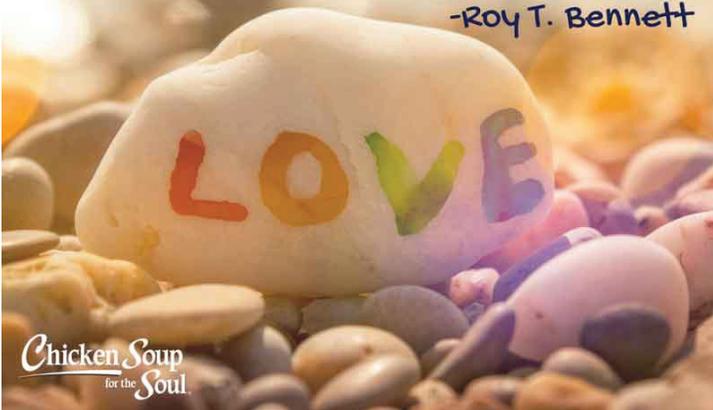


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"Follow your heart,
listen to your inner
voice, stop caring about
what others think."

-Roy T. Bennett



Chicken Soup
for the Soul

Groton Chiropractic Clinic

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

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

- 1- Groton Chiropractic Clinic Ad
- 1- Mail Highway Route Relief Driver
- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 2- Dairy Queen \$5 Buck Lunch Ad
- 2- Flihs, Colestock place at Roncalli meet
- 3- Groton Track teams win five events at Sisseton
- 3- HS Booster PAC Thank You
- 4- City Council Meeting Agenda
- 4- Lane enlists in National Guard
- 4- SunDial Manor Help Wanted Ad
- 5- Drought Monitor
- 6- Today in Weather History
- 7- Today's Forecast
- 8- Yesterday's Weather
- 8- National Weather map
- 8- Today's Weather Almanac
- 9- Daily Devotional
- 10- 2018 Groton Community Events
- 11- News from the Associated Press

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

Monday, May 7

10 a.m.: Girls Golf Meet at Olive Grove Golf
Course

(Aberdeen Roncalli, Milbank, Moberidge-Pollock Schools,
Redfield-Doland, Sisseton, Waubay-Summit)

2 p.m.: Junior High Track Meet at Aberdeen Cen-
tral (rescheduled from 4 p.m. to 2 p.m.)

7 p.m.: City Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 8

2 p.m.: Varsity track at Britton
Special School Board Meeting

Thursday, May 10

10 a.m.: Girls golf at Madison

Friday, May 11

11 a.m.: Northeast Conference track at Webster

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Flihs, Colestock place at Roncalli meet

Two girls placed at the Aberdeen Roncalli golf invitational held Thursday. Ashley Flihs placed sixth with a score of 107, shooting a 59 in the front half and a 48 in the back half. Peyton Colestock placed eighth with a score of 113, shooting a 60 in the front and a 53 in the back. Portia Kettering had a score of 115, with a 60 in the front and a 55 in the back.

New \$5 Buck Lunches!

**Crispy Chicken
Salad
Lunch**



**KC BBQ Bacon
Cheeseburger
Lunch**



Available
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Grill & Chill

US 12, Groton

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Groton Track teams win five events at Sisseton

Groton Area tracksters brought home several first place winners at the Twilight Track Meet held Friday in Sisseton.

The girls 400m relay took first, Nicole Marzahn won the long jump, Harleigh Stange won the triple jump, Jonathan Doeden won the 110m Hurdles and Luke Thorson won the discus event.

Girl's Division

100m Dash: Jodi Hitman, 14.35; Tiara DeHoet, 15.40.

200m Dash: Kenzie McInerney, 30.93; Jodi Hitman, 31.14; Lina-Marie Suhr, 33.10

400m Dash: 3, Payton Maine, 1:07.90; Lina-Marie Suhr, 1:11.56.

800m Run: 5, Amelie Hartwig, 2:45.47.

1600m Run: Desiree Blevins, 7:16.94.

400m Relay: 1, Groton, 54.21.

800m Relay: 4, Groton, 1:57.57

1600m Relay: 5, Groton, 4:38.17.

3200m Relay: 7, Groton, 11:38.67.

1600m Medley Relay: 9, Groton, 5:07.50.

High Jump: 8, Nicole Marzahn, 4-6; 8, Gia Gengerke, 4-6; Alex Stange, 4-2.

Long Jump: 1, Nicole Marzahn, 15-8.25; 7, Gia Gengerke, 14-7.75; Jodi Hitman, 13-7.5.

Triple Jump: 1, Harleigh Stange, 33-11; Nicole Marzahn, 30-5; Tiara DeHoet, 26-1.

Discus: 6, Jennie Doeden, 95-10; 7, Kaycie Hawkins, 94-2; 26, Chloe Daly, 69-7.

Shot Put: 5, Jennie Doeden, 32-3; Madison Sippel, 29-11; Kaycie Hawkins, 29-5.

Boy's Division

110m Hurdles: 1, Jonathan Doeden, 15.56; 8, Paxton Bonn, 18.60.

300m Hurdles: 4, Jonathan Doeden, 44.60; Darien Shabazz, 50.22; Thomas Cranford, 51.03.

100m Dash: 7, Thomas Cranford, 11.57; Jonathan Doeden, 11.79; Darien Shabazz, 12.20.

400m Dash: Douglas Heminger, 1:05.03.

800m Run: Isaac Smith, 2:26.07; Douglas Heminger, 2:47.92.

1600m Run: Isaac Smith, 5:24.22.

3200m Run: Isaac Smith, 12:48.75.

400m Relay: 6, Groton, 48.29.

1600m Relay: 9, Groton, 4:10.58.

3200m Relay: 6, Groton, 10:07.90.

1600m Medley Relay: Groton, 4:30.87.

High Jump: 6, Paxton Bonn, 5-4; Austin Jones, 5-0.

Long Jump: 2, Jonathan Doeden, 20-00.5; Paxton Bonn, 16-3.25.

Triple Jump: Austin Jones, 34-8.5; Paxton Bonn, 33-3; Trevor Harry, 32.2.

Discus: 1, Luke Thorson, 141-8; Brodyn DeHoet, 116-6; Grady O'Neill, 113-4; Caleb Furney, 90-6.

Shot Put: Luke Thorson, 38-3; Caleb Furney, 36-1.5; Grady O'Neill, 35-7.25; Brodyn DeHoet, 31-1.

The Groton HS Booster PAC Post-Prom Committee would like to thank the following businesses and organizations:

For donations of \$100 or more: Locke Electric, Groton American Legion Auxiliary, United Methodist Church Women, Groton Veterinary Clinic, James Valley Telecommunications, Roger and Darci Spanier, Poet Biorefining, Aberdeen Elks Lodge

For donations \$26-\$50: Kolker Law, Frost Construction, First State Bank, Diana Chapter OES No. 83, Groton Ford, Lori's Pharmacy, Milbrandt Enterprises, Wells Fargo, Harry Implement, Groton Chiropractic Clinic, Erickson Insurance Agency, Full Circle Ag, S & S Lumber, Marc and Franne Sippel, GDI News/Clean/Fit/Live.

For Donations of \$25: Columbia American Legion, Professional Management Services, Krueger Brothers Gravel & Dirt, Groton Kiwanis, Rix Farms.

For Donations of Supplies and/or Services: The Jungle, Circus Bar, Ken's Food Fair, Dollar General, A & S Hardware.

Without your generosity, this event would not happen.

Thank You!

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Groton City Council Meeting Agenda

March 7, 2018 – 7:00pm
Groton Community Center

1. Minutes
2. Bills
3. Adjourn Sine Die
- *****
4. Convene 131st Council – Oath of Office
 - Appoint vacant council seat
 - Election of Officers
5. Appoint Attorney
6. Appoint Advisory Committees
7. Motion to approve bills each meeting & authorize the Finance Officer to pay payroll and all regular monthly bills in a timely manner to avoid penalties and take advantage of discounts.
8. Department reports
9. NESD Family Violence Prevention Conference – Police Department – Aberdeen
10. Baseball update
11. Public Comments
(Public Comments will offer the opportunity for anyone not listed on the agenda to speak to the council. Speaking time will be limited to 3 minutes. No action will be taken on questions or items not on the agenda.)
12. Executive session personnel & legal 1-25-2 (1) & (3)
13. Hire summer employees
14. Adjournment



**Sun Dial Manor in Bristol
is accepting applications for
full time and part time CNA's.
12 hr. shifts- days and nights
(SIGN ON BONUS OFFERED)**

**DIETARY OPENINGS
Full time cook, 8 hr. shifts
(WITH SIGN ON BONUS)**

Part time Dietary Tech

**For more information,
call 605-492-3615**



Lane enlists in National Guard

Marshall Lane of Groton was sworn in 27 April as the newest member of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 740th Transportation Company.

Lane is currently enrolled as a Senior at Groton High School.

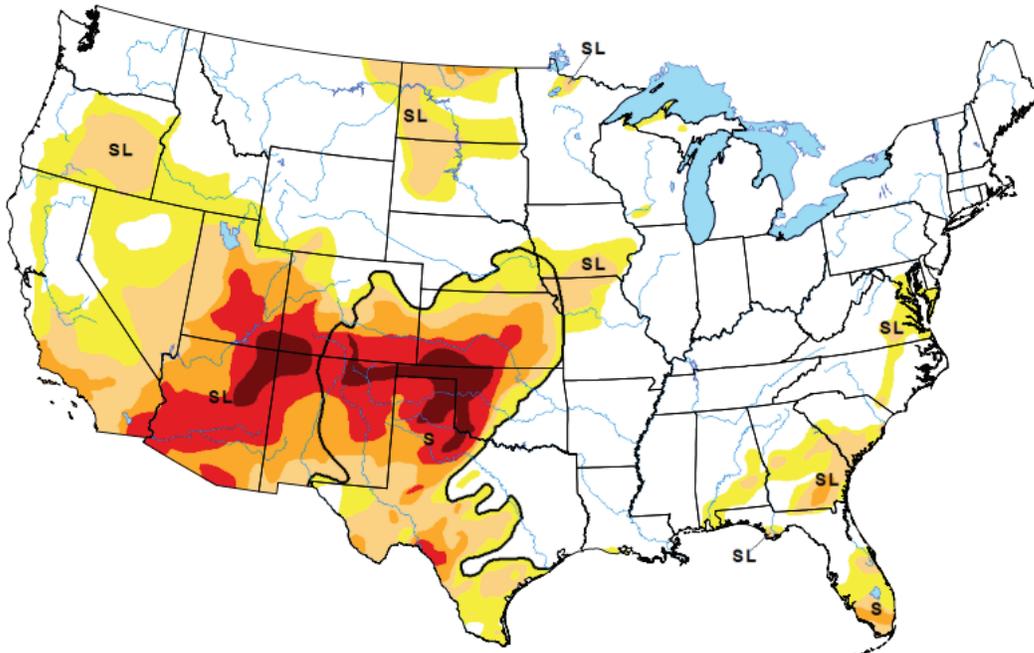
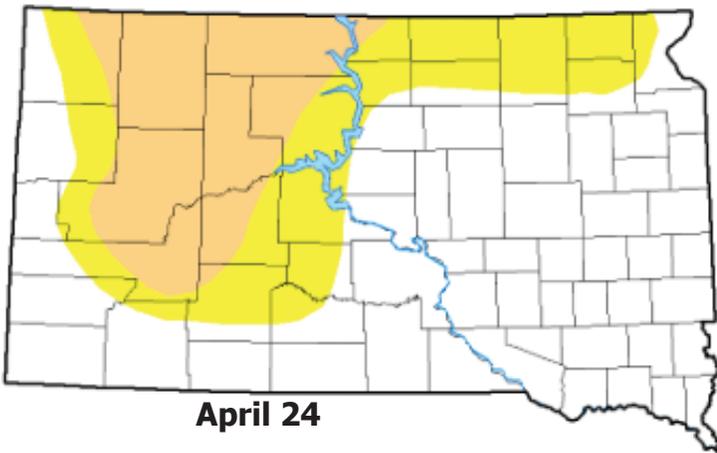
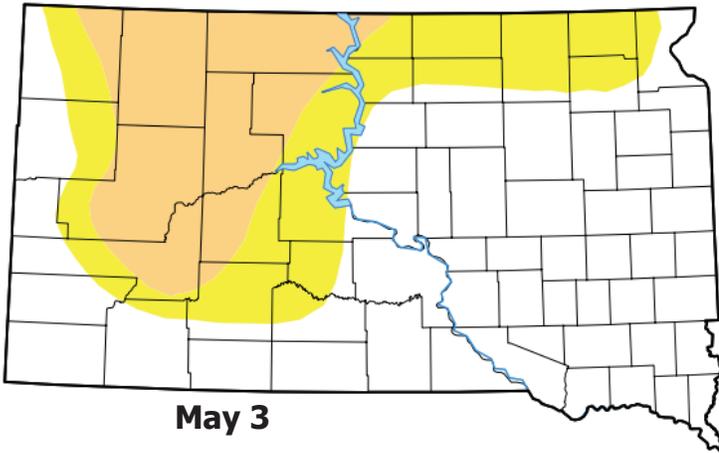
The Oath of Enlistment was administered by CPT Ferguson. Attending the ceremony was his mother Melodee Lane.

Lane will begin Basic active-duty training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina on September 4, 2018 and will be assigned to 25U Signal Support Systems Specialist when he returns.

For more information about the SDARNG, please contact SSG Joe Aldentaler at 605-430-6374.

Drought Monitor

On this week's map, areas of Abnormally Dry (D0) and Moderate Drought (D1) expanded in North Dakota including the introduction of Severe Drought (D2) in the northern part of the state in response to reported poor soil moisture conditions and precipitation shortfalls during the past 60 days. According to the April 30th USDA NASS North Dakota Crop Progress and Condition Report, topsoil moisture was reported as 45% (short to very short moisture) with subsoil moisture at 50% (short to very short). Additionally, hay and roughage supplies were rated 55% (short to very short). In northeastern Montana, improvements were made in areas of Abnormally Dry (D0), Moderate Drought (D1), and Severe Drought (D2) in response to overall improvement in conditions (streamflows, soil moisture, lack of drought-related impacts) since last fall. Since the beginning of the Water Year (Oct. 1st), precipitation across the region has been below normal with the exception of eastern Montana, northwestern Wyoming, and central/north-central Nebraska. During the past week, the region was generally dry and temperatures were generally above normal.



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Today in Weather History

May 5, 1964: A two-state, F3 tornado moved northeast from 4 miles WNW of Herreid to the south of Streeter, North Dakota, a distance of about 55 miles. Blacktop was ripped for 400 yards on Highway 10, five miles north of Herreid, South Dakota. Two barns were destroyed northeast of Hague, North Dakota, with a dozen cattle killed on one farm. The F3 damage occurred at one farm about midway between Wishek and Hogue. Other barns were destroyed south of Burnstad.

May 5, 1986: A tight pressure gradient produced winds over 60 mph in west central Minnesota. City officials in Browns Valley estimated a quarter of the city suffered damage. The roof of a grandstand was blown off and landed a quarter of a block away. Seventy-five homes and six businesses sustained roof damage. In nearby Dumont, Minnesota, the wind ripped a large grain bin off its foundation and tore open the top of another.

May 5, 2007: A north to south frontal boundary, powerful low-level winds, and abundant gulf moisture resulted in training thunderstorms across parts of central and northeast South Dakota. The training thunderstorms produced torrential rains from 3 to over 10 inches resulting in widespread flash flooding across Brown, Buffalo, Hand, Spink, Clark, Day, Marshall, and Roberts Counties. The counties of Brown, Buffalo, Clark, Day, Marshall, and Spink were declared disaster areas by President Bush. The Governor also declared a state of emergency for the flooded counties with Senator John Thune and Representative Stephanie Herseth surveying the flood damage. Eight damage assessment teams from local, state, and FEMA came to Brown and other counties.

Dozens of cities were affected by the flooding with several hundred homes, businesses, and countless roads affected and damaged or destroyed by the flooding. Aberdeen received the most extensive damage, especially the north side of Aberdeen. Seventy-five percent of the homes in Aberdeen received some water in their basements. Basement water levels ranged from a few inches to very deep water all the way up to the first floor of homes. Many homes had the basement walls collapse. The overwhelming load on the drainage systems caused sewage to back up into many homes across the region. Also, many vehicles stalled on the roads with many others damaged by the flooding. Power outages also occurred across the area. Many families were displaced from their homes with many living in emergency shelters. Countless homes were condemned across the region with many considered unlivable. Thousands of acres of crops were also flooded and damaged with many seeds, and large quantities of fertilizer washed away.

Rainfall amounts from this historic event included 3.65 inches in Miller, 3.82 inches in Britton, 4 inches in Eden, 4.47 inches in Andover, 4.90 inches in Webster, 5.68 inches west of Britton, 5.7 inches in Garden City, and 5.82 inches in Conde. Locations with 6 or more inches of rain included, 6 inches in Langford, 6.33 inches in Gann Valley, 6.72 inches in Clark, 7.41 inches in Ashton, 7.49 inches in Stratford, 7.55 inches near Mellette, 7.97 inches in Aberdeen, 8.02 inches in Redfield, 8.73 inches in Columbia, and 8.74 inches in Groton. The 8.74 inches of rainfall in Groton set a new 24-hour state rainfall record. Adding in the rainfall for the previous day, Aberdeen received a total of 9.00 inches; Columbia received a total of 10.19 inches; Groton received an astonishing two-day total rainfall of 10.74 inches.

1933: An estimated F4 tornado cut a 35-mile path from near Brent into Shelby County, Alabama. The town of Helena, AL was especially hard hit, as 14 people died. The tornado roared through Helena at 2:30 am.

1987: Unseasonably hot weather prevailed in the western U.S. A dozen cities in California reported record high temperatures for the date. Afternoon highs of 93 degrees at San Francisco, 98 degrees at San Jose, 100 degrees at Sacramento, and 101 degrees at Redding were the warmest on record for so early in the season. The high of 94 degrees at Medford, Oregon was also the warmest on record for so early in the season.

1995: A supercell thunderstorms brought torrential rains and large hail up to four inches in diameter to Fort Worth, Texas. This storm also struck a local outdoor festival known as the Fort Worth Mayfest. At the time the storm was the costliest hailstorm in the history of the US, causing more than \$2 billion in damage. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the History.com.

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Sat May 5	Sun May 6	Mon May 7	Tue May 8	Wed May 9	Thu May 10	Fri May 11
						
82° 44° S 18 MPH Precip 20%	77° 45° NNE 9 MPH	75° 52° S 16 MPH	69° 48° SSE 13 MPH Precip 50%	69° 43° NW 14 MPH Precip 20%	67° 46° NNE 10 MPH	66° 54° E 11 MPH Precip 40%

Dry – Warm – Breezy

Highs: Upper 70s & Low 80s

High Fire Danger

Weak Afternoon
Thunderstorms



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 5/5/2018 6:24 AM Central

Published on: 05/05/2018 at 6:27AM

Just like Friday, we will see warm and dry conditions with high fire danger and some weak afternoon thunderstorms. A tad cooler air comes in for Sunday with highs in the 70s.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 81.2 F at 3:41 PM

Low Outside Temp: 39.4 F at 6:35 AM

Wind Chill:

High Gust: 28.0 Mph at 2:47 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 92° in 2000

Record Low: 24° in 1944

Average High: 66°F

Average Low: 40°F

Average Precip in May: 0.51

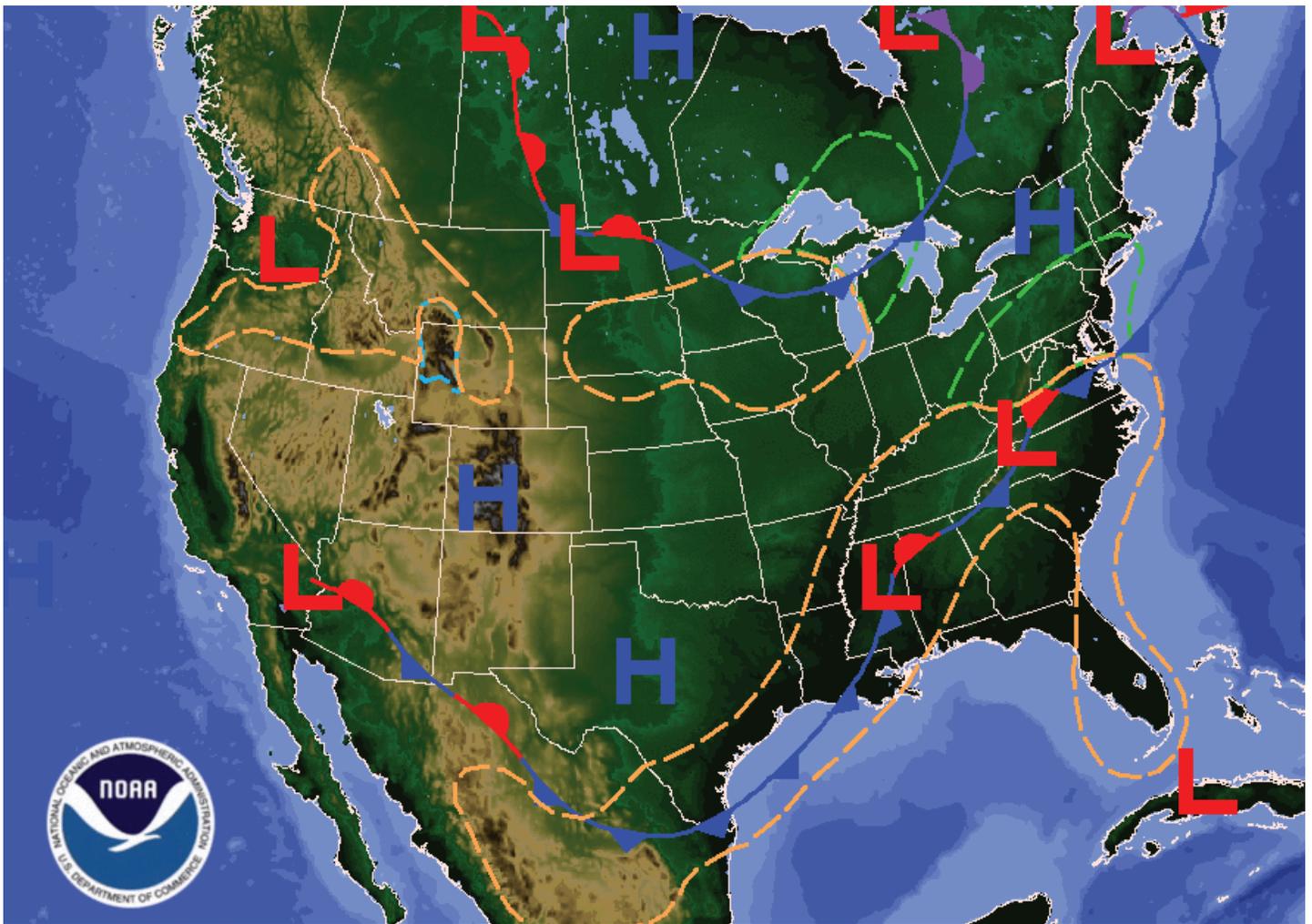
Precip to date in May: 0.05

Average Precip to date: 4.54

Precip Year to Date: 2.73

Sunset Tonight: 8:45 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:14 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sat, May 05, 2018, issued 3:30 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Hamrick 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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WONDERFUL WORDS OF LIFE

Johnny Bartek grew up in Freehold, New Jersey. He attended one year of high school before "flunking out" at age 16. For the next several years he worked at various jobs but could not find one that he enjoyed. Dissatisfied with his opportunities at home he decided to join the Army Air Force soon after turning 18. He became a flight mechanic and was aboard the aircraft carrying Captain Eddie Rickenbacker that was lost at sea because of bad weather and inadequate navigation equipment. The crew spent three weeks at sea in a crowded life raft and all but one survived the horrific, harrowing ordeal.

Very few supplies were on the raft and after three days they ran out of food and water. One of the few items on the raft was a Bible. The inscription in the Bible read "A Sacred Token, to John F. Bartek by the First Baptist Church, Freehold, NJ, April 7, 1942."

On the eighth day, a few minutes after they read a portion of Scripture from the Bible, a sea gull landed on the head of Captain Rickenbacker which became food and fish bait to help keep the men alive until they were rescued. The men on the raft believed that it was a sign from God.

What verse did they read? "So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'...for...your Heavenly Father knows that you need them."

Many years before those eight men on that raft needed nourishment the Psalmist wrote, "He sent forth His Word and healed them; He rescued them from the grave."

Prayer: How faithful You are, Father, to keep Your Word, meet our every need and protect us from danger. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 107:20 He sent out his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave.

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

News from the Associated Press

Mitchell's River Riders close in on 30th year

By MARK ANDERSEN, Daily Republic

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — A pair of River Riders first floated over whitewater rapids toward warm campfire nights in 1989.

Mitchell's modern-day Lewis and Clark, Albert Larson and Stephen Nicolaisen suspect they've logged perhaps as many as 3,000 miles, or the distance from Los Angeles to Portland, Maine.

Laughs and wisecracks spilled recently over a truck-stop table as four veteran Riders shared their nicknames and Rider rituals, plus a couple of stories.

The Daily Republic reports that each anecdote splashed into the next, the years circling back like eddies on Nebraska's Dismal River.

That river was appropriately named, says Jeff Clark, who hopes to never again bump his way across the stumpy stream. Nicolaisen swears the Dismal's river-straining cottonwoods tried to kill him.

They have their favorites, too. Clark speaks fondly of unpopulated scenic beauty along the Cheyenne River. Nicolaisen favors the quick-turning Snake in Nebraska and the merry rapids of South Dakota's Little White River.

Larson, meanwhile, poetically describes after-dusk floats on the James River, his oars frozen, watching beaver slide down the banks to chew corn stalks.

Together, they've stared into the Milky Way and celebrated happy hours after setting up camps, serenaded by River Rider Wayne Gregory on guitar.

One spring on the White River, large chunks of ice tumbled from the banks behind them with a loud "Kaboosh."

Difficult times were plentiful, too, as when icy waters turned Clark's legs blue, or when thunder broke a pattern of horizontal rain, or when Missouri River waves swamped one Rider's canoe twice, spilling food and rain gear. Those all make for good stories around a campfire, if not this year then the next.

As many as 12 to 15 people embarked on the big annual trips. Some years it was as few as four. Long-time members hope the celebration of 30 years will attract new adventurers.

In most years there's also a shorter float, and wives occasionally go along on those. Some wives shrieked five years ago when Asian carp flew out of the water to hit them.

Before every trip, a lone scout checks out the route, calls landowners for permission, and then becomes de facto ramrod. It's not always an honor. Jeff Clark was the ramrod the year a rancher galloped up on the Cheyenne. Clark stepped forward for an expected tongue lashing, but the horseman wanted to warn of a coming storm. They got out of there fast.

Good Samaritans have been plentiful, including a woman who informed them the Little White River had thawed, and another who brought cake — delicious cake.

Larson first interested Nicolaisen in canoeing back in 1985. Larson first settled into a canoe stern as an Explorer Scout in 1965. They'll keep doing these trips as long as they can. Larson is nearing 70.

Old-timers have settled into established roles. Nicolaisen keeps the diary, filled with journal entries for 68 trips, bearing titles like "The Whiskey Revival, 1996," "Belle Fourche & Cheyenne 'Belch 98,'" and "2012 Mighty Fo' on the Mighty Mo."

"We've slowed," Nicolaisen says. "We used to get in the water at 7 a.m. because we had such a big day ahead of us."

The goal then, Larson says, was to see how far they could get before dusk.

Now, Nicolaisen says, "We'll even have a layover day for exploring, where we won't even break camp."

For long trips, Nicolaisen crafts memorials modeled after the Verendrye plate found in 1913 on the hills above Fort Pierre. Placed by the Chevalier Verendrye, Louis La Londette, and A. Miotte on March 30, 1743, it represents the first written evidence of European visitors to South Dakota. Nicolaisen also buries his

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plates with the names of River Riders inscribed.

Jeff Clark is the engineer, with an actual engineering degree. Larson is the medic. The retired Department of Corrections officer learned to come prepared after a disastrous trip in 1989.

"A hot boiling kettle of water was knocked over into my boot," he said. Badly burned, he also suffered a broken leg and hypothermia before getting home.

"I was hospitalized when I got back," he says.

His medical preparations have come in handy. Larson prescribed alcohol and muscle relaxants when Clark arrived at the Boundary Waters of Minnesota with an aching back. Clark walked out of the woods feeling fine, he says.

Travis Degen, the new guy who joined last year, has since served as the jack-of-all-trades, digging latrines and bringing beer.

That's probably a joke. Everybody brings beer.

Someone shoves an old photo of a steel, top-truss bridge before me, explaining how it appears like a ghost on a desolate stretch of the Cheyenne.

"Not every trip is sunny skies and warm weather," Larson quips.

On the Little White they floated past a fisherman who yelled he'd never seen anybody canoe that river before.

"A little while later, we learned why," Clark added, mentioning "rocks."

During a five-inch rain on the James, the channel swelled to a half-mile wide, carrying them over barb-wire. Along the Dismal, Nicolaisen stepped in actual quicksand and had to be pulled out.

There was also the time four young guys ran into their tent in the black of night to quickly zip it shut. They were surprised the next morning that not everybody had heard a mountain lion's "Rarrh."

Down by Springfield in 2003, everybody who jumped in the water got a shot of whiskey. That was also the site of a leg wrestling tournament, Clark says, referencing an apparent inside joke. Someone challenged Clark to leg wrestling and then promptly lay down in bunch of sand burrs.

"There was no leg wrestling," Clark says.

Last year, the group made a shrine made from rocks and a skull near a familiar spot along the Missouri River.

"We never leave any garbage, not even a bottle cap," Larson says. All campfires are buried and all latrines covered.

"We enjoy having younger people come with us," Larson says.

He hopes someday they'll be talking about those old guys who started it all way back when. Someone may even tell a story.

The ideal size for a trip — well, they're all ideal, Larson says, but it gets harder to organize when there's more than eight.

Riders dedicate a week off work. Food costs about \$150. Bring good rain gear, a sleeping bag, a decent tent, and a self-inflating mattress to lift you off cold ground. Suntan lotion and insect repellent are a must.

"It isn't bad weather," Larson says. "It's bad equipment."

Except for maybe the wind, Nicolaisen suggests. Larson was canoeing with two small boys once and was unable to make headway against the headwind. He motioned for Nicolaisen to help, but he spoke in quiet tones to his partner, "Just let him suffer awhile."

Later, they turned back, threw Larson a rope and towed him.

The extra time on the river didn't matter to anyone.

As Larson says: "When you don't have to be anywhere, it doesn't make a difference."

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

Key issue in Copper Lounge litigation will center on owner

By JONATHAN ELLIS and JOE SNEVE, Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Who owned the Copper Lounge?

It's a simple question with a seemingly simple answer. But that question has become a central sticking point in the legal cases surrounding the building's collapse Dec. 2, 2016, which killed Ethan McMahon and injured Emily Fodness.

On paper, the building had been transferred two days before the collapse to a limited liability company called Boomerang Investments from another limited liability company called CLP Investments.

But lawyers for the Fodness and McMahon families have set their sights not just on Boomerang and the unknown investors in the LLC, but also Legacy Developments and Consulting Co., the developer behind the project to turn the former bar into a downtown drug store. Legacy, they argue, was a de facto owner. A key piece of their evidence is a real estate purchase agreement signed by Tim Kant, the building's former owner, and Norm Drake, Legacy's managing member. The agreement lists Legacy as the "buyer."

The Argus Leader reports that the cases against Legacy promise to shed light on the complex nature of real estate developments. Across the country, deals such as the one to remodel the Copper Lounge often involve multiple limited liability companies — LLCs — whose investors are anonymous. Known as real estate syndicates, the public face of the projects are often the developers who organize them.

The use of LLCs can be viewed with suspicion by outsiders, but they serve an important role in the national economy, says Thomas Geu, the dean of the University of South Dakota School of Law.

"It's quite typical for different projects to be owned by different limited liability companies even if those LLC's have common ownership. That's the usual course of business. One of the reasons for having separate LLCs is for liability protection."

Legally, limited liability companies offer protection for investors, Geu said. If there's a mishap, and a company is sued, the investors in the company aren't risking their personal fortunes beyond what they invested. For example, if someone worth \$5 million invested \$50,000 in a limited liability company, that investor would not be liable beyond \$50,000.

Without liability protection, it would be nearly impossible to find the capital needed for construction, development and other financially risky ventures.

"The magic of limited liability is the economic growth it produces," Geu said.

But it's also through the formation of LLCs that Legacy is trying to insulate itself from the Copper Lounge lawsuits. Steven J. Sheridan, a lawyer who represented Legacy at a hearing on Wednesday, suggested that Legacy's role in the project was limited to finding the property and securing investors, financing and tenants. Legacy never took title to the property, and once CLP Investments, one of the LLCs formed for the project, took possession of the Copper Lounge, Legacy's development activities ceased.

Sheridan attempted unsuccessfully to move any future trials over the collapse to Aberdeen. He argued that repeated and "pervasive" media accounts portraying Legacy as the owner of the Copper Lounge had prejudiced the potential jury pool in Minnehaha County. The coverage had been not only unfair, but "accusatory, inflammatory and inaccurate," words he repeated throughout his argument.

What was the main reason for Legacy's objection to media coverage? Media reports had identified Legacy as the owner of the Copper Lounge when it was not, Sheridan said.

Legacy's vociferous denials of ownership are new. A review of Argus Leader and Sioux Falls Business Journal articles written about the project before the Dec. 2, 2016, collapse routinely referred to Legacy as the building's owner. Not only was Legacy identified as the owner of the Copper Lounge, but also other properties it was developing.

Even in the weeks following the collapse, Legacy was described in news stories as the building's owner. It was not until the end of last year that Legacy began to respond that it was not the owner.

Stacy Jones, a spokeswoman for the development group, said by email that she did not know what steps had been taken to correct news stories because a lawyer who handled the issue was out of town.

The lawyers representing the Fodness and McMahon families say there is ample evidence suggesting

Legacy played an active role in the project. Beyond the purchase agreement with Legacy's name as the buyer, there are other ties. Dan Fritz, a lawyer for the Fodness family, said at a recent hearing that Legacy identified itself as the landlord and had agreed to provide demolition services on the project.

Ultimately, the brewing legal fight will be over whether the plaintiffs can overcome the legal protections afforded LLCs and get to Legacy itself as a liable entity.

There are ways investors in a limited liability company can lose their legal protection, Geu said. If one company has common ownership with another company, and it regularly co-mingles funds from both companies in a single bank account, a court might not treat the LLCs as separate because the owners don't treat them as separate. Neither can an owner of an LLC abuse it whether that owner is a living individual or another LLC.

"One holding a controlling ownership interest in an LLC is a bit like owning a horse," Geu said. "You can do almost whatever you want with the horse. But you can't starve the horse or mistreat the horse, just because you own it. It is a separate entity."

Another way in which an owner of an LLC can lose its protection is through its own negligence. For example, if one LLC is providing paid consulting or engineering services to an affiliated LLC, and something goes wrong with the engineering, then it could open the door of liability to the LLC that was providing services because it was its "fault," Geu said.

"If one LLC provides consulting services or engineering services to another LLC, and those consulting and engineering services are the proximate cause of any damage, the LLC providing consulting services will be liable for its own 'wrong,' and there is no need to resort to 'piercing' anything," Geu said.

One thing that all sides agreed on at Wednesday's hearing was that the legal process, and the questions that process will raise, are going to take months, maybe longer, to play out.

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

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

04-05-10-12-18, Mega Ball: 21, Megaplier: 4

(four, five, ten, twelve, eighteen; Mega Ball: twenty-one; Megaplier: four)

Estimated jackpot: \$143 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$215 million

Arkansas regulators want takeover of 2 Skyline nursing homes

By KELLY P. KISSEL, Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Arkansas regulators said Friday they want to find new operators for two nursing homes amid questions about the financial stability of their parent company.

The state Department of Human Services said Office of Long Term Care surveyors have been at the Spring Place Health & Rehab center in Hazen and the Dierks Health & Rehab center since Thursday to ensure proper care. The Hazen center has 39 residents and Dierks has 52. Skyline Health owns them and 19 others across the state.

Craig Cloud, the Department of Human Services' director of provider services and quality assurance, said patient care was a top priority and that the facilities' employees needed stability.

"We want to do everything legally possible to make sure everyone's needs are met," he said in a statement.

The agency went to court in Howard and Prairie counties and won permission to operate the homes

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until another operator could be brought in. An affidavit said both facilities were running low on food and lacked the means to obtain more this week.

At Hazen, "they attempted to purchase food using a Skyline-issued credit card, but the card was refused for insufficient funds," nursing home inspector Dianne Fish wrote.

In the Howard County case, Circuit Judge Charles Yeargan said it was appropriate to step in.

"An emergency currently exists within the Dierks nursing home, owned and operated by the defendant, which threatens the health, safety, security and welfare of the facility residents," he wrote.

DHS says it had been monitoring Skyline since financial problems emerged elsewhere this spring. Kansas, Nebraska, Pennsylvania and South Dakota regulators have taken similar steps toward placing facilities in receivership, according to Fish.

A Skyline official in South Dakota said this week the company was moving on toward receivership there. There was no answer Friday at Skyline's corporate headquarters in New Jersey.

\South Dakota school district dropping 'Redmen' nickname

ESTELLINE, S.D. (AP) — A school district in eastern South Dakota is phasing out its Native American mascot and athletics team name.

The Estelline School District plans to replace the "Redmen" nickname with one of six recommendations, the Watertown Public Opinion reported .

Students, alumni and patrons are currently voting on whether the new mascot name should be the Eagles, Express, Pioneers, Raptors, Red Hawks or Red Hornets. The winning name will be announced during a May 16 school ceremony.

The district has been discussing the name change for a couple of decades, according to school officials. The district has been minimizing the use of Native American imagery for several years by replacing a tangible mascot with the letter "E" and eagle feathers.

The debate gained momentum last fall when the state High School Activities Association recommended schools phase out Native American imagery.

"We wanted to be proactive in the process and do this on our own timeline," said LeAnne Johnson, a board member. "This is the opportunity to do the right thing."

The district will, however, leave up athletic banners displaying past state titles with the Redmen name.

"The Redmen name and mascot will remain part of our history. We have had great athletic teams and good success in sports in the past," Johnson said. "We don't want to take that away from anyone."

Johnson said the district is ready to move forward and set an example for students.

Information from: Watertown Public Opinion, <http://www.thepublicopinion.com>

4 face drug charges after death of girl who shot herself

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — Four people face drug charges after a 17-year-old girl killed herself in Yankton.

Court records show 18-year-old Andrew Johnson, 19-year-old Logan Huber and 20-year-old Logan Winder face felony charges including methamphetamine possession. Winder is also accused of burglary and stealing a gun. A 17-year-old juvenile was also arrested.

Police Chief Brian Paulsen said earlier that "ancillary charges" against several people were expected following the girl's suicide. It wasn't clear how the charges were related, but Paulsen told the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan that officials are waiting for a toxicology report from the girl's autopsy that could take several weeks.

Authorities say the girl died early Wednesday of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Attorneys for the men didn't immediately return requests for comment from The Associated Press.

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

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Authorities identify man killed in Box Elder police shooting

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's attorney general had identified a man killed earlier this week by a police officer in Box Elder.

Marty Jackley says 44-year-old Wayne Traversie, of Box Elder, was shot early Wednesday morning after officers responded to a call at a mobile home in Valley Village. Traversie died at the scene.

Jackley says Officer John Cargill has been placed on administrative leave, which is standard department policy.

No further details have been released. Jackley's office is expected to issue a report within 30 days.

South Dakota standout quarterback signs with CFL team

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — University of South Dakota all-American quarterback Chris Streveler has signed a free-agent contract with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers of the Canadian Football League.

Streveler is from Crystal Lake, Illinois. He was a two-year starter for the Coyotes after transferring from the University of Minnesota.

He set 20 program records at USD. Last season he was runner-up for the Walter Payton Award, given each year to the FCS offensive player of the year.

2 county sheriffs sued over death of woman in jail's custody

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Two South Dakota sheriffs and others are facing a federal civil lawsuit over the 2015 overdose death of a woman in the custody of the Brown County Jail.

The woman, 24-year-old Sarah Circle Bear, died in July 2015 after being taken into custody on drug charges in Roberts County. She was found unresponsive in a cell and pronounced dead at a hospital from a methamphetamine overdose.

Investigators found Brown County Jail staff acted appropriately in dealing with Circle Bear. The lawsuit filed by Aberdeen attorney Scott Kuck alleges Circle Bear's civil rights were violated.

The American News reports most of the defendants are current or former employees of Brown and Roberts counties, including Brown County Sheriff Mark Milbrandt and Roberts County Sheriff Jay Tasa.

Milbrandt told the newspaper Friday he was unaware of the case.

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

Measure would raise votes needed for constitutional changes

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley has released an explanation of a ballot measure that would make it harder to change the state constitution.

Jackley's office said Friday the explanation for Constitutional Amendment X has been filed with the Secretary of State's office. The amendment would increase the majority vote threshold required for a constitutional change to 55 percent of the votes cast on the amendment.

The Legislature voted during the 2018 session to put the amendment before November voters.

GOP Sen. Jim Bolin, the measure's sponsor, has said the constitution must be diligently protected. Critics argue raising the vote threshold would crowd out grassroots movements.

Republicans have pursued changes to the ballot question system after the 2016 election season brought 10 questions and millions of dollars from out-of-state groups.

Fake money used in movies popping up around Rapid City

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Fake money marked for use in movie productions is popping up at Rapid City businesses.

Police say there have been at least five instances in which bogus \$100 bills were passed.

The bills have the word "replica" printed on them, along with "for motion picture use only."

Police are asking businesses to inspect bills before accepting them.

7 things to know about Lebanon's parliament elections

By SARAH EL DEEB, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — It's Lebanon's unique form of democracy.

Almost everyone in the country complains about it. The same political dynasties dominating year after year, whether in government or parliament. Politicians work for their sect, or their own families. None managing to repair an electricity system that's been decrepit for decades or organize the proper collection of garbage because of business feuds among the political elite.

It's also a tough system to change.

No one wants their community shortchanged, either of power or patronage. After the bitter 1975-1990 civil war, the balance between Shiites, Sunnis and Christians— the main sects among 18 official ones — preserves a stability that always seems on the verge of collapse, but, for the past decade at least, has not.

With 3.6 million registered voters expected to vote in parliament elections Sunday, here are seven things to know about the system.

FIRST TIMES

It's the first time the Lebanese are voting for a parliament in nine years. It is also the first time elections are being held since neighboring Syria's war began in 2011. The vote has been postponed a number of times over security concerns it would ignite tensions among Lebanon's sects, already heightened by that war.

Lawmakers have haggled over election reform for years, finally passing a new law last summer to replace one in place since 1960.

The law allows expats to vote for the first time. Of 900,000 voters abroad, only 83,000 registered and just over half of them voted last week.

For the first time, women made up nearly 10 percent of the candidates, up from a meager 1.7 percent in 2009. Only four women made it to Lebanon's 128-seat parliament in the last election, a dismal figure compared to other countries in the region. Also, a record number of civil society activists and independents are running, hoping to at least open a crack in Lebanon's system.

COMPLICATED LAW

The new election law is so complex that many have quipped they would rather stay at home because they can't figure out how their vote will be computed.

The law implements a proportional system that awards seats by the share of vote received, instead of the former winner-takes-all system in each district. It reduces the number of electoral constituencies from 23 to 15, and allows voters to choose both an electoral list and a preferred candidate from that list.

In theory, it should allow candidates beyond traditional power players to win a seat in parliament. But it also preserves the sectarian divvying-up of seats in different districts; Muslims and Christians each get around half, and smaller communities the remainder.

THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

Lebanon's strongest political party is the only one with an active militia: Hezbollah.

The Iranian-backed Shiite faction has thousands of fighters in Syria supporting President Bashar Assad, an intervention that nearly tore Lebanon apart last year. Sunnis largely sympathize with the rebels trying to bring Assad down and resent Hezbollah's domination of Lebanon's politics and it maintaining an armed force separate from, and stronger than, the national military.

But that issue has been too sensitive and divisive to surface in the election debate. Instead, many have focused on calls for the return of more than a million Syrian refugees who have flooded into Lebanon, saying they threaten the sectarian balance and burden the infrastructure.

FATHERS AND SONS

Even though the civil war ended 28 years ago, politics are still dominated by former warlords and family dynasties embroiled in sectarian divides. These elites' grip on power has always enabled them to settle elections before voters get to the polls.

Some are virtually untouchable. The 80-year-old parliament speaker, Nabih Berri, a Shiite who has held the post for more than 25 years, is running virtually uncontested.

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Others are now passing their seats on to their children. Druze leader Walid Jumblatt, 68, has stepped aside for his son, Taymour. The seat of Suleiman Frangieh, a 52-year-old Maronite Christian leader who is seen as a potential presidential candidate, is going to his son Tony. Michelle Tueini, daughter of lawmaker and journalist Gibran Tueni who was assassinated in a 2005 car bomb, is also running.

One Lebanese website listed 2nd generation politicians running to replace their fathers, then posted pictures of their toddler children, captioned: "Your parliament members for 2025."

SYMBOLIC VOTES

For the disenfranchised and the forgotten, election season is a chance to get noticed.

Manal Kortam is running, but only symbolically — she has no right to run or vote because she's Palestinian. Actually, her mother is Lebanese and father Palestinian, but under Lebanese law women cannot pass down citizenship.

There are about 174,000 registered Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, many of them descendants of those who fled to the country after the creation of Israel in 1948. They have no citizenship and few rights, are highly restricted in where they can work, and are often seen as a disruption to the delicate sectarian balance.

Kortam took to social media with her #WeExist campaign, touring refugee camps and speaking on TVs "so they get ready to deal with us after the elections," as she put it on her Twitter account.

THE SELFIE PRIME MINISTER

Prime Minister Saad Hariri has plastered pictures of himself — and his assassinated father whose political mantle he inherited — all over Beirut, including at its landmark seaside Ferris wheel.

His new nickname? "The selfie prime minister," coined for his affinity for taking selfies with supporters. He even created a selfie app. Some of his supporters have painted sheep and camels blue, the campaign color of his Future Movement party, and paraded them along streets before slaughtering them, sparking outrage from rights activists.

It's a sign that his movement, a bastion of Sunnis, is struggling. The new election law opens up room for alternative Sunnis to garner votes, and Hariri has faced some resentment for his close ties with Shiite Hezbollah, on whose support he relies for his post.

AFTER THE EUPHORIA, JOKES

The change in the law has sparked some optimism the sectarian, family-entrenched political system could be cracked. When it soon became apparent that it likely won't, resistance took the form of jokes and sarcasm.

So bring in the clowns, literally. A group of clowns known as "Clown Me In" has been mocking campaign slogans.

"It is time!" one Christian party's campaign posters proclaimed. "It is time for popcorn," countered a red-nosed clown in an online meme.

A Twitter account listed 12 octogenarian candidates and pronounced them The List of "We Belong to God and to Him we all return" — a local saying for those that have already passed away.

Two artists, Michelle and Noel Keserwany, struck a chord with a music video gone viral, urging young people to make new choices and break the cycle. Its refrain is a catchy call to action: "Here we go again, here we go again."

Indian-held Kashmir erupts in deadly violence, killing 7

By AIJAZ HUSSAIN, Associated Press

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — Indian troops killed three suspected rebels during a gunbattle Saturday in the main city in Indian-controlled Kashmir, while police blamed insurgents for killing three other men during a day of violence and protests in the disputed region.

Counterinsurgency police and paramilitary soldiers staged a morning raid on a cluster of homes in a densely populated neighborhood of Srinagar after getting a tip that militants were hiding there, police said. Troops asked the trapped militants to surrender but they instead started shooting and sparked a gunbattle, police said.

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As the militants and government troops exchanged gunfire, anti-India protests and clashes erupted in several places. Hundreds of demonstrators tried to reach the site of the standoff and threw rocks at troops in a bid to help the rebels escape.

Police and paramilitary soldiers fired shotgun pellets and tear gas to stop the protesters, and at least one protester was run over and killed by a military vehicle. As the violence spiraled, shops in the city shuttered and authorities switched off internet services to make organizing protests more difficult.

Nuclear-armed India and Pakistan each administer part of Kashmir, but both claim it in its entirety. Rebels have been fighting Indian rule since 1989, demanding Indian-controlled Kashmir be made part of Pakistan or become an independent country.

Most Kashmiris support the rebels' cause while also participating in civilian street protests against Indian control. In recent years, mainly young Kashmiris have displayed open solidarity with rebels and sought to protect them by engaging troops in street clashes during military operations. Last year, at least 29 civilians were killed and hundreds were wounded during such clashes.

During Saturday's fierce confrontation, demonstrators chanted pro-rebel slogans such as "Go India, go back" and "We want freedom." Police said they were investigating the death of the man killed in what they called a "road accident."

Top separatist leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq called the young man's death a murder and he and others called for a general strike on Sunday in protest of the day's killings.

"How a murder was committed by the forces today and then brazenly denied! Is there no sense of humanity left in India?" Farooq wrote on Twitter, as he also uploaded a video which shows an armored vehicle knocking down a youth.

Injuries were reported to at least two protesters, three journalists, three soldiers and a police officer.

S.P. Vaid, police director-general, told reporters that Saturday's operation that killed the three militants was a "clean" one.

Meanwhile, gunmen abducted two men from their homes in northern Hajin town late Friday. Their bodies, riddled with bullets, were recovered early Saturday.

Gunmen also entered a civilian home in Sopore area and sprayed bullets at the residents, police said, leading to death of a young man. His wife was critically wounded.

Police accused militants for carrying out these killings, though no rebel group has claimed responsibility.

Kashmiris make no secret of their fury at killings by government forces, which regularly trigger bloody protests and demands for freedom from Indian rule. But the reactions are far more complicated, tangled in fear and loyalty, when residents accused of being informers are targeted.

Immigration detention prolonged in Alabama's 'black hole'

By MALLORY MOENCH, Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Four years after Nigerian native Olusegun Olatunji was convicted of trafficking counterfeit hats, he is still in immigration detention appealing his deportation because he overstayed a visa 30 years ago. Olatunji is detained in Etowah County Detention Center in Gadsden, Alabama — described by immigration advocates and attorneys as a black hole.

The U.S. government detained more than 100,000 immigrants last year. The average length was 34 days, but some detainees are held for months or years due to appeals and deportation delays. Time could increase after President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown and a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling that denied detainees a bond hearing after six months.

Immigrant activists argue detainees should have rights equal to criminal defendants awaiting trial. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials say each immigrant's detention is reviewed and justified.

NASA launches InSight spacecraft to Mars to dig down deep

By MARCIA DUNN, AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — A robotic geologist armed with a hammer and quake monitor rocketed toward Mars on Saturday, aiming to land on the red planet and explore its mysterious insides.

In a twist, NASA launched the Mars InSight lander from California rather than Florida's Cape Canaveral. It was the first interplanetary mission ever to depart from the West Coast, drawing pre-dawn crowds to Vandenberg Air Force Base and rocket watchers down the California coast into Baja.

The spacecraft will take more than six months to get to Mars and start its unprecedented geologic excavations, traveling 300 million miles (485 million kilometers) to get there.

InSight will dig deeper into Mars than ever before — nearly 16 feet, or 5 meters — to take the planet's temperature. It will also attempt to make the first measurements of marsquakes, using a high-tech seismometer placed directly on the Martian surface.

Also aboard the Atlas V rocket: a pair of mini satellites, or CubeSats, meant to trail InSight all the way to Mars in a first-of-its-kind technology demonstration.

The \$1 billion mission involves scientists from the U.S., France, Germany and elsewhere in Europe.

"I can't describe to you in words how very excited I am ... to go off to Mars," said project manager Tom Hoffman from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. "It's going to be awesome."

NASA hasn't put a spacecraft down on Mars since the Curiosity rover in 2012. The U.S. is the only country to successfully land and operate a spacecraft at Mars. It's tough, complicated stuff. Only about 40 percent of all missions to Mars from all countries — orbiters and landers alike — have proven successful over the decades.

If all goes well, the three-legged InSight will descend by parachute and engine firings onto a flat equatorial region of Mars — believed to be free of big, potentially dangerous rocks — on Nov. 26. Once down, it will stay put, using a mechanical arm to place the science instruments on the surface.

"This mission will probe the interior of another terrestrial planet, giving us an idea of the size of the core, the mantle, the crust and our ability then to compare that with the Earth," said NASA's chief scientist Jim Green. "This is of fundamental importance to understand the origin of our solar system and how it became the way it is today."

InSight's principal scientist, Bruce Banerdt of JPL, said Mars is ideal for learning how the rocky planets of our solar system formed 4.5 billion years ago. Unlike our active Earth, Mars hasn't been transformed by plate tectonics and other processes, he noted.

Over the course of two Earth years — or one Martian year — scientists expect InSight's three main experiments to provide a true 3-D image of Mars.

The lander is equipped with a seismometer for measuring marsquakes, a self-hammering probe for burrowing beneath the surface, and a radio system for tracking the spacecraft's position and planet's wobbly rotation, thereby revealing the size and composition of Mars' core.

"InSight, for seismologists, will really be a piece of history, a new page of history," said the Paris Institute of Earth Physics' Philippe Lognonne, lead scientist of the InSight seismometer.

Problems with the French-supplied seismometer kept InSight from launching two years ago. California was always part of the plan.

NASA normally launches from Cape Canaveral, but decided to switch to California for InSight to take advantage of a shorter flight backlog. This was the first U.S. interplanetary mission to launch from somewhere other than Cape Canaveral.

It was so foggy at Vandenberg that spectators there could hear and feel the roar and rumble of the rocket, but couldn't see it. It was a marvelous sight, though, farther south. The rocket's bright orange flame was visible for some time as it arced upward across the dark sky west of greater Los Angeles.

Not even two weeks on the job, NASA's new administrator, Jim Bridenstine, observed the launch on monitors at space agency headquarters in Washington.

"I can't think of a better way to start my day!" Bridenstine said via Twitter. "We're going to Mars!"

Associated Press writer John Antczak in Pasadena, California, contributed to this report.

Online:

NASA: <https://mars.nasa.gov/insight/>

Trump chides Giuliani to 'get his facts straight' on Stormy

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is suggesting Rudy Giuliani, the aggressive new face of his legal team, needed to “get his facts straight” about the hush money paid to porn actress Stormy Daniels just before the 2016 election. Giuliani quickly came up with a new version.

Trump on Friday chided Giuliani even while insisting “we’re not changing any stories” about the \$130,000 settlement paid to Daniels to keep quiet about her allegations of a sexual encounter with Trump — a tryst Trump has denied. Hours later, Giuliani backed away from his previous assertion that the Oct. 27 settlement had been made because Trump was in the stretch run of his campaign.

“The payment was made to resolve a personal and false allegation in order to protect the president’s family,” Giuliani said in a statement. “It would have been done in any event, whether he was a candidate or not.”

A day earlier, Giuliani had told Fox News: “Imagine if that came out on October 15, 2016, in the middle of the last debate with Hillary Clinton.”

Trump said Giuliani was “a great guy but he just started a day ago” on the defense team, and the former New York mayor was still “learning the subject matter.” Giuliani disclosed this week that Trump knew about the payment to Daniels made by Trump’s personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, and the president repaid Cohen.

Giuliani insisted Trump didn’t know the specifics of Cohen’s arrangement with Daniels until recently, and he told “Fox & Friends” on Thursday that the president was unaware of all the details until “maybe 10 days ago.” Giuliani told The New York Times that Trump had repaid Cohen \$35,000 a month “out of his personal family account” after the campaign was over. He said Cohen received \$460,000 or \$470,000 in all for expenses related to Trump.

While Giuliani suggested Trump knew something about the payments, even as a monthly retainer, Trump had told reporters on Air Force One last month that he hadn’t known about a settlement with Daniels.

Trump’s irritation was plain Friday when reporters reminded him of his previous denial. He blasted the media for focusing on “crap” stories such as the Daniels matter and the special counsel’s investigation of Russian meddling in the 2016 election.

The president claimed that “virtually everything” reported about the payments has been wrong. He declined to elaborate.

It was the Trump team’s own missteps that yielded another day of headlines about Daniels. In his statement, Giuliani said his previous “references to timing were not describing my understanding of the president’s knowledge, but instead, my understanding of these matters.” He didn’t elaborate on that either.

Giuliani’s statement correcting himself came just a day after he said, “You won’t see daylight between me and the president.”

The about-face came amid concern in the White House that Giuliani’s comments could leave the president legally vulnerable.

Giuliani repeated his belief that the payment did not constitute a campaign finance violation. But legal experts have said the new information raises questions, including whether the money represented repayment of an undisclosed loan or could be seen as reimbursement for a campaign expenditure. Either could be legally problematic.

The episode also revived worries in Trump’s inner circle about Giuliani, who enjoys the media limelight and has a tendency to go off script. He had been widely expected to join Trump’s administration but was passed over for secretary of state, the position he badly wanted.

His whirlwind press tour this week bewildered West Wing aides, who were cut out of the decision-making

process when Giuliani first revealed that Trump, who often boasts about signing his own checks, had some knowledge about the payment to Daniels.

No debt to Cohen was listed on Trump's personal financial disclosure form, which was certified on June 16, 2017. Asked if Trump had filed a fraudulent form, White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Thursday: "I don't know."

Daniels, whose legal name is Stephanie Clifford, is seeking to be released from a nondisclosure deal she signed in the days before the 2016 election to keep her from talking about a 2006 sexual encounter she said she had with Trump. She has also filed defamation suits against Cohen and Trump.

Her attorney, Michael Avenatti, tweeted Friday that "Mr. Giuliani and Mr. Trump are making it up as they go along." He added: "How stupid do they think all of us are?"

Trump is facing mounting legal threats from the Cohen-Daniels situation and the special counsel's investigation of possible Russian coordination with the Trump presidential campaign.

Cohen is facing a criminal investigation in New York, and FBI agents raided his home and office several weeks ago seeking records about the Daniels nondisclosure agreement.

Trump has been playing down his relationship with Cohen but did acknowledge last week that Cohen represented him in the "crazy Stormy Daniels deal."

Associated Press writer Zeke Miller contributed to this report.

'I can go days without eating': Hunger rises in South Sudan

By SAM MEDNICK, Associated Press

KANDAK, South Sudan (AP) — "I'm afraid I'll starve to death," said Gatdin Bol. Curled on a dirt floor, the frail 65-year-old said he survives only by eating fruit from the trees in this remote South Sudanese town in the shadow of civil war.

Three months ago when government troops attacked Bol's hometown in Jonglei state they stole everything he owned, including his food, he said. He fled with his wife and four children, walking for two months until they reached Kandak in Ayod County. They remain hungry. The planting season has yet to begin and they missed the United Nations' food registration and aren't eligible for assistance.

Five years into South Sudan's civil war more than 7 million people are facing severe hunger without food aid, according to the latest analysis by the U.N. and the government. Aid workers warn that a recent surge in fighting could once again plunge thousands of people into famine.

"In the places where there is displacement and we can't get there, it's a cause for concern," Adnan Khan, the World Food Program country director, told The Associated Press during a food distribution this week in the rebel-held town of Kandak.

Ayod is one of 11 counties in South Sudan that face extreme hunger. Remote and lacking basic resources like water and health care, the majority of its residents subsist on food aid.

"Ayod remains precarious as people heavily rely on food drops, which they then have to share with displaced kin. With very few of them cultivating and the rainy season set to disrupt humanitarian activities the situation can only get worse," said Nicholas Kerandi, food security analyst for the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization.

During the visit to Kandak, several people told AP they had nothing to eat.

"The army looted my garden and took my food. If I don't find food I can go days without eating," said Puot Kuony, hanging his head.

In March, the 45-year-old said he saw soldiers shoot and kill his uncle and run over him with a truck before stealing Kuony's food while attacking his hometown of Wau. He fled to Kandak with his wife and three children, but unable to cultivate and without a food registration card he begs for rations from neighbors.

Authorities in Kandak estimate that half the population, about 9,000 people, have been displaced from other parts of Jonglei state, which has been at the heart of the fighting. Since March about 1,800 people have arrived, straining the community's few resources.

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Residents blame South Sudan's civil war for their deteriorating situation.

"We want peace so people can move around and cultivate and not feel trapped. Everyone across South Sudan relies on food relief and as a leader of the country you can't say that's OK," said Jung Gony Yut, humanitarian coordinator for the opposition in Magok County.

South Sudan's government is doing what it can to ensure that "normalcy" returns to its people, said spokesman Ateny Wek Ateny. In the worst-affected areas the government asks aid workers to step in and provide relief, including opposition-held areas, he said.

But the international community's patience is wearing thin as reports continue of aid workers being blocked from carrying out their work, and as peace talks yield little progress. The next round of talks begins May 17.

Thousands of people had fled to the swamps, surviving on wild vegetables and fruit alone, the chief of the U.N. mission in South Sudan, David Shearer, said in a statement.

"Earlier this year it felt like we were moving in the right direction," he said. "But after seeing the effects on civilians of this conflict, I believe there is a real risk that the situation will further undermine the chance for lasting peace."

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A free trader to world, China's Xi champions Marx at home

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — To the world, China's President Xi Jinping presents himself as a champion of free markets. At home, he's leading a campaign to promote the works of communist philosopher Karl Marx, who 150 years ago famously warned of the dangers of global capitalism.

"Marx was Correct," declared a slickly produced TV special that's part of a state media campaign rolled out by Xi's administration this week seeking to popularize Marx among younger Chinese raised in an era of market-style economic reform. The campaign featured a catchy theme song, dramatic readings, and an article titled "Say Hi to Marx" showing an illustration of the white-bearded Marx making a trendy V-for-victory sign.

"Today, we commemorate Marx in order to pay tribute to the greatest thinker in the history of mankind and also to declare our firm belief in the scientific truth of Marxism," Xi said in a speech Friday prominently displayed across state media platforms.

It's all about cementing the power of Xi and the ruling Communist Party and combating liberal Western democratic concepts thought to threaten its rule, using a legacy dating way past the 1949 Chinese revolution, analysts say.

The madness for Marx dovetails with a drive to "Sinicize" culture, religion and ideology by instilling social control through the teachings of the ancient philosopher Confucius, said Perry Link, an American expert on Chinese literature and politics.

"Neither embrace has anything to do with intellectual content and everything to do with bolstering political power today," Link wrote in an email.

The Marx media blitz is mainly for domestic consumption. On the global stage, Xi is striving to cast his country as a modern champion of free trade. Last year, he became the first Chinese president to attend the World Economic Forum, a glitzy gathering of champagne-sipping globalists at a Swiss Alpine resort in Davos, where he made a high-profile speech advocating free markets.

Xi's goal is to portray China as a responsible economic power while showing the world and domestic critics that Beijing will persist in pursuing its own path of Chinese-style Marxism, said Willy Lam, an expert on Chinese politics at the Chinese University in Hong Kong.

"He's striking a defiant pose to the West and opponents at home that China will not buckle under," Lam said.

The Marxism mantra faces an uphill battle, though, given the widening gulf between the communist

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leadership and Chinese youth who tend to be enamored with celebrity gossip and irreverent social satire that goes viral across social media before it is censored.

"It's extremely hard to push Marxism in modern China especially in this internet era. What it presents is severely unrealistic," said Zhang Lifan, a Beijing-based independent political analyst.

"Even inside China, I believe most party members don't understand or believe in Marxism anymore," Zhang said. "Instead, they just use it as a tool for promotion."

Xi's zeal for Marxist thought may partly reflect his own experience. Like millions of urban youths of his generation, as a teenager he was "sent-down" to the countryside to do manual labor instead of going to school during the bloody turmoil of the ultra-leftist 1964-76 Cultural Revolution.

"Xi is limited to his knowledge and education in the past, so this is what he knows," said Zhang. "The younger generations who are very independent are totally different from them."

The new campaign is timed to coincide with the bicentennial of Marx's birth and the 170th anniversary of the publication of the "Communist Manifesto," which along with "Das Kapital" helped shape much modern thought about labor, social classes and economic and political systems.

Those works, some produced in collaboration with Friedrich Engels, are the bedrock of communism. But his thought and image have been eclipsed over three decades of rapid industrialization and social change. For the economy, China's communist leaders no longer advocate total state control or class struggle. On the political front, the party has been tightening its iron grip on power, swiftly crushing real and perceived threats.

Xi has gone even further to clinch his status as the most powerful Chinese leader since Mao Zedong, sidelining or prosecuting rivals and having his own "thought" written into the party constitution. In March, the rubber-stamp legislature removed presidential term limits from the Chinese constitution, enabling him to remain head of state indefinitely.

All that, plus the vigorous Marx and Confucius campaigns, point not to strength but to insecurity, Link said.

"I'm not sure Xi's personal political position is as secure as it appears," Link said. "Purging his rivals motivates his rivals; and popular support would quickly go south if something bad, like an economic downturn, suddenly appeared."

The party's jitters are apparent in its crusade against universal values, independent legal activists and liberal democratic thought, its crackdowns on what the authorities deem unhealthy, such as an online forum for discussing LGBT issues to the satirical retooling of the British cartoon character Peppa Pig.

Instead, party ideologues say, why not Marx as a healthy alternative?

State broadcaster CCTV's "Marx was Correct" special featured stylish animation, a studio audience of college students and a question and answer session. Each episode concluded with a soft-rock ode to Marx, "Your Name, Our Strength," accompanied by video depicting China's rise from the time of Marx's birth to recent accomplishments such as bullet trains and the Chinese navy's first aircraft carrier.

Marxism "should be consolidated as the guiding ideology and promoted in campuses, classrooms, and among students," Xi said during a visit to the School of Marxism at prestigious Peking University, considered one of the cradles of Chinese communism, which recently added a research institute on Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism With Chinese Characteristics for a New Era.

Associated Press video journalist Emily Wang contributed to this report.

Hezbollah set to tighten grip in Lebanon vote

By ZEINA KARAM, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Few countries are as vulnerable to the Middle East's mayhem as Lebanon, which has taken in a million refugees from the catastrophic war in neighboring Syria, seen the Iran-backed Lebanese Hezbollah militia embroiled in that war and watched Saudi Arabia try to oust its prime minister.

Yet campaigning for Sunday's parliamentary election, the first in nine years, has timidly sidestepped the big issues, leaving many Lebanese expecting more of the same. It's especially galling for Lebanese concerned

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that a still-dominant Hezbollah could drag the country into a looming Iran-Israel regional confrontation.

The vote is expected to be a test for the country's Western-backed Sunni prime minister, Saad Hariri, and his Iran-backed Shiite militant opponent, Hezbollah, which is looking to tighten its grip and expand its presence in the 128-seat parliament — likely at Hariri's expense.

Interior Minister Nouhad Mashnouk, a member of Hariri's inner circle, said the election is not "a Sunni-Shiite conflict but rather a conflict between a group that believes in a state and a nation, and another that has regional and Iranian leanings."

The sides, however, can hardly govern effectively without each other and are expected to recreate the unity government that currently exists, which incorporates members of the militant group.

Most of the campaigning by more than 500 candidates has revolved around platforms of stability and economic growth, with many of Lebanon's civil war-era political titans set to return, including Lebanon's aging Shiite parliament speaker, Nabih Berri, a Hezbollah ally who has held the post for more than 25 years and who is virtually uncontested. Some warlords are passing on their seats to their sons, including Druze leader Walid Jumblatt.

"Divisive issues such as Hezbollah's weapons and the controversy over its participation in regional conflicts are almost entirely absent from the electoral campaigns, indicating implicit acceptance of the party's domestic hegemony," wrote analyst Joseph Bahout in an article for the Carnegie Middle East Center.

A new election law agreed on last year has opened cracks through which rivals within the Shiite community could potentially challenge Hezbollah, and political newcomers and independents could try to break through the monopoly long enjoyed by the political dynasties.

It also promises to shake things up by reorganizing Lebanon's electoral map, consolidating 23 districts into 15, and awarding seats by share of the vote received, rather than winner takes all. The law also allows Lebanese expatriates to vote abroad for the first time, adding a new level of unpredictability to the mix.

The last time elections were held in Lebanon was in 2009. Since then, members of parliament have extended their terms twice, citing security threats linked to the war in neighboring Syria.

Lebanon is technically a parliamentary democracy but is shackled by a decades-old sectarian-based power-sharing system, and its politics are dominated by former warlords that have long exploited the system to perpetuate corruption and nepotism. All senior government positions are allocated according to sect, including the head of state, who should be a Christian, the prime minister, a Sunni Muslim, and the parliament speaker, a Shiite. Parliament is divided equally between Christians and Muslims, with seats allotted according to religious sect.

The formula, based on outdated demographic data that does not account for nearly 200,000 Palestinians who are denied citizenship and a vote, allows people to vote according to their religious affiliations, not a political program.

A record number of first-time hopefuls are campaigning for change, urging voters to shun politicians who have drowned the country in corruption and debt. Many rose to prominence as organizers of protests over a 2015 trash collection crisis that left garbage in the streets for months and laid bare the extent of the public sector mismanagement plaguing Lebanon.

"It reflects a new mindset emerging among significant sectors of the Lebanese electorate, pointing in the direction of making a small dent in the religious sect-based political system," said Randa Slim, an analyst with the Washington-based Middle East Institute.

Still, the biggest winners appear to be Hezbollah and its allies, who look set to scoop up at least some of the seats lost by Hariri's coalition, largely because of the expected fragmentation of the Sunni vote.

Hariri now has the largest block in parliament, but is likely to lose seats to rival politicians. Some of Hariri's supporters shifted their allegiance after the billionaire businessman, who also holds Saudi citizenship, laid off scores of employees in his development company, Saudi Oger, as well as in Hariri-owned charities and media outlets in Lebanon, largely because of Saudi spending cuts.

That loss of support has been compounded by what some see as a weak stance vis-a-vis Hezbollah, accusing him of catering to and giving political cover to the militant group, which a U.N.-backed tribunal

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has accused in the 2015 assassination of his father, Rafik Hariri.

Hezbollah offered its support to Hariri after he was detained in Saudi Arabia late last year during a visit to Riyadh in which he announced his resignation as prime minister, citing Iran and Hezbollah's meddling in the region. The move was widely seen as Saudi coercion, although Hariri denies stepping down against his will and has since reversed his resignation.

Hezbollah now seeks, along with its allies, to win at least 43 seats in the 128-member legislature, which would enable the militant group to veto any laws it opposes.

Hezbollah has sent thousands of fighters to Syria to shore up President Bashar Assad, and has cleared the vast region along the countries' shared border of Islamic militants, leaving hundreds of its fighters killed and wounded. It is now campaigning heavily on those achievements.

Its leader, Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, called for heavy voter turnout, particularly in the Baalbek-Hermel region in eastern Lebanon, traditionally a Hezbollah stronghold which now faces a challenge from rivals.

"You should protect with your votes your victories and achievements, for which you've paid a very high price," Nasrallah said in an appeal to supporters at an election rally in the area on Monday.

Despite limited pushback from the Shiite community, Hezbollah has largely delivered on its promises in Syria as far as the Shiite community is concerned and will now be expected to deliver on the economic front, Slim said.

She expects a governing coalition between Hariri and Hezbollah to re-emerge from Sunday's vote and says if the elections produce a weaker Hariri, it will be all the more reason for Hezbollah to push for him to be the next prime minister.

"In light of the talk of a looming Iranian-Israeli confrontation in Syria, Hezbollah will be more incentivized in not rocking the boat in Lebanon," she said.

Associated Press writer Bassem Mroue in Beirut contributed to this report.

Iran president criticizes blocking of Telegram messaging app

By AMIR VAHDAT, Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani is criticizing the blocking of the popular Telegram messaging app in the Islamic Republic, suggesting those "at the highest level" in the country shut off access.

Rouhani, a relatively moderate cleric within Iran's Shiite theocracy, did not elaborate in his online comments late Friday but they seem aimed at redirecting domestic anger over the blocking of the app, believed to be used by half of Iran's 80 million people. The app was crucial in fanning nationwide protests in December and January.

Authorities temporarily blocked the app to calm the demonstrations, but Iran's judiciary on Monday ordered internet service providers to block access to the app. Since then, users largely haven't been able to access it.

Tehran's prosecutor also ordered Telegram be blocked in a way that would not allow users to bypass the restrictions using a virtual private network or other means. Computer-savvy Iranians routinely use such VPNs to get around online restrictions in the country to use Facebook, Twitter and other prohibited sites.

In a post on photo-sharing app Instagram, which isn't blocked in Iran, Rouhani wrote: "No social network or messenger were blocked 'by this government' and won't be blocked."

"If at the highest level of the system a decision has been made to restrict or block the people's communications, the real owners of this country, which are the people, should be aware of this," Rouhani added.

The semi-official ISNA news agency also reported his remarks.

Telegram allows users to send text messages, pictures and video over the internet. The service touts itself as being highly encrypted and allows users to set their messages to "self-destruct" after a certain period, making it a favorite among activists and others concerned about their privacy.

The head of Iran's parliamentary committee on national security and foreign policy, Alaeddin Boroujerdi,

said last month Telegram would be blocked. Iranian authorities have been trying to convince the country to use indigenously made messaging apps instead, though activists worry those program likely can be monitored by the government.

Boroujerdi also said the decision to block the app was a response to what he called Telegram's destructive role in anti-government protests that began in late December. The protests saw at least 25 people killed and nearly 5,000 reportedly arrested.

Albert 3K: Pujols gets 3,000th hit, Angels beat Mariners 5-0

By TIM BOOTH, AP Sports Writer

SEATTLE (AP) — Albert Pujols was going to get a toast in the clubhouse regardless. Still, he wanted to make sure his 3,000th hit came after a win.

"I was really excited, but at the same time you still have a game you need to play and you still need to focus to win that game," Pujols said. "That's what I told those guys. Let's go win that game so it can taste a little better."

Pujols became the 32nd member of the 3,000-hit club with a broken-bat single in the fifth inning of the Los Angeles Angels' 5-0 win over the Seattle Mariners on Friday night. He added another hit in the ninth inning to pass Roberto Clemente on the career list, a two-run single that also ensured the Angels would walk away with a victory.

"I think he knows how important it is for our club to continue to put pressure on teams to score runs," manager Mike Scioscia said. "Those two runs were big, obviously."

Pujols got No. 3,000 in his sixth attempt to join the exclusive list after getting to 2,999 career hits. Pujols got just enough of Mike Leake's pitch to find the outfield grass and add another accolade to a likely Hall of Fame career. He received a standing ovation from the crowd in Seattle after reaching first base and being congratulated by his teammates.

The slugger made his career out of hitting the ball out of the yard, but reached the milestone by throwing his bat at a sinker that was probably out of the strike zone. Pujols didn't make great contact but was strong enough to loft the ball over the infield and into right.

His two-run single in the ninth inning scored Mike Trout and Justin Upton with hit No. 3,001.

"It was fun that it turned into a little bit of a battle before he got a hit. Congratulations to him," Leake said. "He's a competitor at every second that he's on the field. He's been a joy to watch and a joy to compete against, for sure."

The 38-year-old Pujols joined Hank Aaron, Willie Mays and Alex Rodriguez as the only major leaguers with 3,000 hits and 600 homers. He's the first player to reach 3,000 hits since Adrian Beltre last year against Baltimore.

Pujols became the second Dominican to reach the mark after Beltre. With Seattle's Ichiro Suzuki stepping away this week for the remainder of the 2018 season, Beltre is the only active player with more hits than Pujols.

"I'm aware of the legacy and the people that I tie and am on the same page right now," Pujols said. "But at the end of the day it's about winning a championship. Nothing would be more special than in September and October and playing in the playoffs and bringing a championship back to the city of Anaheim."

And it may be a while before another player joins the club. The next closest player to 3,000 is Miguel Cabrera, who is more than 300 hits away. After Cabrera is Robinson Cano, nearly 600 hits shy of the mark.

"Three-thousand hits is a lot. I think the players that have played this game understand how hard it is to stay healthy and be that productive over that length of time," Seattle manager Scott Servais said. "It's pretty special to get there."

Pujols' accomplishment came in a victory thanks to the pitching of Garrett Richards, who took a shutout into the seventh inning. Richards (4-1) scattered four hits and had eight strikeouts in his first start against Seattle since late 2015.

Shohei Ohtani was lustfully booed by Seattle fans in his first game in the Pacific Northwest. The Mariners

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believed they had a shot at landing the Japanese star last offseason, only to see him choose a division rival. He showed what they missed out on with two hits, including a two-out RBI double after Pujols' 3,000th hit, giving the Angels a 3-0 lead.

Leake (3-3) lost for the third time in four starts. He threw 5 1/3 innings and matched a season-high with four walks.

REACHING 3,000

Pujols is the second player to collect his 3,000th hit in Seattle after Rafael Palmeiro's double in 2005 at Safeco Field. Like Pujols, Palmeiro's hit came in the fifth inning.

OHTANI UPDATE

All signs are that Ohtani will return the mound for the Angels on Sunday. Scioscia said Ohtani's bullpen session on Friday went well and as long as there aren't any issues when he's re-examined on Saturday he's expected to start the series finale in Seattle.

ROSTER MOVES

The Angels placed C Martin Maldonado on bereavement list and selected the contract of C Juan Graterol from the minors. LHP JC Ramirez was transferred to the 60-day DL.

UP NEXT

Angels: Lefty Tyler Skaggs (3-2) allowed only two earned runs in his last start but was tagged with the loss against the New York Yankees. Skaggs has a 4.81 ERA in seven career starts vs. Seattle.

Mariners: Lefty Marco Gonzales (3-2) goes for his second straight victory. Gonzales allowed two earned runs in six innings in his last start against Cleveland.

For more AP baseball coverage: <https://apnews.com/tag/MLBbaseball>

Buehler, Dodgers' bullpen combine to no-hit Padres in Mexico

By CARLOS RODRIGUEZ, Associated Press

MONTERREY, Mexico (AP) — The Dodgers have the most no-hitters in the majors — and now the most in Mexico, too.

Rookie Walker Buehler and a trio of Los Angeles relievers combined for the franchise's 23rd no-hitter in a 4-0 victory over the San Diego Padres in the opener of a neutral-site series Friday night.

Mexico had waited since 1999 to host a regular-season big league game, and it got a historic one: the first no-hitter ever outside the U.S. or Canada and the 12th combined no-hitter in major league history.

"It was awesome," Buehler said. "It's one of those things, to pitch in a place like this, an atmosphere like this. It was awesome."

A crowd of 21,536 at Estadio de Beisbol Monterrey saw Buehler stay steady despite early rain. In just his third start in the majors, he went six innings before Tony Cingrani, Yimi Garcia and Adam Liberatore closed it out.

Buehler, a 23-year-old taken in the first round of the 2015 amateur draft, struck out eight and walked three. After 93 pitches, the highly touted right-hander was pulled. Cingrani walked two in the seventh, but the lefty kept the bid intact.

"It's probably one of the toughest conversations I ever had, I wanted to keep going," Buehler said. "But they made the choice and the guys finished out and it was cool."

Buehler overcame wet conditions — the hardest rain fell in the second inning.

"I threw one in high school, but I gave up two runs in the first inning, so that one doesn't really count," Buehler said.

Garcia struck out two in a perfect eighth and Liberatore threw a 1-2-3 ninth, striking out Franchy Cordero to end it with the Dodgers' 146th pitch.

That ended a festive night that began with a ceremonial first pitch thrown by Dodgers great Fernando Valenzuela, who became a star in the U.S. and Mexico and set off "Fernandomania" when he became a fan favorite in the 1980s.

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Valenzuela pitched a no-hitter against St. Louis at Dodger Stadium on June 29, 1990, the same night Oakland's Dave Stewart pitched a no-hitter at Toronto — one of five in Canada, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

The Dodgers threw this no-hitter on the same night Albert Pujols of the Los Angeles Angels got his 3,000th hit in a game at Seattle. When Pujols hit his 600th home run at home against Minnesota last June 3, Miami's Edinson Volquez pitched a no-hitter at home against Arizona.

These dual accomplishments evoked memories of the day in 1985, too, when Rod Carew got his 3,000th hit and Tom Seaver won his 300th game.

And the team with the most no-hitters in major league history — Boston is second with 18 — accomplished the feat against the only franchise that hasn't pitched any.

This series was part of Major League Baseball's push to internationalize the sport. No doubt, souvenirs from this game will wind up in the Hall of Fame

Buehler's highest pitch count in the majors is 94 pitches, reached in his previous outing against San Francisco.

"It's one of those where you're pretty angry to come out, but the bullpen, the guys that we have, I trust it in their hands, too," he said. "And it worked out."

Dodgers manager Dave Roberts isn't afraid to pull a young pitcher during a no-hitter. He removed then-rookie Ross Stripling from a bid against San Francisco with one out in the eighth inning in 2016. Reliever Chris Hatcher allowed a home run to the next batter.

This one worked out better for Roberts, giving baseball its second no-hitter of the season. Oakland left-hander Sean Manaea threw the first against Boston on April 21.

Joey Lucchesi (3-2) allowed three runs and five hits as the last-place Padres dropped to 11-22.

Matt Kemp had an RBI single on a popup that fell between shortstop Freddy Galvis and right fielder Matt Szczur in short right field in the first inning, and Chris Taylor and Enrique Hernandez hit consecutive homers in the second. Alex Verdugo singled in a run in the sixth against Adam Cimber.

"This is the fourth time that I get to see a no-hitter, but the first one that I'm on the good end of it," Hernandez said. "Walker was electric and the relievers did a great job. It's not an easy feat. It's a night that no one is going to forget."

TRAINER'S ROOM

Dodgers: RHP Julio Urias made the trip to his native Mexico. The 21-year-old had surgery last June to repair the left anterior capsule in his pitching shoulder, and his return was projected at 12-to-14 months. Roberts said Urias' return will not be until the second half of the season.

UP NEXT

The Monterrey series continues with Dodgers RHP Kenta Maeda (2-2, 3.76 ERA) opposing RHP Bryan Mitchell (0-3, 6.07) on Saturday.

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

Human Rights Watch asks Dubai's ruler about runaway daughter

By The Associated Press

Human Rights Watch on Saturday asked Dubai's ruling sheikh to reveal the whereabouts of his daughter after a French ex-spy and others say she fled the emirate, only to be arrested off the coast of India.

A statement by the organization marks the latest twist in the cloak-and-dagger drama surrounding the disappearance of Sheikha Latifa bint Mohammed Al Maktoum, who friends believe has been returned to Dubai after fleeing in late February. She was detained March 4 in a seaborne raid, witnesses said.

Sheikha Latifa's father is Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai's ruler and the United Arab Emirates' vice president and prime minister.

"Failure to disclose the whereabouts and status of the princess could qualify as an enforced disappearance, given the evidence suggesting that she was last seen as UAE authorities were detaining her," Human

Rights Watch said.

Dubai has declined to comment publicly about Sheikha Latifa since The Associated Press reported in April on her disappearance. The government's Dubai Media Office offered no immediate comment Saturday.

"UAE authorities should immediately reveal the whereabouts of Sheikha Latifa, confirm her status and allow her contact with the outside world," said Sarah Leah Whitson, Human Rights Watch's Middle East director.

Hawaii's Kilauea volcano jolts with lava, quakes and gas

By **CALEB JONES** and **MARCO GARCIA**, Associated Press

PAHOA, Hawaii (AP) — Sputtering lava, strong earthquakes and toxic gas jolted the southern part of the Big Island of Hawaii as magma shifted underneath a restless Kilauea volcano.

The trifecta of natural threats forced stressed out residents to evacuate and prompted the closure of parks and college campuses on Friday.

Multiple new vents, from which lava is spurting out of the ground, formed in the same residential neighborhood where molten rock first emerged Thursday. At midday, a magnitude 6.9 earthquake struck — the biggest of hundreds of quakes this week and the largest to strike the state in 43 years. Residents were also warned to watch out for dangerous levels of sulfuric gas.

Hawaiian Volcano Observatory spokeswoman Janet Babb said the earthquakes reflected the volcano adjusting to the shifting magma.

"The magma moving down the rift zones, it causes stress on the south flank of the volcano," Babb said. "We're just getting a series of earthquakes."

She said scientists were studying whether the quakes would affect the eruption.

The lava lake at Kilauea's summit crater dropped significantly, suggesting the magma was moving eastward toward Puna, a mostly rural district of forests, papaya farms and lava fields left by past eruptions.

Officials ordered more than 1,700 people out of Big Island communities near the lava, warning of the dangers of spattering hot rock and high levels of sulfuric gas that could threaten the elderly and people with breathing problems. Two homes have burned.

Julie Woolsey evacuated her home late Thursday as a volcanic vent, or an opening in the Earth's surface where lava emerges, sprouted up on her street in the Leilani Estates neighborhood.

Lava was about 1,000 yards from her home, which Woolsey built on a lot purchased for \$35,000 11 years ago after living on Maui became too expensive.

"We knew we were building on an active volcano," she said, but added that she thought the danger from lava was a remote possibility.

She said she thought it was remote even days ago when she began packing and preparing to evacuate.

"You can't really predict what Pele is going to do," Woolsey said, referring to the Hawaiian volcano goddess. "It's hard to keep up. We're hoping our house doesn't burn down."

She let her chickens loose, loaded her dogs into her truck and evacuated with her daughter and grandson. She's staying at a cabin with her daughter's in-laws.

Local authorities held a community meeting with residents from lava affected areas Friday night at Pahoehoe High School.

Two new volcanic vents, from which lava is spurting, developed Friday, bringing the number formed to five.

State Sen. Russell Ruderman said he's experienced many earthquakes, but the magnitude-5.4 temblor that hit first "scared the heck out of me." Merchandise fell off the shelves in a natural food store he owns.

When the larger quake followed, he said he felt strong shaking in Hilo, the island's largest city that is roughly 45 minutes from the rural Puna area.

"We're all rattled right now," he said. "It's one thing after another. It's feeling kind of stressful out here."

State officials didn't report damage to roadways. Hawaii County Acting Mayor Wil Okabe said the larger quake cracked a beam in a county gymnasium in Hilo, forcing workers to be sent home.

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Hawaii Electric Light said the jolt knocked out power to about 14,400 customers, but electricity was restored about two hours later.

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park evacuated all visitors and non-emergency staff. The quakes triggered rock slides on park trails and crater walls. Narrow fissures appeared on the ground at a building overlooking the crater at Kilauea's summit.

The University of Hawaii at Hilo and Hawaii Community College both closed campuses to allow students and employees to "attend to personal business and priorities."

Authorities already had closed a long stretch of Highway 130, one of the main arteries through Puna, because of the threat of sulfuric gas.

At Leilani Estates, where lava was pushing through cracks in the earth, some residents still wanted to get home.

Brad Stanfill said the lava was more than 3 miles (5 kilometers) from his house but he was not allowed in because of a mandatory evacuation order. He was frustrated because he wanted to feed his rabbits and dogs and check on his property.

One woman angrily told police guarding Leilani Estates that she was going in and they couldn't arrest her. She stormed past police unopposed.

Leilani Estates has about 1,700 residents and 770 homes. A nearby neighborhood, Lanipuna Gardens, which has a few dozen people, also has been evacuated.

Kilauea has been continuously erupting since 1983 and is one of five volcanoes that make up the Big Island. Activity picked up earlier this week, indicating a possible new lava outbreak.

The crater floor began to collapse Monday, triggering earthquakes and pushing the lava into new underground chambers. The collapse caused magma to push more than 10 miles (16 kilometers) downslope toward the populated southeast coastline.

Residents have faced lava threats before.

In 2014, lava burned a house and destroyed a cemetery near the town of Pahoa. Residents were worried it would cover the town's main road and cut off the community from the rest of the island, but the molten rock stalled.

From 1990 through 1991, lava slowly overtook the town of Kalapana, burning homes and covering roads and gardens.

Kilauea hasn't been the kind of volcano that shoots lava from its summit into the sky, causing widespread destruction. It tends to ooze lava from fissures in its sides, which often gives residents at least a few hours' warning before it reaches their property.

Associated Press writers Jennifer Sinco Kelleher, Audrey McAvoy and Sophia Yan in Honolulu, Mark Thiesen in Anchorage, Alaska, and Alina Hartounian in Phoenix contributed to this report.

Trump says time, place set for planned US-North Korea summit

By **MATTHEW PENNINGTON** and **ZEKE MILLER**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is offering his latest teaser for a historic U.S. summit with North Korea: The time and place have been set, but he's not saying when and where.

The White House on Friday did announce the details of a separate meeting later this month between Trump and South Korean President Moon Jae-in, as Washington pushed back on a report that Trump is considering the withdrawal of U.S. forces from its ally.

Trump and Moon plan to meet at the White House on May 22 to "continue their close coordination on developments regarding the Korean Peninsula" following last Friday's meeting between Moon and Kim Jong Un. They will also discuss the U.S. president's own upcoming summit with the North Korean leader, a statement said.

Earlier this week, Trump expressed a preference for holding the "big event" with Kim in the demilitarized zone or DMZ between the two Koreas, where Moon and Kim met. He also said Singapore was in conten-

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tion to host what will be the first summit of between a U.S. and a North Korean leader.

"We now have a date and we have a location. We'll be announcing it soon," Trump told reporters Friday from the White House South Lawn before departing for Dallas. He's previously said the summit was planned for May or early June.

A meeting with Kim seemed an outlandish possibility just a few months ago when the two leaders were trading threats and insults over North Korea's development of nuclear weapons. But momentum for diplomacy has built this year as the rival Koreas have patched up ties. In March, Trump unexpectedly accepted an offer of talks from Kim after the North Korean dictator agreed to suspend nuclear and ballistic missile tests and discuss "denuclearization."

According to South Korea, Kim has said he'd be willing to give up his nukes if the United States commits to a formal end to the Korean War and pledges not to attack the North. But his exact demands for relinquishing weapons that his nation spent decades building remains unclear.

Trump said that withdrawing U.S. forces from South Korea is "not on the table." Some 28,500 U.S. forces are based in the allied nation, a military presence that has been preserved to deter North Korea since the war ended in 1953 without a peace treaty.

"Now I have to tell you, at some point into the future, I would like to save the money," Trump said later as he prepared to board Air Force One. "You know we have 32,000 troops there but I think a lot of great things will happen but troops are not on the table. Absolutely."

The New York Times reported that Trump has asked the Pentagon to prepare options plans for drawing down American troops. It cited unnamed officials as saying that wasn't intended to be a bargaining chip with Kim, but did reflect that a prospective peace treaty between the Koreas could diminish the need for U.S. forces in South Korea.

At the inter-Korean summit last Friday, held on the southern side of the DMZ, Moon and Kim pledged to rid the peninsula of nuclear weapons and seek a formal end this year to the Korean conflict where the opposing sides remain technically at war more than six decades after fighting halted with an armistice.

But for Trump to contemplate withdrawing troops now would be a quixotic move as he enters into negotiations with Kim whose demands and intentions are uncertain. Two weeks ago, shortly before the inter-Korean summit, Moon said that Kim actually wasn't insisting on a longstanding demand for the withdrawal of U.S. troops as a precondition for abandoning his nukes.

National security adviser John Bolton, who met his South Korean counterpart Chung Eui-yong in Washington on Friday, called the Times report "utter nonsense."

During his presidential campaign, Trump complained that South Korea does not do enough to financially support the American military commitment. In March, Washington and Seoul began negotiations on how much South Korea should offset the costs of the deployment in the coming years. Under the current agreement that expires at the end of 2018, the South provides about \$830 million per year.

Before Trump meets Kim, Washington is looking for North Korea to address another persistent source of tension between the adversaries: the detention of three Korean-Americans accused of anti-state of activities in the North.

Trump hinted that the release of Kim Dong Chul, Kim Hak Song and Tony Kim was in the offing, but again was sparing on the details.

"We're having very substantive talks with North Korea and a lot of things have already happened with respect to the hostages, and I think you're going to see very good things. As I said yesterday, stay tuned," Trump said, referring to an earlier tweet on the issue.

Associated Press writer Ken Thomas contributed to this report.

Hard-line US demands on China raise stakes in trade talks

By GILLIAN WONG, PAUL WISEMAN and DAKE KANG, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — A list of hard-line demands that the Trump administration handed China this week could make it even more difficult to resolve a trade conflict between the world's two largest economies.

That's the view of trade analysts who say the U.S. insistence that Beijing shrink America's gaping trade deficit with China by \$200 billion by the end of 2020, among other demands, is more likely to raise tensions than to calm them. The thrust of the demands is that China should give up policies that favor domestic companies especially in a strategic rivalry with the U.S. over technology — policies Beijing considers core to its state-driven economic model and vital for its future growth.

An editorial on Saturday by China's ruling Communist Party's mouthpiece, the People's Daily, said Beijing was willing to engage in discussions that brought benefits to both sides but would not give in to strong-arm tactics that hurt China's interests.

"In the face of the U.S.'s fierce offensive of protectionism, China resolutely defends its national interest," the People's Daily said. "It will never trade away its core interests and rejects the U.S.'s demand for an exorbitant price."

A U.S. official confirmed the authenticity of a document outlining U.S. priorities that was presented to China ahead of two days of trade talks that ended Friday. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because of the confidential nature of the talks.

In Washington on Friday, President Donald Trump said, "We have to bring fairness in trade between the U.S. and China, and we will do that." Trump had campaigned for the presidency on a promise to reduce America's trade deficit with China, which amounted last year to \$337 billion in goods and services.

"We will be meeting tomorrow to determine the results, but it is hard for China in that they have become very spoiled with U.S. trade wins!" Trump tweeted.

The intensifying trade dispute between the United States and China has rattled financial markets for weeks. In March, the Trump administration slapped tariffs on imported steel and aluminum. China counterpunched with tariffs on a range of U.S. products, including bourbon and blue jeans.

An even higher-stakes fight looms over American allegations that China steals technology and forces U.S. companies to hand over trade secrets in exchange for access to the Chinese market. The United States is considering imposing tariffs on up to \$150 billion of Chinese imports, and Beijing has countered with proposed tariffs on \$50 billion in American products, including soybeans and small aircraft.

Seeking to avert a trade war, the United States this week sent a high-level delegation to Beijing, led by Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin. The delegation included Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, U.S. Trade Rep. Robert Lighthizer and Peter Navarro, a White House trade adviser and hard-line critic of Chinese policies.

After the talks ended, China's Commerce Ministry said the two sides had agreed to establish a mechanism to try to resolve their dispute, though differences remained, Chinese state media reported. The report did not give specifics, suggesting that little progress had been achieved.

The U.S. document is described, in an introductory disclaimer, as being provided to the Chinese ahead of the visit to Beijing by the U.S. officials. It included demands that China immediately stop providing subsidies to industries listed in a key industrial plan. China must end some of its policies related to technology transfers, a key source of tension underlying the dispute, the list also says.

The U.S. wants China not to retaliate against U.S. measures currently being pursued against it. For instance, the U.S. says China should agree not to target U.S. farmers or agricultural products and "not oppose, challenge or otherwise retaliate" when the U.S. moves to restrict Chinese investment in the U.S. in sensitive sectors.

American analysts were struck by the aggressiveness of the Trump team's demands. Eswar Prasad, a professor of trade policy at Cornell University, said the hard-nosed approach "makes it harder to envision a path toward a negotiated settlement."

Prasad said the Chinese are open to negotiations on opening their market wider and doing a better job of protecting intellectual property. "Beijing is clearly in no mood, however, to meet the U.S. team's expect-

tation of capitulation in the face of threats of tariffs and other trade sanctions," he said.

Wendy Cutler, a former U.S. trade negotiator who specialized in Asia, said it was encouraging to see the two countries talking and trading proposals. But she said the "kitchen sink" U.S. demands look unrealistic.

"If the U.S. is serious and wants all of this, it's hard to see a constructive path forward," said Cutler, now vice president at the Asia Society Policy Institute.

Analysts said the Chinese were likely to view the confrontational posture struck by the U.S. as unreasonable and akin to bullying, potentially making it difficult to tone down friction over such issues.

Yu Miaojie, a professor at Peking University's National School of Development, described some of the demands as "like lions opening their mouths."

"When it comes to negotiations, both sides can provide a list of requests and we will seek common ground while reserving our differences," Yu said. "If one side provides a list with unreasonable requests, the Chinese government is unable to accept it."

Still, the list was welcomed by a U.S. business group which has lobbied the Trump administration for greater clarity on what it wanted China to do. Some groups had complained the administration was sending mixed messages.

"We've been saying that the Trump administration needs to define success and what specific outcomes it is seeking," said Jake Parker, vice president for China of the U.S.-China Business Council. The list submitted to China helps "lead to a solution and avoid tariffs and other sanctions," he said.

Still, the situation is likely to escalate with both sides unwilling to back down, analysts say.

"There should now be no doubt in anyone's mind that the Trump administration is not bluffing and that it is willing to launch a full-scale trade war if China doesn't radically rein in its industrial policy machine and create a more level playing field," wrote Scott Kennedy, a China expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C.

"Given China's ornery response, it appears Beijing is also willing to go down this path if necessary to keep its system intact regardless of the consequences," Kennedy wrote in a commentary.

Wiseman reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Kelvin Chan in Hong Kong, Martin Crutsinger in Washington and Christopher Bodeen and researcher Yu Bing in Beijing contributed to this report.

McCain gets visits from friends, family after surgery

By LAURIE KELLMAN, ALAN FRAM and BOB CHRISTIE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A frail Sen. John McCain has been receiving a stream of visitors and good wishes at his Arizona ranch as he confronts the aftermath of brain cancer treatment and surgery.

Former Vice President Joe Biden sat with McCain for 90 minutes Sunday, according to people close to both men. Biden followed McCain's closest friends, Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and retired Connecticut Sen. Joe Lieberman, who visited McCain at the Mayo Clinic two weeks ago. McCain's daughter, Meghan, tweeted Friday that she was heading to her father's side.

"Going home to Arizona to be with my family," she tweeted. "Thank you all again for your prayers, patience, understanding and compassion during this time. It means the world to me and my entire family."

McCain, 81, had hoped to return to the Senate, where he's served since 1987. He has been unable to do so after cancer treatment and surgery for an intestinal infection last month. Despite that, he's finished work on a new book being released May 22, "The Restless Wave." And he continued to advocate for a return to the days when partisans could disagree without demonizing each other.

"I'd like to see us recover our sense that we're more alike than different," McCain said in audio excerpts from his book reported by National Public Radio.

McCain has amplified his call for more civil politics since his diagnosis in July with glioblastoma. It is the same rare and aggressive brain cancer that felled his friend, Democratic Sen. Edward Kennedy, at age 77 in 2009, and Biden's son Beau at 46 in 2015.

He hasn't been seen in public since December, just before he was hospitalized for a viral infection at

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Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington. He then returned home to Arizona to recover and undergo physical therapy and continuing cancer treatment at the Mayo Clinic in Phoenix. On December 17, his office issued a news release saying he was looking forward to returning to Washington in January.

McCain did not return.

He has primarily been staying at his family retreat south of Sedona, Arizona, a sprawling and secluded ranch house along tree-lined Oak Creek where he loves to have family gatherings and barbecue for friends. His daughter, Meghan, was married there in November to Ben Domenech, publisher of the online political and cultural magazine The Federalist. The senator has been known to lead nature tours featuring his extensive knowledge of dozens of species of birds on the property.

McCain's family and staff have kept news of his condition and treatment private, with his office routinely saying it has no new information to share. In mid-April, it was announced that he had been hospitalized for intestinal surgery needed to stem an infection related to diverticulitis, a condition where the colon develops small bulges that can sometimes become infected.

At week's end, McCain was recuperating, eating well and enjoying the ranch at full bloom, according to a person close to him.

The visits by Graham and Lieberman were confirmed to The Associated Press by people knowledgeable about the meetings, but who spoke on condition of anonymity to respect the family's privacy.

His wife, Cindy McCain, tweeted April 23 that he had been released from the hospital, but no official word came from his Senate office.

"@SenJohnMcCain and I are home in our beloved Hidden Valley enjoying a glorious Arizona sunset," the tweet said.

Fram and Kellman reported from Washington. Christie reported from Phoenix. AP Writer Josh Lederman contributed to this report.

Right on time: North Korea adjusts time zone to match South

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea readjusted its time zone to match South Korea's on Saturday and described the change as an early step toward making the longtime rivals "become one" following a landmark summit.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un promised to sync his country's time zone with the South's during his April 27 talks with South Korean President Moon Jae-in. A dispatch from the North's Korean Central News Agency says that promise was fulfilled Saturday by a decree of the nation's Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly.

The Koreans used the same time zone for decades before the North in 2015 created its own "Pyongyang Time" by setting its clocks 30 minutes behind South Korea and Japan. It said at the time that it did so to root out the legacy of Tokyo's 1910-1945 colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula, when clocks in Korea were changed to be the same as in Japan.

"Pyongyang Time" was created as tensions between the authoritarian country and the U.S. grew over Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program and international sanctions aimed at dismantling it. But in recent months relations between the Koreas have warmed dramatically, with Kim and Moon pledging at their summit to rid their peninsula of nuclear weapons.

The meeting produced many steps toward reconciliation, including an agreement to resume reunions of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War, though it lacked a breakthrough in the nuclear standoff. Those details await Kim and President Donald Trump, who are expected to meet in the coming weeks.

KCNA earlier said Kim proposed returning North Korea to the South's time zone because it was "a painful wrench to see two clocks indicating Pyongyang and Seoul times hanging on a wall of the summit venue."

The news agency said resynchronizing North and South Korean time was "the first practical step" since the summit "to speed up the process for the north and the south to become one and turn their different and separated things into the same and single ones."

According to South Korea, Kim has said he'd be willing to give up his nukes if the United States commits

to a formal end to the war and pledges not to attack the North. But his exact demands for relinquishing weapons that his nation spent decades building remains unclear.

Why Wall Street's worried about Tesla

By STAN CHOE and ALEX VEIGA, AP Business Writers

Elon Musk's track record for technological feats as chief of SpaceX has turned skeptics into believers in everything from his quest to open space travel to Mars to his desire to build a tunnel for high-speed travel between New York and Washington. As Tesla's CEO, his ambitious vision for electric cars has also earned him a faithful following.

But now Wall Street is taking a more practical tone, increasingly questioning Musk's assertions of when the company can turn profitable. Tesla may ultimately be forced to sell new shares of its stock or take on more debt to bolster diminishing cash.

Shares in the electric car company slumped 5.5 percent Thursday, a day after it reported its first-quarter results and Musk's remarks during an analyst conference call that left many investors scratching their heads.

The stock recouped some of its losses Friday, closing up 3.4 percent at \$294.09. Tesla shares are still up more than fourfold over the last five years. The S&P 500 has risen about 65 percent in the same period.

Concerns, however, remain. Here's a look at some of the more pressing ones that Wall Street has laid out for the former darling of the investment world.

CASH BURN

Tesla is not turning a profit, which means it has to use cash to pay the bills. The big question from investors: Does Tesla have enough?

Tesla went through nearly \$400 million during the first three months of the year to make its cars, pay its sales staff and cover the other costs of running its business. Another \$656 million went to spending on equipment, facilities and other capital projects, for a total of slightly more than \$1 billion.

Analysts call this situation "negative free cash flow," and it helped cut Tesla's cash balance to \$2.7 billion at the end of March. If the company keeps burning through its cash at the same pace, it could run out within a year and be forced to sell more of its stock or borrow money.

Tesla says it won't come to that. The company expects to take in more cash than it spends in the second half of this year. Some of that will likely be due to planned spending cuts on machinery, equipment and other capital expenses.

DEBT

Reining in spending will help, but Tesla still faces hefty debt payments over the next 12 months.

The company has to pay back \$1.3 billion in debt that comes due later this year and in early 2019. And to do so, while covering its expenses, it will have to raise or borrow \$2 billion, according to Moody's analyst Bruce Clark.

Tesla's spending and reliance on debt also has analysts at Morningstar concerned.

Last month, Morningstar Equity Strategist David Whiston wrote that it's "nearly guaranteed" that Tesla will have to raise more cash.

"But if the capital markets close to them, then the recent plunge in the stock price will look trivial compared with what will happen then," Whiston wrote.

PRODUCTION ISSUES

Tesla expects it will become profitable later this year. But that hinges on a big "if." To do so, Tesla has to ramp up production of its Model 3 electric car to 5,000 units a week. The company says it may reach that level in about two months. Just prior to a planned shutdown in mid-April, Tesla was producing Model 3s at a rate of more than 2,000 a week.

To get there, Tesla will need to smooth out problems it's encountered as it tries to make the production

more automated, a process that it calls the "machine that builds the machine."

Tesla acknowledged on Wednesday that it was overly ambitious in its efforts and that it "made a mistake by adding too much automation too quickly." One example Musk gave was of a machine that placed fiberglass mats on top of battery packs. The company found that human hands are better than machines at picking up these pieces of fiberglass, which Musk said look like "fluff."

In response, Tesla stopped using the "flufferbot" and dialed back automation in other areas, bring back some human workers. That raises costs, reducing how much profit Tesla can wring out of the cars.

INVESTOR CONFIDENCE

A big part of Tesla's share price is investors' faith in Musk.

They've poured dollars into Tesla stock on the belief that the CEO, who previously helped nurture PayPal and whose other company, SpaceX, launches rockets and spacecraft, can revolutionize the auto industry.

But some of that investor confidence may have been shaken following Musk's behavior on a conference call with Wall Street analysts on Wednesday.

At one point, as analysts peppered Tesla executives with the usual litany of questions about the company's operations, Musk dismissed the queries, saying "boring boneheaded questions are not cool." He later cut off the "dry" questions from analysts, saying "they're killing me." He then went instead to a self-described "finance nerd" who runs a YouTube channel and was asking questions on behalf of retail investors.

Wall Street did not take too kindly to the remarks.

"Investor feedback is that the performance shook confidence, which we'd argue is an important piece of the Tesla story," RBC Capital Markets analyst Joseph Spak wrote in a report.

Morgan Stanley analyst Adam Jonas called it "arguably the most unusual call I have experienced in 20 years."

Court vacates Kennedy cousin Skakel's murder conviction

By DAVE COLLINS, Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — In a stunning reversal, the Connecticut Supreme Court on Friday overturned Kennedy cousin Michael Skakel's murder conviction in the 1975 bludgeoning death of a girl in wealthy Greenwich.

The high court issued a 4-3 ruling that Skakel's trial attorney failed to present evidence of an alibi. The same court in December 2016 had reinstated Skakel's conviction after a lower court ordered a new trial, citing mistakes by the trial attorney, Mickey Sherman.

It wasn't immediately clear if prosecutors will subject Skakel to a new trial. A spokesman for Chief State's Attorney Kevin Kane said prosecutors were reviewing the new ruling. He declined further comment.

Skakel, a nephew of Robert F. Kennedy's widow, Ethel Kennedy, was convicted of murder in 2002 in the death of Martha Moxley in 1975 when they were teenagers. He was sentenced to 20 years to life in prison, but was freed on \$1.2 million bail after serving 11 years behind bars when the lower court overturned his murder conviction in 2013.

The case has drawn international attention because of the Kennedy name, Skakel's rich family, numerous theories about who killed Moxley and the brutal way in which she died. Several other people, including Skakel's brother Tommy Skakel, have been mentioned as possible killers.

The slaying took place in the exclusive Bell Haven section of Greenwich where Martha and Skakel were neighbors. At trial, prosecutors said Skakel was angry with Martha because she had spurned his advances while having a sexual liaison with his brother Tommy.

Skakel's appellate lawyer, Hubert Santos, had asked the Supreme Court to reconsider its 2016 ruling, resulting in Friday's decision.

"We're elated that our argument was vindicated," Santos said Friday. "It was a good decision because it was spot on the law."

Santos argued that Sherman made poor decisions, including not focusing on Skakel's brother as a pos-

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sible suspect and failing to attempt to contact an alibi witness. Santos said Skakel was several miles away from the crime scene on Oct. 30, 1975 watching a Monty Python movie with friends when Moxley was bludgeoned with a golf club.

Santos also has said there was no physical evidence or eyewitnesses linking Skakel to the killing.

Sherman has defended his work, and state prosecutors have argued he did an adequate job. The Associated Press left a message with him Friday seeking comment on the ruling.

Conservative Justice Peter Zarella wrote the majority opinion when the highly divided Supreme Court reinstated Skakel's conviction in a 4-3 ruling in December 2016. Zarella left the court at the end of 2016 to return to private practice.

When the Supreme Court ruled Friday, the panel included the same justices that ruled in 2016 — minus Zarella. It included Justice Gregory D'Auria, a former lawyer in the state attorney general's office named to the court last year. D'Auria was in the majority decision Friday.

The high court's reversal of a previous ruling is highly unusual, legal observers said.

Writing for the majority Friday, Justice Richard Palmer said Skakel was prejudiced in the case by Sherman's failure to obtain alibi testimony from witness Denis Ossorio.

"Without Ossorio's testimony, the state was able to attack the petitioner's (Skakel's) alibi — a complete alibi for the time period during which it is highly likely that the victim was murdered — as part of a Skakel family conspiracy to cover up the petitioner's involvement in the victim's murder," Palmer wrote.

In a dissent, Justice Dennis Eveleigh noted that the exact time of the killing was never established and a medical examiner's report concluded it likely happened sometime between 9:30 p.m. and 4:30 or 5:30 the next morning.

"I believe that the majority fails to consider the well-established rule that, as a matter of law, an alibi defense is no defense at all when it is reasonably possible that the crime was committed outside of the alibi period. That is certainly the case here," Eveleigh wrote.

Moxley's brother, John Moxley, told the AP that he was disappointed with the ruling and that it was too soon to say what the family would want next in the case.

"I don't know what the next steps are. My mom is getting older. I just don't think she has the strength to go on with this," said Moxley, 59.

He said he would not trade places with Skakel for anything.

"He'll be in jail for the rest of his life," Moxley said. "He may not be physically in jail. He may be walking the streets, but he'll be in hell at some point."

Associated Press writer Michael Melia contributed to this report.

Analysts: US trade demands could make deal with China harder

By GILLIAN WONG, PAUL WISEMAN and DAKE KANG, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — A list of hard-line demands that the Trump administration handed China this week could make it even more difficult to resolve a trade conflict between the world's two largest economies.

That's the view of trade analysts who say the U.S. insistence that Beijing shrink America's gaping trade deficit with China by \$200 billion by the end of 2020, among other demands, are more likely to raise tensions than to calm them.

A U.S. official confirmed the authenticity of a document outlining U.S. priorities that was presented to China ahead of two days of trade talks that ended Friday. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because of the confidential nature of the talks.

In Washington on Friday, President Donald Trump said, "We have to bring fairness in trade between the U.S. and China, and we will do that." Trump had campaigned for the presidency on a promise to reduce America's trade deficit with China, which amounted last year to \$337 billion in goods and services.

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An even higher-stakes fight looms over American allegations that China steals technology and forces U.S. companies to hand over trade secrets in exchange for access to the Chinese market. The United States is considering imposing tariffs on up to \$150 billion of Chinese imports, and Beijing has countered with proposed tariffs on \$50 billion in American products, including soybeans and small aircraft.

Seeking to avert a trade war, the United States this week sent a high-level delegation to Beijing, led by Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin. The delegation included Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, U.S. Trade Rep. Robert Lighthizer and Peter Navarro, a White House trade adviser and hard-line critic of Chinese policies.

After the talks ended, China's Commerce Ministry said the two sides had agreed to establish a mechanism to try to resolve their dispute, though differences remained, Chinese state media reported. The report did not give specifics, suggesting that little progress had been achieved.

The U.S. document is described, in an introductory disclaimer, as being provided to the Chinese ahead of the visit to Beijing by the U.S. officials. It included demands that China immediately stop providing subsidies to industries listed in a key industrial plan. China must end some of its policies related to technology transfers, a key source of tension underlying the dispute, the list also says.

The U.S. wants China not to retaliate against U.S. measures currently being pursued against it. For instance, the U.S. says China should agree not to target U.S. farmers or agricultural products and "not oppose, challenge or otherwise retaliate" when the U.S. moves to restrict Chinese investment in the U.S. in sensitive sectors.

American analysts were struck by the aggressiveness of the Trump team's demands. Eswar Prasad, a professor of trade policy at Cornell University, said the hard-nosed approach "makes it harder to envision a path toward a negotiated settlement."

Prasad said the Chinese are open to negotiations on opening their market wider and doing a better job of protecting intellectual property. "Beijing is clearly in no mood, however, to meet the U.S. team's expectation of capitulation in the face of threats of tariffs and other trade sanctions," he said.

Wendy Cutler, a former U.S. trade negotiator who specialized in Asia, said it was encouraging to see the two countries talking and trading proposals. But she said the "kitchen sink" U.S. demands look unrealistic. "If the U.S. is serious and wants all of this, it's hard to see a constructive path forward," said Cutler, now vice president at the Asia Society Policy Institute.

Analysts said the Chinese were likely to view the confrontational posture struck by the U.S. as unreasonable and akin to bullying, potentially making it difficult to tone down friction over such issues.

Yu Miaojie, a professor at Peking University's National School of Development, described some of the demands as "like lions opening their mouths."

"When it comes to negotiations, both sides can provide a list of requests and we will seek common ground while reserving our differences," Yu said. "If one side provides a list with unreasonable requests, the Chinese government is unable to accept it."

"China won't be frightened by this kind of threat," wrote Hu Xijin, the chief editor of the Global Times, a nationalistic tabloid affiliated with the Communist Party mouthpiece, in a post on the Sina Weibo website. Hu said he believed China would engage in talks seriously but also be fully prepared for them to fail.

Still, the list was welcomed by a U.S. business group which has lobbied the Trump administration for greater clarity on what it wanted China to do. Some groups had complained the administration was sending mixed messages.

"We've been saying that the Trump administration needs to define success and what specific outcomes it is seeking," said Jake Parker, vice president for China of the U.S.-China Business Council. The list submitted to China helps "lead to a solution and avoid tariffs and other sanctions," he said.

The two sides "reached consensus in some areas," the official Xinhua News Agency said.

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"Both sides realized that there are still relatively big differences over some issues and that they need to continue to work hard to make more improvements," the report said.

There was no immediate comment from the U.S. delegation. A motorcade was seen leaving the U.S. Embassy in Beijing on Friday afternoon and the group departed China later in the day.

The list of U.S. demands was first reported by The Wall Street Journal on Friday.

The dispute will be tough to resolve because the fundamental issue is that the U.S. wants to stop China from moving up the so-called value chain as it transforms into an advanced economy, said Louis Kuijs, head Asia economist at Oxford Economics. But "there's no way that China's going to change its strategy on that."

Kuijs said the ball is now in the U.S. court on deciding whether the talks were fruitful and merit more discussion or that they're stalled and Washington needs to take more serious measures targeting China.

This is "much more than just a trade dispute," Kuijs said. "This is very much about economic strategy and the U.S. coming to grips with a big country running its economy in a way that the U.S. is uncomfortable with, and becoming successful, and starting to threaten U.S. dominance."

Wiseman reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Kelvin Chan in Hong Kong, Martin Crutsinger in Washington and Christopher Bodeen and researcher Yu Bing in Beijing contributed to this report.

Ex-President George HW Bush released from Houston hospital

HOUSTON (AP) — Former President George H.W. Bush was released from a Houston hospital on Friday after spending 13 days being treated for an infection that required his hospitalization a day after his wife's funeral.

Jim McGrath, a spokesman for the 93-year-old Bush, tweeted that doctors at Houston Methodist Hospital "report he is doing well" and that the former president is "happy to return home."

The nation's 41st president was admitted to the hospital on April 22 for treatment of an infection that spread to his blood. Bush spent some time in an intensive care unit before being moved to a regular patient room.

Bush was hospitalized a day after he attended the funeral and burial of his 92-year-old wife, Barbara, who died on April 17 at their Houston home. Married for 73 years, the Bushes were the longest-married presidential couple in U.S. history.

In a tweet sent out during his hospitalization, Bush thanked Houston for its "professionalism and obvious care" during the memorials and services for his wife.

McGrath had previously said Bush was eager to get well so he could get to his summer home in Kennebunkport, Maine. He also noted that while hospitalized, Bush had been more focused on the Houston Rockets playoff series against the Minnesota Timberwolves "than anything that landed him in the hospital."

The Rockets won the series 4-1 on April 25. Bush, frequently accompanied by his wife, has long been a fixture at Houston sporting events.

Bush has used a wheelchair and an electric scooter for mobility since developing a form of Parkinson's disease, and he has needed hospital treatment several times in recent years for respiratory problems.

Few details were released about Bush's most recent illness. But medical experts say that people in their 90s with Parkinson's disease are often at higher risk of pneumonia and other infections because their swallowing process can be compromised. Experts also say that the stress of losing a loved one can weaken the immune system.

His son, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, indicated during his eulogy at his mother's funeral service that his father had been hospitalized recently at the same time Barbara Bush was in the hospital for the last time.

Those hospitalizations were not publicly disclosed at the time. Jeb Bush said he believed his father "got sick on purpose so that he could be with her."

George Herbert Walker Bush served as president from 1989 to 1993. Born on June 12, 1924, in Milton, Massachusetts, Bush also served as a Texas congressman, CIA director and Ronald Reagan's vice president.

Trump: NK summit plans set; US troop drawdown not on table

By **MATTHEW PENNINGTON** and **ZEKE MILLER**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump offered his latest teaser Friday for a historic U.S. summit with North Korea: The time and place have been set but he's not saying when and where.

The White House did, however, announce the details of a separate meeting later this month between Trump and South Korean President Moon Jae-in, as the U.S. administration pushed back on a report that Trump is considering the withdrawal of U.S. forces from the allied nation.

Trump and Moon would meet at the White House on May 22 to "continue their close coordination on developments regarding the Korean Peninsula" following last Friday's meeting between Moon and Kim Jong Un. They will also discuss the U.S. president's own upcoming summit with the North Korean leader, a statement said.

Earlier this week, Trump expressed a preference for holding the "big event" with Kim in the demilitarized zone or DMZ between the two Koreas, where Moon and Kim met. He also said Singapore was in contention to host what will be the first summit of between a U.S. and a North Korean leader.

"We now have a date and we have a location. We'll be announcing it soon," Trump told reporters Friday from the White House South Lawn before departing for Dallas. He's previously said the summit was planned for May or early June.

A meeting with Kim seemed an outlandish possibility just a few months ago when the two leaders were trading threats and insults over North Korea's development of nuclear weapons. But momentum for diplomacy has built this year as the rival Koreas have patched up ties. In March, Trump unexpectedly accepted an offer of talks from Kim after the North Korean dictator agreed to suspend nuclear and ballistic missile tests and discuss "denuclearization."

According to South Korea, Kim has said he'd be willing to give up his nukes if the United States commits to a formal end to the Korean War and pledges not to attack the North. But his exact demands for relinquishing weapons that his nation spent decades building remains unclear.

Trump said that withdrawing U.S. forces from South Korea is "not on the table." Some 28,500 U.S. forces are based in the allied nation, a military presence that has been preserved to deter North Korea since the war ended in 1953 without a peace treaty.

"Now I have to tell you, at some point into the future, I would like to save the money," Trump said later as he prepared to board Air Force One. "You know we have 32,000 troops there but I think a lot of great things will happen but troops are not on the table. Absolutely."

The New York Times reported that Trump has asked the Pentagon to prepare options plans for drawing down American troops. It cited unnamed officials as saying that wasn't intended to be a bargaining chip with Kim, but did reflect that a prospective peace treaty between the Koreas could diminish the need for U.S. forces in South Korea.

At the inter-Korean summit last Friday, held on the southern side of the DMZ, Moon and Kim pledged to rid the peninsula of nuclear weapons and seek a formal end this year to the Korean conflict where the opposing sides remain technically at war more than six decades after fighting halted with an armistice.

But for Trump to contemplate withdrawing troops now would be a quixotic move as he enters into negotiations with Kim whose demands and intentions are uncertain. Two weeks ago, shortly before the inter-Korean summit, Moon said that Kim actually wasn't insisting on a longstanding demand for the withdrawal of U.S. troops as a precondition for abandoning his nukes.

National security adviser John Bolton, who met his South Korean counterpart Chung Eui-yong in Washington on Friday, called the Times report "utter nonsense."

During his presidential campaign, Trump complained that South Korea does not do enough to financially support the American military commitment. In March, Washington and Seoul began negotiations on how much South Korea should offset the costs of the deployment in the coming years. Under the current agreement that expires at the end of 2018, the South provides about \$830 million per year.

Before Trump meets Kim, Washington is looking for North Korea to address another persistent source

of tension between the adversaries: the detention of three Korean-Americans accused of anti-state of activities in the North.

Trump hinted that the release of Kim Dong Chul, Kim Hak Song and Tony Kim was in the offing, but again was sparing on the details.

"We're having very substantive talks with North Korea and a lot of things have already happened with respect to the hostages, and I think you're going to see very good things. As I said yesterday, stay tuned," Trump said, referring to an earlier tweet on the issue.

Associated Press writer Ken Thomas contributed to this report.

Greitens' office posted document with unauthorized signature

By DAVID A. LIEB, Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens' administration posted a document bearing an unauthorized signature of another elected official to Greitens' website shortly after he took office, according to records obtained Friday by The Associated Press.

At issue is an executive order issued by the Republican governor on Jan. 10, 2017 — his second day in office — that directed state agencies to halt all rulemaking and review ways to reduce state regulations.

Records provided to the AP in response to an open-records request show that the version posted to the governor's website in January 2017 differed from the official version filed with Republican Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft.

Although Ashcroft never approved the version on the governor's website, his signature nonetheless appeared on the document.

Greitens spokesman Parker Briden said Friday that a "draft version" of the executive order "was accidentally uploaded to the new website." But Briden said he doesn't know why or how Ashcroft's signature was placed on it.

The records provided by Ashcroft's office include multiple copies of the official executive order, one of which Ashcroft signed personally as "John R. Ashcroft" and another of which was signed "Jay Ashcroft" by an autopen machine that is frequently used by the office.

The records also include a version of the executive order printed from Greitens' official website by a secretary of state's employee on Jan. 10 or Jan. 11 that contains numerous wording differences from the original and bears a "Jay Ashcroft" signature that appears similar to the one from the autopen machine.

Ashcroft spokeswoman Maura Browning said that when the secretary of state's office discovered the differences it set up a meeting with Greitens and they came up with a solution to ensure that it wouldn't happen again.

Briden said the governor's office first discovered the discrepancy but confirmed that Ashcroft and Greitens met personally to address the issue.

"The process for posting these orders was changed to ensure that final, accurate versions are available for people to read online," Briden said.

When users of Greitens' website click on a link for his executive orders, it now redirects them to the official versions posted on the secretary of state's website.

Briden noted that President Donald Trump's administration also had posted inaccurate texts of Trump's executive orders online shortly after he took office in 2017.

Greitens already is facing multiple investigations, two criminal charges and the prospect of impeachment during an upcoming special legislative session.

He's charged in St. Louis with invasion of privacy for allegedly taking and transmitting an unauthorized photo of a woman while she was nude, blindfolded and bound in the basement of his St. Louis home in 2015. He has admitted to an affair but denied criminal wrongdoing.

In a court filing late Thursday, Greitens attorneys asked St. Louis Circuit Judge Rex Burlison to approve a bench trial in place of the jury trial scheduled to start May 14. Burlison turned down a similar request

in March.

"Gov. Greitens was hopeful that a fair and impartial jury could be impaneled," the motion states. "However, the constant negative publicity about Gov. Greitens has destroyed any chance of obtaining a fair jury."

Greitens also faces a felony charge of computer data tampering for allegedly using a donor list from the veterans' charity he founded, The Mission Continues, to raise money for his 2016 gubernatorial campaign. A trial date in that case has not been set.

A Missouri House panel is also investigating the governor, and lawmakers will convene May 18 in a special session to consider impeachment. If the House votes to impeach Greitens, which requires 82 votes, the Senate then would appoint a panel of seven judges to conduct a trial on whether to remove him from office. No governor has ever been forced from office in Missouri.

Although lawmakers gathered more than the constitutionally required signatures of three-fourths of the members of each chamber to summon themselves into a special session, some wavered before finally agreeing to the plan.

Several lawmakers signed the petition then crossed out their names. Some signed and re-signed as many as three times.

Republican Rep. Bryan Spencer said Friday he initially signed the petition a couple of weeks ago "to find out what the truth is" about the allegations against the governor. Spencer said he later scratched his name off after hearing from a couple hundred constituents, many of whom said they don't want Greitens impeached and believe the special session is a "waste of taxpayer dollars."

"I take my job very seriously. I don't always vote my conscience because I try to vote the way the people back home want me to vote," Spencer said.

Greitens has brushed aside widespread calls for resignation from legislative leaders in both parties, blaming a "political witch hunt" for the allegations against him.

Associated Press writers Summer Ballentine in Jefferson City and Jim Salter in St. Louis contributed to this report.

Hungry bear breaks into California home, snacks on fruit

NORTH LAKE TAHOE, Calif. (AP) — A hungry bear broke into a California home and snacked on bread and fruit before sheriff's deputies were able to chase it away.

The Placer County sheriff's office posted a video of the bear inside the house on its Twitter account Thursday.

Bears are coming out of hibernation and deputies say this particular bear broke into a house at Northstar, North Lake Tahoe for groceries.

The homeowners called for help. In the video, the bear can be seen on a kitchen island.

Arizona classrooms packed again as 6-day teacher strike ends

By MELISSA DANIELS and TERRY TANG, Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of Arizona schoolchildren returned to classes Friday, a day after state lawmakers approved a plan to hike teacher salaries to end a historic six-day walkout by educators that shuttered most schools statewide.

Teachers at a high school in the Phoenix suburb of Mesa lined up to greet students with cheers and handshakes. An elementary school principal greeted students with high-fives on the other side of metro Phoenix.

Educators returning to work at San Marcos Elementary in the suburb of Chandler traded in their red protest T-shirts for black and blue tops of their school colors. They hugged to start the day.

As students arrived, security staffer Jasmine Gutierrez embraced them, exclaiming, "I missed you so much!"

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In Jennifer Boettcher's first-grade class, students had a breakfast of muffins, milk and juice waiting.

"I'm so happy to see you, you all grew this much," Boettcher said while raising her hands.

Jolene Gallup, a media specialist and reading intervention teacher, was thrilled to come back. She said the teachers' #RedforEd movement was empowering but that the school is as close-knit as a family.

"The whole time you were down at the Capitol and seeing the signs and seeing the marching, your thoughts were with the kids in the classroom," she said.

The walkout was part of a national uprising over low teacher pay and funding. The movement started in West Virginia, where a strike resulted in a raise, and spread to Oklahoma, Kentucky and, most recently, Colorado.

Arizona organizers called for an end to the walkout Thursday after an all-night legislative session resulted in a state budget that adds hundreds of millions of dollars for public schools but didn't meet all of teachers' demands. Most districts planned to reopen Friday, but Tucson's largest district said it would resume classes next week because it would take time to ensure all 86 schools would be up and running.

Districts that closed for the whole six-day walkout were considering whether they would have to tuck on school days at the end of the year. Those in Scottsdale, Mesa and Tucson said no extensions would be necessary. Chandler's district said Friday that it was still verifying whether more days based on whether required educational hours could still be met.

The new budget includes the first phase of an education funding plan spearheaded by Gov. Doug Ducey that will give teachers a 9 percent raise in the fall and 5 percent in each of the next two years. Those increases, which are in addition to a 1 percent raise granted last year, will cost about \$300 million for the coming year alone.

"It's definitely a start," said Gallup, the reading intervention teacher. "There's a lot of work left to be done, but it's a positive change which hasn't happened in education in a very long time in Arizona."

The new funding package also partially restores nearly \$400 million in recession-era cuts, with a promise to make up the rest in five years. But it didn't give teachers everything they wanted.

Education cuts over the past decade have sliced deeply into Arizona's public schools. Teachers wanted a return to pre-recession funding levels, regular raises, competitive pay for support staff and a pledge not to adopt any tax cuts until per-pupil funding reaches the national average.

Now that the walkout is over, organizers have turned their focus to a campaign for a possible November ballot measure that would seek more education funding from an income tax increase on the wealthiest taxpayers. They also have encouraged teachers to vote for candidates who pledge to support school.

At Oakwood Elementary School in the Phoenix suburb of Peoria, Principal Shawn Duguid was dressed in a purple shirt — one of the school's colors. As he does every day, Duguid was in front of the campus gates before they opened to welcome the roughly 1,000 students in kindergarten through eighth grades.

Some parents came with boxes of doughnuts and other goodies for the faculty after the six-day absence.

Other parents, however, were still upset about the effect of teacher walkouts. Charlene Schafer, who was dropping off her two sons, said she is "pretty ticked off."

"They should have been in school. They were by themselves at home," she said.

For 14-year-old Sariah Stone, finding motivation to get out of bed after six days off and no homework wasn't the easiest.

"I thought I was on summer vacation," the eighth-grader said.

Still, she is happy to be back. She missed "just being here, the daily routine. It just felt weird not coming back."

Associated Press writers Anita Snow, Paul Davenport and Bob Christie contributed to this report.

Iowa governor signs nation's strictest abortion regulation

By **BARBARA RODRIGUEZ, Associated Press**

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds on Friday signed a law banning most abortions if a fetal heartbeat can be detected, or at around six weeks of pregnancy, marking the strictest abortion regulation in the nation — but setting the state up for a lengthy court fight.

The Republican governor signed the legislation in her formal office at the state Capitol as protesters gathered outside chanting, "My body, my choice!" Reynolds acknowledged that the new law would likely face litigation that could put it on hold, but said: "This is bigger than just a law, this is about life, and I'm not going to back down."

Reynolds signed the law surrounded by children from a local Christian school and children related to supporters.

The ban, set to take effect on July 1, has moved Iowa to the front of a push among conservative statehouses jockeying to enact new restrictions on the medical procedure. Mississippi enacted a law earlier this year banning abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy, but it's on hold after a court challenge.

The Iowa law provides exemptions for abortions during a later pregnancy stage to save a pregnant woman's life or in some cases of rape and incest. A woman would have to report a rape within 45 days to law enforcement or a physician, and incest would need to be reported within 140 days. Another provision prohibits some uses of fetal tissue, with exemptions for research.

Maggie DeWitte, who leads the group Iowans for Life, called Reynolds' move "historic" and added: "She is following through on her pledge to the people of Iowa that she is 100 percent pro-life."

The bill signing came shortly after the Iowa affiliates of Planned Parenthood and the American Civil Liberties Union warned that they would sue the governor if she signed the bill, which the Republican-controlled Legislature approved during after-hours votes earlier in the week.

"We will challenge this law with absolutely everything we have on behalf of our patients because Iowa will not go back," Suzanna de Baca, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood of the Heartland, said in a statement.

Backers of the so-called heartbeat bill — which didn't get a single Democratic vote in the Legislature during final passage and included no votes by six Republicans — expressed hope it could challenge *Roe vs. Wade*, the landmark 1973 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that established women have a right to terminate pregnancies until a fetus is viable.

A federal appeals court in recent years has struck down similar legislation approved in Arkansas and North Dakota, but conservatives say an influx of right-leaning judicial appointments under President Donald Trump could produce a different outcome in the future.

"This just all propels the whole movement to protect life forward," Republican Rep. Sandy Salmon said after the signing.

Critics argued the bill would ban abortions before some women even know they're pregnant. Outside of Reynolds' office earlier Friday, critics of the bill began leaving coat hangers by her staff's desks. A morning rally outside of the Capitol included more than 100 people who held signs in opposition to the legislation.

Jessi Allard, a 35-year-old youth counselor at a Des Moines shelter, held a sign outside Reynolds' office that read: "You don't own us." Allard said lawmakers need to support social services that help children beyond birth and into adulthood. She called the legislation disappointing.

"It's ridiculous that our government can govern women's bodies," she said.

The same Republican-majority Legislature in Iowa passed a 20-week abortion ban last year. It's now in effect, though a provision requiring a three-day waiting period to get an abortion is tied up in a lawsuit filed by Planned Parenthood and the ACLU. Separately, Republican lawmakers agreed last session to give up millions in federal dollars to create a state-funded family planning program that excludes abortion providers like Planned Parenthood, even though the money wasn't going toward abortions.

Should we celebrate Karl Marx on his 200th birthday?

Barbara Foley, Rutgers University Newark

(The Conversation is an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts.)

Barbara Foley, Rutgers University Newark

(THE CONVERSATION) Some would argue that Karl Marx, author of "Capital," has been proven wrong on just about everything he wrote. The founder of scientific socialism was born 200 years ago on May 5.

These naysayers would point out that Soviet socialism imploded decades ago, and that China is heading merrily down the capitalist path. Marx and his collaborator Friedrich Engels wrote in "The Communist Manifesto" that the capitalist ruling class "produced its own grave-diggers" in the proletariat – that is, the working class. However, we have yet to see workers pick up the shovel and bury capitalism once and for all.

Activists seeking to combat injustice and inequality, it can be argued, have turned not to class struggle but to social movements focused on gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity and the environment. "Intersectionality" – the notion that people are defined by multiple identities, where class is just one among many – would seem to have a lot more appeal today than the effort to end "exploitation."

However, as a scholar of Marxist theory and practice, I find that such announcements of the death of Marxism are premature.

Marx's message is still relevant. In the wake of World War II, various economists heralded the narrowing of the gap between the richest and the poorest as evidence of the disappearance of class antagonisms.

But the long curve of capitalist development suggests that has widened, as illustrated in economist Thomas Piketty's book "Capital in the Twenty-First Century."

The candle of the 2012 Occupy movement may have guttered, but its mantra of the 99 percent opposing the 1 percent is now a truism. Everyone knows that the super-rich are richer than ever, while for most of the working-class majority – many of them caught in the uncertainty of the "gig economy" – belt-tightening has become the new normal.

Those laboring in the formal and informal economies of much of Asia, Africa and Latin America, needless to say, face conditions that are far more dire.

Marx was correct, it would seem, when he wrote that capitalism keeps the working class poor.

He was also spot-on about capital's inherent instability. There is some validity to the joke that "Marxists have predicted correctly 12 of the last three financial crises."

Marx's reputation has made a startling comeback, however, at times in unexpected circles.

In discussing the 2008 financial meltdown, one Wall Street Journal commentator wrote: "Karl Marx got it right, at some point capitalism can destroy itself. We thought markets worked. They're not working."

In 2017, the National Review reported that a poll found as many as 40 percent of people in the U.S. "now prefer socialism to capitalism."

Notably, too, the C-word – Communism – has been making a reappearance, as is indicated by recent series of titles: "The Idea of Communism," "The Communist Hypothesis," "The Actuality of Communism," and "The Communist Horizon." Until recently, the word was largely avoided by neo- and post-Marxist academics.

Class analysis remains alive and well. This is because capitalism is no longer as seemingly natural as the air we breathe. It is a system that came into being and can also go out of being.

Is a better world possible? To say that there are threads connecting the present to a possible future of universal human emancipation is not to state that capitalism will collapse by itself. People have to make this happen.

Those who would like to see the world move through and past its present state face huge challenges, both theoretical and practical. Not least among these challenges is the need to parse out what succeeded and what failed in the past century's attempts to create egalitarian societies.

But Marxism is not equivalent to everything that has been performed in its name. Marx's work remains the most compelling framework for analyzing how the conflicting tendencies in present-day society contain

the seeds of a more humane future.

Thanks, Karl. And, happy birthday.

This article was originally published on The Conversation. Read the original article here: <http://theconversation.com/should-we-celebrate-karl-marx-on-his-200th-birthday-96087>.

Illinois coroner to poor: Pay \$1000 or county keeps remains

By SARA BURNETT, Associated Press

A coroner in western Illinois is facing sharp criticism for how he handles poor people who can't afford to bury their loved ones: He has them sign over their rights to the deceased, leaving them without the death certificate, then cremates the body and keeps the ashes until the family pays \$1,000.

If they cannot come up with the money, the ashes are eventually buried, along with others, in an unmarked grave. If the family needs the death certificate to access bank accounts or life insurance, the coroner first arranges for the county to recoup its costs from any proceeds.

Adams County Coroner James Keller says the policy started after the state, which for years has faced billion-dollar deficits and unpaid bills, announced it was too broke to pay for indigent funerals and burials — shifting the cost to funeral homes and county coroners. Of the \$1,000 people pay, he says \$800 goes to the funeral homes and \$200 to the crematory.

The county's poverty rate of 13 percent is on par with the overall rate in Illinois. Keller says his approach protects taxpayers in the small county along the Mississippi River, ensures local funeral homes get money for their services and gives poor families an alternative to paying for a full burial. He's continued the policy even though the state has resumed paying for the funerals.

"We do our very best and our due diligence to taxpayers, and we try to be supportive of families, with the hand that we're dealt with by the state," Keller said.

Some residents are trying to change the policy, saying it amounts to the coroner's office holding ashes hostage and creates a financial crisis for grieving relatives already struggling to pay for basic necessities.

"I felt like it was a kidnapping. He was being held against his will," said Tom McElroy, whose brother, Mark, died last year with nothing more than the \$200 in his wallet.

After Chris Weible died last month, his family held a memorial service at a Quincy church with just a photograph and an empty container. Weible and his ex-wife, Wendy Smith, who had three children together, were both on disability.

"I just think they pick on the people that are poor," Smith said.

How to pay for indigent burials is a question that has stymied other counties and states. More than a dozen states provide money to cover the costs, though several — from Indiana to West Virginia — say their funds haven't been enough to meet demands.

Illinois provides up to \$1,655 — \$1,103 for funerals and \$552 for cremation and burial. But the money was cut off in 2010 and again in 2015 as the state headed into a more than two-year budget impasse. In some cases, counties ended up picking up the costs.

Rod Cookson, co-owner of Zehender Robinson Stormer Cookson Funeral Home in Quincy, said at one point the state owed his business about \$20,000. Cookson said he didn't know the Legislature restored the funding.

"They're bankrupt," he said of the state.

He's not the only funeral home director who's either unaware that funding is available again or has given up on the state. Though lawmakers appropriated \$9.3 million this year — the same amount as the 2015 budget year — the number of claims has plummeted, from 5,652 in the 2015 budget year to 1,084 so far this fiscal year, which ends June 30.

Cookson likes Keller's program and said it's not right that some are making him out to be "next to the devil." While some places such as Chicago's Cook County pay for indigent burials, in other counties poor residents must call around to funeral homes until they find one that will help.

"These people that don't have any money are very, very lucky to live in Adams County," Cookson said.

Keller also works as a funeral director, but he insists his decision to create the policy was unrelated to his other job.

He says he had 90 inquiries about indigent burials last year. He says he asks families multiple times if they're sure they want to sign over their loved one's body, and gives them time to change their minds. He says he doesn't give them the death certificate or ashes to protect against "abuse," such as a case in which he later learned a family that didn't want to pay for burial had received life insurance.

Smith has a different version of events. She says she was unclear about what the form she was signing would do, and that she asked Keller if he could work with her to make payments toward the \$1,000 and he refused. She also says Keller told her that if she didn't pay, he'd bury the ashes in a cemetery and not reveal the location. He denies that, but several friends and family say they heard Keller make that statement or that he separately told them the same thing.

Smith eventually raised the \$1,000 through donations. McElroy's family did the same, but it took months. "He could've died in prison and been better off," Tom McElroy said. "He deserved better."

Follow Sara Burnett at https://twitter.com/sara_burnett

Stocks jump, with Buffett helping Apple to new highs

By MARLEY JAY, AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks made up for a shaky week with a strong finish Friday as Apple led a rally in technology companies. The tech giant hit an all-time high after Warren Buffett said he'd made another big investment.

Stocks got off to a mixed start after trade talks between the U.S. and China ended with few signs of progress. The April jobs report showed that hiring continued at a solid clip and wages continued to grow at a slow pace. Apple surged after Buffett said Berkshire Hathaway bought 75 million shares during the first quarter.

Alphabet, Cisco Systems and other technology companies rose, and retailers, banks, and household goods makers also rallied. Investors also cheered strong first-quarter results from companies including Shake Shack and Activision Blizzard.

"We went into this earnings season with very high expectations," said Quincy Krosby, chief markets strategist for Prudential Financial. "When you go in with such high expectations, you expect near perfection."

The S&P 500 index climbed 33.69 points, or 1.3 percent, to 2,663.42. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 332.36 points, or 1.4 percent, to 24,262.51. The Nasdaq composite jumped 121.47 points, or 1.7 percent, to 7,209.62. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks gained 19.05 points, or 1.2 percent, to 1,565.60.

Overall, stocks have taken small losses in choppy trading over the last two weeks. But for Apple, this was the best week in six and a half years.

Apple rose 3.9 percent to \$183.83 after Warren Buffett told CNBC his company boosted its investment in Apple to more than 240 million shares altogether. Buffett told CNBC about the purchase ahead of Berkshire Hathaway's annual meeting this weekend. Berkshire stock rose 2.1 percent to \$195.64.

Apple climbed 13.3 percent for the week after it reported solid quarterly results and investors were pleased with its forecast of solid iPhone sales, which came as a relief. It also raised its dividend and announced a big stock repurchase.

Companies have done well in the first quarter, but stocks haven't necessarily followed suit as investors worried about the U.S.-China trade spat, rising interest rates, and other issues. But on Friday investors responded.

After better-than-expected reports, burger chain Shake Shack surged 18 percent to \$55.95 while music streaming company Pandora Media advanced 19.8 percent to \$6.89. Video game maker Activision Blizzard gained 4.5 percent to \$69.84. The stock had dipped Thursday afternoon after Activision's results were released early.

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U.S. employers stepped up hiring modestly in April, and the hiring estimate from March was revised higher. That's evident the economy remains resilient even though some businesses are concerned about a possible trade war. While many employers say it's difficult to find qualified workers, they have yet to significantly boost pay in most industries, a trend that continued last month.

"That may not be good for Main Street, but it's what Wall Street wanted to see," said Krosby, of Prudential.

The Trump administration asked China to reduce its trade deficit with the U.S. by \$200 billion by the end of 2020, striking an assertive stance in talks aimed at averting a trade war between the world's largest economies. It also wants China to immediately stop providing subsidies to certain industries listed in a key industrial plan and end some of its policies related to technology transfers, a key source of tension underlying the dispute. While the trade tensions have rattled investors, many market watchers think the two sides will eventually come to a deal that doesn't disrupt trade much.

Engineering and construction company Fluor plunged after it slashed its profit forecast because a gas-fired power project suffered "continued challenges." The company took an unexpected loss in the first quarter and now expects a profit of \$2.10 to \$2.50 per share for the year, down from \$3.10 to \$3.50 per share. The stock dropped 22.4 percent to \$45.76.

Bond prices rose early, but later gave up that gain. The yield on the 2-year Treasury note rose to 2.49 percent from 2.48 percent. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note remained at 2.95 percent. That helped banks recover from an early loss. Lower bond yields mean lower rates for mortgages and other types of loans, which reduces profits for banks. Companies that pay big dividends didn't rise as much as the rest of the market.

Benchmark U.S. crude rose 1.9 percent to \$69.72 per barrel in New York. Brent crude, the international standard, gained 1.7 percent to \$74.87 per barrel in London.

Wholesale gasoline jumped 1.3 percent to \$2.11 a gallon. Heating oil climbed 2 percent to \$2.15 a gallon. Natural gas lost 0.6 percent to \$2.71 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Gold gained 0.2 percent to \$1,314.70 an ounce. Silver added 0.4 percent to \$16.52 an ounce. Copper rose 0.2 percent to \$3.09 a pound.

The dollar fell to 109.11 yen from 109.73 yen. The euro fell to \$1.1962 from \$1.1993.

Britain's FTSE 100 rose 0.9 percent and the DAX in Germany added 1 percent. France's CAC 40 gained 0.3 percent. The South Korean Kospi sank 1 percent and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index lost 1.3 percent. Markets in Japan remained closed for a public holiday.

AP Markets Writer Marley Jay can be reached at <http://twitter.com/MarleyJayAP>. His work can be found at <https://apnews.com/search/marley%20jay>

2nd-longest US expansion on record keeps churning out jobs

By JOSH BOAK, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy has delivered steady if only modest gains for most Americans since the Great Recession ended in 2009. It's been a frustration for many.

Yet the very sluggishness of the economic expansion helps explain why it's now the second-longest on record and why more of the country might soon benefit from higher pay.

Nearly nine years into the recovery, the job market keeps delivering: The government said Friday that employers added 164,000 jobs in April — the 91st straight month of hiring growth, the longest such streak on record. More tellingly, the unemployment rate fell to 3.9 percent, the lowest since December 2000. Eight years ago, the jobless rate was 10 percent.

But for much of the expansion, many people have felt left behind. Some have found only part-time work. Pay growth, on average, has been meager. The stock market boom and low interest rates that defined the recovery have favored the wealthy.

The economy's modest growth, though, has helped prevent it from overheating and skidding into another recession, as often happened during more robust expansions. And some economists say the ever-lower

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unemployment rate suggests that a wider swath of Americans soon stand to benefit from stronger pay growth.

"It's just not sustainable for average pay growth to be so low in a labor market this tight," said Andrew Chamberlain, chief economist at the jobs site Glassdoor.

Average hourly earnings have risen 2.6 percent from a year ago. That is slightly more than the year-over-year wage growth of roughly 2 percent that prevailed in 2014 and 2015, when the unemployment rate was higher. Yet by historical standards, wage growth has been relatively stagnant.

Past expansions have delivered faster growth. But since World War II, they have lasted an average of less than five years before slipping into recession.

Gus Faucher, chief economist for PNC Financial, said he thinks annual wage growth could average 3 percent by the end of the year. He notes that employers are having an increasingly difficult time finding qualified workers, creating pressure for them to raise wages.

That may explain why the pace of job growth was slower in March and April: There aren't enough unemployed people to fill openings.

Knutec, a company in Bradenton, Florida, that builds communication network systems, hopes to double its 19-person staff in the next 60 days to meet demand from customers.

Troy Knutson, a founder of the company, said he offers \$15 an hour to new employees, who are usually trained on the job how to haul cable and install networks. He said he's now competing against fast food restaurants that are offering workers roughly the same starting wage. The difference, Knutson says, is that his company will provide a career path, cover the costs of health insurance and generally raise a worker's pay to \$35 an hour after five years.

"The job market is getting competitive, and people are able to request higher wages," he said.

An encouraging sign for the economy is that the pace of hiring has yet to be disrupted by dramatic global market swings, a recent pickup in inflation or the risk that the tariffs being pushed by President Donald Trump could provoke a trade war.

Much of the economy's durability is due, in fact, to the healthy job market. The increase in people earning paychecks has bolstered demand for housing, even though fewer properties are being listed for sale. Consumer confidence has improved over the past year. And more people are shopping, with retail sales having picked up in March after three monthly declines.

Manufacturers added 24,000 workers last month, a sign that possible tariffs on steel, aluminum and Chinese goods haven't altered hiring plans at most U.S. factories. Restaurants and hotels hired a net 18,000. The health care and social assistance sector added 29,300 jobs and the construction industry 17,000.

With qualified job applicants harder to find in many industries, employers have become less and less likely to shed employees. The four-week moving average for people applying for first-time unemployment benefits has reached its lowest level since 1973.

The trend reflects a decline in mass layoffs. Many companies expect the economy to keep expanding, especially after a dose of stimulus from tax cuts signed into law by Trump that have also increased the federal budget deficit.

Inflation has shown signs of accelerating slightly, eroding some of the potential wage growth. Consumer prices rose at a year-over-year pace of 2.4 percent in March, the sharpest annual increase in 12 months.

The Federal Reserve has set an annual inflation target of 2 percent. Investors expect the Fed to raise rates at least twice more this year, after an earlier rate hike in March, to keep inflation from climbing too far above that target. Many economists saw the April jobs report as confirming that forecast.

Scott Anderson, chief economist at the Bank of the West, said the April jobs report suggests that inflation may remain tame, which means the Fed might not raise rates more than three times this year.

"Slower job growth with little sign of inflation pressures is just what the doctor ordered to keep this economic expansion on track without a serious case of overheating," Anderson said.

Meghan Markle's parents to visit queen, have wedding roles

By GREGORY KATZ, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Meghan Markle's parents will meet with Queen Elizabeth II and other royals before her May 19 wedding to Prince Harry and will have special roles in their daughter's wedding, a palace spokesman said Friday.

At the wedding, the royal couple also plan to honor the memory of the late Princess Diana, Harry's mother, who died in a Paris car crash in 1997.

Officials didn't predict the weather — springtime in England can be glorious or horrid, sometimes on the same day — but they outlined plans for a celebration designed to spread from the privileged environs of Windsor Castle throughout Britain and the world, via television and the internet.

Here are some of the plans disclosed by Harry's press secretary, Jason Knauf, during a briefing at Buckingham Palace:

MEGHAN'S PARENTS TO MEET THE QUEEN, TAKE PART IN WEDDING

Markle's divorced parents, Thomas Markle and Doria Ragland, will arrive during the week before the May 19 wedding so they have time to meet Harry's family.

Knauf says they will visit with the queen, her husband Prince Philip, Harry's father Prince Charles and his wife Camilla, and with Harry's brother Prince William and his sister-in-law Kate.

Ragland will travel with her daughter by car to Windsor Castle on May 19 and Thomas Markle will walk his daughter down the aisle of St. George's Chapel for the ceremony.

Knauf says Markle is "delighted" that her parents will be by her side. He did not say whether Markle's half brother and half sister will attend the wedding.

PRINCESS DIANA'S FAMILY WILL HAVE A ROLE AS WELL

The press secretary says Harry is "keen to involve his mother's family in the wedding" and that all three of Diana's siblings will be present. One of Diana's two older sisters, Jane Fellowes, will give a reading during the ceremony to represent Diana's family.

NO MAID OF HONOR

Markle, an American actress who came to prominence in the TV series "Suits," will not have a maid of honor during the ceremony.

Harry has chosen William as his best man.

YOUNG BRIDESMAIDS AND PAGE BOYS

Knauf says all the bridesmaids and page boys will be children. That may mean a role for Prince George, 4, and Princess Charlotte, 3, the children of Prince William and the Duchess of Cambridge. But don't bother looking for Prince Louis — born in late April — as the youngest prince will not attend the wedding.

DON'T ASK ABOUT THE DRESS

Palace officials are determined that the style and designer of Markle's wedding gown will be kept secret until the moment she gets out of the car to walk into the chapel. They say this tradition is very important — but that won't keep speculators from trying to guess who has received the most important dressmaking assignment of the year.

SEPARATED THE NIGHT BEFORE

The press secretary says Harry and Markle will spend the night before the wedding apart. They have been living together in recent months since announcing their engagement. They will spend their first night as a married couple in Windsor Castle.

GOOD WISHES FOR PRINCE PHILIP'S HEALTH

Palace officials say they're hopeful that 96-year-old Prince Philip, Harry's grandfather, will be well enough to attend the wedding festivities. The queen's husband has been recovering from hip replacement surgery and has not participated in any public events since being discharged from the hospital in mid-April.

FOLLOW THE WEDDING AT HOME

The palace plans to publish the Order of Service on its website the morning of the wedding so people watching it on television will be better able to follow what's taking place inside the church.

DELAYED HONEYMOON

Knauf would not reveal where the newest royal couple will spend their honeymoon, but he said they won't be leaving right after the wedding. Instead they plan to make their first public appearance as a married couple during the week following the ceremony. In the past, they have traveled in Africa together.

For complete royal wedding coverage, visit <https://apnews.com/tag/Royalweddings>

Florida woman's gruesome roach-in-ear tale goes viral

By TAMARA LUSH, Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Those screams you hear?

They're the collective sounds of primal anguish after reading a Florida woman's account of waking up with a palmetto bug in her ear. (That's the polite name for a flying cockroach, for those of you not acquainted with the reviled Sunshine State insects.)

Katie Holley's gruesome experience happened in the early morning hours of April 14. Soon after, her sister-in-law — who works as an editor for Self Magazine — asked her to pen an essay. She did, in frightening, gut-churning detail that's made thousands of people across the nation wonder if they should sleep with earplugs.

"Never thought I'd be known for such a ridiculous thing lol," she tweeted to a reporter on Thursday. It should be noted that Holley has an extremely positive attitude and healthy sense of humor about an episode that would send many into a spiral of anxiety, including this reporter.

"I need therapy for a lot of reasons, but this experience blows all of those other reasons out of the water," Holley wrote.

Holley, who is 29 and works as a sales and marketing manager in Melbourne on the state's east coast, has lived in Florida since 1995. Which means she's seen her fair share of palmetto bugs, which are brown, ubiquitous, and can grow to an inch-and-a-half long or more. It doesn't matter how clean your home is — it's almost a given that every building has one or more.

And they come out at night.

"When I woke up with this weird feeling, I didn't know what it was. But 30 seconds later, stumbling to the bathroom, I knew," she said. "I knew there was something in my ear."

(Dear Reader, just stop now if you're squeamish. Really.)

Holley's next several hours were the stuff of horror movies. She gingerly put a cotton swab in her ear and fished out two legs. Her husband "located the thickest part of the roach that was visible" and tried to extract it, to no avail.

(Seriously, it gets worse.)

The bug wriggled in her ear on the trip to the hospital.

"As the doctor administered the Lidocaine, the roach began to...react. Feeling a roach in the throes of death, lodged in a very sensitive part of your body, is unlike anything I can adequately explain," she wrote.

A doctor removed three chunks — but that wasn't the end of the ordeal.

(You've been warned.)

Nine days later, Holley still had lingering discomfort and hearing loss, so she went to her family doctor.

"My physician proceeded to remove the leg and flush my ear again, only to examine it and see even

more remnants. She ended up pulling out six more pieces of the roach's carcass_nine days after the incident took place."

(Deep breath.)

Here's the bad news.

"This may be upsetting to many people, but it's a pretty common thing," said Dr. David Wein, chief of emergency medicine at Tampa General Hospital, who added that the hospital gets a dozen or so cases a year. "There are probably not a lot of preventative things you can do. In Florida it's really hard, because we all have bugs in our house, no matter how many times you spray."

In fact, Holley said, she and her husband had hired an exterminator about a week before the incident.

"I think it's one of those freak things, unfortunately," she said. "It happened to me, so it's probably not going to happen to you."

Follow Tamara Lush on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/tamaralush>

Judge poses pointed questions on Manafort charges at hearing

By **MATTHEW BARAKAT, Associated Press**

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — A federal judge on Friday asked pointed questions about special counsel Robert Mueller's authority to bring charges against former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort and suggested that prosecutors' true motive is getting Manafort to "sing" against the president.

Manafort's lawyers argued at a hearing in Alexandria that the tax and bank fraud charges are far afield from Mueller's mandate to investigate Russian meddling in the 2016 election and whether any coordination with Trump associates occurred.

"I don't see what relationship this indictment has with what the special counsel is investigating," U.S. Senior Judge T.S. Ellis III, a Reagan appointee, told government lawyers at Friday's hearing.

The Virginia indictment alleges Manafort hid tens of millions of dollars he earned advising pro-Russia politicians in Ukraine from the Internal Revenue Service, money earned from 2006 through 2015. The indictment accuses Manafort of fraudulently obtaining millions in loans from financial institutions later, after his Ukrainian work dwindled. Prosecutors say that part of the conspiracy stretched from 2015 through January 2017, including the months while he was working on the Trump campaign.

Under questioning from Ellis, government lawyers admitted that Manafort had been under investigation for years in the Eastern District of Virginia before Mueller was ever appointed special counsel. And Ellis said it was implausible to think that the charges against Manafort, which primarily concern his business dealings and tax returns from about 2005 through 2015, could have a real connection to Trump's 2016 presidential campaign.

Ellis suggested the real reason Mueller is pursuing Manafort is to pressure him to "sing" against Trump, though he also noted that such a strategy is a "time-honored practice" for prosecutors and not necessarily illegal. Ellis went on to say that defense lawyers are naturally concerned that defendants in that situation will not only sing but "compose" — meaning that they'll make up facts.

"You really care about wanting information you could get from Mr. Manafort that would relate to Mr. Trump and lead to his prosecution, or impeachment, or whatever," Ellis said.

Later Friday, President Trump praised Ellis during a speech to the National Rifle Association and called him a "highly respected judge." Trump read news articles highlighting Ellis' quotes about the case and his suggestion that the special counsel's goal is to squeeze Manafort. "I've been saying that for a long time," Trump said.

At the hearing, government lawyer Michael Dreeben responded to Ellis that the special counsel's mandate is broad, and that Manafort fits within that jurisdiction because of his connections to both the Trump campaign and to Ukrainian and Russian officials.

"We needed to understand and explore those relationships and follow the money where it led," Dreeben said.

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Dreeben also argued that the Justice Department has broad discretion to set its own rules for what should be designated to the special counsel's jurisdiction, and that a judge has no role trying to regulate it. "We are the Justice Department," Dreeben said of the special counsel's office. "We are not separate from the Justice Department."

That argument provoked Ellis' ire to an extent and prompted him to question the wisdom of granting unfettered power to a special counsel with a \$10 million budget.

"I'm sure you're sensitive to the fact that the American people feel pretty strongly about no one having unfettered power," Ellis said.

He asked Dreeben whether the special counsel had already blown through its \$10 million budget; Dreeben declined to answer.

Manafort's lawyer, Kevin Downing, has argued that a special counsel should be tightly constrained in how it operates. He noted that the law authorizing the special counsel was passed to replace the old independent counsel law, which was derided for allowing overbroad, yearslong investigations during the Reagan and Clinton administrations.

Downing has argued that the charges should be dismissed if Mueller lacked authority to bring them. Ellis, though, suggested another remedy would be to simply hand the case back to regular federal prosecutors.

Ellis withheld ruling on the motion and will issue a written ruling at a later date.

Manafort is also facing a separate indictment in the District of Columbia, where the special counsel has brought the bulk of charges. Prosecutors also wanted to bring the Virginia charges in the District of Columbia, arguing it would be more efficient. But Manafort had the right to have the case heard in Virginia, because that is where the alleged misconduct in the Virginia indictment occurred. Manafort declined to waive his right to have the charges adjudicated in Virginia.

Manafort's lawyers made similar arguments seeking dismissal to the judge overseeing the District case. She has also not yet ruled on the motion.

Associated Press writer Anne Flaherty contributed to this report from Washington.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, May 5, the 125th day of 2018. There are 240 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 5, 1862, Mexican troops defeated French occupying forces in the Battle of Puebla.

On this date:

In 1494, during his second voyage to the Western Hemisphere, Christopher Columbus landed in Jamaica.

In 1818, political philosopher Karl Marx, co-author of "The Communist Manifesto" and author of "Das Kapital," was born in Prussia.

In 1821, Napoleon Bonaparte, 51, died in exile on the island of St. Helena.

In 1892, Congress passed the Geary Act, which required Chinese in the United States to carry a certificate of residence at all times, or face deportation.

In 1927, "To the Lighthouse," Virginia Woolf's fifth novel, was published in London.

In 1942, wartime sugar rationing began in the United States.

In 1945, in the only fatal attack of its kind during World War II, a Japanese balloon bomb exploded on Gearhart Mountain in Oregon, killing the pregnant wife of a minister and five children. Denmark and the Netherlands were liberated as a German surrender went into effect.

In 1955, West Germany became a fully sovereign state. The baseball musical "Damn Yankees," starring Stephen Douglass as Joe Hardy, Gwen Verdon as Lola and Ray Walston as Applegate, opened on Broadway.

In 1961, astronaut Alan B. Shepard Jr. became America's first space traveler as he made a 15-minute suborbital flight aboard Mercury capsule Freedom 7.

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In 1978, Ben & Jerry's ice cream had its beginnings as Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield opened an ice cream parlor at a converted gas station in Burlington, Vermont.

In 1981, Irish Republican Army hunger-striker Bobby Sands died at the Maze Prison in Northern Ireland in his 66th day without food.

In 1994, Singapore caned American teenager Michael Fay for vandalism, a day after the sentence was reduced from six lashes to four in response to an appeal by President Bill Clinton.

Ten years ago: Three men were arrested and beaten by Philadelphia police officers after a vehicle chase in a scene videotaped by a WTXF-TV news helicopter. (The three men were later acquitted of attempted murder and all other charges stemming from a shooting that led to their arrests; four of the 18 police officers at the scene were fired and a number of others were disciplined.) Irvine Robbins, co-founder of the Baskin-Robbins ice cream chain, died in Rancho Mirage, California, at age 90.

Five years ago: In Afghanistan, seven Americans and one German soldier were killed in three separate attacks. Former U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, seriously wounded in a 2011 shooting at a Tucson, Arizona, shopping mall, received the 2013 Profile in Courage award at the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston. LeBron James of the Miami Heat was the overwhelming choice as the NBA's Most Valuable Player. Brett Rumford won the China Open by four strokes to become the first Australian in 41 years to win consecutive European Tour titles.

One year ago: President Donald Trump signed his first piece of major legislation, a \$1 trillion spending bill to keep the government operating through September. The Labor Department reported a burst of hiring in April 2017 as employers added 211,000 jobs, more than double the weak showing in March.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Pat Carroll is 91. Former AFL-CIO president John J. Sweeney is 84. Saxophonist Ace Cannon is 84. Country singer-musician Roni Stoneman is 80. Actor Michael Murphy is 80. Actor Lance Henriksen is 78. Comedian-actor Michael Palin is 75. Actor John Rhys-Davies is 74. Rock correspondent Kurt Loder is 73. Rock musician Bill Ward (Black Sabbath) is 70. Actress Melinda Culea is 63. Actress Lisa Eilbacher is 61. Actor Richard E. Grant is 61. Former broadcast journalist John Miller is 60. Rock singer Ian McCulloch (Echo and the Bunnymen) is 59. NBC newsman Brian Williams is 59. Rock musician Shawn Drover (Megadeth) is 52. TV personality Kyan (KY'-ihn) Douglas is 48. Actress Tina Yothers is 45. Rhythm and blues singer Raheem DeVaughn is 43. Actor Santiago Cabrera is 40. Actor Vincent Kartheiser is 39. Singer Craig David is 37. Actress Danielle Fishel is 37. Actor Henry Cavill is 35. Actor Clark Duke is 33. Soul singer Adele is 30. Rock singer Skye Sweetnam is 30. Rhythm-and-blues singer Chris Brown is 29. Figure skater Nathan Chen is 19.

Thought for Today: "The test of courage comes when we are in the minority. The test of tolerance comes when we are in the majority." — Ralph W. Sockman, American clergyman (1889-1970).