

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 279 ~ 1 of 30

“THEY say THAT no matter HOW OLD you BECOME, when you are WITH your SIBLINGS, you REVERT BACK TO CHILDHOOD.”

-karen WHITE



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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.

Put our experienced team to work for you!

**GROTON**  
Ford

GROTONFORD.COM 605-397-2311

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

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## 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.

## February Students of the Month

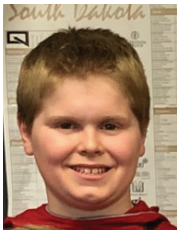
The Students of the Month for the month of February have been chosen. Each month the faculty select students who show outstanding academic achievement. These students receive certificates and have an end of the year lunch with the principal.

The February Students of the Month are Colby Dunker, sixth; Caleb Hanten, seventh; Megan Flihs, eighth; Tanae Lipp, freshman; Tadyn Glover, sophomore; Tylan Glover, junior; and Marshall Lane, senior.



**Colby Dunker**, sixth grader, is the son of Craig and Tasha Dunker, Groton. Siblings are Rylee (10) and Brynlee (5).

Colby is involved in baseball, basketball, football and MathCounts. He is an AR super reader, has perfect attendance and is on the honor roll. His interests are sports, fishing, hunting and farming. Math is his favorite subject and he plans to farm after college. His role models are his dad and grandpas.



**Caleb Hanten**, seventh grader, is the son of Cody and Sarah Hanten, Groton. Siblings are Alexis, Teggan and Gavin.

Caleb's activities include basketball, football, baseball, track, piano, band, choir and 4-H. He has won various music and athletic awards. He like to hunt, fish, from and to play sports. Social studies is his favorite subject and he wants to become an agronomist. His role model is his dad.



**Megan Flihs**, eighth grader, is the daughter of Kristie and Jarod Flihs, Groton. Siblings are Ashley (16) and Brevin (11).

Megan's activities include Groton dance, volleyball, Matchbox volleyball, SEAS Confirmation Class, ARCC dance and Carnival of Silver Skates. Her accomplishments include being Student of the Month in her sixth, seventh and eighth grade years and honor roll. She is interested in dance, volleyball, photography, cooking and spending time with friends. English is her favorite subject and she plans to be a photographer and dance teacher. Her mom is role model.



**Tanae Lipp**, freshman, is the daughter of Tom and Kami Lipp, Groton. Siblings are Eric, Amanda, Reilly and Kyler, and she has a pet dog, Smores.

Tanae's activities include volleyball, basketball, dance, FBLA and Carnival of Silver Skates. She has placed at MathCounts and won the Junior Snow Queen. She is interested in hanging out with friends and family and watching Netflix. English is her favorite subject and she plans to attend college after high school. Her mom is her role model.



**Tadyn Glover**, sophomore, is the daughter of Angela and Burt Glover, Groton. Her activities include volleyball, basketball, FFA and FBLA. She has been named to the honor roll and her interests are fashion, reading, art, makeup and animals. Chemistry is her favorite subject and she plans to be a radiologist. Her mom is her role model.

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**Tylan Glover**, junior, is the son of Burt and Angela Glover, Groton. His activities include FBLA, Drama and Show Choir. He has been named to the National Honor Society and is a Superior Choir member. His interest is theatre while Drama and English are his favorite subjects. He plans to get a major in musical theater/education. Sierra Bogges is his role model.



**Marshall Lane**, senior, is the son of Jim and Melodee Lane, Groton. Siblings are Lincoln, Logan, CJ and Jamie Forrest.

Marshall's activities include football, basketball, Chamber Choir, Show Choir, School Play and Student Council. His accomplishments include being on the honor roll, Wendy's High School Heisman and SD All-State Academic teams for football and basketball. His interests are sports, listening to music and hanging out with friends. Biology/anatomy are his favorite subjects and he plans to become a nurse anesthetist. His role model is his dad.

## 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.



**Brenda Waage** looks over the Bingo cards to find the right ones she wants to play at the Lions Club Bingo event held last night at the Legion. All 1,000 Bingo cards were sold out by 6:24 p.m. No one won the big jackpot, so next Wednesday Bingo players will be going for \$4,526.



**Shyla Larson and Ashley Flihs helped to serve burgers and hot dogs last night at the Lions Club Bingo event. According to Sandi Sippel, cheerleader advisor, the cheerleaders are raising money to buy new uniforms for next year.**

## **GROTON KIWANIS CLUB**

Tom Paepke was program leader for the Groton Kiwanis Club dinner meeting , last Wednesday noon. Tom introduced Connor Hanson, and asked him to speak about his new business in Groton

Connor has opened his own auto body shop in the old vet clinic. Connor is a graduate of GHS, and earned a business degree at N S U.

He started his new business on January first.

For the business meeting, Lee Schinkel announced he has the scholarship applications from GHS, and the committee will met after Kiwanis meeting.

Lee then introduced his two guests, Jodi Schwan, from GHS, and Ashley Seeklander, from Groton Elementary School. They spoke on the new peanut butter and jelly program at our school. The club voted to sponsor this program, with voluntary member contributions.

Twelve members and three guests attended the meeting.

The club will celebrate its 65th anniversary in June.

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## Today in Weather History

April 19, 1955: An F2 tornado moved NNW from 16 miles Southwest of Aberdeen, in the Townships of Good Hope and Highland. Only the houses were left intact on the four farms that were torn apart. Also, an F2 tornado destroyed barns 8 miles Southeast of Gettysburg causing \$8,000 in damage. In Corson and Dewey Counties, two F0 tornadoes touched down, one after the other, causing over \$3,000 worth of damage and injuring two people. An additional F2 tornado moved NNW in Clear Lake and Richland Townships. Buildings were destroyed on five farms.

April 19, 1971: An unofficial rainfall amount of 6 inches in 24 hours was reported at White River. An official number of 4 plus inches was reported at Murdo, causing the washout of a railroad and derailment of a freight train. The Ghost Hawk Dam broke on the Rosebud Indian Reservation, and the flood waters damaged a trailer home and two cars. Flooding occurred along the Bad, White, and Little White Rivers and Pine Creek.

April 19, 2006: An intense spring snowstorm swept across the Dakotas, dumping up to 5 feet of snow. The heaviest snow fell in the Black Hills, with 59.4 inches at Lead, SD. Bowman, ND reported 18 inches. The storm closed highways including I-94 in North Dakota, cutting power to thousands and was responsible for at least four deaths. Further west, 1 to 3 feet of snow and 50 to 60 mph winds caused drifts up to 10 feet, widespread power outages, and livestock losses.

1775: The first engagement of the Revolutionary War took place under crisp, clear weather at Lexington-Concord.

1927: A deadly tornado outbreak occurred across the central part of Illinois, killing 21 people. The first tornado touched down near Hardin, traveling northeast through Carrollton, then skimmed the south side of Springfield. At Carrollton, a teacher was killed as she held the door of the school shut, saving the lives of her students. The second tornado, peaking at estimated F4 intensity, touched down on the southeast side of Springfield, then moved to affect the towns of Riverton, Buffalo Hart, Chestnut, and Cornland. In Buffalo Hart, only three houses were left standing, while the northern half of Cornland was leveled. The tornado track was 65 miles, ending in Ford County.

1986: A major storm system produced ten tornadoes in Texas. One of these tornadoes virtually annihilated the town of Sweetwater. The tornado struck at the unlikely time of 7:17 am. One person was killed, and 100 were injured.

1941 - The temperature at Sodus, NY, soared to 95 degrees. The next day Albany, NY, reported a record for April of 93 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1973 - Glenrock, WY, received 41 inches of snow in just 24 hours, and a storm total of 58 inches, to establish two state records. (18th-20th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1976 - The northeastern U.S. was in the midst of an early season heat wave, and the Boston Marathon took place in 90 degree heat. At Providence RI the mercury hit 98 degrees. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Forty cities in the central U.S. reported new record high temperatures for the date as readings soared into the 80s and lower 90s for Easter Sunday. Fort Smith AR reported a record high of 95 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Severe thunderstorms over the southeastern U.S. early in the day spawned a strong (F-3) tornado which destroyed seventeen homes and severely damaged thirty houses near Madison FL killing four persons and injuring eighteen others. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - A dozen cities in the southwestern U.S. reported new record high temperatures for the date. The afternoon high of 98 degrees at Hanksville UT equalled their record for April. Tucson AZ reported their earliest 100 degree reading of record. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Five cities in the northeastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date as readings dipped into the 20s and upper teens. Elkins WV reported a record low of 20 degrees. Thunderstorms over the Southern Plains produced golf ball size hail at San Angelo TX, and up to four inches of rain in southwestern Oklahoma. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

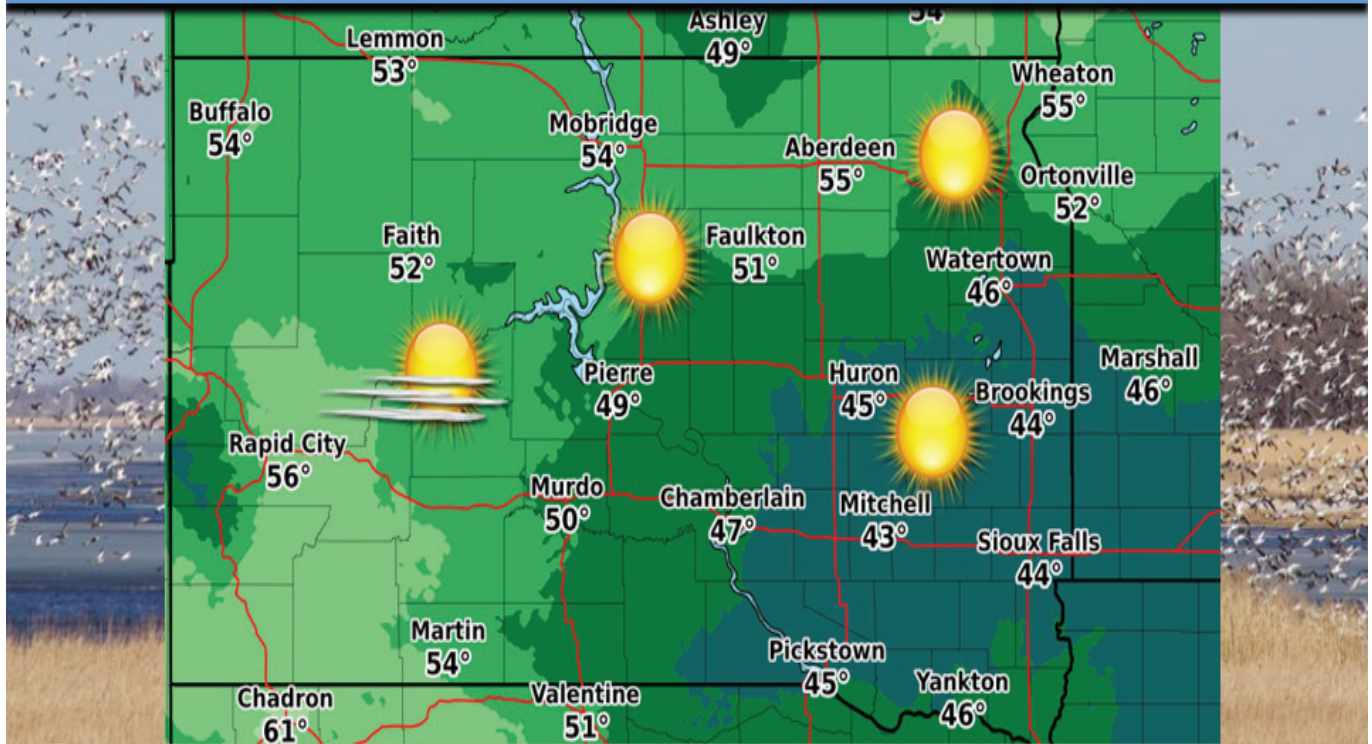
1996 - One of the most memorable tornado outbreaks in Illinois history occurred on April 19, 1996. During the day, 33 tornadoes were reported as supercells erupted and moved across the state during the afternoon and evening hours. Wind estimates in excess of 170 mph were associated with some of the stronger tornadoes, one of which ripped through nearby Ogden, IL. (University of Illinois WW2010)

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Thu Apr 19	Fri Apr 20	Sat Apr 21	Sun Apr 22	Mon Apr 23	Tue Apr 24	Wed Apr 25
54°F	56°F	61°F	64°F	64°F	59°F	61°F
30°F	36°F	37°F	39°F	36°F	35°F	45°F
S 8 MPH	SE 11 MPH	SE 13 MPH	S 14 MPH	S 10 MPH	NNW 15 MPH	ESE 13 MPH
				Precip 20%	Precip 20%	Precip 20%

## Highs Today Still 5° to 15° Below Average



National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

[www.weather.gov/abr](http://www.weather.gov/abr)

Graphic created  
4/19/2018 4:14 AM

Published on: 04/19/2018 at 4:37AM

Despite ample sunshine and what will feel like the start of a heat-wave, readings today topping out in the 40s and 50s will still be some 5 to 15 degrees below average. The ramp up in temperatures continues into the weekend with just about everyone topping 60 degrees Sunday.

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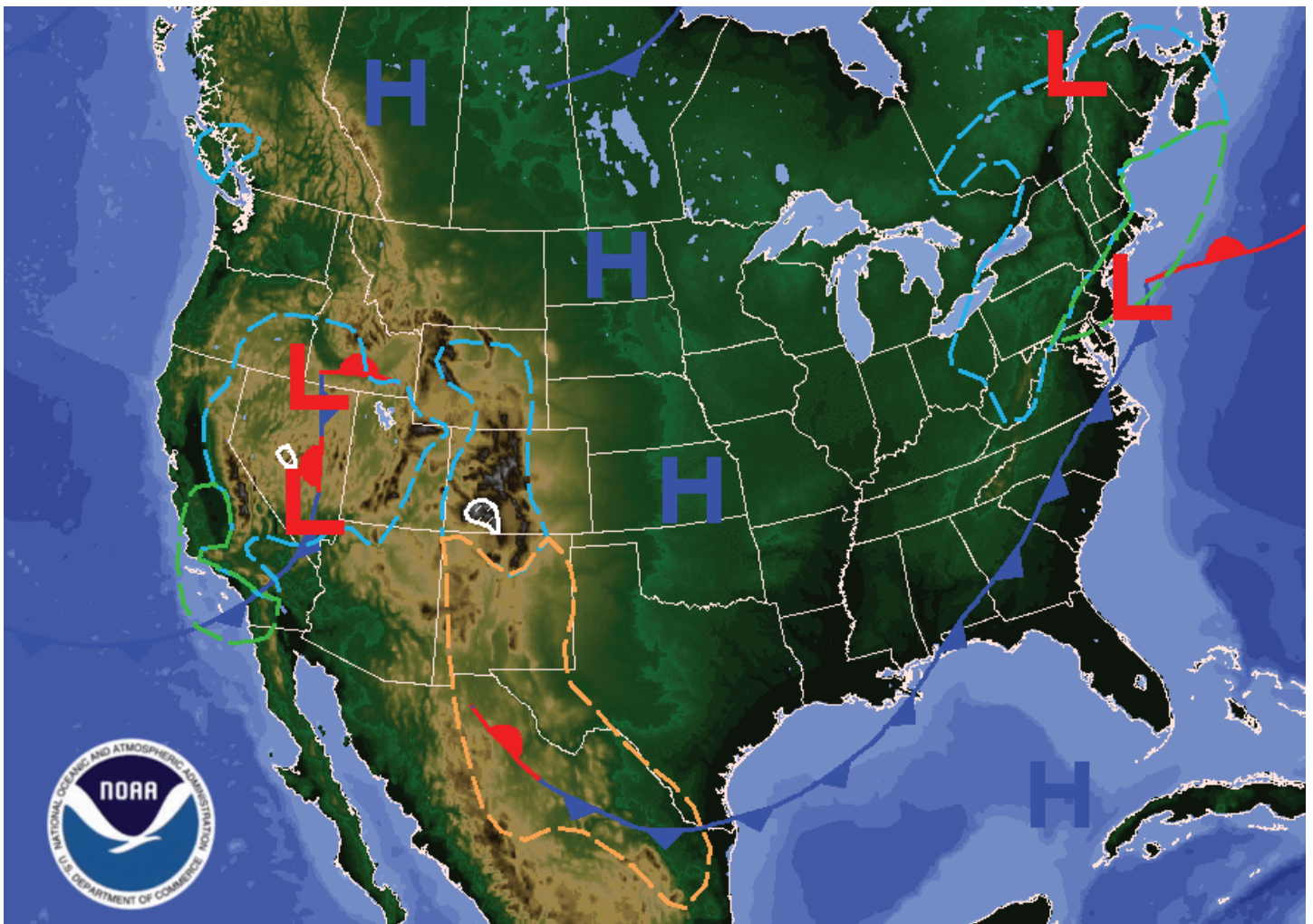
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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 48.5 F at 3:03 PM**  
**Low Outside Temp: 32.8 F at 6:52 AM**  
**Wind Chill:**  
**High Gust: 27.0 Mph at 3:03 PM**  
**Precip: 0.00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 90° in 1923**  
**Record Low: 12° in 1988**  
**Average High: 59°F**  
**Average Low: 33°F**  
**Average Precip in April: 0.98**  
**Precip to date in April: 0.61**  
**Average Precip to date: 3.16**  
**Precip Year to Date: 2.68**  
**Sunset Tonight: 8:25 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:39**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Thu, Apr 19, 2018, issued 4:57 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

**Rain**  
**Rain and T'Storms**  
**Rain and Snow**  
**Snow**

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

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## LORD OVER ALL!

The Taj Mahal of India is one of the most costly and beautiful tombs in all of the world. It was built by an Indian ruler, using twenty thousand men, in memory of his favorite wife.

It is built of white marble and rests on an eight-sided platform of red sandstone. Each side is one hundred thirty feet long. A beautiful dome covers the center part of the building. It is famous for its remarkable acoustics and visitors entering the building are advised to be cautious of their voices and the sounds they make. It is to be a place of quiet respect.

Years ago Henrietta Mears, founder of Gospel Light Publications and one of the greatest Christian educators in the history of the church, visited the Taj Mahal and asked the guide, "May I say something?" When she was granted permission she walked on the platform and exclaimed in a moving voice, "Jesus, Christ, Son of God is Lord over all!"

Like rolls of thunder echoing in a canyon between majestic mountains her powerful voice reverberated from wall to wall and down the corridors and who were inside of the tomb heard the message, "Lord over all, over all, over all, over all..."

There are times when we look at the conditions that surround us and the problems facing us when we doubt that essential fact - "Lord over all!" God had David encode that fact in Psalm 103:19b: "His kingdom rules over all." It was then; it is now and ever will be. God rules!

Prayer: May we never doubt, Lord, that You are the one who controls all things - and trust in Your sovereignty! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 103:19 The Lord has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.



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## 2018 Groton SD Community Events

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

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## News from the Associated Press

### Herbergers to Close

Bon-Tom Stores, Inc., parent company of Herberger's, filed for bankruptcy in February. According to a press release from the company, two groups will acquire the inventory and liquidate it.

According to a press release from Bon-Ton, Bill Tracy President and Chief Executive Officer said, "While we are disappointed by this outcome and tried very hard to identify bidders interested in operating the business as a going concern, we are committed to working constructively with the winning bidder to ensure an orderly wind-down of operations that minimizes the impact of this development on our associates, customers, vendors and the communities we serve. We are incredibly grateful to all of our associates for their dedicated service to Bon-Ton and to our millions of loyal customers who we have had the pleasure to serve as their hometown store for more than 160 years."

Herbergers is located in Aberdeen, Watertown and Rapid City with a Yonkers store in Sioux Falls.

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash

01-05-08-10-28

(one, five, eight, ten, twenty-eight)

Estimated jackpot: \$70,000

Lotto America

08-11-27-30-47, Star Ball: 9, ASB: 2

(eight, eleven, twenty-seven, thirty, forty-seven; Star Ball: nine; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$3.46 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$80 million

Powerball

09-10-12-17-23, Powerball: 9, Power Play: 2

(nine, ten, twelve, seventeen, twenty-three; Powerball: nine; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$122 million

### Death penalty withdrawn for 2nd man in murder-for-hire case

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Prosecutors won't seek the death penalty against a second suspect accused in a murder-for-hire case in western South Dakota.

Pennington County prosecutors withdrew a request this week to pursue capital punishment against Richard Hirth if he is convicted of the 2015 fatal stabbing of Jessica Rehfeld, 22, the Rapid City Journal reported .

Police found Rehfeld's body in a remote grave near Rockerville in May 2016, a year after she disappeared. Rehfeld's ex-boyfriend, Jonathon Klinetobe, was accused of hiring Hirth to kill her.

Hirth, 37, and Klinetobe, 28, have pleaded not guilty to charges including murder. Both men now face life in prison without parole.

The withdrawal this week came at the request of the Rehfeld family. The victim's father, Michael Rehfeld, testified Monday that attempting to sentence the men to death would give them more publicity and prevent

his family from getting closure.

The decision isn't uncommon after families learn that the appeal process can last decades and trigger memories of the crime, said Robert Dunham, executive director of nonprofit Death Penalty Information Center.

Michael Rehfeld noted in his testimony that his family would not be able to recover Jessica's personal belongings held in evidence during appeals.

"We are seeing this more and more around the country," Dunham said. "Families of homicide victims are telling prosecutors that they don't want the death penalty."

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

## Authorities say man fatally injured at northwest Iowa farm

ROCK VALLEY, Iowa (AP) — Authorities say a man was fatally injured when he was run over by a piece of equipment at a farm in northwest Iowa.

The accident occurred Monday afternoon at the farm 4 miles (7 kilometers) west of Rock Valley. The Sioux County Sheriff's Office says the man was run over while walking behind a payloader as it was backing up. He was taken to a local hospital and then flown to a Sioux Falls, South Dakota, hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

The Sheriff's Office identified him as 52-year-old Bradley Peetsch, who lived in Baxter, Minnesota. The payloader driver was identified as 17-year-old Joey Van Ginkel, of Rock Valley.

A payloader is a heavy vehicle with a large blade or broad scoop mounted on its front.

## Board rejects additional school security officers

BOX ELDER, S.D. (AP) — The Pennington County Board has rejected a request by the Douglas School District to beef up security by adding two additional sheriff's deputies.

Commissioners voted 3-2 against providing the funds necessary to double the number of school resource officers.

Douglas Schools Superintendent Alan Kerr says the request comes after the district experienced unprecedented growth over the past few years. Kerr notes that officers not only serve as a first line of defense during active shooter situations, but also help prevent drugs, guns, bullying and sexual abuse in schools.

Douglas schools had committed \$62,000 to the additional officers and the sheriff's department would have added \$83,000.

## Man gets 5 years in prison for stealing grain from family

MOUNT VERNON, S.D. (AP) — A Mount Vernon man accused of stealing \$400,000 worth of grain from a Davison County farm family has been sentenced to serve five years in prison and pay restitution.

Authorities alleged that 48-year-old Merle Northrup over a span of five years sold loads of corn and soybeans under his own name while working for the farm family, keeping the proceeds. He pleaded no contest in March to a grand theft charge.

The Daily Republic reports Northrup was sentenced Tuesday. Judge Chris Giles said he was concerned that Northrup showed no remorse and took no responsibility.

Giles sentenced him to 15 years in prison but suspended 10 years on the condition he repay what he stole and also pay court fees and costs.

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

## Former day care worker pleads not guilty to child abuse

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A woman accused of physically abusing children at the Sioux Falls day care where she worked has pleaded not guilty to 28 counts of child abuse.

Authorities allege 31-year-old Teresa Gallagher and another female employee at Little Blessings Learning Center were caught on surveillance video slamming children to the ground, yanking them by their arms and stomping on them.

The other worker has not yet entered a plea. She's to appear in court next month. Both women were fired from their jobs.

Police say none of the children required medical care, but some complained of back pain or headaches.

## Men arrested at Starbucks say they feared for their lives

By ERRIN HAINES WHACK, AP National Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Rashon Nelson initially brushed it off when the Starbucks manager told him he couldn't use the restroom because he wasn't a paying customer.

He thought nothing of it when he and his business partner, Donte Robinson, were approached at their table and were asked if they needed help. The 23-year-old entrepreneurs declined, explaining they were just waiting for a business meeting.

A few minutes later, they hardly noticed when the police walked into the coffee shop — until officers started walking in their direction.

"That's when we knew she called the police on us," Nelson told The Associated Press in the men's first interview since video of their April 12 arrests went viral.

Nelson and Robinson, black men who became best friends in the fourth grade, were taken in handcuffs from the Starbucks in Philadelphia's tony Rittenhouse Square neighborhood, where Robinson has been a customer since he was 15.

The video, recorded on a white customer's cellphone video, galvanized people around the country who saw the exchange as modern-day racism. In the week since, the men have met with Starbucks' CEO and have started pushing for lasting changes to ensure what happened to them doesn't happen to anyone else.

"We were there for a real reason, a real deal that we were working on," Robinson explained. "We put in a lot of time, energy, effort. ... We were at a moment that could have a positive impact on a whole ladder of people, lives, families. So I was like, 'No, you're not stopping that right now.'"

Robinson said he thought about his loved ones and how the afternoon had taken such a turn as he was taken to jail. Nelson wondered if he'd make it home alive.

"Anytime I'm encountered by cops, I can honestly say it's a thought that runs through my mind," Nelson said. "You never know what's going to happen."

Democratic Mayor Jim Kenney, who is white, said what happened at the Starbucks "appears to exemplify what racial discrimination looks like in 2018." Police Commissioner Richard Ross, who's black, said in a Facebook post that arresting officers "did absolutely nothing wrong," and added that Nelson and Robinson were disrespectful to officers.

Ross said officers did what they were supposed to do and were professional in their dealings with the men, "and instead they got the opposite back."

Nelson and Robinson originally were supposed to meet Andrew Yaffe, a white local businessman, at a Starbucks across town. But the plan changed, and they agreed to meet at the Rittenhouse Square location, where they'd met several times before on a potential real estate opportunity.

The black men arrived a few minutes early. Three police officers showed up not long after.

Nelson said they weren't questioned but were told to leave immediately.

Yaffe showed up as the men were being handcuffed. He can be seen in the video demanding an explanation for the officers' actions. Nelson and Robinson did not resist arrest, confused and unsure of what to think or what might happen next.

"When you know that you did nothing wrong, how do you really react to it?" Nelson said. "You can ei-

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ther be ignorant or you can show some type of sophistication and act like you have class. That was the choice we had."

It was hardly their first encounter with police, a rite of passage that becomes a regular occurrence for many black men their age. But neither had been arrested before, setting them apart from many of their peers in the gritty southwest Philadelphia neighborhood where they grew up.

Robinson briefly wondered what he might've done to bring the moment on himself.

"I feel like I fell short," he explained. "I'm trying to think of something I did wrong, to put not just me but my brother, my lifelong friend ... in this situation."

Attorney Stewart Cohen, representing Nelson and Robinson, said the men were illegally profiled. He pointed to Title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race in hotels, restaurants, theaters and other public accommodations.

Seattle-based Starbucks Corp. has said the location where the arrests occurred has a policy that restrooms are for paying customers only.

Nelson and Robinson spent hours in a jail cell with no outside contact and no sense of what would happen next. They were released after midnight, when the district attorney declined to prosecute them for trespassing. They had no idea the video of their arrests was making the rounds on the internet.

The day after their arrests, they thought about what to do next.

"You go from being someone who's just trying to be an entrepreneur, having your own dreams and aspirations, and then this happens," Nelson said. "How do you handle it? Do you stand up? Do you fight? Do you sit down and just watch everyone else fight for you? Do you let it slide, like we let everything else slide with injustice?"

Robinson, still focused on the previous day's business deal, called Yaffe to reschedule. Yaffe told him about the video and the traction it had gotten.

Over the weekend, attention and outrage over the video grew, prompting a protest at the local Starbucks restaurant and a national boycott. By Monday, the men were set to meet with Starbucks CEO Kevin Johnson to discuss what happened.

Johnson has responded quickly to public outcry around the arrests, calling them "reprehensible," apologizing and ordering stores closed for mandatory training to tackle unconscious bias.

Nelson and Robinson said they're looking for more lasting results and are in mediation proceedings with Starbucks to implement changes, including the posting in stores of a customer bill of rights; the adoption of new policies regarding customer ejections, racial profiling and racial discrimination; and independent investigations of complaints of profiling or discrimination from customers and employees.

Robinson said he appreciates the public support the men have received but anger and boycotting Starbucks are not the solution.

"We need a different type of action ... not words," he said. "It's a time to pay attention and understand what's really going on. We do want a seat at the table."

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Whack is The Associated Press' national writer for race and ethnicity. Follow her work on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/emaravelous>

## Trump leaves open possibility of bailing on meeting with Kim

By **MATTHEW PENNINGTON, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said that although he's looking ahead optimistically to a historic summit meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un he could still pull out if he feels it's "not going to be fruitful."

Trump said that CIA Director Mike Pompeo and Kim "got along really well" in their recent secret meeting, and he declared, "We've never been in a position like this" to address worldwide concerns over North Korea's nuclear weapons.

But speaking alongside Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Wednesday, after the allies met at

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Trump's Florida resort, he made clear that he'd still be ready to pull the plug on what is being billed as an extraordinary meeting between the leaders of longtime adversaries.

"If I think that if it's a meeting that is not going to be fruitful we're not going to go. If the meeting when I'm there is not fruitful I will respectfully leave the meeting," Trump told a news conference. He also said that a U.S.-led "maximum pressure" campaign of tough economic sanctions on North Korea would continue until the isolated nation "denuclearizes."

Abe echoed the sentiment.

"Just because North Korea is responding to dialogue, there should be no reward. Maximum pressure should be maintained," he said.

Trump has said his summit with Kim, with whom he traded bitter insults and threats last year as North Korea conducted nuclear and missile tests, could take place by early June, although the venue has yet to be decided. It would be the first such leadership summit between the two nations after six decades of hostility following the Korean War.

Other than the threat posed to by North Korea's weapons of mass destruction, another issue overhanging the summit plans is the fate of three Americans detained there. Trump said that was under negotiation and there was a "good chance" of winning their release, but he wouldn't say whether that was a precondition for sitting down with Kim.

Pompeo raised the question of the three Americans in his meeting with Kim, a U.S. official said.

Trump also said he had promised Abe he would work hard for the return of Japanese nationals abducted by North Korea. Tokyo says at least a dozen Japanese said to have been taken in the 1970s and 1980s remain unaccounted for.

News of Pompeo's trip to North Korea, which took place more than two weeks ago, emerged on Tuesday, as lawmakers weighed whether he should be confirmed to become secretary of state. Trump and Republican senators held up his highly unusual, secret mission as sign of Pompeo's diplomatic ability. But the prospect of his confirmation hung in the balance as Democrats lined up against him.

Sen. Robert Menendez, top-ranking Democrat on the committee that will have the first vote on confirmation, expressed frustration that the CIA chief had not briefed him on the visit that took place more than a week before Pompeo's public hearing last Thursday.

He is the most senior U.S. official to meet with a North Korean leader since Secretary of State Madeleine Albright met with Kim's father in Pyongyang in 2000.

"Now I don't expect diplomacy to be negotiated out in the open, but I do expect for someone who is the nominee to be secretary of state, when he speaks with committee leadership and is asked specific questions about North Korea, to share some insights about such a visit," Menendez said at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee is expected to vote on the nomination next week. Pompeo, whose hawkish foreign policy views and comments about minorities have raised Democratic hackles, would replace Rex Tillerson, who was pushed out by Trump last month.

In the U.S. Senate, Republicans have a single-vote advantage on the 21-member panel that will have the first say on Pompeo's nomination. With nine of the 10 Democrats already declaring they will oppose Pompeo, and at least one Republican, Rand Paul of Kentucky, also opposed, the panel could be forced to take the unusual step of sending the nomination to the full Senate without a favorable recommendation.

Trump said Wednesday he expects Paul to come through on Pompeo. The president called Paul and the senator agreed to meet with Pompeo, but Paul's spokesman said, "Nothing else has changed."

As for opposition by Democrats, Republican Cory Gardner, who chairs an Asia subcommittee, said in an interview that they "want to play partisan politics."

Despite meeting Pompeo on Tuesday, Gardner said he hadn't been briefed on the trip and was awaiting more information about it. Still, he said the fact that the meeting happened gave weight to Pompeo's testimony last week that the administration was committed to the "complete and verifiable denuclearization" of North Korea and sustaining sanctions pressure.

It is not unprecedented for U.S. intelligence officials to serve as conduits for communication with Pyong-

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yang. In 2014, the then-director of U.S. national intelligence, James Clapper, secretly visited North Korea to bring back two American detainees. Clapper did not, however, meet with Kim, who has only in recent weeks emerged from international seclusion after taking power six years ago and super-charging North Korea's push to become a nuclear power. Kim met last month with China's president and is to meet South Korea's leader April 27.

Associated Press writers Zeke Miller in Palm Beach, Florida, and Lisa Mascaro, Deb Riechmann and Matthew Lee in Washington and Gillian Wong in Beijing contributed to this report.

## Trade issues expose the limits of Trump-Abe 'bromance'

By ZEKE MILLER and JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe courted the new American president with a golden driver not long after Donald Trump won the White House. He's met with the billionaire businessman more than any other world leader, and he's Trump's second-most frequent caller.

Yet the "bromance" between Trump and Abe has its limits.

Trump appeared to be successful Tuesday in reassuring Abe that he would take Japan's concerns to heart during his upcoming meeting with North Korea's Kim Jong Un. But Wednesday brought public disagreements, as Trump spurned his guest's top economic and trade priorities. Principal among them: allowing Japan an exemption from new U.S. steel and aluminum tariffs and persuading Trump to re-join the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal.

During a roughly 40-minute joint press conference Wednesday evening, Abe tried to put on a good face, emphasizing their close relationship and their areas of accord on North Korea policy. He effusively thanked Trump for pledging to raise the issue of Japanese abductees held by North Korea in his meeting with Kim.

But when pressed on the economic disagreements, Abe repeatedly consulted notes as he tried to sidestep questions on the contentious issues, instead returning to Trump's favored call for developing a "reciprocal" trade relationship with the U.S. It marked a stark departure from Abe's pre-summit hopes of coaxing the U.S. back into the TPP. And Japan remains the only major U.S. ally not to be exempted from the tariffs announced last month.

World leaders have quickly learned that flattery is an easy way into Trump's graces, and throughout the two-day summit, Abe appeared keen to praise the president at every opportunity. He applauded Trump's courage for agreeing to meet with Kim and marveled at Mar-a-Lago, calling Trump's estate "a gorgeous place."

Abe drew laughs before a dinner with the joint delegations in a baroque dining room when he recounted the strength of their relationship over food, which included a cheeseburger on the golf course and a working luncheon Wednesday. "We already had two lunches in the same day," he said. "And now we are going to have our dinner."

"Prime Minister Abe and I have spent a lot of time today, and we really spent a lot of time since I got elected. And right from the beginning we hit it off. The relationship is a very good one," Trump said as the pair sat down for the working lunch on economic issues.

That was the session Trump suggested he was most looking forward to. "I love the world of finance and the world of economics, and probably, it's where I do the best. But we will be able to work things out," he said.

Except it didn't turn out that way. The session on trade and economic issues quickly turned tense and tough, according to two U.S. officials, as the leaders found themselves at an impasse on the tariffs. And Trump refused to budge on his opposition to the TPP, from which he withdrew the U.S. last year. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to describe the private talks.

Still, several officials said publicly the personal connection between the leaders is robust enough to withstand the tensions.

The summit was hastily put together after Trump accepted Kim's invitation for a meeting in the next two

months, and as the president prepared to implement the metals tariffs.

Trump said the invitation to his private club was a sign of how much he liked Abe.

"Many of the world's great leaders request to come to Mar-a-Lago and Palm Beach. They like it; I like it. We're comfortable. We have great relationships," the president said, boosting the private club, which collects dues that enrich Trump.

## **FAA orders fan blade inspections after jet engine explosion**

**By DAVID KOENIG and CLAUDIA LAUER, Associated Press**

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — U.S. airline regulators have ordered inspections on engine fan blades like the one that snapped off a Southwest Airlines plane, leading to the death of a woman who was partially blown out a window.

The Federal Aviation Administration's announcement late Wednesday comes nearly a year after the engine's manufacturer recommended the additional inspections, and a month after European regulators ordered their airlines to do the work.

Pressure for the FAA to act grew after an engine on a Southwest plane blew apart on Tuesday, showering the aircraft with debris and shattering a window. A woman sitting next to the window was partially blown out and died of her injuries. The plane, which was headed from New York to Dallas, made an emergency landing in Philadelphia.

Investigators said a blade that broke off mid-flight and triggered the fatal accident was showing signs of metal fatigue — microscopic cracks that can splinter open under the kind of stress placed on jetliners and their engines.

The National Transportation Safety Board also blamed metal fatigue for an engine failure on a Southwest plane in Florida in 2016.

That led manufacturer CFM International, a joint venture of General Electric Co. and France's Safran SA, to recommend last June that airlines conduct the inspections of fan blades on many Boeing 737s.

The FAA proposed making the recommendation mandatory in August but never issued a final decision.

On Wednesday, the FAA said it would issue a directive in the next two weeks to require ultrasonic inspections of fan blades on some CFM56-7B engines after they reach a certain number of takeoffs and landings. Blades that fail inspection would need to be replaced.

It was not immediately clear how many planes would be affected. Last year, the FAA estimated that an order would cover 220 engines on U.S. airlines. That number could be higher now because more engines have hit the number of flights triggering an inspection.

Southwest announced its own program for similar inspections of its 700-plane fleet over the next month. United Airlines executives said Wednesday that they had begun inspecting some of their planes.

American Airlines has about 300 planes with that type of engine, and Delta Air Lines has about 185. It will not be clear until the FAA issues its rule how many will need inspections.

Tuesday's emergency broke a string of eight straight years without a fatal accident involving a U.S. airliner.

"Engine failures like this should not occur," Robert Sumwalt, chairman of the NTSB, said Wednesday.

Sumwalt expressed concern about such a destructive engine failure but said he would not yet draw broad conclusions about the safety of CFM56 engines or the entire fleet of Boeing 737s, the most popular airliner ever built.

Federal investigators were still trying to determine how a window came out of the plane. The woman sitting next to it, identified by family members as 43-year-old Jennifer Riordan, was wearing a seat belt. Philadelphia's medical examiner said the banking executive and mother of two from Albuquerque, New Mexico, died from blunt impact trauma to her head, neck and torso.

It is unknown whether the FAA's original directive would have forced Southwest to quickly inspect the engine that blew up. CEO Gary Kelly said it had logged only 10,000 cycles since being overhauled.

Before Wednesday's announcement, critics accused the FAA of inaction in the face of a threat to safety.

Robert Clifford, a lawyer who is suing American Airlines over another engine explosion that caused a fire



that destroyed the plane, said the FAA should have required the inspections — even if it meant grounding Boeing 737s.

“There is something going on with these engines,” he said, “and the statistical likelihood of additional failures exists.”

William Waldock, a safety expert at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, predicted the FAA’s decision. He said the scope of FAA action will depend on whether investigators find fatigue in other fan blades on the broken engine.

“The first thing they probably are going to do is pull every single one of those other blades off and X-ray them to see if they’ve got a similar type of failure waiting to happen,” he said.

The Southwest CEO protested that it is too soon to say whether Tuesday’s accident is related to any other engine failures.

Kelly said the plane was inspected on Sunday and nothing appeared out of order. A spokeswoman said it was a visual inspection and oil service of the engines. The NTSB’s Sumwalt said, however, that the kind of wear seen where the missing fan blade broke off would not have been visible just by looking at the engine.

AP Airlines Writer David Koenig reported from Dallas.

## **Bureaucrat set to replace Raul Castro as Cuba’s president**

**By MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN and ANDREA RODRIGUEZ, Associated Press**

HAVANA (AP) — A 57-year-old bureaucrat will take Raul Castro’s place as the president of Cuba on Thursday as a government led by a single family for six decades tries to ensure the long-term survival of one of the world’s last communist states.

Members of the National Assembly voted Wednesday on Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez’s nomination as the sole candidate for president. The result won’t be officially announced until Thursday morning but it’s already clear because the assembly approves all executive branch proposals by margins of 95 percent or higher.

The 86-year-old Castro will remain head of the Communist Party, which is designated by the constitution as “the superior guiding force of society and the state.” As a result, he will still be the most powerful person in Cuba for the time being.

His departure from the presidency is nonetheless a symbolically charged moment for a country that has been under the absolute rule of one family since the revolution — first by revolutionary leader Fidel Castro and, for the last decade, his younger brother.

Facing biological reality but still active and apparently healthy, Raul Castro is stepping down as president in an effort to guarantee that new leaders can maintain the government’s grip on power in the face of economic stagnation, an aging population and increasing disenchantment among younger generations.

“I like sticking with the ideas of President Fidel Castro because he did a lot for the people of Cuba, but we need rejuvenation, above all in the economy,” said Melissa Mederos, a 21-year-old schoolteacher. “Diaz-Canel needs to work hard on the economy, because people need to live a little better.”

Most Cubans know their first vice president as an uncharismatic figure who until recently maintained a public profile so low it was virtually nonexistent. That image changed slightly this year as state media placed an increasing spotlight on Diaz-Canel’s public appearances, including remarks to the press last month that included his promise to make Cuba’s government more responsive to its people.

“We’re building a relationship between the government and the people here,” he said then after casting a ballot for members of the National Assembly. “The lives of those who will be elected have to be focused on relating to the people, listening to the people, investigating their problems and encouraging debate.”

Diaz-Canel gained prominence in central Villa Clara province as the top Communist Party official, a post equivalent to governor. People there describe him as a hard-working, modest-living technocrat dedicated to improving public services. He became higher education minister in 2009 before moving into the vice presidency.

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In a video of a Communist Party meeting that inexplicably leaked to the public last year, Diaz-Canel expressed a series of orthodox positions that included somberly pledging to shutter some independent media and labeling some European embassies as outposts of foreign subversion.

But he has also defended academics and bloggers who became targets of hardliners, leading some to describe him a potential advocate for greater openness in a system intolerant of virtually any criticism or dissent. International observers and Cubans alike will be scrutinizing every move he makes after he officially takes office on Thursday.

Two years after taking over from his ailing brother in 2006, Castro launched a series of reforms that expanded Cuba's private sector to nearly 600,000 people and allowed citizens greater freedom to travel and access to information. He has failed to fix the generally unproductive and highly subsidized state-run businesses that, along with a Soviet-model bureaucracy, employ three of every four Cubans. State salaries average \$30 a month, leaving workers struggling to feed their families, and often dependent on corruption or remittances from relatives overseas.

Castro's moves to open the economy have largely been frozen or reversed as soon as they began to generate conspicuous shows of wealth by the new entrepreneurial class in a country officially dedicated to equality among its citizens.

"I don't want to see a capitalist system, hopefully that doesn't come here, but we have to fix the economy," said Roberto Sanchez, a 41-year-old construction worker. "I'd like to have more opportunity, to buy a car, and have a few possessions."

As in Cuba's legislative elections, all of the leaders selected Wednesday were picked by a government-appointed commission. Ballots offer only the option of approval or disapproval and candidates generally receive more than 95 percent of the votes in their favor.

The Candidacy Commission also nominated another six vice presidents of the Council of State, Cuba's highest government body. Only one, 85-year-old Ramiro Valdez, was among the revolutionaries who fought with the Castros in the late 1950s in the eastern Sierra Maestra mountains.

State media went into overdrive Wednesday with a single message: Cuba's system is continuing in the face of change. Commentators on state television and online offered lengthy explanations of why Cuba's single-party politics and socialist economy are superior to multi-party democracy and free markets, and assured Cubans that no fundamental changes were occurring, despite some new faces at the top.

"It falls on our generation to give continuity to the revolutionary process," said assembly member Jorge Luis Torres, a municipal councilman from central Artemisa province who appeared to be in his 40s. "We're a generation born after the revolution, whose responsibility is driving the destiny of the nation."

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Associated Press writer Ben Fox contributed to this report.

## **Cosby team turns to star witness with drug experts on deck**

**By MICHAEL R. SISAK, Associated Press**

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP) — Bill Cosby's lawyers turned to their star witness in the comedian's sexual assault retrial, countering the harrowing accounts of a half-dozen accusers with a woman who says chief accuser Andrea Constand mused about framing a celebrity in hopes of a big payday.

Temple University academic adviser Marguerite Jackson took the witness stand the same day jurors heard Cosby's explosive deposition testimony about giving quaaludes, the since-banned 1970s party drug, to women before sex.

The jury is expected to hear from a pair of drug experts on Thursday.

The prosecution's expert, Dr. Timothy Rohrig, testified at Cosby's last trial that wooziness and other effects Constand described could have been caused by quaaludes or Benadryl, the over-the-counter cold medication Cosby claims he gave her.

Quaaludes have been illegal in the U.S. since 1982. That is the year Cosby accuser Janice Baker-Kinney

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alleges he knocked her out with pills she suspected to be quaaludes and then raped her.

Cosby, in the 2005 deposition read to jurors by a police detective, said he used quaaludes "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 said in the deposition, given in 2005 and 2006 after Constand sued him.

Cosby's testimony was hidden from public view until The Associated Press petitioned to have it unsealed in 2005. That led prosecutors to reopen the criminal case and file charges.

Jurors at Cosby's first trial also heard excerpts from the deposition.

In the transcript read to the jury, the "Cosby Show" star said he obtained seven prescriptions for quaaludes from his doctor in Los Angeles in the 1970s, ostensibly for a sore back, but added he did not use them himself because they made him tired.

Jackson testified that Constand, Temple's women's basketball operations director, spoke to her on a February 2004 road trip to Rhode Island about fabricating sexual assault allegations against a high-profile person so she could "get that money" from a lawsuit.

After watching a TV news report about a celebrity who had been sued over allegations of sexual assault, Jackson said, Constand told her: "Oh, wow, something similar happened to me." Constand said she never reported the assault because her assailant was a "high-profile person" and she knew she couldn't prove it, Jackson testified.

Jackson, who said she roomed with Constand on the trip, told jurors that she encouraged Constand to come forward. She testified that Constand then switched gears, saying, "No, it didn't, but I could say it did. I could say it happened, get that money. I could quit my job. I could go back to school. I could open up a business."

Jackson's account was immediately challenged by prosecutors, who suggested she was not on the trip on which she says her conversation with Constand took place.

Jackson's appearance on the witness stand was one of the most highly anticipated moments of a retrial that has Cosby, 80, defending himself against criminal charges that he knocked Constand out with pills and then sexually assaulted her at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004. Cosby paid Constand nearly \$3.4 million in 2006, and his lawyers call her a "con artist" who set him up.

Jackson said a comedian she met on a cruise put her in touch with Cosby's lawyers in November 2016. They got to talking about Cosby after the comedian offered to buy her a drink and promised, "I won't put anything in it," she recalled.

Judge Steven O'Neill blocked Jackson from taking the stand at Cosby's first trial last year, ruling her testimony would be hearsay after Constand told the jury that she did not know her. That trial ended without a verdict after jurors deadlocked. The judge changed his mind about Jackson for the retrial, giving the defense case a huge boost.

The Associated Press does not typically identify people who say they are 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>.

## Miguel Diaz-Canel selected as next president of Cuba

By **MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN** and **ANDREA RODRIGUEZ**, Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — The Cuban government on Wednesday selected 57-year-old First Vice President Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez as the sole candidate to succeed President Raul Castro in a transition aimed at ensuring that the country's single-party system outlasts the aging revolutionaries who created it.

The certain approval of Diaz-Canel by members of the unfailingly unanimous National Assembly will in-

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stall someone from outside the Castro family in the country's highest government office for the first time in nearly six decades.

The 86-year-old Castro will remain head of the Communist Party, designated by the constitution as "the superior guiding force of society and the state." As a result, Castro will remain the most powerful person in Cuba for the time being. His departure from the presidency is nonetheless a symbolically charged moment for a country accustomed to 60 years of absolute rule first by revolutionary leader Fidel Castro and, for the last decade, his younger brother.

Facing biological reality but still active and apparently healthy, Raul Castro is stepping down as president in an effort to guarantee that new leaders can maintain the government's grip on power in the face of economic stagnation, an aging population and increasing disenchantment among younger generations.

"I like sticking with the ideas of President Fidel Castro because he did a lot for the people of Cuba, but we need rejuvenation, above all in the economy," said Melissa Mederos, a 21-year-old schoolteacher. "Diaz-Canel needs to work hard on the economy, because people need to live a little better."

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Diaz-Canel gained prominence in central Villa Clara province as the top Communist Party official, a post equivalent to governor. There, people described him as a hard-working, modest-living technocrat dedicated to improving public services. He became higher education minister in 2009 before moving into the vice presidency.

In a video of a Communist Party meeting that inexplicably leaked to the public last year, Diaz-Canel expressed a series of orthodox positions that included somberly pledging to shutter some independent media and labeling some European embassies as outposts of foreign subversion.

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"It falls on our generation to give continuity to the revolutionary process," said assembly member Jorge Luis Torres, a municipal councilman from central Artemisa province who appeared to be in his 40s. "We're a generation born after the revolution, whose responsibility is driving the destiny of the nation."

Castro entered the National Assembly just after 9 a.m. accompanied by a broadly smiling Diaz-Canel. Ceremonies continued through lunchtime and broke until Thursday morning, when the new national leadership is expected to be officially announced on the anniversary of the defeat of U.S.-backed invaders at the Bay of Pigs in 1961.

Fidel Castro was prime minister and president from 1959 until he fell ill in 2006. Although Osvaldo Dorticos was president of Cuba during Fidel Castro's time as prime minister, he was considered a figurehead beside the man who led Cuba's revolution, forged its single-party socialist system and ruled by fiat.

Associated Press writer Ben Fox contributed to this report.

## 'That's how she's wired': Pilot lauded for handling crisis

By **JIM VERTUNO and EMILY SCHMALL, Associated Press**

BOERNE, Texas (AP) — The Southwest Airlines pilot being lauded as a hero in a harrowing emergency landing after a passenger was partially blown out of the jet's damaged fuselage is also being hailed for her pioneering role in a career where she has been one of the few women at the controls.

Tammie Jo Shults, one of the first female fighter pilots in the U.S. Navy, was the captain and piloting the Dallas-bound Flight 1380 when it made an emergency landing Tuesday in Philadelphia, according to her husband, Dean Shults.

One of the engines on the Boeing 737 exploded while the plane was traveling 500 mph (800 kph) at 30,000 feet (9144 m) with 149 people on board. Shrapnel hit the plane and passengers said they had to rescue a woman who was being blown out of a damaged window. The woman later died of blunt force trauma to her head, neck and torso.

Shults calmly relayed details about the crisis to air traffic controllers, and passengers commended her handling of the situation.

In a statement late Wednesday, Shults and First Officer Darren Ellisor said they felt like they were simply doing their jobs.

"On behalf of the entire Crew, we appreciate the outpouring of support from the public and our coworkers as we all reflect on one family's profound loss," the two pilots said in the statement, adding that their "hearts are heavy."

Friends at Shults' church in Boerne, Texas, about 30 miles northwest of San Antonio, said Wednesday they were not surprised after listening to the recording and reading media reports about her actions.

"Everybody is talking about Tammie Jo and how cool and calm she was in a crisis, and that's just Tammie Jo," Rachel Russo said. "That's how she's wired."

Shults was commissioned into the Navy in 1985 and reached the rank of lieutenant commander, said Commander Ron Flanders, the spokesman for Naval Air Forces in San Diego.

Women aviators were excluded from combat missions until the month after Shults got off active duty in March 1993, but Flanders said Shults flew during Operation Desert Storm trainings as an aggressor enemy pilot.

"While we at that time had an exclusion, she was in fact helping male pilots hone their skills," Flanders said.

Veteran Navy combat aviator Linda Maloney said that she and Shults were among a small group of women who worked to see the combat exclusion rule repealed.

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"Obviously it was frustrating," said Maloney, who became among the first women to join a combat military flying squadron and was deployed to the Arabian Gulf. "We go through the same training that the guys do, and our hope was the Navy would allow us to fly in combat at some point."

Shults was featured in Maloney's book "Military Fly Moms" along with the stories and photos of 69 other women U.S. military veterans.

Russo and Staci Thompson, who has known Shults for about 20 years and was nanny to her two children when they were small, said she "loved" her military career but has alluded to frustrations and challenges that came with it.

They also said she embraced those experiences to make her stronger and guide her into a role as a mentor to young female pilots or girls thinking about a military career.

"She learned a lot about overcoming things as a woman in a male-dominated field," Russo said.

Shults is from New Mexico, according to a personnel file from the Navy, and was a 1983 graduate of MidAmerica Nazarene University in Olathe, Kansas, where she earned degrees in biology and agribusiness.

Shults' brother-in-law, Gary Shults, said her husband also is a Southwest pilot and told him she 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."

Schmall reported from Fort Worth, Texas. Associated Press writers Adam Kealoha Causey in Oklahoma City, Ben Finley in Norfolk, Virginia, and Terry Wallace and business writer David Koening in Dallas contributed to this story.

## Former President George HW Bush buoyed by tributes to wife

By MICHAEL GRACZYK, Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — In his first public comments since his wife's death, former President George H.W. Bush said Wednesday that he used to tease his spouse of 73 years that he had a complex about how much people liked her.

That fact, he said, is buoyed by stories about Barbara Bush's warmth and wit following her death. Tributes have rolled in from around the world, from former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to a U.S. Navy commander, who recalled Mrs. Bush handing out cookies to sailors on a battleship.

"I always knew Barbara was the most beloved woman in the world, and in fact I used to tease her that I had a complex about that fact," the nation's 41st president said in a statement released Wednesday.

His wife died Tuesday as their Houston home, where he held her hand, all day, before she died at age 92. They had been married longer than any other presidential couple.

The former president referred to his wife as "The Enforcer," a term of endearment bestowed by her family as she ran their household while he pursued careers in the Texas oil business and later politics and public service. He said the outpouring of support and friendship toward his wife following her death "is lifting us all up."

Their son, former President George W. Bush, told an audience at his presidential library in Dallas on Wednesday that his mother was "funny to the end." He recalled a phone conversation they had this week.

"The day before she died, I said 'Mom, I just want you know you've been a fabulous mother and I love you dearly.' And she said, 'I want you to know that you're my favorite son — on the phone,'" Bush told the audience.

"I hope you don't feel sorry for any of us, particularly me," he added. He said he was at peace because his mother was at peace. "She believes in an afterlife and was joyously looking forward to that afterlife," he said.

A tearful Laura Bush added that watching her mother-in-law taught her "how to be a first lady, and I'm so grateful for her example."

Other tributes heralded the former first lady as a warm woman of strength devoted to not only her fam-

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ily, but to child and adult literacy programs.

Current first lady Melania Trump, who will attend Barbara Bush's funeral on Saturday in Houston, praised her for putting "family and country above all else." Among her greatest achievements, President Donald Trump added in a statement, "was recognizing the importance of literacy as a fundamental family value that requires nurturing and protection."

Gorbachev, whose last years in office overlapped George H.W. Bush's presidency, remembered Barbara Bush as warm and astute, saying "she immediately developed a warm relationship" with his wife. Gorbachev visited with the Bushes at the former president's library at Texas A&M University, where Barbara Bush will be buried.

In Moscow, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters that Russian President Vladimir Putin sent a telegram to the former president offering his condolences.

Kuwaiti leader Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah sent letters of condolence to the Bush family, according to the state-run news agency KUNA. The Arab nation has long celebrated George H.W. Bush for securing its freedom from Iraqi occupation in the 1991 Gulf War, and Barbara Bush was warmly welcomed when she visited Kuwait in 1993 and 2001.

Former President Barack Obama said he and former first lady Michelle Obama would always be grateful to Barbara 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," Obama said.

Former President Jimmy Carter and former first lady Rosalynn Carter called Mrs. Bush the "matriarch of a family dedicated to serving."

Barbara Bush's funeral will be held at St. Martin's Episcopal Church, which she and her husband regularly attended. The church will host a public viewing Friday. The funeral Saturday will be by invitation only.

An "uplifting celebration" of Barbara Bush's life will be held Thursday evening outside Houston City Hall. City officials encouraged people to wear blue, her favorite color, along with pearls, which became her signature neckwear jewelry. City Hall was being bathed in blue lights in her honor.

## Trump calls sketch released by Daniels 'a total con job'

By CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Wednesday that a porn actress is pulling "a total con job" by promoting an artist's sketch of a man she says threatened her to keep silent about an alleged sexual encounter with Trump years ago.

The sketch depicts a white male in his 30s or 40s and carries a description of him as "lean but fit." Stormy Daniels, whose legal name is Stephanie Clifford, told ABC's "The View" on Tuesday that it's the man who menaced her and her young daughter and warned her in 2011 to stay quiet about a 2006 tryst with Trump.

In an early morning tweet from his Palm Beach estate, Trump said: "A sketch years later about a non-existent man. A total con job, playing the Fake News Media for Fools (but they know it)!" It appeared to be the first time Trump tweeted directly about the porn actress.

Daniels' lawyer, Michael Avenatti shot back on Twitter, noting a recent FBI raid on Trump's personal attorney's office, saying it uncovered "EXISTING documents and recordings showing con job after con job pulled on REAL people and very REAL American citizens (who didn't know it)."

He added that Trump was a "completely unhinged, undisciplined opponent who is prone to shooting himself in the foot."

Avenatti has increased a \$100,000 reward to \$131,000 for information leading to the man's identification. The figure could be a reference to the \$130,000 that Daniels says she received from Trump's lawyer Michael Cohen just before the 2016 election in exchange for her silence. Daniels is seeking to invalidate the nondisclosure agreement.

The case took on new significance last week when FBI agents raided Cohen's office, looking for informa-

tion on topics including the payment to Daniels.

Cohen asked a federal judge in Los Angeles to delay Daniels' case for at least 90 days after the raid and argued his rights would be violated if he was forced to give a sworn deposition. Avenatti has objected and pressed for the case to move forward. U.S. District Judge James Otero scheduled a hearing for Friday morning.

Trump answered questions about Daniels for the first time recently, saying he had no knowledge of the payment made by Cohen and didn't know where Cohen had gotten the money. The White House has consistently said Trump denies the affair.

After Daniels first alleged on CBS' "60 Minutes" several weeks ago that she had been threatened, a lawyer for Cohen demanded that she publicly apologize to Cohen for suggesting he was involved. Daniels responded by filing a revised federal lawsuit accusing Cohen of defamation.

## Trump, Abe fail to agree on US tariff exemption for Japan

By ZEKE MILLER and JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — President Donald Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Wednesday they had failed to reach a deal that would exempt Japan from new U.S. steel and aluminum tariffs, as Abe had wanted.

Instead, the leaders announced they had agreed to start talks on a new "free, fair and reciprocal" trade agreement between the two countries following two days of talks.

"If we can come to an arrangement on a new deal, that would certainly be something we would discuss," Trump said when asked about the tariffs during a joint press conference at his private Mar-a-Lago club.

But he said the current trade deficit between the two countries was too high to merit an exemption now. According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, the trade deficit was \$56.1 billion last year.

It was a disappointment for Japan. Most other key U.S. allies — among them Australia, Canada, the European Union and Mexico — have already been granted exemptions to Trump's protectionist measures. And Japan has previously voiced reluctance to negotiating a bilateral trade deal with the U.S., saying it would prefer the U.S. rejoin the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

But Abe, whose visit comes as Trump prepares for a historic summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, appeared to win assurances from Trump that he and the president were on the same page when it comes to the Kim meeting.

Perhaps the most significant for Abe: Trump's promise to raise with Kim the issue of Japanese citizens who have been abducted by the North.

Trump said it was clear from their discussions that the abductees were "one of the truly most important things on Shinzo's mind." Trump said he wanted to see the "families reunited as soon as possible."

Pyongyang has acknowledging abducting 13 Japanese, while Tokyo maintains North Korea abducted 17. Five have been returned to Japan. North Korea says eight others have died and denies the remaining four entered its territory. Japan has demanded further investigation, and Abe has made the issue one of his top priorities.

The U.S. has also been pushing for the release of three Americans held captive. CIA Director Mike Pompeo raised their plight during his meeting earlier this month with Kim, according to a senior White House official who was not authorized to disclose the sensitive discussions and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Trump expressed optimism Wednesday, saying that officials had been working "very diligently" to secure the Americans' return and that there was a "good chance" it would happen.

But on trade, Trump made clear he would prefer a bilateral trade deal with Japan instead of rejoining the 11-nation TPP Pacific Rim trade pact.

"I don't want to go back into TPP, but if they offered us a deal that I can't refuse on behalf of the United States, I would do it," Trump said. Still, he added, "I like bilateral better. I think it's better for our country,



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I think it's better for our workers, and I much would prefer a bilateral deal, a deal directly with Japan."

Trump and Abe also appeared to agree to disagree on the issue of steel and aluminum imports. Abe argued during the press conference that Japanese imports "would not exert any negative influence" on the security of the United States and said the high quality of Japan's steel and aluminum products would be difficult to replace.

The visit included a mix of business and pleasure. Trump and Abe spent Wednesday morning golfing at one of the president's nearby golf courses. On Tuesday evening, the president and first lady hosted Abe and his wife at an intimate al fresco dinner on Mar-a-Lago's patio. And the group reconvened for a second, larger dinner Wednesday evening.

Despite their disagreements, officials from both countries insist the personal relationship that Trump and Abe share has never been stronger. The leaders have bonded over "golf diplomacy" in both the U.S. and Japan, and U.S. officials note that Trump has met with Abe more than any other foreign leader.

During the trip, Abe praised Trump for his courage in agreeing to meet with Kim and said that Kim's willingness to meet was a sign that the pressure campaign against the North was working.

But he also urged caution, saying there should be "no reward" given to the North just because the reclusive country is responding to dialogue. He said that "maximum pressure should be maintained."

On Tuesday night, media outlets including The Associated Press reported that Pompeo 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. Trump confirmed the meeting in a tweet Wednesday, saying "a good relationship was formed" heading into his anticipated summit with Kim.

"Denuclearization will be a great thing for World, but also for North Korea!" Trump wrote.

Associated Press writers Ken Thomas, Darlene Superville and Matthew Pennington in Washington contributed to this report.

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

## **Nanny who killed kids while parents away convicted of murder** **By COLLEEN LONG, Associated Press**

NEW YORK (AP) — A once-trusted nanny who butchered two children in her care while their parents were away was convicted of murder by a jury that didn't believe her claims she was too insane at the time of the crime to be held responsible.

Jurors on Wednesday found Yoselyn Ortega knew what she was doing when she killed Lucia Krim, 6, and Leo Krim, 2, in October 2012. Ortega expressed no reaction to the verdict, staring straight ahead as it was read, but later wiped tears from her eyes as she was led from the courtroom.

The children's father, Kevin Krim, sat in the front row, clasping hands with two alternate jurors who had been dismissed but stayed for the verdict. He hugged them, and they wept together.

The children's mother, Marina Krim, who had returned home to discover them dead in a blood-soaked bathroom, was not in the audience but posted photos of them online after the verdict and expressed her undying adoration for them, writing, "I love you."

Ortega's lawyer Valerie Van Leer-Greenberg didn't dispute that Ortega killed the children but contended she had an undiagnosed mental illness that worsened in the moments leading up to the attack. She said Ortega snapped and didn't know what she was doing when she stabbed the children to death.

Mental illness "does not announce itself like a bad cough or a limp," Van Leer-Greenberg said during closing arguments. "Sometimes it sneaks up and nestles in before anyone takes notice."

But prosecutors maintained that Ortega, who's from the Dominican Republic, acted out of jealous hatred of the children's mother.

"She did it intentionally with a full understanding of exactly what it was she was doing — every stab, every slash," Assistant District Attorney Stuart Silberg said during closing arguments.

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The verdict capped an emotional seven-week trial that kept jurors and members of the audience in tears. Jurors heard heart-wrenching testimony from Marina Krim, who spoke of the sickening, desperate moments when she saw her children's vacant eyes, their small bodies perforated by stab wounds.

Krim had been at a swimming class with her 3-year-old daughter, Nessie. Ortega was to have dropped off Lucia at her dance class, and Krim was to pick her up. But when Krim arrived, Lucia wasn't there. Krim frantically tried to reach Ortega, who had worked for the family for more than two years.

Krim spoke of coming home to an eerily quiet apartment, darkened but for the light in the back bathroom, where she found the children and Ortega, who had stabbed herself in a failed suicide attempt.

Krim ran to the landing outside the apartment clutching Nessie and started screaming.

"It was a scream you can't imagine is even inside of you," she testified. "I don't even know where it came from. I just thought: 'I'm never going to be able to talk to them ever again. They are dead. I just saw my kids dead.'"

Lucia, nicknamed Lulu, was stabbed more than 30 times, and Leo was stabbed five times.

At Ortega's trial, the children's father, who had been on a business trip and received news of their deaths when his plane landed, spoke of walking down a long hallway at the hospital where he saw their bodies.

"They still had this perfect skin and these long eyelashes," Kevin Krim said. "They had like sandy brown hair. ... You could see they tried really hard to wash all the blood out, but there was still kind of an auburn tint to it that I remember to this day."

Jurors, who deliberated for more than a day, said the trial affected them deeply. One, David Curtis, an actor, said it was difficult for him to set aside thoughts of his own children, now in their 20s.

"It is horrifying to think of being in a position of having to experience or go through the process that the Krims had to go through," said Curtis, who had tears in his eyes.

Kevin Krim said after the verdict he and his wife wanted to thank the judge and the jurors "for their commitment to justice." He stood at a press conference with Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, who said, "Marina and Kevin have lived through the worst nightmare any parent could endure."

Ortega, who's 55, faces life in prison when she's sentenced next month. Had she been found not responsible, she would have been committed to a mental institution.

Marina Krim is a stay-at-home mom, and Kevin Krim is a former CNBC executive now at a startup. They use a Facebook page to post updates on how they're doing, writing about the arrival of two new children, Felix, born in 2013, and Linus, born in 2016.

The couple started the Lulu and Leo Fund, which aims to support innovative art programs for children. After the verdict, they posted a collage of images of Lulu and Leo.

On Instagram, Marina Krim posted a photo from atop the Empire State Building.

"You two never made it to the top but I'm up here now for the first time, in peace, on top of the world, remembering another lifetime and thinking of you," she wrote. "NYC, Lulu and Leo loved you and I love you too!"

## Ex-Playboy model settles lawsuit over alleged Trump affair

By MICHAEL BALSAMO, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A former Playboy model who said she had a 10-month affair with President Donald Trump settled her lawsuit Wednesday with a supermarket tabloid over an agreement that prohibited her from discussing the relationship publicly.

Karen McDougal's settlement with the company that owns the National Enquirer "restores to me the rights to my life story and frees me from this contract that I was misled into signing nearly two years ago," she said in a statement Wednesday.

In August 2016, the tabloid's parent company, American Media Inc., paid McDougal \$150,000 for the rights to her story about the alleged relationship, but the story never ran.

Last month, McDougal filed a lawsuit in Los Angeles asking to invalidate the contract, which she said she was misled into signing. The suit alleged that the company didn't publish the story because AMI's

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owner, David Pecker, is "close personal friends" with Trump. It also charged that Trump's attorney, Michael Cohen, had inappropriately intervened and was secretly involved in discussions with AMI executives about the agreement.

Federal agents raided Cohen's office and residence last week seeking any information on payments made in 2016 to McDougal and porn actress Stormy Daniels, according to people familiar with the investigation but not authorized to discuss it publicly. Daniels has said she had a sexual encounter with Trump in 2006. The search warrants also sought bank records, records on Cohen's dealings in the taxi industry and his communications with the Trump campaign, the people said.

Under the settlement agreement, McDougal can keep the \$150,000 she was paid and AMI has the rights to up to \$75,000 for any future profits from her story about the relationship. The company also retains the rights to photographs of McDougal that it already has, the settlement said.

AMI had argued McDougal had been allowed to speak about her relationship since 2016 and the contract gave the company discretion over whether to publish the story.

In an interview with CNN that aired last month, McDougal said Trump tried to pay her after their first sexual tryst at a bungalow at the Beverly Hills Hotel in 2006. McDougal said she continued the relationship with Trump for about 10 months and broke it off in April 2007 because she felt guilty.

The White House has said Trump denies having an affair with McDougal. Trump married his current wife, Melania Trump, in 2005, and their son, Barron, was born in 2006.

"My goal from the beginning was to restore my rights and not to achieve any financial gain, and this settlement does exactly that," McDougal said. "I am relieved to be able to tell the truth about my story when asked, and I look forward to being able to return to my private life and focus on what matters to me."

## First Saudi cinema opens with popcorn and 'Black Panther'

By AYA BATRAWY, Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — The lights dimmed and the crowd of men and women erupted into applause and hoots Wednesday evening as Hollywood's blockbuster "Black Panther" premiered in Saudi Arabia's first movie theater.

Though it was a private, invitation-only screening, for many Saudis it marked one of the clearest moments of change to sweep the country in decades. It's seen as part of a new era in which women will soon be allowed to drive and people in the kingdom will be able to go to concerts and fashion shows, and tuck into a bucket of popcorn in a cinema.

"It's a new era, a new age. It's that simple. Things are changing, progress is happening. We're opening up and we're catching up with everything that's happening in the world," said Rahaf Alhendi, who attended the showing.

Authorities said the public would be able to purchase tickets online Thursday for showings starting Friday. But there may be delays.

Movies screened in Saudi cinemas will be subject to approval by government censors, and Wednesday night's premiere was no exception. Scenes of violence were not cut, but a final scene involving a kiss was axed.

Still, it's a stark reversal for a country where public movie screenings were banned in the 1980s during a wave of ultraconservatism that swept Saudi Arabia. Many Saudi clerics view Western movies and even Arabic films made in Egypt and Lebanon as sinful.

Despite decades of ultraconservative dogma, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has pushed through a number of major social reforms with support from his father, King Salman, to satiate the desires of the country's majority young population.

"This is a historic day for your country," Adam Aron, CEO of AMC Entertainment, told the crowd at the screening. "It's been about 37 years since you've been able to watch movies the way movies are meant to be watched in a theater, together on a big screen."

U.S.-based AMC, one of the world's biggest movie theater operators, only two weeks earlier signed a

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deal with Prince Mohammed to operate the first cinema in the kingdom. AMC and its local partner hurriedly transformed a concert hall in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, into a cinema complex for Wednesday's screening.

Aron said the company plans to rip out the current concert-style seats and replace them with plush leather recliners and build three more screens in the complex to accommodate up to 5,000 movie-goers a day.

Samer Alsourani traveled from Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province for the event. He commended the crown prince for following through on his promises to modernize the country.

"This is the first time that we really see something that's really being materialized," he said.

The social reforms undertaken by the 32-year-old heir to the throne are part of his so-called Vision 2030, a blueprint for Saudi Arabia that aims to boost local spending and create jobs amid sustained lower oil prices.

The Saudi government projects that the opening of movie theaters will contribute more than 90 billion riyals (\$24 billion) to the economy and create more than 30,000 jobs by 2030. The kingdom says there will be 300 cinemas with around 2,000 screens built by 2030.

AMC has partnered with a subsidiary of Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund, known as the Public Investment Fund, to build up to 40 AMC cinemas across the country over the next five years.

Saudi Arabia had already started gradually loosening restrictions on movie screenings in the past few years, with local film festivals and screenings in makeshift theaters. For the most part, though, until now Saudis who wanted to watch a film in a movie theater had to drive to nearby Bahrain or the United Arab Emirates for weekend trips to the cinema.

In the 1970s, there were informal movie screenings but the experience could be interrupted by the country's religious police, whose powers have since been curbed.

Jamal Khashoggi, a dissident Saudi writer, describes the theaters of the 1970s as being "like American drive-ins, except much more informal." In an opinion piece for The Washington Post, he wrote that a friend once broke his leg at a screening in Medina when he jumped off a wall to escape the religious police and avoid arrest.

By the 1980s, movie screenings were largely banned unless they took place in private residential compounds for foreigners or at cultural centers run by foreign embassies.

Access to streaming services, such as Netflix, and satellite TV steadily eroded attempts by the government to censor what the Saudi public could view. By 2013, the film "Wadjda" made history by becoming the first Academy Award entry for Saudi Arabia, though it wasn't nominated for the Oscars.

To adhere to the kingdom's norms on gender segregation, certain screenings may be held for families and others for male-only crowds. But, generally movie theaters will not be gender segregated with "family sections" for women and related men and separate "single sections" for male-only crowds as is customary at restaurants and cafes.

Saudi Minister of Culture and Information Awwad Alawwad told The Associated Press the government aims to strike a balance between the country's Islamic mores and people's movie experiences.

"We want to ensure the movies are in line with our culture and respect for values. Meanwhile, we want to provide people with a beautiful show and really enjoy watching their own movies," he said.

The new movie theater also came equipped with prayer rooms to accommodate the daily Muslim prayer times.

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Associated Press writer Malak Harb in Riyadh contributed to this report.

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Aya Batrawy on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ayaelb>

## Asian shares higher on optimism about global growth

By **KELVIN CHAN, AP Business Writer**

HONG KONG (AP) — Asian shares rose on Thursday as improving optimism about the global economy helped investors shake off worries about geopolitical risks for the moment.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index rose 0.6 percent to 22,293.97 and South Korea's

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Kospi added 0.4 percent to 2,488.87. Hong Kong's Hang Seng added jumped 1.3 percent to 30,692.38 and the Shanghai Composite in mainland China gained 0.7 percent 3,111.93. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 advanced 0.6 percent to 5,894.00. Shares were higher in Taiwan and Southeast Asia.

**GLOBAL ECONOMY:** The Federal Reserve's latest beige book survey found the outlook for the world's No. 1 economy remains positive as growth continues at a moderate pace, though trade tensions with China are an increasing concern. U.S. crude oil stockpiles fell sharply, according to the latest report on inventories, in a sign of stronger than expected demand that sent crude prices to a new three-year high.

**TRADE TENSIONS:** President Donald Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said they agreed to start talks on a new "free, fair and reciprocal" trade agreement after two days of meetings in Florida. Abe failed to get the exemption from U.S. metal tariffs for Japan that he had hoped for but some analysts said the outcome signaled that Trump was taking a more conciliatory stance on trade.

**MARKET INSIGHT:** "I think overall sentiment today is continuing favorably as geopolitical risk diminishes, and perhaps we're starting to see a definite de-escalation from Trump's America First trade policy," after the Trump-Abe meeting, said Stephen Innes, head of Asian trading at OANDA.

**WALL STREET:** Major U.S. benchmarks finished mostly higher. The S&P 500 index rose 0.1 percent to 2,708.64. The Dow Jones industrial average 0.2 percent to 24,748.07. The Nasdaq composite gained 0.2 percent to 7,295.24.

**ENERGY:** Oil futures extended their rally. Benchmark U.S. crude rose 26 cents to \$68.73 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose \$1.95, or 2.9 percent, to settle at \$68.47 per barrel on Wednesday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, added 31 cents to \$73.79 per barrel in London.

**CURRENCIES:** The dollar gained to 107.40 yen from Wednesday's 107.24 yen. The euro rose to \$1.2384 from \$1.2375.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, April 19, the 109th day of 2018. There are 256 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 19, 1993, the 51-day siege at the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas, ended as fire destroyed the structure after federal agents began smashing their way in; about 80 people, including two dozen children and sect leader David Koresh, were killed.

On this date:

In 1775, the American Revolutionary War began with the battles of Lexington and Concord.

In 1893, the Oscar Wilde play "A Woman of No Importance" opened at the Haymarket Theatre in London.

In 1897, the first Boston Marathon was held; winner John J. McDermott ran the course in two hours, 55 minutes and 10 seconds.

In 1935, the Universal Pictures horror film "Bride of Frankenstein," starring Boris Karloff with Elsa Lanchester in the title role, had its world premiere in San Francisco.

In 1943, during World War II, tens of thousands of Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto began a valiant but ultimately futile battle against Nazi forces.

In 1945, the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "Carousel" opened on Broadway.

In 1951, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, relieved of his Far East command by President Harry S. Truman, bade farewell in an address to Congress in which he quoted a line from a ballad: "Old soldiers never die; they just fade away."

In 1966, Bobbi Gibb, 23, became the first woman to run the Boston Marathon at a time when only men were allowed to participate. (Gibb jumped into the middle of the pack after the sound of the starting pistol and finished in 3:21:40.)

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In 1977, the Supreme Court, in *Ingraham v. Wright*, ruled 5-4 that even severe spanking of schoolchildren by faculty members did not violate the Eighth Amendment ban against cruel and unusual punishment.

In 1989, 47 sailors were killed when a gun turret exploded aboard the USS Iowa in the Caribbean. (The Navy initially suspected that a dead crew member had deliberately sparked the blast, but later said there was no proof of that.)

In 1995, a truck bomb destroyed the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 people. (Bomber Timothy McVeigh, who prosecutors said had planned the attack as revenge for the Waco siege of two years earlier, was convicted of federal murder charges and executed in 2001.)

In 2005, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger of Germany was elected pope in the first conclave of the new millennium; he took the name Benedict XVI.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush wrapped up two days of talks at Camp David with South Korean President Lee Myung-bak. A Russian capsule carrying South Korea's first astronaut (Yi So-yeon) touched down 260 miles off target in northern Kazakhstan after hurtling through the atmosphere in a bone-jarring descent from the international space station.

Five years ago: Dzhokhar Tsarnaev (joh-HAHR' tsahr-NEYE'-ehv), a 19-year-old college student wanted in the Boston Marathon bombings, was taken into custody after a manhunt that had left the city virtually paralyzed; his older brother and alleged accomplice, 26-year-old Tamerlan (TAM'-ehr-luhn), was killed earlier in a furious attempt to escape police. Newspaper publisher Al Neuharth, 89, died in Coco Beach, Florida. Children's author E.L. Konigsburg, 83, died in Falls Church, Virginia.

One year ago: Fox News Channel's parent company fired Bill O'Reilly following an investigation into harassment allegations, bringing a stunning end to cable news' most popular program. Former New England Patriots tight end Aaron Hernandez, 27, who was serving a life sentence for a 2013 murder, hanged himself in his cell in a maximum-security prison in Massachusetts five days after being acquitted of murder charges in the shooting deaths of two men in Boston in 2012.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Elinor Donahue is 81. Rock musician Alan Price (The Animals) is 76. Actor Tim Curry is 72. Pop singer Mark "Flo" Volman (The Turtles; Flo and Eddie) is 71. Actor Tony Plana is 66. Former tennis player Sue Barker is 62. Motorsports Hall of Famer Al Unser Jr. is 56. Actor Tom Wood is 55. Recording executive Suge Knight is 53. Singer-songwriter Dar Williams is 51. Actress Kim Hawthorne (TV: "Greenleaf") is 50. Actress Ashley Judd is 50. Singer Bekka Bramlett is 50. Latin pop singer Luis Miguel is 48. Actress Jennifer Esposito is 46. Actress Jennifer Taylor is 46. Jazz singer Madeleine Peyroux (PAY'-roo) is 44. Actor James Franco is 40. Actress Kate Hudson is 39. Actor Hayden Christensen is 37. Actress Catalina Sandino Moreno is 37. Actress-comedian Ali Wong is 36. Actress Kelen Coleman is 34. Actor Zack Conroy is 33. Roots rock musician Steve Johnson (Alabama Shakes) is 33. Actor Courtland Mead is 31. Tennis player Maria Sharapova is 31.

Thought for Today: "The charm, one might say the genius of memory, is that it is choosy, chancy and temperamental: it rejects the edifying cathedral and indelibly photographs the small boy outside, chewing a hunk of melon in the dust." — Elizabeth Bowen, Irish-born author (1899-1973).