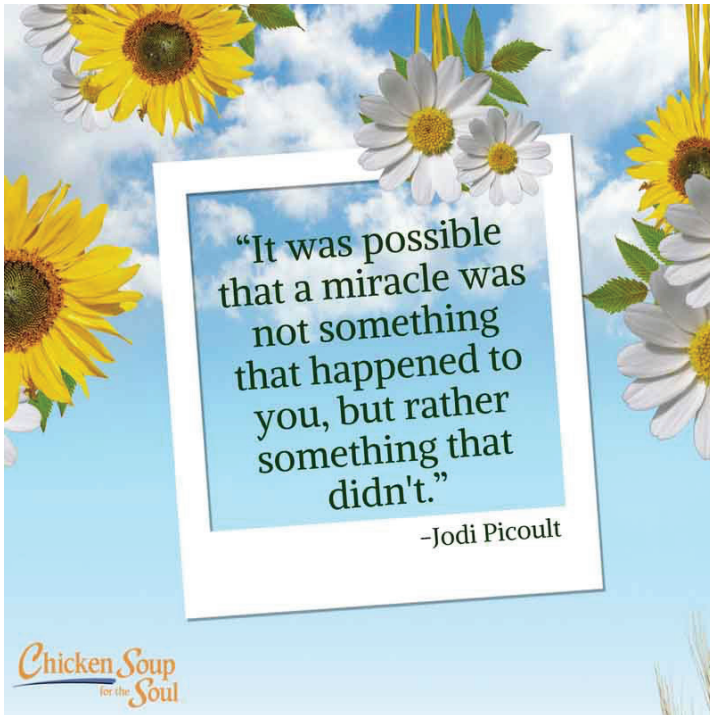


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Mail Highway Route Relief Driver

Position available for Highway Relief Driver
Must be over 21, have a good driving record
Able to lift 70 pounds.

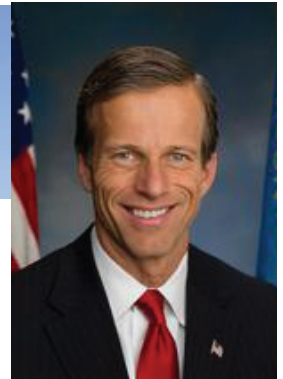
Route is early mornings and late afternoons
Mainly Saturdays and some week days

Contact Dave Miller 605-397-8277 Leave Message



Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Obstruction for the Sake of Obstruction

If you're a dedicated C-SPAN viewer or can harken back to your old high school civics class, you know that in addition to voting on bills and treaties, senators have the unique responsibility of providing their advice and consent with respect to various executive and judicial branch nominations made by the president.

"Advice and consent" is a technical way of saying senators vet and then vote to confirm or reject individuals to posts within the federal government, like cabinet secretaries, certain agency leaders, and judges. It's an exclusive role that sets the legislative branch apart from its counterparts, and it's critically important to ensure the government operates efficiently and effectively.

Particularly when it comes to posts within his administration, the president has historically been granted a certain level of deference so he can assemble a team of advisors with whom he trusts and shares the same public policy vision. That's not to say the Senate is a rubberstamp, though. Not everyone who is nominated automatically gets confirmed, nor should they, which is why we all take our role in vetting and confirming nominees seriously. And for me, as chairman of the Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over several federal agencies, that role is only heightened.

Since President Trump took office just over one year ago, though, this process has seriously eroded. My Democrat colleagues are on a mission to slow down or outright block perfectly qualified nominees. Why? Politics, pure and simple. They're still upset that the election ended up the way that it did. That's democracy, though. Just because someone disagrees with the outcome of an election, it doesn't mean they should just take their ball and go home. It's irresponsible and shortsighted.

In President Trump's first two years in office (which he has yet to complete, by the way), so many of his nominees have already faced unnecessary procedural roadblocks that the Senate has been forced to cast nearly 90 time-consuming votes just to keep the process moving forward. To put that into perspective, nominations made by the previous six presidents, including President Obama, faced 24 of these votes – combined – in their first two years in office. This new level of partisanship exemplifies everything the American people hate about Washington, D.C.

For example, we just confirmed Mike Pompeo to serve as secretary of state, after overcoming days of unnecessary delays. He's as qualified as they come. First in his class at West Point. Five years of active-duty service in the Army. Harvard Law graduate. Congressman. Director of the CIA. While this is exactly the kind of person we need as our nation's top diplomat, only a handful of Democrats broke ranks to join us.

As I mentioned, it wasn't always like this. Former Secretaries of State John Kerry and Hillary Clinton – both Democrats, nominated by a Democrat president – were confirmed 94-3 and 94-2, respectively. Nearly unanimous. Believe me, Republicans didn't support these nominees because we agreed with all of their policies. Instead, we saw the importance of helping the president assemble his team, which in turn helps the American people succeed.

Listen, I understand that my Democrat colleagues still wish their candidate had won the election and was in the White House. But if they're going to continue to live in the electoral past, it will be the American people, not President Trump, who suffers. We owe it to the people who elected us to look to the future and work for, not against their best interests. That means ending this obstruction for the sake of obstruction and moving on with the people's business.

KRISTI NOEM
REPRESENTATIVE FROM SOUTH DAKOTA



Supporting Small Business

South Dakota has a robust small business culture. In fact, the 83,000-plus operations employ about 60 percent of our workforce, and I'm proud that for years, I was part of it. Most people know that I began farming and ranching full-time after my dad died. But over the years, we also started a hunting lodge, my mom had a restaurant I helped manage, and my husband and I ran an insurance company. It kept us all busy, but it was rewarding work that we got to do as a family. I'll always be grateful for that.

April 29 through May 5 marks National Small Business Week. South Dakota makes it easier than most states to have small family businesses like this. Consistently, we're ranked as a top state to do business, largely due to our favorable tax environment and limited regulatory system. I've fought to replicate our successful, limited-government model in the U.S. House, working closely with President Trump to cut taxes and red tape.

Last December, President Trump signed the largest overhaul of the federal tax code since Ronald Reagan was in the White House. That legislation offered small businesses a 20 percent tax deduction for the first time in history. Additionally, the death tax exemption levels are doubled and job creators will be allowed to immediately write off the cost of new equipment, leaving more money to grow their businesses, increase employee wages, and expand benefits. As Jack Eckhoff, State Director for the South Dakota Small Business Development Center, said: "Small business owners are looking forward to the benefits of a tax plan that provides a level playing field and more opportunity to keep their hard-earned dollars working in South Dakota."

Because most business owners file as individuals, many will benefit from the lower individual rates and the doubling of the standard deduction too. This is a benefit their employees will see directly as well. In fact, the average South Dakota family of four will see a tax savings of more than \$2,400 a year because of our historic tax cuts.

Outside of tax reform, I've also worked to delay Obamacare's costly Health Insurance Tax, which puts a tremendous burden on South Dakota small business and often means higher premiums for their employees.

But tax policy isn't the only area in which I've pushed to make the U.S. more small business friendly. Since President Trump took office, more than 1,600 unnecessary regulations have been eliminated, helping to accelerate the pace at which businesses can start and grow.

All of this has helped energize our economy. According to the National Federation of Independent Business, small businesses are the most optimistic they've been in more than three decades.

But more can be done. I hear about workforce concerns often as I travel the state. Many small businesses feel like they're ready to grow, but they can't find the workforce they need to do that. We're working on that front too. I've been pushing legislation that encourages stronger partnerships between community educators and employers. The bill also gives more flexibility to state and local leaders to tailor the use of federal dollars to meet regional workforce needs.

I'm proud of the robust small business climate we have in South Dakota. Many community-based companies are successful, not only because of our tax and regulatory policies, but because many South Dakotans make it a priority to shop locally. Thank you for doing that. Your continued support of small businesses is the best way to make sure our area businesses can thrive.

The Summer Reading Challenge

A column by First Lady Linda Daugaard:

Now that it is starting to feel a little more like spring, students are looking forward to summer. The family vacations, camping trips, picnics and baseball games will soon begin and our children will get a well-deserved break from their studies.

One thing students should not take a break from, though, is reading. When I was a librarian, I came to realize just how crucial reading is to child development and learning. Children who read regularly tend to be better writers and speakers. Unfortunately, as a nation we haven't been performing very well in reading. In 2017, only 47 percent of American students who took the ACT met the Reading Benchmark.

Knowing that nothing inspires like a little competition, I'm issuing a challenge to students across the state. I'm calling on schools to participate in the Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge, which is a free, 18-week online reading program designed to help students turn the "summer slide" into a "summer leap." Next school year, the Governor and I will visit the school that logs the most Scholastic summer reading minutes and present that school with the winning plaque.

The Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge is open to students in all 50 states. To participate, students must be registered by a teacher, public librarian or community organization leader. Once registered, students can begin logging their summer reading minutes. Students can unlock digital rewards as they complete weekly reading challenges.

Last year, for the second year in a row, Castlewood Elementary School logged the most minutes in South Dakota. I hope Castlewood will compete again this year. I also hope many other schools will join the competition and give them a run for their money!

Summer reading is very important. Whether or not they participate in the Scholastic Summer Reading challenge, Dennis and I hope students across the state will find a good book to enjoy this summer. We're looking forward to reading some new books too!

To learn more about the reading challenge, visit scholastic.com/summer/home/.



Transparency is Critical When EPA Seeks to Implement New Rules

Whenever any federal agency tries to implement new rules, transparency behind the rule-making process is important so the American people have an opportunity to understand their potential impact. It's especially important at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which has had a long history of creating burdensome, unnecessary regulations without giving the public an opportunity to fully vet the reasoning behind their decisions. I am pleased to see the current administration taking steps to reverse this practice.

As a large, rural, agricultural state, many of the rules the EPA issues have an impact on South Dakotans. Our farmers, ranchers and landowners, in particular, have been forced to comply with costly and time-consuming regulations that may not have been decided based on clear and sound scientific data. We must make certain that the science behind those decisions is consistently accurate and transparent and never based on politics, which is why I introduced the HONEST Act in the Senate. This is a bill that would prohibit the EPA from proposing, finalizing or disseminating regulations or assessments based upon science that is not transparent or reproducible.

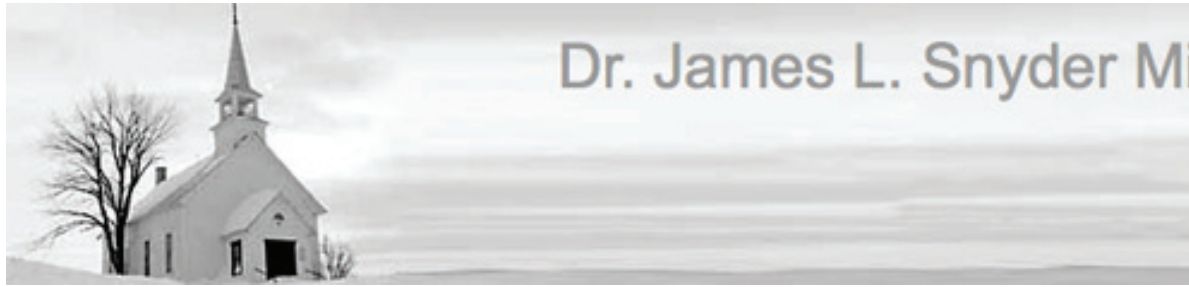
As the chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Management and Regulatory Oversight, which has oversight over the EPA, making sure the agency is using the best available science when drafting new rules is an important part of my role. Over the past three years, the subcommittee has held oversight hearings on the science behind EPA decision-making and found that oftentimes the regulations being issued were driven not by science, but by politics. The science behind EPA decisions should be able to stand the test of time and should be open to the public for review.

I was pleased that the EPA recently announced plans to implement the HONEST Act by rule. I joined EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt to sign a proposed rule that would make sure the regulatory science underlying EPA actions is fully transparent, and that the scientific information is available to the public. I appreciate this administration's commitment to issuing rules and regulations as transparently as possible.

Sound, reliable science is vital to helping us make important policy decisions that impact not just the health of American families but their entire livelihoods. Our farmers, ranchers and job creators must be able to operate free from burdensome, unnecessary regulations so they can continue to expand and grow. Inserting new levels of transparency in the EPA rulemaking process will help make the agency more accountable to the American people and help everyone understand the impact of EPA's decisions before they are implemented. The recent EPA directive is a significant step toward making sure these decisions are not made behind closed doors with information accessible only to those writing the regulations, but rather in the full view of those who will be affected.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries



I Enjoy a Mess, Especially Mine

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I were in a little bit of a tussle this past week.

Normally (whoever said I was normal) I stay away from such activity in our very humble domicile. Sometimes it is completely unavoidable. This was one of those times.

I was in the study area of our home doing some kind of work when my wife came in, looked around with both hands on her hips and said, "What is all of this mess about?"

At first, I didn't quite understand what she was talking about. In fact, I usually don't understand what she's talking about first off. Experience has taught me that if I just nod in the affirmative and smile the problem will go away. This time it didn't go away.

"I'm referring to," she said rather sarcastically, "all of this mess in this room!"

The problem I was having at the time was her definition of "mess." I have found throughout my married life that we differ on definitions.

It is true, we use the same words, but those words have different meanings to her then to me. My wife has the habit of finely defining her words to the letter. I, on the other hand, just generalize.

If you ask her how much money she had in her purse, she would say, "I have \$21.19."

If you asked me the same question (eliminate the purse) I would say, "I have around \$20."

She is precise whereas I don't care about the exact numbers.

When she said, "All of this mess in the room," it had a different meaning than what I understood it to mean.

If, for example, one book is slightly out of line with the rest of the books, the room is a mess.

I look at my room as "my room," and I should be able to have it, as I wanted to be. If I want it to be messy, then I'm going to let it be messy. My idea of messy is having my things surrounding me. Nothing is more cozy than being surrounded by what my wife calls my "mess."

Continuing her conversation, she said, "What are we going to do about this mess?"

When she said the word "we" I was confused. I knew I wasn't going to do anything about what she called the mess in my room and I didn't know if she had somebody that was going to help her do something about the mess in my room. She just looked at me as though she was expecting a response from me. I'm assuming a positive response.

Stuttering for a few moments as I was trying to collect my thoughts and when thoughts wander as much as mine do, it is very difficult to get them lined up in order.

I looked at her, then I looked around my room, then I look back at her, then I look back at my room. For the life of me, I could not see any mess. I had no idea what she was talking about. If there were a legitimate mess in my room, I would've spotted it. I did not know what she was talking about.

Staring at her and she staring back, she finally said, "We need to clean up this room!"

I suppose everybody has a different way of ordering their life. I like to order my life by having everything spread out in front of me. And, for any reason, if I can't find something, it simply means I don't really need that something.

I have known my wife to search all day for one thing, then when she found it, it was too late to do anything about it.

Life is rather easy for me along this line. If I don't have it, I don't need it. I only need what is right in

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front of me and what I can access right away.

Looking down at the floor, I said rather softly, "I don't think we need to clean up this room at all."

"What did you say?"

At that point, I knew I was in some kind of trouble, although what, I wasn't sure. So I repeated what I had to say.

"I don't think we need to clean up this room at all. In fact," I said as slowly as possible, "I like it the way it is."

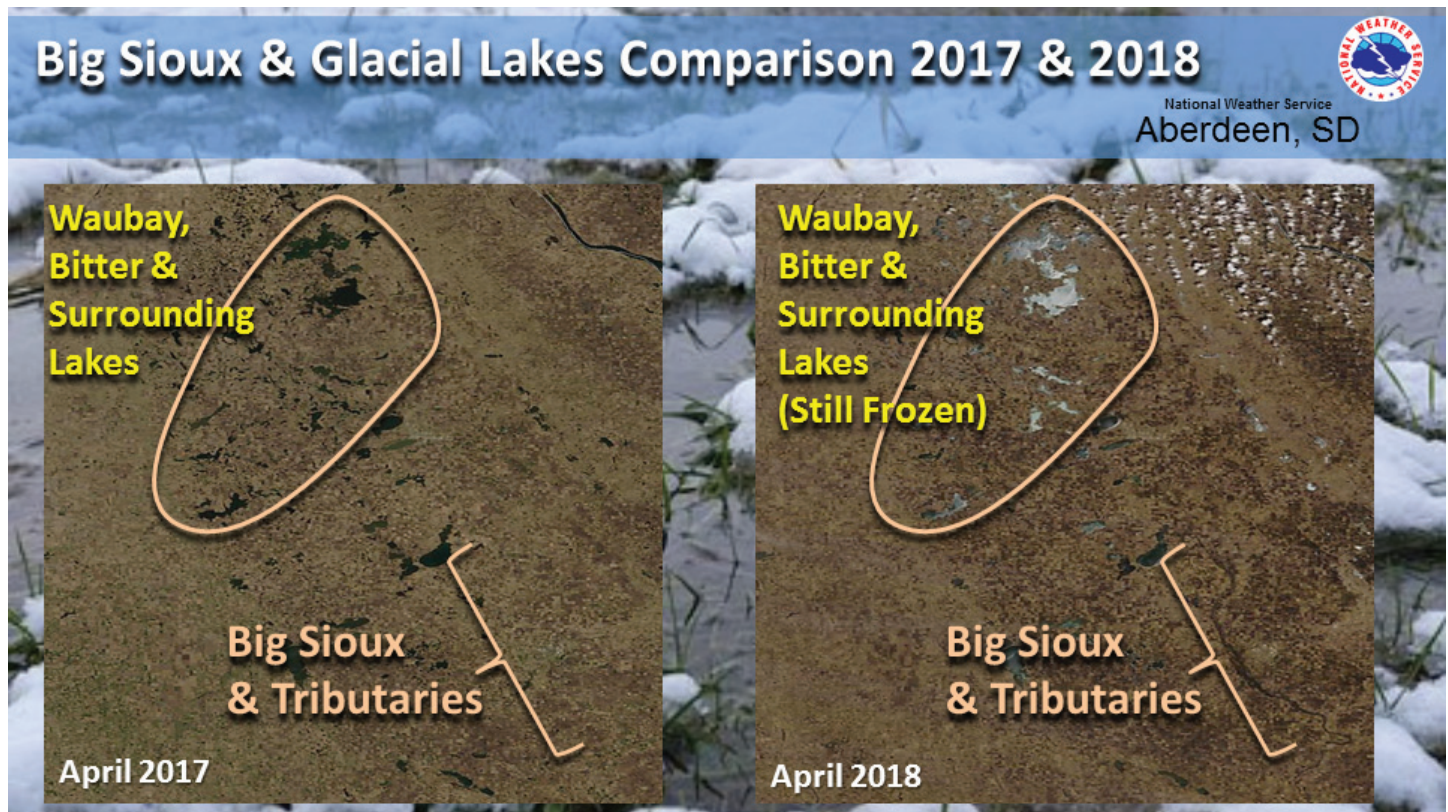
I know my wife was trying to help me get my room organized so I could find whatever I needed when I needed it. That's just not the way my clock ticks. I'm grateful that my clock ticks at all for that matter. I don't go with that pattern that she lives and dies by. Everything has to be in its proper place, according to her.

Me, on the other hand, I just have to be in the right place.

Then a light bulb clicked on the top of my head. I looked at her and said, "Let's clean up this room and then I will help you clean up the mess in your room."

As she turned her back and left my room, I couldn't help but think of a verse of Scripture, "And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise" (Luke 6:31).

You may not like my mess but I certainly enjoy it.



Published on: 04/28/2018 at 12:28PM

What a difference a year makes, especially since last spring featured drought, compared to the exceptionally snowy and cool spring we had this year. It's a fairly drastic comparison when viewed by MODIS satellite. The heavy spring snow and late thaw caused a rush of water into parts of the Big Sioux river drainage basin. Also noticeable in the image, green-up was well underway in mid-April 2017 which is also an extreme difference from this year.

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Today in Weather History

April 29, 1942: An estimated F3 tornado moved east through Marshall County, destroying almost every building on a farm northeast of Kidder. Barns were heavily damaged on two other farms. One person was reported killed, with five others injured.

1905 - The town of Taylor, in southeastern Texas, was deluged with 2.4 inches of rain in fifteen minutes. (The Weather Channel)

1910 - The temperature at Kansas City, MO, soared to 95 degrees to establish a record for the month of April. Four days earlier the afternoon high in Kansas City was 44 degrees, following a record cold morning low of 34 degrees. (The Weather Channel) (The Kansas City Weather Almanac)

1963 - A tornado, as much as 100 yards in width, touched down south of Shannon, MS. The tornado destroyed twenty-seven homes along its eighteen mile path, killing three persons. Asphalt was torn from Highway 45 and thrown hundreds of yards away. Little rain or snow accompanied the tornado, so it was visible for miles. (The Weather Channel)

1973 - The Mississippi River reached a crest of 43.4 feet, breaking the previous record of 42 feet established in 1785. (David Ludlum)

1987 - A storm off the southeast coast of Massachusetts blanketed southern New England with heavy snow. Totals of three inches at Boston MA, 11 inches at Milton MA, and 17 inches at Worcester MA, were records for so late in the season. Princeton MA was buried under 25 inches of snow. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced large hail and high winds in central Texas. Baseball size hail was reported at Nixon, and wind gusts to 70 mph were reported at Cotulla. Heavy rain in Maine caused flooding along the Pemigewasset and Ammonoosuc Rivers. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in Arkansas, Louisiana and eastern Texas, with more than 70 reports of large hail and damaging winds. Softball size hail was reported at Palestine TX. Hail as large as tennis balls caused ten million dollars damage around Pine Bluff AR. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - A storm system crossing northern New Mexico blanketed parts of the Rocky Mountain Region and the Northern High Plains with heavy snow, and produced blizzard conditions in central Montana. Much of southern Colorado was buried under one to three feet of snow. Pueblo tied an April record with 16.8 inches of snow in 24 hours. Strong canyon winds in New Mexico, enhanced by local showers, gusted to 65 mph at Albuquerque. Afternoon temperatures across the Great Plains Region ranged from the 20s in North Dakota to 107 degrees at Laredo TX. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

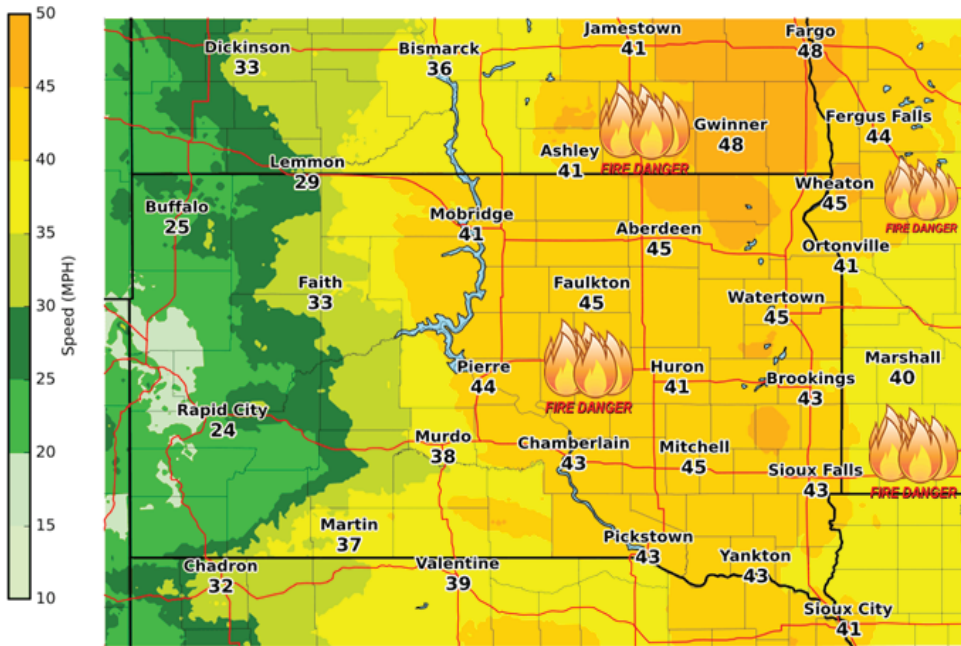
1991: Southeast Bangladesh was devastated by a tropical cyclone with sustained winds of approximately 155 mph in the during the late night hours. A 20-foot storm surge inundated the offshore islands south of Chittagong and pushed water from the Bay of Bengal inland for miles. Best estimated put the loss of life from this cyclone between 135,000 and 145,000 people. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the History Channel.com.

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Sun Apr 29	Mon Apr 30	Tue May 1	Wed May 2	Thu May 3	Fri May 4	Sat May 5
74°F	81°F	56°F	66°F	70°F	70°F	72°F
57°F	44°F	39°F	42°F	41°F	44°F	52°F
S 30 MPH	S 19 MPH	N 16 MPH	W 8 MPH	W 12 MPH	WNW 11 MPH	SSW 11 MPH

Max Wind Gusts
Valid: 04/29/2018 07:00 AM - 04/29/2018 09:00 PM CDT



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD
www.weather.gov/abr



Today

- Highs 70-80°F
- Windy
- **Very High Fire Danger**

Monday

- Highs 65-80°F
- Partly Cloudy
- Chc Showers/Tstorms Late
- **Mod/High Fire Danger**

Gusty south winds will usher in warmer temperatures to the region today through Monday. Fire danger will increase to very high region-wide this afternoon because of the gusty winds, and low relative humidities. A cold front could spark a few showers and thunderstorms by late Monday afternoon.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 60.8 F at 5:49 PM

Low Outside Temp: 25.9 F at 6:22 AM

Wind Chill:

High Gust: 23.0 Mph at 6:05 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 92° in 1934

Record Low: 16° in 1966

Average High: 64°F

Average Low: 38°F

Average Precip in April: 1.76

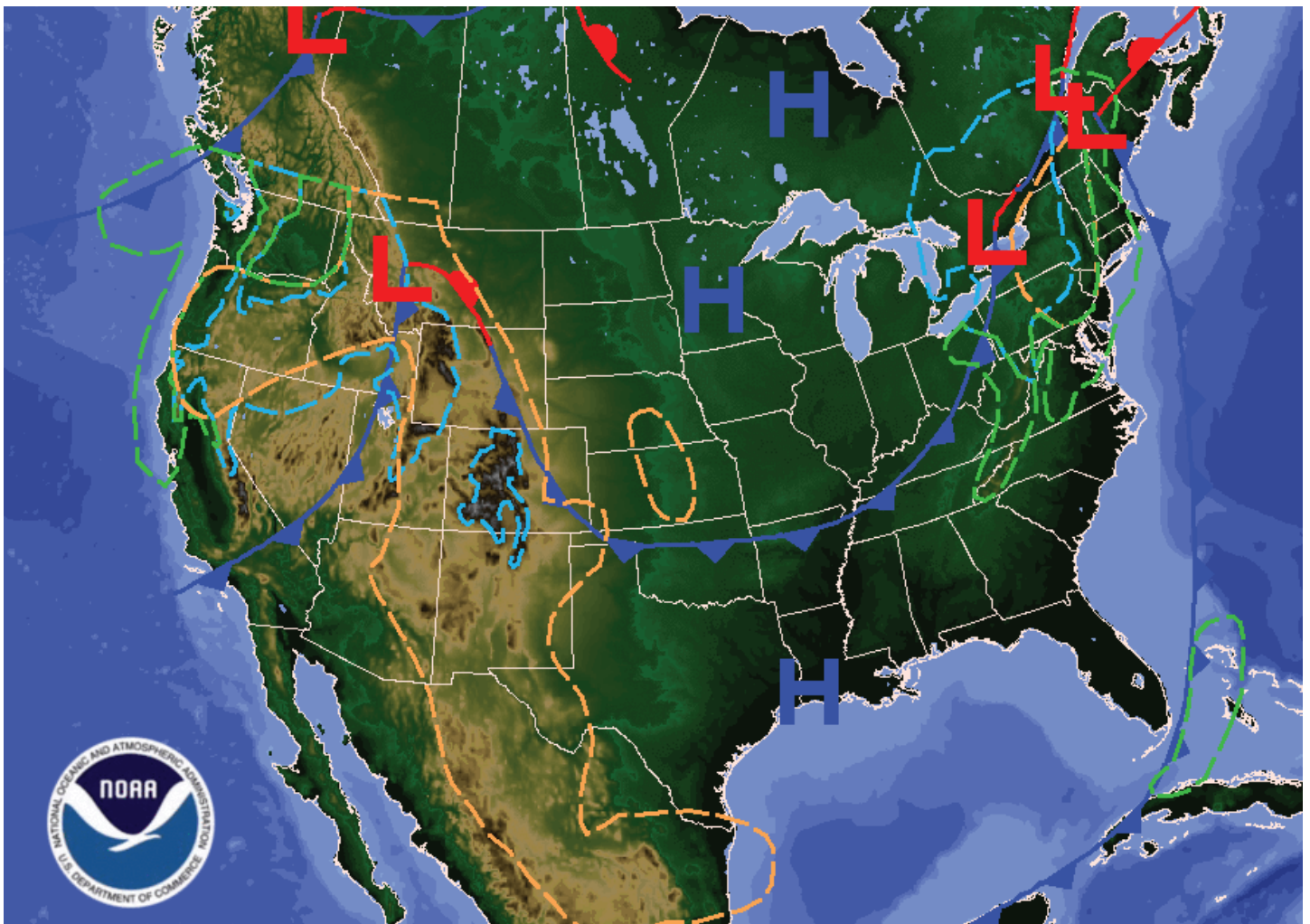
Precip to date in April: 0.83

Average Precip to date: 3.94

Precip Year to Date: 2.68

Sunset Tonight: 8:37 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:23 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sat, Apr 28, 2018, issued 4:41 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Hurley 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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GOD FORGETS NO ONE

Birthdays and anniversaries are special days and times in the lives of most people. We look forward to being remembered when a friend sends a card or letter, phone call or bouquet of flowers, a special meal or perhaps even a cake.

Poor Mrs. Hattie Hollowell spent three years, four months and sixteen days in a New York jail and no one seemed to know she was there. Fortunately, someone started an investigation for some reason and in the process discovered her. As a result of the search, she came to be known as "The Forgotten Woman." When asked, a judge blamed the tragedy on the "slipshod work" of an attorney. "Instead of helping her, he hurt her," he said.

The Psalmist wrote that "All creatures look to You to give them their food at the proper time." Our Psalmist wants us to know that our God cares for us and will, at the right time, provide for our every need. But there is a very interesting statement about God and our relationship to Him in this verse that is completed in the following verse: "When You open Your hand they are satisfied with good things."

Notice that "At the proper time," "He will open His hand," and "satisfy us with good things." We are to be completely dependent on God. There is His time, His hand and good things. Often we try to force the hand of God: We want what we want when we want it. But that is not how He works. He knows what we need and when we need it. We must wait upon Him for what is best for us.

Prayer: Help us Lord, to wait patiently on You, knowing that You are doing what is best for us - always. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 104:27-28 All creatures look to you to give them their food at the proper time. When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things.

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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
- 4/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 5/5/2018 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 5/27/2018 Historic Trinity Church Pump Organ Concert.
- 5/28/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program at the Cemetery, Lunch to follow at the American Legion (Memorial Day)
- 6/14/2018 Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
- 6/15/2018 SDSU Golf at Olive Grove
- 6/16/2018 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 7/4/2018 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 7/22/2018 Summer Fest (4th Sunday in July)
- 9/8/2018 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 10/6/2018 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/12/2018 Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2018 Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
- 11/10/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/01/2018 Olive Grove Golf Course 2018 Holiday Party

- Best Ball Golf Tourney
- SDSU Golf Tourney
- Sunflower Golf Tourney
- Santa Claus Day
- Fireman's Stag
- Tour of Homes
- Crazy Dayz/Open Houses
- School Events

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News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash
06-10-16-27-32
(six, ten, sixteen, twenty-seven, thirty-two)
Estimated jackpot: \$20,000

Lotto America
26-27-29-34-40, Star Ball: 10, ASB: 2
(twenty-six, twenty-seven, twenty-nine, thirty-four, forty; Star Ball: ten; ASB: two)
Estimated jackpot: \$3.96 million

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$126 million

Powerball
20-22-28-45-50, Powerball: 8, Power Play: 5
(twenty, twenty-two, twenty-eight, forty-five, fifty; Powerball: eight; Power Play: five)
Estimated jackpot: \$177 million

Sioux Falls man sentenced to 25 years on meth charge

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls man who was convicted of dealing methamphetamine has been sentenced to 25 years in prison.

Thirty-one-year-old Jaunte Berry pleaded guilty in October to possession with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of meth.

Authorities say Berry mailed several pounds of meth and marijuana from Sacramento, California, to Sioux Falls. A search of his Sioux Falls residence discovered about 68 grams of meth, more than a pound of marijuana and a firearm.

Berry was also ordered to serve four years of supervised release.

Multi-state pipeline nears endpoint in Minnesota

WORTHINGTON, Minn. (AP) — A pipeline project decades in the making that will provide water to more than 300,000 customers in South Dakota, Iowa and Minnesota is nearing completion.

Work on the Lewis and Clark pipeline is nearing its end point in Worthington, Minnesota Public Radio reported . The pipe should be connected to the city next fall, officials said.

The city currently draws most of its water from a well field. The well's water level can drop steeply during dry period, causing the city to implement water restrictions during times of drought.

"The way we see it is Lewis and Clark offers us that safety blanket where we're going to be able to ride out that next drought period," said Scott Hain, Worthington Public Utilities general manager.

The city of 13,000 will be able to use about 2 million gallons of water a day from the pipeline, which will meet about two-thirds of the city's daily need.

The project takes water from near the Missouri River in South Dakota. The stalled pipeline has caused problems for communities and rural water supply systems for years as the region struggled with on-and-

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off drought and had to stretch existing water supplies.

"It took us a lot longer to get authorized and it's taken us a lot longer to get constructed than what we ever thought would be," said Red Arndt of Luverne, a member of the Lewis and Clark board.

Work on the line halted in 2013 because of a lack of funding. The federal government agreed to pay 80 percent of the project's cost almost 20 years ago. The money has been doled out slowly, which has slowed the pace of construction.

Several towns in Iowa and South Dakota are also waiting to be connected to the pipeline.

Information from: Minnesota Public Radio News, <http://www.mprnews.org>

Spearfish to welcome new gym, festival for rock climbers

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — A new indoor rock climbing gym is set to open in Spearfish, just in time for the city to host an inaugural climbing festival this summer.

The Black Hills Climbing Festival will be held in July, and the new climbing gym will open in May, the Rapid City Journal reported. The High Mountain Outfitters are bringing the event and the gym to Spearfish, a popular spot for rock climbing enthusiasts.

The city is near four major climbing destinations around the Black Hills, including Spearfish Canyon and the spires behind Mount Rushmore National Memorial.

"Climbing festivals are held in communities that value the outdoors, have local resources to support outdoor activities, and have a passion to share their community with others," said Justin Stephens, owner of High Mountain Outfitters. "Spearfish is all of that and more."

The July 13-14 festival will include a community-building party, a competition in the new gym and various outings.

The new gym will be the first full-service indoor climbing facility in western South Dakota, according to Stephens. It will have three climbing walls, two bouldering walls, a kid-friendly area and a training area. Instruction will also be provided.

He said, "Winters here are long, and having year-round climbing available will be a major boost to the sport in this area."

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

Archivists work to preserve old South Dakota county records

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Archivists are moving some old county tax records from the courthouse to a South Dakota State Historical Society facility.

The roughly 700 bound volumes of Stanley County tax records are moving from the county courthouse to the historical society's climate-controlled facility in Pierre, the Pierre Capital Journal reported.

The Verendrye Museum was providing storage for the tax records until recently. But volunteers with the museum have been working to clean up the collection and clear out items that won't be a part of artifacts housed permanently at the institution.

The records from 1940 and earlier were selected out for transport to the state's archives to be added to the database of items there. Then if someone wants to look at the physical books, it will be easy for historical society staff to retrieve them, said Chelle Somsen, an archivist with the society.

Somsen said old tax records can be useful for people doing genealogical research. They can also be helpful for historians trying to determine someone's whereabouts at a given time, she said.

The historical society will eventually decide if and when to microfilm or digitize the material, she said.

The volumes after 1940 will go back to the museum. Museum board member Deb Schiefelbein plans to have some old tax records available for viewing by visitors to the Fort Pierre farmers market starting June 12.

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

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South Dakota State's Daum to return for senior season

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota State standout Mike Daum says he will return to the Jackrabbit basketball program for his senior season.

Daum earlier this month had declared for the 2018 NBA draft without hiring an agent. He says in a release that he decided to return after exploring his professional options and talking with his family and SDSU coach T.J. Otzelberger.

The 6-foot-9 Daum, from Kimball, Nebraska, is a two-time honorable mention pick for the Associated Press All-America team and two-time Summit League Player of the Year. He led the Jackrabbits to their third-straight NCAA tournament appearance this season. He averaged 23.9 points and 10.3 rebounds a game.

Daum was one of three players nationally to average more than 20 points and 10 rebounds per contest.

The leader of Armenia's surging protests meets the president

YEREVAN, Armenia (AP) — The leader of the wave of protests that has pushed Armenia into a political crisis says he has met with the country's president.

Nikol Pashinian said Sunday that he hopes President Armen Sarkisian will support Pashinian's bid to become prime minister. The parliament is to choose a new premier on Tuesday, following the resignation last week of Serzh Sargsyan.

Sargsyan was Armenia's president for a decade, but stepped down due to term limits. He became prime minister amid a change in government that diminishes the presidency's power and bolsters the prime minister. Opponents said that change would have allowed Sargsyan to remain Armenia's leader indefinitely.

Opposition supporters on Sunday blocked traffic in Yerevan, the capital, and called for a massive evening demonstration on the city's central square.

Trump sharpens aim at Democrats facing election

By KEVIN FREKING, Associated Press

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP) — President Donald Trump took aim at familiar political targets and added a few fresh ones during a campaign-style rally in Michigan, an Upper Midwest state that gave him a surprising victory in the 2016 election.

Trump has been urging voters to support Republicans for Congress as a way of advancing his agenda. In his rally in Washington Township Saturday night, he repeatedly pointed to Sen. Debbie Stabenow of Michigan as one of the Democrats who needed to be voted out.

After saying Stabenow was standing in the way of protecting U.S. borders and had voted against tax cuts, Trump said: "And you people just keep putting her back again and again and again. It's your fault."

Earlier Saturday Trump tweeted criticism of Democratic Sen. Jon Tester of Montana over his role in the failed nomination of White House doctor Ronny Jackson to run the Department of Veterans Affairs, calling for Tester to resign or at least not be re-elected this fall.

In his rally remarks, Trump railed against the allegations Tester aired against Jackson and suggested that he could take a similar tack against the senator.

"I know things about Tester that I could say, too. And if I said 'em, he'd never be elected again," Trump said without elaborating.

As he has at similar events, Trump promoted top agenda items that energize grassroots conservatives — appointing conservative judges, building a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border, ending "sanctuary cities" and protecting tax cuts approved by the Republican-led Congress. He also took credit for the warming relations between North and South Korea, telling his audience "we'll see how it goes."

Trump chose a friendly venue for his rally, which not coincidentally came the same night as the annual White House Correspondents' Dinner. He skipped the dinner last year, too, and attending a rally in which he took time to attack the news media and assure his audience — as he did in Washington Township, about 40 miles north of Detroit — that he'd rather be with them.

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Ahead of the rally Trump said in a fundraising pitch that he had come up with something better than being stuck in a room "with a bunch of fake news liberals who hate me." He said he would rather spend the evening "with my favorite deplorables."

During the 2016 campaign, Clinton drew laughs when she told supporters at a private fundraiser that half of Trump supporters could be lumped into a "basket of deplorables" — denouncing them as "racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, Islamophobic, you name it."

Clinton later did a partial rollback, said she had been "grossly generalistic" and regretted saying the label fit "half" of Trump's supporters. But she didn't back down from the general sentiment.

Trump soon had the video running in his campaign ads, and his supporters wore the "deplorable" label as a badge of honor.

Trump repeatedly weaved back into immigration and his support for a border wall throughout the speech. "If we don't get border security, we're going to have no choice, we'll close down the country," Trump said.

He accused Democrats of not wanting to secure the border and keep violent criminals out of the country.

"Debbie Stabenow is one of the leaders for weak borders and letting people in. I don't know how she gets away with it," Trump said. "A vote for a Democrat in November is a vote for open borders and crime. It's very simple. It's also a vote for much higher taxes."

Macomb County, the site of Trump's rally, is among the predominantly white counties known as a base for "Reagan Democrats" — blue-collar voters who abandoned the Democratic Party for Ronald Reagan, but who can be intriguingly movable.

Democrat Barack Obama won the county twice in his White House runs, then Trump carried it by more than 11 percentage points.

Pompeo, in Saudi Arabia, talks tough on Iran, Gulf dispute

By MATTHEW LEE, AP Diplomatic Writer

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is using the Middle East leg of his first trip abroad as America's top diplomat to call for concerted international action to punish Iran for its missile programs.

He's also urging Saudi Arabia and its neighbors to resolve a long-festering dispute with Qatar that U.S. officials say Iran is exploiting to boost its influence in the region, including in Yemen and Syria.

Pompeo met Sunday with Saudi King Salman, whose country, along with Bahrain, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates, is embroiled in a row with Qatar that had hobbled Gulf Arab unity and frustrated the U.S. as it seeks to blunt growing Iranian assertiveness.

The ex-CIA chief had arrived in Riyadh a day earlier, shortly after Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen fired missiles at Saudi Arabia's southern city of Jizan, killing one person and underscoring what U.S. officials said is a growing threat emanating from Iran.

Senior U.S. officials traveling with Pompeo blamed Iran for smuggling the missiles into Yemen. They said the incident highlighted the importance of the Trump administration's push to counter Iran in the region. Iran has also provided crucial support to Syrian President Bashar Assad.

"Iran destabilizes this entire region," Pompeo said in brief remarks to journalists with Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir, taking no questions. While not mentioning Qatar by name, Pompeo also stressed that Gulf unity was "essential."

Al-Jubeir said the kingdom "supports the policy of the Trump administration against Iran and to improve the terms of the nuclear agreement with Iran."

Senior U.S. officials, who were not authorized to preview Pompeo's discussions with the Saudi leadership and spoke on condition of anonymity, said he would make it clear to the Saudis that the dispute with Qatar must end.

Mediation efforts led by Kuwait and supported by the U.S., including former Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, who Trump fired last month, have proven unsuccessful. The split gives Iran "room to play" and hampers cooperation on a wide array of other issues, including combatting violent extremism from the

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Islamic State and other groups, the officials said.

The officials said Pompeo would call on other nations to impose tougher sanctions against Iranian individuals, businesses and government agencies involved in missile development. They said he'd also stress the U.S. commitment to the defense of Saudi Arabia, Israel and other friends and partners in the region. Pompeo will also press the Saudis on contributing more to stabilization efforts in territory in Syria recently liberated from the Islamic State group, the officials said.

Pompeo's meetings in Saudi Arabia, which will be followed by discussions in Israel and Jordan, come just weeks ahead of several key dates that could bring further volatility to the region.

Trump has set a May 12 deadline to decide whether to pull out of the Iran nuclear deal, something he appears likely to do despite heavy pressure to stay in from European and other parties.

Two days later, the U.S. plans to open its new embassy in Jerusalem. That will mark a significant shift in decades of American policy toward Israel and the Palestinians, who also claim the holy city as their capital.

The embassy move is deeply opposed by the Palestinians, who on May 15 will mark the anniversary of what they term the "nakba," or catastrophe, when they fled or were driven from their homes during the 1948 war that attended Israel's creation. Dozens of Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire during recent violent protests along border between Israel and Gaza.

On Friday at a NATO foreign ministers meeting in Brussels, the first stop on his trip, Pompeo repeated Trump's pledge to withdraw from the Iran deal unless it is significantly strengthened. He said the U.S. was "unlikely" to stay in if that was not done.

"Absent a substantial fix, absent overcoming the shortcomings, the flaws of the deal, he is unlikely to stay in that deal past this May," Pompeo said.

Also looming over the trip is uncertainty over Trump's policy on Syria, which has shifted between a speedy all-out withdrawal of American forces and leaving a lasting footprint to deter Iran from completing a land bridge from Tehran to Beirut.

UK vows 'humane' immigration policy as scandal grows

LONDON (AP) — Britain's interior minister is promising to ensure the country's immigration policy is "humane" as uproar spreads over authorities' mistreatment of long-term legal residents from the Caribbean.

Home Secretary Amber Rudd, who faced mounting pressure Sunday to resign, says she will speak Monday to the House of Commons about the immigration scandal.

The furor began when the Guardian newspaper reported that some people who came to Britain from the Caribbean in the decades after World War II have been refused medical care or threatened with deportation because they could not produce paperwork to prove their status.

Rudd's position worsened after she said the British government didn't have targets for deporting people — only for a memo to emerge mentioning specific targets for "enforced removals."

Rudd says she didn't see the memo.

Shaquem Griffin finally hears his name at NFL draft

By BARRY WILNER, AP Pro Football Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Shaquem Griffin came back. The crowd loved it.

Players in attendance not selected in the first two days of the NFL draft usually head out of town before the fourth through seventh rounds.

Griffin, who sat through 100 names being called in the first three rounds, wasn't in AT&T Stadium on Saturday.

Then he was after Seattle spent the 141st overall selection on the Central Florida linebacker who has no left hand.

That fifth-round choice, announced in Seattle, drew loud cheers from fans at Jerry's World.

Griffin, whose left hand was amputated when he was young, has become the feel-good story this year and one of the most popular players in this draft because of his perseverance, outgoing personality and,

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of course, his talent.

"I mean that was amazing," Griffin said. "To even have an opportunity to come back, I didn't think I was going to be able to come back and do it ... I don't remember seeing too many people who have left and came back.

"That was the most amazing experience of my entire life. Me thinking about it, that moment, to be up on that stage and having the crowd go crazy, it was like we had won the Peach Bowl all over again. It was nuts."

Griffin helped UCF go undefeated last season, then blew through the NFL combine with a 4.38 in the 40, sensational lifting work with his prosthetic, and a can-do attitude.

Exactly the sort of player the Seahawks seem to find; they drafted his twin brother, Shaquill, out of UCF last year.

"It's been a really good experience," Shaquem said. "I would have been crazy to turn an experience down like this. I'm just glad I was one of the selected few to be here."

Griffin had one of the more unusual ways of finding out he was chosen.

"I was using the restroom and my brother came and tackled me with my cellphone, saying 'answer it, answer it,' and I looked, and that's when tears started pouring down," Griffin explained.

"I literally went to use the restroom and that's when my brother busted in and tackled me. I think I was more scared of him tackling me in the bathroom and not knowing what was happening than anything."

Griffin received, by far, the biggest cheers of the day — louder even than when the Cowboys' selections were announced. And he made a promise: "Great things are coming to Seattle."

Griffin's selection early in the fifth round enlivened a day in which most picks are relatively unknown or obscure players. Not all, though.

Michigan defensive tackle Maurice Hurst was taken one spot in front of Griffin by Oakland. The All-American would have gone much earlier, but a heart condition was discovered at the combine, dropping him far down draft boards.

He had 5½ sacks as an interior rusher and led all nose tackles and defensive tackles with 49 total quarterback pressures, according to Pro Football Focus.

"It's tough thinking that you're one of the top players in the draft and having good tape and everything like that, just having to wait," Hurst said. "You believe you're better than guys who go ahead of you is tough. I'm just happy to be in the right place and a great organization."

As for his health, "I'm ready to go right now."

Another All-American, Iowa linebacker Josey Jewell, was taken by Denver at No. 106. He's not considered quick, but he is active and seemed to be in on every tackle for the Hawkeyes.

"A lot of that is instincts. A lot of film watching for me," he said. "It really helped me because I did not run the fastest time ever, not even close. I had to be able to make up from somewhere else."

Also:

—Michigan State extended its streak of having at least one player selected to 78 years when Brian Allen went to the Rams early in the fourth round. Only Michigan and USC have longer streaks, both extended to 80 years during the first two days of the draft.

—The Giants took the first quarterback of the third day, Richmond's Kyle Lauletta at No. 109. The Giants passed on trying to get their quarterback of the future to replace Eli Manning in the first round, taking running back Saquon Barkley at No. 2 overall. Lauletta doesn't have a big arm, but he showed good athleticism and accuracy playing at the FCS school.

Other quarterbacks chosen: Western Kentucky's Mike White to Dallas; Washington State's Luke Falk to Tennessee; Nebraska's Tanner Lee to Jacksonville; LSU's Danny Etling to New England; Florida International's Alex McGeough to Seattle; and Toledo's Logan Woodside to Cincinnati.

—Dallas acquired wideout Tavon Austin from the Rams in a trade Saturday.

—Cleveland used a fourth-round pick, No. 105 overall, to take one of the draft's most talented but troubled wide receivers: Florida's Antonio Callaway. He had multiple suspensions while playing with the Gators, missing all of last season because of his part in a credit card fraud scheme.

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When Callaway plays he is a deep threat receiver and dangerous return man, but he could be the next Josh Gordon, who has had many off-field issues and NFL suspensions with the Browns.

—Wisconsin tight end Troy Fumagalli, who is missing the index finger on his left hand, went to Denver in the fifth round.

—Three punters — yes, three — were taken in the fifth round.

Michael Dickson, the Australian from the University of Texas, was picked 149th overall by Seattle. Alabama's JK Scott was drafted 172nd overall by Green Bay, a pick before Oakland took Johnny Townsend from Florida. Townsend was the NCAA leader last season with a 47.5-yard average on his 64 punts.

In 1988, there were three punters selected in the first 102 picks. Tom Tupa, who also went 4-9 as a starting quarterback during his 16 NFL seasons, and Greg Montgomery were both taken in the third round and became All-Pro punters. Barry Helton was a fourth-round pick.

One more punter, Logan Cooke of Mississippi State, was chosen by Jacksonville, and the only placekicker taken was Jason Sanders of New Mexico by the Dolphins.

For more NFL coverage: <http://www.pro32.ap.org> and http://www.twitter.com/AP_NFL

N. Korea to close nuke test site in May, unify time zone

By KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has vowed to shut down the country's nuclear test site in May and open the process to experts and journalists from South Korea and the United States, Seoul's presidential office said Sunday.

The event may serve as a dramatic setup to Kim's crucial nuclear negotiations with President Donald Trump that may take place in the next few weeks amid widespread skepticism on whether the North will ever fully surrender its nuclear weapons.

Kim made the comments during his summit with South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Friday at a border truce village, where he also expressed optimism about his meeting with Trump, saying the U.S. president will learn he's "not a person" to fire missiles toward the United States, Moon's spokesman Yoon Young-chan said.

Moon and Kim during the summit promised to work toward the "complete denuclearization" of the Korean Peninsula, but made no references to verification or timetables. Seoul had also shuttled between Pyongyang and Washington to set up a potential meeting between Kim and Trump, which is expected next month or early June.

"Once we start talking, the United States will know that I am not a person to launch nuclear weapons at South Korea, the Pacific or the United States," Yoon quoted Kim as saying.

"If we maintain frequent meetings and build trust with the United States and receive promises for an end to the war and a non-aggression treaty, then why would we need to live in difficulty by keeping our nuclear weapons?" Yoon quoted Kim as saying.

North Korea this month announced it has suspended all tests of nuclear devices and intercontinental ballistic missiles and plans to close its nuclear testing ground.

Kim reacted to skepticism that the North would only be closing down the northernmost test tunnel at the site in Punggye-ri, which some analysts say became too unstable to conduct further underground detonations following the country's sixth and most powerful nuclear test in September. In his conversation with Moon, Kim denied that he would be merely clearing out damaged goods, saying that the site also has two new tunnels that are larger than previous testing facilities, Yoon said.

The Friday summit between Moon and Kim kicked off a global diplomatic drive to deal with the North's nuclear and missile threats, which after a flurry of weapons tests last year involve purported thermonuclear weapons, developmental ICBMs and quick-fire solid-fuel missiles.

While the meeting ended with no new concrete measures on the nuclear standoff, the more substantial discussions on the North's denuclearization — including what, when and how it would occur — were always

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going to be reserved for a Kim-Trump summit.

The new round of nuclear negotiations with North Korea comes after a decades-long cycle of crises, stalemates and broken promises that allowed the country the room to build a legitimate arsenal.

Seoul has said Kim expressed genuine interest in dealing away his nuclear weapons. But North Korea for decades has been pushing a concept of "denuclearization" that bears no resemblance to the American definition, vowing to pursue nuclear development unless Washington removes its troops from the Korean Peninsula and the nuclear umbrella defending South Korea and Japan. There is widespread doubt whether Kim will ever agree to entirely abandon his nuclear weapons when he clearly sees them as providing his only guarantee of survival in a region surrounded by enemies.

Some analysts see Moon's agreement with Kim at Friday's summit as a disappointment, citing the lack of references to verification and time frames and also the absence of a definition on what would constitute as a "complete" denuclearization of the peninsula.

But Patrick McEachern, a former State Department analyst currently with the Washington-based Wilson Center, said it was still meaningful that Moon extracted a commitment from Kim to complete denuclearization, which marked a significant change from Kim's previous public demand to expand his nuclear arsenal quantitatively and qualitatively.

"The two leaders established a framework for plausible resolution of the most pressing issues on the peninsula, credibly agreed to further leader-level discussions, and frankly recognized the devil will be in the details of implementation," he said.

"This is a great start and should be cause for cautious optimism," McEachern said. "The public conversation should now shift from speculation on whether North Korea would consider denuclearization to how South Korea and the United States can advance this denuclearization pledge in concrete steps in light of North Korea's reciprocal demands for concrete steps toward an eventual peace agreement."

Moon over the weekend briefed Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on his talks with Kim. Moon told Abe he conveyed Japan's desire to normalize ties with North Korea after resolving issues on "past history." Kim replied that he's willing to negotiate with Japan, Moon's office said.

The office didn't provide details but Abe reportedly said that Moon did raise the North's abduction of Japanese citizens during his meeting with Kim.

Japan says North Korea abducted at least 17 Japanese citizens in the 1970s and 1980s to train its agents in Japanese language and culture in order to spy on South Korea. North Korea has acknowledged abducting 13 Japanese in the 1970s. It allowed five of them to visit Japan in 2002 and they stayed. North Korea says eight others have died, but their families say the North's statement cannot be trusted.

North Korea has invited the outside world to witness the dismantling of its nuclear facilities before. In June 2008, international journalists live broadcast the demolishing of a cooling tower at the Nyongbyon reactor site, a year after the North reached an agreement with the U.S. and four other nations to disable its nuclear facilities in return for an aid package worth about \$400 million.

But the six-nation deal eventually collapsed after North Korea refused to accept U.S.-proposed verification methods and the country went on to conduct its second nuclear test detonation in May 2009.

Yoon said Kim also revealed plans to re-adjust its current time zone to match the South's.

The Koreans used the same time zone for decades before the North in 2015 created its own "Pyongyang Time" by setting the clock 30 minutes behind South Korea and Japan.

North Korean then explained the decision as an effort to remove a legacy of Japanese colonial rule. Local time in South Korea and Japan is the same — nine hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time. It was set during Japan's rule over the Korean Peninsula from 1910 to 1945.

Yoon said that the North's decision to return to the Seoul time zone was aimed at facilitating communication with South Korea and also the United States.

Oregon trucker missing for days emerges from wilderness

LA GRANDE, Ore. (AP) — A trucker who was missing for four days in a snow-covered part of Oregon after his GPS mapping device sent him up the wrong road walked 36 miles (58 kilometers) and emerged safely from a remote and rugged region of the state.

Jacob Cartwright, 22, showed up Saturday near the town of La Grande, where an intensive search involving aircraft had been taking place since he went missing Tuesday.

Cartwright was being evaluated in an emergency room but appeared OK, said nursing supervisor Danita Thamert at Grande Ronde Hospital in La Grande, in eastern Oregon.

"He looks to be pretty good," she said. "He's a big boy. He kept moving and stayed warm enough. So it doesn't look like he's going to have too many injuries."

Cartwright's boss, Roy Henry of Little Trees Transportation, said Cartwright was driving a truckload of potato chips but the tractor-trailer got stuck after he took the wrong turn in an area with limited cellphone coverage.

The trucker started walking away from the direction he had come from without any food or water just after midnight Wednesday wading through snow at some points. He didn't stop until Saturday morning when he neared La Grande, where he lives, Henry said. From there, the trucker got a ride from a passing motorist to his home.

Cartwright's wife returned home from meeting with local officials about the search for her husband only to find him in their house.

"He took his cowboy boots off and put on flip flops," Henry said.

Cartwright told his wife "he was hurting real bad and was real cold. So she packed him up and took him to the hospital."

Temperatures in the region have been dropping into the 30s at night.

Henry asked Cartwright why he didn't take some potato chips with him for his journey and the trucker responded, "That's worth money."

Cartwright added: "That's the load I was hauling and I didn't want to damage the property."

Henry said Cartwright was driving the truck about 400 miles (640 kilometers) from Portland in northwestern Oregon, to the town of Nyssa near the Idaho border.

Henry said Cartwright's troubles started when he put the wrong address in his GPS at the start of his trip. It told him to turn south off Interstate 84 near the town of Pendleton.

Henry said Cartwright eventually realized he was on the wrong road and put in the correct address. The GPS then directed him to take a U.S. Forest Service road that started out paved but eventually became impassable.

"What it boils down to is a simple matter of human error," Henry said. "He made the proper effort to correct his mistake. From that point on it was out of his control. He had no reason to believe the GPS was wrong."

After interviewing Cartwright, Oregon State Police used information he provided to locate his truck, which had several wheels sitting precariously on a steep embankment, 21 miles (34 kilometers) away from the last known GPS location, said public information officer Sgt. Kaipō Raiser.

Even though there was limited cellphone coverage, the battery on Cartwright's phone eventually went dead.

At the hospital, Cartwright first told Henry that he hoped he would not lose his job — and Henry assured the trucker with children ages 4 and 2 that he wouldn't.

"It was pretty much just sheer will and determination that got him out," Henry said.

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Trump takes aim at familiar targets at Michigan rally

By KEVIN FREKING, Associated Press

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP) — President Donald Trump took aim at familiar political targets and added a few fresh ones during a campaign-style rally Saturday night in an Upper Midwest state that gave him a surprising victory in the 2016 election.

Trump has been urging voters to support Republicans for Congress as a way of advancing his agenda. In his rally in Washington Township, he repeatedly pointed to Sen. Debbie Stabenow of Michigan as one of the Democrats who needed to be voted out.

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Asylum-seekers in Mexico snub warnings of stern US response

By ELLIOT SPAGAT, Associated Press

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP) — U.S. immigration lawyers are telling Central Americans in a caravan of asylum-seekers that traveled through Mexico to the border with San Diego that they face possible separation from their children and detention for many months. They say they want to prepare them for the worst possible outcome.

"We are the bearers of horrible news," Los Angeles lawyer Nora Phillips said during a break from legal workshops for the migrants at three Tijuana locations where about 20 lawyers gave free information and advice. "That's what good attorneys are for."

The Central Americans, many traveling as families, on Sunday will test the Trump administration's tough rhetoric criticizing the caravan when the migrants begin seeking asylum by turning themselves in to border inspectors at San Diego's San Ysidro border crossing, the nation's busiest.

President Donald Trump and members of his Cabinet have been tracking the caravan, calling it a threat to the U.S. since it started March 25 in the Mexican city of Tapachula, near the Guatemala border. They have promised a stern, swift response.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions called the caravan "a deliberate attempt to undermine our laws and overwhelm our system," pledging to send more immigration judges to the border to resolve cases if needed.

Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen said asylum claims will be resolved "efficiently and expeditiously" but said the asylum-seekers should seek it in the first safe country they reach, including Mexico.

Any asylum seekers making false claims to U.S. authorities could be prosecuted as could anyone who assists or coaches immigrants on making false claims, Nielsen said. Administration officials and their allies claim asylum fraud is growing and that many who seek it are coached on how to do so.

Kenia Elizabeth Avila, 35, appeared shaken after the volunteer attorneys told her Friday that temperatures may be cold in temporary holding cells and that she could be separated from her three children, ages 10, 9 and 4.

But she in said an interview that returning to her native El Salvador would be worse. She fled for reasons she declined to discuss.

"If they're going to separate us for a few days, that's better than getting myself killed in my country," she said.

The San Ysidro crossing, which admits about 75,000 people a day into the country, may be unable to take asylum-seekers if it faces too many at once, forcing people to wait in Mexico until it has more room, according to Pete Flores, U.S. Customs and Border Protection's San Diego field office director. Flores said earlier this month that the port can hold about 300 people temporarily.

The Border Patrol said "several groups" of people in the caravan have entered the country illegally since Friday by climbing a dilapidated metal fence. It didn't say how many people.

Since Congress failed to agree on a broad immigration package in February, administration officials have made it a legislative priority to end what they call "legal loopholes" and "catch-and-release" policies that allow asylum-seekers to be released from custody while their claims wind through the courts in cases that can last for year.

The lawyers who went to Tijuana denied coaching any of the roughly 400 people in the caravan who recently arrived in Tijuana, camping out in shelters near some of the city's seedier bars and bordellos.

Some migrants received one-on-one counseling to assess the merits of their cases and groups of the migrants with their children playing nearby were told how asylum works in the U.S.

Asylum-seekers are typically held up to three days at the border and turned over to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. If they pass an asylum officer's initial screening, they may be detained or released with ankle monitors.

Nearly 80 percent of asylum-seekers passed the initial screening from October through December, the latest numbers available, but few are likely to eventually win asylum.

Mexicans fared worst among the 10 countries that sent the largest numbers of U.S. asylum seekers from

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2012 to 2017, with a denial rate of 88 percent, according to asylum outcome records tracked by Syracuse University's Transactional Records Action Clearinghouse. El Salvadorans were close behind with a 79 percent denial rate, followed by Hondurans at 78 percent and Guatemalans at 75 percent.

Evelyn Wiese, a San Francisco immigration attorney, said she tried to make migrants more comfortable sharing memories of the dangers they faced in their homelands.

"It's really scary to tell these experiences to a stranger," Wiese said after counseling a visibly shaken Guatemalan woman at an art gallery in a building that used to house a drug smuggling tunnel into San Diego. "The next time she tells her story will be easier."

Nefi Hernandez, who planned to seek asylum with his wife and infant daughter was born on the journey through Mexico, worried he could be kept in custody away from his daughter. But his spirits lifted when he learned he might be released with an ankle bracelet.

Hernandez, 24, said a gang in his hometown of San Pedro Sula, Honduras, threatened to kill him and his family if he did not sell drugs.

Jose Cazares, 31, said he faced death threats in the northern Honduran city of Yoro because a gang member suspected of killing the mother of his children learned one of Cazares' sons reported the crime to police.

"One can always make up for lost time with a child, but if they kill him, you can't," he said outside his dome-shaped tent in a migrant shelter near the imposing U.S. border barriers separating San Diego from Tijuana.

Boy whose parents fought to keep life support mourned in UK

By DANICA KIRKA and SYLVIA HUI, Associated press

LONDON (AP) — Alfie Evans, a British toddler with a degenerative brain condition whose parents lost a legal battle to keep him on life support at a Vatican hospital, was mourned with balloons set free in the sky and prayers from the pope after he died Saturday weeks shy of his second birthday.

Kate James and Tom Evans said their son's death overnight in Liverpool, England had left them "heart-broken." Alfie's condition left him with almost no brain function, and multiple courts ruled that keeping him alive was not in his best interests before doctors removed his ventilator five days ago.

"My gladiator lay down his shield and gained his wings at 02:30," Evans, 21, wrote in a Facebook post decorated with a broken heart and crying emojis.

As news spread in the community, dozens of people laid flowers and mementoes in a park near Alder Hey Children's Hospital in Liverpool, where Alfie was treated.

About 1,000 people gathered 12 hours after the boy died to release blue and purple balloons in solidarity with the grieving mother and father who had struggled to come to terms with their child's terminal illness.

James, 20, posted a message on social media thanking everyone who supported the family through Alfie's illness and court fight.

Alfie's case sparked a medical ethics debate that resonated far beyond Britain.

Doctors overseeing his care said further treatment was futile and he should be allowed to die. But his parents fought for months to try to convince judges to allow them to take him to the Vatican's children's hospital, where life support would have been maintained.

Under British law, courts are asked to intervene when parents and doctors disagree on the right course of treatment for a child. In such cases, the rights of the child take primacy over the parents' right to decide what's best for their daughters and sons.

Pope Francis, who met with Evans and publicly supported the parents' campaign to bring Alfie to Bambino Gesù Hospital, wrote condolences that were posted Saturday on Twitter.

"I am deeply moved by the death of little Alfie," Francis said. "Today I pray especially for his parents, as God the Father receives him in his tender embrace."

Italy granted Alfie citizenship and put a military plane on standby to transport him to Rome, if the courts allowed it.

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"Goodbye, little Alfie. We loved you," Italian Foreign Minister Angelino Alfano tweeted Saturday.

Tensions between the toddler's parents and the hospital had eased in recent days. Evans, who earlier said doctors were wrong about Alfie's prognosis and threatened to resume the court battle over his care, pledged to work with hospital staff to give his son "dignity and comfort" in his final days.

"Our lives have been turned upside down by the intense focus on Alfie and his situation," Evans said Thursday outside the Liverpool hospital.

He thanked the hospital staff "for their dignity and professionalism during what must be an incredibly difficult time for them too."

Alder Hey issued a statement to express "heartfelt sympathy and condolences to Alfie's family."

"All of us feel deeply for Alfie, Kate, Tom and his whole family and our thoughts are with them," the hospital said. "This has been a devastating journey for them, and we would ask that their privacy and the privacy of staff at Alder Hey is respected."

Alfie's case received widespread attention outside Britain, especially in predominantly Catholic countries. Francis recently appealed for the wishes of the boy's parents to be heeded, saying only God can decide who dies.

Officials in Poland and Italy criticized Britain's courts and state-run National Health Service. A leading right-wing politician in Italy, Veneto Gov. Luca Zaia, said that in Alfie, the "so-called civilized world has supplied the latest proof of enormous incivility."

Supporters of the parents staged angry protests regularly outside the hospital and tried to storm the entrance at times. Alder Hey asked for tributes to Alfie to be left in a park next door so the hospital's work wasn't disrupted.

Trump says Democrat should quit over VA nomination brouhaha

By JILL COLVIN and ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A furious President Donald Trump on Saturday called for the resignation of the Democratic senator who assembled and released what he called "false" allegations that scuttled the nomination of the White House doctor who'd been in line to lead the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Trump stepped up his criticism of Montana's Jon Tester, the top Democrat on the Senate Veterans' Committee, in two tweets days after asserting that Tester "has to have a big price to pay" politically in the GOP friendly state for his leading role in Ronny Jackson's failed VA bid. Tester faces a competitive re-election race this year.

Tester, in a statement, didn't directly respond to Trump but said he was committed to aiding veterans.

At issue are allegations that Tester has said were brought to his attention by more than 20 military and retired military personnel who've worked with Jackson. Tester said not investigating would have been "a dereliction of duty" and said making them public was important for the sake of transparency.

The charges against Jackson raised questions about his prescribing practices and leadership ability, including accusations of drunkenness on the job. Tester's office collected the allegations, which included a claim that Jackson "got drunk and wrecked a government vehicle" at a Secret Service going-away party.

Trump tweeted early Saturday that the allegations "are proving false. The Secret Service is unable to confirm (in fact they deny) any of the phony Democrat charges which have absolutely devastated the wonderful Jackson family. Tester should resign."

Trump said people in Montana, a state he won by 20 percentage points in 2016, "will not stand for this kind of slander." He called Jackson "the kind of man that those in Montana would most respect and admire, and now, for no reason whatsoever, his reputation has been shattered. Not fair, Tester!"

Before leaving for a rally in Michigan, Trump directed another tweet at Tester, likening the senator's claims against Jackson to the "phony Russian Collusion" accusations leveled against Trump's 2016 campaign. "Tester should lose race in Montana. Very dishonest and sick!"

In his free-wheeling remarks Saturday night, Trump told his supporters that "what Tester did to this man is a disgrace." He also insinuated that Tester himself could be the target of allegations: "I know things

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about Tester that I could say, too. And if I said 'em, he'd never be elected again." He didn't elaborate.

A written statement by Tester didn't respond directly to Trump's tweets.

"It's my duty to make sure Montana veterans get what they need and have earned, and I'll never stop fighting for them as their Senator," it said. It also said Trump has signed eight Tester bills on veterans into law.

A spokeswoman for the committee chairman, Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., declined comment Saturday on Trump's tweets. When Amanda Maddox was asked whether Isakson was troubled by Tester's release of the allegations, she cited comments the chairman made Thursday: "Everyone has an obligation if they make a charge to release it. And everyone who is charged has a right to have a day in court to be heard."

The White House said Friday, one day after Jackson withdrew his nomination, that internal records raise doubt about some of the most serious accusations.

The White House said its records, including police reports, show Jackson was in three minor incidents in government vehicles during the past five years, but none involved the use of alcohol and he was not found to be at fault. In one case, a side-view mirror was clipped by a passing truck. In another incident an enraged driver in Montgomery County, Maryland, allegedly punched out Jackson's window during a morning drive to Camp David.

The White House medical unit that Jackson ran successfully passed regular controlled substance audits, according to the records for the last three years. The reviews did recommend improvements to the medical unit's handling of controlled substances, but did not find misconduct.

The Associated Press reviewed the documents Friday. They were the result of an internal White House review of allegations raised against Jackson during his brief confirmation process. The White House says the records disprove the allegations.

Tester's office has not specified the time frame during which the alleged misconduct occurred, and a spokeswoman on Friday said the office would not comment until it knew more about the White House records.

Separately, the Secret Service said it has no evidence to support an allegation that its personnel intervened to prevent Jackson from disturbing former President Barack Obama during a foreign trip in 2015.

In a statement dated Thursday, the Secret Service said it had conducted a "thorough review" of internal documents related to Obama's foreign trips in 2015 and interviewed people who were present. The agency said it has found "no information that would indicate the allegation is accurate" and no record of any incident involving Jackson.

CNN had reported allegations that Jackson drunkenly banged on the hotel room door of a female employee and that Secret Service personnel intervened out of concern that he would wake Obama.

Jackson has denied the accusations, calling them "baseless and anonymous attacks" on his character and integrity that are "completely false and fabricated."

The Democratic staff on the Senate committee also claimed Jackson had doled out such a large supply of a prescription opioid that staffers panicked because they thought the drugs were missing.

They said their allegations were based on conversations with 23 of Jackson's current and former colleagues at the White House Medical Unit.

US reaffirms its 'ironclad commitment' to defend South Korea

By MATTHEW PENNINGTON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis spoke on Saturday with their South Korean counterparts after the historic meeting between leaders of the two Koreas, and Trump said "things are going very well" as he prepares for an expected summit with the North's Kim Jong Un.

Mattis and Defense Minister Song Young-moo said they were committed to "a diplomatic resolution that achieves complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization" of the North, according to the Pentagon's chief spokeswoman, Dana W. White. Mattis also reaffirmed "the ironclad U.S. commitment" to defend its ally "using the full spectrum of U.S. capabilities."

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Trump tweeted Saturday that he had "a long and very good talk" with President Moon Jae-in. He also said he updated Japan's prime minister, Shinzo Abe, about "the ongoing negotiations" for an anticipated summit with Kim, tentatively scheduled for May or early June.

Moon and Kim have pledged to seek a formal end to the Korean War, fought from 1950 to 1953, by year's end and to rid the Korean Peninsula of nuclear weapons. Trump has said he's looking forward to the meeting with Kim and that it "should be quite something."

"Things are going very well, time and location of meeting with North Korea is being set," Trump tweeted. A statement from the White House describing the call between Trump and Moon also referred to the North's future being contingent upon "complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization."

Trump is claiming credit for the Korean summit, but now faces a burden in helping turn the Korean leaders' bold but vague vision for peace into reality after more than six decades of hostility.

Trump must contend with suspicions about his own suitability to conduct that kind of war-and-peace negotiation and succeed where his predecessors have failed, and whether Kim really is willing to give up the nuclear weapons his nation took decades acquiring.

"It is still unclear whether North Korea still believes that it can have its cake and eat it too," said Victor Cha, who until January had been in the running to become Trump's choice for ambassador to South Korea.

At a White House news conference with German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Friday, Trump basked in the afterglow of the meeting between Kim and Moon, and said he has a responsibility to try to achieve peace and denuclearization.

"And if I can't do it, it'll be a very tough time for a lot of countries, and a lot of people. It's certainly something that I hope I can do for the world," he said.

Moon and Kim have not specified what steps would be taken to formally end the war or eliminate nuclear weapons. Now the pressure to deliver results, at least on the allies' side, has shifted to Trump.

The president pushed back against critics who say he's being manipulated by Kim, who has abruptly shifted to diplomacy after last year's full-scale push to become a nuclear power that could threaten the U.S. mainland.

"I don't think he's ever had this enthusiasm for somebody, for them wanting to make a deal," Trump said in the Oval Office. "We're not going to be played, OK. We're going to hopefully make a deal. The United States in the past has been played like a fiddle."

New Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who as CIA director met Kim four weeks ago in North Korea, told reporters in Brussels that he got the impression that Kim was "serious" about negotiating on denuclearization because of the Trump-led economic pressure campaign.

But Pompeo added a word of caution: "I am always careful. There is a lot of history here. Promises have been made, hopes have been raised and then dashed."

North Korea has already called a halt to nuclear and long-range missile tests, which has helped dial down tensions significantly.

North Korea was hit with unprecedented economic restrictions during 2017, when the U.S. and North Korean leaders traded threats while Kim pushed his nation to the verge of being able to fire a nuclear-tipped missile at the U.S. mainland.

The diplomatic climate has changed dramatically this year, as Kim has ended his international seclusion, reaching out to South Korea, the U.S., and China.

Mattis has said the U.S. is "optimistic right now that there's opportunity here that we have never enjoyed since 1950" and any progress will be up to the diplomats. He was referring to the year the Korean War broke out.

The fighting, which also involved China, cost hundreds of thousands of lives and ended with the declaration of an armistice, not a peace treaty. That has left the peninsula in a technical state of war for decades.

Drugmakers push back against lawmakers' calls to tax opioids

By GEOFF MULVIHILL and KYLE POTTER, Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Facing a rising death toll from drug overdoses, state lawmakers across the country are testing a strategy to boost treatment for opioid addicts: Force drug manufacturers and their distributors to pay for it.

Bills introduced in at least 15 states would impose taxes or fees on prescription painkillers. Several of the measures have bipartisan support and would funnel millions of dollars toward treatment and prevention programs.

In Montana, state Sen. Roger Webb, a Republican, sees the approach as a way to hold drugmakers accountable for an overdose epidemic that in 2016 claimed 42,000 lives in the U.S., a record.

"You're creating the problem," he said. "You're going to fix it."

Opioids include prescription painkillers such as Vicodin and OxyContin as well as illegal drugs such as heroin and illicit versions of fentanyl. Public health experts say the crisis started because of overprescribing and aggressive marketing of the drugs that began in the 1990s. The death toll has continued to rise even as prescribing has started to drop.

A Pennsylvania opioid tax bill was introduced in 2015 and a federal version was introduced a year later, but most of the proposals arose during the past year. The majority of them have yet to get very far, with lawmakers facing intense pressure from the pharmaceutical industry to scuttle or soften the legislation.

Drugmakers and distributors argue that it would be wrong to tax prescription drugs, that the cost increases would eventually be absorbed by patients or taxpayers, and that there are other ways to pay for addiction treatment and prevention.

"We have been engaged with states to help move forward comprehensive solutions to this complex public health crisis and in many cases have seen successes," Priscilla VanderVeer, a spokeswoman for Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, said in a statement. "However, we do not believe levying a tax on prescribed medicines that meet legitimate medical needs is an appropriate funding mechanism for a state's budget."

Two drug companies that deployed lobbyists — Purdue Pharma and Pfizer — responded to questions with similar statements.

A spokesman for the Healthcare Distribution Alliance, which represents drug distributors, said a tax would mean that cancer patients and those in end-of-life care might not be able to get the prescriptions they need.

The pharmaceutical industry has emphasized that the name-brand drug companies that make up its members already give rebates to states for drugs funded by Medicaid. Those rebates amount to billions of dollars nationwide that states could use to address opioid addiction, the trade group says.

State legislation to tax opioids comes as manufacturers and distributors are defending themselves in hundreds of lawsuits filed by state and local governments seeking damages for the toll the overdose epidemic has taken on communities.

David Humes, whose son died from a heroin overdose in 2012, has been pushing for an opioid tax in Delaware, which did not increase funding for addiction treatment last year as it struggles to balance its budget.

"When you think about the fact that each year more people are dying, if you leave the money the same, you're not keeping up with this public health crisis," he said.

Humes, a board member of the advocacy group AtTack Addiction, supports legislation that would dedicate opioid tax revenue for addiction services.

The lead sponsor of an opioids tax bill, state Sen. Stephanie Hansen, said drug companies told her they already were contributing \$500,000 to anti-addiction measures in Delaware, where there were 282 fatal overdoses from all drugs in 2016, a 40 percent increase from the year before.

"My response is, 'That's wonderful, but we're not stopping there,'" said Hansen, a Democrat.

She said if her tax measure had been in place last year, it would have raised more than \$9 million.

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The drug industry's current spending on anti-addiction programs has been a point of contention in the Minnesota Legislature. There, the overdose rate is lower than most states, but opioids still claimed 395 lives in 2016 — an increase of 18 percent over the year before.

State Rep. Dave Baker, a Republican whose son died of a heroin overdose after getting started on prescription painkillers, said opioid manufacturers and distributors should pay for drug programs separately. He said the rebate — about \$250 million in 2016 in Minnesota — is intended to make up for overcharging for drugs in the first place.

Another Republican lawmaker, state Sen. Julie Rosen, said she walked out of a meeting this month with drug industry representatives, saying they were wasting her time.

"They know that they're spending way too much money on defending their position instead of being part of the solution," she said.

Representatives of the pharmaceutical industry say they have met with Rosen multiple times and are "committed to continue working with her."

Drug companies have a history of digging in to defeat measures that are intended to combat the opioid crisis. A 2016 investigation by The Associated Press and the Center for Public Integrity found makers of opioids and their allies spent \$880 million on politics and lobbying from 2006 through 2015.

The industry so far has succeeded in stalling the Minnesota legislation, which would charge opioid manufacturers by the dosage. With the bill facing resistance, Rosen and a Democratic co-sponsor, state Sen. Chris Eaton, said they are considering changing tactics and amending it.

That could include raising the \$235 annual licensing fee on opioid manufacturers or requiring drugmakers and distributors to pay \$20 million a year based on the proportion of opioids they sell in the state. That approach is based on one adopted earlier this spring as part of the budget in New York — the only state to implement an opioid tax so far.

Eaton, whose daughter died from a heroin overdose in 2007, said her goal is to find a way to create and fund a structure that will ensure addiction treatment is "as routine as treating diabetes or cardiac arrest."

Mulvihill reported from Cherry Hill, New Jersey.

Follow Mulvihill at <http://www.twitter.com/geoffmulvihill> and Potter at <http://twitter.com/kpottermn>

MSNBC's Joy Reid can't prove hackers wrote 'hurtful' posts

By MARK KENNEDY, AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — MSNBC's Joy Reid, under fire for homophobic language in old blog posts, apologized Saturday for any past comments that belittled or mocked the LGBTQ community and says she hasn't been able to verify her claim that her account was hacked.

Reid opened her weekend show "AM Joy" by acknowledging has said "dumb" and "hurtful" things in the past. "The person I am now is not the person I was then," she said.

But she was unable to explain blog posts from a decade ago that mocked gay people and individuals who were allegedly gay. Reid has denied posting them altogether but says security experts she hired who looked into whether she had been a hacking victim found no proof.

"I genuinely do not believe I wrote those hateful things because they are completely alien to me. But I can definitely understand, based on things I have tweeted and have written in the past, why some people don't believe me," she said.

"I have not been exempt for being dumb or cruel or hurtful to the very people I want to advocate for. I own that. I get it. And for that I am truly, truly sorry."

The posts that came to light in December were written for "The Reid Report," her blog when she was covering Florida politics a decade ago. In posts, she refers to then-Florida Gov. Charlie Crist as "Miss Charlie" and suggested he was "ogling the male waiters" on his honeymoon after marrying his wife, whom he has since divorced. She questioned whether the marriage was a sham by a gay man who thought it

would help him politically.

Reid apologized, saying her remarks were "insensitive, tone deaf and dumb." On Saturday, she apologized also to Ann Coulter for using transgender stereotypes to describe the conservative commentator.

This week, Mediaite revealed a set of other supposed blog posts. In one of these posts, Reid supposedly notes that "most straight people cringe at the sight of two men kissing" and that she couldn't see the movie "Brokeback Mountain" because she didn't want to watch two male characters having sex. Another post says that a lot of heterosexuals find the idea of homosexual sex to be gross and that there are concerns that gay men tend to be attracted to young, post-pubescent types and want to bring them "into the lifestyle."

Reid has said that these posts were "fabricated and run counter to my personal beliefs and ideology." She reiterated that on Saturday but acknowledged she has made hateful comments and has hopefully "grown as a person."

"I look back today at some of the ways I've talked casually about people and gender identity and sexual orientation, and I wonder who that even was. But the reality, like a lot of people in this country, that person was me."

After reading her five-minute statement, Reid then led a panel discussion on gender stereotypes and issues facing the LGBT community.

AP Exclusive: Water delivery suspended in Nevada mine battle

By SCOTT SONNER, Associated Press

RENO, Nev. (AP) — It was an uncharacteristically urgent demand at a U.S. Superfund site where the cleanup of an abandoned World War II-era mine has dragged on for two decades and progress is measured, at best, in years.

Atlantic Richfield, owner of the former Anaconda copper mine, was suddenly halting the free home delivery of bottled water it's provided since 2004 to about 100 residences on a neighboring Native American reservation in Nevada where scientists continue to track the movement of a poisonous plume of groundwater.

"It is imperative that these deliveries do not take place," an Atlantic Richfield contractor wrote this month in a series of emails obtained by The Associated Press.

The Yerington Paiute Tribe alleges the abrupt change was retaliation for its fight against a recent move that puts the state and the company in charge of cleaning up the mine site instead of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Over the tribe's staunch objections, the EPA in February backed off plans in the works for years to formally elevate the mine to priority status on a list of the most contaminated Superfund sites.

"I believe that this dismissive, arrogant act means to punish us by cutting off our water in an attempt to pressure us to stop fighting for our legal rights," Tribal Chairman Laurie Thom told the AP.

Atlantic Richfield currently is delivering water to a site off the reservation for tribal members to pick up, and both sides blame each other for failing to reach an agreement to resume normal deliveries.

Atlantic Richfield spokesman Brett Clanton said the Houston-based company "is disappointed with the characterization of this sequence of events as retaliatory."

The company began providing the bottled water after tests confirmed poisonous groundwater seeping from the mine had contaminated dozens of neighbors' wells.

It will resume home deliveries, as well as groundwater sampling on tribal property, once a "valid access agreement can be obtained" from the tribe, Clanton said.

The mine's previous owner, Arimetco, left behind a 90-million-gallon (341-million-liter) toxic stew of uranium, arsenic and other chemicals — enough to cover 80 football fields 10 feet (3 meters) deep — when it abandoned the site in 2000, according to the EPA.

Now owned by BP, Atlantic Richfield paid \$19.5 million to settle a class-action lawsuit in 2015 brought by about 700 nontribal neighbors of the mine, about 65 miles (105 kilometers) southeast of Reno. The neighbors had accused past owners of conspiring to cover up the extent of groundwater contamination. The company continues a legal battle with the tribe.

The EPA first determined the site qualified for priority Superfund status in 1994 but didn't formally

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propose the listing until 2016 — 31 years after Nevada regulators first accused Anaconda Mining Co. of discharging pollutants illegally.

Tribal leaders say the water dispute underscores their concerns that Gov. Brian Sandoval has negotiated away any ability to expedite the cleanup without the teeth of the EPA.

Their fears grew earlier this month when EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt announced he dropped the mine from a list of 21 Superfund “emphasis” sites targeted for “immediate and intense attention.”

The emphasis list Pruitt issued last year — a lesser category of priority sites that didn’t exist under prior administrations — was roundly criticized by environmentalists and others who said it was an attempt to divert attention from the Trump administration’s proposed 30 percent cut in the EPA’s budget.

The EPA said in announcing the Anaconda mine’s removal from the list that “cleanup activities progress, and completion of specific milestone and timelines have benefited from the administration’s influence.”

But Dietrick McGinnis, a longtime environmental consultant for the tribe, said the new timelines the EPA released in conjunction with the February agreement to defer any priority Superfund listing indicate groundwater cleanup will be delayed by more than four years.

“During the last year or so while this has gone on, it brought the whole process to a halt,” he said. “There have been no new wells, no heavy equipment working on site, or even real technical decisions since Trump was elected.”

Twice before, the EPA urged priority listing based on tests that showed toxic levels of uranium, but backed off when state and local business leaders opposed the move for fear of a stigma that could affect property values.

Sandoval announced in 2016 he was reluctantly dropping the state’s opposition because the listing would make \$31 million in federal cleanup funds available. But he reversed course in July when Atlantic Richfield offered to provide that money instead, and persuaded the EPA to defer any listing.

The governor continues to support the current cleanup path, his spokeswoman Mary-Sarah Kinner said this week. She said the EPA’s proposal for priority listing remains on the table until the cleanup is completed under state oversight.

The latest clash centers on the tribe’s insistence that neither Atlantic Richfield nor the state has any authority to carry out cleanup efforts on its property.

Tribal members “have jurisdiction over their own land, air and water resources, and only the EPA has been directed by the U.S. Congress to implement federal environmental statutes on tribal lands,” the National Congress of American Indians said in a resolution attached to one of Thom’s complaints to the EPA on March 7.

On Friday, several volunteers helped a delivery driver for Alhambra Waters unload several tons of water at a market off the reservation about 2 miles (3 kilometers) north of the mine — most of it in 5-gallon (19-liter) jugs but also in 24-packs of thousands of plastic bottles. The volunteers then loaded the supplies into a tribe-owned trailer and hand-delivered the water door-to-door to homes spread across a few square miles.

Greg Lavoto, head of the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, said his agency respects tribal sovereignty and looks forward to a resolution of the access issue “so that bottled water delivery to homes and groundwater monitoring can continue uninterrupted.”

Fruit’s pungent smell mistaken for gas leak, prompts panic

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — The pungent smell of the rotten durian fruit at an Australian university library has been mistaken for a gas leak, prompting an evacuation of the building.

Specialist crews wearing masks searched the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology university campus library on Saturday, but all they found was rotting durian in a cupboard.

About 600 staff and students had cleared the building.

A Metropolitan Fire Brigade spokesman said the smell alarmed staff and students as it permeated the air-conditioning system.

Durian is a tropical fruit known for its strong smell. It is commonly banned from hotel rooms and public transport across Southeast Asia.

Oregon trucker missing for days emerges from wilderness

LA GRANDE, Ore. (AP) — A trucker who was missing for four days in a snow-covered part of Oregon after his GPS mapping device sent him up the wrong road walked 36 miles (58 kilometers) and emerged safely from a remote and rugged region of the state.

Jacob Cartwright, 22, showed up Saturday near the town of La Grande, where an intensive search involving aircraft had been taking place since he went missing Tuesday.

Cartwright was being evaluated in an emergency room but appeared OK, said nursing supervisor Danita Thamert at Grande Ronde Hospital in La Grande, in eastern Oregon.

"He looks to be pretty good," she said. "He's a big boy. He kept moving and stayed warm enough. So it doesn't look like he's going to have too many injuries."

Cartwright's boss, Roy Henry of Little Trees Transportation, said Cartwright was driving a truckload of potato chips but the tractor-trailer got stuck after he took the wrong turn in an area with limited cellphone coverage.

The trucker started walking away from the direction he had come from without any food or water just after midnight Wednesday wading through snow at some points. He didn't stop until Saturday morning when he neared La Grande, where he lives, Henry said. From there, the trucker got a ride from a passing motorist to his home.

Cartwright's wife returned home from meeting with local officials about the search for her husband only to find him in their house.

"He took his cowboy boots off and put on flip flops," Henry said.

Cartwright told his wife "he was hurting real bad and was real cold. So she packed him up and took him to the hospital."

Temperatures in the region have been dropping into the 30s at night.

Henry asked Cartwright why he didn't take some potato chips with him for his journey and the trucker responded, "That's worth money."

Cartwright added: "That's the load I was hauling and I didn't want to damage the property."

Henry said Cartwright was driving the truck about 400 miles (640 kilometers) from Portland in northwestern Oregon, to the town of Nyssa near the Idaho border.

Henry said Cartwright's troubles started when he put the wrong address in his GPS at the start of his trip. It told him to turn south off Interstate 84 near the town of Pendleton.

Henry said Cartwright eventually realized he was on the wrong road and put in the correct address. The GPS then directed him to take a U.S. Forest Service road that started out paved but eventually became impassable.

"What it boils down to is a simple matter of human error," Henry said. "He made the proper effort to correct his mistake. From that point on it was out of his control. He had no reason to believe the GPS was wrong."

After interviewing Cartwright, Oregon State Police used information he provided to locate his truck, which had several wheels sitting precariously on a steep embankment, 21 miles (34 kilometers) away from the last known GPS location, said public information officer Sgt. Kaipo Raiser.

Even though there was limited cellphone coverage, the battery on Cartwright's phone eventually went dead.

At the hospital, Cartwright first told Henry that he hoped he would not lose his job — and Henry assured the trucker with children ages 4 and 2 that he wouldn't.

"It was pretty much just sheer will and determination that got him out," Henry said.

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Wayward cat captured at JFK Airport after a week on the lam

NEW YORK (AP) — A frisky can that got loose at New York's Kennedy Airport has been captured after more than a week on the lam.

WABC-TV reports that Pepper the cat was lured out of hiding early Saturday.

Pepper bolted from her owner April 20 as they were preparing to board a flight to China.

The owner was moving to China for a new job and had to leave without Pepper.

Pepper was spotted several times in non-public areas but eluded capture.

Then on Saturday, the officer who led the rescue effort enlisted the help of a friend of Pepper's owner, who called Pepper by her Mandarin name and enticed her with food. The officer and the friend then grabbed Pepper.

The friend will be responsible for getting Pepper to the owner.

Information from: WABC-TV, <http://www.7online.com>

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, April 29, the 119th day of 2018. There are 246 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 29, 1968, the counterculture rock musical "Hair" heralding the "Age of Aquarius" opened at Broadway's Biltmore Theater following limited engagements off-Broadway, beginning a run of 1,750 performances.

On this date:

In 1429, Joan of Arc entered the besieged city of Orleans to lead a French victory over the English.

In 1798, Joseph Haydn's oratorio "The Creation" was rehearsed in Vienna, Austria, before an invited audience.

In 1861, the Maryland House of Delegates voted 53-13 against seceding from the Union. In Montgomery, Alabama, President Jefferson Davis asked the Confederate Congress for the authority to wage war.

In 1916, the Easter Rising in Dublin collapsed as Irish nationalists surrendered to British authorities.

In 1945, during World War II, American soldiers liberated the Dachau (DAH'-khow) concentration camp. Adolf Hitler married Eva Braun inside his "Führerbunker" and designated Adm. Karl Doenitz (DUHR'-nihtz) president.

In 1957, the SM-1, the first military nuclear power plant, was dedicated at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

In 1967, Aretha Franklin's cover of Otis Redding's "Respect" was released as a single by Atlantic Records.

In 1977, Pope Paul VI and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Donald Coggan, participated in a Christian unity service in the Vatican's Sistine Chapel.

In 1983, Harold Washington was sworn in as the first black mayor of Chicago.

In 1992, a jury in Simi Valley, California, acquitted four Los Angeles police officers of almost all state charges in the videotaped beating of motorist Rodney King; the verdicts were followed by rioting in Los Angeles resulting in 55 deaths.

In 1993, Britain's Queen Elizabeth II announced that for the first time, Buckingham Palace would be opened to tourists to help raise money for repairs at fire-damaged Windsor Castle.

In 2011, Britain's Prince William and Kate Middleton were married in an opulent ceremony at London's Westminster Abbey.

Ten years ago: Democratic presidential hopeful Barack Obama denounced his former pastor, the Rev. Jeremiah Wright, for what he termed "divisive and destructive" remarks on race. Swiss chemist Albert Hofmann, the discoverer of LSD, died in Burg im Leimental, Switzerland, at age 102.

Five years ago: Opening statements took place in Los Angeles in a wrongful death lawsuit brought by Michael Jackson's mother, Katherine Jackson, against concert giant AEG Live, claiming it had failed to

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properly investigate a doctor who cared for Jackson and was later convicted of involuntary manslaughter in his 2009 death. (The jury determined in October 2013 that AEG Live was not liable.) Syria's prime minister, Wael al-Halqi, narrowly escaped an assassination attempt when a bomb went off near his convoy in Damascus. NBA veteran center Jason Collins became the first male professional athlete in the major four American sports leagues to come out as gay in a first-person account posted on Sports Illustrated's website.

One year ago: President Donald Trump marked his 100th day in office with a rally in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Severe weather broke out over much of the Midwest and South, with seven tornadoes in East Texas resulting in four direct fatalities, according to the National Weather Service. A white suburban Dallas policeman fired into a moving car carrying five black teenagers, killing one of them; Balch Springs officer Roy Oliver was later charged with murdering 15-year-old Jordan Edwards. Anthony Joshua stopped Wladimir Klitschko in the 11th round of their fight at Wembley Stadium in London to retain his heavyweight titles.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Keith Baxter is 85. Bluesman Otis Rush is 83. Conductor Zubin Mehta is 82. Disgraced financier Bernard Madoff is 80. Pop singer Bob Miranda (The Happenings) is 76. Country singer Duane Allen (The Oak Ridge Boys) is 75. Singer Tommy James is 71. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., is 68. Movie director Phillip Noyce is 68. Country musician Wayne Secrest (Confederate Railroad) is 68. Comedian Jerry Seinfeld is 64. Actor Leslie Jordan is 63. Actress Kate Mulgrew is 63. Actor Daniel Day-Lewis is 61. Actress Michelle Pfeiffer is 60. Actress Eve Plumb is 60. Rock musician Phil King is 58. Country singer Stephanie Bentley is 55. Actor Vincent Ventresca is 52. Singer Carnie Wilson (Wilson Phillips) is 50. Actor Paul Adelstein is 49. Actress Uma Thurman is 48. International Tennis Hall of Famer Andre Agassi is 48. Rapper Master P is 48. Actor Darby Stanchfield is 47. Country singer James Bonamy is 46. Gospel/rhythm-and-blues singer Erica Campbell (Mary Mary) is 46. Rock musician Mike Hogan (The Cranberries) is 45. Actor Tyler Labine is 40. Actress Megan Boone is 35. Actress-model Taylor Cole is 34. Actor Zane Carney is 33. Pop singer Amy Heidemann (Karmin) is 32. Pop singer Foxes is 29. Actress Grace Kaufman is 16.

Thought for Today: "An intellectual hatred is the worst." — William Butler Yeats, Irish poet and playwright (1865-1939).