

Groton Daily Independent

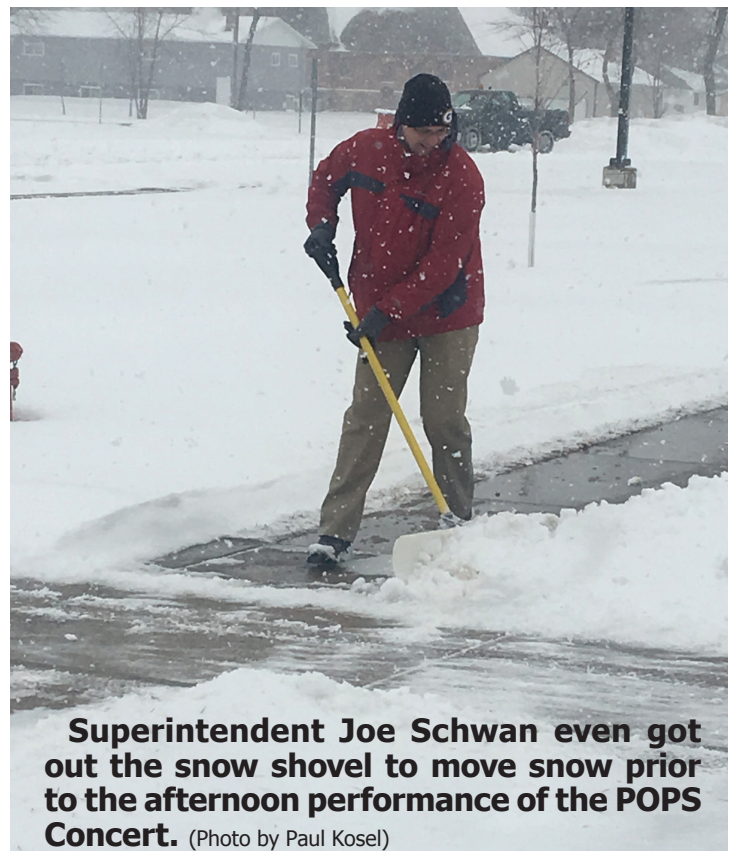
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- 1- Kristi Peterson Bookkeeping Ad
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Kristi Peterson Bookkeeping
Simple Solutions for YOU
605/216-4474 ~ peterson4@nvc.net

JH Track at Milbank today is Cancelled School Board Meeting at 7 p.m.



Superintendent Joe Schwan even got out the snow shovel to move snow prior to the afternoon performance of the POPS Concert. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper
recycling trailer at the school is **GONE**

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The show must go on!

Even a winter storm couldn't stop the afternoon performance of the POPS Concert. The evening session was cancelled.



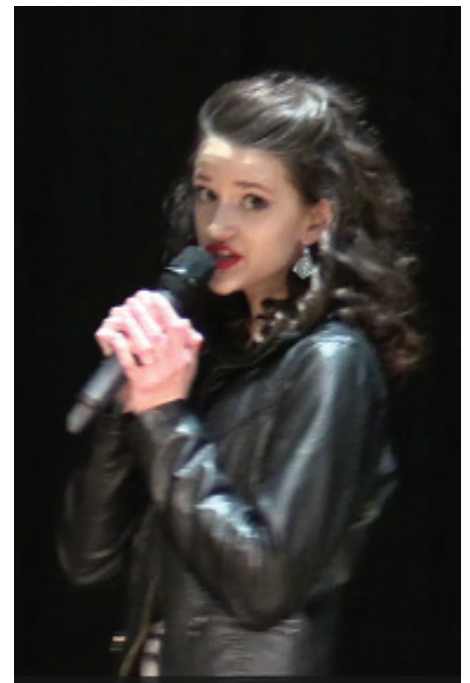
The senior group performed, "Be Okay." (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



Tylan Glover sang, "I'm Yours." (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



Jenifer Fjelstad sang, "Invincible." (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



AnneMarie Smith sang, "Still Into You." (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)

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The Jazz Band performed, "Summertime," "Here, There and Everywhere" and "How High The moon." (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



Hailey Monson and Kayla Jensen were the masters of ceremony. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



Alexis Hanten sang, "Dream A Little Dream." (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)

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Aleaya Worlie sang, "Next to Me" with the back up singers and musicians in the background.
(Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



The seniors presented their instructors for working with the show choir and also thanks the "Germans" for their participation in the show choir. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



The show choir performed, "This is the Great Adventure." (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)

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The show choir performed to, "Partner in Crime." (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



The show choir performed to, "Lost in the Wilderness." (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



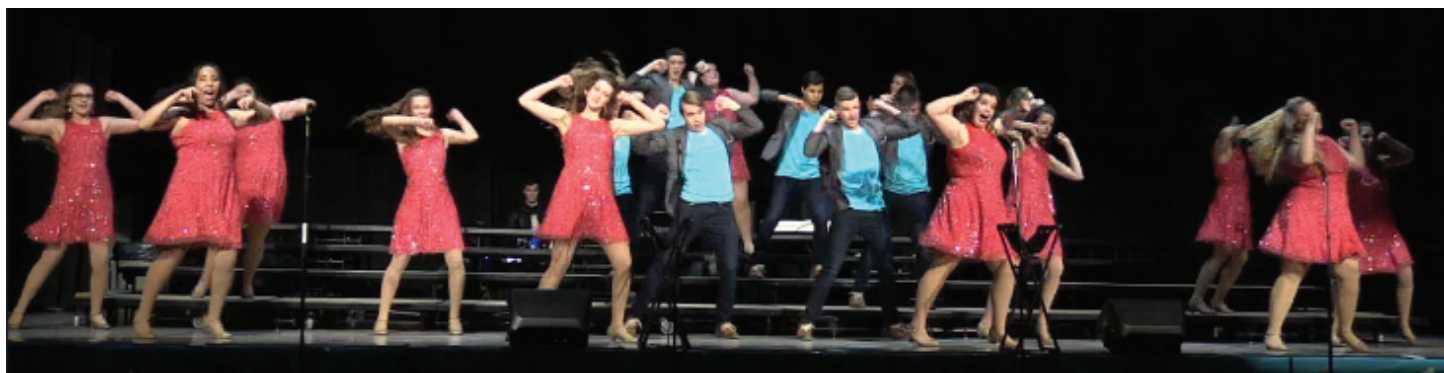
The show choir performed to, "The Distance You Have Come." (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)

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The show choir performed to, "On My Way." (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



The show choir performed to, "Freeway of Love/Free Ride." (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)

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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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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 GRN 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#SCNAPR44C 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-Various 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!

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.

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Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

Free agency is mostly over for the Minnesota Vikings, so the front office will be switching their focus to the NFL draft. The draft will be held in Arlington, Texas at AT&T Stadium – which is the first time the draft will be held in an NFL stadium. The first round will begin Thursday, April 26 at 7 p.m. CT. Rounds two and three will be the next night at 6 p.m. CT, and the final rounds will begin Saturday, April 28 at 11 a.m. CT. The Vikings have eight picks in the draft, but General Manager Rick Spielman is known to move up and down the draft, so it's very possible the team ends up with more.

The Vikings' biggest weakness on offense is undoubtedly the offensive line. The line has been an issue for the Vikings for many years, and although the team tried to fix it last year by signing offensive tackles Riley Reiff and Mike Remmers in free agency, there is still some work to be done.



Here are some names to look for if the Vikings spend a top pick on an offensive lineman:

Will Hernandez, guard, Texas-El Paso. Hernandez is the most commonly mocked player to the Vikings. He is 6'3", 327 lbs, and is viewed by many as an instant starter at left guard in the NFL. He would be an upgrade and would immediately solidify the left side of the Vikings offensive line.

Billy Price, guard/center, Ohio State. From his redshirt freshman year through his junior season, Price started 41 games, playing both left and right guard. He moved to center his senior year (after Pat Elfli was drafted by the Vikings) and proceeded to start another 14 games and win the Remington award for best center in college football. He can play any interior position.

Connor Williams, tackle, Texas. Williams is a prospect that might have been better served by going back to school for his senior season. He started all 12 games at left tackle as a freshman and 11 of 12 games as a sophomore. Heading into the 2017 season, Williams was heralded as one of the best tackles in college. Unfortunately, a knee injury caused him to miss all but five games his junior season. NFL scouts have questions about his health.

Mike McGlinchey, tackle, Notre Dame. McGlinchey played his first two seasons at right tackle before moving to the left side for his junior and senior seasons. He has a high football IQ and displays quick footwork and great technique. The question surrounding him will be whether he can add weight and avoid getting bull rushed by NFL caliber defensive linemen.

The Vikings don't have many holes on the offensive side of the ball besides offensive line, but they could possibly add another tight end, wide receiver or running back. If they do, they will likely draft those players in the later rounds. The Vikings won't pass up value though, so if a player slips in the draft expect the Vikings to pounce, even if it's not at an area of need.

Dallas Goedert, tight end, SDSU. If Goedert is available when the Vikings pick, they will likely consider him. He is 6'5", 255 lbs, very fast and makes circus catches look normal. The knock on him will be his level of competition. Scouts don't know if he will be able to block NFL defensive linemen or get open against NFL linebackers and safeties.

Calvin Ridley, wide receiver, Alabama. Wide receiver isn't an area of need for the Vikings, and the 2018 draft doesn't have the "elite" wide receivers in the first round. However, Ridley is considered by most to be the best WR in the draft, and if he somehow slipped to the Vikings, they would certainly consider him.

Derrius Guice, running back, LSU. Sony Michel, running back, Georgia. With Dalvin Cook coming back after his injury last year, the Vikings likely won't take a running back early in the draft. However, if either of the two backs listed above fall in the second round, the Vikings might make a move for one of them.

Make sure to check out next week's article, as we take a look at the defensive side of the ball. Skol!

As always, if you have any questions or comments, reach out to me on Twitter (@SkolJWright)

Facts and Rules About Sexual Relations

Some people may be offended by considering issues of sexuality, but sexual health is an important medical topic. Here are my opinions of available medical/scientific data and ethical rules about sexuality. If what follows runs counter to your beliefs, please don't be hurt or offended. Instead, let it be a springboard for discussion.



By Richard P. Holm M.D.

Sexual function is necessary for our species to survive and is a good and natural thing, but there's more to it than that. Sexual activity, as well as any non-sexual social friendship, promotes emotional connections which improve families and societies. Every relationship and communication (sexual or not) is fraught with vulnerability, miscommunication, and risk. Because of the tremendous value of human relationships, every effort should be made to play fair, follow rules, and avoid betraying an agreed upon trust.

Scientific and anthropological data across cultures strongly indicate heterosexuality AND homosexuality (LGBTQ) are defined by prenatal chemical, hormonal, physiological, and genetic causes. Human sexual interest is not a choice but a consequence of powerful, complex, internal messages which are as of yet a mystery. Although sexual interest may not be a controllable choice, actions that would disgrace or dishonor another ARE chosen. Psychologists point out that people who discredit another for differences in race, age, culture, economic status, or sexual orientation are not only choosing to harm others and delay societal advancement, they are, more destructively, harming themselves. Hate is most poisonous to the one who harbors it.

Ethical rules about sexuality work for non-sexual relationships too. To pattern them after medical ethic principles: first, be kind and considerate of your partner. Listen to them. Second, do not harm. Being hurtful with a sexual act or otherwise, when it betrays a mutually agreed upon trust, spreads unhappiness to the harmed AND the perpetrator. Never put your partner at risk of disease, and don't harm yourself or others by avoiding precautions. Seek regular health care and every sexually active person should regularly check for AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections.

Third, be honest. Determine what is expected before any relationship of any kind. If it involves a promise to have no other sexual partners, then do not betray that trust. However, it is not fair to expect a sexual partner to avoid having other (non-sexual) friends of the same or opposite sex. Finally, respect your partner and friend's choices. Never force sex or try to control any other person's choices. This is called abuse and should not be tolerated. An abused person should know they can always call for help.

A sexual relationship, like a friendship, is built on kindness, trust, and respect for choices.

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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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All auto owners!

Save \$2-\$4 /tank

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Super Premium E30's

94 octane, more power,

same mileage, fewer

carbon deposits, lower

maintenance costs,

slashed benzene & related

genotoxic, carcinogenic

tailpipe emissions;

*see sdfu.org's E30 tab for

info, E30 prices\locations.

***Farmers Union's**

PSA: Courtesy Merle

Anderson (Merle is 94

year old founder of Ace

and legendary ethanol

supporter... "because it is

the right thing to do")

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 9, 1997: A late season storm produced snow from the Black Hills through South Central South Dakota. The greatest amounts occurred in a 40-mile wide swath along and south of Interstate 90. Snowfall amounts included 9 inches at Rapid City, 12 inches at Deerfield, 10 inches at Custer, 11 inches at Mission, and 12 inches at Winner. Outside this swath, snowfall ranged from 3 to 6 inches.

April 9, 2007: Arctic air moved into central and northeast South Dakota and remained for nearly a week. High temperatures from April 3rd to April 9th were mostly in the 20s to around 30 degrees with lows in the single digits and teens. The high temperatures were from 20 to 30 degrees below average, and the lows were from 10 to 25 degrees below normal across all of the area. Some record lows and many record low maximum temperatures were set throughout the period. The first ten days of April were the coldest on record for Aberdeen. The early spring cold period affected many of the residents, especially farmers and ranchers, of central and northeast South Dakota. Also, many robins died from the cold and lack of food.

1889: The Norfolk Landmark reported that damage was more substantial than the August 1879 hurricane because it lasted for a much longer duration- the water was 18 inches higher. Rain, snow, and sleet fell, totaling 3.2 inches. Drummonds Bridge was swept away (later replaced by the Ghent Bridge). Trees were uprooted, and roofs were torn off.

1947: An estimated F5 tornado struck Woodward, Oklahoma during the late evening killing 95 persons and causing six million dollars damage. The tornado, one to two miles in width, and traveling at a speed of 50 mph, killed a total of 167 persons along its 221-mile path from Texas into Kansas, injured 980 others, and caused nearly ten million dollars damage.

1953: The first radar image of a tornado was detected by radar equipment at the University of Illinois Airport at Champaign, IL. Studies of the radar pictures from that day showed that a tornado of significant size and intensity could be detected.

1877 - Oregon Inlet, NC, was widened three quarters of a mile by a nor'easter. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1977 - A storm brought 15.5 inches of rain to Jolo, WV, in thirty hours. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - International Falls, MN, reported their sixth straight record high for the date, with a reading of 77 degrees. A cold front ushering sharply colder weather into the north central U.S. produced wind gusts to 60 mph at Glasgow MT. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Residents of Sioux City, IA, awoke to find two inches of snow on the ground following a record high temperature of 88 degrees the previous afternoon. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Eighteen cities in the southwestern U.S. reported new record high temperatures for the date. The afternoon high of 80 degrees at Eureka CA established a record for the month of April. (The National Weather Summary)

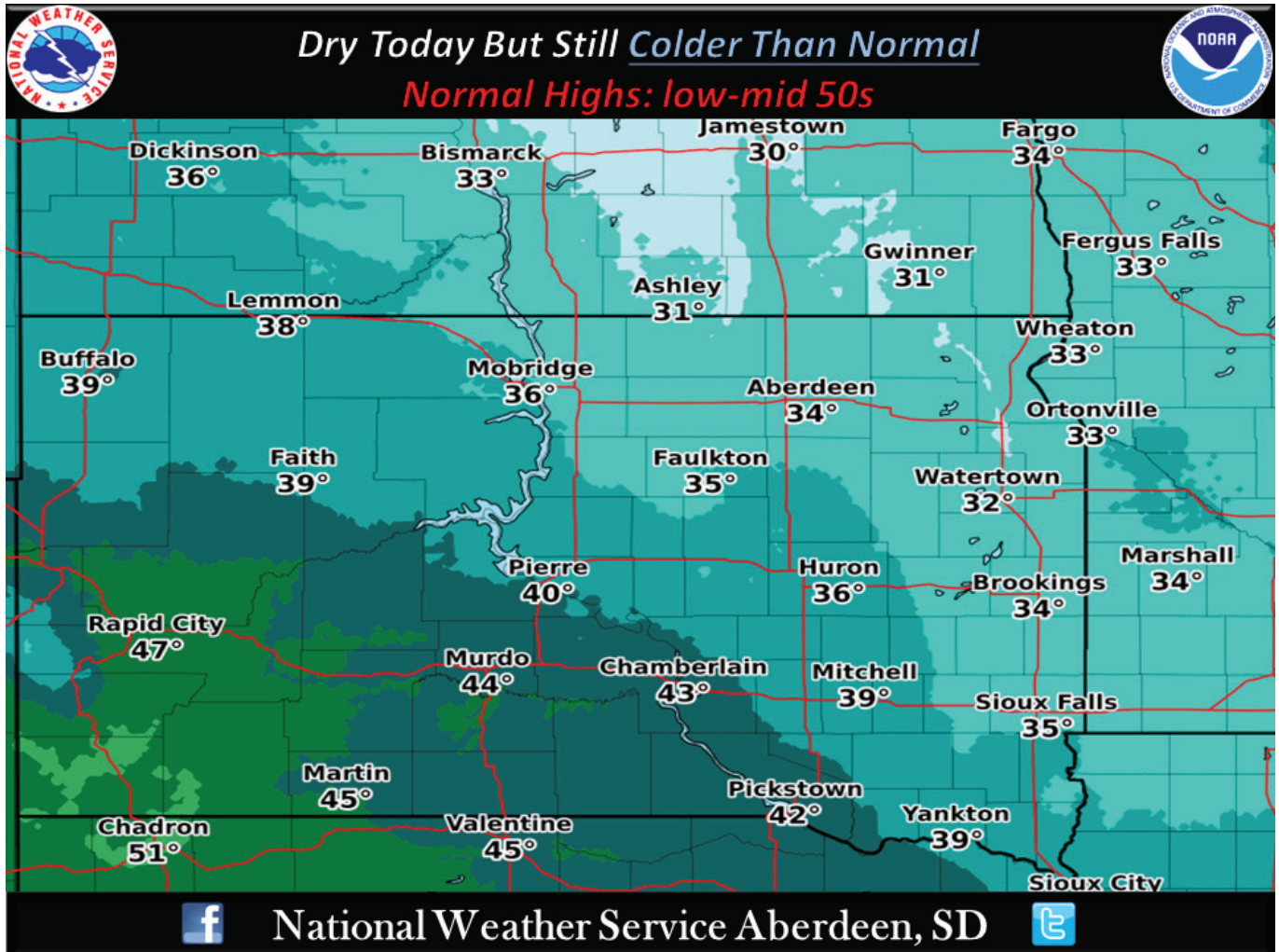
1990 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front produced severe weather from the Central High Plains to Arkansas and northern Texas. Severe thunderstorms spawned five tornadoes, and there were seventy reports of large hail and damaging winds. A tornado injured four persons at Ardmore OK, and thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 70 mph at Kellyville OK, and hail three inches in diameter at Halmstead KS. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2011 - An EF-3 tornado hits Mapleton, IA. Officials estimate more than half the town is damaged or destroyed but none of the 1200 residents were killed. 31 tornadoes were confirmed across Iowa, Kentucky, Tennessee and North Carolina on this day.

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| Mon Apr 9 | Tue Apr 10 | Wed Apr 11 | Thu Apr 12 | Fri Apr 13 | Sat Apr 14 | Sun Apr 15 |
|--------------|---------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| | | | | | | |
| 33°F | 46°F | 51°F | 47°F | 42°F | 33°F | 36°F |
| 24°F | 29°F | 29°F | 35°F | 24°F | 19°F | 29°F |
| NE 7 MPH | SSW 8 MPH | ESE 9 MPH Precip 20% | N 15 MPH Precip 20% | ENE 25 MPH Precip 60% | N 23 MPH Precip 40% | NW 15 MPH |



Published on: 04/09/2018 at 4:58AM

Today should be a mainly dry day, but temperatures will remain below normal for this time of year.

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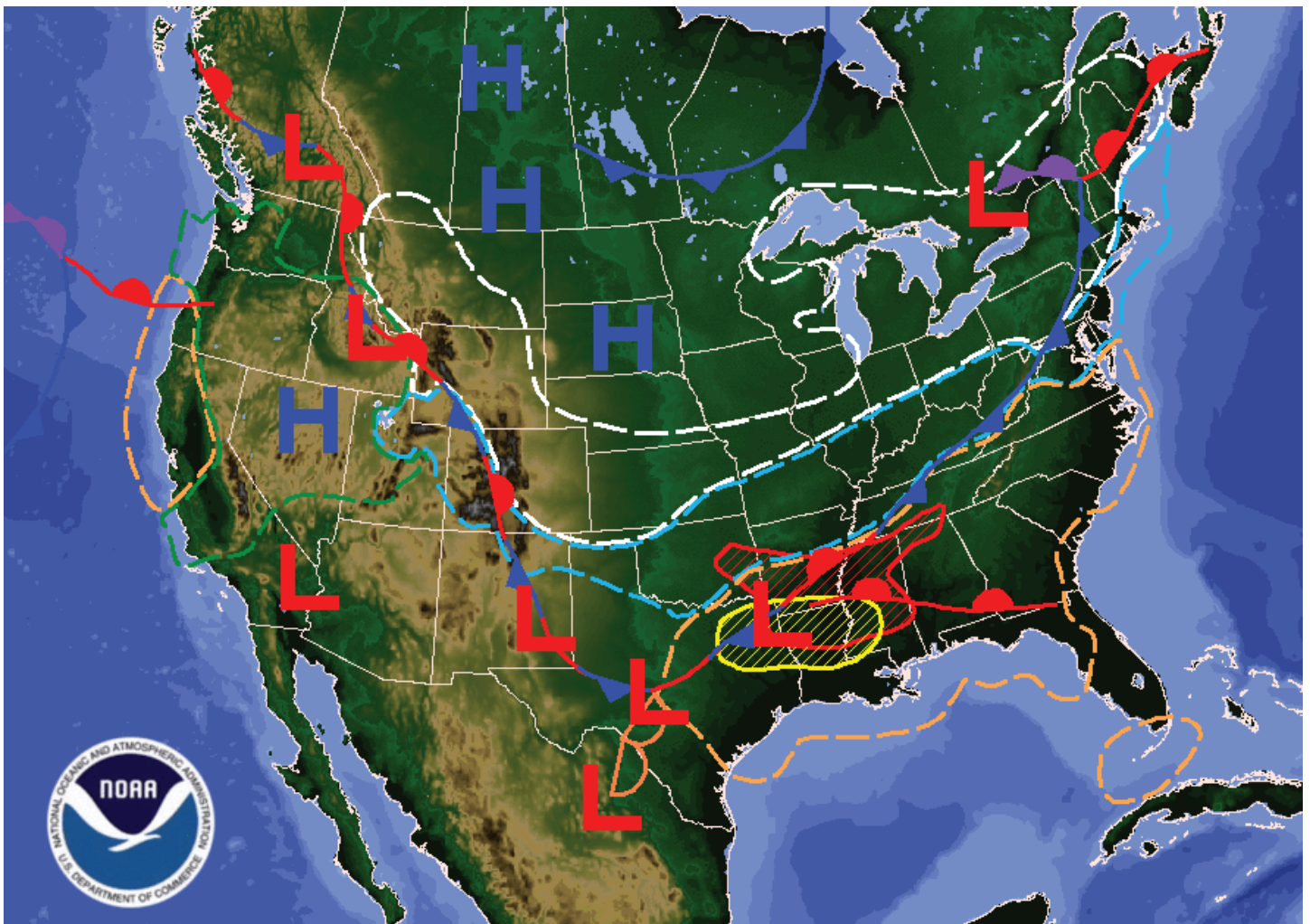
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 30.0 F at 5:17 PM
Low Outside Temp: 22.6 F at 2:48 AM
Wind Chill:
High Gust: 27.0 Mph at 7:07 AM
Precip: About 6" Snow - Moisture: 0.33

Today's Info

Record High: 91° in 1977
Record Low: 8° in 1997
Average High: 53°F
Average Low: 29°F
Average Precip in April: 0.42
Precip to date in April: 0.61
Average Precip to date: 2.60
Precip Year to Date: 2.68
Sunset Tonight: 8:12 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:57



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Fri, Apr 06, 2018, issued 4:31 PM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by campbell with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

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INSIDE VS. OUTSIDE

As John left for the Army in World War I his mother slipped a copy of the Twenty Third Psalm into his hand. "Here," she said with tears in her eyes and pain in her heart, "take this with you wherever you go, never lose it and read it every time you are afraid and ask God to protect you!"

He followed her advice, even in combat. One day during a time of fierce fighting he slipped the Psalm from his pocket and started to read it. Suddenly, a bomb burst near him, and he jumped into a foxhole and lost the tattered piece of paper. It frightened him, and he said, "Now, I'll always have bad luck."

After the battle, he went to a tattooist with a copy of the Psalm and asked, "Please, Sir, tattoo this Psalm on my arm. I never, ever want to be without it."

Many of us are like that soldier. We have God's Word in our Bibles but not in our hearts. We keep His Word on our tables or desks but not in our minds. We do not allow it to become part of us. It's outside and "nearby" but not inside where it can make a difference in our lives.

"Praise the Lord, O my soul," said David, "and do not forget all His benefits - Who forgives all your sins, Who heals all Your diseases, Who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion."

When we pause and think of this Lord that David is writing about, it does not make any sense to keep Him in a Book or on a piece of paper. He deserves to be living deep within our hearts, guiding and guarding our lives.

Prayer: Forgive us, Lord, for not allowing You to be at the center of all that we do or say, think about or worship. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 103:2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits:

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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

News from the Associated Press

Crash on icy highway in southeastern North Dakota kills 1

ELLENDALE, N.D. (AP) — A LaMoure woman is dead after a two-vehicle crash on an icy U.S. Highway 281 in southeastern North Dakota's Dickey County.

The Highway Patrol says 21-year-old Taylor Bliss was driving a sport utility vehicle that slid out of control about 5:30 p.m. Sunday and into the path of an oncoming pickup truck.

The vehicles collided about 2 miles north of Ellendale. Bliss was declared dead at the scene.

The pickup driver was taken to a hospital in Aberdeen, South Dakota, with injuries the patrol says are not life-threatening.

Minnesota man gets 9 years for carjacking in South Dakota

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A Minnesota man has been sentenced to more than nine years in prison for a carjacking in South Dakota.

The U.S. attorney's office says 28-year-old Michael Jaime of Dilworth, Minnesota, stole a car at gunpoint at a Sioux Falls truck stop in July 2016.

He later fled from officers in Moorhead, Minnesota, who discontinued the pursuit when speeds reached 140 mph. The car was found abandoned the next day in Dilworth, and Jaime was later arrested.

He pleaded guilty in December and was recently sentenced to nine years and two months in prison. A restitution hearing will be held later.

Polar bear still on display in Aberdeen 50 years later

By KATHERINE GRANDSTRAND, Aberdeen American-News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — When he was 40 years old, Frank Scepaniak shot a polar bear north of Siberia. On Feb. 21, he turned 89, and still that trip to the Arctic Circle is one of the most memorable hunting trips of his life. And he's been hunting since he was a kid.

"I hunted all my life," Scepaniak said. "I shot that bear and it was kind of fun."

The Aberdeen American-News reports that as a child, Scepaniak, who grew up in Waubay, hunted with his dad, eventually getting a job as a duck hunter for St. Louis-area restaurants, he said.

"I was quite a shot, see," Scepaniak said. "They had them all taken care of in Waubay, and then they would freeze them and ship them to St. Louis."

His favorite thing to hunt was pheasants, he said, which he hunted all over.

He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, and returned to South Dakota and married his wife LaVonne in 1954. They've lived in the same house for 50 years, a house that was built the same year Frank Scepaniak was born — in 1929.

The pair settled in Aberdeen. Scepaniak started laying flooring. He estimates he's laid more than a million miles of flooring. They raised two sons, both of whom moved away, but not too far. Scott is still in Minneapolis, and Todd spent most of his career in Nebraska, but recently moved to the Caribbean.

While Frank Scepaniak loved hunting, it's not something either of his sons took to, and he was OK with that.

Scepaniak said he hung up his hunter's hat about 30 years ago, but that doesn't mean he doesn't enjoy the memories.

A love of hunting was something that he shared with Aberdeen businessman Fred Hatterscheidt. The friends bonded over the pastime.

The friendship led Scepaniak to take that trip polar bear hunting in 1969, he said.

"Hatterscheidt wanted to hunt polar bear, and we were real close friends," Scepaniak said. "We hunted together all over the country."

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The polar bear is now on display in the Hatterscheidt Wildlife Gallery at the Dacotah Prairie Museum. "They continue to be, after all this time, one of the most popular exhibits with kids," said Sue Gates, director of the museum.

The animals aren't just a tool to teach about wildlife, Gates said. Museum staff uses them to teach about a different time in hunting.

"At the time that he was doing it, there were no restrictions on any of these things," Gates said.

Hatterscheidt and Scepaniak were based in Alaska on the trip, but flew on a plane into Siberia, not far from the North Pole, Scepaniak said. It was 72 below zero when shot the bear, he said.

"Hatterscheidt couldn't go because he was too old. They wouldn't allow him to hunt a bear like that," Scepaniak said.

The task was left to Scepaniak, who loaded onto a plane in early April 1969. After a brief encounter with a Soviet plane, he said he was able to find the tracks of a bear, land the plane and go in for the kill.

"He weighed 1,000 pounds, and he was running in snow about that deep and he was just coming — I was lunch," he said.

While the trip was to hunt polar bears, Scepaniak said he wasn't quite expecting a fight for his life.

The bear was taken to a taxidermist in Washington state after being skinned in Alaska, Scepaniak said. It then made its way to an Aberdeen bank before finding its home at the Dacotah Prairie Museum.

"That was 1969, that was the end of hunting polar bears," he said.

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

Sioux Falls native survives gun violence using her faith

By DANIELLE FERGUSON, Argus Leader

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Ashley Van Hemert shouldn't be alive.

The .22-caliber bullet lodged in her right carotid artery would normally be a fatal shot, but it stopped in just the right spot. Any farther in or out and the 32-year-old Sioux Falls native would have bled to death.

As far as her family is concerned, Van Hemert's survival is a miracle from God.

The Argus Leader reports that the 2004 Sioux Falls Christian Schools graduate was shot in the back of her head and shoulder Jan. 7 at her home in the Montana town of Belgrade, where she moved nine years ago. One of her roommates, 35-year-old Lauren DeWise of Bozeman, died of her multiple gunshot wounds.

DeWise's estranged husband, Joseph DeWise, 47, is being charged with deliberate homicide and attempt to commit deliberate homicide in the shooting.

"I fell on my knees and started bawling," Van Hemert's younger brother, Terril, said of the moment he heard of the shooting. "You don't expect to hear your sister was shot in the back of the head."

Van Hemert, a devoted athlete who embraced her faith early in life, has always been stubborn, a fighter. Her family sees those same qualities in the trial she's facing now, increasing their confidence in her ability to bounce back.

"It is truly a miracle from God that she is alive," said Van Hemert's sister Carissa DeVries. "That's what my sister wants people to know, that God breathed life into her. All the doctors said she should not be alive."

Van Hemert is no stranger to using her faith to fight past obstacles.

She participated in nearly every sport she could at Sioux Falls Christian and held a school record for the 3,200-meter run. Though she had her share of injuries throughout her running career, she always pushed through.

"She was competitive," said Troy Kooima, who coached Van Hemert in high school cross country. "If she could run you into the ground she would, but after she'd be hugging you and thanking you for pushing her."

After graduating high school, Van Hemert worked at DakotAbilities in Sioux Falls and spent a few winters teaching skiing and snowboarding on a military base in Germany.

She moved to Montana about nine years ago for the mountains, where her husky-malamute Bronson tagged along with her on outdoor adventures. She even trained him to pull her on skis.

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Van Hemert worked as a certified nurse assistant at a hospital and volunteered with her local church. She's still sponsoring a child she met on a mission trip to Ethiopia in 2014.

When those who know her well think of her current struggle, they point to past examples of adversity and express confidence that she'll shine through.

"This is just another obstacle in the race she's running," said Kooima.

Her family was aware that Ashley, the oldest of the eight Van Hemert children, had acquired a third housemate in Montana. DeWise moved into the house with Van Hemert and her other roommate in November.

Van Hemert's roommate, Audria Butler, was Lauren DeWise's personal trainer. When she started to notice bruises on DeWise during training sessions, DeWise explained it by saying she ran into something. But she later revealed that her husband was abusive.

In August, Butler offered her residence for refuge. DeWise at first declined, and in the following months, showed up to training sessions with bruises and a black eye. DeWise asked if she could stay with Butler and Van Hemert in November after seeking a divorce.

The morning after the move, Lauren DeWise received more than 30 text messages from her estranged husband. He messaged Butler on Facebook, calling her a bad influence for encouraging Lauren to live a single lifestyle and blaming her for "Lauren's promiscuity," according to court documents.

DeWise went to Joseph's home three days before the shooting for a birthday party for their child, where Joseph asked her multiple times to move back in with him.

They were supposed to meet on Jan. 7, the day of the shooting, to talk about divorce paperwork.

On Jan. 6, Butler was leaving the house for the night. DeWise told her she was happy to be there and felt "safer than she had felt in years."

Butler returned the next day around 9 a.m. and saw large footprints in the snow outside of the door. The rear entrance of the home was damaged, with a few pieces of wood torn from the frame.

She immediately suspected Joseph DeWise.

Butler went upstairs and found Lauren DeWise dead in her room. Then she heard Van Hemert calling for help.

When emergency responders found her, Van Hemert was on her back on the floor, barricaded behind her bedroom door. She had been alone there for at least six hours.

She had four gunshot wounds: one to the back of her head, one to her right shoulder and two to her back. She also suffered broken ribs, a punctured lung, a fractured shoulder and a broken arm.

Van Hemert's family learned of the shooting from a friend in the Belgrade area who had gone to check on Van Hemert after she had not responded to multiple messages. Van Hemert's father called the police station there and found out she had been shot.

She suffered a stroke and brain swelling and had three surgeries, including an emergency craniotomy, shortly after the shooting. She spent about three weeks in the intensive care unit.

"I remember a couple times in the ICU, we would just all get in a circle and pray," Terril said of his sister's struggle. "We would ask everyone to pray."

Van Hemert couldn't talk for about a week and a half and wasn't able to sit up on her own. With therapy, she's since started holding conversations and has moved to a wheelchair that she can navigate with her right foot.

She's able to stand for a bit with a standing machine. Her left side still isn't fully functional, though she's able to slightly move her left leg while sitting.

"She keeps talking about God and how he's with her through it all," said her sister, Carissa. "She says that however much he wants to heal her is how much she'll be healed."

Van Hemert's prognosis varies depending on who you ask. Some doctors are hopeful she may walk again. Others say it's unlikely.

Van Hemert's younger brother is more confident.

"I know God is with her the whole time, from the moment she was on the floor until now," said Terril, 26. "I know she will walk. I don't know when or what it looks like, but God has taken her this far."

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Van Hemert's mother and brother have been with her the majority of the time since the shooting, and her other siblings have taken turns flying to Montana.

As local prosecutors prepare a homicide case against Joseph DeWise and Van Hemert works toward healing, the family leans hard on faith to try to envision one more obstacle that Van Hemert can overcome. "We're asking for more prayers," Terril said. "Prayer for her and for the siblings and parents, that we can learn what it looks like to forgive and to love."

The family has created a YouCaring page to help with increasing medical expenses and travel costs. They have also been updating her condition on a Facebook page, Pray for Ashley.

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

Woman dies in one-vehicle crash near Marion

MARION, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a 36-year-old woman has died in a one-vehicle crash south of Marion this weekend.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol says the woman was driving a 2001 GMC Yukon on a gravel road Saturday night when she went off the road and rolled in the ditch.

The woman was not wearing a seat belt and was thrown from the vehicle. She died at the scene. Her name has not been released. She was the only person involved.

Allegiant Air jet skids off snowy South Dakota runway

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — No one was hurt when an Allegiant Air passenger jet skidded off a snowy runway in South Dakota.

Allegiant spokeswoman Krysta Levy says Flight 456 carrying 155 passengers and six crew members from Las Vegas touched down at Sioux Falls Regional Airport just before noon Sunday when heavy snow and crosswinds caused the McDonnell Douglas MD-80 to slide 20 feet (6 meters) off the runway.

Levy says passengers walked down the plane's rear stairs and were taken by buses to the terminal. She says no one was injured.

Maintenance workers are inspecting the jetliner. Levy says the plane came to rest with its front wheels in a patch of grass, and remained upright and level.

She says the return flight to Las Vegas was canceled because of deteriorating weather in Sioux Falls.

Sioux Falls mega-projects construction amps up this spring

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls is seeing a busy spring in mega-projects construction, including a \$134 million hospital campus, a \$40 million concrete plant and a \$33 million refrigerated warehouse.

The three sites totaling \$207 million have been a beehive of activity all winter, the Argus Leader reported. Each project is on schedule, or close to it.

Avera Health announced plans nearly one year ago for its massive campus in southwest Sioux Falls. The project is ahead of schedule and expected to transform the southwest side of the city, according to Dave Flicek, president and CEO of Avera McKennan Hospital and University Health Center.

"I think it'll be an excellent facility anchoring that side of town, you'll be able to see it from the Interstate, I believe, and I think businesses around it will be quite successful," he said.

Avera recently announced plans for an \$8 million Avera Addiction Care Center. It will be located on the campus just east of current construction.

By the end of fall, the community will be able to see the scale and scope of the project, said Flicek.

Gage Brothers announced plans in July to build the \$40 million precast concrete production facility in northeast Sioux Falls. The facility is a little behind schedule, but company officials expect to start installing equipment in April, according to Tom Kelley, president of Gage Brothers.

"We're hoping we're actually mixing concrete in the facility by the end of July," he said.

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The giant Win Chill refrigerated warehouse is on the verge of being open for business, said Norm Drake of Legacy Developments, one of Win Chill's minority owners. The facility has been praised as the "anchor tenant" for Foundation Park, the 820-acre industrial park in northwest Sioux Falls.

"(It's) coming along very nicely," said Drake. "We're still anticipating opening on May 23."

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

Study shows additional problems for Lake Mitchell

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — Coring samples taken from a South Dakota lake have revealed the volume of sediment laden with algae-producing phosphorus may be up to eight times what was earlier estimated.

The samples from Lake Mitchell that were taken in February have put the \$7.2 million estimate for a lake cleanup project into question.

At a recent meeting the Mitchell City Council approved 7-1 to spend an additional \$80,000 to refine the project's costs over eight weeks, The Daily Republic reported . Council members said they're reluctant to spend the planned \$385,000 toward the phase one of the lake cleanup, especially given the added uncertainties.

Council member Mel Olson proposed spending the \$80,000 to get a better cost estimate.

"To get some answers, we've got to spend some dough," Olson said.

Lake consultant Mike Sotak said he couldn't produce a better cost estimate without working through the results of the core samples. He said the sediment found "presents a challenge."

"I don't know what this means with the \$7.2 million project," Sotak told council members.

Previous estimates said about 250,000 cubic yards of the lake would need to be dredged, but information from the February study shows the total is closer to 2 million cubic yards.

Sotak stressed that not all of the sediment may need to be dredged.

The depth of the material containing phosphorus varies widely around the lake. Deep areas could be capped with clay and neutralizing alum to reduce algae blooms.

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

Facebook to send Cambridge Analytica data-use notices Monday

By BARBARA ORTUTAY, AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Get ready to find out if your Facebook data has been swept up in the Cambridge Analytica scandal.

Starting Monday, the 87 million users who might have had their data shared with Cambridge Analytica will get a detailed message on their news feeds. Facebook says most of the affected users (more than 70 million) are in the U.S., though there are over a million each in the Philippines, Indonesia and the U.K.

In addition, all 2.2 billion Facebook users will receive a notice titled "Protecting Your Information" with a link to see what apps they use and what information they have shared with those apps. If they want, they can shut off apps individually or turn off third-party access to their apps completely.

Reeling from its worst privacy crisis in history — allegations that this Trump-affiliated data mining firm may have used ill-gotten user data to try to influence elections — Facebook is in full damage-control mode. CEO Mark Zuckerberg acknowledged that he made a "huge mistake" in failing to take a broad enough view of what Facebook's responsibility is in the world. He's set to testify before Congress next week.

Cambridge Analytica whistleblower Christopher Wylie previously estimated that more than 50 million people were compromised by a personality quiz that collected data from users and their friends. In an interview aired Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press," Wylie said the true number could be even larger than 87 million.

That Facebook app, called "This is Your Digital Life," was a personality quiz created in 2014 by an academic researcher named Aleksander Kogan, who paid about 270,000 people to take it. The app vacuumed

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up not just the data of the people who took it, but also — thanks to Facebook's loose restrictions — data from their friends, too, including details that they hadn't intended to share publicly.

Facebook later limited the data apps can access, but it was too late in this case.

Zuckerberg said Facebook came up with the 87 million figure by calculating the maximum number of friends that users could have had while Kogan's app was collecting data. The company doesn't have logs going back that far, he said, so it can't know exactly how many people may have been affected.

Cambridge Analytica said in a statement Wednesday that it had data for only 30 million Facebook users.

GOP Republicans return to work with Trump wish list in mind

By LISA MASCARO, AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Republican majority in Congress was on a glide path to the midterms, having passed tax cuts into law and backed off budget battles with a year-end funding package. But President Trump was not impressed.

Trump started picking apart some GOP accomplishments, including the big budget bill, and complaining that others, namely his border wall, remained undone.

Now, Congress returns from spring break Monday scrambling to compile a to-do list that will satisfy a president they desperately need to be promoting their achievements, not undermining them, as they prepare to hit the campaign trail.

"A lot of members would prefer to spend the rest of the year focusing on getting re-elected, but there's pressure from the White House ... to deliver more policy wins before facing voters," said Alex Conant, a GOP strategist.

But belittling lawmakers and badgering them to work doesn't help instill voter confidence in Republicans already facing an enthusiasm gap with Democrats fired up to go to the polls, strategists say. They need Trump on their side, not piling on.

"Every day that Trump attacks Congress, he hurts Republicans' chance of keeping the majority," Conant said.

The problems between Trump and Congress, festering for months, spilled into the open when the president toyed with vetoing the \$1.3 trillion funding bill he thought spent too much money on Democratic priorities and not enough on his, including the border wall.

While Congress was away, Trump started talking about rescinding some of that money, working with House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., on a do-over package that would force lawmakers into another round of budget votes this spring or summer. It remains under discussion, aides said.

At the same time, Trump's revolving door of Cabinet secretaries has created a legislative logjam of its own. It has forced the Senate to launch lengthy confirmation hearings, starting with this week for Mike Pompeo as the new secretary of state. After that, there are Trump's picks for CIA director and Veterans Affairs secretary.

The nomination battles are sure to dredge up tough debates — over the Russia probe, the CIA's use of waterboarding and other harsh interrogation techniques now outlawed, and the spiraling costs and care at the VA. They're hardly the top conversations lawmakers would choose as their focus in the months before an election.

A senior administration official told reporters on a conference call last week that border security could be among the biggest issues for Congress this spring and summer.

That's likely news to Republicans running for re-election, particularly in swing districts or with sizable minority populations, who have shown little interest in the kind of beefed-up border security the administration has proposed to turn back unaccompanied minors and clamp down on asylum seekers.

To complicate the agenda further, Trump wants Congress to try again on an immigration overhaul, an issue Republicans were happy to shelve earlier this year after he rejected their compromise with Democrats. They offered \$25 billion for the border wall in exchange for deportation protections for the young immigrants known as "Dreamers."

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Trump's to-do list is not the springtime agenda Republicans in Congress were hoping for. Instead, they had expected to spend the next few months tackling more modest measures. Among them: legislation to address the opioid epidemic and symbolic House bills on making tax cuts permanent or achieving a balanced budget that, though unlikely to become law, could motivate Republicans to go to the polls in November.

Republicans were planning to ride to re-election this fall on the success of their tax cuts package, a once-in-a-generation accomplishment that has long been among the GOP's top priorities.

But at a campaign stop last week, even Trump seemed to have tired of the tax cuts. He literally tossed his prepared remarks aside as "boring" and instead focused on a caravan of Central American migrants making its way through Mexico and on his plan for National Guard troops at the border. Trump even revived his attack on immigrants as "rapists" from his presidential campaign.

"Remember my opening remarks at Trump Tower when I opened? Everybody said, 'Oh, he was so tough,' and I used the word rape," he said during the tax reform roundtable in West Virginia.

"So we have to change our laws," he said. "We have to have strong borders. We're going to have the wall."

The tough talk may push voters to the polls for Republicans in the more conservative districts who are already likely to have a good chance at re-election. But more than anything, strategists said, it helps secure Trump's supporters for Trump.

"Would any Republican other than Steve King rather have the president talking about jobs, the tax cuts, or have the president talk about migrants being raped?" said GOP strategist Doug Heye, referring to the Iowa congressman who is among the most hard line on immigration.

But, he added, "We know that Donald Trump didn't come here for glide path or status quo. He came to shake things up."

Associated Press writer Jill Colvin contributed to this report.

Follow Mascaro on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/LisaMascaro>

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.

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"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 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>

MLK honored as thousands march to 'keep the dream going'

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

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — With thoughts on the past and eyes to the future, thousands marched and sang civil rights songs Wednesday to honor the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., the "apostle of nonviolence" silenced by an assassin 50 years ago.

At events ranging from a jubilant concert to a solemn wreath-laying, admirers across the country took time to both reflect on King's legacy and discuss how his example can apply to racial and economic divides still plaguing society.

Among the largest gatherings was a march through the Mississippi River city where the civil rights leader was shot dead on a motel balcony in 1968. Memphis police estimated a crowd of about 10,000.

The Rev. James Lawson, who invited King to Memphis 50 years ago to assist with a strike by underpaid sanitation workers, helped lead the march and said more progress is needed toward King's goal of equal-

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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.

Before the Memphis march, the rapper Common and pop singer Sheila E had the crowd dancing and bobbing their heads. Then, as the march began, people locked arms or held signs as they chanted and sang songs such as "We Shall Overcome."

"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 to the march from nearby Hardeman County, where she's an NAACP leader. "We 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, focusing on the triple evils of poverty, racism and war. "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."

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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.

Observances marking King's death were planned coast-to-coast. In New York, the Dance Theatre of Harlem planned an evening performance in his honor. Another march was scheduled in Yakima, Washington.

In Montgomery, Alabama, where King first gained notice leading a boycott against segregated city buses, a commemorative event brought a symbol of transformation: The daughter of King's one-time nemesis, segregationist Gov. George C. Wallace, paid tribute to the slain civil rights leader.

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?"

Brumback 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>

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AP was there: Journalists recall covering MLK assassination

By JAY REEVES, Associated Press

Nancy Shipley was working in a news office in Nashville, Tennessee, when the call came 50 years ago. Gene Herrick was in Chicago routing photos to newspapers when his phone rang. Jack Thornell got the call in New Orleans; Kathryn Johnson heard the news in Atlanta.

Together, over the next few days, the four helped The Associated Press inform the world about the stunning news that the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. had been assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee.

Shipley broke into AP's national wire with the original bulletin that King had been shot, and Herrick later stood in the sniper's perch to witness the killer's view of the hotel balcony where King was slain. Thornell made a heart-wrenching photo of King's widow and children standing beside his open coffin; Johnson spent days inside the King family home in Atlanta and greeted another famous widow, Jackie Kennedy, at the door.

Here are the stories of four people who helped shape AP's coverage of King's death in the minutes and days after that lone shot rang out in Memphis:

THE BULLETIN

Nancy Shipley was alone writing stories for radio and television stations the evening of April 4, 1968, when AP reporter Doug Stone called from Memphis with word that King had been shot.

News flowed slowly before the internet age; teletype machines clacked out stories at 66 words per minute. Shipley first filed that news by ordering a machine operator to break into the AP's main national news wire; she later got confirmation from Stone and another AP reporter, Jay Bowles, that King had died.

"It was frantic in those first few minutes between the confirmation of the shooting and then the confirmation of the death," Shipley, now-retired, said during a recent interview in her home in Dayton, Tennessee.

With the initial news out, other reporters returned to the office from dinner and jumped in to help. Shipley took a break.

"I remember standing up and going into the ladies' room and just melting into tears," she said. "It was such a sad, stunning moment."

Shipley, 75, went on to become a broadcast executive for AP before becoming only the second woman to be named chief of bureau for the news agency. She retired in 1996.

A SNIPER'S PERCH

AP photo editor Gene Herrick found a commercial flight from Chicago to Memphis, but still had to talk the pilot into landing — the airport was closed because of martial law.

The next morning, Herrick stood outside the low-rent boarding house where police said James Earl Ray fired the fatal shot as King stood on the balcony of the nearby Lorraine Motel. Herrick ascended creaky wooden stairs to the second floor, where Ray had been.

"It was kind of ominous," Herrick, 91 and retired, said recently in an interview at his home in Rocky Mount, Virginia. "And there was, you know, little old rooms there and one bathroom for the whole floor. And the killer had stood in the bath tub and looked out the window right next to the tub. And that was his view of Martin Luther King on the balcony."

Herrick covered the Korean War, and he covered presidents. He also covered King during the early days of his civil rights leadership in Montgomery, Alabama. That memory of standing in the killer's perch has stuck with him.

"It was very strange ... to sit there and just climb into the bath tub and put my arms on the windowsill just like the killer," he said.

A GRIEVING FAMILY

Pointing his camera toward the front of a chapel adorned with flowers, Jack Thornell pressed the shutter. His photograph showed the pain of Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination like few others: It was a scene of his widow and children viewing the body of the slain minister in an open wooden casket.

It wasn't Thornell's first landmark photo of the civil rights era. He'd already won a Pulitzer Prize for a photo made nearly two years earlier of activist James Meredith screaming in pain after he was shot while making a one-person march in Mississippi.

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But the circumstances of the King photo were different.

Thornell, 78, had covered the sanitation worker's strike that preceded King's assassination in Memphis, and he was later told to rush from New Orleans to Atlanta after the killing. His first assignment was to photograph the family viewing King's body at the Spelman College's Sisters Chapel, and he was late.

Thornell said he dashed around another photographer and climbed atop a pew, clambering toward the casket by stepping over pew after pew. He made that picture of the family but then felt all eyes upon him.

"I was shaken when I left there. I had my eyes on the floor because I knew everyone was looking at me for my despicable behavior," Thornell said in a recent interview at his home in Kenner, Louisiana. "But I didn't leave without the picture."

"LET KATHRYN IN"

Kathryn Johnson was a young AP reporter in Atlanta when the civil rights movement began, and she wound up on the civil rights beat partly because older, male reporters didn't want it.

Johnson had been covering King and his wife for years by the time she stood outside their home with other journalists on a rainy night in Atlanta following the assassination. From inside, widow Coretta Scott King called out.

"Let Kathryn in," she said. That invitation began a remarkable period in which AP was alone in having a reporter with the King family for five days following the killing.

Johnson called in details for the funeral plans. She watched TV coverage of the assassination with the family, acted as a chauffeur for King's grieving father, cooked breakfast for the family and then greeted former first lady Jackie Kennedy when she arrived on the morning of the funeral.

"I had an apron on and a towel over my hand and she made a beeline for me and she shook my hand to my astonishment," Johnson said in a recent interview in Atlanta. "To this day, I think she thought I was the King's white maid. I was the only white person in the house."

Like many white Southerners of her time, Johnson grew up knowing blacks mainly as people who worked around the homes of whites as cooks or yard help. Her work changed that; she came to see the effects of racism and segregation and the nobility of the cause of freedom.

"It was a life-transforming experience for me," Johnson said.

Associated Press journalists Allen G. Breed in Rocky Mount, Virginia; Robert Ray in Atlanta and Gerald Herbert in Kenner, Louisiana, contributed to this report.

For AP's complete coverage marking 50 years since Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, go to <https://apnews.com/tag/MartinLutherKingJr>

Michigan's top court hearing cases over guns, schools

By ED WHITE, Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) — A gun openly carried by a spectator at a school concert in 2015 has turned into a major legal case as the Michigan Supreme Court considers whether the state's public schools can trump the Legislature and adopt their own restrictions on firearms.

The case from Ann Arbor has been on the court's docket for more than a year. But arguments set for Wednesday are getting extra attention in the wake of a Florida school shooting in February that killed 17.

There's no dispute that Michigan law bars people from possessing a gun inside a weapon-free school zone. But there's a wrinkle: Someone with a concealed pistol permit can enter school property with a gun that's openly holstered.

Though rare, it happened three years ago at a choir concert at Ann Arbor Pioneer High School, scaring teens, staff and spectators. The school board responded by banning all guns, with exceptions for police.

"If a student were to bring a gun into a school, that would be worthy of an expulsion," said Jeanice Kerr Swift, superintendent of Ann Arbor schools. "So why would it be different for other folks? ... What this case is about is local communities having a choice."

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Separately, the Clio district, north of Flint, has a similar policy. The Supreme Court is hearing challenges from gun owners in both communities.

Gun-rights advocates argue that local governments, including elected school boards, can't step into an area reserved for the Michigan Legislature under state law. They point to a Lansing-area library whose ban on the open display of guns was struck down by the state appeals court in 2012.

But in Ann Arbor and Clio, another three-judge panel at the appeals court said schools are in a different category and have freedom to further restrict guns. The districts won that round.

Ken Herman, a paramedic and gun-owning parent who sued the Clio district, believes the appeals court got it wrong. In a filing at the Supreme Court, his attorney said schools have a duty to keep students safe, but lawmakers have "chosen to reserve the power to regulate the possession of firearms."

Herman, 36, said he carries a gun for protection wherever it's allowed. He said fears would be eased if more adults educated kids about proper gun ownership.

"If adults are OK with it, there are no alarm bells," Herman said. "If they overreact and yell 'fire' every time a law-abiding citizen is carrying, they're sending the wrong message."

He said many Clio parents with gun permits would be willing to volunteer at schools and add an extra layer of security.

"If something were to happen and I didn't possess the tools to intercept to some degree, I'm not sure I could live with that burden," Herman said.

Students are paying attention to the cases. Paige Tar, a junior at Northville High School in suburban Detroit, is part of a statewide student group, Engage 18, which favors giving schools authority over guns. She said she's been involved in stressful discussions over what to do during a shooting.

"My point is the school is turned into some sort of sick war game where the goal is to survive," Tar said.

The state's highest court has allowed outside groups to file briefs, including the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence. The Washington-based group said Michigan schools must have the power to set safety policies.

But another organization, the Michigan Coalition for Responsible Gun Ownership, said schools must cede some ground to the Legislature.

"Firearm possession, and the right of self-defense that is inseparable from it, demand uniform treatment," the group said.

Follow Ed White at <http://twitter.com/edwhiteap>

Israel blamed for missile strike in Syria; 14 reported dead

By ZEINA KARAM and BASSEM MROUE, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Russia and the Syrian military blamed Israel for a pre-dawn missile attack Monday on a major air base in central Syria, saying Israeli fighter jets launched the missiles from Lebanon's air space. A war-monitoring group said the airstrikes killed 14 people, including Iranians active in Syria.

Russia's Defense Ministry said two Israeli aircraft targeted the T4 air base in Homs province, firing eight missiles. It said Syria shot down five of them while the other three landed in the western part of the base. Syrian state TV quoted an unnamed military official as saying that Israeli F-15 warplanes fired several missiles at T4. It gave no further details.

Israel's foreign ministry had no comment when asked about the accusations.

Since 2012, Israel has struck inside Syria more than 100 times, mostly targeting suspected weapons' convoys destined for the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, which has been fighting alongside Syrian government forces.

Most recently, Israel hit the same T4 base in February, after it said an Iranian drone that had violated Israeli airspace took off from the base. The base, which was used as a launching pad for counter offensive attacks against Islamic State militants who were at one point stationed close by, is near the Shayrat air base, which was targeted by U.S. missiles last year in response to a chemical weapons attack.

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Monday's missile attack came hours after President Donald Trump warned there would be a "big price to pay" after a suspected poison gas attack Saturday on the last remaining foothold for Syrian rebels in the eastern suburbs of Damascus. At least 40 people were killed in that assault, including families found in their homes and shelters, opposition activists and local rescuers said.

Syria's state news agency SANA initially said the attack on the T4 air base was likely "an American aggression," but Pentagon spokesman Christopher Sherwood quickly denied the United States was behind the strike and the agency then dropped the accusation, blaming Israel instead.

SANA said the missile attack resulted in a number of casualties but provided no specific figures.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which monitors the war through a network of activists on the ground, said 14 died, including Iranians and also three Syrian officers.

Rami Abdurrahman, the Observatory's chief, said the assault targeted a mobile air defense unit and some buildings inside the air base. He added that it also hit posts outside the base used by the Iranians and Iran-backed fighters.

Israel fears Iran could use Syria's territory to stage attacks on it. The U.S. launched several dozen Tomahawk cruise missiles at a Syrian air base last year, after a chemical attack in the northern Syrian town of Khan Sheikhoun killed dozens of people.

Saturday's suspected poison gas attack on the besieged town of Douma came almost exactly a year after the U.S. missile attack prompted by the Khan Sheikhoun deaths.

In response to the reports, Trump on Sunday blamed Syrian government forces for what he called a "mindless CHEMICAL attack." In a series of tweets, Trump held Russia and Iran, Syrian President Bashar Assad's chief sponsors, responsible.

Trump was to meet with his senior military leadership on Monday, the same day his new national security adviser, John Bolton, assumes his post. Bolton has previously advocated significant airstrikes against Syria.

The Syrian government denied the chemical weapons allegations, calling them fabrications.

First responders entering apartments in Douma late Saturday said they found bodies collapsed on floors, some foaming at the mouth. The opposition's Syrian Civil Defense rescue organization said the victims appeared to have suffocated.

The organization, also known as the White Helmets, and the Syrian American Medical Society, a medical relief organization, did not identify the substance used but said survivors treated at clinics smelled strongly of chlorine.

Those reports could not be independently verified because of a government blockade around the town.

Hours after the attack, the Army of Islam rebel group agreed to surrender the town and evacuate their fighters to rebel-held northern Syria, Syrian state media reported. The group also agreed to give up its prisoners, a key government demand.

The government agreed to halt its assault after three days of indiscriminate air and ground attacks.

More than 100 buses entered the town on Sunday night to take the fighters and their families to Jarablus, a town under the shared control of rebels and Turkey, said Syrian state-affiliated al-Ikhbariya TV.

Syrian state TV said two buses left early Monday and that 11 more buses were getting ready to move.

Syrian state media said dozens of civilians who had been held for years by the rebels were set free. The SANA news agency said the people were freed around midnight on Sunday, adding that they had been held by the Army of Islam group since 2013.

The evacuations follow a pattern of departures around the capital, Damascus, and other major Syrian cities as the government reasserts its control after seven years of war.

Human rights groups and U.N. officials say the tactic amounts to forced displacement, a war crime. The U.N. Security Council planned to hold an emergency meeting Monday to discuss the chemical attack.

In his tweets Sunday, Trump called Assad an "animal" and delivered a rare personal criticism of Russian President Vladimir Putin for supporting him. Trump has declared his intent to withdraw U.S. troops from Syria in the coming months, despite resistance from many of his advisers.

Syrian rescuers from the White Helmets documented 42 fatalities in Saturday's reported chemical attack

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but were impeded from searching further by strong odors that caused breathing difficulties, said Siraj Mahmoud, a spokesman for the group.

More than 500 people, mostly women and children, were brought to medical centers complaining of difficulties breathing, foaming at the mouth and burning sensations in the eyes. Some had bluish skin, a sign of oxygen deprivation, according to a statement, symptoms consistent with chemical exposure.

The Observatory gave a higher death toll, saying at least 80 people were killed in Douma, including around 40 who died from suffocation. But it said the suffocations were the result of shelters collapsing on people inside them.

In denying the chemical weapons allegations, a government statement said "the army, which is advancing rapidly and with determination, does not need to use any kind of chemical agents."

Russia denied any involvement in the attack. Maj. Gen. Yuri Yevtushenko was quoted by Russian news agencies Sunday as saying Russia was prepared to send specialists to Douma to "confirm the fabricated nature" of the reports.

In recent weeks, government forces have recaptured villages and towns in the eastern Ghouta suburbs of the capital. Douma was the only town left holding out.

A 2013 chemical attack in eastern Ghouta that killed hundreds of people was widely blamed on government forces. The U.S. threatened military action but later backed down.

Syria denies ever using chemical weapons during the war and says it eliminated its chemical arsenal under a 2013 agreement brokered by the U.S. and Russia.

Associated Press writers James Heintz and Nataliya Vasilyeva in Moscow, Albert Aji in Damascus, Syria, Tia Goldenberg in Jerusalem and Jonathan Lemire in Washington contributed to this report.

Trump seeks to ease fears of trade fight with China

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Investors across the globe are bracing for uncertain markets as President Donald Trump tries to downplay fears of a trade dispute between the U.S. and China, suggesting that Beijing will ease trade barriers "because it is the right thing to do" and that the economic superpowers can settle the escalating conflict.

But as Trump tried to project confidence that a dispute that has rattled financial markets, consumers and businesses can be resolved soon, his top economic advisers offered mixed messages as to the best approach with China. Beijing has threatened to retaliate if Washington follows through with its proposed tariffs, even as Trump emphasized his bond with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

"President Xi and I will always be friends, no matter what happens with our dispute on trade," Trump tweeted Sunday. "China will take down its Trade Barriers because it is the right thing to do. Taxes will become Reciprocal & a deal will be made on Intellectual Property. Great future for both countries!"

But Trump did not explain why, amid a week of economic saber-rattling between the two countries that shook global markets, he felt confident a deal could be made.

The president made fixing the trade imbalance with China a centerpiece of his presidential campaign, where he frequently used incendiary language to describe how Beijing would "rape" the U.S. economically. But even as Trump cozied up to Xi and pressed China for help with derailing North Korea's nuclear ambitions, he has ratcheted up the economic pressure and threatened tariffs, a move opposed by many fellow Republicans.

The Trump administration has said it is taking action as a crackdown on China's theft of U.S. intellectual property. The U.S. bought more than \$500 billion in goods from China last year and now is planning or considering penalties on some \$150 billion of those imports. The U.S. sold about \$130 billion in goods to China in 2017 and faces a potentially devastating hit to its market there if China responds in kind.

China has pledged to "counterattack with great strength" if Trump decides to follow through on his latest threat to impose tariffs on an additional \$100 billion in Chinese goods — after an earlier announcement

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that targeted \$50 billion. Beijing also declared that the current rhetoric made negotiations impossible, even as the White House suggested that the tariff talk was a way to spur China to the bargaining table.

The new White House economic adviser, Larry Kudlow, said Sunday that a "coalition of the willing" — including Canada, much of Europe and Australia — was being formed to pressure China and that the U.S. would demand that the World Trade Organization, an arbiter of trade disputes, be stricter on Beijing. And he said that although the U.S. hoped to avoid taking action, Trump "was not bluffing."

"This is a problem caused by China, not a problem caused by President Trump," Kudlow said on "Fox News Sunday."

But he also downplayed the tariff threat as "part of the process," suggesting on CNN that the impact would be "benign" and said he was hopeful that China would enter negotiations. Kudlow, who started his job a week ago after his predecessor, Gary Cohn, quit over the tariff plan, brushed aside the possibility of economic repercussions.

"I don't think there's any trade war in sight," Kudlow told Fox.

Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin said on CBS' "Face the Nation" that he didn't expect the tariffs to have a "meaningful impact on the economy" even as he left the door open for disruption. He allowed that there "could be" a trade war but said he didn't anticipate one.

Another top White House economic adviser, Peter Navarro, took a tougher tack, declaring that China's behavior was "a wakeup call to Americans."

"They are in competition with us over economic prosperity and national defense," Navarro said on NBC's "Meet the Press." "Every day of the week China comes into our homes, our business and our government agencies. ... This country is losing its strength even as China has grown its economy."

Trump's latest proposal intensified what was already shaping up to be the biggest trade battle in more than a half century.

Trump told advisers last week that he was unhappy with China's decision to tax \$50 billion in American products, including soybeans and small aircraft, in response to a U.S. move to impose tariffs on \$50 billion in Chinese goods. Rather than waiting weeks for the U.S. tariffs to be implemented, Trump backed a plan by Robert Lighthizer, his trade representative, to seek the enhanced tariffs.

The rising economic tensions pose a test to what has become Trump's frequent dual-track foreign policy strategy: to establish close personal ties with another head of state even as his administration takes a harder line. The president has long talked up his friendship with Xi, whom he has praised for consolidating power in China despite its limits on democratic reforms.

Further escalation could be in the offing. The U.S. Treasury Department is working on plans to restrict Chinese technology investments in the U.S. And there is talk that the U.S. could also put limits on visas for Chinese who want to visit or study in this country.

For Trump, the dispute runs the risk of blunting the economic benefits of his tax overhaul, which is at the center of congressional Republicans' case for voters to keep them in power in the 2018 elections. China's retaliation so far has targeted Midwest farmers, many of whom were bedrock Trump supporters.

Associated Press writers Hope Yen and Thomas Strong contributed to this report.

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

US official says North Korean leader ready to discuss nukes

By JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — North Korea's government has communicated with the United States to say that leader Kim Jong Un is ready to discuss his nuclear weapons program with President Donald Trump, officials said Sunday, increasing the likelihood that the unprecedented summit will actually occur.

The confirmation from Pyongyang directly, rather than from third countries like South Korea, has created more confidence within Trump's administration about the wisdom of holding such a meeting, as U.S.

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officials make secretive preparations. The Trump administration has long said that if the North Koreans weren't ready to discuss giving up their nuclear program, there was no reason for the two countries to hold negotiations.

Trump took his own administration and other countries by surprise last month when he accepted an unusual offer from Kim to hold a meeting. The North had conveyed the invitation to a visiting delegation from South Korea, which in turn traveled to Washington and relayed the message to Trump.

The president said yes to the meeting on the spot, even though the U.S. had not yet heard directly from North Korea about Kim's intentions. The U.S. later heard from other countries including China, where Kim paid a rare visit, that the North was serious about the offer.

Still, North Korea's government has not said anything publicly at all about a meeting with Trump, and the lack of known contact between Pyongyang and Washington about the meeting has fueled further speculation about the seriousness of Kim's offer.

A Trump administration official on Sunday said that the U.S. had "confirmed that Kim Jong Un is willing to discuss the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula?" A second official said that confirmation had come through direct contact between American and North Korean officials.

Neither of the officials would say when or how the contact took place, nor in what location. The officials weren't authorized to comment by name and demanded anonymity.

Previously, former Secretary of State Rex Tillerson had said there were at least two or three channels through which U.S. and North Korean officials communicate from time to time.

The Trump administration has not said where the meeting will place or whether a location has been determined, nor has an exact date been set. Initially, the White House said it expected the meeting to take place by the end of May. It's unclear whether a date that early could be achieved or whether it might be delayed.

The contacts between Pyongyang and Washington come as Trump's new national security adviser, former U.N. Ambassador John Bolton, prepares to start work at the White House formally on Monday. Prior to being named to the post, Bolton had long expressed hawkish views about North Korea, even advocating a pre-emptive military strike.

"To hell with it": Trump increasingly weary of staff advice

By ZEKE MILLER and JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The speech was written. A cast of relatable Americans with emotional stories was standing by to reinforce the message. But President Donald Trump was in no mood to play along.

"The hell with it," Trump said, recounting the scene with his aides to a West Virginia crowd last week, Trump tossed the staff-prepared remarks on tax cuts in the air and ducked as the paper fluttered to the floor. "I said, 'This is boring, come on.' Tell it like it is."

This president has never been one to stick to a script, but that abandoned speech illustrates a new phase in Trump's presidency. He is increasingly at odds with his staff — and growing wise to their tactics.

One favored staff strategy: Guide the president to the right decision by making the conventional choice seem like the only realistic option. Except now, 14 months into his administration, Trump is on to them, and he's making clear he won't be boxed in.

That was the message that an irritated Trump delivered to his national security team last week in a classified meeting about U.S. involvement in Syria.

Trump's advisers, among them Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Joseph Dunford, were advocating for an ongoing U.S. military presence to provide stability. They aimed to rely on the same playbook they used last year in persuading Trump to keep U.S. troops in Afghanistan indefinitely. They would paint a dire picture of a pullout, of regional chaos benefiting Russia and Iran, and the potential resurgence of the Islamic State group.

But even before they could begin their pitch in that meeting Tuesday, Trump headed them off, saying he wanted to remove U.S. troops immediately. The ensuing heated argument put new distance between the

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president and his team and left the military with a mandate, if not a formal order, to remove U.S. troops from Syria within six months.

The episode stood in sharp contrast to the earlier meeting on Afghanistan, when Trump went along with his advisers despite his instincts to pull out completely.

More than 10 current and former White House officials and outside advisers spoke to AP on condition of anonymity to describe such internal discussions.

The shift has as much to do with changes in personnel as changes in the president's attitude. Former White House staff secretary Rob Porter, for one, was viewed as a person Trump could trust to be an honest broker and make sure that all options were being faithfully presented to him.

During the Afghanistan meeting, aides went out of their way to make it appear that they were considering Trump's perspective with an even hand. But with Syria, aides said, Trump felt he was being steamrolled and lashed out.

Managing a boss who despises being managed is a difficult game. And those who have succeeded have proceeded carefully. Some aides, convinced that Trump puts more stock in what he sees on TV than in his own aides' advice, regularly phone prominent commentators and news hosts to provide talking points on everything from tax policy to Syria in hopes of influencing Trump. Similar strategies have also been embraced by foreign governments and outside groups trying to sway the president's thinking.

Stall tactics were favored by Trump's first chief of staff, Reince Priebus. He often told Trump that staffers needed more time to work on a proposal or that it would be better put off until the next week, hoping Trump would change his mind or forget.

Indeed, as Trump considered the impact of tariffs on steel and aluminum imports and on some imports from China, his free-trade-supporting aides hoped they could wait him out.

But Trump, fed up with aides who were pleading for more time on tariffs, blew up.

In the chaotic aftermath of Porter's departure, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and hawkish trade adviser Peter Navarro encouraged Trump to take protectionist action. Aides including Treasury Steve Mnuchin and then-National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn, whose actions some aides compared to "hiding the ball," were suddenly left scrambling to devise a rear-guard action. Cohn resigned days later when it became clear that tariffs were imminent.

Of course Trump isn't the only president whom aides have tried to roll, particularly when it comes to national security. The Pentagon has a history of presenting a range of options, some extreme, and trying to steer a president to its preferred policy.

In 2009, a new president, Barack Obama, wrestled for months with competing advice from his national security team on how to turn around the stalemated war in Afghanistan before deciding on a compromise plan to send 30,000 more troops in an escalate-to-exit strategy. Obama suspected the military of leaking details of National Security Council deliberations to press him into accepting a bigger troop surge. The internal acrimony over troop increases reached a point, Robert Gates wrote in his memoir, "Duty," that he came closer to resigning than at any other time in his tenure as Obama's defense secretary.

Some aides insist that Trump has long been aware of his staff's management strategies, and was merely playing along with their schemes. But the recent changes in how Trump interacts with his staff have also been driven by a shake-up in White House personnel that includes the weakening of the chief of staff, John Kelly.

Over the last six weeks, the decision-making process overseen by Porter has largely broken down, giving Trump's outside confidants a new opening.

Some of those outsiders were once insiders. Now gone, they've seized the opportunity to influence Trump once again.

Follow Miller and Colvin on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/ZekeJMiller> and <https://twitter.com/colvinj>

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No one laughing at Patrick Reed now after Masters win

By TIM DAHLBERG, AP Sports Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Patrick Reed got some laughs a few years back when he declared himself a top five player, with little on his resume to back it up.

No one is laughing now.

Reed's breakthrough win in the Masters didn't officially move him into the top five — he's now No. 11 in the world — but it certainly moved him into the conversation when the debate turns to major championships.

As well it should, after Reed handled not only the golf course but the suffocating pressure of a Sunday at the Masters to win his first major. Playing in the same group as four-time major winner Rory McIlroy, he didn't flinch even as Jordan Spieth and Rickie Fowler made late runs at him.

The player known for a sometimes prickly attitude may have even won a few fans over in the process.

They cheered for McIlroy on the first tee, certain that he was going to overcome a three-shot deficit and win his first green jacket. But it was Reed who got the final cheers when he calmly sank a 3-footer on the 18th green for a final round 71 to win by a shot over Fowler and two over Spieth.

"I walked up to the first tee and had a really welcoming cheer from the fans, but then when Rory walked up to the tee, you know, his cheer was a little louder," Reed said. "But that's another thing that just kind of played into my hand. Not only did it fuel my fire a little bit, but also, it just takes the pressure off of me and adds it back to him."

Known as "Captain America" for his play in the Ryder Cup, Reed added a far more important title: Masters champion. He did it by playing steady to protect a three-shot lead as some of the biggest names in golf tried to chase him down.

And if he wasn't exactly lacking for confidence before, winning the green jacket should give him even more of a strut.

"He's not scared. I think you guys have seen that previous from the Ryder Cups and the way he plays," said Fowler, who closed with a 67. "He won't back down. I don't necessarily see him as someone that backs up and will let you come back into the tournament. You have to go catch him."

Only Spieth managed to do that on a cool but sunny afternoon on an Augusta National course that was giving up birdies in bunches. Spieth, who started the day nine strokes down, briefly drew into a tie for the lead with a long birdie putt on No. 16, but Reed birdied No. 14 behind him to retake the lead and held on for the win.

Had Spieth pulled it off it would have been the greatest comeback in Masters history, but he bogeyed his final hole for a 64 that was one shot off the course record.

"I think I've proven to myself and to others that you never give up," Spieth said. "I started the round nine shots back and I came out with the idea of just playing the golf course and having a lot of fun doing it and try to shoot a low round and finish the tournament strong and see what happens, if something crazy happens."

The 27-year-old Texan also survived a late move by Fowler, whose final hole birdie forced Reed to make par on No. 18 to win. He did just that, rolling a 25-foot putt down the scary slope on the final green, then calmly sinking the putt to win.

"I knew it was going to be a dogfight," Reed said. "It's just a way of God basically saying, 'Let's see if you have it.' Everyone knows you have it physically with the talent. But do you have it mentally? Can you handle the ups and downs throughout the round?"

McIlroy, meanwhile, will have to wait another year for a shot at the career Grand Slam after his disappointing round.

Trailing by three shots to start the final round, he closed to within one shot after two holes. That was as close as he came. McIlroy's putter betrayed him — he missed four putts inside 10 feet on the front nine — and he was never a factor on the back nine. He closed with a 74 and tied for fifth.

"Tough day, but I'll be back," McIlroy said. "And hopefully, I'll be better."

Reed is old-school among his generation, with a brash attitude and a willingness to speak his mind. He

has never been terribly popular in this state, mainly because of allegations of bad behavior while playing for Georgia that led to an early departure from the Bulldogs. He transferred to Augusta State and led the outmanned Jaguars to a pair of NCAA titles. His parents live in Augusta, but were not at the tournament. They weren't at his wedding in 2012, a relationship Reed chooses not to discuss.

"I'm just out here to play golf and try to win golf tournaments," Reed said.
He did both on Sunday on the biggest stage in golf.

Teachers acquire a new skill: how to stop the bleeding

By **SCOTT McFETRIDGE, Associated Press**

PLEASANT HILL, Iowa (AP) — As she learned the basics of applying direct pressure, packing a wound with gauze and tying a tourniquet, sixth-grade math and social studies teacher Kari Stafford shook her head at the thought that this may now be an essential skill for her profession.

Stafford didn't like it, but with school shootings now a regular occurrence, she and her colleagues have reluctantly accepted that the attacks won't stop and that teachers must know how to keep the victims from bleeding to death.

"Learning to help and not just stand there is important," said Stafford, who joined about a dozen other educators at a medical training session at Southeast Polk High School, a sprawling 9-year-old campus surrounded by farmland in Pleasant Hill, just east of Des Moines.

Over the past five years, about 125,000 teachers, counselors and administrators across the country have been trained in stemming blood loss as school officials have become resigned to the grim trend. The effort is rapidly expanding, and more schools are now stocking classrooms with supplies that would be familiar to any military medic: lightweight tourniquets, gauze coated with blood-clotting drugs and compression bandages.

Although schools are adding security and even arming teachers to deter attacks, new emphasis is being given to saving the wounded while counting down the minutes until help arrives.

The teacher triage idea was initially pushed by Dr. Lenworth Jacobs of Hartford, Connecticut, who operated on victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in 2012, in which 26 children and adults were killed.

He feared that Sandy Hook wouldn't be the last school shooting, and his assumption has been borne out again and again, with the Feb. 14 killing of 17 people at a Florida high school only the latest major incident.

"I've been a trauma surgeon for over 40 years and have seen a lot of gunshot wounds," he said, but an elementary school massacre is "entirely different. These are 6-year-olds with wounds from very high-powered weaponry, and it changes you."

Jacobs and other like-minded surgeons formed a group that expanded to include law enforcement and other first responders who developed strategies for helping victims survive.

In many school shootings, more victims could be saved if someone had at least slowed their bleeding.

"It takes a long time, longer than it takes to bleed to death, to clear the classroom, secure it and make sure there's not another shooter," he said. "The person who is going to save you is the person right beside you."

The initiative, dubbed Stop the Bleed, has spread quickly and training is now available in all 50 states.

Georgia has been a leader, spending more than \$1 million to expand a test program and ship medical supplies to schools. Since last spring, the Georgia Trauma Commission, a state agency that works to improve emergency care, has coordinated the training of more than 18,000 educators.

Many teachers who might once have recoiled at becoming a battlefield medic have come around as school security measures have repeatedly failed to prevent shootings. In many cases, the shooters are students themselves who have ready access to the building. And lockdowns can add to the risk of death.

"If students are shot in a lockdown they can just bleed out. They'll die," said Dena Abston, executive director of the commission.

In Bend, Oregon, paramedic Nolan McGinnis leapt at the chance to train school personnel on how to

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treat victims. He was among the first paramedics to arrive at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Oregon, after a 2015 shooting that left 10 people dead.

"Especially with these school shootings, you never know if the shooter is going to give himself up or take his own life before we get there, or if it will be 15 minutes and we're still waiting to go onto the scene," McGinnis said.

The Bend trainers are also teaching high school students the techniques, and a group of students is raising money for bleeding control kits.

"A single person can't stop a shooting but one person can save multiple lives, and to have something like that on my conscience is a great feeling," said Sierra Sheeks, a Bend Senior High sophomore.

At the Iowa training, about a dozen teachers, aides and others gathered in an English classroom before the school day began for Southeast Polk's nearly 2,000 students. Although no shootings have occurred at the school, the now-normal drumbeat of reports about threats, rumors and lockdowns in every region keeps the danger in mind.

Trauma care specialist Brian Feist and surgeon Richard Sidwell used a foam limb to demonstrate proper techniques, then gave teachers a chance to practice packing wounds and cinching tourniquets.

Feist explained that direct pressure was more effective on especially young children and tourniquets best for multiple wounds. The ultratight straps on a tourniquet could be very painful, he warned.

"Your patient is going to be freaking out because it's really, really hurting," he said.

Teacher Denise Gulling noted that kids now accept that shootings could happen. They regularly have drills on when to lock doors and hide in their classroom. Now, "this gives me one more option for helping," she said.

Follow Scott McFetridge on Twitter at: <https://twitter.com/smcfetridge>.

Child advocates ask FTC to investigate YouTube

By MATT O'BRIEN, AP Technology Writer

Read carefully through the fine print of YouTube's terms of service and you might notice that you've affirmed you are old enough to watch it.

"If you are under 13 years of age, then please do not use the service," the terms say. "There are lots of other great web sites for you."

It's a warning that goes unheeded by millions of children around the world who visit YouTube to watch cartoons, nursery rhymes, science experiments or videos of toys being unboxed.

In a formal complaint being filed Monday, child advocates and consumer groups are asking the Federal Trade Commission to investigate and impose potentially billions of dollars of penalties on Google for allegedly violating children's online privacy and allowing ads to target them.

"Google profits handsomely from selling advertising to kid-directed programs that it packages," said Jeff Chester, director of the Center for Digital Democracy, one of the groups that drafted the complaint. "It makes deals with producers and distributors of kids' online programs worldwide. Google has built a global and very lucrative business based on kids' deep connections to YouTube."

YouTube's business model relies on tracking IP addresses, search history, device identifiers, location and other personal data about its users so that it can gauge their interests and tailor advertising to them. But that model isn't supposed to work for U.S. children, who are protected by the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act. That's a 20-year-old law that prohibits internet companies from knowingly collecting personal data from kids under 13 without their parents' consent.

The coalition accuses YouTube of violating COPPA and deliberately profiting off luring children into what Chester calls an "ad-filled digital playground" where commercials for toys, theme parks or sneakers can surface alongside kid-oriented videos.

YouTube said in an emailed statement that it "will read the complaint thoroughly and evaluate if there

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are things we can do to improve. Because YouTube is not for children, we've invested significantly in the creation of the YouTube Kids app to offer an alternative specifically designed for children."

That toddler-oriented YouTube Kids app, launched in 2015, offers more parental controls but is not widely used — and uses the same videos and channels that kids can also find on the regular YouTube service.

Although it's not known if the FTC will take action, the complaint comes at a time of increased public scrutiny over the tech industry's mining of personal data and after the FTC opened an investigation last month into Facebook's privacy practices.

"It seems like (the FTC) may be more reinvigorated and ready to take these issues seriously," said Josh Golin, director of the Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood, which drafted the complaint along with the Center for Digital Democracy and a Georgetown University law clinic. Several other groups have signed on, including Common Sense Media, which runs a popular website for families, and the advocacy division of Consumer Reports.

"I think the day of reckoning has arrived," said U.S. Sen. Edward Markey, a Massachusetts Democrat who co-authored COPPA in the 1990s and says he wants the FTC to look into the YouTube complaint. "Americans want to know the answers as to whether or not the privacy of their children is being compromised in the online world."

FTC spokeswoman Juliana Gruenwald Henderson said in an email that the agency hasn't yet received the letter but looks forward to reviewing it. The complaint was originally scheduled to be filed last week but was delayed after the shooting on Tuesday at YouTube's California headquarters.

"We take enforcement of COPPA very seriously and have brought more than two dozen COPPA cases since the COPPA rule was enacted," she said. The FTC's investigations aren't usually public, but it has previously settled child privacy cases with Yelp, mobile advertising network inMobi and electronic toy-maker VTech.

None of those platforms are as popular for kids as YouTube, which has toddler-themed channels with names like ChuChuTV nursery rhymes, which as of last week counted more than 16 million subscribers and 13.4 billion views. It also has more personality-driven programs that cater to preteens.

A former FTC attorney who now advises companies on COPPA compliance said a case against YouTube would not be straightforward because it's a general-audience service, making it hard to tell if parents are curating content for their kids to watch or letting them use it on their own. Kandi Parsons said the FTC hasn't yet set its targets on kid-directed channels within broader media websites, though that doesn't mean it won't.

"If the FTC thought that a service was directed to children and it was delivering online targeted advertising without consent, that could be a violation," Parsons said. She said the FTC could send Google a civil subpoena seeking more information, and also use other techniques to find out how the service is tracking its users.

Advocates say Google knows what it is doing. They point to its "Google Preferred" program that allows advertisers on YouTube to pay a premium to get their ads on the most popular videos. The program includes a "Parenting & Family Lineup" that has featured channels such as ChuChu TV, Fox's BabyTV and Seven Super Girls, whose topics include "fluffy unicorn slime."

YouTube does "age-gate" to block children who identify themselves as under 13 from starting an account that allows users to post videos, but an account isn't needed to watch videos on the platform.

"It's laughable if Google execs claim that they think the parent is in charge of the online viewing behaviors of tens of millions of children," Chester said. "Children are watching this content by themselves. Google is trying to look the other way."

Chester, who helped create COPPA in the 1990s, said he's confident that the FTC will take a serious look after years of letting Google off the hook for pretending that kids weren't using YouTube.

"They created a successful model monetizing kids' data on YouTube and really did not want to think about the consequences," he said. "Google is one of those companies that has failed to address its ethical dilemmas in a serious way."

Stormy Daniels renews push for Trump's answers under oath

By CATHERINE LUCEY and MIKE BALSAMO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A porn actress who says she had an affair with Donald Trump renewed an effort Sunday to get the president to answer her attorney's questions under oath.

An attorney for Stormy Daniels filed the motion in federal court in Los Angeles. Michael Avenatti is seeking a jury trial and wants sworn testimony from Trump and his personal lawyer, Michael Cohen about a \$130,000 payment made to Daniels days before the 2016 presidential election as part of a nondisclosure agreement she is seeking to invalidate.

Trump answered questions about Daniels for the first time last week, saying he had no knowledge of the payment made by Cohen and adding that he didn't know where Cohen had gotten the money. The White House has consistently said Trump denies the affair and Cohen has held that he made the payment out of his own pocket, without involvement from the Trump Organization or the Trump campaign.

Cohen did not immediately respond to a request seeking comment Sunday.

Avenatti filed a similar motion over a week ago, which a judge deemed premature. He refiled after Trump asked a federal judge to order private arbitration in the case. Trump and Cohen filed papers last week asking a judge to rule that the case must be heard by an arbitrator instead of a jury. Avenatti opposes private arbitration.

In the filing, Avenatti says he wants to question Trump and Cohen for "no more than two hours." He says the depositions are needed to establish if Trump knew about the settlement agreement and if he "truly did not know about the \$130,000 payment." He also asks if Trump was involved in any effort to "silence" Daniels.

Daniels, whose legal name is Stephanie Clifford, said in a recent interview with CBS' "60 Minutes" that she was threatened by an unidentified man to keep quiet about the affair. Avenatti tweeted a photo Sunday that he said showed Daniels sitting with a forensic sketch artist to develop an image of the person she says threatened her in a Las Vegas parking lot in 2011 when she was with her infant daughter.

That interview prompted a lawyer for Cohen to demand that Daniels publicly apologize to his client for suggesting Cohen was involved in her intimidation. Daniels responded by filing a revised federal lawsuit accusing Cohen of defamation.

Avenatti did not say Sunday when the photograph had been taken, or when a sketch may be released.

If this legal move is successful, this would be the first deposition of a sitting president since Bill Clinton in 1998 had to answer questions about his conduct with women.

Balsamo contributed from Los Angeles.

Canada town's arena focus of mourning after crash kills 15

By JEREMY HAINSWORTH and ROB GILLIES, Associated Press

HUMBOLDT, Saskatchewan (AP) — The people of this small town grieved at their hockey arena Sunday, laying flowers and jerseys in a makeshift memorial at the entrance and later gathering inside to mourn the deaths of 15 people when a semi-trailer slammed into the bus carrying the local youth hockey team.

The 14 others on the bus were injured, some critically, in Friday night's collision, which has Canada, its national sport and the hockey-obsessed town of Humboldt reeling. Among the dead are Broncos head coach Darcy Haugan, team captain Logan Schatz and radio announcer Tyler Bieber.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau visited the injured at the hospital Sunday and then attended the vigil held in the town's arena Sunday night. Trudeau sat among the crowd with his 11-year-old son, Xavier, a hockey player.

Team President Kevin Garinger choked back tears as he read out the names of the 15 dead. People embraced each other, crying. Boxes of Kleenex were passed down rows.

Behind them, flowers ringed the team logo at center ice. In front of them, there were pictures of the dead and injured.

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Humboldt pastor Sean Brandow, the team chaplain, said he was on his way to the Broncos game Friday and arrived at the scene right after the collision. He described hearing the cries and holding the hand of a lifeless body.

"I walked up and saw a scene I never want to see again, heard sounds I never want to hear again," Brandow said.

Nick Shumlanski, an injured player who was released from the hospital, attended the vigil wearing his white, green and yellow team jersey, with a bruise under his left eye.

Residents of this town of less than 6,000 people earlier left flowers, jerseys and personal tributes on the steps of the arena's entrance. One tribute included a Kraft macaroni and cheese dinner box, which was a favorite meal of deceased forward Evan Thomas. A bouquet of pink roses adorned the box, which read: "to Evan, game day special, love your billet brother and sister Colten and Shelby."

While most of the players were from elsewhere in western Canada, they were put up by families in the small town of Humboldt. Billeting families are a large part of junior hockey, with players spending years with host families.

Dennis Locke, his wife and three young children came to the arena to hang posters of forward Jaxon Joseph, who was the son of former NHL player Chris Joseph. The Locke family hosted Joseph and treated him like a son.

"Best person ever," Locke said. "Down to earth, loved playing with the kids."

His wife wiped away tears from swollen eyes.

Forwards Jacob Leicht, Logan Hunter and Conner Lukan and defensemen Stephen Wack, Adam Herold, Logan Boulet and Xavier Labelle were also among the dead, according to family members and others. Assistant coach Mark Cross, bus driver Glen Doerksen and stats keeper Brody Hinz, who was 18, were also killed.

Herold, who would have turned 17 Thursday, played for the Regina Pat Canadians hockey team until just weeks ago, but was sent to join the Broncos for their playoff round when the Pat Canadians' season wrapped up, said John Smith, the Pat Canadians' manager.

As the names of the dead emerge, "it's getting harder and harder," Humboldt Mayor Rob Muench said. "This is going to be a long haul for us."

Norman Mattock, a longtime season ticket holder, said his neighbor housed player Morgan Gobeil. The defenseman was severely injured and remains in serious but stable condition, Mattock said.

He said players become part of the community fabric, doing volunteer work or serving in restaurants. Three players who stayed with the same family all died in the crash, he added.

"They lost them all," Mattock said.

The Broncos were a close-knit team who dyed their hair blond for the playoffs. The bus was driving the team to a crucial playoff game Friday against the Nipawin Hawks. Garinger said the team will continue next year and won't disband.

The home page of the team's website was replaced with a silhouette of a man praying beneath the Broncos' logo of a mustang.

The pews were full Sunday at St. Augustine Roman Catholic Church in Humboldt, where the Rev. Joseph Salish told parishioners that if they felt like crying, they should cry.

Between Masses, streams of people — many of them red-eyed from crying — hugged each other.

"We're devastated," said hockey club Vice President Randolph MacLEAN. "At the center of this, we have 15 souls who'll never go home again. We have 29 lives that will never be the same."

MacLEAN said the community comes together at the arena on game nights that draw 800 to 1,000 people to the stands.

"It's an energy that spreads through the town with road signs saying 'Game tonight,' tickets for sale everywhere," he said.

As is the case with small town hockey across Canada, he said, the arena is not just a recreation facility, but a focus of community life with the hockey team at its center.

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With players staying with local families, working in city businesses and attending local schools, the tragedy touches every corner of Humboldt, MacLEAN said.

Canadian police said the truck driver, who was not hurt, was initially detained but later released and provided with mental health assistance. Royal Canadian Mounted Police Assistant Commissioner Curtis Zablocki said it was too early to state a cause for the crash. Police have not said whether or not the driver was impaired.

Photographs of the wreckage showed the twisted trailer with most of its wheels in the air and the bus on its side with a portion destroyed. The force of the crash sent both vehicles into the ditch at the north-west corner of the intersection.

Police said a lot of issues remained to be investigated in the bus crash, including weather conditions at the time and any mechanical issues with the vehicles.

Associated Press writer Jeremy Hainsworth reported this story in Humboldt and AP writer Rob Gillies reported from Toronto.

Trump warns Assad: 'Big price to pay' for fatal Syria attack

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Sunday condemned a “mindless CHEMICAL attack” in Syria that killed women and children, called Syrian President Bashar Assad an “animal” and said there would be a “big price to pay” for resorting to outlawed weapons of mass destruction.

Hours later, Syria’s state-run news agency reported a missile attack early Monday at an air base in Syria’s Homs province and labeled it a “likely” U.S. aggression. However, a Pentagon spokesman quickly denied the U.S. was behind the strike.

In the wake of the reported poison gas attack, officials in Washington worked Sunday to verify the claim by Syrian opposition activists and rescuers that the Assad government was responsible.

Just over a year ago, Trump ordered dozens of cruise missiles to be fired at a Syrian air base after declaring there was no doubt Assad had “choked out the lives of helpless” civilians in an attack that used banned gases. White House advisers said at the time that images of hurt children helped spur the president to launch that air strike, and television new shows on Sunday aired similar depictions of suffering young Syrians.

“Many dead, including women and children, in mindless CHEMICAL attack in Syria,” Trump tweeted. “Area of atrocity is in lockdown and encircled by Syrian Army, making it completely inaccessible to outside world. President Putin, Russia and Iran are responsible for backing Animal Assad. Big price to pay. Open area immediately for medical help and verification. Another humanitarian disaster for no reason whatsoever. SICK!”

Saturday’s attack took place in a rebel-held town near Damascus amid a resumed offensive by Syrian government forces after the collapse of a truce. Syrian activists, rescuers and medics said a poison gas attack in Douma killed at least 40 people, with families found suffocated in their houses and shelters. The reports could not immediately be independently verified.

The developments come as Trump has moved to dramatically scale back U.S. goals in Syria, pushing for a quick military withdrawal despite resistance from many of his national security advisers. Trump has given no formal order to pull out the 2,000 U.S. troops in Syria or offered a public timetable other than to say the U.S. will withdraw as soon as the remaining Islamic State fighters can be vanquished.

But Trump has signaled to his advisers that, ideally, he wants all troops out within six months.

Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona said Assad heard Trump’s signal that he wanted to withdraw from Syria and, “emboldened by American inaction,” launched the attack. In a statement, McCain said Trump “responded decisively” last year with the air strike and urged Trump to be forceful again to “demonstrate that Assad will pay a price for his war crimes.”

Images released by the Syrian Civil Defense White Helmets, a volunteer organization, show children lying on the ground motionless and foaming at the mouth. The Assad government, in a statement posted

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on the state-run news agency SANA, denied responsibility.

Trump was briefed about the attack by his chief of staff, John Kelly, officials said. Trump's homeland security adviser, Thomas Bossert, noted the timing of the suspected chemical attack — almost a year to the day of the U.S. missile strikes.

"This isn't just the United States. This is one of those issues on which every nation, all peoples, have all agreed and have agreed since World War II, it's an unacceptable practice," Bossert said.

Asked about the potential for an American missile strike in response, Bossert said: "I wouldn't take anything off the table. These are horrible photos. We're looking into the attack at this point."

Trump was to meet with his senior military leadership on Monday, the same day his new national security adviser, John Bolton, assumes his post. Bolton has previously advocated significant airstrikes against Syria.

Vice President Mike Pence on Sunday deemed it a "likely chemical attack" and reiterated Trump's threat that consequences would be coming for those responsible.

"We condemn in the strongest possible terms the assault on innocent lives, including children," Pence tweeted. "The Assad regime & its backers MUST END their barbaric behavior."

Trump's decision to single out Russian President Vladimir Putin in a tweet for supporting Assad appeared noteworthy because Trump long has been reluctant to personally criticize the Russian leader. Even as the White House, after some delay, imposed tough new sanctions on Russia in the wake of its U.S. election meddling and suspected poisoning of a former spy on British soil, Trump left it to others in his administration to deliver the rebukes to Moscow.

Last month, Trump called Putin and, against the counsel of his advisers, congratulated the Russian president on his re-election and invited him to the White House. On Sunday, Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, urged Trump to "ramp up the pressure and the sanctions on the Russian government, because, without the support of Russia, I do not believe that Assad would still be in office."

Trump also invoked Iran in his series of tweets, further challenging Tehran while signaling he may scuttle its nuclear deal with the West. The president has often laid some blame on his predecessor, Barack Obama, for Assad's continued grip on power after years of civil war.

Obama said in 2012 that Syria's use of chemical weapons would be a "red line" that would change his decision-making on intervening in the war and have "enormous consequences." After such an attack in 2013 killed hundreds outside Damascus, American ships in the Mediterranean were poised to launch missiles. But Obama pulled back after key U.S. ally Britain, as well as Congress, balked.

He opted for a Russian-backed proposal that was supposed to remove and eliminate Syria's chemical weapons stockpiles.

"If President Obama had crossed his stated Red Line In The Sand, the Syrian disaster would have ended long ago! Animal Assad would have been history!" Trump tweeted from the White House.

Questions about the administration's possible response reverberated throughout Washington in the hours after the attack.

"It's a defining moment in his presidency" that comes as Assad sees the U.S. "determination to stay in Syria waning," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C.,

"If he doesn't follow through and live up to that tweet, he's going to look weak in the eyes of Russia and Iran," Graham said. "You need to follow through with that tweet. Show a resolve that Obama never did to get this right."

Graham and Bossert were on ABC's "This Week," and Collins appeared on CNN's "State of the Union."

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Syrian news reports missile attack; US denies it fired them

By PHILIP ISSA, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Missiles struck an air base in central Syria early Monday, its state-run news agency reported. Although the agency said it was likely "an American aggression," U.S. officials said the U.S. had

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not launched airstrikes on Syria.

The missile attack followed a suspected poison gas attack Saturday on the last remaining foothold for the Syrian opposition in the eastern suburbs of Damascus. At least 40 people were killed, including families found in their homes and shelters, opposition activists and local rescuers said.

SANA reported that the missile attack on the T4 military air base in Homs province resulted in a number of casualties.

Earlier, President Donald Trump had promised a "big price to pay" for the suspected chemical attack. After the airstrikes were reported, however, Pentagon spokesman Christopher Sherwood said in a statement, "At this time, the Department of Defense is not conducting air strikes in Syria."

The U.S. launched several dozen Tomahawk cruise missiles at a Syrian air base last year after a chemical attack in the northern Syrian town of Khan Sheikhoun killed dozens of people. Israel has also struck inside Syria in recent years.

The suspected poison gas attack Saturday on the besieged town of Douma came almost exactly a year after the U.S. missile attack prompted by the Khan Sheikhoun deaths.

In response to the reports from Douma, Trump on Sunday blamed Syrian government forces for what he called a "mindless CHEMICAL attack." In a series of tweets, Trump held Russia and Iran, Syrian President Bashar Assad's chief sponsors, responsible.

The Syrian government denied the allegations, calling them fabrications.

First responders entering apartments in Douma late Saturday said they found bodies collapsed on floors, some foaming at the mouth. The opposition's Syrian Civil Defense rescue organization said the victims appeared to have suffocated.

They did not identify the substance used, but the civil defense organization, also known as the White Helmets, and the Syrian American Medical Society, a medical relief organization, said survivors treated at clinics smelled strongly of chlorine.

Those reports could not be independently verified because of a government blockade around the town.

Hours after the attack, the Army of Islam rebel group agreed to surrender the town and evacuate their fighters to rebel-held northern Syria, Syrian state media reported. The group also agreed to give up its prisoners, a key demand of the government.

The government agreed to halt its assault after three days of indiscriminate air and ground attacks.

"There's nothing left for civilians and fighters. We don't have anything to stand fast," said Haitham Bakkar, an opposition activist inside the town. He spoke to the Associated Press by WhatsApp.

"People now are going out in the streets looking for their loved ones in the rubble," Bakkar said. "And we don't have any space left to bury them."

More than 100 buses entered the town Sunday night to transport fighters and their families to Jarablus, a town under the shared control of rebels and Turkey, said Syrian state-affiliated al-Ikhbariya TV.

The preparations follow a pattern of evacuations around the capital and other major Syrian cities as the government reasserts its control after seven years of war.

Human rights groups and United Nations officials say the tactic amounts to forced displacement, a war crime. The U.N. Security Council planned to hold an emergency meeting Monday to discuss the attack.

The Army of Islam could not be immediately reached for comment.

In his tweets Sunday, Trump called Assad an "animal" and delivered a rare personal criticism of Russian President Vladimir Putin for supporting him. A top White House aide, asked about the possibility of another U.S. missile strike, said, "I wouldn't take anything off the table."

The developments come as Trump has declared his intent to withdraw U.S. troops from Syria in the coming months despite resistance from many of his advisers.

Bakkar said several bombs laced with chemicals landed in Douma Saturday night. Another activist, Bilal Abou Salah, said a large, yellow cylinder smashed through the roof of an apartment building and came to rest on the third floor and started to discharge gas.

The Syrian Civil Defense group documented 42 fatalities but was impeded from searching further by

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strong odors that gave rescuers difficulties breathing, said Siraj Mahmoud, a spokesman for the group.

A joint statement by the civil defense group and the medical society said that more than 500 people, mostly women and children, were brought to medical centers complaining of difficulty breathing, foaming at the mouth and burning sensations in the eyes. Some had bluish skin, a sign of oxygen deprivation.

The symptoms were consistent with chemical exposure. One patient, a woman, had convulsions and pinpoint pupils, suggesting exposure to a nerve agent, the statement said.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights issued a higher death toll, saying at least 80 people were killed in Douma, including around 40 who died from suffocation. But it said the suffocations were the result of shelters collapsing on people inside them.

"Until this minute, no one has been able to find out the kind of agent that was used," Mahmoud said in a video statement from northern Syria.

The Syrian government, in a statement posted on the state-run news agency SANA, denied the allegations. It said the claims were "fabrications" by the Army of Islam and a "failed attempt" to impede government advances.

"The army, which is advancing rapidly and with determination, does not need to use any kind of chemical agents," the statement said.

The latest assault on Douma came after talks between the Army of Islam and Russia collapsed Friday, ending 10 days of calm for residents trapped inside.

Russia denied any involvement in the attack. Maj. Gen. Yuri Yevtushenko was quoted by Russian news agencies Sunday as saying Russia was prepared to send specialists to Douma to "confirm the fabricated nature" of the reports.

Douma has been crippled by close to five years of siege by government forces. It was once one of the hubs of the 2011 Arab Spring uprising against Assad's government.

In recent weeks, government forces have recaptured villages and towns in the eastern Ghouta suburbs of the capital. Douma was the only town left holding out.

A 2013 chemical attack in eastern Ghouta that killed hundreds of people was widely blamed on government forces. The U.S. threatened military action but later backed down.

Syria denies ever using chemical weapons during the war and says it eliminated its chemical arsenal under a 2013 agreement brokered by the U.S. and Russia.

Associated Press writer James Heintz in Moscow, Zeina Karam in Beirut and Jonathan Lemire in Washington contributed to this report.

Opening statements set in Bill Cosby's sex assault retrial

By MICHAEL R. SISAK, Associated Press

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP) — With opening statements in Bill Cosby's sexual assault retrial set for Monday, prosecutors have lined up a parade of accusers to make the case that the man revered as "America's Dad" lived a double life as one of Hollywood's biggest predators.

Cosby's retrial likely won't be anything like his first one. He's fighting back with a new, high-profile lawyer and an aggressive strategy: attacking Andrea Constand as a greedy liar and casting the other women testifying as bandwagon accusers looking for a share of the spotlight.

"You've seen previews and coming attractions, but things have changed," said professor Laurie Levenson of Loyola Law School in Los Angeles.

Cosby's first trial last spring ended in a cliffhanger, with jurors unable to reach a unanimous verdict after five days of tense deliberations on charges that the man who made millions of viewers laugh as wise and understanding Dr. Cliff Huxtable on "The Cosby Show" drugged and molested Constand at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004.

The 80-year-old comedian, who has said the sexual contact was consensual, faces three counts of aggravated indecent assault, each punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

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His retrial is taking place in a radically changed and potentially more hostile environment. The #MeToo movement caught fire four months after the first trial, raising awareness of sexual misconduct as it toppled Harvey Weinstein, Sen. Al Franken, Matt Lauer and other powerful men.

Nearly every potential juror questioned for the case this time knew about #MeToo.

Kristen Houser of the National Sexual Violence Resource Center said that could help prosecutors overcome the skepticism some jurors had last time about Constand's yearlong wait to report her allegations to the police.

"The #MeToo movement is amplifying what experts have been saying for decades: People are ashamed, they're confused, they can't believe somebody they trust would hurt them, and then they worry that others won't believe them," Houser said.

After limiting the focus of the first trial, Judge Steven O'Neill has been willing to let both sides push the retrial well beyond Constand's allegations.

This time, O'Neill is letting prosecutors have five additional accusers testify — including model Janice Dickinson — as they attempt to show Cosby made a habit of drugging and violating women. The judge allowed just one other accuser to take the stand last time.

"This one will be harder for the defense," Levenson said. This time, Constand "is not alone, and there is strength in numbers."

In another difference, the judge this time is letting Cosby's legal team call as a witness a former co-worker of Constand's at Temple University who said Constand spoke of setting up a "high-profile person" so she could sue and enjoy a big payday. Constand's lawyer has said the co-worker is lying.

The judge also decided the jury can hear the answer to one of the biggest questions hanging over the case: How much did Cosby pay Constand to settle her lawsuit against him more than a decade ago? The two sides agreed at the first trial not to mention the lawsuit.

Cosby lawyer Tom Mesereau, who won an acquittal in Michael Jackson's 2005 child molestation case, said the jury will learn "just how greedy" Constand was.

In a twist, the judge hinted that he might not allow jurors to hear Cosby's lurid deposition testimony about giving quaaludes to women before sex. He said he would rule on it during the trial. Cosby testified in 2005 and 2006 as part of Constand's lawsuit.

Cosby did not take the stand at the first trial and is unlikely to do so this time.

Opening statements could be delayed while O'Neill sorts out allegations raised late Friday that a juror was heard saying he thought Cosby was guilty. Cosby's lawyers want the man questioned and removed from the case. They also want other jurors questioned to see if they were influenced by the man's alleged comment. Before being picked, all jurors swear under oath that they would be fair and impartial.

The Associated Press does not typically identify people who say they are victims of sexual assault unless they grant permission, which Constand and Dickinson have done.

Over the past few years, about 60 women have come forward with allegations against Cosby dating to the 1960s. Netflix shelved his comedy special, NBC scrapped plans for a new sitcom, and reruns of "The Cosby Show" were pulled from the air.

Cosby has performed only once since ending a tour amid hecklers and protests in May 2015. He joked at a surprise Philadelphia jazz club appearance in January that he "used to be a comedian."

Even if Cosby is acquitted, he will never win back his reputation, crisis communications expert David La Torre said.

"In some cases, being tried in the court of public opinion is far more damaging than the court of law," La Torre said. "That's certainly the case here."

Follow Mike Sisak at twitter.com/mikesisak

For more coverage visit apnews.com/tag/CosbyonTrial

Trump once fought measure requiring sprinklers in buildings

By KAREN MATTHEWS, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The 50th-floor apartment in Trump Tower where a man was killed in a raging fire did not have sprinklers — a requirement Donald Trump once fought as a powerful real estate developer.

Todd Brassner, 67, died at a hospital on Saturday after a fire ripped through his apartment in the high-rise, which opened in 1983 at a time when building codes did not require the residential section to have sprinklers.

Subsequent updates to the codes required commercial skyscrapers to install sprinklers retroactively, but owners of older residential high-rises are not required to install them unless the building undergoes major renovations.

Some fire safety advocates pushed for a requirement that older apartment buildings be retrofitted with sprinklers when the city passed a law requiring them in new residential high-rises in 1999, but officials in the administration of then-mayor Rudolph Giuliani said that would be too expensive.

Trump was among the developers who spoke out against the retrofitting as unnecessary and expensive.

He later changed his views, saying sprinklers made tenants feel safer. He ultimately decided to spend \$3 million to put sprinklers in all 350 units of Trump World Tower near the United Nations, The New York Times reported.

"People feel safer with sprinklers," Trump said in 1999, according to The Times. "But the problem with the bill is that it doesn't address the buildings that need sprinklers the most. If you look at the fire deaths in New York, almost all of them are in one-or two-family houses."

The city's Department of Buildings on Sunday said Trump Tower did have working hard-wired smoke detectors, and that the fire department was first notified of the blaze by the detectors in the building's heating and ventilation system. A cause had not yet been determined.

Brassner, who records show bought his unit in 1996, was an art collector who spent time with Andy Warhol.

He is mentioned several times in Warhol's posthumously published diaries, with references including lunch dates and shared taxis. The artist signed and dedicated at least one print to him.

But in recent years, Brassner had financial problems and went through bankruptcy proceedings. According to documents, his family stopped helping him pursue buying and selling art at the end of 2014, and in the last few years he was "plagued with debilitating medical problems" that made it "difficult for him to function."

New York Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro said the apartment was "virtually entirely on fire" when firefighters arrived.

Trump, who was in Washington, sent out a tweet before the fatality was reported: "Fire at Trump Tower is out. Very confined (well built building). Firemen (and women) did a great job. THANK YOU!"

He has not tweeted about Brassner's death.

No member of the Trump family was in the 664-foot tower on Saturday.

Trump's family has an apartment on the top floors of the 58-story building, but he has spent little time in New York since taking office. The headquarters of the Trump Organization is on the 26th floor.

Hungarian populist Orban wins new term, party super majority

By PABLO GORONDI, Associated Press

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban said his "decisive" re-election victory and the super majority in parliament his right-wing populist party appeared to have won Sunday were "an opportunity to defend Hungary."

Critics said they feared Orban will use his third consecutive term and the Fidesz party's two-thirds control of Hungary's national legislature to intensify his attacks on migration and to strengthen his command of the country's centralized power structure.

Hungary's remaining independent media, the courts that have made numerous rulings the government

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did not like and a university founded by Hungarian-American billionaire George Soros, also are among Orban's likely targets.

"We created the opportunity for ourselves to defend Hungary," Orban told a rapturous crowd after his landslide win became undisputable. "A great battle is behind us. We have achieved a decisive victory."

With 98.5 percent of the votes counted, Fidesz and its small ally, the Christian Democrat party, together had secured 133 of the 199 seats in parliament, the minimum needed for a two-thirds majority.

The right-wing nationalist Jobbik party placed second with 26 seats, while a Socialist-led, left-wing coalition came in third with 20 seats.

"As the results stand, Fidesz performed much better than expected," Tamas Boros, co-director of the Policy Solutions think tank, said. "There were no small victories for the opposition."

Orban won his fourth term overall on a platform that openly demonizes migrants to Europe. He first governed in 1998-2002 before returning to power in 2010 after two terms of scandal-filled Socialist rule.

Fidesz won a two-thirds majority in 2010 and 2014, but lost it in by-elections in 2015.

Orban campaigned heavily on his unyielding anti-migration policies. He repeated his theory of a conspiracy between the opposition and the United Nations, the European Union and wealthy philanthropist Soros to turn Hungary into an "immigrant country," threatening its security and Christian identity.

The government has already submitted a "Stop Soros" package of legislation that it would easily be able to pass if Fidesz's obtains a two-thirds majority in parliament. Government spokesman Zoltan Kovacs said the bills are designed to close "legal loopholes" allegedly exploited by civic groups that advocate for asylum-seekers.

"So-called NGOs ... are helping illegal immigration happen," Kovacs said.

Government influence on the media was palpable in Sunday's broadcast by state television M1 news channel, where reports highlighting the negative effects of migration dominated the programming.

On Origo.hu, a formerly independent website now owned by government allies, stories promoted Orban while also focusing on migration. The headlines included "Migrant gangs fought in England," "They can't stand it anymore in Sweden: They've had enough of migrants," and "A migrant in underpants beat a German retiree half to death."

Hungarian election officials said voter turnout was high and had exceeded participation in the 2014 balloting 90 minutes before polls closed. Numerous polling places remained open past closing time to accommodate long lines of people waiting to cast ballots.

While Orban's win was undeniable, the exact size of his margin of victory was not clear early Monday due in part to Hungary's complex electoral system, in which voters cast ballots for both an individual candidate in their region and another for a party list.

Final election results are expected by April 27.

Besides Jobbik and the Socialist-led coalition, only two other factions — former Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany's Democratic Coalition and the green Politics Can Be Different party — surpassed the 5 percent threshold needed to form a parliamentary bloc. The legislature also will have one deputy each from three small parties.

Jobbik leader Gabor Vona, the president of the Socialist Party and several other politicians from the losing parties said they were resigning in view of the election results, though it was likely that many of them would continue their political careers, possibly in other positions.

Opposition parties had urged Hungarians to vote tactically for the candidate with the best chance to defeat the Fidesz candidate in the 106 individual districts — and they appeared to have won 15 individual seats compared to 10 in 2014.

Still, Fidesz improved its results in terms of the 93 seats distributed based on votes for entire party lists, getting 48.5 percent compared to 44.9 percent four years ago.

Boros noted that, politically, Hungary had been split in two. While the left-wing parties dominated in the capital city of Budapest by winning 12 of 18 individual constituencies, Fidesz candidates won 85 of 88 districts in the rest of the country.

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"Orban will interpret the victory as an unequivocal authorization to continue as until now, but even more forcefully," Boros said. "He will feel even less constrained by any limits ... as politically there is no genuine resistance to him."

Andras Nagy contributed to this report.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, April 9, the 99th day of 2018. There are 266 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 9, 1968, funeral services, private and public, were held for Martin Luther King Jr. at the Ebenezer Baptist Church and Morehouse College in Atlanta, five days after the civil rights leader was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee.

On this date:

In 1682, French explorer Robert de La Salle claimed the Mississippi River Basin for France.

In 1865, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered his army to Union Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House in Virginia.

In 1913, the first game was played at Ebbets Field, the newly built home of the Brooklyn Dodgers, who lost to the Philadelphia Phillies, 1-0.

In 1939, singer Marian Anderson performed a concert at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. after being denied the use of Constitution Hall by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

In 1942, during World War II, some 75,000 Philippine and American defenders on Bataan surrendered to Japanese troops, who forced the prisoners into what became known as the Bataan Death March; thousands died or were killed en route.

In 1959, NASA presented its first seven astronauts: Scott Carpenter, Gordon Cooper, John Glenn, Gus Grissom, Wally Schirra, Alan Shepard and Donald Slayton. Architect Frank Lloyd Wright, 91, died in Phoenix, Arizona.

In 1977, Spain's Communist Party was legalized by Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez.

In 1979, officials declared an end to the crisis involving the Three Mile Island Unit 2 nuclear reactor in Pennsylvania, 12 days after a partial core meltdown.

In 1983, the space shuttle Challenger ended its first mission with a safe landing at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

In 1988, pro-Iranian Shiite (SHEE'-eyet) Muslim hijackers who had seized a Kuwait Airways jetliner on April 5 killed one of their hostages as the plane sat on the ground in Larnaca, Cyprus.

In 1998, the National Prisoner of War Museum opened in Andersonville, Georgia, the site of the infamous Civil War prison camp.

In 2003, jubilant Iraqis celebrated the collapse of Saddam Hussein's regime, beheading a toppled statue of their longtime ruler in downtown Baghdad and embracing American troops as liberators.

Ten years ago: America's war commander in Iraq faced Congress for a second day; Army Gen. David Petraeus told lawmakers he was unlikely to endorse any fresh buildup of troops even if security in the country were to deteriorate. The Olympic torch was rerouted away from thousands of demonstrators and spectators who had crowded San Francisco's waterfront to witness the flame's symbolic journey to the Beijing Games during its only North American stop.

Five years ago: Thirteen people were shot to death during a pre-dawn, house-to-house rampage in the Serbian village of Velika Ivanca; authorities identified the gunman as a 60-year-old veteran of the Balkan wars who took his own life. Fourteen people were injured by a knife-wielding attacker at Lone Star College in Cypress, Texas; a suspect was later sentenced to 48 years in prison. Connecticut's women's basketball team won its eighth NCAA championship with a 93-60 rout of Louisville at New Orleans Arena.

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One year ago: Dr. David Dao, a passenger on a United Express flight about to take off for Louisville, Kentucky, was dragged off the plane by security officers at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport to make room for four airline employees; the incident was captured on video that went viral. (United reached a settlement with Dao.) Suicide bombers struck hours apart at two Coptic churches in northern Egypt, killing 43 people and turning Palm Sunday services into scenes of horror and outrage. Sergio Garcia beat Justin Rose in a sudden-death playoff at the Masters for his first major. Russell Westbrook broke Oscar Robertson's 56-year-old record with his 42nd triple-double of the season, then he broke the Denver Nuggets' hearts with a buzzer-beating 3-pointer, giving the Oklahoma City Thunder a 106-105 victory.

Today's Birthdays: Satirical songwriter and mathematician Tom Lehrer is 90. Naturalist Jim Fowler is 88. Actor Jean-Paul Belmondo is 85. Actress Michael Learned is 79. Country singer Margo Smith is 76. Country singer Hal Ketchum is 65. Actor Dennis Quaid is 64. Comedian Jimmy Tingle is 63. Country musician Dave Innis (Restless Heart) is 59. Talk show host Joe Scarborough is 55. Actress-sports reporter Lisa Guerrero is 54. Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey is 54. Actor Mark Pellegrino is 53. Actress-model Paulina Porizkova is 53. Actress Cynthia Nixon is 52. Rock singer Kevin Martin (Candlebox) is 49. TV personality Sunny Anderson is 43. Rock singer Gerard Way (My Chemical Romance) is 41. Actress Keshia Knight Pulliam is 39. Rock musician Albert Hammond Jr. (The Strokes) is 38. Actor Charlie Hunnam is 38. Actor Ryan Northcott is 38. Actor Arlen Escarpeta is 37. Actor Jay Baruchel is 36. Actress Annie Funke is 33. Actor Jordan Masterson is 32. Actress Leighton Meester is 32. Actor-singer Jesse McCartney is 31. Rhythm-and-blues singer Jazmine Sullivan is 31. Actress Kristen Stewart is 28. Actress Elle Fanning is 20. Actor Isaac Hempstead Wright is 19. Classical crossover singer Jackie Evancho (ee-VAYN'-koh) is 18.

Thought for Today: "The amount of satisfaction you get from life depends largely on your own ingenuity, self-sufficiency, and resourcefulness. People who wait around for life to supply their satisfaction usually find boredom instead." — William C. Menninger, American scientist, physician, engineer (1899-1966).