

# Groton Daily Independent

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Sunday: Princess Prom at GHS Gym (Grand March, 5:30 p.m.)

Monday, April 16: Girls Golf at Milbank **postponed**

Monday, April 16: JH Track at Ipswich is **cancelled**

Tuesday, April 17: Track at Webster is **cancelled**

Tuesday, April 17: Elementary Spring Concert, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, April 18: NSU Math Contest, 9 a.m.

Thursday, April 19: JH Track Meet at Groton, 3:30 p.m.

## Dakota Brush

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

Get Ready for Spring With  
Wash Brushes & Squeegees

**397-9337**

104 N. Main, Groton



## Blood Drive!

Monday, April 16

Noon to 6 p.m.

Groton American Legion

To make an appointment, call  
Carol Osterman: 397-8498  
or June Ackman: 397-8369

JUST  
1 DONATION  
SAVES  
3 LIVES

## Help Wanted

Full-time and Part-time cook positions available at The Front Porch in Langford. Day and evening hours available. Apply in person or call 605-493-6570, ask for Suzie. (0411.0418)

## Bridal Shower

A bridal shower for Holly Carlson, bride-to-be of Tyler Candor, will be held Saturday, April 28, 2018, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Groton.

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

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THIS IS FABULOUS!!!

It was written by an 8-year-old named Danny Dutton, who lives in Chula Vista, CA. He wrote it for his third grade homework assignment, to 'explain God.' I wonder if any of us could have done as well? (and he had such an assignment, in California, and someone published it, I guess miracles do happen!)

## EXPLANATION OF GOD:

'One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grownups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.'

'God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because he hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off.'

'God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.'

'Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista. At least there aren't any who come to our church.'

'Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work, like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him. But he was good and kind, like his father, and he told his father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said O.K.'

'His dad (God) appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work on earth so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So he did. And now he helps his dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important.'

'You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.'

'You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God!

Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.'

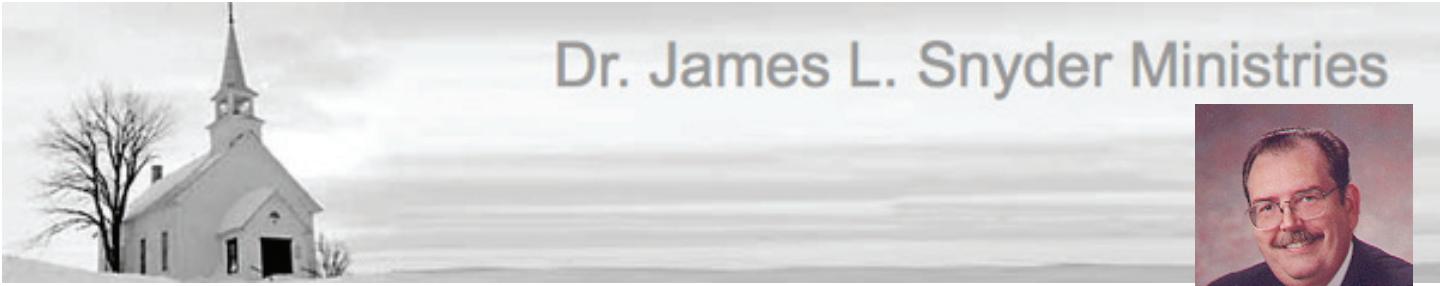
'If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared, in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids.'

'But...you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and he can take me back anytime he pleases.

And...That's why I believe in God.'

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries



## My Somber Longing for Summer

My favorite time of the year is summer and I don't care what the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage says. Summer is what I live for especially here in Florida.

As soon as Fall arrives in full steam I am looking forward to summer with uncontrollable anticipation.

One thing that attracts me to summer has to do with the weather.

I don't like cold because I'm growing too old now to shiver properly. When it is cold and I am supposed to be shivering, I don't have the energy. I admit that I don't have the energy I had a few years back. Let's not talk about how many years back. Shivering now is really not part of my exercise program.

I think God created winter for someone like me to appreciate summer. I have had enough winter now so that I can appreciate summer for the rest of my life. I wonder if heaven is going to be like summer?

Another thing I don't like about being cold is having to wear sweaters and sometimes coats and hats and mittens. When it's really cold outside by the time I get dressed to go outside I'm either too tired to go outside or I can't remember why I wanted to go outside in the first place.

It takes me "forever" to get dressed for cold weather.

Another thing about being cold is my brain doesn't function 100%. When it is cold, parts of my brain have to be used to deal with the cold weather on my body. Don't ask me how that works, I just know it works.

I have a brain and I take care of my brain and feed my brain so I can use my brain for my things and not for things like the weather!

What I like about summer is that it is hot. I love hot, contrary to the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Don't let this get around, but she doesn't like when the weather is hot outside. She complains and complains about how hot it is outside.

I remember one time she was complaining about how hot it was outside and I was sitting there smiling. I try not to let a smile break out on my face when she is complaining about something. This time, the smile broke out on my face and I could not control it.

"What are you," she said rather snarly, "smiling about now?"

It's situations like this that usually get me into trouble. If I answer, I'm in trouble. If I don't answer, I'm in trouble. What's a husband to do?

But right now it's not summer and so I'm not in my "happy faze." I have a rule, when the temperature drops below my age it's too cold for me.

As I was sitting there frowning and muttering to myself, my wife said, "So, what are you complaining about?"

Unfortunately, I was not thinking, which is the usual course for me, and I answered her question.

"I'm just not happy," I said with a grimace all over my face, "about all this cold weather. I can't wait for summer to get here."

Of course, that did not set very well with her. She's from the state of New York and winter is her best time of the year. She likes snow, which of course doesn't happen here in Florida, for which I'm thankful. She loves the cold weather and revels in it and there are times, don't let this get around, that she rubs it in my face.

As of late the weather here has been to her liking. And she's been happy and going around the house singing while I'm sitting in my chair grimacing. If ever anybody can grimace, it is me. I've had a lot of

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practice at it.

According to her, fall and winter are the greatest months of the year. And she's not short in telling me this to my face.

So, I'm sitting here trying not to shiver too much and drinking a very hot cup of coffee. My wife makes many things well, but nothing quite as well as hot coffee. What she doesn't realize is, as I'm drinking my hot coffee, I'm thinking of summer.

I'm not sure who was the first one who said it, but I think I agree with it, "Opposites attract." And nothing could be more opposite than my winter wife and her summer husband.

As I thought about this it came to me that the reason I appreciate summer so much is because of the winter. It is during the wintertime that I have this longing for the summer weather. If it wasn't for winter, I'm not sure I would appreciate summer as much as I do.

I always have a religious twist to things that are happening in my life. As I thought of this it came to my mind that the trials in my life cause me to appreciate the amazing grace of God. It wasn't for the hard times I wouldn't appreciate the good times.

I like what James says about this. "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him" (James 1:12).

I must honestly confess I don't know how good I have it until I don't have it so good.

## 2018 Groton Area Elementary

**Kindergarten Roundup (Screening) for children turning**

**5 on or before September 1, 2018**

**When: Friday, April 20**

**Parents of children who will be turning 5 on or before September 1, 2018, in the Groton Area School District are asked to contact Heidi Krueger at the Groton Area Elementary School during school hours at 397-2317 to set up a screening time or to confirm their screening time.**

**\*Students currently attending Junior Kindergarten will not be screened at this time.**

**Packets will be sent home shortly with a scheduled time and additional paperwork that will need to be completed.**

**Kindergarten Roundup will take place at the Groton Area Elementary School. Please check in at the office.**



## 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**

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**Don Wolter 605-881-6789**  
**Larry Lekness 605-880-5933**  
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## Governor Daugaard to receive SDNA open government award

Gov. Dennis Daugaard's commitment to improving government transparency during his two terms in office has earned him recognition as the 2018 recipient of South Dakota Newspaper Association's "Eagle Award."

The award is given by the newspaper association to an individual or group that has demonstrated outstanding efforts to protect and enhance open government and the public's right to know.

Daugaard has improved public access to various state government functions and entities, including the creation of website for searching meeting agendas, minutes and other documents for state boards and commissions. He initiated the boards and commissions website after he became frustrated when he was unable to readily locate the information online.



The governor along with Attorney General Marty Jackley appointed a task force in 2012 to make legislative recommendations for open government issues. Five of the eight recommendations made by the task force ultimately became law.

After he took office during his first term, the governor made public the names of some of the people who are invited to the annual governor's pheasant hunt in Pierre and the buffalo roundup at Custer State Park. Public access to those lists had long been a contentious issue in the news media prior to Daugaard becoming governor.

Daugaard also has been a consistent supporter of the publication of government public notices such as school board and city council minutes in local newspapers as an effective means for taxpayers to know what local government is doing.

"As a candidate for governor, Dennis Daugaard said he would pursue increased openness, transparency and accountability in government," said Tim Waltner, former publisher of the Freeman Courier and chair of the SDNA First Amendment Committee. "When he was elected governor, he kept his word. Throughout his two terms in that office, Gov. Daugaard has consistently been an ally and strong advocate in efforts to strengthen South Dakota's laws protecting citizens' access to public records and to public meetings."

Daugaard will receive the award during SDNA's annual convention May 4 in Sioux Falls.

Among the past recipients of the SDNA Eagle Award were state Senator Corey Brown (2016), Sioux Falls resident Gordon Heber (2010), Attorney General Larry Long (2004) and the justices of the state Supreme Court in 2002, the first year the award was given.

South Dakota Newspaper Association, based in Brookings, represents the state's 125 weekly and daily newspapers.

## Snow Rollers on Mt. Roosevelt Road

Last Updated by Heather Benson on Apr 12, 2018 at 10:06 am at SDPB.org

With a Winter Storm Watch covering the entire state of South Dakota in mid-April, it may feel like the winter of 2018 will never end. And while the snow may have lost its luster for many of us, the weather in South Dakota still has a few surprises in store, like these "snow rollers".

Spotted by Deadwood residents Dave and Pat Dringman while hiking near Mt. Roosevelt Road in the Black Hills, snow rollers are a relatively rare meteorological phenomenon. Snow rollers are formed naturally as chunks of snow are blown along the ground, picking up materials along the way, much like a human would make a snowman. They can be tiny or huge, with some of the largest documented reaching the size of large cars.



Facebook Photo by Dave Dringman



Facebook Photo by Dave Dringman

However, unlike man-made snowballs, snow rollers are more typically cylindrical in shape and often feature a hollow core, making them look like donuts. These hollow cores develop when the inner layers, which are the first to form, are weaker and thinner than the outer layers. As the roller makes its way down the mountain side, the inner layer blows away and leaves a "donut hole".

According to Wikipedia, the following conditions are needed for snow rollers to form:

- There must be a relatively thin surface layer of wet, loose snow, with a temperature near the melting point of ice.
- Under this thin layer of wet snow there must be a substrate to which the thin surface layer of wet snow will not stick, such as ice or powder snow.
- The wind must be strong enough to move the snow rollers, but not strong enough to blow them apart.
- Alternatively, gravity can move the snow rollers as when a snowball, such as those that will fall from a tree or cliff, lands on a steep hill and begins to roll down the hill.

Because it takes near-perfect weather conditions to create snow rollers, they are exceedingly rare. On a recent hike near Mt. Roosevelt Road in the Black Hills, Dave Dringman and his wife Pat were fortunate enough to spot these snow rollers and shared their photos on Facebook. They shared that the largest snow roller was a little over 2 feet in diameter and the smallest about 1 foot. The couple initially discovered the rollers on Monday but did not have a camera with them. But when they went back Tuesday, the rollers were still frozen in place. "They are very cool, I had never seen them before." Dave shared with SDPB. "I'm guessing that the air temperature and the consistency of the snow had to be perfect and then the wind got them started downhill. We feel lucky to have come across them."

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## Today in Weather History

April 15, 1896: A tornado, possibly an F3, moved northeast from Burkmere, which is 10 miles west of Faulkton. About half dozen farms were torn apart. Two children were killed, and the rest of the family critically injured as a home was leveled. 6 miles northwest of Faulkton, near Millard.

April 15, 2011: A strong upper-level low-pressure area brought widespread heavy snowfall to central and parts of northeast South Dakota. This early spring storm brought 6 to 14 inches of heavy snow to the area. The heavy wet snow caused a lot of travel problems along with a few accidents. Locations with a foot or more of snowfall included 12 inches 12 SSW Harrold, 23 N Highmore, and Orient; 13 inches 14 NNE Isabel and Eureka with 14 inches at Eagle Butte.

1927: The Great Mississippi River Flood of 1927 continued to rage. Tremendous rains all over the Mississippi River Valley during the preceding autumn and winter sent floodwaters raging southward over a wide area. On this date, the government levee at Dorena, MO collapsed. The surge of floodwater continued pushing downriver toward the Mississippi Delta, bursting more dams as it went. Also on this day, New Orleans saw 15 inches of rain in 18 hours. More than 4 feet of water covered parts of the city.

1921 - Two mile high Silver Lake, CO, received 76 inches of snow in 24 hours, the heaviest 24 hour total of record for North America. The storm left a total of 87 inches in twenty-seven and a half hours. (David Ludlum)

1949 - A hailstone five inches by five and a half inches in size, and weighing four pounds, was measured at Troy NY. (The Weather Channel)

1958 - A tornado 300 yards in width skipped along a five mile path near Frostproof FL. A 2500 gallon water tank was found one mile from its original position (it is not known how much water was in the tank at the time). (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms developing along a cold front produced severe weather in the Southern Atlantic Coast Region. A tornado killed one person and injured seven others near Mount Dora FL. Drifts of hail up to two feet deep were reported in Davidson and Rowan counties in North Carolina. Myrtle Beach SC was deluged with seven inches of rain in three hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Death Valley, CA, was soaked with 1.53 inches of rain in 24 hours. Snow fell in the mountains of southern California. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Showers and thunderstorms soaked the eastern U.S. with heavy rain, pushing the rainfall total for the month at Cape Hatteras NC past their previous April record of 7.10 inches. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Thunderstorms developing along a stationary front produced severe weather from west central Texas to west central Arkansas during the late afternoon and evening. Thunderstorms spawned a tornado which caused more than half a million dollars damage at Fort Stockton TX, produced wind gusts to 65 mph at Dennison TX, produced baseball size hail at Silo OK and near Capps Corner TX, and drenched southeastern Oklahoma with up to 4 inches of rain in two hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1998: An F3 tornado hits downtown Nashville causing extensive damage but no loss of life. An additional 62 tornadoes touched down in Arkansas, Kentucky, and Tennessee. These tornadoes caused 12 fatalities and approximately 120 injuries.

2000: What a difference a day made (with the help of a strong cold front). Yesterday's 86 degrees in Goodland, Kansas, tied the record high for the date. Today's high of 29 degrees was also a date record high, but a record low high. It was a new record by 3 degrees.

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Sun Apr 15	Mon Apr 16	Tue Apr 17	Wed Apr 18	Thu Apr 19	Fri Apr 20	Sat Apr 21
37°F	44°F	44°F	40°F	45°F	45°F	44°F
17°F	24°F	28°F	24°F	27°F	31°F	34°F
NNE 15 MPH	N 6 MPH	ESE 14 MPH	N 13 MPH Precip 50%	NW 10 MPH	N 10 MPH	ENE 16 MPH Precip 30%

## Record Lows Possible Tonight

Record Cold

Monday Morning, April 16th

FRIGID

Location	Forecast Low Temp	Record Low Temp
Aberdeen	15°	14° in 1953
Pierre	14°	15° in 1961
Mobridge	19°	13° in 1951
Sisseton	22°	12° in 1953
Watertown	16°	13° in 1928
Timber Lake	20°	12° in 1961
Kennebec	11°	7° in 1961
Wheaton	22°	11° in 1928

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD



[weather.gov/Aberdeen](http://weather.gov/Aberdeen)



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 4/15/2018 6:23 AM Central

Published on: 04/15/2018 at 6:29AM

High temperatures today will only warm into the 30s and low 40s, or 15 to 25 degrees below normal for this time of year. Low temperatures tonight will fall into the teens and lower 20s. Record lows are possible in some locations.



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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 33.02 F at 3:03 PM**

**Low Outside Temp: 26.8 F at 7:50 PM**

**Wind Chill:**

**High Gust: 28.0 Mph at 9:41 AM**

**Precip: About 3/4" inch of snow**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 91° in 1926**

**Record Low: 8° in 2014**

**Average High: 57°F**

**Average Low: 32°F**

**Average Precip in April: 0.74**

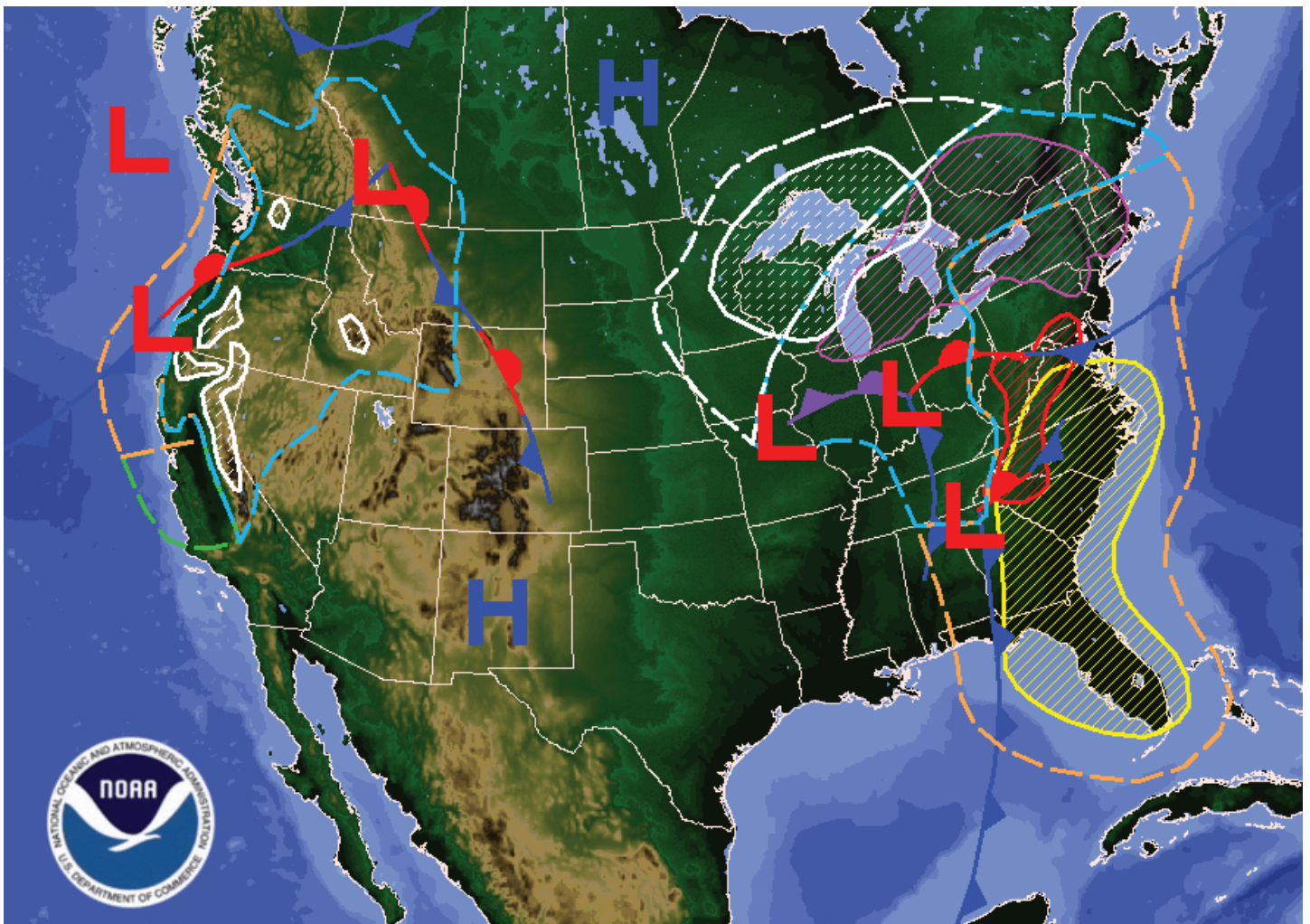
**Precip to date in April: 0.61**

**Average Precip to date: 2.92**

**Precip Year to Date: 2.68**

**Sunset Tonight: 8:19 p.m.**

**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:46**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sun, Apr 15, 2018, issued 4:56 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

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## HOW GREAT IS GOD'S LOVE?

Miss Burrell was my second-grade teacher and next door neighbor. It seemed as though I could never get beyond her "watchful" eye. When she called on me in class, I would "shriveled" up inside and have difficulty getting any words out of my mouth. And when I was out in our yard playing, I imagined that she was "peeking" at my friends and me from the corner of a window. Perhaps it was feelings of guilt for not being a better student or more gracious when she came to visit my mother.

But in spite of those feelings I remember the many evenings she would knock on our front door and ask me to join her in the front yard and study the stars and constellations. She would bring her flashlight and point out "The Big Dipper" and "The Little Dipper" and all of the constellations that God formed in the sky. She would also point out different stars - some that shined brightly and some that we could barely see. I remember asking her often how many miles they were from where we were standing.

"No one will ever be able to measure the most-distant star because we will always be finding new ones that are even farther away." So, "we'll never know" was her answer every time I asked that question.

"For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love for those who stand in awe of Him," said the Psalmist. What a marvelous statement about the love of God. It is so immense, as are His heavens, that we will never be able to measure it.

Prayer: Lord, we will never understand why You love us, nor how very much You love us. But we do thank You! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 103:11-12 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

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## 2018 Groton SD Community Events

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

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## News from the Associated Press

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash  
11-22-26-28-29  
(eleven, twenty-two, twenty-six, twenty-eight, twenty-nine)  
Estimated jackpot: \$66,000

Lotto America  
22-25-27-40-46, Star Ball: 8, ASB: 5  
(twenty-two, twenty-five, twenty-seven, forty, forty-six; Star Ball: eight; ASB: five)  
Estimated jackpot: \$3.33 million

Mega Millions  
Estimated jackpot: \$67 million

Powerball  
17-19-26-61-62, Powerball: 15, Power Play: 2  
(seventeen, nineteen, twenty-six, sixty-one, sixty-two; Powerball: fifteen; Power Play: two)  
Estimated jackpot: \$106 million

### Flights canceled, roads treacherous amid spring snowstorms

By STEVE KARNOWSKI, Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A storm system stretching from the Gulf Coast to the Great Lakes has buffeted the central U.S. with heavy snow, tornadoes, rain and hail, forcing flight cancellations, creating treacherous road conditions and killing at least three people, including a sleeping 2-year-old Louisiana girl.

In the Upper Midwest, all flights were grounded most of Saturday at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport as heavy snow made it difficult to keep runways clear and planes deiced. Nearly 470 flights were canceled before crews were able to open one runway shortly after 10 p.m., according to a spokesman. Blizzard conditions also forced the airport in South Dakota's biggest city, Sioux Falls, to remain closed for a second straight day.

The Minnesota Twins home game against the Chicago White Sox was snowed out Saturday, marking the first back-to-back postponements of baseball games in the stadium's nine seasons. Sunday's game was also called off because of the storm, which by Saturday night had buried Minneapolis under more than 13 inches of snow (33 centimeters). The Yankees and Tigers were rained out Saturday in Detroit.

Authorities closed several highways in southwestern Minnesota, where no travel was advised, and driving conditions were difficult across the southern half of the state. The National Weather Service predicted that a large swath of southern Minnesota, including Minneapolis and St. Paul, could get up to 20 inches of snow (51 centimeters) by the time the storm blows through on Sunday.

"It's a cool experience for me, the best Minneapolis experience," Niko Heiligman, of Aachen, Germany, said as he braved the snow Saturday to take a walk along the Mississippi River in downtown Minneapolis. "I'm only here for the weekend, so I guess that's how it goes. There's snow and it's cold. So it's good."

The storm is expected to persist through Sunday in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan before moving into New York state and New England.

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Up to 18 inches (46 centimeters) of snow had fallen by early Saturday in parts of northern Wisconsin, with another 14 inches (36 centimeters) expected by Sunday evening. Winds of up to 55 mph (88.5 kph) caused blowing and drifting snow, along with ice shoves in Green Bay.

The National Weather Service also warned of potential coastal flooding along Lake Michigan in Wisconsin and Illinois, where Chicago residents were warned that waves could reach as high as 18 feet (5.5 meters).

Snow and wind gusts of up to 50 mph (80 kph) were whipping through parts of South Dakota for a second straight day Saturday, causing blizzard conditions that made travel all but impossible. While the blizzard warning was lifted in the western part of the state, it remained in effect for much of southern and eastern South Dakota.

No travel was advised in Sioux Falls, where police said the blowing snow made it hard to see anything. Several inches of snow fell in various parts of the state, including 18 inches (46 centimeters) in the eastern South Dakota city of Huron.

The storm and powerful winds knocked out power to thousands of customers in Michigan, which was expected to get more snow and ice through the weekend.

Two storm-related deaths occurred early Saturday. In Louisiana, winds downed a tree onto a mobile home in Haughton, killing a sleeping 2-year-old girl inside, according to the Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office. In Wisconsin, a woman was killed when she lost control of the minivan she was driving on a slippery highway and struck an oncoming SUV near Lewiston. Three passengers in the minivan and the SUV driver were hospitalized.

On Friday, a truck driver from Idaho lost control of his rig on snow-covered Interstate 80 near Chappell in western Nebraska and slammed into a semi that had become stranded, according to the Nebraska State Patrol. He died at the scene.

In Arkansas, a tornado ripped through the tiny Ozark Mountain town of Mountainburg on Friday, injuring at least four people and causing widespread damage. Video showed uprooted trees, overturned cars, damaged buildings and downed power lines. Powerful winds also damaged several buildings at the University of Central Arkansas, though no injuries were reported there.

The storm made its mark in Texas, too, where hail the size of hen eggs fell on areas south of Dallas and Fort Worth, according to meteorologist Patricia Sanchez. In Austin, fire officials said strong winds helped spread the flames after lightning struck two houses that suffered heavy damage.

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Associated Press writers Chevel Johnson in New Orleans, Jamie Stengle in Dallas, Margery Beck in Omaha, Nebraska, Don Babwin in Chicago and Tom Davies in Indianapolis contributed to this report.

## South Dakota swears in new US marshal

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A man who spent nearly 30 years at the South Dakota Highway Patrol has been sworn in as the state's new U.S. marshal.

The Pierre Capital Journal reports that 64-year-old Dan Mosteller was sworn in April 3 as the U.S. marshal for South Dakota. The Senate confirmed Mosteller last month after President Donald Trump nominated him in October.

Mosteller joined the state Highway Patrol in 1983, serving as superintendent from 2003 until his retirement in 2010. Mosteller has since worked in security at the Capitol and became the law enforcement coordinator for the U.S. attorney's office in South Dakota.

The U.S. Marshals Service is the country's oldest law enforcement agency. The term normally lasts four years but tracks with a president's term in office.

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

## South Dakota lake sees declining walleye population

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — Wildlife officials in South Dakota and Nebraska are studying why the walleye population is declining at the Lewis and Clark Lake.

The fish's downturn has been ongoing for nearly decade, the Yankton Press & Dakotan reported .

"Since 2009, population numbers have been going down," said Chris Longhenry of the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department. "There are a number of possible reasons. Right now, we are working on our stocking evaluation."

The Nebraska Game and Parks Department stocked a million juvenile walleye in 2014 and 2015. Neither of those stockings managed to stick with the exception of 0.5 percent in 2014 and 10 percent in 2015, according to Longhenry.

Longhenry said there's no definitive proof of an explanation for the drop but he cited several possible reasons.

"The population could be negatively related to the amount of water that flows through the dam, the population could've been too small to avoid it," he said. "Adult fish possibly moving upstream to the delta or above, or higher flows may be limiting the food base."

Experts are also concerned that zebra mussels could be negatively affecting the food supply for walleye populations.

"We're putting out plate samplers up the lake to fort Randall," Longhenry said. "Thing is going to allow us to monitor zebra mussel colonization, movement and what effect they're having."

Researchers plan to continue looking at walleye and zebra mussel for the foreseeable future, as well as other projects set to begin this summer.

Information from: Yankton Press and Dakotan, <http://www.yankton.net/>

## France urges Russia to join peace push after Syria strike

BEIRUT (AP) — France is urging Russia to join a push for a political solution in Syria after joint U.S., French and British attacks on Syrian chemical weapons sites.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said in an interview published Sunday in the Journal du Dimanche newspaper that "we should join our efforts to promote a political process in Syria that would allow a way out of the crisis."

France has continued to talk regularly with Russia even as East-West tensions have grown. French President Emmanuel Macron spoke with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday, hours before the Western missile strikes.

Western countries blamed Syria's government for a chemical attack on a rebel-held area earlier this month that killed more than 40 people. The Syrian government and its ally Russia denied the allegations.

## GOP devotes \$250M to midterm strategy: Keep House majority

By STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Republican National Committee has committed \$250 million to a midterm election strategy that has one goal above all else: Preserve the party's House majority for the rest of President Donald Trump's first term.

Facing the prospect of a blue wave this fall, the White House's political arm is devoting unprecedented resources to building an army of paid staff and trained volunteers across more than two dozen states. The RNC is taking the fight to Senate Democrats in Republican-leaning states, but much of the national GOP's resources are focused on protecting Republican-held House seats in states including Florida, California and New York.

"Our No. 1 priority is keeping the House. We have to win the House," RNC political director Justin Johnson said. "That is the approach we took to put the budget together."

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RNC officials shared details of their midterm spending plan with The Associated Press just as several hundred volunteers and staff held a day of action on Saturday in competitive regions across the country. The weekend show of force, which comes as Democrats have shown a significant enthusiasm advantage in the age of President Donald Trump, was designed to train 1,600 new volunteers in more than 200 events nationwide.

There were more than three dozen events in Florida alone, a state that features competitive races for the Senate, the governorship and a half dozen House races.

Seven months before Election Day, there are already 300 state-based staff on the RNC's payroll. The committee expects to have 900 total paid staff around the country — excluding its Washington headquarters — before November's election, Johnson said. The number of trained volunteers, he said, has already surpassed 10,000.

The strategy is expensive. And it carries risk.

The RNC's focus on a sophisticated field operation designed to identify and turn out key voters, an approach favored by former chairman Reince Priebus and expanded by Trump's hand-picked chairwoman, Ronna McDaniel, leaves the RNC with no additional resources to run advertising on television or the internet. It also puts tremendous pressure on the president and senior party leaders to raise money to fund the massive operation.

And few believe that even the best field operation could wholly neutralize the surge of Democratic enthusiasm on display in recent special elections, which has some Republican strategists fearing that the House majority may be lost already.

Democrats need to pick up at least 24 seats to take control of the House for the last two years of Trump's first term. They need just two seats to claim the Senate majority, though the map makes a Democratic Senate takeover much less likely.

An optimistic McDaniel said strong Republican fundraising has allowed the aggressive strategy. During the first year of Trump's presidency, the GOP set a fundraising record by raising more than \$132 million.

"Our sweeping infrastructure, combined with on-the-ground enthusiasm for President Trump and Republican policies, puts us in prime position to defend our majorities in 2018," McDaniel said.

The \$250 million price tag for what she described as a "permanent data-driven field program" is the committee's largest ground-game investment in any election season. The resources are focused in some unfamiliar territory, including several House districts in Southern California, which Johnson described as "a huge focus."

At a minimum, each targeted state features an RNC state director, a data director and at least a few staff devoted to each competitive House district. They are aggressively recruiting and training local volunteers to expand the GOP's presence in key communities.

The teams are larger in some states than in others.

In Florida, there are already 60 permanent field staff on the ground, Johnson said, including some dedicated to building relationships with the influx of Puerto Ricans who recently migrated from the hurricane-ravaged island. Johnson expects close to 150 paid staff on the ground in the state by Election Day.

And there are roughly two dozen paid staff already on the ground in Ohio and Nevada, he said. Both states feature competitive races for the House and Senate.

Nevada state director Dan Coats has been on the ground in the state for a year. He said the Nevada team already features directors for voter registration, volunteer training and strategic initiatives, which include Hispanic outreach.

"We're building a volunteer army that will be a turnkey operation for every Republican campaign up and down the ballot," Coats said. "A strong field game like the one we have here can and will make a difference."

## In Peru, Pence defends Syrian strike to Latin America allies

By KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Thousands of miles from home, Vice President Mike Pence was thrust into a new, more immediate, role on the world stage Saturday: explaining President Donald Trump's military strike in Syria to a summit of Latin America leaders.

Hours after Trump hailed the missile strike targeting the Syria's suspected chemical weapons — tweeting, "Mission Accomplished!" — Pence defended the president while building support among U.S. allies for the joint strikes with Britain and France.

"The objective of the mission the commander in chief gave our military forces and our allies was completely accomplished — with swift professionalism," Pence told reporters, noting there were "no reported civilian casualties."

Later, speaking in a cavernous hall of world leaders at the Summit of the Americas, Pence expressed gratitude to Canada, Colombia and other nations that had voiced support for the strike and urged "every nation in this hemisphere of freedom" to support the military action.

Pence's to-do list included smoothing over differences with Mexico, America's southern neighbor, amid unease over Trump's decision to send troops to the border and harsh rhetoric on immigration. And with tensions simmering over trade, Pence expressed hope alongside Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau that the three nations could soon agree to a renegotiated North American Free Trade Agreement.

And while Trump grapples with the ongoing Russia investigation led by special counsel Robert Mueller, Pence sought to draw a bright line against Vladimir Putin's alliance with Syria following the suspected chemical attack. "Our message to Russia is that you're on the wrong side of history," Pence said.

Trump often improvises his remarks and is known for bold declarations in person and on his Twitter account. Pence, meanwhile, tends to be more scripted in his exchanges and frequently glanced down at highlighted index cards as he spoke to Latin American leaders here.

Shortly before Trump's address to the nation Friday night, Pence was whisked away from the summit in his motorcade so he could return to his hotel to inform congressional leaders of the pending missile strikes. Pence watched Trump's speech from his hotel suite, joined by aides.

Unlike past appearances at international summits, the vice president had to dive into the packed agenda on short notice. He learned only Tuesday that he would be attending in Trump's place so the president could manage the U.S. response to Syria.

In meeting after meeting, Pence offered a low-key, extended hand.

Seeking rapprochement with Mexico, which has been at odds with Trump over the border wall and immigration, Pence said the topic of funding for Trump's long-promised border wall did not come up in his meeting with Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto.

Pence said they simply had a difference of opinion and some issues were "set aside, for a later date." Left unsaid was whether Pence's overtures might eventually lead to a joint Trump-Pena Nieto meeting, their first.

Seated alongside Trudeau, Pence said there was a "real possibility" the U.S. could reach a deal with Canada and Mexico on NAFTA "within the next several weeks." Trump has long assailed the trade deal's impact on U.S. workers and threatened to pull the U.S. out if he's unhappy with the terms.

The summit also gave Pence an opportunity to press the case for tougher sanctions and more isolation of Venezuela across the region.

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro was barred from attending the summit over his plans to hold a presidential election that the opposition is boycotting and that many foreign governments consider a sham.

Pence urged Maduro to accept humanitarian aid as the once-prosperous nation deals with humanitarian and economic crises. But he called on the region to take a harder line on Maduro's government, a message he intends to deliver in Brazil next month.

"The United States believes now is the time to do more, much more," he said.

\_\_\_ On Twitter follow Ken Thomas at <https://twitter.com/KThomasDC>



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## Flights canceled, roads treacherous amid spring snowstorms

By STEVE KARNOWSKI, Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Hundreds of flights have been canceled and roadways are treacherous in several Midwestern states as a deadly storm system stretching from Gulf Coast to Great Lakes rolls across the central U.S., bringing heavy snow, strong winds, rain and hail.

All flights were grounded Saturday at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport as a spring blizzard made it difficult to keep runways clear and planes deiced. Nearly 470 flights were canceled before one runway reopened shortly after 10 p.m., according to a spokesman. Blizzard conditions also forced the airport in South Dakota's biggest city, Sioux Falls, to remain closed for a second straight day.

The Minnesota Twins home game against the Chicago White Sox was snowed out Saturday, marking the first back-to-back postponements of baseball games in the stadium's nine seasons. Sunday's game was also called off because of the storm, which by Saturday night had buried Minneapolis under more than 13 inches of snow (33 centimeters). The Yankees and Tigers were rained out Saturday in Detroit.

Authorities closed several highways in southwestern Minnesota, where no travel was advised, and driving conditions were difficult across the southern half of the state. The National Weather Service predicted that a large swath of southern Minnesota, including Minneapolis and St. Paul, could get up to 20 inches of snow (51 centimeters) by the time the storm blows through on Sunday.

"It's a cool experience for me, the best Minneapolis experience," Niko Heiligman, of Aachen, Germany, said as he braved the snow Saturday to take a walk along the Mississippi River in downtown Minneapolis. "I'm only here for the weekend, so I guess that's how it goes. There's snow and it's cold. So it's good."

The weather is expected to persist through Sunday in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan before moving into New York state and New England.

Up to 18 inches (46 centimeters) of snow fell in parts of northern Wisconsin, with another 14 inches (36 centimeters) expected by Sunday evening. Winds of up to 55 mph (88.5 kph) caused blowing and drifting snow, along with ice shoves in Green Bay.

The National Weather Service also warned of potential coastal flooding along Lake Michigan in Wisconsin and Illinois, where Chicago residents were warned that waves could reach as high as 18 feet (5.5 meters).

Snow and wind gusts of up to 50 mph (80 kph) were whipping through parts of South Dakota for a second straight day Saturday, causing blizzard conditions that made travel all but impossible. While the blizzard warning was lifted in the western part of the state, it remained in effect for far South Dakota on Sunday. Several inches of snow fell in various parts of the state, including 18 inches (46 centimeters) in Huron.

Powerful winds knocked out power to thousands of customers in Michigan, which was expected to get more snow and ice through the weekend.

Two storm-related deaths occurred early Saturday. In Louisiana, winds downed a tree onto a mobile home in Haughton, killing a sleeping 2-year-old girl inside, according to the Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office. In Wisconsin, a woman was killed when she lost control of the minivan she was driving and struck an oncoming SUV near Lewiston. Three passengers in the minivan and the SUV driver were hospitalized.

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The storm made its mark in Texas, where hail the size of hen eggs fell south of Dallas, according to meteorologist Patricia Sanchez. In Austin, fire officials said strong winds helped spread the flames after lightning struck and badly damaged two houses.

\_\_\_ Associated Press writers Chevel Johnson in New Orleans, Jamie Stengle in Dallas, Margery Beck in Omaha, Nebraska, Don Babwin and Erin Gartner in Chicago, and Tom Davies in Indianapolis contributed to this report.

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## Bon Jovi, Nina Simone, Moody Blues make it into Rock Hall

By MESFIN FEKADU, AP Music Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — Bon Jovi reunited onstage with former members for a powerful performance celebrating its admission into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, and the late icon Nina Simone was welcomed to the prestigious music club with show-stopping performances from Lauryn Hill and Andra Day.

Bon Jovi's portion of the four-hour-plus event ran an hour-long Saturday night, with Jon Boni Jovi giving a lengthy 20-minute speech onstage. He said he had been writing the speech for years.

"Some days I write the 'Thank you' speech, sometimes I write the '(Expletive) you' speech," he said. "In the end, it's all about time. It took a lot of people to get us here tonight."

Richie Sambora, who left the New Jersey band in 2013, and Alec John Such, who left in 1994, embraced their former bandmates with a hug after each one spoke onstage to accept the honor. They performed together, too, singing crowd favorites like "Livin' on a Prayer," "You Give Love a Bad Name" and "It's My Life."

They were inducted by Howard Stern, who provided many laughs to the Public Auditorium in Cleveland, where the Rock Hall is based.

Stern joked about Rock Hall co-founder Jann Wenner, questioning why he was qualified to vote on who enters the prominent organization. Stern said the Rolling Stone magazine founder doesn't play any instruments "but he did start a great magazine ... and now it's the size of a pamphlet."

Simone, who died in 2003, was welcomed into the Rock Hall in a groundbreaking way from performers who she has deeply inspired, from Hill to Mary J. Blige.

Hill was exceptional, stretching her voice as wide as possible, and singing in French, in honor of Simone's music. Hill earned a standing ovation from the audience.

Day, a Grammy-nominated R&B singer, was also extraordinary, hitting high notes that also earned her applause. Blige inducted Simone, calling the singer "bold, strong, feisty and fearless."

"Her voice was so distinctive and powerful and I never heard anything like it," the R&B superstar said.

Simone was a leader in pushing for civil rights and influenced everyone from Aretha Franklin to Alicia Keys. Her brother, Sam Waymon, accepted the honor on his sister's behalf.

"They said I had three minutes, I said, 'No, I don't.' I'm going to take the time necessary to say what I got to say," Waymon said.

Waymon said sharp words during his speech, including lines like, "To all the brothers out there, protect your sisters." He said he always protected Simone, and continues to do so.

He also told the crowd, "If you're sampling (Nina's) music, you better pay for it!"

The 33rd annual Rock Hall ceremony kicked off with a tribute to Tom Petty, who died in October at age 66. The Killers earned a loud applause from the audience when they started performing "American Girl," then transitioning to "Free Fallin'."

"Pay some rock 'n' roll respect ... to the eternal Tom Petty," frontman Brandon Flowers said, as photos of Petty were displayed in the background.

Later in the event, Ann Wilson of Heart and Jerry Cantrell honored Chris Cornell with a commanding rendition of Soundgarden's "Black Hole Sun." Cornell hanged himself in a Detroit hotel hours after a Soundgarden concert there last May.

The Cars and four first-time nominees, including Simone, Dire Straits, The Moody Blues and Sister Rosetta Tharpe, make up the 2018 Rock & Roll Hall of Fame class.

Rock Hall voters have recently opened their hearts to progressive rockers, which benefited "Nights in White Satin" singers The Moody Blues, the last act to be inducted Saturday.

Wilson of Heart said the English rockers "are and have always been a kick ass rock band."

Another English band, Dire Straits, was inducted at the event, but it was without its leader Mark Knopfler, or his brother David Knopfler. Onstage, Illsley said of Mark's absence: "I'll assure you it's a personal thing. Let's just leave it at that."

Illsley thanked the entire band and described the group as "a collective, a brotherhood." The band did not perform after speaking.

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A flawless Brittany Howard, of the critically acclaimed rock act Alabama Shakes, gave an extraordinary Tharpe impression onstage, winning over the audience with her rousing live performance in honor of the godmother of rock 'n' roll. Howard was backed by an equally appealing Questlove of The Roots on the drums. Felicia Collins, best known as a member of the band on "Late Show with David Letterman," also wowed the audience when she performed a tribute to Tharpe.

Tharpe died in 1973 and was a pioneering guitarist who performed gospel music. A video package featuring past interviews from Johnny Cash, Aretha Franklin and others praising Tharpe's musicality aired at the event. Tharpe earned the "Award for Early Influence," while the other five acts were inducted as performers.

Flowers of the Killers, who has covered The Cars' songs at his live shows, was ecstatic and energetic as he inducted the band into the Rock Hall, even getting on his knee to hand the members their award as they walked onstage.

The Cars, founded in Boston in 1976 and known for combining New Wave and classic rock sounds, were inducted this year after being nominated twice before. Ric Ocasek paid tribute to bandmate Benjamin Orr, who died in 2000.

"It's quite strange to be here without him," Ocasek said.

Elliot Easton also was emotional at the end of his speech when he thanked his mom, who he said was watching from above.

"We did it mom!," he said, earning cheers from the audience.

Ocasek also earned applause when he namedropped Cleveland: "I lived in Cleveland for a while. It was actually the first place I played music in front of people."

The event will air May 5 on HBO.

Online:

<https://www.rockhall.com/>

## Certain of gas attack, allies struck Syria before UN report

By MATTHEW LEE, AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States, Britain and France opted to strike Syria for its apparent use of chemical weapons without waiting for a report from U.N. inspectors because they were convinced that the Assad government had used chlorine and sarin nerve gas against a rebel-held Damascus suburb, American officials said Saturday.

The allies also acted because of concerns that Russian and Syrian forces may already have tried to clean up important evidence in Douma, where more than 40 people died in last weekend's attack, the officials said.

The three countries launched their missiles even as the fact-finding team from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons was in the Syrian capital and had been expected to head on Saturday to Douma.

Russia and Syria have denied that chemical weapons were used at all and said their own investigators had been to the area and found no trace of them. Those assertions have been denounced as lies by Western officials.

The West's assessments of what happened April 7 in Douma rely mainly on open source information. That includes witness testimony, as well as video and photos shot by aid workers, victims of the attacks and unspecified additional intelligence about barrel bombs and chlorine canisters found in the aftermath.

Barrel bombs are large containers packed with fuel, explosives and scraps of metal, and British Prime Minister Theresa May said reports indicated the Syrian government had used one to deliver the chemicals.

The White House said doctors and aid organizations on the ground in Douma reported "the strong smell of chlorine and described symptoms consistent with exposure to sarin." A senior administration official told reporters Saturday that while there was more publicly available evidence pointing to the use of chlorine,

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the U.S. has "significant information that also points to sarin use."

The official did not elaborate on what that information entailed.

Chlorine use has been a recurring footnote in the course of Syria's civil war, but rarely has it generated the same outrage as reports of sarin use.

Chlorine has legitimate industrial and other civilian uses, so it is not banned by the Chemical Weapons Convention. The treaty does, however, prohibit the use of chlorine as a weapon.

One senior U.S. official familiar with the decision to act on Friday said the U.S., British and French intelligence services were unanimous in their assessments of the attack and were "eager" to move when they did because of concerns about contamination of the site.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss specifics beyond those contained in the formal statements.

Despite the strikes, the chemical weapons watchdog agency said its experts would go ahead with their mission. The Russian foreign ministry, however, accused the allies of acting when they did "to hamper the work of the OPCW inspectors."

The U.S. has denied that assertion and called the group's mission "essential" to a complete understanding of what chemical agents were used.

A second U.S. official said Britain, France and the U.S. are confident that the inspectors' eventual report will confirm their findings that chlorine was used, likely in conjunction with sarin.

The three governments noted dozens previous, smaller-scale chlorine and other chemical weapons attacks over the course of the past year, since President Donald Trump first ordered airstrikes against Syria last April.

Reports of major chlorine attacks began emerging in 2014, soon after Syria's declaration of complete chemical disarmament, which was the result of an Obama administration agreement between the U.S. and Russia. The agreement only covered declared chemical weapons. Syria is widely suspected of hiding some stocks, manufacturing more as well as holding on to chlorine.

"The pictures of dead children were not fake news. They were the result of the Syrian regime's barbaric inhumanity," Trump's U.N. ambassador, Nikki Haley, said Saturday. "And they were the result of the regime and Russia's failure to live up to their international commitments to remove all chemical weapons from Syria. The United States, France, and the United Kingdom acted after careful evaluation of these facts."

In August 2015, the U.N. Security Council first authorized the OPCW and U.N. investigators to probe reports of chemical weapons use in Syria, as witnesses began to circulate increasing accounts of chlorine attacks by government forces against civilians in opposition-held areas.

A year later, the joint OPCW-U.N. panel determined the Syrian government had twice used helicopters to deploy chlorine against its opponents in civilian areas in northern Idlib province. A later report held the government responsible for a third attack.

There have been dozens of attacks with chlorine gas since then, including an attack in Aleppo in 2016 that reportedly killed a woman and two children, and at least two attacks on the town of Saraqeb in northern Syria that injured dozens.

## Defiant Syrians say West hasn't shaken their resolve

By **BASSEM MROUE, BASSAM HATOUM and ALBERT AJI, Associated Press**

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Hundreds of Syrians poured into the streets of Damascus on Saturday, dancing and chanting in defiance of what they called the West's "failure" to shake their nation's resolve with airstrikes that jolted the capital only hours earlier.

The demonstrations in support of President Bashar Assad were carried live on state TV, which also reported that Syrian air defenses had intercepted most of the missiles fired by the United States, Britain and France to punish Syria's purported use of chemical weapons. The broadcaster also urged people not to believe media reports that exaggerated the results of the airstrikes.

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"We are not scared of America's missiles. We humiliated their missiles," said Mahmoud Ibrahim, who waved a Syrian flag as he hung out of his car window.

As car horns blared, the crowd moved toward nearby Damascus University where pro-government fighters danced and waved their automatic rifles over their heads. Many denounced U.S. President Donald Trump and also waved flags of Syria's allies, Iran and Russia, as they cheered Assad.

The display of national fervor later mixed with celebrations over the news that the Syrian army declared the eastern suburbs of Damascus "fully liberated" after the last group of rebels left the town of Douma. Its recapture marks the biggest victory for Assad's forces since the capture of the eastern half of the city of Aleppo in 2016.

The fall of Douma came after a punishing government offensive and a surrender deal struck with rebel groups. It also followed the purported use of chemical weapons there on April 7, which activists say killed over 40 people in the town and led to Saturday's airstrikes by the West.

"Trump failed in his aggression," said 51-year-old civil servant Mohammed Hammad. "Trump's failure came with the victory of our army in Douma, which marks the biggest victory for the Syrian Arab Army."

The bombardment began at 4 a.m., with loud explosions thundering in Damascus and the sky turning orange as fires raged in the distance.

Associated Press reporters saw smoke rising above eastern Damascus and spotted fiery streaks of surface-to-air missiles. The call to morning prayers at dawn mixed with the whoosh of missiles.

Shortly after the one-hour attack ended, vehicles with loudspeakers blared nationalist songs.

"Good souls will not be humiliated," Syria's presidential account tweeted after the airstrikes began.

Later, a video showing Assad walking into his office carrying a briefcase was posted on the same account. "Good morning, steadfastness," the caption read.

As the sun rose, hundreds had gathered in Damascus' landmark Omayyad Square, celebrating what they said was the army's success in foiling the U.S.-led military action.

The widely broadcast celebrations and the hastily organized police deployment in Douma appeared to be the government's response to the airstrikes.

The limited airstrikes came at a time when the Assad government is feeling empowered after having secured the region near the capital following other military victories backed by Russia and Iran in seven years of civil war.

Trump announced the airstrikes Friday night to attack Syria's chemical weapons program. He said Washington is prepared to keep pressure on Assad until he ends a "criminal pattern of killing his own people" with the internationally banned weapons.

On Saturday, Trump tweeted "Mission Accomplished," and the Pentagon said the strikes hit the "heart" of Syria's chemical program.

The U.S. had fired Tomahawk cruise missiles at a Syrian airfield in April 2017 in retaliation for Assad's use of sarin gas against civilians.

Syria has repeatedly denied using banned weapons. Inspectors from the international chemical weapons watchdog group were in Damascus and had been expected to head to Douma on Saturday.

The limited strikes were deplored by the Syrian opposition, which saw the West as lacking an international strategy for dealing with the civil war.

Nasr al-Hariri, a senior opposition leader, said the international community must take responsibility for any retaliation by the Syrian government against civilians in opposition areas. He called for a strategy that leads to a political solution to "save it from the brutality of the Syrian regime."

Mohammad Alloush, spokesman for the Army of Islam rebel group that was expelled from Douma, tweeted that the airstrikes were a "farce."

A Syrian military statement said 110 missiles were fired Saturday by the U.S., Britain and France and that it shot down most of them. Russia's military said Syrian air defense units downed 71 of the missiles.

Marine Lt. Gen. Kenneth F. McKenzie, director of the Joint Staff at the Pentagon, said no missiles were stopped. He added that Syria's air defenses were ineffective and that many of the more than 40 surface-to-air missiles fired by the Syrians were launched after the allied attack was over. He said the U.S. knew

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of no civilians killed by allied missiles.

The Syrian military said three civilians were wounded in one of the strikes in Homs.

A "number of missiles" targeted a scientific research center in Barzeh, near Damascus, and destroyed a building housing an education center and labs and caused other damage, the military said.

An AP reporter who went to the Center for Scientific Research on the northeastern edge of Damascus found the three-story building almost completely destroyed and still smoking hours after it was hit. An official there said the facility was used by the chemical and pharmaceutical industries and helped develop cancer drugs.

Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, said a chemical weapons storage facility west of Homs also was targeted and was believed to be the main site of Syrian sarin production equipment. A chemical weapons equipment storage facility and an important command post, west of Homs, also were targeted, he said.

Russia and Iran called the use of force a "military crime" and "act of aggression." The U.N. Security Council met to debate the strikes, but rejected a Russian resolution calling for condemnation of the "aggression" by the three Western allies.

Associated Press writers Sarah El Deeb and Zeina Karam in Beirut, and Amir Vahdat in Tehran, contributed.

## Durant, defending champ Warriors get defensive, beat Spurs

By JANIE McCAULEY, AP Sports Writer

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — The Golden State Warriors had something to prove all right: Oh yes, they plan to stay on top in these playoffs despite a disappointing finish to the regular season.

Kevin Durant helped the defending champions get defensive in a hurry, finishing with 24 points, eight rebounds and seven assists and the Warriors returned to their old dominant selves at playoff time to beat the cold-shooting San Antonio Spurs 113-92 on Saturday.

"Absolutely," Klay Thompson said about playing a memorable, statement-making Game 1. "We did not end the season on a high note, we kind of hobbled into the playoffs. We know how talented we are. We know how good we are. We have been here before in the postseason and know what it takes to win."

And they still know how to win in impressive fashion on the NBA's big stage.

Durant, Thompson and Draymond Green took charge in Game 1 of the first-round series to elevate the Warriors' intensity at last playing without fellow All-Star and injured two-time MVP Stephen Curry, sidelined since March 23 with a sprained left knee.

Thompson found his shooting touch and scored 27 points, making 11 of 13 shots, while 7-footer JaVale McGee started in Steve Kerr's center-by-committee approach and contributed 15 points, four rebounds and two blocked shots in 16 minutes. Green contributed 12 points, 11 assists and eight rebounds.

Rudy Gay led the Spurs with 15 points off the bench as leading scorer LaMarcus Aldridge was limited to 14 points on 5-for-12 shooting.

"The first quarter we looked like deer in the headlights," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said.

Game 2 in the best-of-seven series is Monday night at Oracle Arena.

The Warriors looked unbeatable again. And that was without the do-everything Curry.

Golden State said all week it's a new season, then went out and showed it. The Warriors have plans for nothing short of a repeat title.

"We're a championship ballclub. We know what it takes this time a year to win," Green said. "... We're primed for this. A lot of people tend to forget what we're capable of. We know."

Golden State came with the kind of swarming defense it is so used to playing but hadn't exhibited much lately as rotations were mixed and matched because of injuries and illness.

San Antonio couldn't keep up from the opening tip.

"We were just very overly excited, overzealous," San Antonio's Danny Green said. "Overreacting to a lot of things because we are so excited that we're in the playoffs and playing, obviously, the best team in

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the world.”

Beat up and missing its four All-Stars at times, Golden State endured a stretch losing seven of 10 last month.

Golden State swept San Antonio in the Western Conference Finals a year ago on the way to a second championship in three seasons and an astonishing, record-setting 16-1 postseason run.

Kerr always said his team would be ready when these playoffs came around.

The Warriors were determined to pick up their defense, and they did just that.

Green, Durant and the others quickly closed on shooters and got hands up to alter shots.

2015 Finals MVP Andre Iguodala moved into the starting lineup for the 2018 edition of that “Strength In Numbers” mantra — and all those bright yellow T-shirts through the arena are there to back it.

Iguodala, who started just seven games all season before Saturday, had missed four of the final five regular-season games with a sore left knee.

Kerr went with his best defensive unit.

“I thought it was important to re-establish our defense, one way or another, win or lose,” Kerr said. “That’s the reason this is a championship team. It’s the defense that has been the key for this team for years.”

TIP-INS

Spurs: The Spurs, still without injured star Kawhi Leonard, never led and shot 40 percent. ... San Antonio visited Golden State for the third time in as many months. They lost at Oracle on Feb. 10 and March 8.

Warriors: The Warriors had 32 assists on 44 field goals, 23 of those assists on 33 made baskets through the third. ... Golden State is 6-2 vs. the Spurs in the postseason at home. ... The Warriors have won six straight playoff openers.

CURRY UPDATE

Curry, who Kerr ruled out for the entire first round, was re-examined Friday and continues to make solid progress. He will ramp up the intensity of his on-court rehab work this week with running and lateral movement as he did in recent days and is scheduled to be re-evaluated again in one week.

He worked through one-legged jumps onto his injured knee during pregame warmups and got in some shooting.

“When he’s ready, he’s ready but he’s making progress, which is a good sign,” Kerr said.

FAMILY AFFAIR

Kerr’s son, Nick, is on the Spurs staff and the team jokingly voted him out of the film room Friday for fear of him sharing Spurs secrets with the enemy.

“I let the team vote on whether they wanted him to stay in the room or not,” Popovich said. “Truly, we did, we took a vote. It was a mock vote but they all voted that he had to leave the room. I overruled them and so I let him stay, because he’s wonderful and of course we trust him. But he did have dinner with his family last night, so we’ll see.”

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

## Trump claims success in Syria, but chemical weapons remain

By **ROBERT BURNS, AP National Security Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Saturday declared “Mission Accomplished” for a U.S.-led allied missile attack on Syria’s chemical weapons program, but the Pentagon said the pummeling of three chemical-related facilities left enough others intact to enable the Assad government to use banned weapons against civilians if it chooses.

“A perfectly executed strike,” Trump tweeted after U.S., French and British warplanes and ships launched more than 100 missiles nearly unopposed by Syrian air defenses. “Could not have had a better result. Mission Accomplished!”

His choice of words recalled a similar claim associated with President George W. Bush following the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq. Bush addressed sailors aboard a Navy ship in May 2003 alongside a “Mission

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Accomplished" banner, just weeks before it became apparent that Iraqis had organized an insurgency that tied down U.S. forces for years.

The nighttime Syria assault was carefully limited to minimize civilian casualties and avoid direct conflict with Syria's key ally, Russia, but confusion arose over the extent to which Washington warned Moscow in advance. The Pentagon said it gave no explicit warning. The U.S. ambassador in Moscow, John Huntsman, said in a video, "Before we took action, the United States communicated with" Russia to "reduce the danger of any Russian or civilian casualties."

Dana W. White, the chief Pentagon spokeswoman, said that to her knowledge no one in the Defense Department communicated with Moscow in advance, other than the acknowledged use of a military-to-military hotline that has routinely helped minimize the risk of U.S.-Russian collisions or confrontations in Syrian airspace. Officials said this did not include giving Russian advance notice of where or when allied airstrikes would happen.

Russia has military forces, including air defenses, in several areas of Syria to support President Bashar Assad in his long war against anti-government rebels.

Russia and Iran called the use of force by the United States and its allies a "military crime" and "act of aggression." The U.N. Security Council met to debate the strikes, but rejected a Russian resolution calling for condemnation of the "aggression" by the three Western allies.

Trump's U.N. ambassador, Nikki Haley, told the session that the president has made it clear that if Assad uses poison gas again, "the United States is locked and loaded."

Assad denies he has used chemical weapons, and the Trump administration has yet to present hard evidence of what it says precipitated the allied missiles attack: a chlorine gas attack on civilians in Douma on April 7. The U.S. says it suspects that sarin gas also was used.

"Good souls will not be humiliated," Assad tweeted, while hundreds of Syrians gathered in Damascus, the capital, where they flashed victory signs and waved flags in scenes of defiance after the early morning barrage.

The strikes "successfully hit every target," White told reporters at the Pentagon. The military said there were three targets: the Barzah chemical weapons research and development site in the Damascus area, a chemical weapons storage facility near Homs and a chemical weapons "bunker" a few miles from the second target.

Although officials said the singular target was Assad's chemical weapons capability, his air force, including helicopters he allegedly has used to drop chemical weapons on civilians, were spared. In a U.S. military action a year ago in response to a sarin gas attack, the Pentagon said missiles took out nearly 20 percent of the Syrian air force.

As of Saturday, neither Syria nor its Russian or Iranian allies retaliated, Pentagon officials said.

The U.S.-led operation won broad Western support. The NATO alliance gave its full backing; NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said in Brussels that the attack was about ensuring that chemical weapons cannot be used with impunity.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel called the attack "necessary and appropriate."

In his televised address from the White House on Friday evening, Trump said the U.S. was prepared to sustain economic, diplomatic and military pressure on Assad until the Syrian leader ends what Trump called a criminal pattern of killing his own people with internationally banned chemical weapons. That did not mean military strikes would continue. In fact, Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said no additional attacks were planned.

Asked about Trump's "Mission Accomplished" assertion, White said it pointed to the successful targeting of three Syrian chemical weapons sites. What happens next, she said, is up to Assad and to his Russian and Iranian allies.

Marine Lt. Gen. Kenneth F. McKenzie, director of the Joint Staff at the Pentagon, said the allied airstrikes "took out the heart" of Assad's chemical weapons arsenal. He said the missiles hit the "sweet spot," doing the expected level of damage while minimizing the unintentional release of toxic fumes that could be



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harmful to nearby civilians.

When pressed, he acknowledged that some unspecified portion of Assad's chemical arms infrastructure was not targeted.

"There is still a residual element of the Syrian program that is out there," McKenzie said, adding, "I'm not going to say they're going to be unable to continue to conduct a chemical attack in the future. I suspect, however they'll think long and hard about it."

Assad's Barzah research and development center in Damascus was destroyed, McKenzie said. "It does not exist anymore."

A former officer in Syria's chemical program, Adulsalam Abdulrazek, said Saturday the joint U.S., British, and French strikes hit "parts of but not the heart" of the program. He said the strikes were unlikely to curb the government's ability to produce or launch new attacks. Speaking from rebel-held northern Syria, Abdulrazek told The Associated Press there were perhaps 50 warehouses in Syria that stored chemical weapons before the program was dismantled in 2013.

Vice President Mike Pence, in Peru for a meeting of regional leaders, said "there will be a price to pay" involving military force if Syrian chemical weapons are used again.

Disputing the Russian military's contention that Syrian air defense units downed 71 allied missiles, McKenzie said no U.S. or allies missiles were stopped. He said Syria's air defenses were ineffective and that many of the more than 40 surface-to-air missiles fired by the Syrians were launched after the allied attack was over. He said the U.S. knew of no civilians killed by allied missiles.

McKenzie said 105 U.S. and allied missiles were fired, of which 66 were Tomahawk cruise missiles launched from aboard three U.S. Navy ships and one Navy submarine. U.S., British and French attack aircraft, including two U.S. Air Force B-1B strategic bombers, launched stealthy, long-range missiles from outside Syrian airspace, officials said.

A global chemical warfare watchdog group, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, said its fact-finding mission would go as planned in Douma.

Russian leader Vladimir Putin reaffirmed the Kremlin's skepticism about the allies' Douma claim, saying Russian military experts had found no trace of the attack. He criticized the U.S. and its allies for launching the strike without waiting for international inspectors to complete their visit to the area.

But British Prime Minister Theresa May said there was little doubt the Syrian government used a barrel bomb — large containers packed with fuel, explosives and scraps of metal — to deliver the chemicals at Douma. "No other group" could have carried out that attack, May said, adding that the allies' use of force was "right and legal."

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Associated Press writer Edith M. Lederer at the United Nations contributed to this report.

## Western airstrikes unlikely to impact Assad's war machine

By ZEINA KARAM, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — The Western airstrikes targeting suspected Syrian chemical weapons facilities might have rained down punishment from the sky, but they will not fundamentally degrade a war machine whose main bases, weaponry and personnel remain in place.

As a symbol, they might reflect the inability to prevent President Bashar Assad from marching toward a professed victory in the civil war — still denying he ever even used banned substances, and perhaps not even needing them.

Any opposition expectations that the airstrikes might try to destroy or degrade Assad's lethal air power or target bases where his warplanes and helicopters begin their bombing missions were quickly dashed: The U.S., British and French precision attacks only singled out Assad's alleged chemical weapons capabilities.

The Pentagon said the strikes targeted three facilities — a scientific research center in the Damascus area, allegedly linked to the production and testing of chemical and biological warfare technology; a chemical weapons storage facility west of Homs; and a chemical weapons equipment storage facility and key

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command post, also west of Homs.

"If this is it, Assad should be relieved," Randa Slim, an expert with the Washington-based Middle East Institute, wrote on Twitter.

For Assad, it was business as usual Saturday — or so his office sought to portray it, posting a short video of him walking into work, briefcase in hand.

More pertinently, the Syrian army declared the battered town of Douma "fully liberated" after the last group of rebels left. Douma was the site of the suspected April 7 chemical weapons attack and also the last rebel-held town in the eastern Ghouta region that was once a sprawling rebel-held bastion at the doors of the capital. Thousands of hard-line rebels capitulated in Douma following years of siege and an air and ground campaign that killed hundreds in recent weeks.

The recapture of Douma effectively ends a nearly seven-year rebellion near Damascus and marks Assad's most significant victory since his forces retook the northern city of Aleppo in late 2016. With seemingly open-ended support from allies Russia and Iran, the Syrian military will most definitely turn its attention to remaining opposition-held territory, namely in the south and the northern province of Idlib.

Assad has already consolidated control over most of Syria and its major population centers. His allies have questioned the rationale of a victor needing to resort to chemical weapons that bring global condemnation and risk punitive action.

The seemingly limited airstrikes came as a disappointment to Syria's opposition, with one rebel spokesman labeling them a "farce." Another senior opposition figure, Nasr Hariri, said the attacks were welcome but only reinforced the message that while it is not OK to use chemical weapons, the government can continue to "use explosive barrels and cluster bombs" with impunity.

Assad's chemical weapons capabilities — and exactly what was hit Saturday — remain shrouded in mystery.

Despite Syria's commitment to abolish its program in 2013, U.S. officials say it is "highly likely" that Assad kept a hidden, undisclosed stockpile. They say information gathered from recent alleged attacks also suggest Assad retained a "continued production capacity" — also banned under the 2013 deal.

The government certainly had enough advance notice. Syria war monitors said the military emptied air bases and moved equipment before the strikes.

The Pentagon said Saturday that it believes the airstrikes "attacked the heart of the Syrian chemical weapons program," significantly degrading Syria's ability to use such weapons again. Russian officials said the damage was minimal, maintaining that all key air bases were intact and the purported chemical weapons facilities had been abandoned long ago.

Capt. Adulsalam Abdulrazek, a former officer in Syria's chemical program, said the overnight strikes probably hit "parts of, but not the heart" of the operation.

Speaking to The Associated Press from rebel-held northern Syria, he said they were unlikely to curb the government's ability to produce such weapons or launch new attacks.

Abdulrazek defected from the program in 2012, when he was based in eastern Ghouta, the suburb hit by a chemical attack in 2013 and allegedly again on April 7.

He said there were an estimated 50 warehouses storing chemical weapons before the program was dismantled in 2013. He said he believes those fixed storage facilities, mostly in rural areas, are intact or only slightly dispersed, and that the program was only partly dismantled because Damascus didn't allow inspections.

IHS Jane's expert Karl Dewey, said the scientific research facility on the northeastern edge of Damascus is thought to have integrated chemical payloads onto artillery.

It is one of at least three sites that have been consistently referenced in association with Syria's chemical weapons program, including Masyaf and Dummar, also known as Jamraya, both reported to have been hit by Israeli strikes last year.

Whatever the rationale for using chemical weapons, even Assad's most persistent detractors agree he does not need them at this point in the war.

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The airstrikes are unlikely to have any real impact on the outcome of the civil war, nor will they serve to bring Assad to the negotiating table to seriously discuss a political settlement, as many hoped.

"Will this deter Assad from using chemical weapons again? Possibly, not least because he's essentially won the war anyway," wrote Faysal Itani, resident senior fellow in the Atlantic Council's Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East.

"Will it change anything else? For better or worse, no."

Associated Press writer Sarah El Deeb contributed.

## Milos Forman, Oscar-winning director, dies at 86

By ANTHONY MCCARTNEY, AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Czech filmmaker Milos Forman, whose American movies "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" and "Amadeus" won a deluge of Academy Awards, including best director Oscars, died Saturday. He was 86.

Forman died about 2 a.m. Saturday at Danbury Hospital, near his home in Warren, Connecticut, according to a statement released by the former director's agent, Dennis Aspland. Aspland said Forman's wife, Martina, notified him of the death.

When Forman arrived in Hollywood in the late 1960s, he was lacking in both money and English skills, but carried a portfolio of Czechoslovakian films much admired internationally for their quirky, lighthearted spirit. Among them were "Black Peter," "Loves of a Blonde" and "The Fireman's Ball."

The orphan of Nazi Holocaust victims, Forman had abandoned his homeland after communist troops invaded in 1968 and crushed a brief period of political and artistic freedom known as the Prague Spring.

In America, his record as a Czech filmmaker was enough to gain him entree to Hollywood's studios, but his early suggestions for film projects were quickly rejected. Among them were an adaptation of Franz Kafka's novel "Amerika" and a comedy starring entertainer Jimmy Durante as a wealthy bear hunter in Czechoslovakia.

After his first U.S. film, 1971's "Taking Off," flopped, Forman didn't get a chance to direct a major feature again for years. He occupied himself during part of that time by covering the decathlon at the 1972 Olympics for the documentary "Visions of Eight."

"Taking Off," an amusing look at generational differences in a changing America, had won praise from critics who compared it favorably to Forman's Czech films. But without any big-name stars it quickly tanked at the box office.

Actor Michael Douglas gave Forman a second chance, hiring him to direct "One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest," which Douglas was co-producing.

The 1975 film, based on Ken Kesey's novel about a misfit who leads mental institution inmates in a revolt against authority, captured every major Oscar at that year's Academy Awards, the first film to do so since 1934's "It Happened One Night."

The winners included Jack Nicholson as lead actor, Louise Fletcher as lead actress, screenwriters Bo Goldman and Lawrence Hauben, Forman as director and the film itself for best picture.

The director, who worked meticulously, spending months with screenwriters and overseeing every aspect of production, didn't release another film until 1979's "Hair."

The musical, about rebellious 1960s-era American youth, appealed to a director who had witnessed his own share of youthful rebellion against communist repression in Czechoslovakia. But by the time it came out, America's brief period of student revolt had long since faded, and the public wasn't interested.

"Ragtime" followed in 1981. The adaptation of E.L. Doctorow's novel, notable for Forman's ability to persuade his aging Connecticut neighbor Jimmy Cagney to end 20 years of retirement and play the corrupt police commissioner, also was a disappointment.

Forman returned to top form three years later, however, when he released "Amadeus."

Based on Peter Shaffer's play, it portrayed 18th century musical genius Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart as a

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foul-mouthed man-child, with lesser composer Salieri as his shadowy nemesis. It captured seven Academy Awards, including best picture, best director and best actor (for F. Murray Abraham as Salieri).

Hunting for locations, Forman realized Prague was the only European capital that had changed little since Mozart's time, but returning there initially filled him with dread.

His parents had died in a Nazi concentration camp when he was 9. He had been in Paris when the communists crushed the Prague Spring movement in 1968, and he hadn't bothered to return home, becoming a U.S. citizen in 1975.

The Czech government, realizing the money to be made by letting "Amadeus" be filmed in Prague, allowed Forman to come home, and the public hailed his return.

"There was an enormous affection for us doing the film," he remarked in 2002. "The people considered it a victory for me that the authorities had to bow to the almighty dollar and let the traitor back."

Never prolific, Forman's output slowed even more after "Amadeus," and his three subsequent films were disappointments.

"Valmont" (1989) reached audiences a year after "Dangerous Liaisons," both based on the same French novel.

"The People vs. Larry Flynt" (1996) starred Woody Harrelson as the Hustler publisher. It garnered Oscar nominations for the actor and Forman's direction.

"Man on the Moon," based on the life of cult hero Andy Kaufman, did win its star, Jim Carrey, a Golden Globe. But it also failed to fully convey Kaufman's pioneering style of offbeat comedy or the reasons for his disdaining success at every turn.

"Another great one passes through the doorway," tweeted Carrey. "I'm glad we got to play together. It was a monumental experience."

Larry Karaszewski, who co-wrote "Man on the Moon" and "The People vs Larry Flynt" with Scott Alexander, called Forman "our friend and our teacher" on Twitter. "He was a master filmmaker - no one better at capturing small unrepeatable moments of human behavior."

Jan Tomas Forman, born in Caslav, Czechoslovakia, was raised by relatives after his parents' deaths and attended arts school in Prague.

The director's first marriage, to actress Jana Brejchova ended in divorce. He left his second wife, singer Vera Kresadlova, behind with the couple's twin sons when he left Czechoslovakia. He married Martina Zborilova in 1999. They also had twin sons.

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The late AP Entertainment Writer Bob Thomas contributed to this report.

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This story has been corrected to show the name of the 1996 film about the Hustler magazine publisher is "The People vs. Larry Flynt," not "The People vs. Larry Flint" and that "Taking Off" was released in 1971, not 1969.

## 'Winnie!' South Africa bids farewell to Madikizela-Mandela

By KRISTA MAHR, Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Tens of thousands of people sang, cheered and cried as the flag-draped casket of anti-apartheid activist Winnie Madikizela-Mandela was escorted from her official funeral on Saturday, after supporters defended her complex legacy with poetry and anger.

Thunder rumbled and it began to rain as the casket left the 40,000-seat stadium — a blessing, witnesses said.

Heads of state joined the five-hour celebration of the powerful figure who will be buried as a national hero following lively debate over how she should be remembered after her death on April 2 at age 81.

Often called the "Mother of the Nation" and "Mama Winnie," Madikizela-Mandela fought to keep South Africa's anti-apartheid struggle in the international spotlight while her husband, Nelson Mandela, was imprisoned.

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"Long before it was fashionable to call for Nelson Mandela's release from Robben Island, it was my mother who kept his memory alive," elder daughter Zenani Mandela-Dlamini said as the crowd erupted in cheers.

Many South Africans have stood up for Madikizela-Mandela's memory against critics who characterized her as a problematic figure who was implicated in political violence after she returned from years of banishment in a rural town.

"Proud, defiant, articulate, she exposed the lie of apartheid," President Cyril Ramaphosa said during his tribute. "Loudly and without apology, she spoke truth to power."

He recited Maya Angelou's poem "Still I Rise."

And as the casket left the stadium, another speaker read out Alice Walker's poem, "Winnie Mandela We Love You."

Since her death, supporters have visited Madikizela-Mandela's family home in Soweto, the Johannesburg township where she lived, and condolences have poured in from around the world in remembrance of one of the 20th century's most prominent political activists.

Civil rights leader Jesse Jackson, who attended the funeral, said Friday that Madikizela-Mandela was responsible for making the anti-apartheid movement "a global struggle."

Many memorializing Madikizela-Mandela recognized her as a political force in her own right.

"In apartheid South Africa, the combination of patriarchy and racism together meant that black women confronted enormous obstacles from the cradle to the grave, making her own achievements all the more exceptional," U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Friday at a memorial in New York, not mentioning Nelson Mandela at all.

The young Madikizela-Mandela grew up in what is now Eastern Cape province and came to Johannesburg as the city's first black female social worker. Not long after, she met African National Congress activist Mandela and the couple married in 1958, forming one of the most storied unions of the century.

After Mandela was imprisoned, Madikizela-Mandela embraced her own leadership in the freedom struggle with steely determination and at great personal sacrifice.

For years, she was routinely harassed by apartheid-state security forces, imprisoned and tortured. In 1977, she was banished to a remote town.

It took a toll. When Madikizela-Mandela returned from exile she became involved with a group of young men known as the Mandela United Football Club. The men were accused of the disappearances and killings of at least 18 boys and young men and the leader was convicted of killing a 14-year-old, nicknamed "Stompie," accused of being a police informer.

In 1991, a court found Madikizela-Mandela guilty of the boy's kidnapping and assault and sentenced her to six years in jail. She appealed and was found guilty of being an accessory in the assault, and the sentence was reduced to a fine and suspended prison term. Madikizela-Mandela denied knowledge of any killings.

Mandela divorced her in 1996, claiming infidelity and saying that after his release from prison, his wife made him "the loneliest man."

Though she fought fiercely for democracy, Madikizela-Mandela floundered in a political career after the first free elections in 1994. Mandela, South Africa's first black president, fired her as one of his deputy ministers. Her stints as a lawmaker, a post she held until her death, were lackluster.

Mandela-Dlamini, her elder daughter, accused the media of being complicit in a long "smear campaign" against her mother.

"Praising her now that she's gone shows what hypocrites you are," she said during her speech. "It's become clear that South Africa, and indeed the world, holds men and women to different standards of morality."

Ramaphosa said the traumas that Madikizela-Mandela endured as a target of the powerful apartheid state inflicted "deep wounds" that never healed — and went largely ignored by many peers.

"She bore witness to our suffering. We did not do the same for her," he said. "Today is a moment to heal those wounds. Today is a time for healing as we put Mama Winnie to rest."

## Missouri governor's scandal ensnares unwitting hairdresser

By TAMMY WEBBER, Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — She was a St. Louis hairdresser whose marriage was on the rocks. He was a handsome, educated and ambitious client who bedazzled her with talk of his time as a Navy SEAL, author and volunteer.

What began as a crush on future Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens, the woman told lawmakers, led to a series of sexual encounters in 2015 in which he grabbed, slapped, shoved, humiliated and threatened her, sometimes leaving her crying and afraid. Greitens has repeatedly denied being violent or threatening and insisted the monthlong affair was consensual and a "personal mistake" made before his election. He has called the investigation by a legislative panel a "political witch hunt."

The woman's account was made public in a graphic report released Wednesday by a group of House members weighing whether to impeach Greitens. If accurate, her description of events shows her being threatened by one man — Greitens — and betrayed by another — her ex-husband, who gave a television station a secretly recorded conversation in which she described the first sexual encounter with Greitens.

She's also been drawn unwittingly into an intensely political process that could invite attacks on her character and credibility. And the snowballing controversy has unfolded despite the fact that she has never been publicly identified, never went to police and never sought an investigation.

"I can't help but feel sorry for her," said Lisa Aronson Fontes, a senior lecturer at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and an expert on sexual violence and coercive relationships. "The very least each of us would like to be able to do is to control intimate, personal and embarrassing information about ourselves."

Greitens is scheduled to stand trial next month on a felony invasion-of-privacy charge related to the woman's claim that he took a photo of her partially nude body, then threatened to make it public if she disclosed their relationship.

She told the legislative panel that Greitens explained later that he planned to run for governor, and the photo was protection to ensure she did not speak about the encounter. She said he also told her he erased it.

Greitens, 44, became a rising star in the national Republican Party and a welcome partner for state GOP lawmakers after his election in 2016. He seemed to have his sights set on even higher office, having secured the web address EricGreitensforPresident.com years before running for governor.

The governor's attorneys have asked for the case to be dismissed, claiming that prosecutors' video of an interview with the woman backs up Greitens' claim of consent. That recording was shared with the defense Wednesday night, after the release of the legislative report, which Greitens' attorneys said amounted to prosecutorial perjury and misconduct.

Greitens refused to testify before the panel and has resisted calls from Democrats and Republicans to step down. He has not answered directly when asked if he took a photo. Lawmakers said they found the woman credible.

Her testimony paints a portrait of someone unsure about her own marriage. She and her husband were separated, and she was flattered that a "perfect guy" like Greitens would take an interest in her. He's a former Rhodes scholar, Navy SEAL officer, author and motivational speaker who gained a national platform after founding The Mission Continues charity to help military veterans become involved in their communities.

She testified that she didn't want a sexual relationship when she went to Greitens' home in March 2015 to discuss another matter. She said he asked her to change into different clothes and go to his basement because he wanted to take her through a workout and show her "how to do a proper pull-up."

She said he "taped my hands to these rings and then put a blindfold on me" and began touching and kissing her body. She said she saw a flash through the blindfold and he allegedly told her, "You're never going to mention my name," and said he would release the photo and "everyone will know what a little whore you are."

She said she was left crying hysterically, but performed oral sex on him because she felt that she had no other choice. But she said she continued to see the married Greitens because she wanted to believe he had feelings for her.

"I felt really disgusted with myself that I allowed that first time to happen. Really embarrassed that he

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thought of me as a whore," she testified. Meanwhile, her husband told her he didn't want anything to do with her, and Greitens had returned to being "normal and so kind to me."

"I wanted to think that he actually really liked me and wanted to have a relationship with me of sorts," she testified.

During another encounter, she testified, he slapped her across the face and again called her a whore after she admitted that she had slept with her husband: "I felt like he was trying to claim me."

Fontes said the woman described classic signs of coercive control.

If the allegations are true, "we're talking about a woman with relatively low social rank" and "a man with a lot of social power" that he used, along with a threat, to control her behavior, said Fontes, adding that an incident at the hair salon, when the woman said Greitens ran his hand up her leg and to her crotch without her consent, would have been sexual assault.

"It is understandable to me that she would want to try to understand what happened and assume it was something other than assault," Fontes said of the first encounter at Greiten's house.

She also said a threat to distribute a photo, if true, erases any notion that the encounters were consensual.

"He was asserting extreme power over her, and she, like many women, was trying to appease him," Fontes said.

Paul DerOhannesian, a former prosecutor in New York who has written a book on sexual assault trials, said that if the first encounter happened the way the woman claims it did, she might not have recognized it as assault.

"I think people don't realize that if one of the parties changes their mind, at that point, it is no longer consensual," DerOhannesian said. "Being able to prove it is the issue."

Follow Tammy Webber on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/twebber02>

## Haula's goal in 2nd OT gives Vegas 2-1 win over Kings

By W.G. RAMIREZ, Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — What happens in Vegas, continues to happen in Vegas.

The NHL's Golden Knights are the toast of the town.

Erik Haula's goal in double overtime gave Vegas a 2-1 victory over the Los Angeles Kings on Friday night for a 2-0 lead in their first-round playoff series.

"Honestly, I think that's my first overtime goal and I'm happy it came at this time; that's one of the best feelings in sports," Haula said. "Going into overtime we just stressed it in the locker room to just keep going after 'em, to keep getting pucks behind 'em, keep playing north, keep playing fast and I think we executed our game plan."

With less than five minutes on the clock in the second overtime, James Neal skated into the zone, looked past Alex Tuch and instead found a streaking Haula, who skated in on his own to beat goalie Jonathan Quick and send a towel-waving crowd of 18,588 into a frenzy.

"Obviously, he had the composure to hold the puck. I knew he was going to make that play. Maybe that helps we've been playing all year," Haula said of Neal. "I had good speed going to the net. ... I was able to slide a five-hole, he reacted. I was coming in with a lot of speed, I got lucky and we got the win."

Game 3 in the best-of-seven Western Conference series is Sunday night in Los Angeles.

Tuch scored for expansion Vegas in regulation, and Paul LaDue had the Kings' goal.

Marc-Andre Fleury made 29 saves for the Golden Knights. Quick stopped 54 shots for the Kings.

"Such a relief at the end," said Fleury, who has allowed just one goal in a little more than 155 minutes over the first two games. "It was long, it was hard. The guys did an awesome job again tonight. It was a good feeling to win at home in front of our fans."

The Golden Knights outshot Los Angeles in regulation, 35-20.

Vegas coach Gerard Gallant said Friday was a good example of why his scheme of playing four lines

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consistently all season is important, as his team continued to play with more pep while the Kings appeared fatigued as the second overtime wore on.

"Haula's a great skater. ... Obviously that last goal, Haula's speed created a lot of that goal," said Gallant, who got the victory exactly one year after being hired as coach of the Golden Knights. "As coaches, all year long, we played four lines and that's what we do, so hopefully that paid off a little bit tonight. We played four lines most of the overtime, because when you play that much hockey, guys start to cramp up. It was tough on them. It was a great game, great battle and unbelievable for our fans tonight."

The Kings, meanwhile, played without suspended defenseman Drew Doughty, a Norris Trophy contender who led the NHL in total minutes this season. The league's Department of Player Safety handed down a one-game suspension after Doughty's illegal hit to the head on Vegas forward William Carrier midway through the third period of the Golden Knights' 1-0 series-opening victory Wednesday night.

Kings defenseman Oscar Fantenberg led the team with 53 shifts, while fellow defenseman Alec Martinez led the club with 44 minutes, 43 seconds on ice.

In contrast, nobody on Vegas' roster played more than 38 minutes, with defenseman Nate Schmidt leading the Golden Knights at 37:19.

Game 1 featured 127 hits, including 68 by the Kings, and the rugged play continued in Game 2, with the same physical theme. Los Angeles outhit the Golden Knights 80-56 after the two combined for 113 in regulation.

"(Quick) gave us a chance to win like he always does," Kings coach John Stevens said. "A lot of guys played hard tonight, not just Jonny. We had some guys play real hard (to) give us a chance to win. Now we've got to go home to take care of business at home."

Vegas got on the board first after Jonathan Marchessault's shot went wide and caromed off the end boards. Tuch was in front of the net to clean it up for his first career playoff goal, on a power play, giving the Golden Knights a 1-0 lead late in the first period.

The Kings got their first goal of the series on a power play, when LaDue fired a wrist shot from the point to beat Fleury with 4:05 left in the second.

Both teams had their chances in the first overtime, but Fleury and Quick were magnificent between the pipes.

Through two games the teams have played 155 minutes, 16 seconds, and Fleury and Quick have allowed just four goals combined.

NOTES: Rock star Gwen Stefani, a Southern California native raised in Anaheim, was shown on the T-Mobile video board delivering a "Go Knights Go!" chant during the first period. ... Fellow rock star Vince Neil got the crowd roaring to start the third period by winding up the air raid siren.

More AP NHL: <https://apnews.com/tag/NHLhockey>

## Possible House leader Kevin McCarthy seen by Trump as ally

By ALAN FRAM and ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As President Donald Trump and top Republicans dined on filet mignon at the White House this week, just hours after House Speaker Paul Ryan announced his stunning retirement, Trump and Ryan's top lieutenant found themselves with a moment alone.

Do you really want to be the next speaker of the House, Trump asked Kevin McCarthy, one of his closest allies in Congress. The Californian — the leading but undeclared contender — told the president he wants the job, according to two sources familiar with the conversation.

McCarthy emerged from the Wednesday evening chat confident he had Trump's backing to succeed Ryan, said one of the sources, a GOP operative. Trump tried not to explicitly endorse McCarthy, said the other source, but it was clear the president would be "very happy" for McCarthy to ascend to the post.

Both people spoke anonymously about the conversation because they weren't authorized to relay details of a politically sensitive but possibly critical exchange. Trump's embrace could be crucial for McCarthy, the



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No. 2 House Republican leader, if he wants to nail down support from conservative lawmakers who have been leery of his GOP establishment ties and could sink his bid.

But even in a contest of Republican lawmakers, a Trump endorsement is a double-edged sword. The president is unpopular in many suburban and other swing districts, and many Republicans don't want their leader to be viewed as beholden to the whims of the unpredictable president. Others bristle at the idea of presidential meddling in their contest.

"This is a matter to be decided by the legislative branch of government, not the executive branch," Rep. Leonard Lance, R-N.J., said of Trump supporting a candidate.

Still, the Trump factor will be hard to avoid. With Ryan's departure slated for January, Republicans will lose another establishment force who, at times, pushed back at Trump.

It's far from clear McCarthy intends to play the same role.

He was one of Trump's earliest supporters and has never flinched as Trump endured criticism for his comments on women, minorities and others.

Since Trump's election, the two have advertised their close relationship and a buddy-movie-style bond. Aides say the two men speak frequently. Trump sometimes calls out "my Kevin" at events.

It's a partnership that's benefited both men.

In McCarthy, Trump has a Capitol Hill confidant who fits the president's tendency to pluck allies from central casting — McCarthy looks the part of the silver-haired politician with his sharp suits and ready smile. McCarthy boosts his conservative credentials every time he is able to flash his link to Trump.

Neither man is tethered to strict GOP dogma, which creates space for the deal-making both favor. Both like to rely on gut political instincts than expertise in guiding decisions.

In one speed bump in their relationship, The Washington Post reported that a leaked 2016 audiotape included a suggestion by McCarthy that Trump was being paid by Russian President Vladimir Putin, whom Trump repeatedly praised during the presidential campaign. McCarthy aides said the remark to other GOP leaders was a bad joke.

The leadership vacancy comes at an awkward time for a GOP that could face massive losses in this November's congressional elections, perhaps losing House control. That would make the top Republican in the House the minority leader, not speaker. Many Republicans say it's crucial that the party unify behind an effort to pass additional bills on taxes and other subjects and focus on re-election campaigns, not a divisive internal contest over the next leader.

In a sign of the desire to tamp down intra-party squabbling, Ryan himself endorsed McCarthy in an interview to be broadcast Sunday on NBC News' "Meet the Press," saying, "We all think that Kevin is the right person."

Even with backing from the top, McCarthy's grasp on the top job is uncertain. In 2015, his effort to succeed Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, flopped in just a few days as he failed to corral enough votes, especially from conservatives.

As if to underscore that problem, a leader of the hard-right House Freedom Caucus said he's "open to running" and has been encouraged by colleagues to do so. A candidacy by Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, would seem all but certain to fall short and would be widely viewed as a way for that group's roughly 30 members to win leverage by trading their support for promises of leadership and committee posts.

Ryan's successor will need to secure 218 GOP votes because the entire House votes on the speaker and all Democrats would be sure to oppose the Republican candidate.

No. 3 House Republican leader Steve Scalise of Louisiana, who is viewed as more conservative than McCarthy, is seen as his top rival for the post. While Scalise has said he wouldn't run against McCarthy — a longtime friend — he's left the door open for seeking the post should McCarthy's effort fall short.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said Friday that Trump "has a great relationship" with McCarthy but declined to say whom he wants as speaker. Aides to McCarthy and Scalise declined to immediately provide comment.

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AP congressional correspondent Lisa Mascaro contributed.

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## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, April 15, the 105th day of 2018. There are 260 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 15, 2013, two bombs made from pressure cookers exploded at the Boston Marathon finish line, killing two women and an 8-year-old boy and injuring more than 260. Suspected bomber Tamerlan Tsarnaev (TAM'-ehr-luhn tsahr-NEYE'-ehv) died in a shootout with police; his brother, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev (joh-HAHR' tsahr-NEYE'-ehv), was tried, convicted and sentenced to death.

On this date:

In 1715, the Yamasee War began as members of the Yamasee tribe attacked English settlers in colonial South Carolina; the colonists were eventually able to defeat the Yamasee and their allies.

In 1865, President Abraham Lincoln died nine hours after being shot the night before by John Wilkes Booth at Ford's Theater in Washington; Andrew Johnson became the nation's 17th president.

In 1912, the British luxury liner RMS Titanic foundered in the North Atlantic off Newfoundland more than 2 1/2 hours after hitting an iceberg; 1,514 people died, while less than half as many survived.

In 1920, a paymaster and a guard were shot and killed during a robbery at a shoe company in South Braintree, Massachusetts; Italian immigrants Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were accused of the crime, convicted and executed amid worldwide protests that they hadn't received a fair trial.

In 1943, the Ayn Rand novel "The Fountainhead" was first published by Bobbs-Merrill Co.

In 1945, during World War II, British and Canadian troops liberated the Nazi concentration camp Bergen-Belsen. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who died on April 12, was buried at the Roosevelt family home in Hyde Park, New York.

In 1959, Cuban leader Fidel Castro arrived in Washington to begin a goodwill tour of the United States. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles resigned for health reasons (he was succeeded by Christian A. Herter).

In 1960, a three-day conference to form the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) began at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina; the group's first chairman was Marion Barry.

In 1974, members of the Symbionese Liberation Army held up a branch of the Hibernia Bank in San Francisco; a member of the group was SLA kidnap victim Patricia Hearst, who by this time was going by the name "Tania" (Hearst later said she'd been forced to participate).

In 1986, the United States launched an air raid against Libya in response to the bombing of a discotheque in Berlin on April 5; Libya said 37 people, mostly civilians, were killed.

In 1989, 96 people died in a crush of soccer fans at Hillsborough Stadium in Sheffield, England. Students in Beijing launched a series of pro-democracy protests; the demonstrations culminated in a government crackdown at Tiananmen Square.

In 1998, Pol Pot, the notorious leader of the Khmer Rouge, died at age 72, evading prosecution for the deaths of two million Cambodians.

Ten years ago: Pope Benedict XVI stepped onto U.S. soil for the first time as pontiff as he was greeted at Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington by President George W. Bush, first lady Laura Bush and their daughter Jenna. Bombings blamed on al-Qaida in Iraq tore through market areas in Baghdad and outside the capital, killing nearly 60 people. Actress Hazel Court, who costarred with Boris Karloff and Vincent Price in horror movies of the 1950s and '60s, died near Lake Tahoe, California, at age 82.

Five years ago: Venezuela's electoral council quickly certified the razor-thin presidential victory of Hugo Chavez's (OO'-goh CHAH'-vez-ihz) hand-picked successor, Nicolas Maduro (nee-koh-LAHS' mah-DOO'-roh). North Koreans celebrated the birthday of their first leader, Kim Il Sung, by dancing in plazas and snacking on peanuts. The Denver Post won a Pulitzer Prize for its coverage of the movie theater massacre in Aurora, Colorado, while The New York Times captured awards for reporting on a harrowing avalanche, the rise of a new aristocracy in China and the business practices of Apple and Wal-Mart. Adam Johnson's "The Orphan Master's Son" won the Pulitzer for fiction, while Ayad Akhtar's "Disgraced" won the drama prize.

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One year ago: Thousands of chanting, sign-carrying protesters took to the streets in cities across the nation, demanding that President Donald Trump release his tax returns. North Korea paraded its inter-continental ballistic missiles in a massive military display in central Pyongyang as it celebrated the 1912 birthday of the country's founder, Kim Il Sung, with his grandson, Kim Jong Un, looking on with delight.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer Roy Clark is 85. Actress Claudia Cardinale is 80. Author and politician Jeffrey Archer is 78. Rock singer-guitarist Dave Edmunds is 75. Actor Michael Tucci is 72. Actress Lois Chiles is 71. Writer-producer Linda Bloodworth-Thomason is 71. Actress Amy Wright is 68. Columnist He-loise is 67. Actor Sam McMurray is 66. Actress-screenwriter Emma Thompson is 59. Bluegrass musician Jeff Parker is 57. Singer Samantha Fox is 52. Olympic gold, silver and bronze medal swimmer Dara Torres is 51. Rock musician Ed O'Brien (Radiohead) is 50. Actor Flex Alexander is 48. Actor Danny Pino is 44. Actor Douglas Spain is 44. Country singer-songwriter Chris Stapleton is 40. Actor Luke Evans is 39. Rock musician Patrick Carney (The Black Keys) is 38. Rock musician Zach Carothers (Portugal. The Man) is 37. Actor-writer Seth Rogen is 36. Actress Alice Braga is 35. Americana singer-songwriter Margo Price is 35. Rock musician De'Mar Hamilton (Plain White T's) is 34. Actress Samira Wiley is 31. Actress Emma Watson is 28. Actress Maisie Williams is 21.

Thought for Today: "Freedom is what you do with what's been done to you." — Jean-Paul Sartre, French philosopher (born 1905, died this date in 1980).