

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 5, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 265 ~ 1 of 43



The Groton "Rob Luecke" Invite scheduled for Tuesday, April 10th will be CANCELLED. The corresponding date for next year is Tuesday, April 9th, 2019.

- 1- Johnson Agency Ad
- 1- Track Meet Cancelled
- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 2- Reducing Insecticide Exposure: Proper Laundering of Contaminated Clothing
- 2- Wheatcrest Hills Help Wanted
- 3- Jency Agency Ad
- 3- Vold Auctioneers Ad
- 4- EarthTalk
- 5- Vold Auctioneers Ad
- 6- SunDial Manor Ad
- 6- Farmers Union PSA ad
- 6- Groton Care & Rehab Ad
- 7- Houghton/Hecla Area Land for Sale
- 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

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www.johnsonagencygroton.com

102 N Main St. Office: 605/397-2424
Groton, SD 57445 Home: 605/397-8565



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**

Reducing Insecticide Exposure: Proper Laundering of Contaminated Clothing

BROOKINGS, S.D. - To prevent accidental insecticide exposure, applicators need to take appropriate, precautionary steps when it comes to the care of their clothing following application, explained Adam Varenhorst, Assistant Professor & SDSU Extension Field Crop Entomologist.

"Exposure to insecticides can pose a serious health threat to the individuals working with insecticides along with their families, as families can be exposed to insecticides when contaminated work clothes are laundered at home," Varenhorst said.

In many cases, reading the insecticide label will provide the information needed regarding the use of proper personal protective equipment (PPE).

Insecticide labels list the minimum required PPE that must be worn while working with insecticides to reduce exposure.

"However, even with exercising caution when mixing and applying insecticides or disposing of used PPE a person's clothing can still be contaminated," Varenhorst explained. "Even when label recommendations are carefully followed, and PPE was worn there is still the risk of work clothing having some insecticide residues present."

Handling Clothing

It is important to exercise caution when handling and laundering clothing that was worn while working with insecticides.

Potentially contaminated articles of clothing should always be handled as if they were contaminated.

Clothing that is worn while working with insecticides should be changed as soon as possible. This will reduce the risk for exposure to the individual work-



Wheatcrest Hills

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ing with the insecticides and prevent potential contamination of personal vehicles and homes.

When the clothing is removed, it should be placed into a sealable container that is clearly labeled "Contaminated Clothing."

When handling contaminated clothing, wear chemical resistant gloves that are rated as highly resistant to the insecticide that was applied.

Lightly contaminated clothes should be laundered immediately, and only with other potentially contaminated clothing.

Do not wash these clothes with the rest of the household laundry.

Wash contaminated clothes in hot water using a highly concentrated or heavy-duty detergent.

Do not dry clothes in the dryer once they are washed.

Even after washing, there may still be insecticide residues present in the fibers of the clothes. The heat from the dryer will remove the residues, resulting in a contaminated clothes dryer.

The clothes should be line dried instead.

Before washing any other items in the washing machine, it is important to run the machine through one empty cycle with detergent. This will remove any remaining insecticide residues.

Direct exposure

In instances where insecticides were spilled onto clothes, remove them, and dispose of them in the same manner as used for contaminated PPE.

"Although proper laundering can remove small amounts of insecticide residue, laundering clothes with larger amounts may result in contamination of the washing machine, yourself, and others," Varenhorst said.

Groton Home for Sale



\$299,900

304 N State Street, Groton

Enjoy this summers sunsets overlooking your large fenced backyard. This beautiful home sits on just under 1 Acre of land. 5 bedrooms, office, Media room , large rec room, surround sound, built-ins & plenty of storage. Not to mention 3 stall garage + new shed. All kitchen appliances to stay + washer & dryer.

www.flexmls.com/share/1NpDJ/304NSTATESTGrotonSD57445

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614 South Main Street, Aberdeen ~ 605-725-3130

Brittany Smart: 605/290-1487

CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

Sat. April 28, 2018 10:00 am
Trucks-N-Tractors
14069 434th Ave.
Webster, SD 57274

Now taking Consignments
Tractors, Combines, all types of
Farm & Haying Equipment, Vehicle,
Recreational, Sporting,
& Construction Equipment
To consign you equipment, call our
office at 605-448-0048 or

Bill Jensen 605-848-0943
Don Wolter 605-881-6789
Larry Lekness 605-880-5933
Jan Vold 605-228-4250

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How Do Agricultural Inputs Affect Rivers, Lakes and the Ocean?

Doug Moss and Roddy Scheer 04/01/2018

Dear EarthTalk: What effects do fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides used on residential lawns or on farms have on nearby water bodies like rivers, streams—or even the ocean for those of us who live near the shore?

—Linda Reddington, Manahawkin, NJ

Synthetic agricultural chemicals became commonplace beginning with the so-called “Green Revolution” in the second half of the 20th century, but their benefits haven’t come without environmental costs — namely the wholesale pollution of most of our streams, rivers, ponds, lakes and even coastal areas, as these synthetic chemicals run-off into the nearby waterways.



crop duster 400x267 How Do Agricultural Inputs Affect Rivers, Lakes and the Ocean?With the advent of the so-called Green Revolution in the second half of the 20th century—when farmers began to use technological advances to boost yields—synthetic fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides became commonplace around the world not only on farms, but in backyard gardens and on front lawns as well.

These chemicals, many of which were developed in the lab and are petroleum-based, have allowed farmers and gardeners of every stripe to exercise greater control over the plants they want to grow by enriching the immediate environment and warding off pests. But such benefits haven’t come without environmental costs—namely the wholesale pollution of most of our streams, rivers, ponds, lakes and even coastal areas, as these synthetic chemicals run-off into the nearby waterways.

When the excess nutrients from all the fertilizer we use runs off into our waterways, they cause algae blooms sometimes big enough to make waterways impassable. When the algae die, they sink to the bottom and decompose in a process that removes oxygen from the water. Fish and other aquatic species can’t survive in these so-called “dead zones” and so they die or move on to greener underwater pastures.

A related issue is the poisoning of aquatic life. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Americans alone churn through 75 million pounds of pesticides each year to keep the bugs off their pea-

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Pods and petunias. When those chemicals get into waterways, fish ingest them and become diseased. Humans who eat diseased fish can themselves become ill, completing the circle wrought by pollution.

A 2007 study of pollution in rivers around Portland, Oregon found that wild salmon there are swimming around with dozens of synthetic chemicals in their systems. Another recent study from Indiana found that a variety of corn genetically engineered to produce the insecticide Bt is having toxic effects on non-target aquatic insects, including caddis flies, a major food source for fish and frogs.

The solution, of course, is to go organic, both at home and on the farm. According to the Organic Trade Association, organic farmers and gardeners use composted manure and other natural materials, as well as crop rotation, to help improve soil fertility, rather than synthetic fertilizers that can result in an overabundance of nutrients. As a result, these practices protect ground water supplies and avoid runoff of chemicals that can cause dead zones and poisoned aquatic life.

There is now a large variety of organic fertilizer available commercially, as well as many ways to keep pests at bay without resorting to harsh synthetic chemicals. A wealth of information on growing greener can be found online: Check out OrganicGardeningGuru.com and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Alternative Farming System Information Center, for starters. Those interested in face-to-face advice should consult with a master gardener at a local nursery that specializes in organic gardening.

FARM RETIREMENT AUCTION

Saturday, April 14, 2018 10:00 AM

LOCATION:

11701 403rd Ave. SE, Houghton, SD 57449

From Groton, SD: 14 miles north on SD Hwy. 37, 3 west on 119th St., 2 north on 403rd Ave.

From Britton, SD: 17 miles west on SD-10, 9 South on SD Hwy 37, 3 West on 119th St., 2 North on 403rd Ave.

From Houghton, SD: 5 miles South on 401st Ave., 2 miles east on 117th St.

From Columbia SD: 2.5 miles north on Hwy. 16, 5 east on 120th St., 1 north on 401st Ave, 2 east on 119th St., 2 miles north on 403rd Ave.

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE:

Terry and Marcia have retired from farming and will be offering this well maintained line of farm equipment at auction. Farm equipment was used in 2017 and is field ready. Very few small items, please be on time.

OWNERS

Terry & Marcia Haaland

For information call 605-885-7188

Live Auction with internet bidding through Bidcaller, a part of Auctiontime.

Register for internet bidding at Auctiontime.com or Ag4Bid.com

TRACTORS

1980 JD 4440, 8,745 hrs, quad range, 3 hyd., 3 pt., 540 & 1000 PTO, Firestone 480/80R38 tires@80% Versatile 875, 4 hyd., 20.8x38 dual, main tires@65%



Case IH 9150 4wd, 300 hp., 5000 hrs., 3 hyd. PS 12 fwd, 2 rv., Cummins

eng., new tires – CONSIGNED: Will@605-290-2324

TILLAGE EQUIPMENT

Summers 30" Super Coulter, Summers 3 bar harrow, weight package, smooth blade front, 13 wave blades back



JD E0400 rotary hoe 20' w/transport IHC 496 30' disk, Summers 4

bar harrow, hyd. wings, tandems all around, 22" blade, 9" spacing IHC 496 24' disk, hyd. wings, 9" spacing, tandems IHC 24' disk, Summers 3 bar harrow, tandems, 9" spacing JD 1350-1450, 6-16" trip beam plow, w/ Melroe 8' packer IHC #45 Field Cult. 21', 3 pt., gauge wheels

PLANTING EQUIPMENT

JD 7000 12R30" front fold 1.5 & 3 bushel poly boxes, trash whippers, markers, JD 200 monitor, 2 pt. JD 7000 8R36" poly boxes, herbicide boxes, markers, monitor



3 JD 8'9350 drills, w/fert., grass seeder 3 JD 8'LL166 drill w/fert., grass seeder

SN#005798

COMBINE, HEADS & TRAILERS

1999 JD 9610, rebuilt engine at 1,900 hrs, 2,335 sep. hrs., 3,539 eng. hrs., buddy seat, Maurer hopper ext., 20.8 x 42 straddle duals, new

unloading auger tube & auger, twin chaff spreader, 16.9x26 rear tires, SN#09610X681947 JD 930 platform flex, good poly, F & A, #H00930F677831



2-JD 634 6RN corn heads Elmers manufacturing 30' header trailer, 2 wheel 2-homemade 20' 4 wheel trailers

GRAIN CART

Kilbros 490 grain cart, roll tarp, 100 small PTO, lights, 23.1x26 tires

TRUCKS

2004 International Eagle 9400i, Cummins ISX, 10 sp. 759,164 mi., air ride suspension & cab, new bags, new batteries, 205"WB, 3 stage eng brake, 275/80R22.5 matching drivers & steering tires@90%, air slide 5th wheel, 27541, VIN#FCNAPR44C 027541



1973 GMC, gas 427, 13 sp., tandem 66" x 19' box, alum., air brakes, air shift, twin screw, roll tarp, air brakes, air shift, 10-00 R20 tires diff. lock

1977 Chevy gas, 5 sp, 2 sp., 366 v8, 60"x15" metal box, single axle w/cheater, roll tarp 1965 Ford F600 14' box & stock rack, hoist, 4 sp, 2 sp., 6 cyl., 61,618 actual miles, parade ready SN# F60BR708576

TRAILERS

1991 Cornhusker grain trailer, alum, ag hopper, Shur-Co electric trap openers, RRS electric roll tarp, brakes @90%, 275/80R24.5 tires, 1 new hopper, SNT19204227M0007434



1986 Kiefer built 5th wheel 7x16 goose-neck stock trailer, #1DVSM1628GK0101509

1967 43"x9' Homemade Stock Trailer, 2 wheel for 1 animal, lights #248084 Dakon 200 bushel gravity box w/HD running gear

CATTLE EQUIPMENT

20-Variou sizes metal gates Calf pullers Wood posts New & used steel posts Stockade panels

SHOP

Reznor 85,000 BTU propane hanging heater 2-225 Amp Arc Welders Drill press 1-manual tire machine

HAYING EQUIPMENT

Vicon 6 Wheel Rake NH 56B 10' side delivery rake NH 55 10' side delivery rake Hitch to pull 2 side delivery rakes New Vicon rake wheel 3-IHC 100 sickle mowers: 1-9' pull type, 1-9' 3 pt., 1-7' pull type

AUGERS

Farm King 8" x 51 PTO auger 3-6" take out augers w/hyd. & electric motors

FARM EQUIPMENT

Flare box w/hoist 2-track wackers Farmhand loader w/bucket & grapple 7' 3 pt. snowblower, hyd. spout, 1000 PTO, like new 2-Farmhand pushoffs Farmhand manure & snow buckets F-11 Farmhand Loader

DOZER & SCRAPER

Custom built 8' dozer, rear axle motors 12' hyd. scraper, like new

MISCELLANEOUS

RR ties 18.4x38 Axle duals Electric drill fill for truck 18.4 x 38 band duals 3 pt. heavy duty hyd. drive, 12" post hole auger Category 1 & 2 quick tachs Straw chopper for Gleaner L2 More items may be listed by sale time!

AIRPORT CAFÉ SERVING LUNCH & REFRESHMENTS

Vold Auctioneers & Realty

10511 425th Ave. – Britton, SD 57430 • 605-448-0048

voldrealty.com • voldauctions@ag4bid.com

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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

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.

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94 octane, more power,

same mileage, fewer

carbon deposits, lower

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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")

HOUGHTON/HECLA AREA LAND FOR SALE

Houghton/Hecla area real estate located 4 miles South and 2 miles East of Hecla, owned by the Estate of Florence Evelyn Peterson, will be sold at auction, cash sale only, the following described real estate:

- Southwest Quarter of Section 18, Township 127 North, Range 60 West of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota. Approximately 162.46 acres of land (19.63 cropland, 142.83 pasture)

Seller makes no representation as to the actual number of acres contained in this description.

Bid opening and auction will take place at 2 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, April 10, 2018, in the Hecla Community Room located at 202 Main Street, Hecla, South Dakota.

Terms of Sale: Sealed bids can be mailed to the office of Gellhaus & Gellhaus, P.C., ATTN: Lonald L. Gellhaus, PO Box 73, Aberdeen, SD 57402-0073 or brought to the auction. Please contact Teresa at 605-225-6522 to request a bid packet. Each sealed bid must include a Bid Sheet.

Earnest money of 10% upon acceptance of bid made payable to "Gellhaus & Gellhaus, P.C. Trust Account". Title insurance and closing fees shall be split equally between Buyer and Seller. Balance due upon closing and delivery of good title. 2017 real estate taxes due in 2018 will be paid by the Seller. 2018 real estate taxes due in 2019 will be the responsibility of the Buyer.

Seller reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Lonald L. Gellhaus, of Gellhaus & Gellhaus, P.C., represents the Seller. For additional information, please contact Lonald L. Gellhaus at 605-225-6522.

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Today in Weather History

April 5, 2000: High winds of 35 to 50 mph gusting to around 70 mph blew across central and north central South Dakota from the late morning to the late afternoon hours. As a result, several trees and many tree branches were downed, many structures, roofs, billboards, and road signs were damaged, a few mobile homes were overturned, and some power outages occurred. Not only did the high winds make driving challenging, but at some locations, they stirred up dirt causing visibilities to drop to near zero at times. Some detours and traffic collisions resulted due to the low visibility in blowing dirt. Airborne objects broke some windows across the area. One house had all of the windows on the front porch blown out. Also, a few semi tractor-trailers were tipped over by the high winds. Wind gusts included 60 mph at Pierre, 63 mph at Kennebec, 64 mph at Mobridge, 65 mph at Pollock, and 71 mph at McLaughlin. The high winds and extremely dry conditions combined with downed and arcing electrical lines, out of control burns, and smoldering embers from previous fires resulted in several grassfires across central and north central South Dakota. Several thousand acres of grassland, hundreds of hay bales and haystacks, along with some trees and fences were burned. Also, the smoke from some of these fires created low visibilities and difficult driving conditions on some roads.

1815: The Tambora Volcano in Java began erupting on this day. A few days later on the 10, Tambora produced the largest eruption known on the planet in the last 10,000 years. Ash from the volcano would circle the globe, blocking sunlight and leading to the unusually cold summer in 1816. On 6/6/1816, snow would fall as far south of Connecticut with some places in New England picking up 10 inches. On July 4th, 1816, the temperature at Savannah GA plunged to 46 degrees. Eastern North America and Europe had freezing nighttime temperatures in August.

1936: Approximately 454 people were killed in the second-deadliest tornado outbreak ever in U.S. More than 12 twisters struck Arkansas to South Carolina. An estimated F5 tornado cut a path 400 yards wide through the residential section of Tupelo, Mississippi. At least 216 people were killed, and 700 were injured. The tornado had a 15-mile long path and did \$3 million in damage. One of the survivors in Tupelo was a baby of an economically strapped family who had an infant they'd recently named Elvis Aaron Presley. Gainesville, Georgia had at least 203 fatalities and 934 injuries from an estimated F4 tornado that occurred early the following morning.

1972: An F3 tornado, touched down at a marina on the Oregon side of the Columbia River, and then tore through Vancouver, Washington. The tornado killed six people, injuring 300 others, and causing more than five million dollars damage. It was the deadliest tornado of the year and the worst on record for Washington.

1945 - The temperature at Eagles Nest, NM, plunged to 45 degrees below zero to establish an April record for the United States. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1955 - The Northern Rockies and the Northern High Plains were in the midst of a four day storm which produced 52 inches of snow at Lead, located in the Black Hills of western South Dakota. (David Ludlum)

1982 - An unprecedented April blizzard began in the northeastern U.S. One to two feet of snow fell across Massachusetts and Connecticut, and up to 26 inches was reported in Maine. New York City received a foot of snow. Winds reached 70 to 80 mph during the storm, and the storm also produced numerous thunderstorms, which contributed to the heavy snow. (Storm Data)

1987 - A storm produced unprecedented April snows in the central Appalachians. Mount Mitchell NC received 35 inches of snow, and up to 60 inches (six feet) of snow was reported in the mountains along the border of North Carolina and Tennessee. The total of 25 inches at Charleston WV easily surpassed their previous record for the entire month of April of 5.9 inches. The 20.6 inch total at Akron OH established an all-time record for that location. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thirty-nine cities across the eastern half of the country reported record high temperatures for the date, including Saint Louis MO with a reading of 91 degrees. Laredo TX was the hot spot in the nation with an afternoon high of 100 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Unseasonably hot weather prevailed in the southwestern U.S. Afternoon highs of 100 degrees at Santa Maria CA and 105 degrees in Downtown Los Angeles established records for the month of April. (The National Weather Summary)

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Thu Apr 5	Fri Apr 6	Sat Apr 7	Sun Apr 8	Mon Apr 9	Tue Apr 10	Wed Apr 11
32°F	19°F	31°F	34°F	35°F	39°F	43°F
9°F	3°F	19°F	22°F	17°F	26°F	30°F
S 17 MPH Precip 20%	NNW 17 MPH	NW 6 MPH	SE 18 MPH Precip 70%	NNW 13 MPH	W 12 MPH	SSE 16 MPH Precip 40%

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD
4/4/2018 3:31 PM

Tonight

Lows: 10-25°

Below Normal Temperatures Continue

3 Day Forecast

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29-45°	20-28°	25-38°

Published on: 04/04/2018 at 3:33PM

A weak system will bring light snow to North Dakota and northeastern South Dakota into western Minnesota. Under an inch of snow is expected on Thursday. Additional snowfall will be possible Thursday night through Friday, mainly across western and south-central South Dakota. Otherwise, below normal temperatures will dominate the forecast.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 30.2 F at 6:22 PM

Low Outside Temp: -2.6 F at 5:40 AM

Wind Chill:

High Gust: 21.0 Mph at 2:31 PM

Precip: Moisture in Snow: 0.28

Today's Info

Record High: 86° in 1991

Record Low: 6° in 1968

Average High: 51°F

Average Low: 28°F

Average Precip in April: 0.22

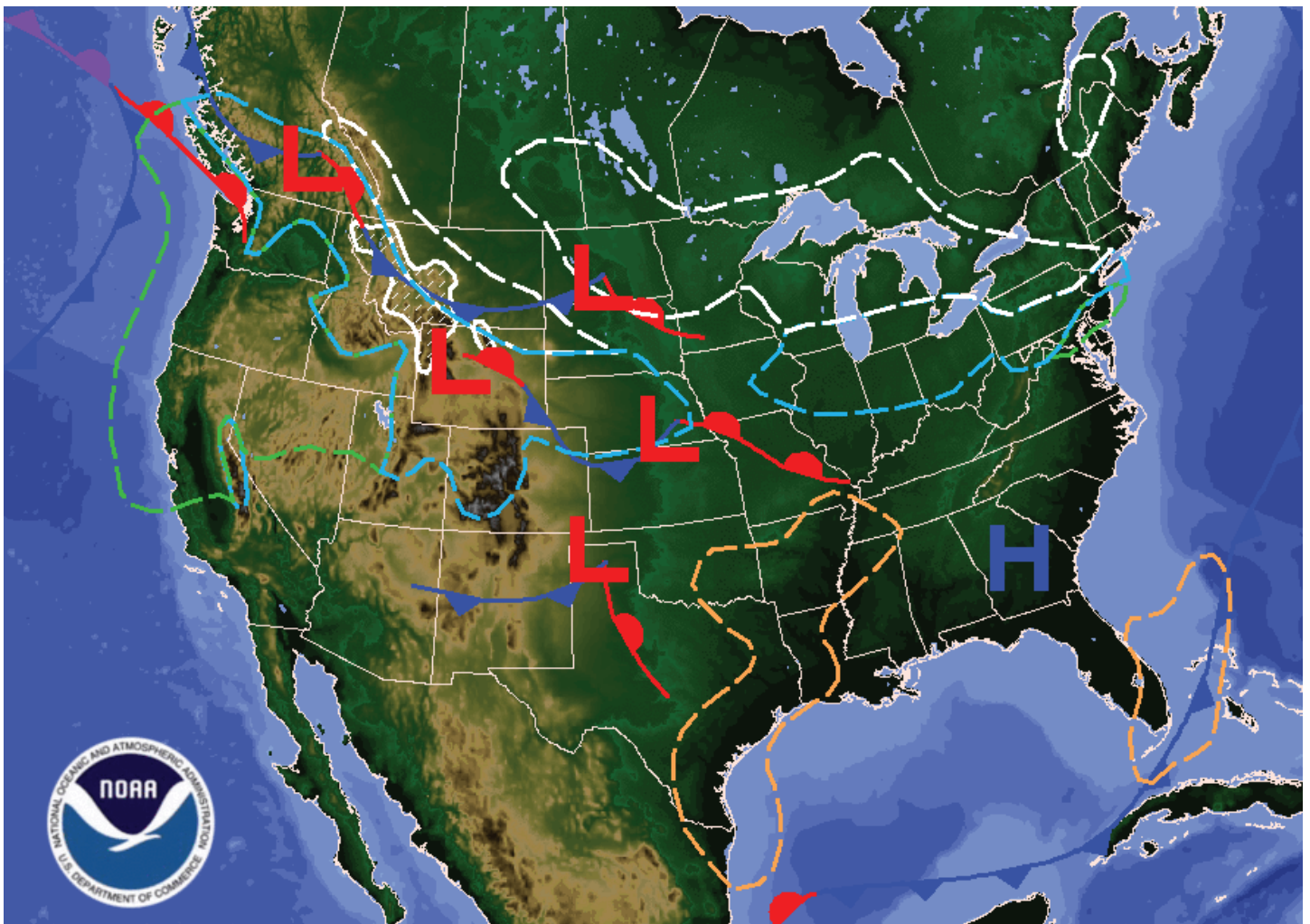
Precip to date in April: 0.28

Average Precip to date: 2.40

Precip Year to Date: 2.35

Sunset Tonight: 8:07 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:04 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Thu, Apr 05, 2018, issued 4:56 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain	Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Rain and T'Storms	Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Rain and Snow	Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Snow	Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

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NEVER CHANGING!

Dan and his Dad were sitting together looking at a family photograph album. Looking at a picture of a young man who had a head full of hair he asked, "Who's that guy, Dad?"

"Me," he replied. "That's how I used to look."

"What happened?" he asked curiously.

Things change. People change. Times change. The universe changes. The heavens, admitted the Psalmist, will grow old. God will change them as a man putting on new clothing and throwing away the old. And then he wrote, "But You will remain the same, and Your years will never end!"

Everyone is familiar with change. It is part of life. There are times when it is welcome and there are times when we fight against anything that is new and different, untried and unproven. There are days when everything is turned upside down and inside out. Some mornings begin with peace and calm and then turn into a tempest by lunch. We assume that we will escape every illness and live long only to be diagnosed with cancer. We know that our marriage will last a lifetime only to receive a notice that our spouse wants a divorce.

Is there any news that could be more welcome - more comforting - more desired - more important - more joy producing than the words of the Psalmist: "You - O Lord - will remain the same"? Now and through eternity.

No matter the day or the difficulty, the problem or the pain, His love and His faithfulness guard us!

Prayer: We are comforted to know, Father, that if we believe in Your Word we can trust You to honor it. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

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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

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News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash
03-13-14-26-33
(three, thirteen, fourteen, twenty-six, thirty-three)
Estimated jackpot: \$48,000

Lotto America
15-16-18-26-39, Star Ball: 4, ASB: 4
(fifteen, sixteen, eighteen, twenty-six, thirty-nine; Star Ball: four; ASB: four)
Estimated jackpot: \$2.78 million

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$45 million

Powerball
08-24-42-54-64, Powerball: 24, Power Play: 4
(eight, twenty-four, forty-two, fifty-four, sixty-four; Powerball: twenty-four; Power Play: four)
Estimated jackpot: \$60 million

Judge limits information to Indian activist in riot trial

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON**, Associated Press

MANDAN, N.D. (AP) — A North Dakota judge on Wednesday limited the amount of information the governor's office can be asked to give attorneys for an American Indian activist accused of inciting a riot during protests against the Dakota Access oil pipeline.

Judge Lee Christofferson also said he plans to deny a defense motion to force prosecutors to obtain and turn over evidence from private security firms, after Morton County Sheriff Kyle Kirchmeier testified that the two did not work together.

The decisions could deal a blow to the efforts of Chase Iron Eyes to prove what he believes was a conspiracy by law enforcement in concert with private security to portray pipeline opponents as terrorists and violate their civil rights. Iron Eyes hopes to show that civil disobedience was his only option to resist a pipeline's incursion on his ancestral lands and to prevent the conspiracy.

Iron Eyes is a member of the Standing Rock Sioux, the tribe leading the legal fight against the \$3.8 billion pipeline because it fears a leak would contaminate its water source. The pipeline has been moving North Dakota oil through South Dakota and Iowa to Illinois since last June.

Iron Eyes and 73 others were arrested Feb. 1, 2017, after erecting teepees on land in southern North Dakota that authorities said is owned by Texas-based pipeline developer Energy Transfer Partners. Protesters said they were peacefully assembling on land they believe rightfully belongs to American Indians under old treaties. Iron Eyes could face five years in prison if convicted.

His attorneys subpoenaed Gov. Doug Burgum in March, making dozens of requests for information they hope might help his case. The attorney general's office objected on several grounds including the request being unreasonable.

Christofferson during a Wednesday hearing limited the request to information regarding former Gov.

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Jack Dalrymple's emergency declaration, his activation of the National Guard and his triggering of a law officer-sharing agreement with other states. He also said he won't allow Burgum to be called to testify without his permission.

The judge during the hearing criticized prosecutors for being slow to provide evidence requested by the defense as the two sides prepare for trial, and he set deadlines for some evidence to be turned over. However, he also called out defense attorneys, saying, "when you do a list, you seem to include everything but the Library of Congress."

The two-week trial for Iron Eyes had been scheduled for August, but Christofferson on Wednesday agreed to delay it. A hearing will now be held Aug. 23 on whether Iron Eyes can present a so-called "necessity defense" — that his actions were justified because they prevented a greater harm.

Follow Blake Nicholson on Twitter at: <http://>

Inmate's lawsuit proceeds against South Dakota AG

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A federal judge won't dismiss a lawsuit brought by an inmate alleging South Dakota's attorney general violated his constitutional protection from unreasonable search and seizures.

Matthew Kurtenbach filed the lawsuit after Attorney General Marty Jackley's office issued three subpoenas in 2014 to obtain his medical and pharmacy records. Kurtenbach was on parole and suspected of attempting to illegally obtain prescription drugs. He later pleaded guilty to possession of a controlled substance.

U.S. District Judge Jeffrey Viken decided to proceed with the lawsuit against Jackley and Assistant Attorney General Lindsey Quasne to determine if there's an ongoing practice of using unlawful subpoenas, the Argus Leader reported .

The state admitted in Kurtenbach's criminal prosecution that some of its offices "routinely issue subpoenas to obtain medical records in criminal cases." The state didn't legally issue subpoenas in Kurtenbach's case because they weren't issued in the name of a grand jury or court.

Judge Wally Eklund sanctioned the state during the case for its practice of subpoenaing medical records, which he said violated the U.S. Constitution's Fourth Amendment. The state said medical records held the same importance as bank records or internet IP addresses, but Eklund ruled that medical records are entitled to privacy protection.

Such records "contain intimate facts of a personal nature," according to Eklund.

Sara Rabern, a spokeswoman for Jackley, declined to comment citing pending litigation.

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

USD hires Lee as next basketball coach

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — The University of South Dakota has hired alum Todd Lee as the Coyotes' next basketball coach.

Athletic director David Herbster announced Lee's hiring on Wednesday. Lee will be introduced at a news conference Friday.

The Huron native graduated from South Dakota in 1986. He spent the past five seasons as associate head coach at Grand Canyon University, helping the Lopes to a 103-58 record. This past season, the Lopes totaled 22 wins and advanced to the Western Athletic Conference championship game.

Previously, Lee compiled a 154-81 record and competed in five NCAA tournaments in eight seasons as head coach at Kentucky Wesleyan. Lee also has coaching stints at UC-Irvine, CSU Bakersfield, San Diego and Southwest Junior College, and two years as an assistant with the former Rapid City Thrillers of the Continental Basketball Association.

Minnehaha County deputy collapses, dies on duty

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Minnehaha County sheriff's officials say a veteran deputy has died while on duty.

Sheriff Mike Milstead says Deputy Steve Maciejewski collapsed at the Public Safety Building Tuesday. Attempts to revive him at the sheriff's department and Sanford Hospital were unsuccessful.

Maciejewski was a 23-year veteran on the department. Milstead the deputy's steadiness, good nature and excellent decision making was well known.

Sioux Falls council rejects beer and wine at movie theater

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls officials have rejected a request to sell beer and wine at a movie theater in the city.

The Argus Leader reports the city council on Tuesday unanimously voted down West Mall 7's proposal, citing worries over age enforcement and exposing children to alcohol.

Owner Todd Fragor had planned to use space in the theater lobby for a beer and wine kiosk. It would have allowed patrons to drink alcohol during showings, a service offered in other cities around the nation.

But all eight city councilors voted against Fragor's application. The theater's proximity to an arcade was a factor.

Councilor Michelle Erpenbach says it's not a stand-alone building and is too close to where children gather. Fragor says several businesses in the mall have alcohol, including a casino.

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

Ellsworth B-1 bombers return to Southwest Asia

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Ellsworth Air Force Base airmen and two B-1 bombers have returned to Southwest Asia.

The Air Force says it's the first B-1 deployment to the region since 2016 when the planes were pulled back for critical upgrades. The \$127 million upgrade involved installing an integrated battle station. Half of the 62-bomber fleet has been upgraded with the rest to be done by the end of next year.

KOTA-TV reports the Ellsworth B-1 bombers landed at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar last weekend. They'll fly missions in support of troops battling terrorists.

Ellsworth's most recent B-1 bomber deployment was in the Pacific around the Korean Peninsula — a mission that ended in January.

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

Authorities ID pedestrian struck and killed in Rapid City

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have identified a Rapid City man who was struck and killed while crossing a street in the city.

Police say 38-year-old Lambert Eagle Hawk was killed about 8 p.m. Sunday while walking across a busy street outside of the crosswalk.

He was pronounced dead at the scene. The vehicle driver wasn't hurt.

Police are continuing to investigate.

Chamberlain woman set for trial on drug, child abuse charges

CHAMBERLAIN, S.D. (AP) — A mid-June trial has been scheduled for a Chamberlain woman accused of having opioids in her home that were easily accessible to two young children.

The Daily Republic reports that 25-year-old Talyn Douville has pleaded not guilty to multiple felonies

including drug possession and child abuse. The charges stem from a January search of her home. The child abuse charge is punishable by up to 15 years in prison.

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

Mueller's Russia probe shows it pays to cooperate

By ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — George Papadopoulos, taken by surprise by FBI agents at an airport last summer, now tweets smiling beach selfies with a Mykonos hashtag. Rick Gates, for weeks on home confinement with electronic monitoring, gets rapid approval for a family vacation and shaves down his potential prison time. Michael Flynn, once the target of a grand jury investigation, flies cross-country to stump for a California congressional candidate and books a speaking event in New York.

The message is unmistakable: It pays to cooperate with the government.

That's an age-old truism in any criminal investigation, but it's especially notable in a case as pressing and as high profile as special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia probe, where deals afforded to cooperators have raised speculation about incriminating information they're providing.

The perks of cooperation have manifested themselves in freer travel, lenient punishment prospects and even public comments by defendants that might have been unthinkable months ago. They form a counterpoint to the experiences of Paul Manafort, the former Trump campaign chairman who has refused to cooperate and faces decades in prison, and send a message to others entangled in the Mueller probe that they, too, could receive favorable treatment if they agree to work with investigators.

"There's no question that it's in the government's interest to take what steps they can to show that cooperating is in the interest of the defendant," said Daniel Petalas, a former federal prosecutor. "A basic principle of plea bargaining is that you have to make it worth it to the defendant to admit liability in a criminal matter."

The latest example came Tuesday when Dutch lawyer Alex van der Zwaan was sentenced to 30 days in prison for lying to the FBI. Though his plea deal didn't explicitly require cooperation, the charge he pleaded guilty to carries a maximum five-year sentence and it's likely the attorney, whose wife is pregnant in London, risked a longer punishment if convicted at trial. U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson said some incarceration was necessary to deter others from lying to investigators.

To be sure, defendants who admit guilt are stained with criminal convictions, forego liberties including the right to vote, put their jobs and reputation at risk — and can still wind up with tough sentences. Given that uncertainty and stress, it's common practice for prosecutors looking to induce cooperation to make concessions, such as dismissing charges or agreeing to recommend a lighter sentence, especially for someone they think can help them build a case against a higher-value target.

"There is a societal interest, frankly, in having people cooperate with prosecutors because often the government only can know what's happened based on documentary evidence and witnesses that it speaks with," said Sharon McCarthy, a former federal prosecutor in New York. "But insiders who can give insight into conversations and planning and things like that are crucial to being able to make cases."

There's nothing new about cutting deals, including for violent mobsters, but the tactics have drawn renewed scrutiny especially in conservative legal circles. Former Manhattan federal prosecutor Andrew McCarthy wrote last month in the *National Review* that Mueller was breaching Justice Department protocols by offering Gates, Manafort's co-defendant and a key Trump campaign aide, a "penny-ante plea deal" instead of requiring him to plead to the most serious charges he faced.

Gates was initially charged in October in a 12-count indictment and faced well over a decade in prison, but he pleaded guilty in February to just two charges and now faces fewer than six years — or less, depending on the extent of his cooperation. He spent months on home confinement as a potential flight risk, repeatedly requesting, and generally receiving, permission to attend children's sporting events and Christmas parties in the area.

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The home confinement condition was lifted in January, and days after his plea, he received a judge's permission and the government's blessing to ditch the electronic monitoring and to travel freely between his Virginia home and Washington. He also got approval for a family trip to Boston for spring break, though that plan was aborted after he said threatening comments were posted online.

"Everybody who practices in federal court knows you're going to get more leeway from prosecutors on bail if your client is cooperating," said Duke University law professor Samuel Buell.

Meanwhile, Papadopoulos's carefree tweets, including smiling snapshots of his wife on his lap and beside him at the beach, are a far cry from the frowning mug shot taken after his arrest at Dulles Airport last summer. Accused of lying to the FBI, and facing the possibility of a years-long sentence, he pleaded guilty in a secret court hearing and agreed to cooperate. Since then, he's resurfaced with a Twitter profile of more than 7,300 followers.

Mueller's team includes lawyers with deep experience in organized crime and financial fraud cases, which frequently require flipping witnesses and sometimes involve aggressive maneuvering. Andrew Weissmann, one of the Gates prosecutors, for instance, in 2003 indicted the wife of Enron's chief financial officer, Andrew Fastow. The move was interpreted as designed in part to encourage Fastow himself to plead guilty and cooperate, which he ultimately did.

Still, prosecutors understand that juries may look askance at sweetheart plea deals, especially with those who've been publicly demonized, and that defense lawyers may subject cooperators to bruising cross-examinations.

"Prosecutors are going to be cognizant that there are always going to be credibility issues with cooperators," said former prosecutor Peter Zeidenberg, "but these are very experienced prosecutors and they're making a decision that, on balance, they're getting something in return."

Follow Eric Tucker on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/etuckerAP>

YouTube shooter's bizarre videos key to suspected motive

By ELLIOT SPAGAT and SUDHIN THANAWALA, Associated Press

MENIFEE, Calif. (AP) — The woman who shot three people at YouTube's headquarters was prolific at producing videos and posting them online, many of them bizarre, such as a clip in which she removes a revealing purple dress to expose fake breasts with the message, "Don't Trust Your Eyes."

In others, Nasim Aghdam exercises, promotes animal rights and explains the vegan diet, often in elaborate costumes or carrying a rabbit.

The videos have become central to the motive authorities have settled on for the shooting: Aghdam's anger with the policies of YouTube — the world's biggest online video website.

Nasim Aghdam, who was in her late 30s, posted the videos under the online name Nasime Sabz, and a website in that name decried YouTube's policies, saying the company was trying to "suppress" content creators.

"Youtube filtered my channels to keep them from getting views!" one of the messages said. "There is no equal growth opportunity on YOUTUBE or any other video sharing site, your channel will grow if they want to!!!!!"

People who post on YouTube can receive money from advertisements that accompany their videos, but the company "de-monetizes" some channels for reasons including inappropriate material or having fewer than 1,000 subscribers.

YouTube had no comment about any actions related to Aghdam's videos.

Nasim Aghdam also ran a Farsi-language public channel on the messaging app Telegram, which had 6,000 followers. Telegram reportedly has some 40 million users in Iran. In one post she says, "Internet crackdown and filtering is increasing in the West."

Police who found Nasim Aghdam sleeping in her car early Tuesday in the city of Mountain View about 25 miles (40 kilometers) from YouTube headquarters said she was calm and said nothing about being angry

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with YouTube or having any plans to harm others or herself.

"It was a very normal conversation. There was nothing in her behavior that suggested anything unusual," said Mountain View Police Chief Max Bosel.

Later that day, Aghdam went to a gun range before walking through a parking garage into a courtyard at YouTube's campus south of San Francisco, where she opened fire with a handgun and wounded three people, police said. She then killed herself.

Two women wounded in the shooting were released Wednesday from a San Francisco hospital. The third victim, a 36-year-old man, was upgraded from critical to serious condition.

The suspect's father, Ismail Aghdam, told the Bay Area News Group he warned police the day before the attack that his daughter was upset with how YouTube handled her videos and might be planning to go to its offices.

Police in Mountain View said they spoke to Ismail Aghdam twice after contacting the family to report finding his daughter and that he never told them she could become violent or pose a threat to YouTube employees. During her 20-minute interview with officers, Nasim Aghdam said she was having family problems and had left her home, police said.

Agents with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives on Wednesday searched two homes where Nasim Aghdam had lived — one in Menifee, which is southeast of Los Angeles, and another in 4S Ranch, north of San Diego.

Nasim Aghdam referenced a since-deactivated website, PeaceThunder, in a 2014 interview promoting veganism. The state attorney general's website shows a charity group named PeaceThunder affiliated with Nasim Aghdam was dissolved at her request in 2011. She gave no reason but said she was its only member and the group had no assets.

John Rundell, who lives next door to the family in Menifee, said the parents, son and daughter moved from San Diego about five years ago, but he hadn't seen Nasim Aghdam in months.

The entire family was "very, very friendly," according to Rundell, who spoke most often with the father, an electrical contractor. Topics of conversations included Persian cooking.

"They were just perfect neighbors," Rundell said. "If I had to pick neighbors, I'd have them all around."

Nasim Aghdam painted the house after the family moved in and Rundell said he gave her his own paint to finish the job. She once told Rundell that her pet rabbit was unhappy and asked where he got his.

The family turned away reporters outside the family home in Menifee Wednesday. A woman named Leila who identified herself as an aunt said Nasim Aghdam was a "really good person" and had no history of mental illness. She did not give her last name.

The family later distributed a statement saying they were "in absolute shock and can't make sense of what has happened."

"Although no words can describe our deep pain for this tragedy, our family would like to express their utmost regret, sorrow for what has happened to innocent victims," the statement read.

Nasim Aghdam walked onto the YouTube property through a parking garage and it's not clear whether she encountered any security.

The company said Wednesday it will increase security at its headquarters and offices around the world.

Thanawala reported from San Francisco. Associated Press writers Ryan Nakashima in San Bruno, Calif. and Janie Har in San Francisco contributed to this report.

China-US tariff spat: Mostly losers, but some winners too

By JOE McDONALD, AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — China's threat to raise tariffs on U.S. exports could be a disaster for American soybean farmers but a boon to their Brazilian and Argentine competitors, European aerospace companies and Japanese whiskey distillers.

Regulators picked products China can get elsewhere when they made a \$50 billion list including soybeans

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and small aircraft for possible retaliation in a trade spat with Washington.

That should help minimize China's losses if U.S. President Donald Trump goes ahead with a planned tariff hike and Beijing responds, said economist Lu Feng at Peking University's School of National Development.

"Compared with the U.S. list, which focuses on high-tech, China's list is more diversified," said Lu. "The impact to China's overall economy is under control."

The two sides have not set a date for raising duties. Trump has approved higher duties on Chinese telecoms, aerospace and other technology goods but left time to negotiate by announcing a comment period through May 11. Beijing says its timing depends on what Trump does.

Already, the threat of disruption has jolted the business world. Share prices of American exporters of aircraft, farm equipment and grain sagged Wednesday after Beijing announced its list of 106 products.

Others picked for a possible 25 percent rise in Chinese import duty include beef, electric vehicles, industrial chemicals, orange juice and tobacco.

Losers, including Chinese consumers who might face higher food prices, will likely outnumber winners.

"It definitely will affect my choices," said Wang Xiaoyu, a 20-year-old student in Beijing. "For daily necessities, mobile phones or electronics, I am more likely to choose domestic brands or choose products with the same price as U.S. products before the price hike."

While importers that buy big volumes of American soybeans and other goods might struggle to fill the whole gap, those shortfalls could create business opportunities for rival suppliers.

"The obvious 'winners' would be the other major suppliers of these products," said Adam Slater of Oxford Economics in an email.

The biggest impact of higher Chinese duties would fall on American soybean farmers. China accounted for almost 60 percent of their exports and \$12.4 billion in revenue for the year that ended on Aug. 31.

Farmers in Brazil, Argentina or Australia might step up to supply Chinese buyers who use soybeans as animal feed and to produce cooking oil.

A 25 percent price hike for American pork, whiskey and tobacco could make sources in Europe, Russia, Japan and elsewhere more attractive.

It was unclear whether Beijing might try to make an exception for Chinese-owned U.S. exporters such as pork producer Smithfield Foods. WH Group, which bought Smithfield in 2013, opened a facility in the center Chinese city of Zhengzhou to produce its brands but uses meat imported from the United States.

At the same time, American meat producers might save money if weaker Chinese demand depresses the price of soybeans they use to feed cows and pigs.

Higher prices for American small aircraft and aviation technology also could give French and German competitors a chance to gain market share.

U.S. aviation-related exports to China totaled \$13.2 billion in 2016. That accounted for 58 percent of Chinese imports, giving potential rivals plenty of room to grow.

"We will continue in our own efforts to proactively engage both governments," said Boeing Co. in a statement. "A strong and vibrant aerospace industry is important to the economic prosperity and national security of both countries."

Other potential winners include developing countries that might replace China as a supplier to American markets, according to William Jackson of Capital Economics.

Mexico produces many of the goods targeted for U.S. tariffs on Chinese imports such as televisions and electrical circuits, he said in a report. South Korea, Malaysia and Thailand export semiconductors and other technology.

"To the extent that the tariffs do result in the U.S. importing from elsewhere, other emerging markets might stand to benefit," wrote Jackson.

AP Writer Sam McNeil and AP researcher Yu Bing contributed.

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Ian Poulter takes a harrowing path to Augusta National

By PAUL NEWBERRY, AP Sports Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — No matter where Ian Poulter turns, there's someone with an outstretched hand and congratulatory words.

Certainly, no one took a more harrowing path to the Masters.

The 42-year-old Englishman was the last player to qualify for the first major of the year, winning last weekend's Houston Open in a playoff after sinking a 20-foot birdie on the 72nd hole .

"Nice putt," someone said as Poulter lingered under the mammoth oak tree in front of the clubhouse at Augusta National.

He responded with a sly wink and a smile that signaled more relief than joy.

"To do it the way I did it, after all the disappointments, all the highs and lows, it's really nice," Poulter said on the eve of the Masters.

When the tournament begins Thursday, there will be no shortage of compelling storylines.

Tiger Woods is playing for the first time since 2015, healthy again and looking very much ready to contend for a fifth green jacket. Phil Mickelson is coming off a World Golf Championship victory and trying to become the oldest Masters champion at age 47. Rory McIlroy is looking to complete the career Grand Slam. Sergio Garcia is the defending champion. Dustin Johnson is the world's top-ranked player. Justin Thomas has seven wins since the beginning of 2017. Jordan Spieth already has three major titles, including the 2015 Masters.

But Poulter, who's known mostly for his Ryder Cup heroics and outrageous fashion sense, hopes to ride the wave of his Houston triumph right on through the Masters.

"There's always a little downer when you win like that. I'm sure it will happen at some stage," he said. "Hopefully it doesn't happen until about 7 o'clock Sunday evening, just after I slip on the green jacket."

Poulter thought he had qualified for the Masters two weeks ago when he reached the quarterfinals of the Match Play championship in Austin. But there was an error in the projected world rankings, which meant he needed to win one more match to lock up his spot in the elite Augusta field. He didn't even come close, getting blown out 8 and 6 by Kevin Kisner.

Poulter was so disappointed by that turn of events he considered skipping the last tournament before the Masters. It certainly appeared his trip to Houston was a waste of time when he opened with a 73 while nearly half the field was shooting in the 60s, leaving him nine strokes off the lead.

He made only one bogey the rest of the weekend, playing the last 54 holes at 20-under par for his first victory in six years.

"It wasn't flawless," Poulter said, "but it might've been as close to that as I've ever been. One bogey in three rounds? That's pretty good."

Poulter skipped the Par-3 Contest on Wednesday, deciding he needed a bit more time to decompress. He still hasn't gotten through all the messages he received after his dramatic victory, a task he'll get back to once he gets home from Augusta.

"It's been busy," he said. "But it's been great."

Poulter pushed his way into one of the most anticipated Masters in years, with much of the attention focused on Woods' return to form after years of debilitating health issues.

Sure, the last of his 14 major titles came nearly a decade ago at the U.S. Open, and it's been 13 years since he captured a green jacket. But the 42-year-old Woods was established as one of the Augusta favorites after finishing just one stroke behind Paul Casey at the Valspar Championship, followed by another strong showing at Bay Hill.

"It's been a tough road," Woods said. "The amount of times that I've fallen because my leg didn't work or I just had to lay on the ground for extended periods of time. Those were some really dark, dark times."

And now?

"I don't know anyone who has had lower back fusion (surgery) can swing the club as fast as I can swing it," Woods said. "I went from being a person that really had a hard time getting up, walking around, sitting

down, anything, to now swinging the club. ... That is a miracle, isn't it?"

While he knows the future of the game belongs to 20-somethings such as Spieth, Thomas and McIlroy, Woods is confident he and Mickelson can still compete with the kids for at least a few more years. Lefty picked up his first victory since the 2013 British Open in Mexico last month, beating Thomas in a playoff.

Woods and Mickelson even played a practice round together in Augusta, a sign that their once-prickly relationship has softened considerably.

"We're at the tail end of our careers. We both know that," Woods said. "We have had a great 20-year battle. Hopefully we'll have a few more. But we understand where we are in the game versus where we were in our early 20s, battling for who was going to be No. 1. That was then, and certainly this is now."

Now seems pretty good, too.

Follow Paul Newberry on Twitter at www.twitter.com/pnewberry1963. His work can be found at <https://apnews.com/search/paul%20newberry>

For more AP golf coverage: <https://apnews.com/tag/apf-Golf>

AP Explains: Why US militarization of border isn't new

By **RUSSELL CONTRERAS, Associated Press**

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — President Donald Trump's promise to use the National Guard to secure the U.S.-Mexico border isn't a new concept and is something the U.S. has done in the past for varying reasons.

Both Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama sent National Guard troops to the border when they were in the White House. And throughout the history of the borderlands, the military or armed militias have been dispatched there to keep black slaves from fleeing, remove Native Americans from ancestral lands and suppress Mexican-American revolts stemming from anger over white mob violence.

Here's a look at how the U.S. has used the military and armed militias along the border:

SLAVERY AND CHINESE EXCLUSION

After the U.S. seized Texas and American Southwest following the U.S-Mexico War, armed militias patrolled the border looking for runaway black slaves. The traditional Underground Railroad to the north was too far for slaves to travel so thousands attempted the journey south to freedom. Soon, a guerra sorda, or cold war, developed between the nations.

According to historian James David Nichols, Texas slaveholders took matters into their own hands and sent armed militias to the border and into Mexico to search for runaway slaves. Often Mexico refused to turn over slaves and the conflict sometimes resulted in violent skirmishes.

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, mounted watchmen who patrolled from El Paso, Texas, to California were dispatched largely to look out for Chinese immigrants trying to illegally enter the U.S.

Kelly Lytle Hernandez, a University of California, Los Angeles history professor and author of "Migra!: A History of the U.S. Border Patrol," says initially there were no restrictions on Mexican immigration at the time because U.S. growers wanted a steady stream of agricultural workers.

REVOLUTION AND REVOLT

Tensions remained high between white settlers, Mexican-Americans and Native Americans in the newly acquired territory following the U.S-Mexico War.

Miguel Levario, a Texas Tech history professor and author of "Militarizing the Border: When Mexicans Became the Enemy," said the U.S. government erected military bases such as Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas, for the sole purpose of removing Native Americans from lands. "It had little to do with immigration," Levario said.

As the Mexican Revolution began in Mexico around 1910, white settlers feared Mexican-Americans might take up arms on behalf of Mexican Revolutionary leader Pancho Villa.

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When Villa soldiers in northern Mexico killed 19 white engineers and staff from an American mining company, drunken U.S. soldiers sought revenge in El Paso and attacked Mexican-Americans in poor El Paso neighborhoods, sparking a riot in 1916. El Paso police also are believed to have sought revenge and set fire to Mexican inmates in the El Paso jail, killing 27, Levario said. The inmates were doused with coal oil and gasoline as a crude disinfectant, he said.

What happened at the jail helped push Villa to raid the small town of Columbus, New Mexico. The violent raid angered whites and President Woodrow Wilson, who ordered Gen. John J. Pershing to invade Mexico to arrest Villa. The U.S. Army never caught him.

National Guard units from around the country were called up and more than 100,000 troops were sent to the border.

IMMIGRATION AND DRUGS

Congress created the U.S. Border Patrol in 1924 and the agency slowly grew in size as its mission changed. At first, the agents sought to keep out Asian immigrants and later worked to stall alcohol trafficking in the Prohibition era. Slowly, it evolved into stalling unwanted migration from Mexico.

Occasionally, U.S. presidents have sent the military or the National Guard to the border region to help the Border Patrol stem a crisis amid controversy with border residents.

In 1997, camouflage-clad U.S. Marines ordered to patrol the border for drugs in West Texas shot and killed 18-year-old Esequiel Hernandez Jr. while he was herding his family's goats near the tiny village of Redford, Texas, along the U.S.-Mexico border. Authorities say Hernandez had no connection to the drug trade and was an honor student.

That shooting sparked anger along the border and ended the President Bill Clinton-era military presence along the border. After Sept. 11, President George W. Bush sent unarmed National Guard units to the border for support, Levario said.

In 2010, President Barack Obama deployed National Guard troops to the border over fear of increasing drug-trafficking violence.

Today, there are more than 20,000 Border Patrol agents along the U.S.-Mexico border, and a number of other federal agencies have a presence as well.

Associated Press writer Russell Contreras is a member of the AP's race and ethnicity team. Follow Contreras on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/ruscontreras>.

Brazil's top court rules against da Silva on prison

By PETER PRENGAMAN and MAURICIO SAVARESE, Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Brazil's top court voted narrowly in the early hours Thursday to turn down an attempt by former President Luiz Inacio da Silva to stay out of jail while he appeals a corruption conviction, a decision that will have widespread implications in this polarized nation.

After nearly 11 hours of often heated debate, the justices of the Supreme Federal Tribunal voted 6-5 to deny da Silva's preventative habeas corpus request to stave off a 12-year jail sentence while he fights a conviction in a case that he argues was nothing more than a ploy to keep him off of October's presidential ballot.

Despite the conviction and several other corruption charges pending against him, da Silva leads all preference polls for the election. The decision means he will likely be jailed soon, though probably not until at least next week thanks to various technicalities.

Within minutes of the decision, da Silva's Workers' Party, which held Brazil's presidency from 2003 to 2016, put out a tweet that foreshadowed the struggles to come.

"The Brazilian people have the right to vote for Lula, the candidate of hope," it read. "The Workers' Party will defend this candidacy on the streets and in every court until the last consequences."

The court's debate underscored how fraught the matter is at a time of high tension and angst in Brazil,

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which is struggling to emerge from a crippling recession and is four years into a major corruption scandal that has ensnared much of the country's elite, including da Silva.

"The constitution secures individual rights, which are fundamental to democracy, but it also assures the exercise of criminal law," said Chief Justice Carmen Lucia, who cast the deciding vote after spending much of the session being criticized by colleagues.

Justice Gilmar Mendes, traditionally a critic of da Silva, voted in favor of the former leader's petition to stay out of jail, challenging his colleagues to buck pressure from society.

"If a court bows (to pressure), it might as well not exist," said Mendes.

Justice Luis Roberto Barroso argued that the integrity of the justice system was at stake.

"A penal system that doesn't work with minimal effectiveness leads to an instinct for taking justice into one's own hands," said Barroso, who voted against the petition.

Justice Rosa Weber, who legal analysts predicted would be key because there was much doubt about her position on the matter, voted against da Silva.

In one of several brisk exchanges, after Weber's vote, justice Marco Aurelio Mello accused Lucia of plotting against da Silva's case. Mello said limiting the vote just to the habeas corpus petition and not the larger question of when a convict should be forced to begin serving a sentence helped sway Weber's vote.

"I want this to be registered in the court's records," Mello told Lucia, who responded by saying "yes" to the request.

The session reflected the debate happening across Brazil as millions tuned into the televised session. When the decision was leveled, fireworks and yells could be heard and seen in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, two of the nation's most important cities.

Da Silva was once wildly popular after his two terms as president from 2003 to 2010, but he has become a polarizing figure amid the "Car Wash" corruption scandal that has roiled Brazil the last several years and made average citizens furious with the political class.

Da Silva was convicted in July of helping a construction company get sweetheart contracts in exchange for the promise of a beachfront apartment. He denies any wrongdoing in that case or in several other corruption cases that have yet to be tried. An appeals court upheld the conviction in January, and the three reviewing magistrates even lengthened the sentence to 12 years and one month.

Technically, the Supreme Federal Tribunal's decision doesn't keep da Silva off the ballot. The country's top electoral court makes final decisions about candidacies beginning in August, but it has been expected to deny da Silva's candidacy under Brazil's "clean slate" law, which disqualifies people who have had criminal convictions upheld.

Thursday's decision was about much more than the future of a once towering politician trying to make a comeback. Many legal observers had said that allowing da Silva to stay out of jail could have a big impact on all the other cases related to "Car Wash" and other white-collar criminals with the means to continue appealing.

Congressman Jair Bolsonaro, a right-leaning legislator who is running second in the polls behind da Silva, summed up what many da Silva detractors were likely thinking.

"Brazil hopes that after today's vote Sergio Moro is able to order his arrest to show corruption doesn't work," Bolsonaro said while demonstrating outside Congress in Brasilia during the session. "We should never do politics like this again. Crooks should not have votes. They should have a cell."

Peter Prengaman on Twitter: twitter.com/peterprengaman

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Facebook scandal affected more users than thought: up to 87M

By BARBARA ORTUTAY, AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Facebook revealed Wednesday that tens of millions more people might have been exposed in the Cambridge Analytica privacy scandal than previously thought and said it will restrict the user data that outsiders can access.

Those developments came as congressional officials said CEO Mark Zuckerberg will testify next week, while Facebook unveiled a new privacy policy that aims to explain the data it gathers on users more clearly — but doesn't actually change what it collects and shares.

In a call with reporters Wednesday, Zuckerberg acknowledged he made a "huge mistake" in failing to take a broad enough view of what Facebook's responsibility is in the world. He said it isn't enough for Facebook to believe app developers when they say they follow the rules. He says Facebook has to ensure they do.

Facebook is facing its worst privacy scandal in years following allegations that Cambridge Analytica, a Trump-affiliated data mining firm, used ill-gotten data from millions of users through an app to try to influence elections.

Facebook said Wednesday that as many as 87 million people might have had their data accessed — an increase from the 50 million disclosed in published reports. Facebook is basing the estimate in part on the number of friends each user might have had. Cambridge Analytica said in a statement that it had data for only 30 million people.

On Monday all Facebook users will receive a notice on their Facebook feeds with a link to see what apps they use and what information they have shared with those apps. They'll have a chance to delete apps they no longer want. Users who might have had their data shared with Cambridge Analytica will be told of that. Facebook says most of the affected users are in the U.S.

Zuckerberg said fixing the company's problems will take years.

Besides the privacy scandal, Facebook also has been dealing with fake news, the use of Facebook to spread hate and discord and concerns about social media's effect on people's mental well-being.

These are "big issues" and a big shift for Facebook as it broadens its responsibility, Zuckerberg said. He added that he does think that by the end of this year the company will have "turned a corner" on a lot of the issues. Zuckerberg has made fixing the company his personal challenge for 2018.

As part of the steps it's taking to address scrutiny about outsiders' access to user data, Facebook outlined several changes to further tighten its policies. For one, it is restricting access that apps can have to data about users' events, as well as information about groups such as member lists and content.

In addition, the company is also removing the option to search for users by entering a phone number or an email address. While this helped individuals find friends, Facebook says businesses that had phone or email information on customers were able to collect profile information this way. Facebook says it believes most of its 2.2 billion users had their public profile information scraped by businesses or various malicious actors through this technique at some point. Posts and other content set to be visible only to friends weren't collected.

This comes on top of changes announced a few weeks ago. For example, Facebook has said it will remove developers' access to people's data if the person has not used the app in three months.

Earlier Wednesday, Facebook unveiled a new privacy policy that seeks to clarify its data collection and use.

Although Facebook says the policy changes aren't prompted by recent events or tighter privacy rules coming from the EU, it's an opportune time. Zuckerberg is set to testify April 10 before a joint hearing of the Senate Commerce and Judiciary Committees, and a day later before the House Energy and Commerce Committee. The two sessions will be his first testimony before Congress. Separately, the U.S. Federal Trade Commission and various authorities in Europe are investigating.

As Facebook evolved from a closed, Harvard-only network with no ads to a giant corporation with \$40 billion in advertising revenue and huge subsidiaries like Instagram and WhatsApp, its privacy policy has also shifted — over and over.

Almost always, critics say, the changes meant a move away from protecting user privacy toward pushing

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openness and more sharing. On the other hand, regulatory and user pressure has sometimes led Facebook to pull back on its data collection and use and to explain things in plainer language — in contrast to dense legalese from many other internet companies.

The policy changes come a week after Facebook gave its privacy settings a makeover. The company tried to make it easier to navigate its complex and often confusing privacy and security settings, though the makeover didn't change what Facebook collects and shares either.

Facebook's new privacy policy has a new section explaining that it collects people's contact information if they choose to "upload, sync or import" this to the service. This may include users' address books on their phones, as well as their call logs and text histories. The new policy says Facebook may use this data to help "you and others find people you may know."

Several users were surprised to learn recently that Facebook had been collecting information about whom they texted or called and for how long, though not the actual contents of text messages. It seemed to have been done without explicit consent, though Facebook says it collected such data only from Android users who specifically allowed it to do so — for instance, by agreeing to permissions when installing Facebook.

On Wednesday, Facebook said will delete all logs after a year and in the future, the only information this tool will collect from now on is the data that it needs to operate and "not broader data such as the time of calls."

The new policy also makes it clear that WhatsApp and Instagram are part of Facebook and that the companies share information about users. WhatsApp will still have a separate policy as well, while Facebook and Instagram share one.

This story has been corrected to reflect that WhatsApp has its own privacy policy, while Facebook and Instagram share the same one.

Masters hype unlike any other, mainly because of Tiger Woods

By DOUG FERGUSON, AP Golf Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Blame it on a generation that thinks nothing was ever as great as what just happened.

Maybe it was a tough winter, and nothing melts frigid memories like the sight of azaleas, dogwoods and Rae's Creek. It sure didn't hurt that all the best players, as young as 23-year-old Jon Rahm and ancient as 47-year-old Phil Mickelson, are winning tournaments and hitting their stride.

The competition is so steep that four players have a chance to be No. 1 in the world.

"This is my 42nd Masters," club chairman Fred Ridley said Wednesday. "I have never been a part of this week where there's been any more excitement."

But the real reason for all the talk that this Masters might be the best ever still comes down to one guy: Tiger Woods.

In San Diego and Los Angeles, in Tampa and Orlando, fans flocked by the thousands when Woods returned to competition after a fourth back surgery and suddenly looked very much like a 14-time major champion capable of resuming his pursuit of the 18 majors won by Jack Nicklaus.

He was back to producing Sunday-sounding roars at the Masters by making eagles on the back nine. And those were just practice rounds.

Woods had one word for all this buzz: whoa.

"I have four rounds to play," he said. "So let's just kind of slow down."

No one knows hype like Woods, especially at Augusta National. A generation ago, he had a chance to become the first player to hold all four professional majors, and he heard all about it for more than seven months leading into the Masters. He beat two of his biggest rivals of 2001, Mickelson and David Duval.

"It's the same thing," Woods said. "I've got to go play and then let the chips fall where they may. And hopefully, I end up on top. But I've got a lot of work to do between then and now."

Woods, who spent two days at Augusta National last week, has played nine-hole practice rounds for

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three days leading to the first round Thursday. Fred Couples has been at his side for all of them, and he didn't see much different from 10 years ago.

"It was pretty awesome," Couples said.

Never mind that it has been 13 years since Woods last won the Masters. Just imagine.

This is the first major Woods has played since 2015. He doesn't know of anyone who has competed at the highest level since fusion surgery on the lumbar area of the back, much less anyone who could generate 129 mph of club speed with the driver. Just 10 months, the most famous photo of him came from a Florida jail after his arrest on a DUI charge stemming from the wrong combination of prescription drugs.

It was one of the lower moments in his life.

And now, Masters champion?

Really?

That's four long days away, assuming he makes it that far — Woods has missed the cut in every major but the Masters — and there are plenty of obstacles along the way. Woods has been gone for so long that he says it's been nearly three years since he putted on bent grass like that at Augusta National.

The bigger issue might be a dozen or more other contenders, all of whom earned their share of the hype.

That list includes Woods' new practice-round partner — Mickelson — who is coming off another World Golf Championship title; Mickelson won the Mexico Championship to end the longest drought of his career.

The No. 1 player in the world has not won the Masters since 2002 — it was Woods, of course — a streak that Dustin Johnson would love to end. Johnson didn't get the chance last year after he slipped down the stairs and wrenched his back on the eve of the Masters. Johnson began the year with an eight-shot victory at Kapalua. Rahm won two weeks later to move closer to No. 1 in the world. Jason Day won the week after that.

Bubba Watson, a two-time Masters champion, won at Riviera. Justin Thomas won the Honda Classic with two clutch shots — a wedge and a 5-wood.

One of the two tournaments where Woods contended on the back nine was the Arnold Palmer Invitational. Rory McIlroy won with five birdies on his last six holes. A victory this week would put him in company with Woods by completing the career Grand Slam.

McIlroy knows what it's like to have so much attention. His first crack at the career slam was in 2015. He was 12 shots behind after two rounds.

"I felt like there was a lot of hype coming off the two majors the summer before and world No. 1 and going for the slam the first time. I felt that anticipation and that hype, and I nearly built it up in my head a little bit too much," he said.

Maybe it will help McIlroy, Day and so many others because of the attention on Woods. Or maybe it doesn't matter.

Regardless of who's playing, Augusta National rarely disappoints when it comes to excitement.

"I come here with one goal, and that is to win the tournament," McIlroy said. "And I'm sure everyone that's playing this tournament has the same goals and objectives. If I'm under the radar or not, it doesn't matter. I just need to go out and play good golf."

Calm after storm: Asian stocks up day after trade war fears

By **YOUKYUNG LEE, AP Business Writer**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Asian stock markets recouped the previous day's losses to trade higher on Thursday as earlier fears of trade conflicts between the world's two largest economies dissipated on signs of dialogue.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 surged 1.6 percent to 21,667.83 and South Korea's Kospi jumped 1.5 percent to 2,442.40. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 advanced 0.7 percent to 5,803.50. Stocks in Singapore surged and markets in other Southeast Asian countries were also higher. Markets in mainland China and Hong Kong were closed for holidays.

TRADE TALK: The fears of trade conflicts that had escalated with China's tariff plans on some U.S. prod-

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ucts in response to the similar moves by the United States turned into the hope of trade talks. President Donald Trump's top economic adviser, Larry Kudlow, suggested the U.S. tariffs won't be implemented if China lowers barriers to trade.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "With the expectation for talks to now take over, it does look like we have a long drawn out process ahead of us. The fact that markets have picked up so quickly also suggests that investors are becoming more desensitized to any threats that can be dismissed as negotiation tactics," said Jingyi Pan, a market strategist at IG in Singapore.

WALL STREET: U.S. stock markets finished higher on Wednesday after a sharp plunge in the previous session. The Dow Jones industrial average advanced 1 percent to 24,264.30. The S&P 500 index climbed 1.2 percent to 2,644.69. The Nasdaq composite rose 1.5 percent to 7,042.11. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks gained 1.3 percent to 1,531.66.

OIL: Benchmark U.S. crude rose 29 cents to \$63.66 per barrel in New York. The contract dipped 14 cents to finish at \$63.37 a barrel on Wednesday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, gained 31 cents to \$68.33 per barrel in London. It fell 10 cents to \$68.02 a barrel on Wednesday.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 106.98 yen from 106.78 yen. The euro was flat at \$1.228.

Admirers mourn King, pledge to carry on unfinished work

By ERRIN HAINES WHACK, ADRIAN SAINZ and KATE BRUMBACK, Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Fifty years after a shot rang out in Memphis, killing the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., freedom rang from the balcony of the Lorraine Motel as a bell tolled 39 times to mark a life cut short by racism.

King died among the most hated men in America, but Wednesday, admirers grateful for his life and legacy mourned his loss and pledged to carry on his unfinished work to end racial injustice and economic inequality.

"Nothing would be more tragic than for us to stop at this point," said the Rev. William Barber, who will renew King's Poor People Campaign this spring. "We must go up together or go down together. What he said then is what we must do now."

A host of tributes to the slain civil rights leader were held across the country. At the epicenter was Memphis, where King was assassinated on April 4, 1968, while in town for a sanitation workers' strike. The dignity of the workers paralleled this year's anniversary, with teachers in Oklahoma and Kentucky walking out of schools to push for more funding.

The triple evils of racism, poverty and war that King hammered at the end of his life linger — from economic, educational, housing and health disparities to the looming threat of nuclear war. Both the speakers and marchers of the day pledged their commitment to picking up King's mantle.

The Rev. James Lawson, who invited King to Memphis 50 years ago to assist with the sanitation workers' strike, said more progress is needed toward King's goal of equality for all.

"I'm still anxious and frustrated," said Lawson, his black hair turned gray. "The task is unfinished."

Speaking in King's hometown of Atlanta, the Rev. Bernice King recalled her father as a great orator whose message of peaceful protest was still vital decades later.

"We decided to start this day remembering the apostle of nonviolence," she said during a ceremony to award a prize named for her father.

As painful as losing her father was, she said she wouldn't change history.

"Actually, I'm glad that everything happened the way that it happened because I can't imagine the world that we live in without the contributions of Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King and the sacrifice that they made," she said.

As a march began in Memphis, people locked arms or held signs as they chanted and sang songs such as "We Shall Overcome." Memphis police estimated the crowd at about 10,000.

"We know what he worked hard for, we know what he died for, so we just want to keep the dream going," said Dixie Spencer, who came from nearby Hardeman County, where she's an NAACP leader. "We

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just want to make sure that we don't lose the gains that we have made."

Martin Luther King III addressed marchers at the end of their route.

"There's something wrong in our nation where a minimum of 48 million people are living in poverty. That's unacceptable. We must do better. America should be embarrassed about having people living in poverty," he said.

In the evening, ringing bells marked the moment King was gunned down at age 39. Members of King's family pulled a rope together to ring a bell 39 times at the pool surrounding the Atlanta crypt of King and his wife. The family then laid a wreath of multicolored flowers in front of the crypt. The crowd gathered outside the Lorraine Motel fell silent as the bell began to ring there. A red and white wreath was placed on the balcony where King had been standing when he was shot.

Small-time criminal James Earl Ray pleaded guilty to the killing and quickly recanted, claiming he was set up. The conviction stood, and Ray died in prison in 1998.

Marking the anniversary of the assassination, President Donald Trump issued a proclamation in honor of the slain leader, saying: "In remembrance of his profound and inspirational virtues, we look to do as Dr. King did while this world was privileged enough to still have him."

The president has been the target of veiled criticism by some speakers at King commemorations in recent days as they complained of fraught race relations and other divisions since he was elected.

Shirley Mason was a young woman living in Detroit when King was killed. Now 70, she said she came to Memphis not only to honor King's legacy but to call for his work to be continued.

"(King) went through the struggle and gave up his life," she said. "Why not get out ourselves and do some sacrificing?"

Brumbach reported from Atlanta.

For AP's complete coverage on the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination, go to <https://apnews.com/tag/MartinLutherKingJr>

Trump scales back US goals in Syria, leaves future to others

By JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is dramatically scaling back U.S. goals in Syria as he pushes for a quick military withdrawal, Trump administration officials said Wednesday, abandoning plans to stay long-term to stabilize the country and prevent the Islamic State group from re-emerging.

Trump has given no formal order to pull out the 2,000 U.S. troops currently in Syria, nor offered a public timetable, other than to say the United States will pull out just as soon as the last remaining IS fighters can be vanquished. But Trump has signaled to his advisers that ideally, he wants all troops out within six months, according to three U.S. officials - a finale that would come shortly before the U.S. midterm elections.

In his haste to withdraw from Syria, Trump stands alone. The Pentagon, the State Department and CIA are all deeply concerned about the potential ramifications if the U.S. leaves behind a power vacuum in Syria, as are Israel, Arab leaders and other nations in the U.S.-led coalition that has fought IS in Iraq and Syria since 2014.

The president made clear his patience was running out as he met top national security aides on Tuesday. Yet the meeting concluded with no hard-and-fast deadline handed down, leaving Trump's team struggling to deduce how fast is fast enough for Trump, according to officials briefed on the meeting who weren't authorized to discuss it and requested anonymity.

The tense disagreement between Trump and his team has played out in chaotic and increasingly public fashion. On Tuesday, before the Syria meeting, Trump was telling television cameras he wanted to "get out," just as the U.S. special envoy for fighting IS insisted "our mission isn't over." And on Wednesday, the White House issued a statement that declared the IS mission is "coming to a rapid end" but avoided specifics altogether.

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"We will continue to consult with our allies and friends regarding future plans," said White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders.

Urging him to slow down, Trump's aides have been emphasizing that IS fighters remain active in Syria, evidence that Trump's own, publicly stated objective - the total defeat of IS - has yet to be met. Officials said the U.S. is tracking two pockets where IS remains viable - one in the Middle Euphrates River Valley region, another along the Iraq-Syria border. And despite the White House's insistence that the group is "almost completely defeated," a string of renewed IS attacks in recent weeks has raised fears about a resurgence.

Regardless of exactly when the troops leave, the decision to remove them as soon as possible has forced an immediate realignment of long-term U.S. objectives in the country, officials said.

With no military presence to ensure security for American personnel, the U.S. will have to call off other planned operations to clear land mines, restore basic services like water and electricity, and create political conditions needed to resolve Syria's civil war. Already, Trump has put an indefinite hold on \$200 million he pledged previously for those operations.

Those efforts by U.S. diplomats and aid workers have been seen as critical to ensuring that Syria's territory isn't exploited in the future by IS remnants, other extremists or Iran. They formed a key component of Trump's new Syria strategy, laid out by then-Secretary of State Rex Tillerson in a speech in January declaring it "vital for the United States to remain engaged in Syria." But the speech, while formally approved by the White House, angered Trump, officials said, and the president fired Tillerson last month.

Instead, Trump will leave stabilizing Syria to other nations, in line with his long-stated view that the United States shoulders too much of global costs and should put "America first."

"I want to get out," Trump said. "I want to bring our troops back home. I want to start rebuilding our nation."

Trump has asked Saudi Arabia, which is keenly interested in keeping Iran out of Syria, to contribute \$4 billion toward reconstruction and stabilization efforts that the U.S. no longer plans to undertake. He came away from a phone call Monday with King Salman confident that the king will agree to give the money, two U.S. officials briefed on the conversation said. The Saudi Embassy in Washington did not immediately comment.

Securing foreign dollars while pulling out troops could allow Trump to argue before the November mid-terms that he's shifted the burden of resolving far-flung crises away from America. But ceding influence over Syrian territory could hand more control to countries whose interests in the Middle East are sharply at odds with the United States.

As the White House was talking up a U.S. withdrawal on Wednesday, the leaders of Russia, Turkey and Iran were meeting in Ankara to hash out their own plans for Syria's future, including a continued Turkish operation to oust U.S.-backed Kurdish fighters from northern Syria. The three nations have been pushing their own diplomatic track for resolving Syria's civil war, even as the U.S. tries to rejuvenate United Nations-led talks.

"We have agreed to expand the entire range of our trilateral cooperation in Syria," Russian President Vladimir Putin said in the Turkish capital, claiming credit on the trio's behalf for the Islamic State group's near-defeat.

Russia has been propping up Syrian President Bashar Assad for years, with increasing help from Iranian-backed Shiite militias such as Hezbollah - to the dismay of U.S. allies such as Israel. A phone call Wednesday between Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu grew tense because of the Israeli leader's concerns that the U.S. will withdraw and allow Israel's enemies to gain a further foothold in a neighboring country, two U.S. officials said.

Nor is it clear that the U.S. has capable local partners lined up to handle basic security and prevent a total collapse following a precipitous U.S. pullout - a prospect that offers unsettling echoes of the 2011 U.S. withdrawal from Iraq. As a candidate, Trump derided President Barack Obama for that decision and argued that the resulting power vacuum enabled the formation of the Islamic State.

The Syrian Kurds, the most effective fighting force in Syria aligned with Washington, recently shifted to

fighting Turkish forces in the area of Afrin. That forced a pause in operations against the main IS holdout in Syria. The Pentagon has warned that the distraction could give IS the reprieve it needs to regroup after four years of being pummeled.

Associated Press writers Zeke Miller, Matthew Lee, Robert Burns, Catherine Lucey and Darlene Superville in Washington and Philip Issa in Beirut contributed to this report.

Trump signs proclamation directing troops to secure border

By JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Asserting the situation had reached “a point of crisis,” President Donald Trump on Wednesday signed a proclamation directing the deployment of the National Guard to the U.S.-Mexico border to fight illegal immigration.

“The lawlessness that continues at our southern border is fundamentally incompatible with the safety, security, and sovereignty of the American people,” Trump wrote in a memo authorizing the move, adding that his administration had “no choice but to act.”

The announcement came hours after Trump pledged “strong action today” on immigration and a day after he said he announced he wanted to use the military to secure the southern border until his long-promised, stalled border wall is erected.

Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen said she had been working with governors of the southwest border states to develop agreements on where and how many Guardsmen will be deployed.

She suggested some troops could begin arriving as soon as Wednesday night, though other administration officials cautioned that details on troop levels, locations and timing were still being worked out.

Trump has been frustrated by slow action on building his “big, beautiful wall” along the Mexican border — the signature promise of his campaign — as well as a recent uptick in illegal border crossings, which had plunged during the early months of his presidency, giving Trump an accomplishment to point to when he had few.

Federal law prohibits the use of active-duty service members for law enforcement inside the U.S., unless specifically authorized by Congress. But over the past 12 years, presidents have twice sent National Guard troops to the border to bolster security and assist with surveillance and other support.

Nielsen said the effort would be similar to a 2006 operation in which President George W. Bush deployed troops to help U.S. Customs and Border Protection personnel with non-law enforcement duties while additional border agents were hired and trained. President Barack Obama also sent about 1,200 troops in 2010 to beef up efforts against drug smuggling and illegal immigration.

Nielsen said her department had developed a list of locations where it would like assistance on things like aerial surveillance and other support, and was discussing with the governors how to facilitate the plans. She declined to say how many personnel would be needed or how much the operation would cost, but she insisted, “It will be as many as is needed to fill the gaps that we have today.”

One congressional aide said that lawmakers anticipate 300 to 1,200 troops will be deployed and that the cost was expected to be at least \$60 million to \$120 million a year. The Pentagon would probably need authorization from Congress for any funding beyond a few months, said the aide, who wasn’t authorized to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Under the mechanism the administration is looking to use, the Guard would not be mobilized as a federal force. Instead, governors would control the Guard within their states.

Governors of the four U.S. states bordering Mexico were largely supportive of the move. The office of California Gov. Jerry Brown, a Democrat who has sparred with Trump on immigration issues, said any federal request would be promptly reviewed to determine how the state could best offer its assistance.

The Mexican foreign ministry said Nielsen told Mexico’s top diplomat that troops deployed to the border “will not carry arms or carry out migration or customs control activities.”

Senators in Mexico urged President Enrique Pena Nieto to temporarily suspend cooperation with the U.S.

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on immigration and security issues. In a nonbinding statement approved unanimously Wednesday, the senators asked Mexico's government to freeze joint efforts "in the fight against transnational organized crime" until Trump starts acting "with the civility and respect that the people of Mexico deserve."

Trump first revealed Tuesday that he'd been discussing the idea of using the military at the border with Defense Secretary Jim Mattis.

"We're going to be doing things militarily. Until we can have a wall and proper security, we're going to be guarding our border with the military," Trump said.

He spent the first months of his presidency bragging about a dramatic drop in illegal border crossings, which some DHS officials had even dubbed the "Trump effect." Indeed, arrests at the border last April were at the lowest level since DHS was created in 2003, and the 2017 fiscal year saw a 45-year low for Border Patrol arrests.

But the numbers have been slowly ticking up since last April and are now on par with many months of the Obama administration. New statistics released Wednesday show about 50,000 arrests of people trying to cross the southwest border last month, a 37 percent increase from the previous month, and a 203 percent increase compared to March 2017. The monthly increase follows typical seasonal fluctuations.

Trump's new focus on hard-line immigration policies appears aimed, at least in part, in drawing a political contrast with Democrats heading into the midterm elections. He has also been under growing pressure from conservative backers who have accused him of betraying his base for not delivering on the wall, and he was set off by images played on his favorite network, Fox News, of a "caravan" of migrants making their way through Mexico.

In Texas, which already has about 100 National Guard members stationed on the border, Republican Gov. Greg Abbott, said the president's decision "reinforces Texas' longstanding commitment to secure our southern border and uphold the Rule of Law."

New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez, a Republican, said she appreciated the Trump administration's efforts to involve states in the effort to better secure the border. Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey, also a Republican, tweeted that his state "welcomes the deployment of National Guard to the border. Washington has ignored this issue for too long and help is needed."

Associated Press writers Lolita C. Baldor, Matthew Daly and Robert Burns in Washington and Nomaan Merchant in Houston contributed to this report.

Congress' challenge: How to tame industry giant Facebook

By RICHARD LARDNER and MARY CLARE JALONICK, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Facebook isn't just a company. It's a behemoth, with 2.1 billion monthly users, \$40 billion in revenue and more than 25,000 employees worldwide.

And that leaves Washington with a daunting task: How do you tame a corporate giant? Or do you even try?

"It's tricky and it's going to be hard, but there are ways it can be dealt with," says Virginia Sen. Mark Warner, a former tech executive who has led investigations into Russian interference on social media over the last year as the top Democrat on the Intelligence Committee. "The idea that we're going to keep the wild, wild West — I don't think it's sustainable."

The picture will begin to come into focus next week. Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg is scheduled to testify April 10 and 11 before Senate and House committees as his company grapples with the privacy scandal involving Cambridge Analytica, a political consulting firm linked to President Donald Trump.

Facebook's reckoning in Washington comes on multiple fronts. Russia's use of the platform to meddle in U.S. elections, a regulatory investigation that could result in fines of hundreds of millions of dollars against the company for privacy violations, and the Cambridge Analytica episode are all topmost concerns.

But in the capital's pro-business, anti-regulatory climate, it's questionable whether the Republican-led Congress or Trump regulators have the appetite to rein it in.

Facebook is spending millions on lobbying to try to ward off regulations, even seeking to narrow a Senate

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bill that lawmakers call "the lightest touch possible." It would require more transparency in online political ads, something Facebook says it is providing on its own.

But the stakes grew Wednesday when Facebook revealed that information belonging to as many as 87 million of its users may have been improperly shared with Cambridge Analytica, which gathered the data with the intent of swaying elections. That number was far higher than originally known.

Congress' response to the myriad issues dogging Facebook could depend on Zuckerberg himself. He has apologized for a "major breach of trust" in the Cambridge Analytica episode and Facebook has announced it would stop working with third-party data collectors.

Privacy advocates and legal experts say that's not enough.

"It strikes me as a company that is trying to weather a PR storm and then get back to business as usual and hoping their users forget this ever happened," said Nate Cardozo, a senior staff attorney for Electronic Frontier Foundation, a privacy group based in San Francisco.

Facebook and other social media companies have faced bipartisan criticism over both privacy issues and the Russian intervention. But Trump and his pro-business GOP allies on Capitol Hill have made rolling back Obama-era regulations a priority, which makes any new federal rules for protecting data and privacy unlikely in the immediate future.

Republicans last year struck down online privacy regulations issued during President Barack Obama's final months in office that would have given consumers more control over how companies like Comcast, AT&T and Verizon share information. Critics complained that the rule would have increased costs, stifled innovation and picked winners and losers among internet companies.

And Congress elected to do nothing after Equifax disclosed in September that hackers exploited a software flaw that the credit monitoring company failed to fix, exposing Social Security numbers, birthdates and other personal data belonging to nearly 148 million Americans.

Lawmakers have yet to come up with a fix for the patchwork of conflicting state laws that govern how companies shield personal data and notify consumers when breaches occur. Mike Litt, consumer campaign director at U.S. PIRG, a public interest group, said Congress instead is considering legislation that would exempt credit bureaus from data break notifications and make it harder for states to hold them accountable.

"After the Equifax data breach, we saw Congress talk a good game but fail to follow through on helping consumers," Litt said. "To prevent Congress from letting Facebook off the hook, outraged Americans need to keep up the heat."

To defend its interests in Washington, Facebook has filled its executive ranks with former senior government officials from both political parties. Nathaniel Gleicher, its director of cybersecurity policy, was in charge of cybersecurity policy at the National Security Council during the Obama administration. Joel Kaplan, Facebook's vice president for global public policy, served as a senior aide to President George W. Bush.

The company spent just over \$13 million on lobbying in 2017, according to disclosure records filed with Congress. One of the lobbying team's newer members, Sandra Luff, was Attorney General Jeff Sessions' national security adviser when he served in the Senate.

Zuckerberg suggested during a CNN interview last month that he's open to regulation. But he quickly qualified that commitment, saying he'd get behind the "right" kind of rules, such as the bill that requires online political ads to disclose who paid for them. But the company is seeking to weaken even that bill.

Warner acknowledged that even minor regulation of Facebook and other technology companies will be difficult. But he's encouraging them to work with Washington now, before a "catastrophic event" that could shift the landscape or if Democrats win back seats in November's elections.

He suggests several possibilities: requiring Facebook and other companies to disclose the country of origin of ads, creating a self-regulatory body, or even allowing users to move their data from one platform to another.

More drastic measures could be to allow users to own their own data or to hold social media companies more responsible for what is posted on their platforms.

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In Europe, Facebook and other tech giants like Google are bracing for tough new data privacy rules that take effect May 25 and will apply to any company that collects data on EU residents, no matter where it is based. The rules will make it easier for consumers to give and withdraw consent for the use of their data.

In the U.S., Facebook's biggest challenge may come from the Federal Trade Commission, which is investigating whether the company violated the terms of a 2011 settlement that made privacy assurances.

Facebook agreed then to settle the commission's charges that it deceived users by assuring them their information would remain private, then repeatedly allowing it to be shared and made public. Each violation of the agreement could carry a penalty of up to \$40,000, according to settlement terms, meaning potential fines in the hundreds of millions.

Frank Pasquale, a University of Maryland law professor who's written extensively about how corporations use personal data, said the federal government's antitrust enforcers should be more vigilant with Facebook.

Facebook has completed dozens of mergers and acquisitions since it was founded in 2004. Pasquale said the Obama administration failed to realize the significance of two of Facebook's largest purchases: the photo-sharing app Instagram for \$1 billion in 2012 and WhatsApp two years later for nearly \$22 billion.

"This is clearly a monopolistic company that is trying to eliminate even the smallest challenge to its domination of the social media market," he said.

The privacy scandal has taken a heavy financial toll on Zuckerberg and Facebook. Forbes Magazine estimated that Zuckerberg's net worth dropped over the last month from \$71 billion to \$61.7 billion. Facebook's market value has fallen by more than \$88 billion in less than three weeks since the scandal broke, from nearly \$538 billion in mid-March to about \$449.5 billion.

Associated Press writer Marley Jay in New York contributed to this report.

Dems, GOP using immigration in House races, but differently

By ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Both Democrats and Republicans think the stalemate between President Donald Trump and Congress over immigration can help them in November's congressional elections. Each could be right.

In House races across the country, both parties are using the fight over immigration — fanned by tweets from President Donald Trump about a crisis on the Mexican border that others say doesn't exist — to fire up base voters in midterm elections. Democrats think it can help them reach minorities, young people and suburban moderates repelled by Trump's strident anti-immigrant stances, while Republicans have noted his success in using promises to crack down on immigration to energize disaffected conservatives.

As a result, Democrats are using the issue to emphasize inclusivity and are targeting border regions, suburbs and areas with immigrant populations. Republicans, whose districts tend to be less diverse, plan to make immigration a law-and-order issue that appeals to conservatives all around the U.S.

The debate is likely to roil races in California, Texas, Florida, Arizona, perhaps New Mexico and Virginia's Washington, D.C., suburbs. One diverse Southern California House district centered on the sprawl of Orange County has already become a testing ground for each party's immigration strategy.

The retirement of 13-term Republican Rep. Ed Royce makes the seat a prime target for Democrats trying to pick up 23 seats in November's elections, enough to grab House control. Seventeen GOP, Democratic and independent candidates are vying in a multiparty June 5 primary, a group that includes a Republican who has worked to scuttle pro-immigrant sanctuary city laws and a Democrat who fled Vietnam as a child.

Mai Khanh Tran's campaign website praises "the open arms of a country" that offered "my shot at the American Dream."

Trump this week amplified his rhetoric with tweets about "ridiculous" laws making it hard to send arrivals from Mexico "back where they came from." On Wednesday, he signed a proclamation directing National Guard troops to secure the U.S.-Mexico border.

It's the sort of language Democrats hope will send voters their way. Although the economy and health

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care register higher as voter concerns, Democrats see advantages from touting Congress' attempt to shield young "Dreamer" immigrants from deportation. That effort collapsed in February after Trump rejected \$25 billion to build his treasured border wall with Mexico in exchange for offering possible citizenship for Dreamers who were brought illegally to the U.S. as children and who have been temporarily protected by the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program.

Democrats say the gridlock lets them convey a message of tolerance that can woo voters, contributors and volunteers — including liberals, minorities and moderates alienated by Trump's words.

"Immigration is one of those cultural touchstone issues" that shows Democrats are ready to "stand up to Trump," said Mike Lux, a liberal Democratic consultant.

Democrats say GOP incumbents vulnerable to attacks over immigration include Reps. Carlos Curbelo of South Florida, David Valadao of California's Central Valley and Will Hurd of West Texas. Their districts are around 70 percent Hispanic.

While the U.S. population is around 18 percent Hispanic, 62 congressional districts had at least double that mark in 2016, the most recent breakdown available, according to the nonpartisan Pew Research Center. Underscoring how Hispanics tend to vote Democratic, just 13 of those districts are represented by Republicans, three of whom are retiring: Florida's Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, New Mexico's Steve Pearce and Texas' Blake Farenthold.

Republicans envision campaigns raising the specter of sanctuary cities, where local authorities limit cooperation with federal immigration officials, and casting such policies as enabling immigrants in the U.S. illegally to commit crimes and grab jobs. That could help in places like Arizona and northern and central Florida, they say.

Many voters view Democrats "as the party of protecting illegals over citizens," said Corry Bliss, executive director of the Congressional Leadership Fund, a political committee aligned with House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis. "This issue works across the country."

Bliss' group ran TV ads attacking Democrat Conor Lamb on immigration in the waning weeks of last month's special election in an open, overwhelmingly white House district in western Pennsylvania that heavily backed Trump in 2016.

The spots said Lamb favors "amnesty to millions of immigrants" and as an Obama administration official encouraged sanctuary cities, "which put illegal immigrants who commit crimes back on the street." Lamb won narrowly, which Bliss attributed to a weak GOP candidate.

Republicans acknowledge that Democrats' pro-immigration stance could attract moderate suburban voters. But the GOP could also use it to energize conservatives concerned about "the proliferation of non-English speaking people in this culture, a sense that we're losing what America used to be," said GOP strategist Whit Ayers.

In California, conservative Shawn Nelson is among several GOP contenders running in the Orange County contest. As a member of the county board of supervisors, Nelson helped push that body to join a federal lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of California's sanctuary law.

"Even if you're not seeing illegals crossing the border into your state, they're potentially stealing your jobs, they're potentially making you less safe," John Thomas, Nelson's chief strategist, said of the issue's appeal.

One of Nelson's Democratic opponents is Tran, a pediatrician who was evacuated to the U.S. from Vietnam in 1975.

Tran policy adviser Jack Hipkins says her message that America is "supposed to be open and inclusive and diverse" could attract Republicans displeased with the party's harsh tone on the issue. The district is roughly evenly divided among whites, Hispanics and Asians.

The top two finishers in the crowded primary will meet in the Nov. 6 election.

Cosby jury filled as defense alleges discrimination

By MICHAEL R. SISAK, Associated Press

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP) — A jury of seven men and five women — 10 of them white, two of them black — was seated Wednesday to decide Bill Cosby's fate in the biggest celebrity trial of the #MeToo era, after a day marked by defense accusations of racial discrimination.

Cosby's lawyers alleged a member of the prosecution team made a disparaging remark after a black woman was removed from consideration to serve on the jury in the 80-year-old comedian's retrial on sexual assault charges.

The defense didn't reveal in open court what they claim had been said, but sought to use the remark as evidence that prosecutors illegally removed the woman from the jury pool on the basis of her race.

Prosecutors pushed back, noting two black jurors had been seated, and the judge said he didn't believe the prosecution had any "discriminatory intent."

Cosby's lawyers eventually relented, and once jury selection resumed, three white men and a white woman were quickly placed on the panel. That brought the total number picked over three days to 12 — a full jury. Six alternates also have to be picked.

The racial and gender makeup of this jury is identical to the one that failed to reach a verdict in last year's trial.

The battle over the black juror's removal highlighted a vast racial disparity in the suburban Philadelphia jury pool that limited the number of black people available for consideration.

Just 10 of about 240 prospective jurors questioned on the first three days of jury selection were black, or about 4.2 percent. The black population in Montgomery County is about 9.6 percent black, according to the latest U.S. Census estimates.

The county says the names of people called for jury duty are selected randomly from a master list that combines voter registration records and driver's license records.

On Wednesday, Cosby lawyer Kathleen Bliss said in court that someone connected with the defense team heard someone on the prosecution side say "something that was discriminatory and repulsive" after the black woman was dismissed.

"By all appearances, she was a perfectly qualified juror who stated that she could be fair and impartial," Bliss said, adding there was no explanation for the woman's removal "other than her race."

District Attorney Kevin Steele responded there was "absolutely no legitimacy" to the defense's challenge, adding that prosecutors had no problem seating the two other black people who'd appeared for individual questioning.

"Of the two opportunities we have had to take a member of the African-American community, we have done so," Steele told Judge Steven O'Neill. "For them to now make the claim that the strike of an individual establishes some type of pattern is, I think unfortunately, not being done for this court but for the media behind us."

Steele didn't give a reason why the prosecution used one of its seven peremptory strikes on the woman, who had said she could ignore what she knows about the Cosby case and the #MeToo movement against sexual misconduct in order to serve as an impartial juror. She also said being a domestic violence victim wouldn't color how she serves.

Cosby's lawyers had appeared ready to strike at the first instance of prosecutors blocking a black juror, producing a legal brief that argued the move violated a 32-year-old Supreme Court ruling that prohibits prosecutors from excluding prospective jurors because of their race. The defense had made the same argument on Tuesday regarding the prosecution's exclusion of several white men, but O'Neill rejected it.

Cosby, who is black, is accused of drugging and molesting Andrea Constand at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004. He says the encounter with the former Temple University women's basketball administrator was consensual.

Prosecutors plan to call as many as five additional accusers in a bid to portray Cosby — the former TV star once revered as "America's Dad" for his family sitcom "The Cosby Show" — as a serial predator.

The AP does not typically identify people who say they are victims of sexual assault unless they grant permission, which Constand has done.

As Wednesday's session got underway, a judge gave The Associated Press and other media organizations more access to jury selection.

Media lawyers had challenged an arrangement that forced reporters to watch the group questioning part of the process on a closed-circuit feed from another courtroom. The camera showed the judge, prosecutors and defense lawyers, but not potential jurors who were being questioned as a group. Montgomery County President Judge Thomas DelRicci agreed to move the camera to the back of the courtroom so the media could see the potential jurors.

Follow Sisak at twitter.com/mikesisak

For more on the Cosby trial, go to apnews.com/tag/CosbyonTrial

AP source: Mueller says Trump not criminal target currently

By CHAD DAY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Special counsel Robert Mueller's team of prosecutors has informed President Donald Trump's attorneys that the president is not currently considered a criminal target in the Russia investigation, according to a person familiar with the conversation.

The person, who was not authorized to speak publicly about private conversations and spoke on condition of anonymity, told The Associated Press on Wednesday that the president is considered a subject of Mueller's probe — not a target. A subject is typically someone whose conduct is of interest to investigators but prosecutors are not certain they've gathered enough evidence to bring charges.

The designation could change at any time, though. The development was first reported Tuesday by The Washington Post.

Trump's designation as a subject came up as prosecutors and the president's legal team negotiate the terms of an interview with him. The president has said he wants to speak with Mueller's team, but his lawyers have not publicly committed to allowing him to be questioned.

On Wednesday, White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders declined to say whether the president remains willing to be questioned. In response to a question about the president being a subject, not a target, of the investigation, Sanders reiterated the president's claim that his campaign didn't collude with Russia during the 2016 presidential campaign.

"We know what we did and what we didn't do, so none of this comes as much of a surprise," Sanders said. She referred further questions to Trump's attorneys.

Trump attorney Jay Sekulow declined to confirm or discuss the conversations with Mueller, saying: "We do not discuss real or alleged conversations between our legal team and the Office of Special Counsel." White House lawyer Ty Cobb declined to comment.

The Justice Department typically treats people involved in investigations as witnesses, subjects or targets. Mueller's determination that Trump is a subject suggests he's more pivotal to the investigation than a mere witness, a designation for someone who has observed events of interest to agents and prosecutors.

"The government will say you're a subject trending to witness or you're a subject trending toward target," said Sharon McCarthy, a former federal prosecutor in Manhattan.

Although targets tend to be people the government is gathering evidence against with the goal of prosecuting, subjects have a much looser, broader definition.

"A subject means we're still looking at you," McCarthy said. "You're a person of interest in this investigation."

Still, the import of the designation wasn't immediately clear. It is not known, for instance, if Mueller's office has concluded that, at the moment, there is insufficient evidence to consider Trump a target. It is also possible that prosecutors agree they are bound by a Justice Department legal opinion that contends

that a sitting president cannot be indicted.

A grand jury is the way indictments are issued. Yet the White House witnesses with the most direct information about Trump's actions in the White House have spoken privately with Mueller's team instead of being summoned before the grand jury, a possible indication that their statements are being used for the purposes of assembling a report rather than pursuing criminal charges.

Mueller's team has signaled that they're interested in discussing several key episodes in the early parts of the Trump administration as they probe possible obstruction of justice.

Prosecutors have told the legal team they want to question Trump about the firings of former FBI Director James Comey and former national security adviser Michael Flynn.

Investigators want to discuss conversations Trump had with Comey in which the former FBI director has said the president encouraged him to end an active investigation into Flynn. They're also interested in the events leading up to Flynn's February 2017 firing.

Investigators have said they want to hear from the president to understand his intent and thinking during those events.

Associated Press writers Eric Tucker and Darlene Superville contributed to this report.

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

On the brink: US and China threaten tariffs as fears rise

By PAUL WISEMAN, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The world's two biggest economies stand at the edge of the most perilous trade conflict since World War II. Yet there's still time to pull back from the brink.

Financial markets bounced up and down Wednesday over the brewing U.S.-China trade war after Beijing and Washington proposed tariffs on \$50 billion worth of each other's products in a battle over the aggressive tactics China employs to develop its high-tech industries.

"The risks of escalation are clear," Adam Slater, global economist at Oxford Economics, wrote in a research note. "Threats to the U.S.-China relationship are the most dangerous for global growth."

There's time for the two countries to resolve the dispute through negotiations in the coming weeks. The United States will not tax 1,300 Chinese imports — from hearing aids to flamethrowers — until it has spent weeks collecting public comments. It's likely to get an earful from American farmers and businesses that want to avoid a trade war at all costs.

Also, China did not say when it would impose tariffs on 106 U.S. products, including soybeans and small aircraft, and it announced it is challenging America's import duties at the World Trade Organization.

Lawrence Kudlow, the top White House economic adviser, sought to ease fears of a deepening trade conflict with China, telling reporters that the tariffs the U.S. announced Tuesday are "potentially" just a negotiating ploy.

"We're very lucky that we have the best negotiator at the table in the president, and we're going to go through that process," said White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders. "It will be a couple months before tariffs on either side would go into effect and be implemented, and we're hopeful that China will do the right thing."

The prospect of a negotiated end to the dispute calmed nerves on Wall Street. After plunging in early trading, the Dow Jones industrial average ended up rising 231 points, or nearly 1 percent, to 24,264.

The sanctions standoff started last month when the United States slapped tariffs on imported steel and aluminum. On Monday, China countered by announcing tariffs on \$3 billion worth of U.S. products. The next day, the United States proposed the \$50 billion in duties on Chinese imports, and Beijing lashed back within hours with a threat of further tariffs of its own.

Things could easily escalate. The U.S. Treasury is working on plans to restrict Chinese technology investments in the United States. And there's talk that the U.S. could also put limits on visas for Chinese who

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want to visit or study in this country.

For its part, China conspicuously left large aircraft off its sanctions list Wednesday, suggesting it is reserving the option to target Boeing if relations deteriorate further.

Douglas Irwin, a Dartmouth College economist who has just written a history of U.S. trade policy, said the tit-for-tat tariffs are shaping up as the biggest trade battle since World War II.

"It's huge," he said.

In 1987, the Reagan administration triggered shockwaves by slapping tariffs on just \$300 million worth of Japanese imports — that's million with an "m" — in a dispute over the semiconductor industry. Those tariffs covered less than 1 percent of Japanese imports at the time.

The tariffs the U.S. unveiled Tuesday apply to nearly 10 percent of Chinese goods imports of \$506 billion.

And during the dispute three decades ago, Japan, a close U.S. ally, chose not to retaliate. It eventually gave in to U.S. demands.

"What we've seen with China is very different," Irwin said. "When the steel tariffs went in — boom, they came back with retaliation. ... They were not going to take it lying down."

Making matters trickier, the dispute over Chinese technology policy strikes at the heart of Beijing's ambitions to become the global leader in cutting-edge technologies like artificial intelligence and quantum computing.

In August, President Donald Trump ordered the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative to investigate China's tech policies, particularly longstanding allegations that it coerces U.S. companies into handing over sensitive technology to gain access to the Chinese market. The tariffs proposed Tuesday were the result of that investigation.

The U.S. also accuses China of treating U.S. companies unfairly when they try to do business there and of encouraging Chinese hackers to break into U.S. corporate computer systems and steal trade secrets.

The Trump administration is coming under intense pressure to de-escalate the dispute. American farmers, who disproportionately supported Trump in the 2016 election, are especially outspoken in seeking trade peace. After all, China buys nearly 60 percent of American soybean exports.

"American farmers are waking up this morning to the prospect of a 25 percent tax on exports that help sustain their farming operations," said former U.S. Sen. Max Baucus, co-chair of Farmers for Free Trade. "We urge the administration to reconsider escalating this trade war."

Some analysts predict Beijing will ultimately yield to U.S. demands because it relies far more heavily on the U.S. market than American businesses rely on China's.

"It is no coincidence that the Chinese have not yet set the date when these new tariffs will become effective," said Raoul Leering, head of international trade analysis at ING. "It is likely that China will, in the end, cut its losses and be willing to give Trump something."

But Robert Holleyman, a former U.S. trade official, said he worries that both sides will impose tariffs — and they will stick indefinitely.

"That would hit American consumers in the pocketbook and would reduce access by American businesses and farmers to the largest market in the world," he said.

And the Eurasia Group consulting firm warned in a research note about fear that the dispute "could spiral dangerously out of control, given that this trade action is really less about trade and more about China's rise as a technology leader."

AP writers Zeke Miller and Darlene Superville in Washington contributed to this report.

Animated explainer on trade disputes:
https://youtu.be/qWF5DF_XQYk

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Erdogan: Turkey to keep pushing Kurds out of Syria's north

By SUZAN FRASER, Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Wednesday that his military “won’t stop” trying to oust Syrian Kurdish fighters from northern Syria, as he met with the leaders of Russia and Iran for talks on trying to resolve the conflict.

The three countries, which have teamed up to work for a Syria settlement despite their differences, reaffirmed their commitment to Syria’s territorial integrity and the continuation of local cease-fires. They called on the international community to provide more aid for war-ravaged Syria.

Erdogan, President Vladimir Putin of Russia and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani were holding their second summit to discuss Syria’s future since attending a similar meeting in Sochi, Russia, in November. Russia and Iran have provided crucial support to President Bashar Assad’s forces, while Turkey has backed the rebels seeking to overthrow him.

Speaking at a joint news conference, Erdogan said Turkish troops, which last month took control of the northwestern Kurdish enclave of Afrin, would move eastward into Manbij and other areas controlled by the U.S.-backed Kurdish militia, the Peoples’ Protection Units, or YPG, which Turkey considers to be terrorists.

“I say here once again that we will not stop until we have made safe all areas controlled by the (YPG), starting with Manbij,” Erdogan said.

He stressed that Turkey’s fight against the YPG would not distract from efforts to eliminate remnants of the Islamic State group from the country.

Wednesday’s summit came as the White House said its military mission to eradicate IS in Syria was coming to a “rapid end,” though it offered no timetable for withdrawal of the roughly 2,000 U.S. troops currently in Syria as part of an American-led coalition fighting the Islamic militants since 2014. President Donald Trump had said a day earlier that the U.S.’s primary mission was to defeat IS and “we’ve almost completed that task.”

With allies anxious about a hasty U.S. withdrawal, White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said Wednesday that the U.S. would stay in war-torn Syria to finish off the job of defeating the Islamic State group and was committed to eliminating the militants’ “small” presence that “our forces have not already eradicated.”

But Sanders suggested that would not be a long-term endeavor, and she described the extremist group that once controlled vast swaths of Syria and Iraq as “almost completely destroyed.”

Trump’s comments conflict with views of his top military advisers, some of whom spoke at a separate event in Washington on Tuesday about the need to stay in Iraq and Syria to finish off the militant group, which once controlled large swaths of territory in both countries.

Asked about a possible U.S. pullout, Rouhani suggested Wednesday that the U.S. threat to withdraw from Syria was an excuse for soliciting money from countries that want U.S. forces to remain there.

“One day they say they want to pull out of Syria. ... Then it turns out that they are craving money,” he said. “They have told Arab countries to give them money to remain in Syria.”

It was unclear what Rouhani was referring to. But Trump in recent weeks has asked Saudi Arabia to contribute \$4 billion for reconstruction in Syria as part of his efforts to get other countries to help pay for stabilizing the country, according to a U.S. official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn’t authorized to discuss the conversations publicly.

Rouhani also reiterated that there can be no military solution to the Syrian crisis. “It should be resolved through political solutions,” he said.

Russia, Iran and Turkey have sponsored several rounds of talks between the Syrian government and the opposition, and brokered local truces in four areas, helping to reduce hostilities. Their next tripartite meeting will be held in Tehran.

Erdogan said the Turkish and Russian militaries were discussing the possibility of establishing field hospitals in Syria’s Tal Abyad town to care for people injured in the Syrian government offensive on the rebel-held Damascus suburbs of eastern Ghouta. “Be it the Turkish armed forces, be it the Russian armed forces,

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(we) want to quickly establish a field hospital so that initial treatment can be provided," Erdogan said.

Meanwhile, the Russian military said Wednesday that it expects a rebel evacuation from the suburbs of the Syrian capital to be completed in the coming days.

The Russian Defense Ministry and Syrian rebels struck a deal on Sunday for the Army of Islam, the biggest opposition group in eastern Ghouta, to leave the area for the rebel-controlled north.

The rebels were still leaving the town of Douma, but the evacuation was expected to wrap up in the coming days, said Col. Gen. Sergei Rudskoy of the Russian General Staff.

Earlier, Russia's Defense Ministry said that more than 3,000 rebels and their family members had evacuated Douma since Sunday.

The evacuation comes after a blistering five-week government offensive in February and March that killed hundreds of people and caused catastrophic damage in the besieged suburbs.

Associated Press writers Josh Lederman in Washington, Zeina Karam and Bassem Mroue in Beirut, Vladimir Isachenkov in Moscow, Cinar Kiper in Istanbul and Amir Vahdat in Tehran contributed to this report.

Republican Walker sounds alarm, Democrats see hope after win

By SCOTT BAUER, Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — The dominating victory by a liberal candidate in Wisconsin's Supreme Court race emboldened Democrats deflated by years of defeats, pushing Republican Gov. Scott Walker to issue a series of warnings Wednesday about a possible "blue wave" in the red state.

Democrats heralded Rebecca Dallet's victory as the clearest sign yet voters are back on their side after seven years of Republican control of the Wisconsin Statehouse and Donald Trump's 1-point victory in the state in 2016.

"Last night is another indication that every Republican in Wisconsin should be running scared," said Democratic strategist Joe Zepecki on Wednesday. "The progressive candidate here over-performed recent history in every type of community, rural, urban, suburban, exurban and that puts everything in play for this fall."

Walker, who is up for re-election in November, exhorted supporters on Twitter to see the warning signs.

"We are at risk of a Blue Wave in Wisconsin," Walker said in a fundraising email Wednesday. "After these two defeats, it is clear that our big bold reforms are in jeopardy."

Democratic U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin, a top GOP target, also is on the ballot in November, along with the entire state Assembly and half the Senate.

Dallet won 24 counties across the state that Trump had carried in 2016, a troubling sign for Republicans. Her win also comes after a surprise Democratic victory in a special state Senate election that had been under Republican control for 17 years and that Trump carried.

Three months ago, Walker called the special election loss a "wake up call."

Those two wins, coupled with Doug Jones' victory over Republican Roy Moore for an Alabama U.S. Senate seat in December, shows Democrats are on pace for big gains nationally in November, said Paul Maslin, a Wisconsin-based national Democratic pollster.

"Everything is lining up in one direction," Maslin said. "There's no question they're headed for a major defeat and we're headed for a major victory. ... Our people are motivated and are taking action in the best way possible, which is at the ballot box."

But Republicans argue spring elections — where turnout is roughly half of what it will be in November — are poor indicators of what will happen in the fall. Still, longtime political observers in Wisconsin on both sides agreed the win emphasizes that Democrats are more energized at the moment than Republicans.

"It's clearly a wake-up call," said Republican strategist Brandon Scholz. "I don't think a poorly run campaign makes a blue wave, but I do think the Republicans are challenged with having to draw the passion factor equal."

Walker last month was forced to call special elections for two other legislative vacancies after three judges

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ordered him to proceed against his wishes. Those elections, for seats that had been held by Republicans until they left to join Walker's administration, will be June 12.

Martha Laning, director of the Wisconsin Democratic Party, cast the Dallet victory as a referendum on Walker since he had endorsed her opponent in the officially nonpartisan race.

"How many more wake-up calls do Walker and the GOP need before they realize their extremism is out-of-touch with Wisconsin values?" Laning said.

Dallet trounced conservative challenger Michael Screnock by 12 points — 56 percent to 44 percent — to become the first liberal candidate to win election to the Wisconsin Supreme Court when there's an open seat since 1995. Her victory means that six of the seven seats on the state's highest court will be women, but conservatives will still control it 4-3.

Only Washington state has more women on its highest court, but in percentage terms Wisconsin is the highest, according to the University of Minnesota's Smart Politics.

Turnout was 22.2 percent, the highest for a spring election since 2011 and second-highest over the past 12 Supreme Court elections.

Dallet's candidacy won support from national Democrats, something never-before-seen in a state Supreme Court race, with an endorsement from U.S. Sen. Cory Booker, of New Jersey, former Vice President Joe Biden recording robocalls and a group run by former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder dumping half a million dollars into the contest.

Holder, who sued to force Walker to call the two upcoming legislative special elections, said the Dallet win was really about Walker.

"Under the leadership of Scott Walker and his administration, the right to vote has been systematically attacked and the concerns of corporations, outside special interests and the Republican party placed ahead of the people," he said in a statement. "Today, the voters of Wisconsin took a critical first step toward a state government that better reflects their needs and interests."

Follow Scott Bauer on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/sbauerAP>

Wind gusts cause hangar collapse at Hobby Airport in Houston

HOUSTON (AP) — Strong winds that swept through the Houston area have caused a hangar to collapse at one of the city's airports, damaging planes and scattering debris.

The National Weather Service says gusts of about 80 mph (129 kph) were recorded late Tuesday at Hobby Airport.

Authorities say the wind appears to have caused the hangar at a private terminal to disintegrate. An airport spokesman, Bill Begley, says the collapse caused millions of dollars of damage. There have been no reports of injuries.

Houston police Lt. Larry Crowson says the hangar is owned by Jet Aviation.

Broadcast images show debris atop at least two planes, with the nose of one aircraft pushed to the ground. Airport officials say up to eight aircraft are damaged, but that no commercial flights are affected.

The center of the Milky Way is teeming with black holes

By **SETH BORENSTEIN, AP Science Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The center of our galaxy is teeming with black holes, sort of like a Times Square for strange super gravity objects, astronomers discovered.

For decades, scientists theorized that circling in the center of galaxies, including ours, were lots of stellar black holes, collapsed giant stars where the gravity is so strong even light doesn't get out. But they hadn't seen evidence of them in the Milky Way core until now.

Astronomers poring over old x-ray observations have found signs of a dozen black holes in the inner circle of the Milky Way. And since most black holes can't even be spotted that way, they calculate that

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there are likely thousands of them there. They estimate it could be about 10,000, maybe more, according to a study in Wednesday's journal Nature .

"There's lots of action going on there," said study lead author Chuck Hailey, a Columbia University astrophysicist. "The galactic center is a strange place. That's why people like to study it."

The stellar black holes are in addition to — and essentially circling — the already known supermassive black hole, called Sagittarius A , that's parked at the center of the Milky Way.

In the rest of the massive Milky Way, scientists have only spotted about five dozen black holes so far, Hailey said.

The newly discovered black holes are within about 19.2 trillion miles (30.9 trillion kilometers) of the supermassive black hole at the center. So there's still a lot of empty space and gas amid all those black holes. But if you took the equivalent space around Earth there would be zero black holes, not thousands, Hailey said.

Earth is in spiral arm around 3,000 light years away from the center of the galaxy. (A light year is 5.9 trillion miles, or 9.5 trillion kilometers.)

Harvard astronomer Avi Loeb, who wasn't part of the study, praised the finding as exciting but confirming what scientists had long expected.

The newly confirmed black holes are about 10 times the mass of our sun, as opposed to the central supermassive black hole, which has the mass of 4 million suns. Also the ones spotted are only the type that are binary , where a black hole has partnered with another star and together they emit large amount of x-rays as the star's outer layer is sucked into the black hole. Those x-rays are what astronomers observe.

When astronomers look at closer binary black hole systems they could then see the ratio between what's visible and what's too faint to be observed from far away. Using that ratio, Hailey figures that even though they only spotted a dozen there must be 300 to 500 binary black hole systems.

But binary black hole systems are likely only 5 percent of all black holes, so that means there are really thousands of them, Hailey said.

There are good reasons the Milky Way's black holes tend to be in the center of the galaxy, Hailey said.

First, their mass tends to pull them to the center. But mostly the center of the galaxy is the perfect "hot house" for black hole formation, with lots of dust and gas.

Hailey said it is "sort of like a little farm where you have all the right conditions to produce and hold on to a large number of black holes."

Follow Seth Borenstein on Twitter at @borenbears . His work can be found here .

The Associated Press Health & Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, April 5, the 95th day of 2018. There are 270 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 5, 1764, Britain's Parliament passed The American Revenue Act of 1764, also known as the Sugar Act, which was repealed in 1766.

On this date:

In 1614, Indian Chief Powhatan's daughter Pocahontas married Englishman John Rolfe, a widower, in the Virginia Colony.

In 1792, President George Washington cast his first veto, rejecting a congressional measure for apportioning representatives among the states.

In 1887, Anne Sullivan achieved a breakthrough as her 6-year-old deaf-blind pupil, Helen Keller, learned

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the meaning of the word "water" as spelled out in the Manual Alphabet. British historian Lord Acton wrote in a letter, "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely."

In 1915, Jess Willard knocked out Jack Johnson in the 26th round of their fight in Havana, Cuba, to claim boxing's world heavyweight title.

In 1925, a tornado estimated at F-3 intensity struck northern Miami-Dade County, Florida, killing five people.

In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an executive order creating the Civilian Conservation Corps and an anti-hoarding order that effectively prohibited private ownership of gold.

In 1955, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill resigned his office for health reasons. Democrat Richard J. Daley was first elected mayor of Chicago, defeating Republican Robert E. Merriam.

In 1964, Army Gen. Douglas MacArthur died in Washington, D.C., at age 84.

In 1976, reclusive billionaire Howard Hughes died in Houston at age 70.

In 1986, two American servicemen and a Turkish woman were killed in the bombing of a West Berlin discotheque, an incident which prompted a U.S. air raid on Libya more than a week later.

In 1988, a 15-day hijacking ordeal began as gunmen forced a Kuwait Airways jumbo jet to land in Iran.

In 1991, former Sen. John Tower, R-Texas, his daughter Marian and 21 other people were killed in a commuter plane crash near Brunswick, Georgia.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin opened farewell talks at Putin's heavily wooded retreat on the Black Sea. Actor Charlton Heston, big-screen hero and later leader of the National Rifle Association, died in Beverly Hills, California, at age 84.

Five years ago: Kansas legislators gave final passage to a sweeping anti-abortion measure declaring that life began "at fertilization." (Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback, a Republican, signed the measure two weeks later.) A federal judge in New York ordered the Food and Drug Administration to lift age restrictions on the sale of emergency contraception, ending a requirement that buyers show proof they were 17 or older if they wanted to buy it without a prescription. (After months of back-and-forth legal battles, the Obama administration agreed to lift the age limits.)

One year ago: President Donald Trump declared that a deadly chemical attack in Syria the day before had crossed "many, many lines" and abruptly changed his views of Syrian President Bashar Assad. But he refused to say what the U.S. might do in response. A senior U.S. defense official said a North Korean missile test ended in failure when the rocket spun out of control and plunged into the ocean in a fiery crash. YouTube TV, Google's new streaming package of about 40 television channels, made its debut.

Today's Birthdays: Movie producer Roger Corman is 92. Former U.S. Secretary of State and former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Colin Powell is 81. Country singer Tommy Cash is 78. Actor Michael Moriarty is 77. Pop singer Allan Clarke (The Hollies) is 76. Writer-director Peter Greenaway is 76. Actor Max Gail is 75. Actress Jane Asher is 72. Singer Agnetha (ag-NEE'-tah) Faltskog (ABBA) is 68. Actor Mitch Pileggi is 66. Singer-songwriter Peter Case is 64. Rock musician Mike McCready (Pearl Jam) is 52. Singer Paula Cole is 50. Actress Krista Allen is 47. Actress Victoria Hamilton is 47. Country singer Pat Green is 46. Rapper-producer Pharrell (fa-REHL') Williams is 45. Rapper/producer Juicy J is 43. Actor Sterling K. Brown is 42. Country singer-musician Mike Eli (The Eli Young Band) is 37. Actress Hayley Atwell is 36. Actress Lily James is 29.

Thought for Today: "A man is only as good as what he loves." — Saul Bellow, Canadian-born American author (1915-2005).