of thousands of Gazans whose relatives fled or were expelled from their homes in what is now Israel during the 1948 war

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surrounding Israel's creation.

But the first-of-its-kind protest also comes at a low point for the Islamic militant group and the 2 million residents of Gaza, where conditions have deteriorated since Hamas seized control of the territory from the internationally-backed Palestinian Authority in 2007.

An Israeli-Egyptian blockade, along with three wars with Israel and a series of sanctions by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, have left Gaza's economy in tatters. Unemployment is well over 40 percent, tap water is undrinkable and Gazans receive just a few hours of electricity a day.

An Egyptian-led attempt to broker a reconciliation deal between Hamas and Abbas' Fatah movement took a major downturn earlier this month after a bombing targeted a convoy carrying Abbas' prime minister and security chief shortly after they entered Gaza. Abbas has blamed Hamas and threatened more financial pressure, such as cutting civil servant salaries or fuel purchases, to force the group to cede control.

"Hamas has realized it's besieged from three sides; Israel, Egypt and the Palestinian Authority," said Mkhaimar Abusada, political science professor at Gaza's al-Azhar University. "It feels the crisis is suffocating."

He said that for Hamas, the protests can divert attention from their domestic woes while avoiding renewed war with Israel. "They think busying Israel with this issue may put it under pressure," he said.

As Gaza's woes have mounted, Hamas' popularity has plummeted, and it remains unclear whether the group will be able to mobilize the crowds it envisions. Still, a combination of social pressure and curiosity in a territory with few options for recreation could help attract people.

On Tuesday, bulldozers were busy leveling the five camp locations from north to south. Trucks unloaded portable toilet stalls, and the Palestinian Scholars Union, which represents Islamic clerics, declared participation in the protests a religious obligation.

The demonstrations will begin after the Muslim noon prayer on Friday. Buses will carry people from all over Gaza to the five tent camps, situated hundreds of meters (yards) from the border fence.

Hamas and Hamas-allied organizers of the "Great Return March" say the sit-in will remain peaceful through May. But the ultimate plan is to move to the border in mid-May.

Organizers say they are trying to realize the "right of return," a Palestinian demand that descendants of refugees who lost their homes in 1948 should be able to return to lost family properties in what is now Israel.

Israel opposes any large-scale return of refugees, saying it would destroy the country's Jewish character. The fate of refugees and their descendants has been a core issue in past rounds of peace talks.

Israeli Cabinet Minister Yoav Galant, a retired general and member of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's inner Security Cabinet, said that Israel had set clear red lines.

"Hamas is in distress," he said. "They are using in a cruel and cynical way their own population in order to hurt them and to hurt Israel."

He said the military was well-prepared to prevent any infiltrations. "We will try to use the minimum force that is needed in order to avoid Palestinians wounded and casualties. But the red line is very clear. They stay on the Gazan side and we stay in Israel."

Violent skirmishes are expected even before May 15. Clashes have erupted along the border every Friday since Dec. 6, when President Donald Trump recognized contested Jerusalem as Israel's capital and announced plans to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv.

There have been a series of recent incidents along the border, including a bombing that wounded four Israeli soldiers last month. On Tuesday, three Gazans armed with hand grenades managed to cross into Israel and travel some 30 kilometers (20 miles) before they were caught.

Israel's military said its tanks fired at Hamas positions after Palestinians set fire near the border on Wednesday. It said it views "with great severity any attempt to damage the security fence." No casualties were reported.

The upcoming Jewish holiday of Passover, Israeli Independence Day celebrations in April and the planned move of the embassy in May could lead to additional clashes.

Israel's Foreign Ministry called the planned marches "a dangerous, premeditated provocation meant to fan the flames of the conflict and increase tension."



## Online ads from unlicensed pot shops roil California market

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Weedmaps is a go-to website for people looking to find a marijuana shop. With a few clicks on a cellphone, customers can find virtually any type of cannabis product, along with the fastest route to the place selling it and ratings from other consumers to help them decide what to buy.

But legal and illegal operators advertise next to each other, and licensed operators in California say that's put them at a disadvantage in a cutthroat marketplace.

To them, Weedmaps is helping illegal sellers flourish without having any of the obligations licensed operators endure — collecting and paying taxes, insuring their businesses and employees, and abiding by safety rules for their products.

In other words, illegal shops can sell pot at cheaper prices, sometimes 30 percent to 50 percent less.

"That's Weedmaps' business model, to confuse the difference between legal and illegal," said Jerred Kiloh, a licensed dispensary owner in Los Angeles who heads the United Cannabis Business Association, an industry group. "It's an unfair playing field. They are pitting us against each other."

Weedmaps operates in over two dozen states, but the issue is coming to a head in California, which in January became the nation's largest legal marketplace. State regulators last month warned Weedmaps to stop advertising shops operating outside the law.

In a response, Weedmaps executives said they are eager to work with the state but asserted that the online directory doesn't fall under state authority and is shielded by provisions in federal law.

The company sees the core of the problem as a scarcity of legal outlets and hefty taxes that scare off consumers from licensed shops, not its online ads. In Los Angeles, where the pace of city licensing has been sluggish, only about 130 retail shops have authority to operate, while city officials acknowledge hundreds more are making illegal sales.

Weedmaps says its experience dropping unlicensed businesses from its listings in Washington, Oregon, Nevada and Massachusetts had no impact on the size of those unlicensed markets.

"Scrubbing the internet of the reality of unlicensed operators ... does nothing to fix the underlying issues," Weedmaps CEO Doug Francis and President Chris Beals wrote to the state Bureau of Cannabis Control earlier this month.

The company some call a Craigslist for cannabis defines itself as an "interactive computer service" that falls under the federal Communications Decency Act. A key section of that law is designed to protect internet publishers, generally providing immunity to them for content posted by users.

But Kiloh is among those who argue Weedmaps is far more than an advertising platform, noting consumers can use the site to submit orders and summon deliveries from shops legal and otherwise.

"They are acting like Amazon, saying, 'Here is a shopping cart,'" Kiloh said. "They are creating a marketplace, not a platform for advertising, and it's driven by dollars."

The dispute over the online ads goes to basic economics for an emerging market sprung from what was mostly an illegal one: Lawful operators will struggle if they're competing with a robust black market that can undersell them.

Complaints have surfaced elsewhere, including over fees that in some cases can be tens of thousands of dollars a month for prime ad space. The company says some advertisers pay nothing.

"I strongly believe their response to advertise for unlicensed cannabis companies is a black eye to the industry," said Peter Marcus, a spokesman for Denver-based Terrapin Care Station.

Terrapin has three licensed dispensaries in Colorado and has advertised with Weedmaps for years, Marcus said. He said Terrapin worries Weedmaps' high-profile spat with California regulators will bring unwanted attention from the U.S. Justice Department, which continues to prosecute marijuana offenses under federal law that still sees cannabis as an illegal drug.

The appeal of black-market shops — and the lure of their ads — was illustrated this month after a raid at an illegal dispensary near Los Angeles.

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Even after Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies shuttered the Compton 20 Cap Collective, hauling out employees and customers in handcuffs and seizing bags of illicit pot, the shop's page on Weedmaps advertised deals and displayed the dispensary's products, which included dozens of varieties of cannabis buds, extracts and edibles.

Despite the bust, prospective customers were asking about making purchases.

"Are they back open again?" one comment read.

In its warning to Weedmaps, one of hundreds of letters sent to businesses that California regulators believe are operating improperly, the state said the company should take down ads from illicit operators and warned the company it could face criminal penalties.

But it wasn't immediately clear how far that threat would go, since Weedmaps appears to be operating largely as usual. In their letter, the company executives said they would eliminate an internal "identifier" that appeared in business listings that state regulators said could be confused with a valid license number.

The company said in a statement it wants the licensed market to reach a "functional state where the unlicensed market is minimized."

California regulators are discussing appropriate next steps, state cannabis agency spokesman Alex Traverso said in an email.

In the Legislature, Democratic Assemblyman Jim Cooper of Elk Grove drafted a bill that would penalize unlicensed operators that advertise on the internet, \$10,000 for every violation.

"The black market is having a substantial impact on those businesses that are following the rules," said Mike Ziegler, a Cooper aide. "They are being undercut by those who choose to operate illegally."

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Associated Press writers Paul Elias in San Francisco and Michael Balsamo in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

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Blood, Elias and Balsamo are members of AP's marijuana beat team. Follow them at <https://twitter.com/MichaelRBloodAP>, <https://twitter.com/paulelias1>, and <https://twitter.com/MikeBalsamo1>. Find complete AP marijuana coverage here: [apnews.com/tag/LegalMarijuana](http://apnews.com/tag/LegalMarijuana)

## Protests resume, feds join Sacramento police killing probe

By SOPHIA BOLLAG and DON THOMPSON, Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — The California attorney general's office on Tuesday joined an investigation into the fatal police shooting of an unarmed black man in Sacramento, a move the police chief said he hopes will bring "faith and transparency" to a case that has sparked angry protests.

City officials and community leaders called for calm as they announced the attorney general's involvement while Sacramento prepares for events memorializing 22-year-old Stephon Clark, where large crowds are expected.

"Due to the nature of this investigation, the extremely high emotions, anger and hurt in our city, I felt it was the best interest of our entire community, including the members of our police department, to ask the attorney general to be an independent part of this investigation," Police Chief Daniel Hahn said.

Those emotions were on display Tuesday evening as Clark's brother, Stevante Clark, marched into a City Council meeting, chanted his brother's name and jumped on the dais in front of Mayor Darrell Steinberg.

The meeting drew an overflow crowd and Steinberg ended it early after tensions within and outside the chambers rose, KCRA-TV reported.

Also Tuesday night, protesters again blocked fans from entering the Golden1 Center for an NBA game downtown between the Sacramento Kings and Dallas Mavericks. The game went on but with only about 4,000 people in the stands.

Two Sacramento police officers responding to a report of someone breaking car windows fatally shot Clark in his grandmother's backyard March 18. Police say they thought Clark was holding a gun, but he was found with only a cellphone.

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Attorney General Xavier Becerra's office will provide oversight of the investigation and conduct a review of the police department's policies and use-of-force training. Body camera footage released by the department shows police firing 20 rounds at Clark.

But Clark's family remains skeptical, said his uncle, Curtis Gordon.

"We'll see what happens," Gordon said. "It's all talk at this point ... Show me."

The decision of whether to bring criminal charges against the officers involved remains with District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert, although Becerra said his office could also bring charges.

"Understand that this process will take time," Schubert said. "Thorough and fair independent review demands that we do it right."

Clark's grandmother, Sequita Thompson, called Monday for the police to change how they apply force in such situations and to consider non-lethal options.

"We fully expect that the attorney general's office will do a complete and thorough investigation that is fair and impartial — and that extends due process not just to those being investigated, but equally to the family of Stephon Clark," family attorney Benjamin Crump said in a statement.

Hahn said the two officers, whose names the department has not released, are facing death threats. He asked that protests remain peaceful as the investigation proceeds.

It is rare for police officers to be charged following a shooting and rarer still for them to be convicted. Often times it's because of the doctrine of reasonable fear: if prosecutors or jurors believe that officers have a reason to fear for their safety, they can use force up to and including lethal force.

At the council meeting, Stevante Clark said he didn't think the elected officials would make meaningful changes as a result of his brother's death. The Council took a 15-minute break as a result of the disruption. Outside the meeting, community members and activists chanted Clark's name. Some then marched to the basketball arena, where they blocked off the entrance to the game for the second time in a week.

On different occasions, protesters have also taken over downtown Sacramento, at one point shutting down the interstate during rush hour, and the South Sacramento neighborhood where Clark was killed. The protests have largely remained non-violent although tensions have been high. In one case, several protesters smashed a car window, according to the Sacramento Bee.

"Just as your actions have been positive in getting people to hear the message, negative actions will dilute that message," said Dr. Ollie Mack, a longtime Sacramento resident who spoke at the news conference to encourage peaceful protest. "If you have people jumping on cars, spitting on people, that will be the news and not the fact that we're moving forward toward seeking justice."

Black Lives Matter Sacramento is organizing more demonstrations Tuesday at the district attorney's office and at the city council meeting. The group says protesters are calling for Schubert to bring criminal charges against the officers who killed Clark.

The NAACP and the National Action Network said a two-hour funeral for Clark is set to begin at 11 a.m. Thursday at Bayside of South Sacramento Church. The Rev. Al Sharpton, president of the National Action Network, is set to speak along with other clergy.

The NAACP said a wake is set from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday at Bayside of South Sacramento Church.

Mayor Darrell Steinberg urged the city to set a positive national example.

"The country is watching us," he said. "Let us show how a city in pain together, with all of our partners, can in fact achieve a better way."

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This story has been updated to correct the spelling of Sacramento District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert's first name.

## Trump suggests paying for US border wall with Pentagon funds

By JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Still angry about the budget deal he signed last week, President Donald Trump has floated the idea of using the Pentagon budget to pay for his long-promised border wall with Mexico, despite the fact that such spending would likely require approval from Congress.

Trump raised the funding plan with House Speaker Paul Ryan at a meeting at the White House last Wednesday, according to a person familiar with the discussion who wasn't authorized to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

And he has tweeted that building "a great Border Wall" is "all about National Defense" and has called to "Build WALL through M!" — the military.

Departments, however, have limited authority to reprogram funds without congressional approval. Pentagon spokesman Chris Sherwood referred all questions on the wall to the White House, where spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders deflected them, saying she was "not going to get into the specifics of that."

Trump threw Washington into a tizzy on Friday when he threatened to veto the omnibus spending bill, in part because it didn't include the \$25 billion he'd tried to secure for the wall in a last-minute bargaining spree.

The \$1.3 trillion funding package did include \$1.6 billion in border wall spending. But much of that money can only be used to repair existing segments, not build new sections. Congress also put restrictions on the types of barriers that can be built.

Trump has tried to justify signing the deal by pointing to the boost in funding it provides for the military. But he nonetheless remains frustrated, according to people familiar with his thinking who weren't authorized to discuss private conversations and who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Trump first publicly floated the idea of having the Pentagon pay for the rest of construction in an obscure tweet that left many confused.

"Building a great Border Wall, with drugs (poison) and enemy combatants pouring into our Country, is all about National Defense," he wrote Sunday. "Build WALL through M!"

He retweeted his message again Monday night.

Some people close to the president have also suggested creating a GoFundMe campaign that Trump could use to raise money from the public to fund construction. The White House did not immediately respond to questions about the idea, and it's unclear whether it has gained any serious traction.

Congress, under the Constitution, has the power to determine federal appropriations, and the administration has little authority to shift funding without congressional approval. The Senate Appropriations Committee was not aware of any authority that would allow the Defense Department to fund the wall without congressional approval, said a GOP aide.

Sanders said Tuesday that Trump would work with the White House counsel to make sure any action taken was within his executive authority. And she insisted the "continuation of building the wall is ongoing and we're going to continue moving forward in that process."

Building the wall was one of Trump's top campaign promises, and the idea that drew the loudest cheers from supporters at his rallies. Trump also insisted he'd make Mexico pay for the construction. But Mexico has made clear it has no intention of doing so.

Trump has also proposed making Mexico pay for the wall indirectly through measures such as increasing visa fees, imposing new tariffs and targeting remittances.

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Associated Press writers Lisa Mascaro and Lolita C. Baldor contributed to this report.



## Dems fear immigrants will skip census with citizenship query

By KEVIN FREKING and HOPE YEN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration's decision to ask people about their citizenship in the 2020 census set off worries among Democrats that immigrants will dodge the survey altogether, diluting political representation for states that tend to vote Democratic and robbing many communities of federal dollars.

Not since 1950 has the census collected citizenship data from the whole population, rather than just a population sample, says the Congressional Research Service. The decision to restore the question after decades prompted an immediate lawsuit from California — already tangling with Washington over immigration — and moves by other states with large immigrant populations to engage in a legal fight.

The population count, a massive effort taken every 10 years, is far more than an academic exercise. It's required by the Constitution and used to determine the number of seats each state has in the House as well as how federal money is distributed to local communities. Communities and businesses depend on it in deciding where to build schools, hospitals, grocery stores and more.

The political stakes of undercounting segments of the population are high.

Several states that have slowing population growth or high numbers of immigrants such as California, New York, Illinois, Massachusetts and Ohio are typically at risk of losing U.S. House seats when their congressional districts are redrawn every 10 years — depending on how fully their residents are counted.

California struck quickly, with Attorney General Xavier Becerra filing a federal lawsuit Tuesday that seeks to block Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross' decision to add a citizenship question in 2020. Officials from New York and New Jersey, also Democratic-led states, were also planning on leading or participating in lawsuits. Massachusetts signaled interest, too.

"The census constitutes the backbone for planning how and where our communities will invest taxpayer dollars," Becerra said. "California simply has too much to lose to allow the Trump Administration to botch this important decennial obligation.

The Justice Department said in a statement it "looks forward to defending the reinstatement of the citizenship question, which will allow the department to protect the right to vote and ensure free and fair elections for all Americans." The Commerce Department said the benefits of obtaining citizenship information "outweighed the limited potential adverse impacts."

Their argument in essence: Enforcing voting rights requires more data on the voting-age population of citizens than current surveys are providing.

Democratic lawmakers had been bracing for the decision. A bill sponsored by Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y. would block the addition of a citizenship question, or any major design change, unless it has undergone a certain level of research and testing, but it faces dim prospects with no Republicans signing on.

House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi said Tuesday that adding such a question "will inject fear and distrust into vulnerable communities and cause traditionally undercounted communities to be even further under-represented, financially excluded and left behind."

Some Republican lawmakers hailed the decision on Tuesday. GOP Sens. Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma, Tom Cotton of Arkansas and Ted Cruz of Texas had sent a letter to the Commerce Department asking Ross to add the question.

"It is imperative that the data gathered in the census is reliable, given the wide ranging impacts it will have on U.S. policy," Cruz said in a press release issued by the three lawmakers. "A question on citizenship is a reasonable, commonsense addition to the census."

The Census Bureau separately conducts an ongoing survey called the American Community Survey that provides citizenship data on a yearly basis. But it only samples a small portion of the population.

Before that, citizenship or related questions were asked of about 1 in 6 households on the census "long form," which has since been retired. The Congressional Research Service said it has been 1950 since all households were asked about citizenship.

Alabama Attorney General Steven Marshall said the American Community Survey is so small, with a cor-

respondingly large margin of error, that it is an ineffective tool for understanding lightly populated rural areas of the country.

"It just makes sense that government has a more accurate record for the census and reinstates the practice of including a citizenship question in the next census," Marshall said.

A joint fundraising committee for Trump's re-election campaign and the Republican National Committee highlighted the addition of a citizenship question in a fundraising pitch last week. The pitch said Trump wants the 2020 Census to ask people whether or not they are citizens, and that in another era, this would be common sense.

"The President wants to know if you're on his side," the solicitation asks.

Census counts are taken by mail and by workers walking neighborhoods. The Census Bureau says the 2010 census drew a massive response, with about 74 percent of the households mailing in forms and remaining households counted by workers in neighborhoods.

Information is only released publicly in the aggregate, although the government has the details. In 2010, the Obama administration offered assurances that the census data would not be used for immigration enforcement.

The Census Bureau states on its website that personal information obtained through its surveys cannot be used against respondents by any government agency or court. And the disclosure by an employee of any information that would personally identify a respondent or family can lead to up to five years in prison or a fine of \$250,000, or both.

Critics of the decision seemed far more focused Tuesday on the potential for intimidation and an inaccurate count than the prospect that the information could be used to target participants for deportation.

"I can only see one purpose for why this question is being added," said Arturo Vargas, executive director of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Educational Fund, an organization that seeks to advance Latino political engagement. It's to "scare Latinos and others from participating in the 2020 Census."

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Associated Press writer Amanda Lee Myers contributed to this report from Los Angeles.

## **Kim, Xi portray strong ties after N. Korean leader's visit**

**By GILLIAN WONG and KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press**

BEIJING (AP) — North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping sought to portray strong ties between the long-time allies despite a recent chill as both countries on Wednesday confirmed Kim's secret trip to Beijing this week.

The visit highlights Beijing and Pyongyang's efforts to better position themselves by showing they support each other ahead of Kim's planned meetings with South Korean President Moon Jae-in and President Donald Trump in the coming weeks.

Kim made the unofficial visit to China from Sunday to Wednesday at Xi's invitation, China's official Xinhua News Agency said, in what was in his first trip to a foreign country since he took power in 2011.

Xi held talks with Kim at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing and he and his wife Peng Liyuan hosted a banquet for Kim and his wife Ri Sol Ju, Xinhua said. They also watched an art performance together, the news agency said.

Official reports from both countries depicted in effusive terms warm ties between the two leaders in an effort to downplay recent tensions in relations over Kim's development of nuclear weapons and long-range missiles.

In these reports, "Kim reaffirms the traditional friendship between the two countries as if nothing had ever happened, when the relationship had plummeted to unprecedented lows," said Bonnie Glaser, an Asia expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Ties in recent months have frayed as China supported tougher U.N. sanctions on North Korea and suspended imports of coal, iron ore, seafood and textiles. Pyongyang last year seemingly sought to humiliate

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Beijing by timing some of its missile tests for major global summits in China, while its state media accused Chinese state-controlled media of "going under the armpit of the U.S." by criticizing the North.

Xi hailed Kim's visit as embodying the importance with which the North Korean leader regarded ties with China.

"We speak highly of this visit," Xi told Kim, according to Xinhua.

For China, the visit also reminds other countries that Beijing remains one of North Korea's most important allies and is a player not to be sidelined in denuclearization talks. It also projects to the Chinese public that Xi is firmly in charge of steering Beijing's relations with North Korea in a way that favors China's interests.

"Here is Xi Jinping saying, 'Don't worry, everything is going to be great,'" Glaser said.

Analysts say Kim would have felt a need to consult with his country's traditional ally ahead of summits with Moon and Trump. China would also not want Kim's first foreign meeting to be with someone other than Xi.

"China was getting concerned it could be left out of any initial political agreements that Moon and Kim or Trump and Kim could come to," said Michael Kovrig, senior advisor for northeast Asia at the International Crisis Group.

"This is China asserting its regional hegemony and influence, saying: 'Hey, you talk to me first.'"

Kim was described by Xinhua as saying that his country wants to transform ties with South Korea into "a relationship of reconciliation and cooperation." The two Koreas are still technically at war because their 1950-53 war ended in an armistice, not a peace treaty.

Kim also said that North Korea is willing to hold a summit with the United States, according to Xinhua.

North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency published Kim's personal letter to Xi dated on Wednesday, where he expressed gratitude to the Chinese leadership for showing what he described as "heartwarming hospitality" during his "productive" visit.

Kim said that the first meeting between the leaders of the two countries will provide a "groundbreaking milestone" in developing mutual relations to "meet the demands of the new era." Kim also said that he's satisfied that the leaders confirmed their "unified opinions" on mutual issues.

"For the North Koreans, it is in their best interests to enter any meetings with Moon or Trump having shored up and repaired to a certain extent their relations with Beijing," said Paul Haenle, director of the Carnegie-Tsinghua Center for Global Policy in Beijing.

KCNA said Kim also called for more meetings with Xi and other Chinese officials to deepen the ties between the countries and also asked Xi to visit North Korea at a time convenient for him, to which Xi "gladly accepted."

The North's diplomatic outreach this year follows a tenuous 2017 when it conducted its most powerful nuclear test to date and tested three intercontinental ballistic missiles designed to target the U.S. mainland.

The developments are being interpreted as the North being desperate to break out of isolation and improve its economy after being squeezed by heavy sanctions.

"At least one of the things that Kim would want out of these meetings is a way forward to begin to ease those sanctions and support from China in that effort," Glaser said.

China remains North Korea's only major ally and chief provider of energy, aid and trade that keep the country's broken economy afloat.

In a speech at a banquet in China, Kim described the traditional allies as inseparable "neighboring brothers" with a relationship molded by a "sacred mutual fight" to achieve socialist ideals, according to KCNA.

In addition to the trip being his first abroad as leader, his talk with Xi was his first meeting with a foreign head of state. Kim's father, late North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, had visited China several times during his rule, lastly in May 2011, months before his death that December.

"It's most proper that my first overseas trip would be the capital of the People's Republic of China," said Kim Jong Un, according to the North Korean agency. "It's also one of my noble duties to value the North Korea-China friendship as I do my own life."

\_\_\_ Kim reported from Seoul, South Korea. Associated Press writer Foster Klug in Seoul contributed to this report.

## Slain black man's family angry: White officers not charged

By **MICHAEL KUNZELMAN** and **ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE**, Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Nearly two years after a black man was shot and killed during a struggle with two white police officers, Louisiana's attorney general isn't pursuing charges against the officers in a decision that infuriated Alton Sterling's family and frustrated residents in the neighborhood where he died.

Since federal officials have already declined to charge the officers, the decision Tuesday by Attorney General Jeff Landry ends the criminal investigation of the two officers at the center of a case that highlighted racial tensions across the country.

The July 5, 2016, shooting came amid increased scrutiny of fatal encounters between police and black men. The day after Sterling's shooting, Philando Castile was killed in Minnesota by a police officer and the aftermath streamed on Facebook by his girlfriend. Then as demonstrators in Dallas protested those police shootings, a gunman killed five police officers. And on July 17, a black military veteran shot and killed three Baton Rouge law enforcement officers.

Officer Blane Salamoni shot and killed Sterling during a struggle outside a convenience store where the 37-year-old black man was selling homemade CDs. Officer Howie Lake II helped wrestle Sterling to the ground, but didn't fire his gun. Two cellphone videos of the shooting quickly spread on social media, prompting large protests.

Family and supporters of Sterling denounced Landry's decision in an angry news conference shortly after many of them met with the attorney general to hear his findings.

Quinyetta McMillon, the mother of one of Sterling's children, Cameron, said the officers killed Sterling "in cold blood."

"We're all out of tears. We have nothing else in us to cry about now," she said. "There's no amount of money in this world that can give those kids back their father."

Residents near the convenience store where Sterling was killed said they weren't surprised. Le'Roi Dunn, a 40-year-old cook, gestured at the spot where Sterling was killed and said it was wrong for the officers to avoid charges.

"It hurts, though, to see them get away and go on with their lives," Dunn said.

But Landry said his office reviewed all evidence compiled by the Justice Department, conducted its own witness interviews and concluded there was no case to be made. He pointed to toxicology and urine test results released Tuesday showing Sterling had cocaine, methamphetamine, fentanyl and other drugs in his system and said that contributed to Sterling's "non-compliance" with the officers' commands. He said two independent experts also determined the officers used reasonable force.

"I know the Sterling family is hurting," Landry told reporters. "I know that they may not agree with the decision.

L. Chris Stewart, a lawyer for two of Sterling's five children blasted the report as biased, saying it included things like Sterling's criminal history that did not pertain to the case.

State and federal authorities said Salamoni yelled that Sterling was reaching for a gun in his pocket before shooting him three times, and then fired three more shots into Sterling's back when he began to sit up and move. A 34-page report by Landry's office said it's "important to note" that Sterling's hands were concealed from the officers as he sat up and rolled away from Salamoni.

The officers recovered a loaded revolver from Sterling's pocket. As a convicted felon, Sterling could not legally carry a gun.

Video footage shows Sterling threatening someone with a firearm before the officers responded to a report of a man with a gun outside the Triple S Food Mart, according to Landry's report.

Now attention turns to the two officers' future with the police department as well as a pending civil suit.

Lake and Salamoni have been on paid administrative leave since the shooting. Baton Rouge Police Chief Murphy Paul said he intends to conclude the disciplinary process against the officers by Friday and once concluded he'll release body camera and surveillance footage of the shooting — never seen publicly before.

Salamoni's attorney, John McLindon, said he expects his client to be fired and called it "grossly unfair"



that a disciplinary hearing is planned so soon after the end of the criminal investigation.

"I believe it's a foregone conclusion," McLindon said.

A lawyer for Lake said his client should remain on the force. Attorney Kyle Kershaw said Lake's actions on the encounter complied with police procedure.

Lawyers for Sterling's five children have filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the city of Baton Rouge, its police department and former police chief, and the two officers. It alleges a pattern of racist behavior and excessive force by the Baton Rouge police.

## Serbia-Kosovo tensions heighten as Russia wades into dispute

By DUSAN STOJANOVIC, Associated Press

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) — Tensions between Kosovo and Serbia heightened a day after a senior Serb politician was arrested and expelled in northern Kosovo, with Russia wading into the dispute and the European Union trying to avert further friction Tuesday.

Kosovo Serbs set up a roadblock in the divided town of Mitrovica to monitor access into Serb-dominated territory, and Serb politicians walked away from Kosovo's government and threatened to form their own local administrations throughout Kosovo where minority Serbs live.

European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini made an urgent trip to Belgrade for talks with Serbia's president in a bid to prevent a full-blown crisis. President Aleksandar Vucic's office said in a statement that he and Mogherini agreed to find "new ways" to solve problems between Serbia and Kosovo peacefully.

Mogherini didn't immediately comment, but the statement quoted her as saying "what happened yesterday must not be repeated."

"The European Union expects peace to be preserved with wisdom and restraint," Mogherini said according to the statement.

Meanwhile, the Russian Foreign Ministry issued a strongly-worded statement, accusing the EU and the U.S. of wanting "to crudely suppress" attempts by Kosovo Serbs to "safeguard their legitimate interests."

"It is nakedly clear that the Kosovars (Kosovo Albanians) follow the advice of their U.S. and European patrons, who trample international law and act on the basis of arbitrariness," said the statement carried by Tass news agency.

While Russia supports Serbia's claims over its former province, the U.S. and most Western states have recognized Kosovo's independence a decade ago. Russia has been trying to expand its influence in the Balkans mainly through its traditional Slavic ally Serbia.

The developments came a day after Marko Djuric, the head of the Serbian government office for Kosovo, was briefly detained in the divided town of Mitrovica because he entered the country without Kosovo's official approval. Kosovo police used tear gas and stun grenades to disperse Serb protesters in Mitrovica on Monday.

Djuric said he was beaten while in detention and that his arrest was aimed at humiliating Serbs in Kosovo and as a rehearsal for a possible attempt by Kosovo police to take over northern Kosovo.

"By dragging me on the ground like a dog, pulling me by my tie, they wanted to humiliate me thinking they can humiliate the Serbian people," Djuric told a news conference Tuesday.

But Kosovo President Hashim Thaci denounced the incident as a provocation by Serbia.

"Monday's events are contrary to the commitment of dialogue and building sustainable peace in Kosovo," he said in a statement on Tuesday.

Politicians representing Kosovo's Serb minority met with Serbia's president in Belgrade, saying they would no longer support Kosovo's government. This could trigger a government crisis if the Serb ministers aren't quickly replaced by Kosovo Albanians.

Goran Rakic, who heads the Serbian List in Kosovo's parliament, said that Serbs would on their own form an association of Serb-dominated municipalities in Kosovo, which was envisaged in a European Union-mediated deal in 2013 but was never carried out by Kosovo authorities.

"This is not a one-sided move. This is a forced move," Rakic said. "We waited for five years for them to give us what is ours. We will form only what they signed up to, what was guaranteed five years ago."

The move could further fuel friction between Serbia and Kosovo, which declared independence against Belgrade's wishes in 2008. In 1999, NATO intervened to stop a bloody Serb crackdown against Kosovo Albanian separatists.

On Tuesday, Kosovo Serbs blocked the main road leading from northern Kosovo to the capital, Pristina, by parking a bulldozer and a flatbed truck across it.

Djuric, whose hands were bandaged, appeared at the news conference with Kosovo Serb officials after talks with Vucic.

He said that Kosovo police officers "took selfies with me and pulled me down to my knees, with a gun pushed against my body."

He accused unidentified Western countries of directly or indirectly supporting Kosovo's actions.

Kosovo Prime Minister Ramush Haradinaj said in Pristina on Tuesday that "yesterday's actions weren't directed against Serb citizens in Kosovo, but against those who broke the law."

"It is not good to make limitless testing of anyone's decision," Haradinaj said. "It would be good to return to the negotiating table and discuss the issues together."

\_\_\_ Associated Press writers Jovana Gec in Belgrade, Serbia, and L Lazar Semini in Tirana, Albania, contributed to this report.

## **Yucky ducky? Study reveals bath-time toy's dirty secret**

**By FRANK JORDANS and JAMEY KEATEN, Associated Press**

BERN, Switzerland (AP) — Scientists have the dirt on the rubber ducky: Those cute yellow bath-time toys are — as some parents have long suspected — a haven for nasty bugs.

Swiss and American researchers counted the microbes swimming inside the toys and say the murky liquid released when ducks were squeezed contained "potentially pathogenic bacteria" in four out of the five toys studied.

The bacteria found included Legionella and Pseudomonas aeruginosa, a bacterium that is "often implicated in hospital-acquired infections," the authors said in a statement.

The study by the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology, ETH Zurich and the University of Illinois was published Tuesday in the journal Biofilms and Microbiomes. It's billed as one of the first in-depth scientific examinations of its kind.

They turned up a strikingly high volume — up to 75 million cells per square centimeter (0.15 square inch) — and variety of bacteria and fungus in the ducks.

Tap water doesn't usually foster the growth of bacteria, the scientists said, but low-quality polymers in the plastic materials give them the nutrients they need. Bodily fluids — like urine and sweat — as well as contaminants and even soap in bathwater add microbes and nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus and create balmy brine for bacteria.

"We've found very big differences between different bath animals," said microbiologist and lead study author Lisa Neu, alluding to other types of bath toys — like rubber crocodiles — that also were examined. "One of the reasons was the material, because it releases carbon that can serve as food for the bacteria."

While certain amounts of bacteria can help strengthen children's immune systems, they can also lead to eye, ear and intestinal infections, the researchers said. Among the vulnerable users: Children "who may enjoy squirting water from bath toys into their faces," a statement from the institute said.

The scientists, who received funding from the Swiss government as part of broader research into household objects, say using higher-quality polymers to make the ducks could prevent bacterial and fungal growth. The Swiss government isn't making any recommendations at this stage.

Known for their squeaks and eulogized in a Sesame Street song on TV, rubber duckies have been a childhood bath-time staple for years. Online vendor Amazon.com lists one such offering — advertised as water-tight to prevent mildew — among the top 10 sellers in its "Baby Bath Toys" category.

\_\_\_ Frank Jordans reported from Berlin.

## California county votes to join Trump's 'sanctuary' lawsuit

By AMY TAXIN, Associated Press

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP) — In a dramatic one-two punch, leaders in California's Orange County voted Tuesday to condemn the state's sanctuary law that limits police cooperation with federal immigration authorities and to join a Trump administration lawsuit that seeks to overturn it.

The all-Republican Board of Supervisors in the county that is home to 3.2 million people and many immigrants approved the measures by unanimous votes. One of the five supervisors was absent.

The meeting produced a raucous debate between those who say the moves uphold the rule of law and draw a line on illegal immigration and others who said it was racist and more about politics than public safety.

Supervisor Michelle Steel, an immigrant from South Korea, told the crowd that fixing the country's immigration system will take time. "Along the way, law enforcement should absolutely cooperate fully within the constraints of federal law," she said.

The votes were the most dramatic development in a growing counter-movement in more conservative-leaning areas of the state against the sanctuary law, which the Democrat-controlled Legislature approved last year as the Trump administration called for more stringent immigration enforcement and a wall on the entirety of the U.S.-Mexico border.

The U.S. Justice Department headed by Attorney General Jeff Sessions sued California earlier this month over three pro-immigrant state laws, including the one that bars local law enforcement officials in many cases from turning over prisoners to immigration authorities.

The lawsuit has highlighted longstanding divisions over immigration in California. For years, some local governments have sought to help federal immigration agents pick up prisoners from their jails to prevent them from being released back into their communities, while others have tried to keep their distance to encourage immigrant residents to trust police enough to come forward to report crimes.

In Orange County, the small city of Los Alamitos recently approved an ordinance to exempt itself from the state's sanctuary law while leaders in the county seat of Santa Ana — a self-declared immigrant sanctuary — will consider filing an amicus brief to support California in federal court.

Legal experts and immigrant advocates have said cities can't simply opt out of state law as Los Alamitos has proposed doing, and will face lawsuits if they try.

Orange County, which is home to Disneyland and wealthy beach communities where many people vacation, has long been known as a GOP stronghold, but Democrats have gained significant ground in recent years. Hillary Clinton won more votes than Trump in the county in the 2016 election.

The county also is becoming more diverse. Thirty percent of its residents are immigrants, mostly from Latin America and Asia, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. And three of the five supervisors are Asian-American.

Immigrant advocates rallied outside Tuesday's meeting, some holding signs with slogans such as "Melt ICE," a reference to Immigration and Customs Enforcement that enforces immigration laws. They felt the vote was a step back for a county that had been changing.

"History tells us that we will win. So I will be able to look in my children's and grandchildren's eyes and tell them I was on the right side of history," Bethany Anderson of Fullerton told supervisors. "Will you be able to do that?"

But others welcomed the county's decision to file a motion to intervene as a plaintiff in the lawsuit, and railed about the need to stop illegal immigration. About a dozen people wearing American flags and holding signs reading "Support Our Constitution" cheered when supervisors voted to condemn the state's law.

"We cannot have all the states with different immigration laws. It just doesn't make sense," Doris Matyasovich told the board. "Our constitutional republic depends on following the rule of law."

Sameer Ahmed, a staff attorney at the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California, said some cities appear to be discussing largely political resolutions, not local laws. But the idea that an area as large as Orange County would take such a stand worries immigrant advocates, he said.

The county also moved this week to improve communication with federal immigration agents by publishing the release dates of inmates online. The sheriff's department used to screen inmates in the county's jails to help Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents identify those subject to deportation but had to stop when the state law passed.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement Deputy Director Tom Homan welcomed the move and said the agency continues to seek to cooperate with local law enforcement who want to assist.

## Kansas considers making schools liable for not arming staff

By MITCHELL WILLETTS, Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Kansas schools that refuse to allow teachers to carry guns could be held legally responsible in the event of a tragedy under a proposal drafted after last month's mass shooting at a Florida high school.

Opponents of the measure, which got its first hearing Tuesday in front of the House Insurance Committee, expressed concern it could effectively mandate arming teachers rather than allowing it, as several states have done.

"It would certainly open the door for that conversation," said Democratic Rep. Brett Parker, an Overland Park school teacher. "The further we go down this rabbit hole, the more chance there is for even more obnoxious legislation moving forward."

Even if that provision is stripped, as some advocates suggested during the hearing, the bill would prohibit insurers from denying coverage to a school because it lets its teachers or staff members carry weapons.

At least nine other states have provisions in place giving teachers the option of carrying guns in schools, but the Kansas plan seems to go further than most other laws in place or under consideration.

The proposal is separate from one embraced by Republican leaders in the House that focuses on improving school infrastructure instead of arming staff. That measure, which appears to have broader support, won first-round approval on Tuesday.

Rep. Blake Carpenter, a conservative Derby Republican who helped write the legislation that holds schools liable, said he is confident armed and trained teachers will save lives. Police could be minutes away, and in smaller districts where modest funding means school-resource officers aren't hired, the bill would allow for "next best thing," he told the committee.

"It is not, if our kids will be killed. It is, when will they be killed and what are we doing to prevent it?" Carpenter said.

Kansas legislators started working on school safety legislation a week after a Valentine's Day shooting in Parkland, Florida, left 17 students and staff dead.

Gun control advocates say the portion that presumes negligence against school districts is highly unusual and seems to match closely with concealed carry laws typically applied to businesses in some states, and not schools.

Kansas law has allowed teachers to carry concealed guns since 2013 but school districts across the state have disallowed the practice after EMC Insurance Companies, the state's primary school insurer, refused to provide coverage to schools with armed staff.

Kansas Association of School Boards lobbyist Mark Tallman opposed the bill. He said insurance providers could still choose to deny coverage, yet schools would have no choice but to allow staff to arm themselves regardless. Even if an insurer is willing to provide under such circumstances, Tallman said, the rates would become very expensive.

Carpenter said for an insurance company to increase rates or to outright refuse to provide coverage to a school, it would have to prove that having an armed staff creates a higher risk environment.

According to the State Department of Education, the 286 local school districts expect to spend \$23.7 million on insurance in the current school year, not including health insurance. No testimony provided during the hearing predicted what that expense would become if the legislation passes.

Parker said he has received 284 pieces of written testimony opposing the bill, much of it from teachers



unhappy with the prospect of being armed and working alongside others who may or may not be.

"We're inventing new ways, it seems, to drive people out of the teaching profession in Kansas," Parker said.

## Designer of deadly waterslide charged along with park owner

By JOHN HANNA, Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — A water park company co-owner accused of rushing the world's tallest waterslide into service and a designer accused of shoddy planning were charged Tuesday in the decapitation of a 10-year-old boy on the ride in 2016.

With the latest charges, three men connected with Texas-based Schlitterbahn Waterparks and Resorts and its park in Kansas City, Kansas, have been indicted by a Kansas grand jury, along with the park and the construction company that built the ride. Caleb Schwab died on the 17-story ride when the raft he was riding went airborne and hit an overhead loop.

The Kansas attorney general's office said Schlitterbahn co-owner Jeffrey Henry, 62, and designer John Schooley were charged with reckless second-degree murder, along with Henry & Sons Construction Co., which is described as the private construction company of Schlitterbahn. Second-degree murder carries a sentence of 9 years to 41 years in prison.

They also were charged with 17 other felonies, including aggravated battery and aggravated endangerment of a child counts tied to injuries other riders sustained on the giant slide, called Verruckt, which is German for "insane." The indictment accuses Henry of making a "spur of the moment" decision to build the ride, and that he and Schooley lacked technical or engineering expertise in amusement park rides.

Henry was ordered held in a Texas jail without bond Tuesday, pending extradition to Kansas. The attorney general's office said Schooley is not in custody. Schooley didn't have a listed phone number and no one answered the phone at Henry & Sons Construction Co. Eric B Terry, who represented the company in an earlier unrelated case, didn't immediately return a phone or email message.

The same grand jury last week indicted the Kansas City park and Tyler Austin Miles, its former operations manager, on 20 felony charges. The charges include a single count of involuntary manslaughter in Schwab's death. Miles has been released on \$50,000 bond, according to one of his attorneys, Tricia Bath.

The company has promised to aggressively fight the criminal charges. After Miles and the park were charged, it said it would respond to the allegations in the 47-page indictment "point by point."

After Henry's arrest in Texas, Schlitterbahn spokeswoman Winter Prosapio said in an emailed statement: "We as a company and as a family will fight these allegations and have confidence that once the facts are presented it will be clear that what happened on the ride was an unforeseeable accident."

According to the indictments, Henry decided in 2012 to build the world's tallest water slide to impress the producers of a Travel Channel show. Henry's desire to "rush the project" and a lack of expertise caused the company to "skip fundamental steps in the design process."

The indictment said, "not a single engineer was directly involved in Verruckt's dynamic engineering or slide path design." The indictment said that in 2014, when there were news reports emerging about airborne rafts, a company spokesperson "discredited" them and Henry and his designer began "secretly testing at night to avoid scrutiny."

The indictment listed 13 injuries during the 182 days the ride was in operation, including two concussions. In one of those cases, a 15-year-old girl went temporarily blind while riding.

Caleb, the son of Kansas Republican state Rep. Scott Schwab, was decapitated after the raft on which he was riding went airborne on a day when admission was free for state legislators and their families.

The family reached settlements of nearly \$20 million with Schlitterbahn and various companies associated with the design and construction of the waterslide. The two women who rode on the same raft with Caleb suffered serious injuries and settled claims with Schlitterbahn for an undisclosed amount.

"Clearly the issues with Schlitterbahn go far beyond Caleb's incident, and we know the attorney general will take appropriate steps in the interest of public safety," the family said in a statement released Monday

through their attorneys.

The indictment said Schooley was responsible for doing "the math" that went into the slide's design and signed an operations manual claiming the ride met all American Society for Testing and Materials standards. But the indictment lists a dozen instances in which the design violated those standards and says investigators could find no evidence that so-called dynamic engineering calculations were made to determine the physics a passenger would experience. The indictment said Schooley lacked the technical expertise to properly design a complex amusement ride such as Verruckt.

The indictment said Schooley admitted, "If we actually knew how to do this, and it could be done that easily, it wouldn't be that spectacular."

Prosapio said Schlitterbahn does not expect any changes to the Kansas City park's season, which is set to open May 25 and runs through Labor Day. The Verruckt slide has been closed since Caleb died.

Mike Taylor, a spokesman for the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas, says it does not believe it has the legal authority to shut down a business, other than for an epidemic or contagious disease outbreak.

The company also operates water parks in Galveston, Corpus Christi, South Padre Island and New Braunfels, Texas, according to its website.

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Associated Press writers David Warren and Terry Wallace in Dallas also contributed to this report.

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Follow John Hanna on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/apjdhanna>

## Former Michigan State dean charged in Larry Nassar scandal

By DAVID EGGERT, Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. (AP) — The sexual abuse scandal at Michigan State University widened Tuesday when authorities charged a former dean with failing to protect patients from sports doctor Larry Nassar, along with sexually harassing female students and pressuring them for nude selfies.

William Strampel, 70, is the first person charged since an investigation was launched in January into how Michigan State handled complaints against Nassar, who for years sexually violated girls and young women, especially gymnasts, with his fingers during examinations.

Strampel, who as dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine oversaw the clinic where Nassar worked, neglected his duty to enforce examining-room restrictions imposed on Nassar after a patient accused the doctor in 2014 of sexual contact, authorities alleged.

Nassar was not supposed to treat patients near any "sensitive areas" on the body without a chaperone present. Because Strampel did not follow up to make sure Nassar was complying, he was able to commit a host of additional sexual assaults until he was fired two years later, prosecutors said.

The criminal complaint also accused Strampel of soliciting nude photos from at least one female medical student and using his office to "harass, discriminate, demean, sexually proposition, and sexually assault female students in violation of his statutory duty as a public officer."

His work computer was found to contain about 50 photos of female genitalia, nude and semi-nude women, sex toys and pornography, prosecutors said. "Many of these photos are of what appear to be 'selfies' of female MSU students, as evidenced by the MSU clothing and piercings featured in multiple photos," according to the complaint.

It said the computer also had a video of Nassar "performing a 'treatment' on a young female patient." It was not immediately clear whether the video was considered evidence of inappropriate behavior by Strampel. Defense attorney John Dakmak said it most likely was one that Nassar widely used to show certain techniques.

Strampel was accused also of grabbing two students' buttocks at the college's annual ball and a scholarship dinner.

He spent Monday night in jail and was released Tuesday on \$25,000 bail. The felony and misdemeanor

charges — misconduct in office, criminal sexual conduct and two counts of neglect of duty — carry maximum penalties ranging from a year to five years behind bars.

“My client denies that he ever engaged in any inappropriate touching of anyone, any student or otherwise,” Dakmak said. “He denies that there was any quid pro quo for sexual favors in exchange for any type of standing within the university, or the medical school.”

The defense attorney also disputed the notion that Strampel neglected his duty to oversee Nassar, saying it was the responsibility of the university’s Title IX investigators to ensure Nassar abided by the restrictions on his practice.

Bill Forsyth, who was hired by Michigan’s attorney general to investigate the university, would not discuss the photos on Strampel’s computer or precisely how Strampel obtained them.

“This is an ongoing investigation,” Forsyth said at a news conference. “We would encourage anybody with information, whether it be about former Dean Strampel or whether it’s about anything at Michigan State that they’re concerned about, call the hotline at the attorney general’s office and report that.”

Nassar, 54, pleaded guilty to molesting patients and possessing child pornography and was sentenced to spend the rest of his life in prison earlier this year after roughly 200 women gave powerful statements against him in two courtrooms over 10 extraordinary days.

Strampel told authorities in 2017 that he did not check to see if Nassar was obeying the examining-room restrictions because Nassar had been “exonerated” in an investigation by police and the university. At least 12 reported assaults occurred after the probe ended, according to university police.

Nassar was fired in 2016 for violating the chaperone rules. Strampel announced his leave of absence as dean — citing medical reasons — in December. In February, interim Michigan State President John Engler announced plans to fire Strampel, who still has tenure that protects his employment as a faculty member.

In a statement, Engler said the charges against Strampel “confirm our belief that he has fallen far short of what is expected and required from academic leadership.”

More than 250 girls and women have sued Michigan State, Strampel and other current and former university officials, USA Gymnastics — where Nassar also worked — and others. In a court filing Tuesday, the parties said they are restarting talks that could lead to a settlement. The mediator will be Layn Phillips, a former federal judge in Oklahoma.

Ray Cassar, a Detroit-area defense attorney not involved in the case, said prosecutors might have a hard time proving the neglect-of-duty charges against Strampel.

“He may have had a moral duty or ethical duty. But they’re going to have to show he had an actual legal duty,” Cassar said. “Does the dean of the medical school have a duty to check every single employee to see if they’re complying with his directives?”

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Associated Press writer Ed White in Detroit contributed to this report.

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## **2 officers in black man’s fatal shooting won’t be charged**

**By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN and ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE, Associated Press**

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Louisiana’s attorney general ruled out criminal charges Tuesday against two white Baton Rouge police officers in the shooting of a black man whose death led to widespread protests nearly two years ago.

Attorney General Jeff Landry’s decision came nearly 11 months after the Justice Department ruled out federal criminal charges in Alton Sterling’s July 2016 death.

Officer Blane Salamoni shot and killed Sterling during a struggle outside a convenience store where the 37-year-old black man was selling homemade CDs. Officer Howie Lake II helped wrestle Sterling to the ground, but Lake didn’t fire his gun. Two cellphone videos of the shooting quickly spread on social media,

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prompting large protests.

Landry made the announcement of no charges at a news conference after meeting with family members of Sterling. They angrily denounced the decision.

Quinyetta McMillon, the mother of one of Sterling's children, Cameron, said the officers killed Sterling "in cold blood."

"They took a human away. They took a father away. They took somebody away that did not deserve to be away," she said.

Landry said his office reviewed all of the evidence compiled by the Justice Department and also conducted its own interviews of witnesses.

"I know the Sterling family is hurting," Landry told reporters. "I know that they may not agree with the decision."

Toxicology and urine test results released Tuesday showed Sterling had cocaine, methamphetamine, fentanyl and other drugs in his system at the time. Landry said it was "reasonable" to conclude Sterling was under the influence of drugs during the struggle "and that contributed to his non-compliance" with the officers' commands.

Landry didn't take any questions from reporters.

A lawyer for two of Sterling's five children slammed the report as biased. L. Chris Stewart said investigators did not follow up with witnesses and relied heavily on two outside experts who reviewed evidence collected by federal investigators. He also criticized the decision to put Sterling's criminal history into the report, saying that had nothing to do with the case.

The officers' body cameras and a store surveillance camera also recorded the encounter. Those videos haven't been released, but Baton Rouge Police Chief Murphy Paul said he intends to release both after he concludes the disciplinary process for the two officers, who have remained on paid administrative leave since the July 5, 2016, shooting. He hopes to complete the process Friday.

A lawyer for Lake said his client should remain on the police force. Attorney Kyle Kershaw said Lake's actions during the encounter complied with police procedure.

Salamoni's attorney, John McLindon, called it "grossly unfair" that a disciplinary hearing is planned less than a week after the end of the criminal investigation.

McLindon said he expects his client will be fired.

"I believe it's a foregone conclusion," McLindon said. "The decision has already been made."

Residents at the convenience store where Sterling was killed said they weren't surprised by Landry's decision. Le'Roi Dunn, a 40-year-old cook, gestured at the spot where Sterling was killed and said it was wrong for the officers to avoid any charges.

"It hurts, though, to see them get away and go on with their lives," Dunn said.

State and federal authorities said Salamoni yelled that Sterling was reaching for a gun in his pocket before shooting him three times, and then fired three more shots into Sterling's back when he began to sit up and move. A 34-page report by Landry's office said it's "important to note" that Sterling's hands were concealed from the officers as he sat up and rolled away from Salamoni.

The officers recovered a loaded revolver from Sterling's pocket. As a convicted felon, Sterling could not legally carry a gun.

Video footage shows Sterling threatening someone with a firearm before the officers respond to a report of a man with a gun outside the Triple S Food Mart, according to Landry's report.

The officers told Sterling to put his hands on the hood of a car and struggled with him when he didn't comply, Landry's office said. Sterling continued to resist after Salamoni drew his weapon and threatened to shoot him in the head if he didn't stop moving, according to Landry's report. Lake shocked Sterling with a stun gun twice before the officers wrestled him down, investigators said.

Federal authorities concluded there wasn't enough evidence to prove Salamoni or Lake willfully deprived Sterling of his civil rights, or that the officers' use of force was objectively unreasonable.

The shooting came amid increased scrutiny of fatal encounters between police and black men. The next



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day Philando Castile was shot and killed in Minnesota by police officer and the aftermath was streamed on Facebook by his girlfriend. The same week, five police officers were killed in Dallas during a protest against police shootings.

Racial tensions were still simmering in Louisiana's capital when a 29-year-old black military veteran shot and killed three Baton Rouge law enforcement officers on July 17, 2016.

Last year, lawyers for Sterling's five children filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the city of Baton Rouge, its police department and former police chief, and the two officers involved. Their suit alleges the shooting fit a pattern of racist behavior and excessive force by the Baton Rouge police.

## Trump floats using military budget to pay for border wall

By JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Still angry about the budget deal he signed last week, President Donald Trump has floated the idea of using the military's budget to pay for his long-promised border wall with Mexico, despite the fact that such spending would likely require approval from Congress.

Trump raised the funding plan with House Speaker Paul Ryan at a meeting at the White House last Wednesday, according to a person familiar with the discussion who spoke on condition of anonymity.

And he's publicly tweeted that building "a great Border Wall" is "all about National Defense," and called to "Build WALL through M!", meaning the military.

Departments, however, have limited authority to reprogram funds without congressional approval. Pentagon spokesman Chris Sherwood referred all questions on the wall to the White House, where spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders deflected them, saying she was "not going to get into the specifics of that."

Trump threw Washington into a tizzy on Friday when he threatened to veto the omnibus spending bill, in part because it didn't include the \$25 billion he'd tried to secure for the wall in a last-minute bargaining spree.

The \$1.3 trillion funding package did include \$1.6 billion in border wall spending. But much of that money can only be used to repair existing segments, not build new sections. Congress also put restrictions on the types of barriers that can be built.

Trump has tried to justify signing the deal by pointing to the boost in funding it provides for the military. But he nonetheless remains frustrated, according to people familiar with his thinking, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Trump first publicly floated the idea of having the Pentagon pay for the rest of construction in an obscure tweet that left many confused.

"Building a great Border Wall, with drugs (poison) and enemy combatants pouring into our Country, is all about National Defense," he wrote Sunday. "Build WALL through M!"

He retweeted his message again Monday night.

Some people close to the president have also suggested creating a GoFundMe campaign that Trump could use to raise money from the public to fund construction. The White House did not immediately respond to questions about the idea, and it's unclear whether it has gained any serious traction.

Congress, under the Constitution, has the power to determine federal appropriations, and the administration has little authority to shift funding without congressional approval. The Senate Appropriations Committee was not aware of any authority that would allow the Defense Department to fund the wall without congressional approval, said a GOP aide.

Sanders said Tuesday that Trump would work with the White House counsel to make sure any action taken was within his executive authority. And she insisted the "continuation of building the wall is ongoing and we're going to continue moving forward in that process."

Building the wall was one of Trump's top campaign promises, and the idea that drew the loudest cheers from supporters at his rallies. Trump also insisted he'd make Mexico pay for the construction. But Mexico has made clear it has no intention of doing so directly.

Trump has also proposed making Mexico pay for the wall indirectly through measures such as increasing

visa fees, imposing new tariffs and targeting remittances.

Associated Press writers Lisa Mascaro and Lolita C. Baldor contributed to this report.

## It's a catch: NFL owners approve simplified catch language

By BARRY WILNER, AP Pro Football Writer

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Maybe it's too late for Jesse James and the Steelers or Zach Miller and the Bears. No matter, the NFL has a simplified catch rule designed to eliminate confusion — and, the league hopes, controversy — about receptions.

Team owners unanimously approved the new language Tuesday, with basically three elements defining a catch:

- having control of the ball;
- getting two feet down or another body part;
- making a football move, such as taking a third step or extending the ball.

"We wanted to simplify and provide clarity," Pittsburgh coach and longtime competition committee member Mike Tomlin said. "It was time to do so after we got caught up in language that didn't do that. The language was obscure and confusing."

The committee cited overturned receptions by tight ends James and Miller last season among the dozens of plays they reviewed "dozens of times," according to committee chairman Rick McKay, president of the Atlanta Falcons.

The James call was particularly impactful because the Steelers wound up losing to New England in a December game that determined home-field advantage for the playoffs. The Patriots got it and wound up in the Super Bowl. Pittsburgh lost its first postseason game to Jacksonville.

Just as infamous were negated catches by Dez Bryant of the Cowboys in a 2015 playoff game at Green Bay, and Calvin Johnson of the Lions in 2010 against the Bears.

"I think the third step recommendation was excellent," Packers coach Mike McCarthy said. "It cleans up a majority of the (catches) that were in question. The old rule was so technical. We're better off today than in the past."

Added Tom Coughlin, the Jaguars' top executive:

"First of all, simplicity is the key. I think this is a fan-driven concept here because a lot of people have no idea why was this thing called that way and why was the next one not called that way. ... I think we've cleaned up a lot of that, and that will get the fans more engrossed in the game. It's going to be much easier for them to understand what is and what isn't."

Late Tuesday, the owners rewrote the rule on using the helmet, making it a 15-yard penalty for any player to lower his head to initiate any hit with the helmet.

McKay called it "a significant change," noting that it was a "technique too dangerous for the player doing it and the player being hit."

McKay said the tackle made by the Steelers' Ryan Shazier last season that resulted in the linebacker suffering a spinal injury — Shazier underwent spinal stabilization surgery two days later — was not the impetus for the change. But it was an example of what needs to be eliminated from the game.

"This one technique, we saw so many hits when a player lowered his head and delivered a hit and either hurt himself or the player he was hitting," McKay said. "It was time for a change of this magnitude."

While the offender could be disqualified, owners did not call for an automatic ejection on such a play — at least not yet. In college football, when a player is penalized for targeting and a replay review affirms it, he is ejected.

Also approved Tuesday was making permanent spotting the ball at the 25-yard line after a touchback on a kickoff; allowing players on injured reserve to be traded; and authorizing a designated member of the officiating department to instruct on-field game officials to eject a player for a flagrant non-football act when a foul for that act is called on the field.

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Withdrawn by the Jets was a proposal to limit defensive pass interference to 15 yards, the penalty in college, except for egregious incidents. The competition committee was not in favor of such a change, but McKay and football operations chief Troy Vincent said the idea has "some momentum." It is likely to come up again in future meetings.

Tabled was a proposal to allow an assistant coach whose team is still playing in the postseason to sign a contract to become head coach elsewhere. That's been dubbed the "Josh McDaniels Rule" after the Patriots offensive coordinator agreed to become the Colts coach in January, then reneged and returned to New England soon after the Super Bowl.

That suggestion also is expected to come up at future meetings, beginning in May at the Atlanta owners get-together.

Also tabled was whether to allow video on sideline Surface tablets that teams use now to view photos. McKay said the voters weren't there to pass it.

On-field officials supported having a member of the staff in New York calling for an ejection in certain blatant circumstances that involve non-football acts such as fighting. They cited the difficulty of determining the culprits in a fight or other such situations.

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AP Pro Football Writer Rob Maaddi and Sports Writer Mark Long contributed.

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

## Lawmaker withdraws anti-porn bill, citing 'dubious origins'

By MICHELLE R. SMITH, Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — A proposal that would have required a filter for online pornography that could be lifted with a \$20 fee was withdrawn Tuesday by a lawmaker who cited its "dubious origins."

Sen. Frank Ciccone said he pulled the bill after The Associated Press reported Monday that the legislation had been pushed around the country by a man with a history of outlandish lawsuits including one trying to marry his computer as a statement against gay marriage.

The measure, pushed in statehouses across the country by a group led by Chris Sevier, has been described as the Elizabeth Smart Law after the teenager kidnapped from her Utah home in 2002.

Ciccone, a Democrat who represents Providence, said he made the decision after the AP reported that Smart, now a child safety advocate, had sent a cease-and-desist letter to backers of the bill and "was in no way involved with this legislation." He said he felt misled by the group pushing the bill.

"But not only me. I assume there's quite a few other people," he said, adding he assumes lawmakers in other states also will pull their bills. "A lot of us had misinformation."

The legislation had drawn criticism from groups including the American Civil Liberties Union and the National Center on Sexual Exploitation, an anti-pornography advocacy group. The center demanded last year that Sevier stop claiming it supported his work.

The Electronic Frontier Foundation, which opposes the idea, has tracked about two dozen similar bills in 18 state legislatures, none of which has passed.

Sevier and supporters say the bill would protect children and others by making pornography and sites that allow human trafficking more difficult to access.

Sevier said he chose Smart's name because she has spoken about the negative effects of pornography, including that pornography during her captivity "made my living hell worse."

After being told by the AP that Smart's lawyer was sending a cease-and-desist letter, Sevier said the name Elizabeth Smart Law was an "offhand name" given to the legislation by lawmakers. The bill also was promoted as the Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation Prevention Act.

"Obviously, we're not trying to hurt Elizabeth Smart, for God's sake," Sevier said. "We don't really care what it's called. We just want it to pass. And we're going to see to it that it passes, and the law is on our side."

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Smart's new book, "When There's Hope: Healing, Moving Forward, and Never Giving Up," which addresses her nine-month abduction ordeal and stories of others who have survived adversity, was released Tuesday.

A federal judge in Utah on March 16 threw out a lawsuit from Sevier that targeted gay marriage by arguing he should be able to marry his laptop. Similar lawsuits in Texas, Tennessee, South Carolina and Kentucky have been dismissed.

Sevier was sentenced to probation after being found guilty in 2014 of harassment threats against country singer John Rich. Sevier previously told the AP he didn't do anything wrong and the case came after lawsuits between the men.

The bills differ in some details but generally include requiring internet service providers, or those who sell internet-capable devices, to install filters that screen out obscene material or sites that facilitate prostitution. The blocking can be lifted with a \$20 payment. Republicans and Democrats have sponsored it.

The Electronic Frontier Foundation and the American Civil Liberties Union say the idea is unconstitutional, including because it would install onto everyone's computer a censorship filter that would screen out lawful content.

Before withdrawing the measure, Ciccone had said he sponsored it because children "have easy access to materials that no child should be viewing, such as pornography and other highly offensive or disturbing material."

A Rhode Island Senate spokesman, Greg Pare, had called it "a national bill" modeled after one in New Jersey, where similar legislation has not been voted on.

Pare cited the HumanTraffickingPreventionAct.com website that Sevier is behind, which says at the top the act is "referred to as the Elizabeth Smart Law." A spokesman for Smart said she has nothing to do with it and there was "no authorization to use her name."

Sevier has said he met with Smart's father and "he knows about it."

Smart's spokesman said her father met with a group pushing the idea but suggested she send the letter.

## Expert says Brexit campaign used data mined from Facebook

By DANICA KIRKA, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The computer expert who alleges a trove of Facebook data was improperly used to help Donald Trump's White House bid said Tuesday that he strongly believes the information was also used by the Brexit movement that persuaded Britain to quit the European Union.

In a 3½-hour hearing, Chris Wylie told the House of Commons media committee that he believes the breach exceeded the 50 million Facebook users reported earlier — though he didn't give an exact figure. And he said the data compiled by the political consulting business Cambridge Analytica was available to other firms with links to it.

"All kinds of people had access to the data," said Wylie, who helped develop Cambridge Analytica's methods for using the information to target and persuade voters. "It was everywhere."

Among the companies that had access to the data was AggregateIQ, a Canadian political consultant that did work for Vote Leave, the official campaign backing Britain's withdrawal from the EU, Wylie said.

Wylie described Cambridge Analytica as just one arm of a global company, SCL Group, that gets most of its income from military contracts but is also a political gun-for-hire, often in countries where democratic institutions are weak. He suggested the company combines computer algorithms and dirty tricks to help candidates win regardless of the cost.

The 28-year-old Canadian with a swath of pink hair says he helped set up Cambridge Analytica in 2013. He left the next year.

Wylie has previously alleged that Cambridge Analytica used personal data improperly collected from Facebook users to help Trump's 2016 presidential campaign.

Cambridge Analytica says none of the Facebook data was used in its work on the Trump campaign. It denies any wrongdoing.

Cambridge Analytica's acting CEO, Alexander Tayler, said in a statement that Wylie was a part-time con-



tractor who "has no direct knowledge of our work or practices" since he left the company.

Wylie said he "absolutely" believes AggregateIQ drew on Cambridge Analytica's databases for its work on the Brexit campaign. In the closely fought referendum in 2016, 51.9 percent of voters backed Britain's departure from the EU.

"I think it is incredibly reasonable to say that AIQ played a very significant role in Leave winning," Wylie said.

He testified that AggregateIQ was formed when Cambridge Analytica sought to expand but Canadians he wanted to bring into the business didn't want to relocate to Britain. The two firms shared underlying technology and worked so closely together that Cambridge Analytica staff often referred to the Canadian firm as a "department," he said.

Because of the links between the two companies, Vote Leave got the "the next best thing" to Cambridge Analytica when it hired AggregateIQ, "a company that can do virtually everything that (Cambridge Analytica) can do but with a different billing name," Wylie said.

AggregateIQ, based in Victoria, British Columbia, issued a statement saying it has never been part of Cambridge Analytica or SCL.

"AggregateIQ works in full compliance within all legal and regulatory requirements in all jurisdictions where it operates," the company said. "All work AggregateIQ does for each client is kept separate from every other client."

Wylie's testimony came a day after Wylie and two other former insiders presented 50 pages of documents that they said proved Vote Leave violated election finance rules during the referendum campaign.

They allege that Vote Leave circumvented spending limits by donating 625,000 pounds (\$888,000) to the pro-Brexit student group BeLeave, which then sent the money directly to AggregateIQ.

Vote Leave denies breaking any campaign finance regulations. Dominic Cummings, the Vote Leave strategist, called Wylie a "fantasist-charlatan."

## Russian mall fire: Protesters demand officials' ouster

By NATALIYA VASILYEVA and VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV, Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Fuming with anger, thousands of Russians rallied for more than 10 hours Tuesday in a Siberian city, demanding the ouster of regional officials for a shopping mall fire that killed at least 64 people.

President Vladimir Putin, on a trip to the city of Kemerovo, scolded officials for neglecting safety rules that could have prevented the tragedy.

The blaze engulfed the Winter Cherry mall in Kemerovo on Sunday, the first weekend of the school recess, trapping dozens of parents and children inside. Witnesses reported that fire alarms were silent and many doors were locked. Many of the victims were children who died in a locked movie theater after making desperate calls for help.

Putin arrived early Tuesday, laying flowers at the makeshift memorial to the victims outside the mall and meeting with officials. He did not show up at the protest in front of the regional government's headquarters, but met with some demonstrators at the city's morgue.

"Hearing about so many children who died fills you with a desire to not simply cry but to wail," the somber-faced Putin said. "We lost so many people because of criminal negligence and sloppiness."

Putin noted the highly combustible materials used to convert the mall from a Soviet-era confectionary factory and the absence of a functioning fire safety system, saying that investigators will track down all those responsible.

Emergency officials reported that 58 bodies have been recovered and that rescue workers were still searching for six more in the city that is 3,000 kilometers (1,900 miles) east of Moscow. They said 41 of the victims were children.

One protester at the rally, Igor Vostrikov, addressed deputy governor Sergei Tsivilyov, saying the families of the victims think the death toll is much higher than authorities have stated because the entire movie theater burnt down.

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"We're not calling for blood," he said. "The children are dead, you can't give them back. We need justice."

When Tsivilov dismissed the comments as "a PR stunt," Vostrikov shouted that he has lost his wife, sister and three daughters, aged 2, 5 and 7, in the fire.

"They died because they were locked in a movie theater," Vostrikov told the Dozhd television station. "They were calling from there, asking for help: 'We're locked in, we're suffocating!' No one helped because when the blaze broke out, everyone ran away."

The impromptu protest reflected residents' deep frustration with the official response to the tragedy. The local governor has still not visited the site of the fire or met with the relatives, and Putin waited a day before traveling to Kemerovo and declaring nationwide mourning.

Facing public outrage, the Kremlin issued a statement Tuesday, declaring Wednesday a day of mourning.

Another deputy governor, Vladimir Chernov, told the rally in Kemerovo that unconfirmed reports of hundreds of deaths at the mall were untrue and said he was ready to resign if people wanted him to.

"Resign, resign!" the crowd chanted back.

Kemerovo's mayor asked the rally to nominate representatives to visit the morgue to check for themselves that the authorities were not hiding the truth about the deaths. A dozen protesters did so, and Putin met with them in the lobby, telling them to "not even doubt" that the culprits will be punished.

Responding to their calls to oust longtime Kemerovo regional Governor Aman Tuleyev, Putin said he would make a decision following a probe conducted by a team of 100 federal investigators.

"The investigators will check the entire chain, starting from those who issued permissions and ending with those who were responsible for safety," Putin said in remarks broadcast by state TV stations.

In an apparent attempt to deflect Putin's anger, Tuleyev blamed "the opposition" and "local busybodies" for fomenting the protest in Kemerovo.

In Moscow, St. Petersburg and many other cities across Russia, tens of thousands were bringing flowers and soft toys to makeshift memorials to the fire victims.

"I mourn together with all the people," said the 28-year old computer expert Alexei Ivanov in St. Petersburg. "I think the reason for that tragedy is irresponsibility and corruption."

Russian state television on Tuesday showed footage from inside the charred movie theater, where the roof had entirely collapsed. Investigators said emergency exits were blocked and a security guard turned off the public announcement system when he received a call about the blaze.

The victims included six fifth-graders from the town of Treshchevsky outside Kemerovo who were watching the Peter Rabbit computer-animated film and found the doors at the movie theater locked.

One of the trapped girls, Vika Pochankina, called her aunt saying they can't get out and asking to tell her mom that she loved her.

Yevgeniya Oganisyan, aunt of young fire victim Viktoria Pochankina, wrote on her page in the Russian social network VKontakte that she was "waiting for a miracle but it didn't happen."

"Why did this torment happen to you, our angel? You deserved a happy, joyful life," she wrote.

Alexander Bastykin, chief of the Investigative Committee, the country's top criminal investigation agency, told Putin on Tuesday that the fire alarm had not been operational for two weeks and a security guard who failed to activate a parallel warning system couldn't provide a "reasonable" explanation for his actions.

He said investigators believe the blaze could have been sparked by a short circuit or an fire.

Investigators arrested the mall's director and four others who were responsible for fire safety. The director, Nadezhda Suddenok, told the court that she believed that the fire was caused by arson. She said one of her employees said flames first erupted in the children's game room, quickly engulfing the rubber foam gear.

The Investigative Committee is probing a Ukrainian blogger, Yevgeny Volnov, who posted his prank call to Kemerovo's morgue on YouTube, in which he was posing as an emergency official claiming that 300 people died in the fire.

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Irina Titova in St. Petersburg contributed to this report.

## Egypt tries to boost voter turnout with incentives, threats

By HAMZA HENDAWI and SAMY MAGDY, Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — One manager threatened employees to get them to vote — and then checked for tell-tale ink-stained fingers as they clocked in the next day. A regional governor pledged improved water and sanitation service to towns with a high turnout. Some people were promised more food and even cash if they went to the polls.

With President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi running virtually unopposed in this week's election, Egypt's leadership has made clear it considers a high turnout crucial to ensuring that the balloting has credibility.

For months ahead of the balloting that began Monday and runs through Wednesday, pro-government media have pushed the message that voting was a patriotic duty to foil foreign plots against Egypt.

But as the election neared, officials used a mixture of rewards, bullying and cajoling to boost turnout. This concerted drive has been undertaken by regional governors, community leaders, police, schools, clerics and businessmen, according to interviews conducted by The Associated Press.

The election comes amid the harshest crackdown on dissent in Egypt's modern history, with thousands of Islamists and secular activists in jail. It has been dismissed as a sham by opposition leaders and rights groups, and a call for a boycott by the opposition was criticized by government supporters as tantamount to treason.

The get-out-the-vote campaign has enlisted all elements of society, from secular to religious.

In Qalyoubiyah province, the local branch of Al-Azhar, Sunni Islam's foremost seat of learning, instructed heads of affiliated schools and seminaries to divide staff into three groups to vote on each of the three election days.

Designated leaders must escort the groups to polling stations and "monitor them until their return, when they verify that everyone has a finger stained with phosphoric ink," according to a March 20 memo obtained by the AP.

"Please follow the instructions very carefully out of concern for the nation's interest," it said.

There also have been not-so-subtle threats.

A top official of the street vendors' union in Cairo said he and other board members were told last week by authorities to get their members to vote if they wanted to be spared stepped-up raids and confiscation of goods by police and municipal officials. The official spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject.

In several southern provinces, including Assiut, Sohag and Minya, police have been going door to door to urge people to the polls, according to voters and witnesses.

The turnout campaign in southern Egypt followed meetings two weeks ago between local security chiefs and community leaders, including Muslim and Christian clerics, heads of Sufi orders, tribal chiefs and an ultraconservative Islamic party tolerated by the government.

Participants at the meetings assigned specific tasks by geographic location, according to witnesses and voters with firsthand experience of the operation.

Employees at a state-owned water and sanitation company in Cairo said Tuesday that their manager kept a promise made the previous day to be standing by their punch-in clock and checking their fingers for proof of voting when they reported to work.

"Our manager told us in a threatening tone: 'You are on an election mission. You have to vote if you know what's good for you,'" said employee Mohammed Abdel-Raouf.

An employee of a private contracting company said workers were threatened with disciplinary measures if they could not prove they voted. The employee spoke on condition that he and his employer not be identified because he feared retaliation.

At some schools, headmasters have threatened to send names of staff members who didn't vote to authorities.

A video seen on social media networks Tuesday purported to show an Education Ministry official talking to the staff about cards he had passed out for them to mark with their inky fingerprint after they vote.

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He tells them that footage has been shot of them receiving the cards, "so, no one turns around and says 'I did not get a card.'"

"These are not my instructions; they are the instructions of the state and its institutions," said the man, who had earlier lectured them on how voting provides support to Egypt against a world that "persecutes" it.

Reports of voting incentives from government officials also have emerged.

The governor of Beheira, a Nile Delta province north of Cairo, told a TV interviewer this week that villages and towns with a high voter-participation rate would be rewarded with improvements in their local water and sanitation services.

Another official, Gov. Magdy Hegazy of Aswan province in the south, promised unspecified financial rewards to the district with the highest participation, according to the website of state-run TV.

A March 24 memo from the secretary general of the New Valley province in western Egypt to heads of its town and district councils spelled out funds that would be spent on improving public services to the six localities with the biggest turnout. The top category, for 3,000 votes or more, was for 5 million pounds (about \$284,000), according to the memo obtained by the AP.

Aya Kamal, a resident in the Cairo suburb of Matariya, said she was promised extra food rations if she showed proof of voting to a shopkeeper at a state-designated store. She said the plan was being funded by the largest parliamentary coalition, which supports the government.

A charity led by another pro-government lawmaker, Saad el-Gamal, is paying for buses to take voters to the polls in el-Aqwaz, a village about 80 kilometers (50 miles) south of Cairo.

Fatima Abdel-Latif, 66, said she and other villagers were promised 100 pounds (\$5.70) each if they go to the charity's office and show their ink-stained fingers.

"We encourage people to vote. That is democracy, isn't it?" said Amr Saad, a civil servant who works for the charity.

It was not immediately clear if all the tactics were working.

Turnout on Tuesday, the second day of voting, was described by the election commission as "heavy" in Cairo, the Mediterranean port city of Alexandria and in northern Sinai, epicenter of an insurgency by Islamic militants. It provided no figures.

At a polling station in Cairo's Sixth of October suburb, where about 8,000 voters are registered, judges supervising the balloting said Monday's turnout had been about 14 percent.

One judge said that voters talked of being coerced.

"I have been hearing stories that hurt my ears," he said. "Ministries, government agencies, large supermarkets. ... You see groups coming together and you can ask them and see what brought them."

Across the street, 19-year-old engineering student Salma Mohammed said older Egyptians were pressuring younger ones to vote for el-Sissi.

"Most of the youth see this as a farce," she said, adding that some of her friends had been unjustly accused of extremism under el-Sissi's rule. "There are no freedoms, but he also brought security."

Local broadcasters have been showing modest lines of voters across much of the nation, along with some polling places that appeared to be deserted at times.

AP reporters who visited polls in the greater Cairo area were told by officials at four centers that turnout was as low as 7 percent on average by about 6 p.m. Monday, three hours before closing.

In Assiut province, the southern region's 13 districts had a turnout by the end of Monday that varied between 17.2 and 11.3 percent, according to an official tally obtained by the AP.

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Associated Press writers Maggie Michael and Menna Zaki contributed.



## AP-NORC Poll: Trump's approval rating up from historic lows

By JULIE PACE and EMILY SWANSON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The good news for President Donald Trump? His approval rating is up 7 points since last month, according to a new poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

The bad news? That only lifts Trump's approval to 42 percent, low for a president at this point in his tenure.

Still, the trajectory is a welcome shift for a White House that has been battered by chaos, controversies and internal upheaval. The poll suggests that at least some of the president's improving standing is tied to the economy and the Republican tax overhaul, which offers a glimmer of hope for GOP lawmakers who plan to make both issues the centerpiece of their efforts to maintain control of Congress in November.

Nearly half of Americans surveyed — 47 percent — say they approve of how Trump is handling the economy, his highest rating on any issue. When it comes to tax policy, 46 percent of Americans back Trump's moves.

"Our fortunes will rise and fall with the economy and specifically with the middle-class tax cut this fall," said Corry Bliss, executive director of the Congressional Leadership Fund, a super PAC aligned with House Speaker Paul Ryan. Bliss urged Republican candidates to view the law as "an offensive, not defensive weapon."

One of the GOP's challenges, however, will be keeping the economy and tax overhaul in the spotlight through the fall given the crush of other matters roiling the White House and competing for Americans' attention. At the White House on Monday, the daily press briefing was dominated by questions about the president's alleged affair with adult film star Stormy Daniels, a relationship he denies. Each week has seemed to bring a new departure among the president's closest advisers. And many days, Trump is more inclined to use his Twitter megaphone to try to discredit the investigation into possible campaign contacts with Russia than promote the tax overhaul.

Republican operatives acknowledge that even if they can break through the clutter, they still have a ways to go when it comes to explaining the \$1.5 trillion tax plan to Americans. Democrats have aggressively cast the measure, which permanently slashes the tax rate for corporations and reduces taxes for the wealthiest Americans, as a boon for the rich that offers comparatively little for the middle class.

The Democratic message does appear to be breaking through with voters. Among those Americans who are familiar with the new law, 77 percent believe it helps large corporations and 73 percent say it benefits the wealthy, while 53 percent say it helps small businesses. Americans are evenly divided on whether the measure helps the middle class.

Republicans argue Democrats risk overreaching by downplaying the impact that even a small windfall from the tax bill can have for a family and individual. According to the AP-NORC poll, nearly half of those who receive a paycheck — 46 percent — say they've seen an increase in their take-home pay as a result of the tax law.

Heather Diliros, a 46-year-old social worker from Topsham, Maine, is among them. Diliros, a Republican, estimates she's now taking home between \$100 to \$200 more per paycheck as a result of the new tax law. That's more than she expected when Trump signed the legislation.

Diliros said it's more than the dollar amount that's driving her support for the law.

"It's more about being able to keep what is rightfully mine rather than giving it to the government," she said.

Overall, taxes and the economy are the brightest spots for Trump, who gets lower numbers from voters on a range of other issues, including his handling of North Korea (42 percent), trade (41 percent), gun control (39 percent) and the budget deficit (35 percent).

Trump has benefited from an increasingly healthy economy that has boosted consumer and business sentiment. The 4.1 percent unemployment rate is the lowest since 2000 without the same kinds of excesses that fueled that era's tech bubble.

While Trump attributes the gains to his tax cuts and deregulation efforts, many economists say condi-

tions so far are largely a continuation of the momentum from the gradual expansion that began during the Obama administration.

Trump's most recent policy moves have also rattled financial markets and raised questions about the prospect of an economic slowdown. He slapped hefty tariffs on steel and aluminum imports, though his administration has issued waivers to several countries. And last week, he moved to slap \$60 billion in tariffs on Chinese goods, prompting Beijing to promise swift retaliation.

The full scope and impact of Trump's proposed tariffs won't be known for some time, but the initial reaction from Americans is decidedly mixed. The AP-NORC poll finds that 38 percent support the steel and aluminum tariffs and 29 percent are opposed.

The poll also finds that just 32 percent of Americans think the tariffs will lead to an increase in jobs, compared with 36 percent who think it will lead to a decrease. Forty percent think it will lead to an increase in consumer prices, while 39 percent think it will lead to a decrease.

The AP-NORC poll of 1,122 adults was conducted March 14-19 using a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak Panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 4.2 percentage points.

Respondents were first selected randomly using address-based sampling methods, and later interviewed online or by phone.

Online:

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

AP writer Josh Boak contributed to this report.

Follow Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC> and Emily Swanson at [http://twitter.com/EL\\_Swan](http://twitter.com/EL_Swan)

## Anti-Semitic slaying of 85-year-old prompts outcry in France

By JEFFREY SCHAEFFER and SYLVIE CORBET, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Like many who survived Nazi horrors, Mireille Knoll embraced life, eating out and going to the theater despite limited means. Even as age and Parkinson's disease took their toll, she delighted in receiving guests — until one of them allegedly stabbed the 85-year-old to death because she was Jewish.

The brutal killing in Paris last week has raised uncomfortable questions about resurgent anti-Semitism in France.

"I thought I was going to die on the spot. I cried all the tears in my body and I thought of her. She didn't deserve this," her anguished son, Daniel Knoll, told The Associated Press Tuesday, near the Paris public housing project his mother called home for most of her life.

"How can one do that to anybody? The police revealed she was stabbed 11 times."

Mireille Knoll was killed Friday in her apartment, which was then set on fire. On Tuesday, prosecutors filed preliminary charges against two people for murder with anti-Semitic motives, including a neighbor Knoll hosted regularly, to lessen her loneliness.

As Knoll's family gathered in Paris to attend her funeral on Wednesday, horrified French leaders and activists called for people to take to the streets to protest racism.

Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo urged all Parisians to join a silent march in memory of Knoll on Wednesday, and politicians across the political spectrum pledged to attend. French President Emmanuel Macron tweeted his "absolute determination to fight against anti-Semitism."

For Knoll's family, the killing was a cruel coda to her long life.

At age 9, she fled Paris to escape a notorious World War II roundup of Paris Jews. French police herded some 13,000 people — including more than 4,000 children — into the Vel d'Hiv stadium in 1942 and shipped them to the Auschwitz death camp in Nazi-occupied Poland. Fewer than 100 survived.

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A family member with Brazilian citizenship helped Knoll and other relatives escape Nazi-occupied territory for southern Europe and then Canada. She returned to France only after the end of the war.

Over the years her grandchildren and other French Jews moved to Israel, but Knoll stayed in her beloved Paris, living nearly her whole life in the modest apartment on Avenue Philippe Auguste.

"There was nothing to steal. My mother was poor," her son said. "Her credit card? She would have only been able to withdraw 100 euros. She had no money on her account."

Authorities have not released the names of the two men in custody but have said the chief suspect is a 29-year-old with a past conviction who lived in the same building.

Daniel Knoll said the suspect had lived there since he was 7. His mother "took pleasure in having him at home and ... although we'd asked her not to welcome him, she let him in like she always did, the same way she did with everybody, with kindness," he said.

"My mother had a thirst for knowledge and meeting new people and talking to them and that's what killed her," he said.

On Tuesday, a photo of Knoll hung on her door, surrounded by paper hearts and a police notice saying the apartment was the subject of a judicial inquiry.

On a gate outside the building in eastern Paris, neighbors hung up a tribute poster. Candles flickered next to piles of flowers in her honor.

Smoke residue from the fire still stained her apartment window.

Knoll's granddaughter, Jessica, lashed out at the attackers who "burned all of our memories, burned my entire childhood that I experienced there, in photos, albums, souvenirs."

Speaking Tuesday in Herzliya in central Israel, Jessica Knoll stroked a ring her grandmother gave her on her last visit to Paris, and remembered her irrepressible energy.

"She used to run faster than us," she told the AP.

Daniel Knoll remembered his mother as talkative and vivacious. In a home video she could be seen raising a glass and declaring, "Lechaim!" — "to life!" in Hebrew.

When she could still walk, he said, "she was going to restaurants, to theaters, to cinemas to see movies. She likes so much to read, she likes life so much. All those people who know war, they like life, maybe more than these crazy people" who killed her.

Mireille Knoll's husband was deported to Nazi concentration camps, and their wartime experiences colored their children's lives.

Yet, despite a resurgence of anti-Semitic violence and vandalism in recent years, and anti-Israeli sentiment among many young French Muslims, Daniel Knoll said he didn't feel targeted for being Jewish.

Granddaughter Jessica, however, warned that "today it is my grandmother and tomorrow it will be a grandmother, a grandchild, someone else's father."

Jessica Knoll, who emigrated to Israel as a child 20 years ago, urged the French to "stop making excuses and see reality for what it is."

The French Jewish group CRIF compared Knoll's killing to that of Sarah Halimi, 65, who was beaten and thrown from her balcony last April. That murder was reclassified as anti-Semitic last month. The suspect is in a psychiatric hospital.

France's government presented a plan earlier this month to fight racism and anti-Semitism, focusing on social media and prevention in schools. It also wants to change French law to force internet platforms to detect and remove illegal content.

An annual national count of racist, anti-Semitic, anti-Muslim and anti-Christian acts — most involving threats — dipped in 2017 compared with the year before. But anti-Semitic violence increased by 26 percent, and criminal damage to Jewish places of worship and burial by 22 percent.

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Associated Press writers Angela Charlton in Paris and Areej Hazboun in Herzliya, Israel, contributed to this report.

## Retired justice urges repeal of Second Amendment

WASHINGTON (AP) — Retired Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens is calling for the repeal of the Second Amendment to allow for significant gun control legislation.

The 97-year-old Stevens says in an essay on The New York Times website that repeal would weaken the National Rifle Association's ability to "block constructive gun control legislation."

Stevens was on the losing end of a 2008 ruling in which the high court held that the Second Amendment gives individuals the right to own a gun for self-defense. He had previously called for changing the Second Amendment to permit gun control.

Stevens says the decision in that case, *District of Columbia v. Heller*, "has provided the N.R.A. with a propaganda weapon of immense power." Stevens retired from the court in 2010, after more than 35 years.

In his essay published Tuesday, Stevens talks about the "March for Our Lives" events on Saturday which drew crowds in cities across the country. Stevens said the demonstrations "reveal the broad public support for legislation to minimize the risk of mass killings of schoolchildren and others in our society."

He said the support "is a clear sign to lawmakers to enact legislation prohibiting civilian ownership of semiautomatic weapons, increasing the minimum age to buy a gun from 18 to 21 years old, and establishing more comprehensive background checks on all purchasers of firearms."

But Stevens called on demonstrators to "seek more effective and more lasting reform."

"They should demand a repeal of the Second Amendment," he wrote.

Repealing the amendment would be extremely difficult. An amendment to the Constitution can only be proposed either by Congress with a two thirds vote in both houses or by a constitutional convention called for by two thirds of the state legislatures. The amendment then has to be approved by three quarters of the states.

Asked at a White House briefing whether President Donald Trump had any reaction to Stevens' comments, press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said the president and administration "still fully support the Second Amendment."

"We think that the focus has to remain on removing weapons from dangerous individuals, not on blocking all Americans from their constitutional rights," she said.

The National Rifle Association also issued a statement in response to Stevens' essay.

"The men and women of the National Rifle Association, along with the majority of the American people and the Supreme Court, believe in the Second Amendment right to self-protection and we will unapologetically continue to fight to protect this fundamental freedom," the statement said.

## How Facebook was able to siphon off phone call and text logs

By RYAN NAKASHIMA and MAE ANDERSON, AP Technology Writers

The news that Facebook's Android app has been collecting call and text histories is yet another black eye for the social media giant. But just why was Facebook able to siphon off records of who its users were contacting — and when — in the first place?

The short answer: Because Google let it. The longer answer: Well, it's complicated.

The social network acknowledged on Sunday that it began uploading call and text logs from phones running Google's Android system in 2015 — first via its Messenger app and later through an option in Facebook Lite, a stripped-down version of its main app. Facebook added that only users who gave appropriate permission were affected, that it didn't collect the contents of messages or calls, and that users can opt out of the data collection and have the stored logs deleted by changing their app settings.

Facebook did not respond to multiple requests for more specifics. The kerfuffle over this data collection, first reported by the website *Ars Technica*, follows a week of turmoil for the social network involving charges that it allowed political consultants to steal the data of 50 million users in order to influence elections.

There's a reason Facebook's actions were restricted to Android phones. Apple locks down app permissions tightly, which offers more privacy protection to iPhone users. "Apple's fundamental approach is to



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collect the minimum amount of information to keep the service running, and keep customers in control of the information," said Rich Mogull, CEO of the security firm Securosis.

But Android has long been more indulgent.

Until recently, in fact, Google let app developers gain access to a phone's call and text logs. All they needed was an app that required access to user contacts. Once users agreed, Android would then also grant access to those communication histories.

Starting in 2012 with its "Jelly Bean" release, Android would notify people installing such apps that they were also giving apps access to their call and text logs, but still required them to agree to all those permissions at once. Rejecting the request meant the apps wouldn't work.

It wasn't until 2015 when Google released Android 6.0, dubbed "Marshmallow," that Android phones finally split up those permissions. That meant users could agree to share contacts, but reject access to their messaging and phone histories.

That's the same year Facebook says its apps started collecting this information. But many Android users aren't using the latest version of the software. In fact, they often can't get it even if they want it.

Apple owns both the software and hardware for iPhones, which allows it to push out new versions of its iOS operating software at will. Google, by contrast, is largely at the mercy of both mobile carriers and hardware makers when it comes to distributing new Android versions.

There are nearly 20,000 Android phone models now in service, and carriers like to tweak the software for each to ensure that it will work as smoothly as possible on their networks. As a result, new Android versions reach users very slowly.

As of January, about 65 percent of iPhone users were using the latest iOS software, introduced in 2017. Less than 1 percent of Android devices currently use the latest version of Android, known as "Oreo." (Many of them are owners of Google's new Pixel phones, which get software updates directly from Google.)

Just over half of all Android users are using the two previous versions, which allow them to specifically reject the sharing of communication logs. Last October, Google began forcing all apps to follow the new rules when they issue updates, even on phones running older versions of Android.

All that leaves two big questions unanswered. Why did Google set up Android permissions this way? And how many other apps have taken advantages of the same setup?

Experts and privacy advocates say the answer to the first question is probably related to Google's advertising-based business model, which — like Facebook — depends on collecting detailed information about users in order to target them with tailored ads. Apple, meanwhile, derives its profits from the sale of devices and services like Apple Music.

Another possible factor: Android was playing catch-up with Apple for many years, and was eager to attract app developers in order to attain parity with Apple's App Store. Some app developers may have found greater access to user data on Android attractive — as Facebook did.

Experts say it's not clear if other apps are going as far as Facebook in terms of tracking call history and texts, but it's very possible.

"In a lot of ways, Facebook is the tip of the iceberg," said Bob O'Donnell, chief analyst at Technalysis Research. "There are plenty of other people doing this kind of data collection."

It is unclear how many apps gained access to call logs so far or how many users' call logs had been sent to app developers. A Google spokesperson declined to comment.

One major Android phone maker expressed uncertainty over its role in protecting user privacy. "At this time the nature of the data breach is unclear so it is difficult to comment on the cause or the solution," LG Electronics Inc. said Tuesday in a statement.

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AP Technology Writer Youkyung Lee in Seoul, South Korea, contributed to this report.

## Linda Brown, central figure in school segregation case, dies

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — As a girl in Kansas, Linda Brown's father tried to enroll her in an all-white school in Topeka. He and several black families were turned away, sparking the Brown v. Board of Education case that challenged segregation in public schools.

A 1954 decision by the U.S. Supreme Court followed, striking down racial segregation in schools and cementing Linda Brown's place in history as a central figure in the landmark case.

Funeral officials in Topeka said Brown died Sunday at age 75. A cause of death was not released. Arrangements were pending at Peaceful Rest Funeral Chapel.

Her sister, Cheryl Brown Henderson, founding president of The Brown Foundation, confirmed the death to The Topeka Capital-Journal. She declined comment from the family.

Sherrilyn Ifill, president and director-counsel at NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund Inc., said in a statement that Linda Brown is one of a band of heroic young people who, along with her family, courageously fought to end the ultimate symbol of white supremacy — racial segregation in public schools.

"She stands as an example of how ordinary schoolchildren took center stage in transforming this country. It was not easy for her or her family, but her sacrifice broke barriers and changed the meaning of equality in this country," Ifill said in a statement.

The NAACP's legal arm brought the lawsuit to challenge segregation in public schools before the Supreme Court, and Brown's father, Oliver Brown, became lead plaintiff.

Several black families in Topeka were turned down when they tried to enroll their children in white schools near their homes. The lawsuit was joined with cases from Delaware, South Carolina, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

On May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously that separating black and white children was unconstitutional because it denied black children the 14th Amendment's guarantee of equal protection under the law. "In the field of public education, the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place," Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote. "Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal."

The Brown decision overturned the court's Plessy v. Ferguson decision, which on May 18, 1896, established a "separate but equal" doctrine for blacks in public facilities.

"Sixty-four years ago, a young girl from Topeka, Kansas sparked a case that ended segregation in public schools in America," Kansas Gov. Jeff Colyer said in a statement. "Linda Brown's life reminds us that by standing up for our principles and serving our communities we can truly change the world. Linda's legacy is a crucial part of the American story and continues to inspire the millions who have realized the American dream because of her."

Brown v. Board was a historic marker in the civil rights movement, likely the most high-profile case brought by Thurgood Marshall and the lawyers of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund in their decade-plus campaign to chip away at the doctrine of "separate but equal."

"Her legacy is not only here but nationwide," Kansas Deputy Education Commissioner Dale Dennis said.

Oliver Brown, for whom the case was named, became a minister at a church in Springfield, Missouri. He died of a heart attack in 1961. Linda Brown and her sister founded in 1988 the Brown Foundation for Educational Equity, Excellence and Research.

The foundation says on its webpage that it was established as a living tribute to the attorneys, community organizers and plaintiffs in the landmark Supreme Court decision. Its mission is to build upon their work and keep the ideals of the decision relevant for future generations.

"We are to be grateful for the family that stood up for what is right," said Democratic state Rep. Annie Kuether of Topeka. "That made a difference to the rest of the world."

## Selfie medicine: Phone apps push people to take their pills

By CARLA K. JOHNSON, AP Medical Writer

SEATTLE (AP) — Take two tablets and a selfie? Your doctor's orders may one day include a smartphone video to make sure you took your medicine.

Smartphone apps that monitor pill-taking are now available, and researchers are testing how well they work when medication matters. Experts praise the efficiency, but some say the technology raises privacy and data security concerns.

Selfie medicine works like this: Open an app on your phone, show your pills, put them in your mouth and swallow. Don't forget to show your empty mouth to the camera to prove today's dose is on its way. Then upload the video proof to the clinic.

Fans say the technology addresses a big problem: About half of drugs for chronic conditions aren't taken as prescribed because of cost, side effects or patient forgetfulness.

With treatment for opioid addiction, a skipped dose can mean a dangerous relapse. The National Institute on Drug Abuse is funding research to tailor a smartphone app for those patients and see if they'll use it.

"If we can keep patients engaged, we can keep them in treatment longer," said lead researcher Dr. Judith Tsui of the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle.

The next phase of her research will compare a group of patients who use the monitoring app called emocha (ee-MOH-kuh) with those who don't to see if there's a difference.

At one Tennessee treatment center, some patients with opioid addiction are already using the app to upload selfies of their daily dose and answer questions about how they're doing.

"Every time they sign on, it allows us to capture data. Are they having cravings? Suicidal tendencies?" said Scott Olson, CEO of Dallas-based Pathway Healthcare, which is trying the app at its Jackson, Tennessee, site. "Maybe a phone call from a counselor might make the difference between staying clean and a relapse."

Olson thinks insurers will pay for the service with more evidence. For monitoring tuberculosis patients, health departments pay roughly \$35 to \$50 per patient each month for systems that include encrypted data storage. A small health department might pay as little as \$500 a month.

The idea of watching someone take their medicine — called directly observed therapy or DOT — has roots in tuberculosis where one person's forgetfulness can be serious for everyone. If patients don't take all their antibiotics, their infectious TB germs can get stronger, developing drug resistance and endangering the broader community.

But taking a handful of pills daily for up to a year is difficult, so public health departments traditionally sent workers to people's homes and workplaces to watch them take their doses. Today, many TB patients prefer remote monitoring. Nurses like it too.

Nurse Peggy Cooley has used Skype for years to chat live with patients taking TB medicine.

"We can accomplish in a two-minute phone call something that might have taken an hour to do and most of that hour was in the car," said Cooley, who works for the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department in Washington state.

The new uploaded selfies don't need an appointment. They are a daily routine for many tuberculosis patients in Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Houston, where savings on mileage and worker time amounted to \$100,000 in a recent year.

In Boston, Albuquerque and five other cities, researchers are studying whether the technology works for hepatitis C, a blood-borne virus that's surging among a new generation of injection drug users. New drugs for hepatitis C can cure, but they're expensive — \$75,000 for a 12-week course of treatment — so insurers want to make sure patients take them.

"I think it holds a lot of promise," said researcher Dr. Alain Litwin of University of South Carolina School of Medicine, who's testing whether patients do better when someone watches them take their pills.

What's next? An insurer in Maryland plans to use the technology in diabetes and high blood pressure to make sure Medicare and Medicaid patients take their medicine. Startups selling the apps say they could be used by faraway adult children monitoring an elderly parent's daily pill-taking.

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Experts worry about privacy, data security and penalties for poor pill-taking.

"That's the biggest ick factor," said Carolyn Neuhaus, a medical ethicist at the Hastings Center in New York. "You can imagine a program where benefits are tied to compliance and the insurer says, 'We won't pay for medication anymore unless you're taking it correctly.'"

Globally, the rapid spread of smartphones creates an opportunity to eradicate TB, say the app developers.

But eliminating TB may take simpler, cheaper technologies that can be scaled for millions of cases, said Dr. Daniel Chin, who leads TB efforts for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The group supports research in China and India on two homegrown technologies. China's tool, about the size of a child's shoebox, reminds patients to take their pills and saves data for review. In India, the government favors a blister pill pack printed with phone numbers; a patient punches out a daily pill, then calls the revealed number.

Worldwide, TB kills more than 1.6 million people annually, even though most deaths are preventable with treatment.

"If we are going to eliminate the disease, we need technology," said Dr. Richard Garfein of the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine, who helped develop one of the smartphone apps, SureAdhere.

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Follow AP Medical Writer Carla K. Johnson on Twitter: @CarlaKJohnson

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## SUVs to steal the New York International Auto Show

By TOM KRISHER, AP Auto Writer

Yes, there will be a few cars, but SUVs will capture most of the headlines at this year's New York International Auto Show.

Automakers will be shoring up gaps in their SUV lineups and revamping models that already are popular in the hottest-selling part of the U.S. market.

Leading the way is Toyota with an all-new RAV4 compact SUV, which last year was the most popular vehicle in the U.S. that isn't a truck. There are also new SUVs coming from Subaru, Volkswagen, Acura, Cadillac and Lincoln.

There won't be many cars. Nissan will show off a redesigned Altima midsize sedan, while Toyota will roll out a new Corolla hatchback. Kia will unveil a new K900 big luxury sedan, among others.

But SUVs, which hit a record 43 percent of U.S. sales last year at just over 7.3 million, according to Kelley Blue Book, will steal the show. Here are some wheels to watch:

### CADILLAC XT4

The compact SUV is now the largest part of the U.S. market, and Cadillac hasn't had a product to offer — until now. The General Motors luxury brand rolled out the new XT4 SUV at a pre-show event in New York Tuesday night. It's built on underpinnings specifically designed for the Cadillac brand and comes with sculpted looks and an interior that Cadillac says is luxurious and spacious. The company says it will have segment-leading back-seat legroom. It's powered by a 237-horsepower 2-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine with a nine-speed automatic transmission that will get an estimated 30 miles per gallon on the highway. The XT4 is available in the fall and starts at \$35,790 including shipping.

### VOLKSWAGEN ATLAS CROSS SPORT CONCEPT

Volkswagen broadens its growing SUV lineup with a five-seat version of the three-row Atlas. The company calls the Atlas Cross Sport a concept, but it's almost ready to be built at the automaker's U.S. factory in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The new version is 7.5 inches shorter than the seven-seat Atlas. The concept is powered by a 355-horsepower plug-in hybrid system with a V6 gasoline engine and a battery that can take it 26 miles on electric power. The hybrid concept can go from zero to 60 mph in 5.4 seconds, VW says. There's also a "mild hybrid" with 310-horsepower from a V6 and a smaller hybrid battery. The SUV



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is due in showrooms sometime next year. Mileage and price were not announced.

## TOYOTA RAV4

Toyota sold almost 408,000 RAV4 compact SUVs last year, making it the new American family car and the top-selling vehicle in the nation aside from Detroit's popular big pickups. In an effort to stay on top, Toyota is revamping the RAV for the 2019 model year. The fifth-generation comes on all-new underpinnings that the company says will give it better handling and a smoother ride. It's also slightly wider and a little lower. New looks are more chiseled and athletic, and the distance between the wheels grows by 1.2 inches for more passenger and cargo space. It comes standard with Toyota's safety system that includes automatic emergency braking. It's powered by a 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine and an eight-speed transmission, or a 2.5-liter gas-electric hybrid system with a continuously variable transmission. Horsepower, gas mileage and price weren't released. The new RAV hits showrooms in the fall.

## LINCOLN AVIATOR

Ford's luxury brand finally gets an Explorer-like midsize SUV with three rows of seats to compete in the hot luxury SUV market. The company was to unveil the Aviator Wednesday. Few details were given, except that it will have a twin-turbo engine of undisclosed size as well as a plug-in hybrid option. Ford says it will have tapered lines and a roomy interior. It also gets standard safety features such as automatic emergency braking and can be opened and started with a smart phone. The Aviator goes on sale sometime next year. The price wasn't disclosed.

## Asian stocks hit by tech losses

By **YOUKYUNG LEE, AP Business Writer**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Asian stock markets were in the red Wednesday as tech stocks extended losses following sell-offs of their U.S. peers overnight. Investors are selling technology-related shares on concern governments might tighten their scrutiny over Facebook after it was revealed that users' data was shared with a consulting firm affiliated with President Donald Trump.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 sank 1.8 percent to 20,936.59 and South Korea's Kospi slid 1.3 percent to 2,419.89. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index fell 1.4 percent to 30,350.64, while China's Shanghai Composite Index dropped 1.1 percent to 3,131.48. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 retreated 0.8 percent to 5,786.70. Stocks in Taiwan, Singapore and other Southeast Asian countries also fell.

BAD DAY FOR TECH: Investors cut their holdings of Asian tech stocks after a series of incidents sent their U.S. peers lower again. One of those cases is a report that authorities will investigate a fatal crash that involved a Tesla electric SUV equipped with a semi-autonomous control system. In Asia, Samsung Electronics Co. fell 2 percent and Sony Corp. lost 2.4 percent. Softbank Group Corp. slumped 3.6 percent. Tencent Holdings Ltd. was down 2.6 percent.

ANALYST VIEWPOINT: "So what spooked markets? Well, it looks like the rearing of the (ugly) Facebook privacy infringement was a convenient excuse to sell-off ahead of the long weekend," Mizuho Bank said in a commentary.

WALL STREET: U.S. stock markets finished sharply lower Tuesday pulled down by Nvidia, Microsoft, Tesla, Twitter, Facebook and other technology companies. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 1.7 percent to 2,612.62. The Dow tumbled 1.4 percent to 23,857.71. The tech-heavy Nasdaq slid 2.9 percent to 7,008.81. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks gave up 2 percent to 1,513.57.

OIL: Benchmark U.S. crude lost 54 cents to \$64.71 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract declined 30 cents to settle at \$65.25 a barrel on Tuesday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, fell 52 cents to \$68.94 per barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 105.53 yen from 105.34 yen. The euro strengthened to \$1.2419 from \$1.2404.

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## Today in History By The Associated Press.

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, March 28, the 87th day of 2018. There are 278 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 28, 1898, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *United States v. Wong Kim Ark*, ruled 6-2 that Wong, who was born in the United States to Chinese immigrants, was an American citizen.

On this date:

In 1797, Nathaniel Briggs of New Hampshire received a patent for a washing machine.

In 1834, the U.S. Senate voted to censure President Andrew Jackson for the removal of federal deposits from the Bank of the United States.

In 1930, the names of the Turkish cities of Constantinople and Angora were changed to Istanbul and Ankara.

In 1941, novelist and critic Virginia Woolf, 59, drowned herself near her home in Lewes, East Sussex, England.

In 1942, during World War II, British naval forces staged a successful raid on the Nazi-occupied French port of St. Nazaire in Operation Chariot, destroying the only dry dock on the Atlantic coast capable of repairing the German battleship *Tirpitz*.

In 1943, composer Sergei Rachmaninoff, 69, died in Beverly Hills, California.

In 1955, John Marshall Harlan II was sworn in as an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1969, the 34th president of the United States, Dwight D. Eisenhower, died in Washington D.C. at age 78.

In 1978, in *Stump v. Sparkman*, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld, 5-3, the judicial immunity of an Indiana judge against a lawsuit brought by a young woman who'd been ordered sterilized by the judge when she was a teenager.

In 1979, America's worst commercial nuclear accident occurred with a partial meltdown inside the Unit 2 reactor at the Three Mile Island plant near Middletown, Pennsylvania.

In 1987, Maria von Trapp, whose life story inspired the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "The Sound of Music," died in Morrisville, Vermont, at age 82.

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush presented the Congressional Gold Medal to the widow of U.S. Olympic legend Jesse Owens.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush declared that Iraq was standing at a defining moment as it struggled to put down heavily armed Shiite militias in new flare-ups of violence. Cuba made it legal for its citizens to own cellphones in their own names.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama, flanked by grim-faced mothers who lost their children to guns, urged lawmakers not to "get squishy" in the face of powerful forces against gun control legislation. Pope Francis washed and kissed the feet of a dozen inmates, including two young women, at a juvenile detention center in a surprising departure from church rules that restricted the Holy Thursday ritual to men. British actor Richard Griffiths, 65, remembered by movie fans for being grumpy Uncle Vernon in the "Harry Potter" movies, died in Coventry, England.

One year ago: President Donald Trump proposed immediate budget cuts of \$18 billion from programs like medical research, infrastructure and community grants so that U.S. taxpayers, not Mexico, could cover the down payment on the border wall. Wells Fargo said it would pay \$110 million to settle a class-action lawsuit over up to 2 million accounts its employees opened for customers without getting their permission.

Today's Birthdays: Author Mario Vargas Llosa is 82. Country musician Charlie McCoy is 77. Movie director Mike Newell is 76. Actress Conchata Ferrell is 75. Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte is 73. Actress Dianne Wiest (weest) is 72. Country singer Reba McEntire is 63. Olympic gold medal gymnast Bart Conner is 60. Actress Alexandra Billings (TV: "Transparent") is 56. Rapper Salt (Salt-N-Pepa) is 52. Actress Tracey Needham is 51. Actor Max Perlich is 50. Movie director Brett Ratner is 49. Country singer Rodney Atkins is 49. Actor Vince Vaughn is 48. Rapper Mr. Cheeks (Lost Boyz) is 47. Actor Ken L. is 45. Singer-songwriter Matt Nathanson is 45. Rock musician Dave Keuning is 42. Actress Annie Wersching is 41. Actress Julia

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Stiles is 37. Singer Lady Gaga is 32. Electronic musician Clayton Knight (Odesza) is 30.

Thought for Today: "It isn't what people think that's important, but the reason they think what they think." — Eugene Ionesco, Romanian-French playwright (born in 1909, died this date in 1994).