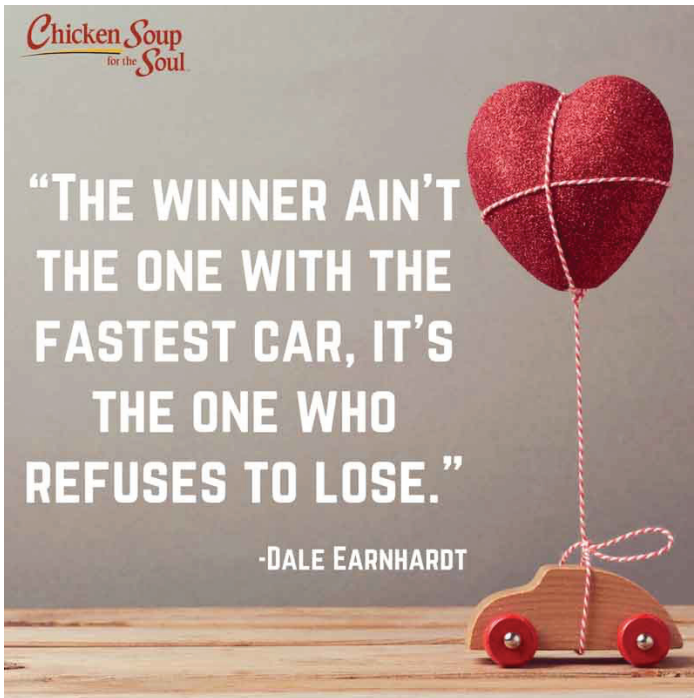


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## Groton Chiropractic Clinic

Carol McFarland-Kutter, D.C.  
1205 N 1st St., Groton 397-8204

- 1- Groton Chiropractic clinic Ad
- 1- Help Wanted at Langford's Front Porch
- 1- Carlson Bridal Shower
- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 2- MANY SOUTH DAKOTA COUNTIES EXPERIENCE VISITOR SPENDING GROWTH IN 2017
- 3- Rip'n Ravel CFEL
- 3- Bahr Family News
- 3- Kindergarten Screening Ad
- 4- Today in Weather History
- 5- Today's Forecast
- 6- Yesterday's Weather
- 6- National Weather map
- 6- Today's Weather Almanac
- 7- Daily Devotional
- 8- 2018 Groton Community Events
- 9- News from the Associated Press

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

Thursday, April 19: JH Track Meet at Groton is **cancelled**

Friday, April 20: Middle School Talent Show, 7 p.m., GHS Gym

Friday, April 20: Kindergarten Screening, 8-4, Elementary School

Saturday, April 21: Track Meet at Ipswich, 10 a.m.

Saturday, April 21: Piano Recital, GHS Gym, 4 p.m.

## 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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## **MANY SOUTH DAKOTA COUNTIES EXPERIENCE VISITOR SPENDING GROWTH IN 2017**

PIERRE, S.D. – In 2017, visitor spending in South Dakota reached \$3.85 billion, resulting in \$2.59 billion in GDP and more than \$290 million in state and local tax revenue. It was the eighth straight year of record growth in the state. A recent analysis shows that more than half of the counties in South Dakota saw an increase in visitor spending over 2016.

The detailed analysis, done by Tourism Economics, indicates a majority of visitor activity took place in Minnehaha, Pennington, Lawrence, Brown and Custer counties, making up 66 percent of all visitor spending. While these five counties received the majority of spending from visitors in 2017, more than half of the counties in South Dakota saw an increase over 2016. The counties that experienced the largest year-over-year growth were Sully (8.7 percent), Lincoln (5.9 percent), Hutchinson (5.2 percent), Lake (5.1 percent), and Aurora (4.8 percent).

“The impact these visitors have on communities across our state is significant. These visitors come to enjoy the beauty of our open prairies, fish our pristine lakes and abundant rivers, hunt our bountiful fields and stand in awe at our monuments. These visitors support the diners, marinas, hotels and attractions in communities large and small. Tourism is and always will be an incredibly important part of the South Dakota economy,” said James Hagen, Secretary of the Department of Tourism.

Along with other industries, the tourism industry felt the indirect effects of a struggling agriculture economy across the Midwest and the decreased discretionary income of households in the region.

“Despite local and regional challenges, our visitors return year after year to experience our well-known hospitality and diverse tourism offerings,” said Hagen. “Hospitality workers and residents all go out of their way to welcome visitors, and that’s what sets us apart from our competition,” continued Hagen.

To view the full Tourism Economics County and Region Level Impact Report, visit [www.SDVisit.com](http://www.SDVisit.com). The South Dakota Department of Tourism is comprised of Tourism and the South Dakota Arts Council. The department is led by Secretary James Hagen.

## Rip'n Ravel CFEL

The Rip'n Ravel CFEL Extension club meet on April 2 at the home of Rose Waage. Ten members were present. President Ella Johnson Presided. Six members will attend the Area III meeting on April 12th in Aberdeen . Theme: "Tea for You and Me"- program- "The fabulous Purse Lady ", cost \$10.00. A best of class Award of \$15.00 will be sent to the Br. Co. Fair Board to be used for the Fair in August. Beverly Sombke's name will be placed in nomination for the "Spirit of CFEL Award". The May 7th meeting is at the home of Carol Dohman and the lesson will be A C T Tour. Upcoming events: Spring Council and Recognition Tea- April 2, 2018, Br.CO. Courthouse Community room.

## Bahr Family News

On March 31 there was a get together at an Aberdeen restaurant to celebrate the 21st birthday of Stevie Fey, Watertown. Those helping him celebrate were Marvin Bahr, Brookings; Alvin and Donna Bahr Turton; Mike and Roxanne Fey, Ferney, Nicole Fey, Watertown.

On April 1 Roxanne and Mike Fey, Ferney; hosted Easter dinner. Those in attendance were Marvin Bahr, Brookings; Alvin and Donna Bahr, Turton; Stephanie Fey and Steve Dahlman, Rosholt; Nicole Fey, Watertown .

### 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.**



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## Today in Weather History

April 18, 1995: Eight inches to two feet of snow fell in central South Dakota in a two day period from the 17th to the 18th. Many businesses, schools, and roads closed on the 18th. Hundreds of power poles were downed due to the heavy snow and high winds in Faulk, Hughes, Sully, Hyde, Hand, Lyman, and Buffalo Counties leaving thousands of people without power. Some significant calf losses also occurred (around 10 to 20 percent in some areas), especially in Hand County. Snowfall amounts included 24.0 inches at Vivian, Ree Heights, and in the Murdo area; 23.0 inches at Kennebec, 18.0 inches at Highmore, 16.0 inches at Blunt, 15.0 inches at Miller and Faulkton, and 8.0 inches at Gettysburg.

1880: More than two dozen tornadoes were reported from Kansas and Arkansas to Wisconsin and Michigan. More than 150 persons were killed, including 99 people in Marshfield, Missouri.

1906: At 5:12 AM, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake hits San Francisco. A devastating fire soon broke out in the city and lasted for several days. About 3,000 people died, and over 80 percent of San Francisco was destroyed.

1944 - California experienced its worst hailstorm of record. Damage mounted to two million dollars as two consecutive storms devastated the Sacramento Valley destroying the fruit crop. (The Weather Channel)

1957 - A dust devil near Dracut MA lifted a small child three feet into the air, and rolled two other children on the ground. Fortunately none of the three were hurt. The dust devil was accompanied by a loud whistling sound as it moved westward. (The Weather Channel)

1970 - Rapid City, SD, received a record 22 inches of snow in 24 hours. (17th-18th) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thirty-one cities in the central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including International Falls MN with a reading of 88 degrees, and Bismarck ND with a high of 92 degrees. A sharp cold front produced high winds in the western U.S. Winds in Utah gusted to 99 mph at the Park City Angle Station, and capsized a boat on Utah Lake drowning four persons. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced large hail and damaging winds in the southeastern U.S. A strong (F-2) tornado severely damaged seventeen mobile homes near Bainbridge GA injuring three persons. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1989 - Thunderstorms produced large hail and damaging winds in Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas. A thunderstorm in Pecos County of southwest Texas produced wind gusts to 90 mph at Imperial. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

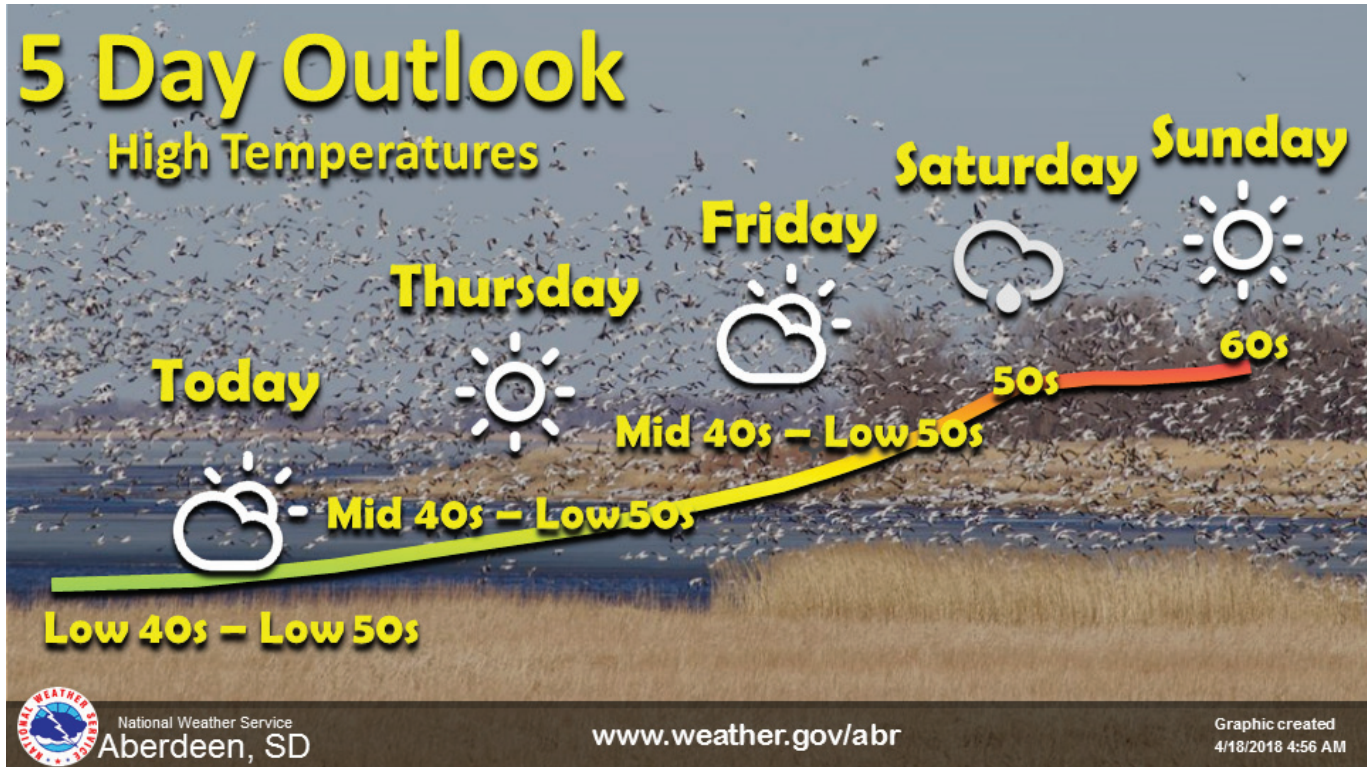
1990 - Heavy snow blanketed the west central valleys and southwest mountains of Colorado with up to 18 inches of snow. Nine cities from the Mid Mississippi Valley to the Middle Atlantic Coast Region reported record low temperatures for the date, including Fort Wayne IND with a reading of 23 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



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Wed Apr 18	Thu Apr 19	Fri Apr 20	Sat Apr 21	Sun Apr 22	Mon Apr 23	Tue Apr 24
						
45°F	52°F	52°F	56°F	60°F	57°F	53°F
27°F	29°F	33°F	37°F	39°F	37°F	39°F
N 14 MPH Precip 20%	WSW 7 MPH	SSE 9 MPH	SSE 11 MPH	S 14 MPH	S 10 MPH	NNW 10 MPH Precip 30%



Published on: 04/18/2018 at 4:58AM

While some of the area will wake up to snow on the ground this morning, the forecast for the next few days is looking brighter with the onset of more spring-like conditions. Could temperatures top 60 for most of the area this weekend? Maybe!

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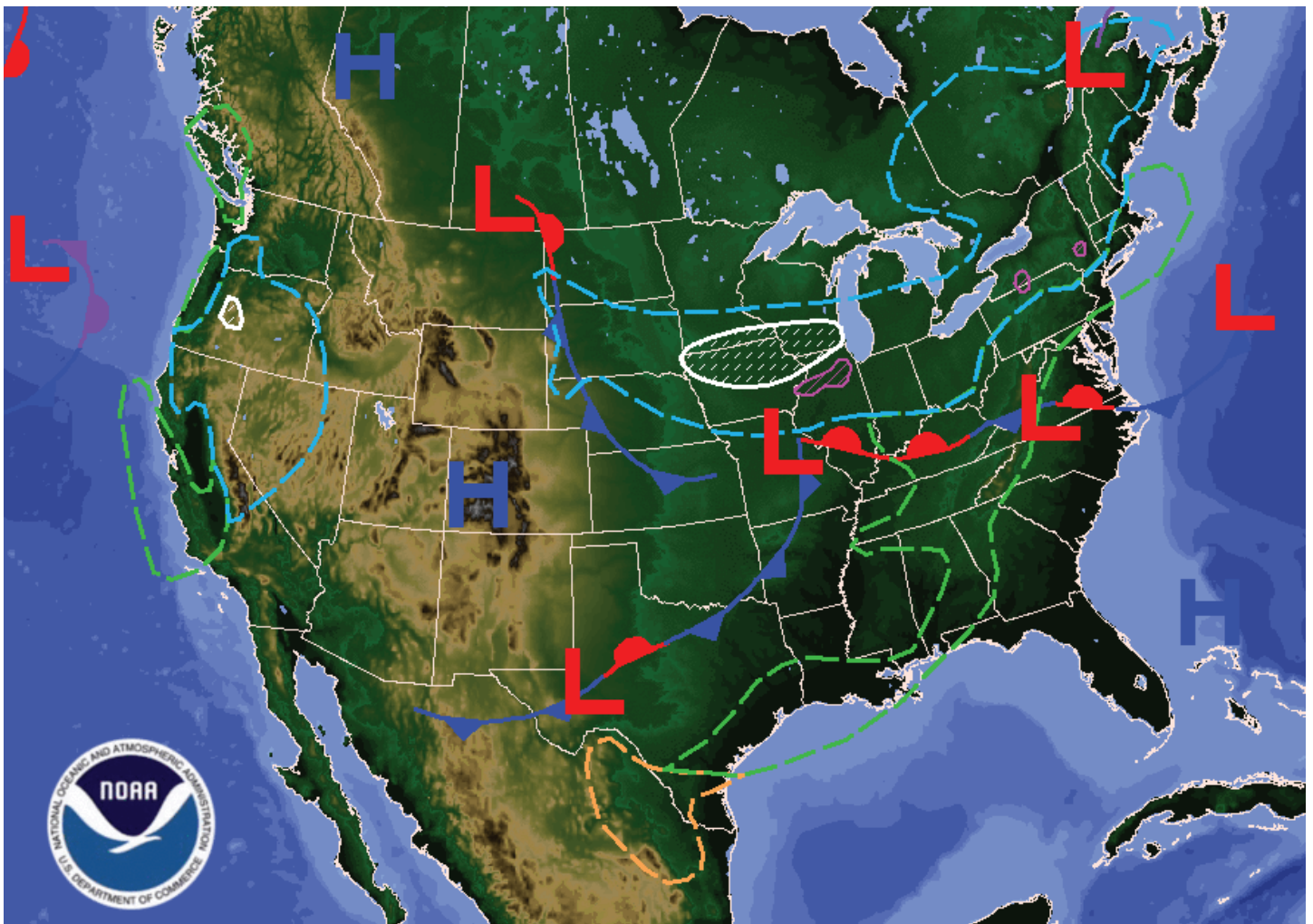
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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 44.2 F at 6:07 PM**  
**Low Outside Temp: 30.2 F at 7:32 AM**  
**Wind Chill:**  
**High Gust: 20.0 Mph at 9:24 AM**  
**Precip: 0.00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 89° in 1985**  
**Record Low: 13° in 1953**  
**Average High: 59°F**  
**Average Low: 33°F**  
**Average Precip in April: 0.92**  
**Precip to date in April: 0.61**  
**Average Precip to date: 3.10**  
**Precip Year to Date: 2.68**  
**Sunset Tonight: 8:23 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:41**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Wed, Apr 18, 2018, issued 4:46 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McReynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

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## OUR "NO ASSURANCE" POLICY

Quite frequently a dear, young friend, who is very concerned about my health, comes to my office to visit me. Each time we meet he "reviews" my work schedule and responsibilities in great detail. He wants to know what time I get to work and what time I leave; what I did on each Saturday and Sunday since we last talked. He wants to know the last time I preached at a church, where it was and how long it took me to drive to and from it. His questions are not meant to be invasive or abusive. He is concerned about my health and wants to know whether or not I am taking proper care of myself.

After we conclude his lengthy interrogation, he looks at me and makes the same statements every time we visit: "You're working too hard. You're working too much. You need to go on a vacation, or you will kill yourself. Why do you work so hard? Do you want to die?"

Each time we have this discussion I give him the same answer: "Dear friend, I am going to die. But I do not know when. So, I want to get as much done for the Lord as I possibly can. But I promise I will care for myself."

And then I remind him of Psalm 103:15-16: "As for man, his days are like grass, he flourishes like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it, and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more."

Our days may be few, or they may be many. But one thing is for certain: We have fewer days to serve the Lord after today than we did yesterday. We must seize each opportunity for the Lord!

Prayer: Help us Lord, to realize the importance of each day knowing that we have no assurance of tomorrow. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 103:15-16 The life of mortals is like grass, they flourish like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.



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## 2018 Groton SD Community Events

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



## News from the Associated Press

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

12-34-44-47-65, Mega Ball: 22, Megaplier: 4

(twelve, thirty-four, forty-four, forty-seven, sixty-five; Mega Ball: twenty-two; Megaplier: four)

Estimated jackpot: \$67 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$122 million

### High court worries about abandoning online sales tax rule

By JESSICA GRESKO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court sounded concerned Tuesday about doing away with a rule that has meant shoppers don't always get charged sales tax when they hit "checkout" online.

The justices were hearing arguments in a case that deals with how businesses collect sales tax on online purchases at sites from Amazon.com to Zappos. Right now, under a decades-old Supreme Court rule, if a business is shipping a product to a state where it doesn't have an office, warehouse or other physical presence, it doesn't have to collect the state's sales tax. Customers are generally supposed to pay the tax to the state themselves if they don't get charged it, but the vast majority don't.

More than 40 states have asked the Supreme Court to abandon its current sales tax collection rule, saying that as a result of it and the growth of internet shopping, they're losing billions of dollars in tax revenue every year.

But several Supreme Court justices suggested during arguments Tuesday that they had concerns about reversing course.

"I'm concerned about the many unanswered questions that overturning precedents will create a massive amount of lawsuits about," Justice Sonia Sotomayor told South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley, who was arguing for the court to do away with its current rule.

Chief Justice John Roberts pointed to briefs suggesting the problem of sales tax collection "has peaked" and may be "diminishing rather than expanding." "Why doesn't that suggest that there are greater significance to the arguments" that the court should leave its current rule in place, he asked.

The fact that Congress could have addressed the issue and has so far hasn't, Justice Elena Kagan said, "gives us reason to pause." Congress can deal with the issue in a more nuanced way than the court, she said, saying Congress is "capable of crafting compromises and trying to figure out how to balance the wide range of interests involved here."

Large retailers such as Apple, Macy's, Target and Walmart, which have brick-and-mortar stores nationwide, generally collect sales tax from their customers who buy online. But other online sellers that only have a physical presence in a few states can sidestep charging customers sales tax when they're shipping to addresses outside those states.

For years, the internet sales tax collection issue for states was largely about online giant Amazon.com, which didn't collect sales tax in every state. But the site's physical presence in states has grown, and since 2017 it has collected sales tax in every state that imposes one. Third-party sellers who sell goods on the site don't have to, however.

Sellers who defend the current rule say collecting sales tax nationwide is complex and costly, especially

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for small sellers. Justices brought up that issue Tuesday too. Sotomayor expressed concern for the "added cost of doing business for the small businessman" if the court overturns its current rule. Justice Stephen Breyer asked: "What does it cost for a mandolin seller who sells mandolins on the internet to sell them in 50 states?" "How much does it cost him to enter that market?"

That complexity of collecting sales tax nationwide was a concern for the Supreme Court when in 1967 it said that a catalog retailer whose only contact with a state was by mail didn't have to collect sales tax on sales made there. In 1992, the court reaffirmed what it called the physical presence rule. But states say software has now made collecting sales tax easy.

Three justices — Neil Gorsuch, Clarence Thomas and Anthony Kennedy — have expressed a willingness in past writings to rethink the sales tax collection rule. On Tuesday, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg seemed willing them to join them, suggesting the court's past decisions were "obsolete precedent." Both Ginsburg and Kennedy seemed to say the court should take responsibility for fixing the rule, which Kennedy suggested has, "especially in light of the cyber age, proven incorrect."

The case the court heard arguments in has to do with a law passed by South Dakota in 2016, a law designed to challenge the Supreme Court rule. The law requires out-of-state sellers who do more than \$100,000 of business in the state or more than 200 transactions annually with state residents to collect and turn over sales tax to the state.

South Dakota wanted out-of-state retailers to begin collecting the tax and sued Overstock.com, home goods company Wayfair and electronics retailer Newegg. The state has conceded in court, however, that it can only win by persuading the Supreme Court to do away with its current physical presence rule.

South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard said in a telephone interview after Tuesday's arguments that he hopes the court will fix the rule, but if it doesn't, his state will continue to push for action by Congress.

The Trump administration, meanwhile, urged the justices to side with South Dakota. President Donald Trump tweeted Tuesday evening that "States and Cities throughout our Country are being cheated and treated so badly by online retailers. Very unfair to traditional tax paying stores!"

Like other online sellers, however, The Trump Organization's official retail website doesn't collect tax on sales to every state. Customers in only three states are charged sales tax on purchases, whether they're buying a polo shirt or Trump deodorant.

A decision in the case, 17-494, South Dakota v. Wayfair, is expected by the end of June.

Follow Jessica Gresko on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/jessicagresko>

## 6-man football class a step from reality in South Dakota

The board of the South Dakota High School Activities Association has given initial approval to forming a six-man football class in the state. The new classification would replace Class 9B and would be open to any schools with an average daily membership of 40 and below. The remaining nine-man teams would be divided into two classes. A decision on final approval will come at the board's June 7 meeting.

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The board of the South Dakota High School Activities Association has given initial approval to forming a six-man football class in the state.

The new classification would replace Class 9B and would be open to any schools with an average daily membership of 40 and below. The remaining nine-man teams would be divided into two classes.

Proponents say the move would allow smaller schools to continue having football.

A decision on final approval will come at the board's June 7 meeting.

## Clinics await appeal in North Dakota merger case

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Attorneys are awaiting a court date in a case about a proposed clinic merger in North Dakota.

The Sanford Health and Mid Dakota Clinic providers agreed to merge last year, but a federal judge blocked the move, The Bismarck Tribune reported. The judge ruled in favor of the Federal Trade Commission and

the North Dakota Attorney General's office, which argued that the merger could result in antitrust law violations if it's allowed to proceed before a final FTC determination can be made.

The providers have appealed, arguing that the state's largest insurance provider, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Dakota, would maintain any lost completion from the proposed merger. They also argue that Mid Dakota could fail if the merger is denied.

The appeal was screened for an oral argument in March. The earliest the arguments could be heard is May 14-18.

Sandford Health and Mid Dakota have told the FTC that they will abandon the merger if the injunction is upheld, according to court documents.

"There's always a good chance the court of appeals will find something in the U.S. District Court opinion with which it disagrees," said Thomas Horton, a professor of law at The University of South Dakota School of Law, who has tried a number of these cases for both the government and the defense.

An FTC administrative law court hearing would be scheduled if the providers win their appeal. The hearing would be scheduled to begin 21 days after the Eighth Circuit opinion is issued.

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

## **Illinois woman charged in South Dakota overdose death**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A woman from Rockford, Illinois, is accused of causing the death of a man in South Dakota by selling him heroin.

U.S. Attorney Ron Parsons says 26-year-old Stephanie Broecker has been indicted in federal court as part of a Justice Department effort to combat opioids by holding dealers accountable for overdose victims. She's charged with distribution of heroin resulting in death.

Authorities allege Broecker sold heroin to a 30-year-old man in South Dakota's Miner County, leading to his death last November. His name hasn't been released.

Broecker is in custody in Illinois and awaiting transfer to South Dakota to be prosecuted. She could face life in prison if convicted.

The federal public defender's office declined comment until after Broecker is transferred to South Dakota.

## **Effort to bring medical marijuana to public vote fails**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Supporters of allowing medical marijuana in South Dakota have failed to bring the matter to a public vote.

A petition to put medical marijuana legalization on the November general election ballot was rejected because it didn't have enough valid signatures.

Secretary of State Shantel Krebs said a random sampling determined that the petition with about 15,000 names had only about 9,500 valid signatures — far short of the 13,871 required.

The rejection can be challenged in court.

## **State Supreme Court upholds Aberdeen man's murder conviction**

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's Supreme Court has upheld the murder conviction of an Aberdeen man found guilty of fatally beating a friend over a \$400 debt.

A jury a year ago convicted 57-year-old Bradley Quist of killing 61-year-old Ron Witchey in May 2015. Quist was sentenced to life in prison.

He appealed, arguing in part that he wasn't given notice of the coroner's release of Witchey's body, which he said deprived him of the opportunity for an independent autopsy.

The American News reports justices ruled there's no reason a body should be kept for redundant tests or analysis.

Quist also unsuccessfully argued that evidence in the case was lacking and that the jury disregarded

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his self-defense theory.

Quist called the incident a bar fight, but justices described it as "an unprovoked brutal killing."

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

## Douglas schools want to double security staff

BOX ELDER, S.D. (AP) — The Douglas School District wants to beef up security by adding two additional sheriff's deputies.

School administrators are asking the Pennington County Commission to help fund the positions, which would double the number of school resource officers. Superintendent Alan Kerr says school safety is the top priority.

Officials say the number of long-term suspensions for misconduct has been on the rise with 11 so far this school year. And last month, officials investigated a bomb threat.

KOTA-TV the Douglas isn't alone among area schools that have added officers due to safety concerns. Spearfish schools added an officer last month. Rapid City schools are adding one next school year. And the New Underwood and Wall districts are in talks about adding an officer who would split time between the two districts.

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

## Soil moisture supplies improve in South Dakota over the week

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Soil moisture supplies have improved in South Dakota over the past week.

The federal Agriculture Department says in its weekly crop report that topsoil moisture supplies are rated 82 percent adequate to surplus, up from 76 percent. Subsoil moisture is 63 percent in that category, up from 59 percent.

The state's winter wheat crop remains mostly in fair-to-good condition.

Planting of spring wheat is getting underway, at 1 percent done. But that's well behind 48 percent last year at this time, and the long-term average of 34 percent.

## Sturgis proposing trails in Black Hills National Forest

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — The city of Sturgis wants to build and maintain nearly 15 miles of non-motorized trails in the Black Hills National Forest.

The Black Hills Pioneer reports the proposed trails would form a multiple-loop trail network in the area of Vanocker Canyon, Deadman Mountain and Veteran's Peak south of Sturgis.

Construction and maintenance of the trails would be handled by the city under an agreement with the U.S. Forest Service. The trails would be open to hikers, runners, mountain bikers and horseback riders.

An environmental review of the proposal is underway, with a final decision expected this fall. A public meeting about the project is scheduled from 4-6 p.m. Wednesday at the Sturgis Community Center.

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

## 'It smells like death:' Alabama endures NYC 'poop train'

By JEFF MARTIN and JAY REEVES, Associated Press

PARRISH, Ala. (AP) — A stinking trainload of human waste from New York City is stranded in a tiny Alabama town, spreading a stench like a giant backed-up toilet — and the "poop train" is just the latest example of the South being used as a dumping ground for other states' waste.

In Parrish, Alabama, population 982, the sludge-hauling train cars have sat idle near the little league ball fields for more than two months, Mayor Heather Hall said. The smell is unbearable, especially around



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dusk after the atmosphere has become heated, she said.

"Oh my goodness, it's just a nightmare here," she said. "It smells like rotting corpses, or carcasses. It smells like death."

All kinds of waste have been dumped in Georgia, Alabama and other Southern states in recent years, including toxic coal ash from power plants around the nation. In South Carolina, a plan to store radioactive nuclear waste in a rural area prompted complaints that the state was being turned into a nuclear dump.

In Parrish, townspeople are considering rescheduling children's softball games, or playing at fields in other communities to escape the stink.

Sherleen Pike, who lives about a half-mile from the railroad track, said she sometimes dabs peppermint oil under her nose because the smell is so bad.

"Would New York City like for us to send all our poop up there forever?" she said. "They don't want to dump it in their rivers, but I think each state should take care of their own waste."

Alabama's inexpensive land and permissive zoning laws and a federal ban on dumping New Yorkers' excrement in the ocean got the poop train chugging, experts say.

Nelson Brooke of the environmental group Black Warrior Riverkeeper, describes Alabama as "kind of an open-door, rubber-stamp permitting place" for landfill operators.

"It's easy for them to zip into a rural or poor community and set up shop and start making a ton of cash," he said.

The poop train's cargo is bound for the Big Sky landfill, about 20 miles (30 kilometers) east of Parrish. The landfill has been accepting the New York sewage sludge since early 2017. Previously, it was transferred from trains to trucks in nearby West Jefferson, but officials there obtained an injunction to keep the sludge out of their town.

The sludge "smells of dead rotting animals as well as human waste," West Jefferson's attorney said in a lawsuit against Big Sky Environmental LLC. It also caused the community to become "infested with flies," the complaint states.

After West Jefferson went to court, the train stopped in late January in Parrish, which lacks the zoning regulations to block the train cars. It's sat there ever since.

"We're probably going to look at creating some simple zoning laws for the town of Parrish so we can be sure something like this does not happen again," the Parrish mayor said. Hall said she's optimistic the sludge will all be trucked to the landfill soon.

New York City has discontinued shipping it to Alabama for the time being, said Eric Timbers, a city spokesman. Its waste, recovered from the sewage treatment process and often called "biosolids," has been sent out of state partly because the federal government in the late 1980s banned disposal in the Atlantic Ocean.

In an earlier trash saga, a barge laden with 3,186 tons (2,890 metric tons) of non-toxic paper and commercial garbage from Long Island and New York City wandered the ocean for months in 1987, seeking a place to dump it after plans by a private developer to turn it into methane gas in North Carolina fell through. It was turned away by North Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Florida, Mexico, Belize and the Bahamas.

Brooke's Black Warrior Riverkeeper group last year opposed continued permits for the Big Sky landfill. Rural parts of Alabama are "prime targets" for landfills that accept out-of-state waste, it argued, meaning "that Alabama was becoming a dumping ground for the rest of the nation."

Big Sky officials did not return multiple email and phone messages from The Associated Press seeking comment.

Nationally, the waste and recycling industry generates more than \$93 billion in gross revenue annually, said Brandon Wright, a spokesman for the National Waste & Recycling Association. Wright said there are many reasons waste is sometimes transported out of state. There might not be enough landfill space nearby "and the waste has to go somewhere, so it gets transported out of state," he said.

Alabama and other Southern states have a long history accepting waste from around the U.S.

A former state attorney general once described a giant west Alabama landfill as "America's Pay Toilet." It was among the nation's largest hazardous waste dumps when it opened in 1977. At its peak, the landfill

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took in nearly 800,000 tons (72,570 metric tons) of hazardous waste annually.

Plans to dump coal ash in Southern states have been particularly contentious. Each year, U.S. coal plants produce about 100 million tons (90 metric tons) of coal ash and other waste; more than 4 million tons of it wound up in an Alabama landfill following a 2008 spill in Tennessee.

In Parrish, the mayor hopes the material in the train cars is removed before the weather warms up.

"We're moving into the summer, and the summer in the South is not forgiving when it comes to stuff like this," she said.

Martin reported from Atlanta.

## AP Interview: Malaysia's Mahathir says opposition could win

By EILEEN NG, Associated Press

PUTRAJAYA, Malaysia (AP) — Malaysian opposition leader Mahathir Mohamad said Wednesday that huge rallies indicate some of the ruling coalition's traditional Malay supporters are now favoring the opposition and a change of government is possible in next month's elections.

Mahathir, Asia's longest-serving political leader until retiring after 22 years in 2003, is now leading a four-party alliance to oust scandal-tainted Prime Minister Najib Razak in the May 9 elections. Najib's ruling coalition has increasingly depended on the Malay Muslim majority in poor rural areas to retain power after urban middle-class voters flocked to the opposition in the past two elections.

In an interview with The Associated Press, the 92-year-old Mahathir said Malay support for the opposition has undergone an obvious increase, citing unusually huge turnouts at rallies.

Mahathir said the opposition wouldn't need every government supporter to change their mind. "We need maybe 30 percent of them to turn around — that would be sufficient for us to win," he said.

Yet, Mahathir predicted only a 50-50 chance of victory for the opposition "because of the government's tendency to cheat, to threaten people, to use money, to even block the election process."

Najib, 64, has been dogged by a massive corruption scandal involving the 1MDB state investment fund, which he set up and previously led. The fund accumulated massive debt, and the U.S. and other countries are investigating possible cross-border embezzlement and money laundering. Najib himself has denied wrongdoing and has fired critics and muzzled reporting on the scandal.

Mahathir said even though rural Malays underestimate the scale of the scandal, they have been hard hit by a rising cost of living due to the introduction of a 6 percent goods and services tax in 2015 to raise government revenue.

"Now wherever we go, we have a huge number of people coming to us and most of them are Malays," Mahathir said of the crowds at opposition rallies. "They will come out and they will listen to the talks until the very end. They don't move, they don't go away. It shows their interest."

"I think there is a wave — whether you call it a tsunami or not, I don't know — but there certainly is a change of heart among the rural Malays," he said.

Najib's National Front coalition lost its two-thirds parliamentary majority in 2008 elections. In 2013, it secured its lowest number of parliamentary seats ever and lost the popular vote for the first time to the opposition, which Najib blamed on a "Chinese tsunami." It currently holds 132 out of 222 parliamentary seats.

More than half of the 222 parliamentary seats at stake in next month's election are dominated by Malays, who have traditionally been strong government supporters. Malays and other indigenous groups are about two-thirds of Malaysia's people, with Chinese about a quarter and ethnic Indians and others the rest.

New electoral maps approved earlier this year were seen as benefiting Najib's coalition, and the election date itself was controversial. The midweek vote was seen as depressing turnout among Malaysia's 14.94 million eligible voters and so was hastily declared a public holiday.

"If it is a fair election, the opposition would win hands down. Such is the dislike for the present government that most people would vote for the opposition, but of course, the government has the power and

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the authority to abuse the system completely," Mahathir said, citing the new maps and the suspension of his nascent political party just before election was called.

In the event of an opposition victory, Mahathir warned that there could be instability if the win is small. "With Najib, we can never be very sure that he wouldn't resort to illegal means to retain his position. So if the majority we obtain is small, he might create a problem," he said. He noted that Najib could declare an emergency in the event of violent political demonstrations.

"The opposition can protest, I suppose. They can take to the streets, but it will mean violence. It will mean a repeat of 1969 on a bigger scale perhaps. That is possible," he said, referring to bloody racial riots in 1969 that killed more than 200 people.

Mahathir said the 1MDB scandal, which is being investigated by the U.S and several other countries for cross-border embezzlement and money laundering, has blackened Malaysia's international reputation.

The opposition will reopen investigations into 1MDB if it wins the election, he said, but denied they would be targeted at Najib.

"If it reaches the court, the court will decide, we are not going to decide," Mahathir said. "It is not a question of revenge. We are not going to take revenge on him, but the law must be respected."

The U.S. Justice Department says at least \$4.5 billion was stolen from 1MDB by associates of Najib and is working to seize \$1.7 billion allegedly taken from the fund to buy assets in the U.S.

Mahathir said he regretted not putting in place stronger checks on power when he was prime minister. "I did not know it at the time, of course, but I regret very much that I was not able to foresee the kind of damage that can be done by a prime minister under the existing law."

If Najib retains power, Mahathir said the country would be bankrupted due to ballooning national debts that the government cannot pay.

"This country will be totally destroyed," he said.

## First the chlorine, then chaos and death in Syria attack

By SARAH EL DEEB, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Residents of the Syrian town of Douma were packed into underground shelters amid bombardment when the gas began to spread. Suddenly, panic ensued.

As shouts of "chlorine, chlorine!" rang out, some ran into the night and fainted in the street. Others climbed to rooftops, hoping they'd be safer rising above the gas. Dozens didn't make it out at all, some stumbling on stairwells, out of breath, where they were later found dead.

The bodies were still there the next morning, strewn around the buildings, including toddlers and young children.

Much about the April 7 suspected chemical attack in Douma, just east of Damascus, remains unknown, including the exact death toll, because of the lack of an independent investigation.

International chemical weapons inspectors were said to have entered the town on Tuesday, 10 days after the attack, but the Syrian government said Wednesday that only an advance security team had entered, amid U.S. accusations that Syria and its ally Russia were blocking their entry to cover up evidence.

The Associated Press spoke to rescuers, medics and numerous residents of Douma for their accounts of what took place. Some were reached in rebel-held areas in northern Syria where they were evacuated after the attack, while others were still in Douma.

They spoke of at least two buildings with people sheltering in the basements that were overwhelmed with gas so strong that it was hard to breathe hundreds of meters (yards) away.

More than 40 people were killed, many of them children, according to medics and opposition activists in the town. The World Health Organization said an estimated 500 patients exhibited symptoms consistent with exposure to toxic chemicals, including respiratory failure.

It was hardly the first chemical attack in Syria's civil war, now more than seven years old. The U.N.-mandated Independent International Commission on Syria has documented more than 30 chemical attacks in Syria between 2013 and the end of 2017 — at least 25 of them carried out by the Syrian military, the

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commission says. For the rest, it had insufficient evidence to determine the perpetrator. Most involved chlorine gas, usually causing only a few injuries.

But in this case, it appeared the gas hit dozens of people crammed into confined spaces, huddling away from the bombs outside. The U.S. and France say they have evidence the Syrian government carried out the April 7 strike, while Syria and Russia have denied any gas attack even took place.

An AP team visited the site on a Syrian government-organized tour Monday, including a two-room underground shelter where one resident said 47 people were killed, including his pregnant wife and two young daughters.

A strange smell lingered, nine days after the attack. The floors of the shelter were covered with carpets and pillows were lined up against a wall. There were no signs of blood stains.

## A STRANGE SMELL, THEN PEOPLE RUNNING AND SCREAMING

There had been bombings going on all day, and in the evening, a heavy volley of rockets hit, dozens within 10 minutes, said Ahmed, a 20-year-old medic.

After the rocket fire subsided, he and his team moved in to check for wounded. Nearing the site, they encountered a powerful smell, then saw people running and screaming, "Chlorine! Chlorine!"

Ahmed ran into the building, trying to reach the shelter. He didn't make it far. He saw two bodies, a man and a woman, but he couldn't go further. His eyes swollen from the fumes, he struggled to breathe. Everywhere was the overpowering smell of chlorine, he said, speaking on condition he be identified only by his first name out of fear for his safety and that of his family.

He rushed to a nearby medical center, where hundreds were crowded, many gasping for breath. Some had fainted. After washing his face and recovering, he joined other medics and went back to the attack site, but the gas was still too strong to get close. Instead they went back and forth helping those who had managed to stagger out get to the medical center.

"After an hour and a half, I couldn't do more," said. "I was in bad shape. I had to rest."

Soon after the attack, Ahmed was among thousands evacuated from Douma as the town surrendered to government forces.

He believes the attack was clearly carried out by Syrian government forces. "It was like an earthquake," he said, speaking to the AP from northern Syria. "The town was facing an earthquake."

## "IT'S CHLORINE! IT'S CHLORINE!"

Men and women were preparing to perform the sunset Muslim prayers in an underground shelter when an overpowering smell started spreading.

"It's chlorine! It's chlorine!" they screamed.

Khaled Nuseir was in the two-room shelter with 51 other people when the fumes hit. He ran to a nearby clinic, calling for paramedics to help, but fainted in the clinic.

The 25-year-old vegetable vendor said he woke up some time later to people putting vinegar and water on his face. He ran back to the shelter where he found his wife and two daughters dead, white foam covering their mouths.

His wife, Fatmeh Qarout, was nine months pregnant. His daughters, Qamar — Arabic for moon — and Nour — Arabic for light — were 18 months and 2 ½ years old. He said only five people in the shelter survived.

The next morning, medics came and took the bodies and buried them in a mass grave near the town's zoo.

Nuseir said a cylinder was found leaking gas. He said it didn't appear that it was dropped from the air because it still looked intact. "There was no sound of explosion," he said, speaking to the AP in Douma, which is now in government hands.

He and two other residents accused the rebel Army of Islam, which controlled Douma until the militants' surrendered it, of carrying out the attack. As they spoke, government troops were nearby, but out of earshot.

"I lost my children," Nuseir said. "If we are standing here and something falls from an aircraft, doesn't



it explode? The cylinder was intact when we found it and it was leaking.”

“NOTHING SAVED THEM. THEY ALL LOST THEIR LIVES.”

Abdullah Abu Hamam tried to reach the site of the attack that night but the bombardment was too strong. He got there the next morning. Even 12 hours later, the gas was too powerful for him to venture into the underground shelters.

Still, he found bodies on all the upper floors. It was clear that when the gas hit, some in the shelters ran upstairs, trying to get to the rooftops.

“They knew that if they climbed up, they might be saved,” he said. “We found them on the doorstep, killed. They didn’t even make it to the upper floors. ...They fell on the stairs, women and children, and even some men.”

Abu Humam took video footage that showed one apartment with at least a dozen bodies, including at least seven toddlers and young children. None had any wounds, and one woman in the footage appeared to have foam around her mouth

“Some were in the bathroom and were trying to wash, but nothing saved them. They all lost their lives,” Abu Humam said, speaking from the rebel-held town of al-Bab in northern Syria.

Associated Press writer Bassem Mroue in Douma, Syria, contributed to this report.

## **APNewsBreak: Lithuanian claims pedophile ring in extradition**

**By MICHAEL TARM, AP Legal Affairs Writer**

CHICAGO (AP) — A former Lithuanian judge and parliamentarian jailed in Chicago at her homeland’s request fears death if she’s extradited because she helped expose a network of influential pedophiles in the country, she told The Associated Press in her first interview since becoming a fugitive.

Unless the Trump administration intervenes, 47-year-old Neringa Venckiene could be sent back home within weeks.

“I never want to go back to Lithuania,” she told the AP by phone from jail, adding that she would embrace becoming a U.S. citizen.

The improbable story of how Venckiene, once a rising judicial star in Lithuania, ended up in a high-rise federal jail in downtown Chicago goes back a decade. For years, the drama enthralled and bitterly divided the Baltic Sea nation.

It involves the slaying of a fellow judge accused of molesting her 4-year-old niece; the death of Venckiene’s brother who leveled the accusation and was suspected in the murder; and Venckiene’s election to parliament after a burst of popularity as head of a new anti-pedophilia party named after her dead brother.

After fleeing Lithuania in 2013, Venckiene lived in the Chicago suburb of Crystal Lake with her teenage son, Karolis. She worked as a nursing-home aide, then a florist. She had documents allowing her to live and work legally in the U.S., but she turned herself in on Feb. 13 after learning American authorities were seeking her arrest on the Lithuanian charges.

Kathleen Miller, a friend of Venckiene’s from Crystal Lake, says Venckiene stood out as bright and kind. Over lunch or while grocery shopping together, she often spoke of the turmoil that engulfed her in Lithuania.

“Our whole family loves her,” Miller said. “It was a terrible shock when she was arrested.”

At the Metropolitan Correctional Center, which typically holds drug- and gun-crime suspects, Venckiene gets outside to a deck atop the 26-story jail for one hour each day. She plays basketball, goes to mass and reads a lot, she said. She has recently been reading “The Diary of Anne Frank,” written by the Jewish girl as she hid from Nazis in occupied Amsterdam.

Hollywood depictions of U.S. jails initially worried her, she said, but neither inmates nor guards have mistreated her.

“It’s better than what I have seen in movies,” she said. “I don’t want to sit in jail for crimes I didn’t

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commit. But it's not that bad."

Lithuania issued an arrest warrant in 2015. But American authorities haven't explained why they arrested her only three years later.

If she is extradited, Venckiene says politically connected pedophiles would target her both for exposing their network and for campaigning on the issue in 2012, when her fledging party won seven parliamentary seats.

"They have no reason to have me back but to kill me," said Venckiene, who also answered some questions by email.

There's no history of extrajudicial killings in Lithuania, which restored independence from the Soviet Union in 1991 and now belongs to NATO and the European Union. Asked about Venckiene's safety concerns, Lithuania prosecutors' spokeswoman Rita Stundiene said she'd leave it to others "to evaluate her claims."

Extradition documents highlight only a few charges, including stalking supposed pedophiles through a surveillance group Venckiene created and noncompliance with an order to relinquish custody of her niece. Her lawyers expect her to face dozens of charges if extradited, including disrespecting the dead.

Among the dead she allegedly disrespected by was Judge Jonas Furmanavicius, a colleague at the same Kaunas courthouse where Venckiene worked.

She and her brother, Drasius Kedys, had alleged Furmanavicius abused the 4-year-old based on a 2009 video in which she described several men molesting her. The girl's mother is Kedys' former girlfriend, and Kedys implicated her, too. Officials said evidence didn't support those allegations or her claims about a pedophile ring.

On Oct. 5, 2009, the judge was shot dead near his home. Hours later, the sister of the girl's mother was killed. Suspicion fell on Kedys, who disappeared and was found dead six months later. Investigators blamed his death on binge drinking while he was in hiding. But Venckiene says someone framed him for the murders before killing him.

Months after Kedys died, another man he had accused died falling off an all-terrain vehicle into a shallow pool of water. Investigators ruled it a drowning.

Some Lithuanians considered Kedys a vigilante hero. Many agreed he must have fabricated abuse allegations for leverage in a custody dispute with his ex-girlfriend. Others wondered why Kedys would commit revenge killings if he knew the allegations were false.

Legal pressure grew on Venckiene after May 17, 2012, when 250 police officers stormed her parents' home where she was staying to enforce an order transferring custody of the niece to the girl's mom. They pushed through crowds of Venckiene supporters and pried the niece from Venckiene as the girl screamed she wanted to stay.

Venckiene's son, now 18 and studying law and history in an Illinois college, said his mom decided to flee in 2013 by driving to Germany with him and boarding a flight to Chicago after receiving death threats in Lithuania. They seemed credible, he said, because "people connected to the case were dying left and right."

U.S. authorities say a treaty with Lithuania obliges them to extradite Venckiene. Arguing successfully in court for her to remain jailed, they said she could again flee, "embarrassing the United States in the conduct of its foreign affairs."

Her lawyers argued that under U.S. law the Lithuanian charges, such as slander, would be either civil complaints or at most misdemeanors, and so aren't grounds for extradition. But a judge ruled she could be extradited.

Venckiene's hope is that the Department of State will agree to deem the charges politically driven, a designation that would halt extradition. But that would entail criticizing a staunch U.S. ally, which American officials may be reluctant to do.

A message left Tuesday seeking comment from the State Department wasn't immediately returned.

Venckiene said she hasn't spent time yet preparing herself emotionally in case she loses the extradition fight. She told the AP in one email from jail: "I still believe that in a democratic country, like U.S.A., I have an opportunity to prove my innocence."

Follow Michael Tarm on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/mtarm>

## Trump says 'good relationship' formed with North Korea

By MATTHEW LEE and ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Wednesday confirmed that his CIA chief secretly met with Kim Jong Un in North Korea and said “a good relationship was formed” heading into the adversaries’ anticipated summit.

Mike Pompeo’s highly unusual talks took place “last week,” Trump tweeted, and “went smoothly,” with details about the presidential meeting within the next few months “being worked out now.”

“Denuclearization will be a great thing for World, but also for North Korea!” Trump wrote while at his Florida estate, where he was hosting Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Trump had disclosed on Tuesday that the U.S. and North Korea were holding direct talks at “extremely high levels” in preparation for a possible summit. He said five locations were under consideration for the meeting, which could take place by early June.

Confirmation of Pompeo’s trip later came from two officials, who were not authorized to discuss the meeting publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Washington Post, which first reported the development, said it took place over Easter weekend — just over two weeks ago, shortly after Pompeo was nominated to become secretary of state.

Kim’s offer for a summit was initially conveyed to Trump by South Korea last month, and the president shocked many by accepting it. U.S. officials indicated over the past two weeks that North Korea’s government had communicated directly with Washington that it was ready to discuss its nuclear weapons program.

It would be the first-ever summit between the U.S. and North Korea during more than six decades of hostility since the Korean War. North Korea’s nuclear weapons and its capability to deliver them by ballistic missile pose a growing threat to the U.S. mainland.

The U.S. and North Korea do not have formal diplomatic relations, complicating the arrangements for contacts between the two governments. It is not unprecedented for U.S. intelligence officials to serve as a conduit for communication with Pyongyang.

In 2014, the then-director of U.S. national intelligence, James Clapper, secretly visited North Korea to bring back two American detainees.

China, North Korea’s closest ally, said it welcomes direct contact and talks between the U.S. and North Korea after news emerged of Pompeo’s meeting with Kim.

Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said at a briefing Wednesday that Beijing hopes the two sides will work on a political resolution of tensions on the Korean Peninsula and set up a peace mechanism. The Koreas are technically still in a state of war after fighting in the 1950-53 Korean War ended with a cease-fire, not a peace treaty.

At a Senate hearing last week on his nomination, Pompeo played down expectations for a breakthrough deal on ending North Korea’s nuclear weapons program at the planned summit, but said it could lay the groundwork for a comprehensive agreement on denuclearization.

“I’m optimistic that the United States government can set the conditions for that appropriately so that the president and the North Korean leader can have that conversation and will set us down the course of achieving a diplomatic outcome that America and the world so desperately need,” Pompeo told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

After a year of escalating tensions, when North Korea conducted nuclear and long-range missile tests that drew world condemnation, Kim has pivoted to international outreach.

The young leader met China’s President Xi Jinping in Beijing in late March, Kim’s first trip abroad since taking power six years ago. He is set to meet South Korean President Moon Jae-in in the demilitarized zone between the rival Koreas on April 27.

Associated Press writers Matthew Pennington in Washington and Gillian Wong in Beijing contributed to

this report.

## **Korean leaders can discuss peace, but can't end Korean War**

**By KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — President Donald Trump has given his “blessing” for North and South Korea to discuss the end of the Korean War amid a diplomatic push to end the North Korean nuclear standoff. One problem: There can be no real talks without the involvement of the other countries that fought the 1950-53 war, and especially the United States.

The reason is that South Korea wasn't a direct signatory to the armistice that stopped the fighting but left the Korean Peninsula still technically in a state of war.

There's widespread interest in what South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will talk about at their summit on April 27, which would be only the third such meeting between the countries' leaders. A separate meeting between Kim and Trump is anticipated in May or June.

Trump revealed Tuesday that the U.S. and North Korea had been holding direct talks at “extremely high levels” in preparation for their summit. Trump also said that North and South Korea are negotiating an end to hostilities before next week's summit.

“They do have my blessing to discuss the end of the war,” Trump said.

A senior South Korean presidential official said Wednesday that the Koreans plan to use their summit to discuss ending military hostilities, but it wasn't clear if they'd discuss the end of the war.

“We don't know yet whether a specific expression like ‘end of the war’ will be used during the inter-Korean summit, but we do wish for an agreement at ending hostilities between the South and North,” said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, citing office rules.

North Korea has long sought a peace treaty with the United States to formally end the war. Some South Koreans fear that the North could use such a treaty as a pretext for demanding the withdrawal of the 28,500 American troops currently stationed in the South. Some worry that potential discussions to formally end the war may distract from already difficult efforts to rid the North of nuclear weapons and apply robust verification of that process.

The armistice was signed by the U.S.-led United Nations Command, North Korea and China. South Korea was a member of the U.N. Command but was not a direct signatory.

In their previous summit in 2007, the Koreans declared a commitment toward ending the war and vowed to pursue discussions with others. But the efforts faltered and the relations between the rivals worsened after a conservative government took office in Seoul in February 2008.

## **Presidents, first ladies praise Barbara Bush's dedication**

**By MICHAEL GRACZYK and TERRY WALLACE, Associated Press**

HOUSTON (AP) — Presidents, first ladies and many others who knew Barbara Bush are praising her devotion to the nation, her family and literacy.

President Donald Trump said among Mrs. Bush's greatest achievements “was recognizing the importance of literacy as a fundamental family value that requires nurturing and protection. She will be long remembered for her strong devotion to country and family, both of which she served unfailingly well.”

Former President Barack Obama said he and former first lady Michelle Obama will “always be grateful to Mrs. Bush for the generosity she showed to us throughout our time in the White House, but we're even more grateful for the way she lived her life — as a testament to the fact that public service is an important and noble calling; as an example of the humility and decency that reflects the very best of the American spirit.”

Mrs. Bush died Tuesday at age 92, family spokesman Jim McGrath said. She had decided to decline further medical treatment for health problems and focus instead on “comfort care” at home in Houston.

A funeral is planned Saturday at St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Houston, which Mrs. Bush and her



husband, former President George H.W. Bush, regularly attended. Mrs. Bush will lie in repose Friday at the church for members of the public who want to pay respects. Saturday's service will be by invitation only, according to the George Bush Presidential Library Foundation.

Former President Jimmy Carter and former first lady Rosalynn Carter called Mrs. Bush the "matriarch of a family dedicated to serving, she urged volunteerism as a way for all citizens to participate in our nation's progress."

George H.W. Bush was at his wife's side when she died and had held her hand all day Tuesday, according to Jean Becker, chief of staff at the former president's office in Houston.

Their son, former President George W. Bush, said his family's "souls are settled because we know hers was."

"Barbara Bush was a fabulous First Lady and a woman unlike any other who brought levity, love, and literacy to millions," he said. "To us, she was so much more."

Wallace reported from Dallas.

## **NTSB: Blown Southwest jet engine showed 'metal fatigue'**

**By ALEXANDRA VILLARREAL and DAVID KOENIG, Associated Press**

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A preliminary examination of the blown jet engine of the Southwest Airlines plane that set off a terrifying chain of events and left a businesswoman hanging half outside a shattered window showed evidence of "metal fatigue," according to the National Transportation Safety Board.

Passengers scrambled to save the woman from getting sucked out the window that had been smashed by debris. She later died, and seven others were injured.

The pilots of the twin-engine Boeing 737 bound from New York to Dallas with 149 people aboard took it into a rapid descent Tuesday and made an emergency landing in Philadelphia. Oxygen masks dropped from the ceiling and passengers said their prayers and braced for impact.

"I just remember holding my husband's hand, and we just prayed and prayed and prayed," said passenger Amanda Bourman, of New York.

The dead woman was identified as Jennifer Riordan, a Wells Fargo bank executive and mother of two from Albuquerque, New Mexico. The seven other victims suffered minor injuries.

The National Transportation Safety Board sent a team of investigators to Philadelphia.

In a late night news conference, NTSB chairman Robert Sumwalt said one of the engine's fan blades was separated and missing. The blade was separated at the point where it would come into the hub and there was evidence of metal fatigue, Sumwalt said.

The engine will be examined further to understand what caused the failure. The investigation is expected to take 12 to 15 months.

Photos of the plane on the tarmac showed a missing window and a chunk gone from the left engine, including part of its cover. A piece of the engine covering was later found in Bernville, Pennsylvania, about 70 miles (112 kilometers) west of Philadelphia, Sumwalt said.

As a precaution, Southwest said Tuesday night that it would inspect similar engines in its fleet over the next 30 days.

Passengers praised one of the pilots, Tammie Jo Shults, for her cool-headed handling of the emergency. The former Navy pilot was at the controls when the plane made the emergency landing. She walked through the aisle and talked with passengers to make sure they were OK after the aircraft touched down.

"She has nerves of steel. That lady, I applaud her," said Alfred Tumlinson, of Corpus Christi, Texas. "I'm going to send her a Christmas card, I'm going to tell you that, with a gift certificate for getting me on the ground. She was awesome."

In a recording of conversations between the cockpit and air traffic controllers, an unidentified crew member reported that there was a hole in the plane and "someone went out."

Tumlinson said a man in a cowboy hat rushed forward a few rows to grab the woman and pull her back in.

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"She was out of the plane. He couldn't do it by himself, so another gentleman came over and helped to get her back in the plane, and they got her," he said.

Passengers struggled to somehow plug the hole while giving the badly injured woman CPR.

As the plane came in for a landing, everyone started yelling to brace for impact, then clapped after the aircraft touched down safely, Bourman said.

Southwest CEO Gary Kelly said there were no problems with the plane or its engine when it was inspected on Sunday.

The jet's CFM56-7B engines were made by CFM International, jointly owned by General Electric and Safran Aircraft Engines of France. CFM said in a statement that the CFM56-7B has had "an outstanding safety and reliability record" since its debut in 1997.

Last year, the engine maker and the Federal Aviation Administration instructed airlines to make ultrasonic inspections of the fan blades of engines like those on the Southwest jet. The FAA said the move was prompted by a report of a fan blade failing and hurling debris. A Southwest spokeswoman said the engine that failed Tuesday was not covered by that directive, but the airline announced it would speed up ultrasonic inspections of fan blades of its CFM56-series engines anyway.

"There's a ring around the engine that is meant to contain the engine pieces when this happens," said John Goglia, a former NTSB member. "In this case it didn't. That's going to be a big focal point for the NTSB — why didn't (the ring) do its job?"

In 2016, a Southwest Boeing 737-700 blew an engine as it flew from New Orleans to Orlando, Florida, and shrapnel tore a 5-by-16-inch hole just above the wing. The plane landed safely. The NTSB said a fan blade had broken off, apparently because of metal fatigue.

Koenig reported from Dallas. Associated Press writers Kristen de Groot and Claudia Lauer in Philadelphia; Susan Montoya in Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Matthew Barakat in Washington, contributed to this story, along with AP researchers Monika Mathur and Jennifer Farrar.

## Big fish struggling to catch on: Stanton slumping in Bronx

By MIKE FITZPATRICK, AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Coming up empty against his former team was hardly what Giancarlo Stanton had in mind.

Same is true of the poor first impression he's made in Yankees pinstripes so far.

Last year's NL MVP is off to a miserable start with New York — especially at home — and the hulking slugger is hearing it from impatient fans in the Bronx. After going 0 for 4 with two more strikeouts in a 9-1 loss to the last-place Miami Marlins on Tuesday night, the slumping Stanton is 3 for 35 (.086) with 20 strikeouts at Yankee Stadium this season.

"Obviously, he's frustrated. You want to go out there and perform, especially when you're an MVP, and obviously he expects a lot of himself," rookie manager Aaron Boone said. "But I think his focus is tremendous and I'm really confident that the work he's putting in — and he's a worker, he gets after it — and I'm confident that once he gets rolling it'll be a juggernaut. I want him to, just for peace of mind, to get going a little bit and kind of settle in and get into the rhythm of the season, but long-term he's too good for it not to start happening."

Until then, however, Boone acknowledged he's considering a slight drop in the lineup for Stanton, who has been batting third behind Aaron Judge.

The two were supposed to give the Yankees a power-hitting pair to rival Mantle & Maris, or Ruth & Gehrig. But while Judge is hitting .339 with a .480 on-base percentage and four home runs, Stanton has mostly struggled. He's batting .197 with three homers and 10 RBIs, not nearly enough production to offset his 29 strikeouts in 66 at-bats.

"I might flirt with splitting different guys up and stuff, but not moving him down too far because he's one at-bat away from getting it locked back in and then the last thing you want is him down in the order

getting pitched around," Boone said. "He's too premier of a player and an at-bat away from, in my eyes, locking it in. So I might juggle with the top five or six, but as far as moving down significantly, no."

Stanton led the majors with 59 home runs and 132 RBIs for Miami last season. With a \$325 million contract, he was traded to New York in December as part of a payroll purge overseen by new Marlins CEO and ex-Yankees captain Derek Jeter.

In his Yankees debut, Stanton homered twice and drove in four runs on opening day in Toronto. But it's been a different story at home, where twice he has struck out five times in a game this month.

New York's big fish has yet to catch on in the Big Apple.

"We're 16 games in and in baseball that's a very small sample," Boone said. "He'll get it rolling here and eventually the league will pay for some of his early struggles."

Stanton was the only Yankees starter who didn't have a hit in Monday night's 12-1 rout of the visiting Marlins. In his first regular-season game against the team he played for from 2010-17, he fouled out with the bases loaded and whiffed twice. He did reach safely on a walk and a hit by pitch.

Stanton had chances to come through early in Tuesday's game, but he grounded into a double play with two on and none out in the first inning, then fouled off a 3-0 pitch and popped out on 3-1 with two on and one out in the third.

"Shoot, track record don't matter in the moment," Stanton said. "You understand what you've done but if you're in there with a lack of confidence, you might as well go sit down anyways, and that's from the start of any career. Bad times, good times, whatever."

He finished 0 for 7 with four strikeouts in the two-game series, prompting the latest round of boos directed at Stanton as the Yankees fell to 8-8.

Stanton said it's "pretty simple" to block out those boos, and he understands why he's hearing them.

"You've got to own up to it and understand and find a way to get better, find a way to get out of it," he said.

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Freelancer Scott Orgera contributed to this story.

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More AP baseball: <https://apnews.com/tag/MLBbaseball>

## Barbara Bush brought plainspoken, grandmotherly style to DC

By MICHAEL GRACZYK, Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Barbara Bush didn't hesitate to tell people that her trademark pearl necklaces were fake. Americans liked that everything else about the snowy-haired first lady was real.

The wife of the nation's 41st president and mother of the 43rd brought a plainspoken, grandmotherly style to buttoned-down Washington, displaying an utter lack of vanity about her white hair and wrinkles.

"What you see with me is what you get. I'm not running for president — George Bush is," she said at the 1988 Republican National Convention, where her husband, then vice president, was nominated to succeed Ronald Reagan.

Mrs. Bush died Tuesday, according to a statement from family spokesman Jim McGrath. She was 92.

A funeral is planned Saturday at St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Houston, which Mrs. Bush and her husband, former President George H.W. Bush, regularly attended. Mrs. Bush will lie in repose Friday at the church for members of the public who want to pay respects. Saturday's service will be by invitation only, according to the George Bush Presidential Library Foundation.

The Bushes, who were married on Jan. 6, 1945, had the longest marriage of any presidential couple in American history. And Mrs. Bush was one of only two first ladies who had a child who was elected president. The other was Abigail Adams, wife of John Adams and mother of John Quincy Adams.

"I had the best job in America," she wrote in a 1994 memoir describing her time in the White House. "Every single day was interesting, rewarding, and sometimes just plain fun."

The publisher's daughter and oilman's wife could be caustic in private, but her public image was that of

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a self-sacrificing, supportive spouse who referred to her husband as her "hero."

In the White House, "you need a friend, someone who loves you, who's going to say, "You are great," Mrs. Bush said in a 1992 television interview.

Her uncoiffed, matronly appearance often provoked jokes that she looked more like the boyish president's mother than his wife. Late-night comedians quipped that her bright white hair and pale features also imparted an uncanny resemblance to George Washington.

Eight years after leaving the nation's capital, Mrs. Bush stood with her husband as their son George W. was sworn in as president. They returned four years later when he won a second term. Unlike Mrs. Bush, Abigail Adams did not live to see her son's inauguration. She died in 1818, six years before John Quincy Adams was elected.

Mrs. Bush insisted she did not try to influence her husband's politics.

"I don't fool around with his office," she said, "and he doesn't fool around with my household."

In 1984, her quick wit got her into trouble when she was quoted as referring to Geraldine Ferraro, the Democratic vice presidential nominee at the time, as "that \$4 million — I can't say it, but it rhymes with rich."

"It was dumb of me. I shouldn't have said it," Mrs. Bush acknowledged in 1988. "It was not attractive, and I've been very shamed. I apologized to Mrs. Ferraro, and I would apologize again."

Daughter-in-law Laura Bush, another first lady, said Mrs. Bush was "ferociously tart-tongued" from the start.

"She's never shied away from saying what she thinks. ... She's managed to insult nearly all of my friends with one or another perfectly timed acerbic comment," Laura Bush said in her 2010 book, "Spoken from the Heart."

In her 1994 autobiography, "Barbara Bush: A Memoir," she said she did her best to keep her opinions from the public while her husband was in office. But she revealed that she disagreed with him on two issues: She supported legal abortion and opposed the sale of assault weapons.

"I honestly felt, and still feel, the elected person's opinion is the one the public has the right to know," Mrs. Bush wrote.

She also disclosed a bout with depression in the mid-1970s, saying she sometimes feared she would deliberately crash her car. She blamed hormonal changes and stress.

"Night after night, George held me weeping in his arms while I tried to explain my feelings," she wrote. "I almost wonder why he didn't leave me."

She said she snapped out of it in a few months.

Mrs. Bush raised five children: George W., Jeb, Neil, Marvin and Dorothy. A sixth child, 3-year-old daughter Robin, died of leukemia in 1953.

In a speech in 1985, she recalled the stress of raising a family while married to a man whose ambitions carried him from the Texas oil fields to Congress and then into influential political positions that included ambassador to the United Nations, GOP chairman and CIA director.

"This was a period, for me, of long days and short years," she said, "of diapers, runny noses, earaches, more Little League games than you could believe possible, tonsils and those unscheduled races to the hospital emergency room, Sunday school and church, of hours of urging homework or short chubby arms around your neck and sticky kisses."

Along the way, she said, there were also "bumpy moments — not many, but a few — of feeling that I'd never, ever be able to have fun again and coping with the feeling that George Bush, in his excitement of starting a small company and traveling around the world, was having a lot of fun."

In 2003, she wrote a follow-up memoir, "Reflections: Life After the White House."

"I made no apologies for the fact that I still live a life of ease," she wrote. "There is a difference between ease and leisure. I live the former and not the latter."

Along with her memoirs, she wrote "C. Fred's Story" and "Millie's Book," based on the lives of her dogs. Proceeds from the books benefited adult and family literacy programs. Laura Bush, a former teacher with a master's degree in library science, continued her mother-in-law's literacy campaign in the White House.



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The 43rd president was not the only Bush son to seek office in the 1990s. In 1994, when George W. was elected governor of Texas, son Jeb narrowly lost to incumbent Lawton Chiles in Florida. Four years later, Jeb was victorious in his second try in Florida.

"This is a testament to what wonderful parents they are," George W. Bush said as Jeb Bush was sworn into office. Jeb won a second term in 2002, and then made an unsuccessful bid for the Republican presidential nomination in 2016.

Sons Marvin and Neil both became businessmen. Neil achieved some notoriety in the 1980s as a director of a savings and loan that crashed. Daughter Dorothy, or Doro, has preferred to stay out of the spotlight. She married lobbyist Robert Koch, a Democrat, in 1992.

In a collection of letters published in 1999, George H.W. Bush included a note he gave to his wife in early 1994.

"You have given me joy that few men know," he wrote. "You have made our boys into men by bawling them out and then, right away, by loving them. You have helped Doro to be the sweetest, greatest daughter in the whole wide world. I have climbed perhaps the highest mountain in the world, but even that cannot hold a candle to being Barbara's husband."

Mrs. Bush was born Barbara Pierce in Rye, New York. Her father was the publisher of McCall's and Redbook magazines. After attending Smith College for two years, she married young naval aviator George Herbert Walker Bush. She was 19.

After World War II, the Bushes moved to the Texas oil patch to seek their fortune and raise a family. It was there that Bush began his political career, representing Houston for two terms in Congress in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

In all, the Bushes made more than two dozen moves that circled half the globe before landing at the White House in 1989. During the next four years, opinion polls often gave her approval ratings that exceeded her husband's.

The couple's final move, after Bush lost the 1992 election to Bill Clinton, was to Houston, where they built what she termed their "dream house" in an affluent neighborhood. The Bush family also had an oceanfront summer home in Kennebunkport, Maine.

After retiring to Houston, the Bushes helped raise funds for charities and appeared frequently at events such as Houston Astros baseball games. Public schools in the Houston area are named for both of them.

In 1990, Barbara Bush gave the commencement address at all-women Wellesley College, though some had protested her selection because she was prominent only through the achievements of her husband. Her speech that day was rated by a survey of scholars in 1999 as one of the top 100 speeches of the century.

"Cherish your human connections," Mrs. Bush told graduates. "At the end of your life, you will never regret not having passed one more test, winning one more verdict or not closing one more deal. You will regret time not spent with a husband, a child, a friend or a parent."

Online:

George Bush Presidential Library, <http://bushlibrary.tamu.edu/>

## Pot holiday traces roots to California high school stoners

By PAUL ELIAS, Associated Press

SAN RAFAEL, Calif. (AP) — Friday is April 20, or 4/20. That's the numerical code for marijuana's high holiday, a celebration and homage to pot's enduring and universal slang for smoking.

Festivities are planned worldwide, culminating with a synchronized smoke at 4:20 p.m. local time.

How the marijuana-loving world came to mark the occasion is believed traceable to five Northern California men now in their 60s with bad backs and graying hair. They are the unofficial grandmasters by virtue of the code they created nearly 50 years ago as students at a suburban San Francisco high school in 1971.

"We thought it was a joke then," said David Reddix, a filmmaker and retired CNN cameraman. "We still do." Reddix and his four buddies — Steve Capper, Larry Schwartz, Jeff Noel and Mark Gravich — were a

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stoner clique who hung out at a particular wall between classes at San Rafael High School. They dubbed themselves "The Waldos," a term coined by comedian Buddy Hackett to describe odd people.

One fall afternoon in 1971 a non-Waldo classmate came to the wall with an intriguing tale and a crudely drawn map.

The map purported to show the location of a marijuana garden in the forest of nearby Point Reyes National Seashore. The classmate said the pot patch belonged to his brother-in-law, a Coast Guard reservist stationed at Point Reyes.

The classmate explained his brother-in-law, paranoid of exposure and washing out of the reserves, was renouncing ownership of the garden. He handed Capper the map and said The Waldos were welcome to the marijuana.

The five excited friends made plans to find the weed after school and decided to meet in front of the school's statue of Louis Pasteur at 4:20 p.m., when two of them finished football practice.

They piled into Capper's 1966 Chevy Impala, popped in a Grateful Dead 8-track tape and passed around joints as they drove the 45 minutes to the coast.

The five, now firmly middle-class fathers dressed in Polo shirts and khaki pants, laugh about tumbling out of a marijuana smoke-filled car when they arrived at their destination.

"It was straight of a Cheech and Chong movie," Schwartz said.

They didn't find the patch that day, but vowed to keep searching. They would pass in the halls and whisper "420 Louis" to each other if a new attempt was planned, indicating they should meet at 4:20 p.m. at the Pasteur statue.

The patch was never found.

"We were probably too stoned," Schwartz said.

But the "420 Louis" stuck as code for "let's get high at the statue after school." Soon after, it was shortened to simply 420 and meant "let's get high anywhere."

There were myriad reasons for the teens to speak in code about smoking marijuana in 1971. Marijuana's growing social tolerance was still decades away and people were receiving stiff prison sentences after being caught with even small amounts.

Another big reason: Noel's father was a narcotics agent for the California Department of Justice.

"He had an inkling we smoked," Noel said. "But I don't think he ever caught on to 420."

The five Waldos never moved far away and all remain close. Gravich's youngest daughter attends his alma mater and his oldest daughter is a recent graduate. Both say they've long been aware of their father's involvement in creating 420.

"The kids here think it's pretty cool," said Sophia Gravich, a sophomore.

The code remained confined to The Waldos' social circle until they began hanging out backstage at Grateful Dead concerts. Reddix's older brother was friends with band member Phil Lesh and that led to backstage passes and smoking sessions with the roadies and other crew members, who picked up the code.

The number really took off in the late 1980s when flyers were circulated at Dead concerts proclaiming 420 to be the password of stoner culture. The flyers went on to explain that 420 was California police code for marijuana smoking in progress. It's not, but that and other origin stories continue to circulate to the point that Capper and Reddix have committed themselves to preserving as much proof as they can that they are the originators.

They tracked down the Coast Guard reservist to record his recollections confirming he grew a marijuana garden and drew the map that launched the treasure hunt. With his permission, they obtained his Coast Guard records, which show him stationed at Point Reyes at the appropriate time.

They keep those records in a rented safe deposit box in a San Francisco bank where they also store other documentation, including postmarked letters they exchanged in the mid-1970s discussing 420. The San Francisco bank's address, as it happens, is 420 Montgomery Street.

The Oxford English Dictionary added 420 to its lexicon last year after reviewing the Waldo's records and credits the men as the creators.

Millions of dollars have been made over the years exploiting the number, from T-shirts and hats to can-

nabis businesses with 420 in their names. Hotels and tour companies advertise themselves as "420 friendly" and dating sites contain listings for people "420 compatible."

Though dozens of 420-related trademarks have been issued to various companies, The Waldos hold none. But they are starting to cash in, if only a little.

Lagunitas Brewing Co. in nearby Petaluma is set to release its seasonal "The Wados Special Ale" on April 20. The brewery has given the five lifetime passes for free beer.

The Waldos also struck their first business deal with a cannabis business. They are endorsing a Oakland company's vaping pen, which of course will be released on Friday at 4:20 p.m. All five plan to be at the company's release party .

"Everyone has cashed in on 420," Noel said. "Why not us?"

Elias is a member of AP's marijuana beat team. Follow him at <https://twitter.com/paulelias1> . Find complete AP marijuana coverage here: <https://apnews.com/tag/LegalMarijuana>

## Starbucks to close stores for an afternoon for bias training

By ALEXANDRA OLSON and JOSEPH PISANI, AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — Starbucks, moving swiftly to confront a racially charged uproar over the arrest of two black men at one of its stores in Philadelphia, plans to close more than 8,000 U.S. stores for several hours next month to conduct racial-bias training for nearly 175,000 workers.

The announcement Tuesday comes after the arrests sparked protests and calls for a boycott on social media. A video shows police talking with two black men seated at a table. After a few minutes, officers handcuff the men and lead them outside as other customers say they weren't doing anything wrong. Philadelphia-area media said the two were waiting for a friend.

Philadelphia police released a recording of the call from the Starbucks employee that led to the arrests. In the recording, a woman is heard saying, "Hi, I have two gentlemen in my cafe that are refusing to make a purchase or leave." She gives the address of the Starbucks store, and the entire call lasts less than 30 seconds. In the communications between police and dispatch that were also released, someone refers to "a group of males inside causing a disturbance," and additional officers are sent.

Starbucks, which was once ridiculed for urging its employees to write "Race Together" on coffee cups to start a national conversation on race relations, has found itself through the looking glass: under fire for its treatment of black people.

The company reacted from a high level: Starbucks CEO Kevin Johnson called the arrests "reprehensible" and said he wanted to apologize to the two men face-to-face. The company and a lawyer for the two men said they did meet, and Johnson delivered the apology. Starbucks also said the employee who called police no longer works at the store, but declined to give details.

Johnson also promised to revamp store management training to include "unconscious-bias" education. Starbucks said its U.S. company-owned stores and corporate offices will be closed on the afternoon of May 29 for the training, which will eventually be incorporated into the instruction process for all newly hired employees.

The episode highlights the risks large corporations run when they tie their brands so closely to social messaging. In 2015, then-CEO Howard Schultz shrugged off the "Race Together" fiasco as a well-intentioned mistake and pressed on with his public efforts to engage in the debate over race in America. Johnson was scrambling to keep the Philadelphia incident from shattering the message Schultz was going for: Starbucks is a corporation that stands for something beyond profit.

"The more your brand is trying to connect emotionally to people, the more hurt people feel when these kinds of things happen," said Jacinta Gauda, the head of the Gauda Group, a New York strategic communications firm affiliated with the Grayling network. "They are breaking a promise. That's what makes it hurt deeper."

Beyond racial relations, Starbucks has staked much of its brand on its dual promise of providing good

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customer service and treating its employees well, said John Gordon, a restaurant industry analyst with Pacific Management Consulting Group.

But in a multinational company with more than 28,000 stores worldwide, there has "to be a situation every day where some human being handles things wrong," Gordon said. "Even with a huge operations manual that lays out what to say and what to do, you can't cover everything."

Gordon called the decision to hold the May 29 training sessions "the most practical way to get word out to all employees, the same way at one time."

Starbucks has set its own high bar.

Last month, the company claimed it had achieved 100 percent pay equity across gender and race for all its U.S. employees and committed to doing the same for its overseas operations, an initiative publicly backed by equality activist Billie Jean King. The company also touts the diversity of its workforce, saying minorities comprise more than 40 percent of its employees in the U.S.

In 2016, Starbucks promised to invest in 15 "underserved" communities across the country, trying to counter an image of a company catering to a mostly white clientele. One of those stores opened in Ferguson, Missouri, the scene of 2014 protests following the police shooting of Michael Brown, one of several such killings that moved Schultz to launch the Race Together campaign.

Gauda, who has developed workplace inclusion strategies for corporate clients, called the bias training initiative "the right thing to do."

"It's a tremendous statement that they are making," she said. "I think that the fact that they are making the whole company go through this is a recognition of how important this training is."

Starbucks said the curriculum for the training would be developed with input from several experts, including Bryan Stevenson, founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative, Sherrilyn Ifill, president and director-counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund and former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder.

The company said the educational materials would eventually be shared with its licensed stores. In addition to the company-owned stores, Starbucks had as of January about 5,700 licensed stores in the United States, such as the ones inside Target and Barnes & Noble stores.

Gauda and other corporate communications experts said they were impressed with Johnson's hands-on approach to the crisis.

"I definitely applaud that. Most people won't jump on the bomb," said M.J. McCallum, vice president and creative director of Muse Communications, an advertising and communications agency with an African-American focus.

"As far as the company's initiative to rectify this situation by closing all stores for racial bias education training, it's a positive start," McCallum said. "It may also inspire other companies to do the same."

"But the question is, how can Starbucks have this program and not have it be viewed as "Training people on how to deal with black people?"

He said the training should be aimed broadly to "make sure that you are respectful to everyone's culture. First, just be good people."

## Hitting the jackpot: Knights sweep Kings with 1-0 win

By BETH HARRIS, AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Golden Knights want a Stanley Cup title to conclude their already amazing inaugural season in the NHL.

Vegas is on its way, beating the Los Angeles Kings 1-0 on Tuesday night and becoming the first expansion team in league history to sweep its first playoff series.

"All season long, I didn't know any records about expansion teams," goalie Marc-Andre Fleury said. "We just do what a regular team would, we just play the game and try to win. That's it."

Brayden McNabb scored against his former team in the second period and Fleury stopped 31 shots as



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the Knights finished off their fourth one-goal victory of the series. It was the goalie's second shutout of the playoffs.

"I didn't picture this happening, me scoring a goal against the Kings," McNabb said, "but it feels real good to get this win and finish this series."

The Knights poured into the net to hug Fleury at the final horn. Vegas fans in the crowd chanted the goalie's name in celebration.

"We knew we were getting a superstar when we got him," Vegas coach Gerard Gallant said. "He has playoff experience and he's been a part of three Cups and he makes us better. LA put on the pressure on him but he was huge for us."

The Knights became the second team to win their first four playoff games, joining the 1970 Pittsburgh Penguins.

McNabb scored from the right circle, beating Jonathan Quick's glove, at 4:04 of the second for his first career playoff goal. The Kings left the defenseman exposed in last year's expansion draft and the Knights snapped him up.

The Kings pulled Quick in the closing seconds, when Dustin Brown skated straight toward the net and just missed.

"That's what the playoffs are all about. It's so close," Kings center Anze Kopitar said. "It's not like we were blown out of the water."

Brown also hit the left post with 10 minutes to go in the third, typical of the close calls that failed to generate goals for the Kings in the series. They outshot the Knights 31-21 in the game.

"It was crazy in the final minute of the game. They were buzzing around," Fleury said. "We had to keep pushing to the very end."

Facing elimination, the Kings came out aggressively and outshot the Knights 14-8 in the opening period. Quick stopped two shots on goal during the only power play in the period when Adrian Kempe was sent off for hooking.

"I thought our hockey team got better through the series," first-year Kings coach John Stevens said. "Tonight was our best game and created the most quality chances, just didn't finish off."

Quick made 20 saves and allowed seven goals in the series, but he and the Kings couldn't duplicate the rally they pulled off in 2014. Los Angeles lost its first three games to the Sharks in the first round that year and went on to win the series and eventually the Stanley Cup.

"We just got knocked out of the playoffs. I don't care what the score was," defenseman Alec Martinez said. "It's a lot of disappointment in this room. We can't forget how this feels."

Vegas, the third expansion team since 1968-69 to clinch a playoff berth, awaits the winner of the series between Anaheim and San Jose, which the Sharks lead 3-0.

The Kings managed just three goals in the series and lacked offensive punch from Kopitar (one goal) and wingers Brown and Tyler Toffoli (no goals).

Brown fired a team-high six shots in the game, while Toffoli had three and Brown two.

Toffoli took a puck to the face, drawing blood from his nose to his mouth. He got stitches and returned 10 minutes later.

NOTES: Quick had a 1.55 goals-against average and a .947 save percentage. ... Fleury earned his 66th playoff victory, breaking a tie with Dominik Hasek for 11th on the NHL's all-time list among goaltenders. ... The Kings fell to 12-31 all-time in Game 4s. ... Retired Hall of Fame Kings announcer Bob Miller attended the game.

More AP hockey: [www.apnews.com/tags/NHLhockey](http://www.apnews.com/tags/NHLhockey)

## Police: Man arrested at Taylor Swift house had knife, rope

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A Colorado man who was wearing a mask and had a knife in his car when he was arrested outside a Beverly Hills home owned by Taylor Swift was released from custody on Tuesday while

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police continued their investigation.

Julius Sandrock, 38, was arrested Saturday on suspicion of stalking after officers went to the home. Swift, who lives in New York, wasn't at the home, police said.

Sandrock was freed from jail on Tuesday morning, according to a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department website.

It wasn't immediately clear whether Sandrock had a lawyer.

Meanwhile, police obtained a temporary restraining order preventing Sandrock from possessing guns.

According to the document, Sandrock was wearing a mask and rubber gloves when he was taken into custody and told police he had driven from his home in Broomfield, Colorado, to see Swift.

Sandrock told officers he owned three handguns and was on probation in Colorado for firing one, police said.

A search of his car turned up a knife, rope, ammunition and more masks and gloves, according to the restraining order.

Prescription medications, including oxycodone, were also found and Sandrock told arresting officers that he had depression, bipolar disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder and manic episodes, according to the document.

The arrest followed the April 8 arrest of a homeless man on suspicion of trespassing after he tried to climb a wall at the same property and ignored warnings by security guards to leave.

Swift was not at the home.

Justin Lilly, 23, was charged with a misdemeanor and sentenced to three days in jail.

## Ethicist foresees choosing your baby from dozens of embryos

By MALCOLM RITTER, AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — So you want to have a baby.

Would you like a dark-haired girl with a high risk of someday getting colon cancer, but a good chance of above-average music ability?

Or would you prefer a girl with a good prospect for high SAT scores and a good shot at being athletic, but who also is likely to run an above-average risk of bipolar disorder and lupus as an adult?

How about a boy with a good shot at having musical ability and dodging asthma, but who also would be predisposed to cataracts and type 2 diabetes?

Confused? You're just getting started. There are dozens more choices for which of your embryos should be placed in the womb to become your child.

That's the future a biomedical ethics expert envisions for 20 to 40 years from now — soon enough that today's children may face it when they start their own families.

"The majority of babies of people who have good health coverage will be conceived this way," predicts Henry Greely, a Stanford University law professor who works in bioethics.

You've probably read about concerns over "designer babies," whose DNA is shaped by gene editing. Greely is focused on a different technology that has gotten much less attention: In a startling bit of biological alchemy, scientists have shown that in mice, they can turn ordinary cells into sperm and eggs.

It's too soon to know if it could be done in people. But if it can, it could become a powerful infertility treatment, permitting genetic parenthood for people who can't make their own sperm or eggs.

It also would mean that a woman who wants to get pregnant could produce dozens more eggs per attempt than with the current procedure of harvesting some from her ovaries.

And that means a lot of choices.

### AN ARRAY OF EMBRYOS

Here's what Greely envisions: A man and woman walk into a fertility clinic. The man drops off some sperm. The woman leaves some skin cells, which are turned into eggs and fertilized with the man's sperm.

Unlike in vitro fertilization today, which typically yields around eight eggs per try, the new method could

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result in 100 embryos.

The embryos' complete library of DNA would be decoded and analyzed to reveal genetic predispositions, both for disease and personal traits. The man and woman would get dossiers on the embryos that pass minimum tests for suitability.

Out of, say, 80 suitable embryos, the couple would then choose one or two to implant.

The possibilities don't stop there. The technology might also help open the door to same-sex couples having children genetically related to both of them, though the additional twist of making eggs from men or sperm from women would be a huge biological challenge.

More worrisome is the so-called Brad Pitt scenario: We all shed a bit of sloughed-off DNA every day, like on the lip of a coffee cup. Such discarded material could be secretly snatched up to turn an unwitting celebrity into a genetic parent.

It is a long way in the future, but real life is already creeping toward it. Some scientists are trying to make human eggs and sperm in the lab. They are working with "iPS cells," which are ordinary body cells that have been morphed into a malleable state.

Amander Clark of the University of California, Los Angeles, says her goal is to aid basic research into why some people are infertile. She acknowledges the technique might itself be used to treat some infertility, particularly in young people made sterile by cancer treatments.

As for decoding the complete DNA library of embryos, Dr. Louanne Hudgins, who studies prenatal genetic screening and diagnosis at Stanford, says some pregnant patients there say they've already had fertility clinics do that. They didn't reveal why, Hudgins said.

Hudgins, who's president of the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics, said no national medical association has endorsed decoding all the DNA of a fetus, which is called its genome. So she believes no insurance company would pay for that now.

## 'EASY' PRENATAL DIAGNOSIS

Greely, who lays out his ideas in a book called "The End of Sex and the Future of Human Reproduction," calls his vision "easy PGD," or prenatal genetic diagnosis.

Ordinary PGD has been done for decades. When a couple is known to be at risk for having a child with a specific genetic disorder, such as cystic fibrosis or sickle cell anemia, the woman undergoes a procedure to remove some eggs. After fertilization, some cells are plucked from the embryos and examined to identify those without carry the disease-causing abnormality.

That procedure looks for a specific problem in a few embryos, not entire genomes from dozens of them. If a couple wants to select a "super baby," says Dr. Richard Scott Jr., a founding partner of Reproductive Medicine Associates of New Jersey, "we tell them we can't do it."

In fact, Scott and others say, even wide-ranging analysis would not provide a precise forecast of how a child will turn out.

If DNA is the hardware, there's also the software: chemical modifications that determine when and where particular genes turn on and off. Much of this "epigenome" would develop after an embryo's genes are sampled, Scott said.

"Your child may not turn out to be the three-sport All-American at Stanford," because "the epigenome didn't work out," Scott said.

Greely agrees that predictions about behavioral traits like intelligence and athletic ability will be imprecise, because of epigenetics and because of basic uncertainties about what genes are involved and how they interact. And a person's upbringing and life experiences have a big effect.

## WHAT WOULD COUPLES DO?

Even if the predictions aren't perfect, would couples want to take steps to control their child's genetics? Many experts doubt it.

Only a "very small minority" seek a perfect baby, says Stanford's Hudgins. In her practice, she said she

often finds women pass up all screening because they figure the baby's fate is "in God's hands."

Dr. James Grifo of the New York University Fertility Center also questions how popular the idea would be. "No patient has ever come to me and said, 'I want a designer baby,'" said Grifo, who's performed in vitro fertilization since 1988.

Greely doubts that influencing brainpower or athleticism would be a major draw for parents. Instead, he thinks they would care most about avoiding awful diseases that strike in infancy or childhood. They'll probably be less concerned about illnesses that might show up later in life, such as Alzheimer's or Parkinson's. For one thing, he says, parents-to-be may see them as becoming treatable by the time a child becomes vulnerable.

He thinks easy PGD is coming, and it would be better if properly handled. He says it should be proven safe, subsidized, monitored for long-term effects, and regulated so that parents can choose whether to use it and decide what embryonic traits to focus on. And he'd outlaw stealing somebody's DNA and unwittingly making them a parent.

## OTHERS SEE PITFALLS

Once the genetic profile is done, could it come back to haunt a child if, say, a life insurer or nursing home demanded to see it to assess disease risk? How would the large number of rejected embryos be handled ethically and politically?

Perhaps future regulation could limit the number of embryos created, as well as what traits a couple could select for, said I. Glenn Cohen, a Harvard law professor.

Lori B. Andrews, a professor at the Chicago-Kent College of Law, summed up her views in a review of Greely's book.

"The idea of easy PGD," she wrote, "should make us uneasy indeed."

Still, even some who doubt the idea's feasibility say Greely is right to raise the issue.

"It's certainly something we have to take seriously and think through now," said Marcy Darnovsky, who writes on the politics of human biotechnology as executive director of the Center for Genetics and Society in Berkeley, California. "This is not just a technical or science question."

Follow Malcolm Ritter at @MalcolmRitter . His recent work can be found here .

This Associated Press series was produced in partnership with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

## Jury to hear Bill Cosby's testimony about quaaludes, sex

By MICHAEL R. SISAK, Associated Press

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP) — Jurors could soon hear Bill Cosby's explosive testimony about giving quaaludes to women before sex — an old admission that's taken on new significance at the comedian's sexual assault retrial after a half-dozen women testified that he drugged and violated them.

Prosecutors are expected to read a transcript of the 2005 testimony as early as Wednesday, saving for the very end of their case Cosby's own words about using the 1970s party drug "the same as a person would say, 'Have a drink.'"

"Quaaludes happen to be the drug that kids, young people were using to party with, and there were times when I wanted to have them just in case," Cosby testified in the deposition, given as part of a lawsuit chief accuser Andrea Constand filed against him.

Cosby settled the lawsuit in 2006 for nearly \$3.4 million.

Cosby, now 80, said in the deposition that he obtained seven prescriptions for quaaludes from his doctor in Los Angeles in the 1970s, ostensibly for a sore back.

The drug was banned in the U.S. in 1982, the same year one of the women who testified, Janice Baker-Kinney, alleges Cosby knocked her out with pills she suspected to be quaaludes and then raped her.



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Judge Steven O'Neill waited until Tuesday to rule that prosecutors could have the "Cosby Show" star's deposition testimony read into the record, handing the prosecution a key victory in its effort to portray the comedian as a serial predator.

Prosecutors unleashed other passages from Cosby's graphic deposition, including his accounts of sexual encounters with Constand and how he apologized to her mother a year later for being "a dirty old man with a young girl."

They used another of Cosby's statements, one he gave to police in 2005, to show how he described the encounter for which he is facing aggravated indecent assault charges that could send him to prison for years.

Cosby said he gave Constand 1½ tablets of the cold and allergy medicine Benadryl to help her relax, then fondled her breasts and genitals, according to the police transcript, which also was read to the jury on Tuesday.

Cosby said Constand never told him to stop and has maintained that the encounter was consensual.

"We are petting. I enjoyed it," the TV star said, according to the transcript. "And then I stopped, and I went up to bed. We stopped, and then we talked."

Constand says Cosby knocked her out with the pills and then sexually assaulted her, penetrating her with his fingers and guiding her hand to his penis. Cosby told police he didn't remember whether Constand touched his genitals.

Prosecutors also have several more witnesses to call. They include Judith Regan, who published Cosby accuser Janice Dickinson's memoir, Constand's lawyer Bebe Kivitz and a pharmacology expert.

Jurors got a sense of Cosby's view of consent when the comedian described in the deposition testimony reaching an area "somewhere between permission and rejection" during what he claims was a prior sexual encounter with Constand.

"I'm giving Andrea time to say 'yes' or 'no' about an area that is right there in the question zone," Cosby testified.

The unsealing of the deposition, at the request of The Associated Press, led prosecutors to reopen Cosby's criminal case and shredded his good-guy persona as America's Dad.

Prosecutors won the right to introduce it at his retrial on charges he drugged and molested her at his suburban Philadelphia home. The deposition also was included at Cosby's first trial, which ended with a hung jury last year.

Montgomery County Detective James Reape, who has been working on the Cosby investigation since it was reopened in 2015, told jurors he wasn't concerned about inconsistencies the defense played up in Constand's story — such as her early uncertainty over the date of the alleged assault — because Cosby's testimony had filled in many of the blanks.

"The defendant said it happened. The defendant said it happened in 2004. The defendant said he was present. The defendant admitted to the contact that she said happened," Reape told jurors. "When I look at who, what, when, where, why in 2015, I'm able to see the answers."

The Associated Press doesn't typically identify people who say they're victims of sexual assault unless they grant permission, which Constand has done.

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Follow Mike Sisak at <https://twitter.com/mikesisak>.

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For more coverage visit <https://www.apnews.com/tag/CosbyonTrial>.

## White House quarrel over Russia sanctions erupts in public

By JILL COLVIN, MATTHEW LEE and ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — An internal White House quarrel over the timing of new Russia sanctions played out in public when the new economic adviser suggested U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley was suffering from "momentary confusion" and Haley retorted: "With all due respect, I don't get confused."

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The feud appeared to quiet down after the economic adviser, Larry Kudlow, called Haley to apologize Tuesday afternoon, a White House official said. The official spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to describe private discussions.

Earlier Tuesday, Kudlow told reporters during a briefing in Florida that Haley "got ahead of the curve" when she said the U.S. would be slapping new sanctions on Russia on Monday in retaliation for the country's support for Syria's Assad government after its latest suspected chemical attack.

Kudlow, the director of the National Economic Council, said additional sanctions are under consideration but have yet to be implemented. Of Haley, he said, "There might have been some momentary confusion about that."

Haley then issued a terse statement to Fox News: "With all due respect, I don't get confused."

The dispute between Haley's team and the White House had been playing out largely behind the scenes since Haley said Sunday on CBS' "Face the Nation" that Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin would be announcing new sanctions directed at companies associated with Syria's chemical weapons program on Monday, "if he hasn't already."

The White House had been struggling to explain Haley's remarks amid reports that President Donald Trump put the brakes on the new sanctions. Several administration officials have disputed that characterization, saying Haley was out of the loop.

Three senior administration officials said there were several attempts to get Haley to back off or clarify her comments, but she refused.

The officials said that, under the plan conceived last week, the sanctions would have been announced Friday night, at the same time U.S., French, and British forces launched a missile strike on Syrian President Bashar Assad's chemical weapons facilities. But the sanctions were not ready in time for Trump's Friday night statement, so they were delayed.

The officials said a decision was then made to announce the sanctions as an answer to Russia's response to the strikes. But that plan was re-evaluated and then put on hold over the weekend as it became clear that Russia's response was less robust than anticipated. The officials were not authorized to discuss private administration deliberations publicly and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity.

A National Security Council memorandum sent overnight Friday said the new sanctions would be announced soon, but it did not specify a date. Over the next 36 hours, officials began to delve deeper into the proposed sanctions and decided to hold off on anything imminent, but Haley was unaware, the officials said.

On Monday, a new memo went out from the NSC saying that additional sanctions were under consideration, but no decision had been made. In the face of Haley's refusal to clarify on Sunday, draft language was sent to her suggesting again that she do so, the officials said.

Haley and her office ignored that so the White House decided to push back, the officials said.

On Capitol Hill, House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., applauded the administration Tuesday as having "moved miles in the right direction" on Russia policy.

"Not only did we scuttle the reset, not only are we now sanctioning Russian citizens, not only are we sanctioning Russian oligarchs, we're sanctioning Russia itself. We have so improved our policy with respect to Russia, far more hawkish, far more realistic," he said.

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Lee reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Edith M. Lederer at the United Nations and Lisa Mascaro in Washington contributed to this report.

## Trump and Abe talk trade as well as relations with NKorea

By JILL COLVIN and ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Seeking to reassure Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of their close alliance ahead of planned talks with North Korea, the Trump administration has signaled it is open to considering exempting Japan from new steel and aluminum tariffs that Abe opposes.

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Hosting Abe at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, Trump said the tariffs could be a topic during the visit, which comes as Trump prepares for an historic summit with North Korea's Kim Jong Un.

Trump also gave Abe a win on Tuesday, pledging to raise the issue of Japanese citizens abducted by North Korea, a top Japanese priority, in his meeting with Kim.

But Trump later suggested there was one area where he and Abe would have to agree to disagree: the Trans-Pacific trade partnership, which Trump pulled the U.S. out of days after his inauguration, but has recently said he might be open to re-joining.

"While Japan and South Korea would like us to go back into TPP, I don't like the deal for the United States," Trump tweeted, following a dinner with Abe and their wives. "Too many contingencies and no way to get out if it doesn't work. Bilateral deals are far more efficient, profitable and better for OUR workers."

The two-day Trump-Abe summit played out amid growing tensions between the two countries over North Korea and trade. Japan has warned that Kim may simply be trying to buy time and has raised concerns that the U.S. might not press Kim to abandon his short- and medium-range missiles, which pose an immediate threat to Japan, as they discuss the country's nuclear weapons program.

Japan has also been questioning why it wasn't granted exemptions to Trump's protectionist measures on steel and aluminum when most other key U.S. allies — among them Australia, Canada, the European Union and Mexico — have been.

But Abe spent much of Tuesday praising Trump's courage for agreeing to meet and suggested the two had already come to terms on several contentions issues.

Speaking through a translator during one of their meetings, Abe said he and Trump had had "very in-depth discussions" on both North Korea and economic issues and said that "on those two points" they had "successfully forged a mutual understanding."

The two did not reveal what those agreements were, but Abe had been expected to urge to Trump to exempt Japan from the tariffs and press him on the missile issue.

Larry Kudlow, the director of the National Economic Council, had said earlier Tuesday that issuing Japan the waiver was "on the table," but he declined to say what Trump would ask for in return.

The talks came amid news that CIA Director Mike Pompeo had recently traveled in secret to North Korea to meet with Kim ahead of a U.S.-North Korea summit planned in the next two months. Two officials confirmed the trip to The Associated Press on Tuesday. The officials were not authorized to discuss the visit publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

In the first news report about the meeting, The Washington Post said it had taken place two weeks ago, shortly after the CIA chief was nominated to become secretary of state.

Trump had revealed earlier Tuesday that the U.S. and North Korea had been holding direct talks at "extremely high levels" in preparation for the summit. Trump also confirmed that North and South Korea are negotiating an end to hostilities before next week's meeting between Kim and South Korean President Moon Jae-in. The meeting will be the third inter-Korean summit since the Koreas' 1945 division.

"They do have my blessing to discuss the end of the war," Trump said.

Trump said five locations for the summit are under consideration.

Trump took credit for the inter-Korean talks, saying, "Without us and without me, in particular, I guess you would have to say, they wouldn't be discussing anything."

Abe's official visit began Tuesday afternoon as an honor cordon of uniformed service members lined the palm-fringed drive to the club. Trump greeted Abe at the red-carpeted door of the mansion as the pair posed for photos ahead of a one-on-one meeting and a group discussion with national security officials about the Kim summit. The president and first lady Melania Trump later hosted Abe and his wife for an al fresco dinner on the Mar-a-Lago patio.

On Wednesday, the agenda will broaden to include other issues affecting the Indo-Pacific region, including trade and energy, and Trump said he and Abe would "sneak out" to play a round of golf. Trump and Abe will also hold a news conference before the president and first lady host the Japanese delegations for dinner.

Abe said that Trump had promised to bring up the Japanese abductee issue in his meeting with Kim. "I am very grateful for your commitment," he told Trump.

Pyongyang has acknowledged abducting 13 Japanese, while Tokyo maintains North Korea abducted 17. Five have been returned to Japan. North Korea says eight others died and denies the remaining four entered its territory. Japan has demanded further investigation.

The U.S. itself is pushing for the release of three Americans.

After five years in office, Abe is one of Japan's longest-serving, post-World War II prime ministers but has suffered plummeting poll ratings over allegations that a school linked to his wife received preferential government treatment in a land sale.

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Associated Press writer Matthew Pennington in Washington contributed to this report.

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## **Pilot of Southwest flight with blown engine was Navy fighter**

**By ALEXANDRA VILLARREAL and TERRY WALLACE, Associated Press**

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A Southwest Airlines pilot who made an emergency landing Tuesday after the jet apparently blew an engine, got hit by shrapnel and lost a window, is being praised for her "nerves of steel" in helping to prevent a far worse tragedy after the catastrophe killed one passenger and left seven others hurt.

Tammie Jo Shults was at the controls of the Dallas-bound Flight 1380 when it made an emergency landing in Philadelphia, said her husband, Dean Shults. The twin-engine Boeing 737 that left New York with 149 people board was hit by shrapnel that smashed a window and damaged the fuselage, killing a passenger and injuring seven others, authorities said. The pilot took the plane into a rapid descent as passengers using oxygen masks that dropped from the ceiling braced for impact.

Shults was among the first female fighter pilots in the U.S. military, according to friends and the alumni group at Shults' alma mater, MidAmerica Nazarene.

Shults was a 1983 graduate of the university in Olathe, Kansas, where she earned degrees in biology and agribusiness, said Carol Best, a university spokeswoman told The Kansas City Star.

Passenger Alfred Tumlinson, of Corpus Christi, Texas, lauded Shults and her crew for their professionalism.

"She has nerves of steel. That lady, I applaud her. I'm going to send her a Christmas card — I'm going to tell you that — with a gift certificate for getting me on the ground. She was awesome," Tumlinson said. "The lady, the crew, everything, everybody was immaculate. They were so professional in what they did to get us on the ground."

Shults' brother-in-law, Gary Shults, said her husband also is a Southwest pilot and told him she had made the emergency landing.

"She's a formidable woman, as sharp as a tack," said Gary Shults, a dentist in San Antonio. "My brother says she's the best pilot he knows. She's a very caring, giving person who takes care of lots of people."

Passengers said she walked through the aisle and talked with them to make sure they were OK after the plane touched down.

U.S. transportation Secretary Elaine Chao extended her sympathies to the loved ones of the passenger who died, Jennifer Riordan, of New Mexico, and praised the pilot, crew and others who were on board.

"I commend the pilots who safely landed the aircraft, and the crew and fellow passengers who provided support and care for the injured, preventing what could have been far worse," Chao said in a statement.

Travelers said fellow passengers dragged Riordan back in as the sudden decompression of the cabin pulled her part way through the smashed window.

National Transportation Safety Board chairman Robert Sumwalt said it was the first passenger fatality in an accident involving a U.S. airline since 2009.

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Wallace and AP business writer David Koening reported from Dallas.

## Former first lady Barbara Bush dies at age 92

By MICHAEL GRACZYK, Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Barbara Bush, the snowy-haired first lady and mother of a president whose plain-spoken manner and utter lack of pretense made her more popular at times than her husband, President George H.W. Bush, died Tuesday, a family spokesman said. She was 92.

Mrs. Bush brought a grandmotherly style to buttoned-down Washington, often appearing in her trademark fake pearl chokers and displaying no vanity about her white hair and wrinkles.

"What you see with me is what you get. I'm not running for president — George Bush is," she said at the 1988 Republican National Convention, where her husband, then vice president, was nominated to succeed Ronald Reagan.

The Bushes, who were married Jan. 6, 1945, had the longest marriage of any presidential couple in American history. And Mrs. Bush was one of only two first ladies who had a child who was elected president. The other was Abigail Adams, wife of John Adams and mother of John Quincy Adams.

"I had the best job in America," she wrote in a 1994 memoir describing her time in the White House. "Every single day was interesting, rewarding, and sometimes just plain fun."

On Sunday, family spokesman Jim McGrath said the former first lady had decided to decline further medical treatment for health problems and focus instead on "comfort care" at home in Houston. She had been in the hospital recently for congestive heart failure and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. In 2009, she had heart valve replacement surgery, and she had a long history of treatment for Graves' disease, a thyroid condition.

"My dear mother has passed on at age 92. Laura, Barbara, Jenna, and I are sad, but our souls are settled because we know hers was," former President George W. Bush said in a statement Tuesday. "Barbara Bush was a fabulous First Lady and a woman unlike any other who brought levity, love, and literacy to millions. To us, she was so much more. Mom kept us on our toes and kept us laughing until the end. I'm a lucky man that Barbara Bush was my mother. Our family will miss her dearly, and we thank you all for your prayers and good wishes."

George H.W. Bush held his wife's hand all day Tuesday and was at her side when she died, according to Jean Becker, chief of staff at George H.W. Bush's office in Houston.

A funeral is planned Saturday at St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Houston, which Mrs. Bush and her husband regularly attended. Mrs. Bush will lie in repose Friday at the church for members of the public who want to pay respects. Saturday's service will be by invitation only, according to the George Bush Presidential Library Foundation.

"Barbara Bush challenged each of us to build a better world by empowering people through literacy. As only one of two women in American history who can be called First Lady and First Mother, she was matriarch of a family that remains as dedicated to public service as it was to politics," said former Secretary of State and White House Chief of Staff James Baker III.

The publisher's daughter and oilman's wife could be caustic in private, but her public image was that of a self-sacrificing, supportive spouse who referred to her husband as her "hero."

In the White House, "you need a friend, someone who loves you, who's going to say, 'You are great,'" Mrs. Bush said in a 1992 television interview.

Her uncoiffed, matronly appearance often provoked jokes that she looked more like the boyish president's mother than his wife. Late-night comedians quipped that her bright white hair and pale features also imparted a resemblance to George Washington.

Eight years after leaving the nation's capital, Mrs. Bush stood with her husband, the 41st president, as their son George W. was sworn in as the 43rd president. They returned four years later when he won a second term. Unlike Mrs. Bush, Abigail Adams did not live to see her son's inauguration. She died in 1818, six years before John Quincy Adams was elected.

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Mrs. Bush insisted she did not try to influence her husband's politics.

"I don't fool around with his office," she said, "and he doesn't fool around with my household."

In 1984, her quick wit got her into trouble when she was quoted as referring to Geraldine Ferraro, the Democratic vice presidential nominee, as "that \$4 million — I can't say it, but it rhymes with rich."

"It was dumb of me. I shouldn't have said it," Mrs. Bush acknowledged in 1988. "It was not attractive, and I've been very shamed. I apologized to Mrs. Ferraro, and I would apologize again."

Daughter-in-law Laura Bush, wife of George W., said Mrs. Bush was "ferociously tart-tongued."

"She's never shied away from saying what she thinks. ... She's managed to insult nearly all of my friends with one or another perfectly timed acerbic comment," Laura Bush wrote in her 2010 book, "Spoken from the Heart."

In her 1994 autobiography, "Barbara Bush: A Memoir," Mrs. Bush said she did her best to keep her opinions from the public while her husband was in office. But she revealed that she disagreed with him on two issues: She supported legal abortion and opposed the sale of assault weapons.

"I honestly felt, and still feel, the elected person's opinion is the one the public has the right to know," Mrs. Bush wrote.

She also disclosed a bout with depression in the mid-1970s, saying she sometimes feared she would deliberately crash her car. She blamed hormonal changes and stress.

"Night after night, George held me weeping in his arms while I tried to explain my feelings," she wrote. "I almost wonder why he didn't leave me."

She said she snapped out of it in a few months.

Mrs. Bush raised five children: George W., Jeb, Neil, Marvin and Dorothy. A sixth child, 3-year-old daughter Robin, died of leukemia in 1953.

In a speech in 1985, she recalled the stress of raising a family while married to a man whose ambitions carried him from the Texas oil fields to Congress and into influential political positions that included ambassador to the United Nations, GOP chairman and CIA director.

"This was a period, for me, of long days and short years," she said, "of diapers, runny noses, earaches, more Little League games than you could believe possible, tonsils and those unscheduled races to the hospital emergency room, Sunday school and church, of hours of urging homework or short chubby arms around your neck and sticky kisses."

Along the way, she said, there were also "bumpy moments — not many, but a few — of feeling that I'd never, ever be able to have fun again and coping with the feeling that George Bush, in his excitement of starting a small company and traveling around the world, was having a lot of fun."

In 2003, she wrote a follow-up memoir, "Reflections: Life After the White House."

"I made no apologies for the fact that I still live a life of ease," she wrote. "There is a difference between ease and leisure. I live the former and not the latter."

Along with her memoirs, she wrote "C. Fred's Story" and "Millie's Book," based on the lives of her dogs. Proceeds from the books benefited adult and family literacy programs. Laura Bush, a former teacher with a master's degree in library science, continued her mother-in-law's literacy campaign in the White House.

George W. was not the only Bush son to seek office in the 1990s. In 1994, when George W. was elected governor of Texas, son Jeb narrowly lost to incumbent Lawton Chiles in Florida. Four years later, Jeb was victorious in his second try in Florida.

"This is a testament to what wonderful parents they are," George W. Bush said as Jeb Bush was sworn into office. Jeb won a second term in 2002, and then made an unsuccessful bid for the Republican presidential nomination in 2016.

Sons Marvin and Neil both became businessmen. Neil achieved some notoriety in the 1980s as a director of a savings and loan that crashed. Daughter Dorothy, or Doro, has preferred to stay out of the spotlight. She married lobbyist Robert Koch, a Democrat, in 1992.

In a collection of letters published in 1999, George H.W. Bush included a note he gave to his wife in early 1994.

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"You have given me joy that few men know," he wrote. "You have made our boys into men by bawling them out and then, right away, by loving them. You have helped Doro to be the sweetest, greatest daughter in the whole wide world. I have climbed perhaps the highest mountain in the world, but even that cannot hold a candle to being Barbara's husband."

Mrs. Bush was born Barbara Pierce in Rye, New York. Her father was the publisher of McCall's and Redbook magazines. After attending Smith College for two years, she married young naval aviator George Herbert Walker Bush. She was 19.

After World War II, the Bushes moved to the Texas oil patch to seek their fortune and raise a family. It was there that Bush began his political career, representing Houston for two terms in Congress in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

In all, the Bushes made more than two dozen moves that circled half the globe before landing at the White House in 1989. Opinion polls taken over the next four years often showed her approval ratings higher than her husband's.

The couple's final move, after Bush lost the 1992 election to Bill Clinton, was to Houston, where they built what she termed their "dream house" in an affluent neighborhood. The Bush family also had an oceanfront summer home in Kennebunkport, Maine.

After retiring to Houston, the Bushes helped raise funds for charities and appeared frequently at events such as Houston Astros baseball games. Public schools in the Houston area are named for both of them.

In 1990, Barbara Bush gave the commencement address at all-women Wellesley College. Some had protested her selection because she was prominent only through the achievements of her husband. Her speech that day was rated by a survey of scholars in 1999 as one of the top 100 speeches of the century.

"Cherish your human connections," Mrs. Bush told graduates. "At the end of your life, you will never regret not having passed one more test, winning one more verdict or not closing one more deal. You will regret time not spent with a husband, a child, a friend or a parent."

Online:

George Bush Presidential Library, <http://bushlibrary.tamu.edu/>

## Asian stocks rise after Wall Street gains for 2nd day

By JOE McDONALD, AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Asian stock markets followed Wall Street higher on Wednesday after Beijing added to a swelling trade dispute with Washington by hiking tariffs on U.S. sorghum.

KEEPING SCORE: The Shanghai Composite Index lost 0.4 percent to 3,055.43, ceding early gains, while Tokyo's Nikkei 225 gained 1.5 percent to 22,164.87. Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 0.3 percent to 30,146.41 and Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 added 0.4 percent to 5,863.00. Seoul's Kospi climbed 1.1 percent to 2,483.15 and benchmarks in Taiwan, New Zealand and Southeast Asia also advanced.

WALL STREET: Technology and consumer-services companies, retailers and health care stocks contributed to a broad rally. Strong company earnings and outlooks, as well as some encouraging economic data, helped put investors in a buying mood. The Standard & Poor's Index rose 1.1 percent to 2,706.39. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 0.9 percent to 24,786.63, nudging the blue chip average into positive territory for the year. The Nasdaq composite climbed 1.7 percent to 7,281.10.

TRADE TENSIONS: China imposed preliminary tariffs of 178.6 percent on U.S. sorghum in an anti-dumping investigation. The United States told the World Trade Organization it has agreed to discuss with China the Trump administration's tariff increases on steel and other Chinese goods. President Donald Trump has threatened to raise tariffs on up to \$150 billion of Chinese goods due to disputes over technology policy, market access and Beijing's trade surplus with the United States. China responded with its own list of U.S. goods for retaliation. The dispute has fueled fears it might dent global economic growth if other governments respond by raising their own import barriers.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "Shares rose despite another ratcheting up of trade barriers, this time from China,"

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Michael McCarthy of CMC Markets said in a report. "The measured response of U.S. trading partners has soothed market worries."

**CHINA AUTOS:** Beijing announced Tuesday that it would allow full foreign ownership in its auto industry in five years, ending restrictions that irked Washington and other governments. The Cabinet's planning agency said it would start by allowing full foreign ownership of producers of electric cars, with similar action later on commercial and traditional passenger vehicles. China is the world's biggest auto market but until now global automakers have been required to work through partnerships with state-owned partners, an arrangement that forces them to share technology with potential competitors.

**U.S. ECONOMY:** The International Monetary Fund upgraded its economic outlook for the United States in 2018, forecasting that the U.S. economy will grow 2.9 percent this year, up from the 2.7 percent it had forecast in January and from the 2.3 percent growth the economy achieved last year. And the Federal Reserve said that U.S. factory output rose slightly last month.

**CHINESE ECONOMY:** The world's second-largest economy grew by a stronger-than-expected 6.8 percent over a year earlier in the quarter ending in March. That was in line with the previous quarter, but activity weakened toward the end of the period. Forecasters expect growth to slow this year as Beijing tightens controls on bank lending and a real estate sales boom to curb rising deb.

**ENERGY:** Benchmark U.S. crude added 31 cents to \$66.83 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract gained 30 cents on Tuesday to settle at \$66.52 per barrel. Brent crude, used to price international oils, added 30 cents to \$71.88 per barrel in London. It added 16 cents the previous session to close at \$71.58 per barrel.

**CURRENCIES:** The dollar gained to 107.31 yen from Tuesday's 107.00 yen. The euro rose to \$1.2381 from \$1.2373.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

### Today in History

Today is Wednesday, April 18, the 108th day of 2018. There are 257 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On April 18, 1938, Superman, AKA "The Man of Steel," made his debut as the first issue of Action Comics (bearing a cover date of June) went on sale for 10 cents a copy. (In 2014, a nearly flawless original copy was sold on eBay for \$3.2 million.)

### On this date:

In 1775, Paul Revere began his famous ride from Charlestown to Lexington, Massachusetts, warning colonists that British Regular troops were approaching.

In 1865, Confederate Gen. Joseph E. Johnston surrendered to Union Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman near Durham Station in North Carolina.

In 1906, a devastating earthquake struck San Francisco, followed by raging fires; estimates of the final death toll range between 3,000 and 6,000.

In 1923, the first game was played at the original Yankee Stadium in New York; the Yankees defeated the Boston Red Sox 4-1.

In 1942, during World War II, an air squadron from the USS Hornet led by Lt. Col. James H. Doolittle raided Tokyo and other Japanese cities. The first World War II edition of The Stars and Stripes was published as a weekly newspaper.

In 1943, Adm. Isoroku Yamamoto, commander-in-chief of the Japanese Combined Fleet, was shot down and killed by U.S. fighters while approaching Bougainville in the Solomon Islands.

In 1956, American actress Grace Kelly married Prince Rainier (ren-YAY') of Monaco in a civil ceremony. (A church wedding took place the next day.)

In 1966, "The Sound of Music" won the Oscar for best picture of 1965 at the 38th Academy Awards. The first Major League baseball game played on AstroTurf took place at the Houston Astrodome as the



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Los Angeles Dodgers defeated the Astros 6-3. Bill Russell was named player-coach of the Boston Celtics, becoming the NBA's first black coach.

In 1978, the Senate approved the Panama Canal Treaty, providing for the complete turnover of control of the waterway to Panama on the last day of 1999.

In 1983, 63 people, including 17 Americans, were killed at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon, by a suicide bomber.

In 1988, an Israeli court convicted John Demjanjuk (dem-YAHN'-yuk), a retired auto worker from Cleveland, of committing war crimes at the Treblinka death camp in Nazi-occupied Poland. (However, Israel's Supreme Court later overturned Demjanjuk's conviction.)

In 1998, despite fierce internal dissent, Northern Ireland's main Protestant party, the Ulster Unionists, approved a peace agreement. The remains of Pol Pot were cremated, three days after the Khmer Rouge leader blamed for the killings of up to two million Cambodians died at age 73. Former North Carolina governor and U.S. senator Terry Sanford died in Durham at age 80.

Ten years ago: Addressing the United Nations, Pope Benedict XVI said that respect for human rights, not violence, was the key to solving many of the world's problems. Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin gave birth to her fifth child, a son named Trig Paxson Van Palin.

Five years ago: The FBI released surveillance camera images of two suspects in the Boston Marathon bombing and asked for the public's help in identifying them, hours after President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama attended an interfaith service at a Roman Catholic cathedral. Randy Newman, Heart, Rush, Public Enemy, Donna Summer, Albert King, and producers Quincy Jones and Lou Adler were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame during a ceremony in Los Angeles.

One year ago: Turning back to the economic populism that helped drive his election campaign, President Donald Trump signed an order he said should help American workers whose jobs were threatened by skilled immigrants; the signing took place at the headquarters of hand and power tool manufacturer Snap-on Inc., in Kenosha, Wisconsin. A man shot and killed three people on the streets of downtown Fresno, California; a suspect who was also accused of killing a motel security guard two days earlier was almost immediately arrested. U.S. Vice President Mike Pence assured Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (shin-zoh AH'-bay) "we are with you 100 percent" during a visit amid escalating tensions over North Korea.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Clive Revill is 88. Actor James Drury is 84. Actor Robert Hooks is 81. Actress Hayley Mills is 72. Actor James Woods is 71. Actress-director Dorothy Lyman is 71. Actress Cindy Pickett is 71. Country musician Walt Richmond (The Tractors) is 71. Country musician Jim Scholten (Sawyer Brown) is 66. Actor Rick Moranis is 65. Actress Melody Thomas Scott is 62. Actor Eric Roberts is 62. Actor John James is 62. Rock musician Les Pattinson (Echo and the Bunnymen) is 60. Author-journalist Susan Faludi is 59. Actress Jane Leeves is 57. Ventriloquist-comedian Jeff Dunham is 56. Talk show host Conan O'Brien is 55. Bluegrass singer-musician Terry Eldredge is 55. Actor Eric McCormack is 55. Actress Maria Bello is 51. Actress Mary Birdsong is 50. Actor David Hewlett is 50. Rock musician Greg Eklund (The Oolahs) is 48. Actress Lisa Locicero is 48. TV chef Ludovic Lefebvre is 47. Actor David Tennant is 47. Country musician Marvin Evatt (EH'-veht) is 44. Rock musician Mark Tremonti is 44. Rhythm-and-blues singer Trina (Trina and Tamara) is 44. Actress Melissa Joan Hart is 42. Actor Sean Maguire is 42. Actor Kevin Rankin is 42. Actor Bryce Johnson is 41. Reality TV star Kourtney Kardashian (kar-DASH'-ee-uhn) is 39. Actress America Ferrera is 34. Actress Ellen Woglom (TV: "Marvel's Inhumans") is 31. Actress Vanessa Kirby is 30. Actress Alia Shawkat is 29. Actress Britt Robertson is 28. Actress Chloe Bennet is 26. Rock singer Nathan Sykes (The Wanted) is 25. Actor Moises Arias is 24.

Thought for Today: "I'll tell you a secret. We live in a mad and inspiring world." — Ben Hecht, Hollywood screenwriter (born 1894, died this date in 1964).