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Mail Highway Route Relief Driver

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

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

Contact Dave Miller 605-397-8277 Leave Message

Monday, May 7

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

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

2 p.m.: Junior High Track Meet at Aberdeen Central (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

Put our experienced team to work for you!

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GROTONFORD.COM 605-397-2311

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

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Middle School Music Contest

The Groton Area Middle School musicians participated in the music contest held Saturday in Webster. Middle School Band Director Desiree Yeigh had this post on her Facebook Page: "Very proud director moment! Our day at MS Contest was wonderful! JH Band received two superior ratings and a superior plus rating. Our 6-8th graders brought home 42 superiors (4 of them superior pluses), 10 Excellent pluses and 4 excellent ratings. Thanks to my partner in crime Austin Fordham and everyone that helped out with accompanying (Cody Swanson) or anything else I needed! I couldn't do it without all of you."

New \$5 Buck Lunches!

**Crispy Chicken
Salad
Lunch**



**KC BBQ Bacon
Cheeseburger
Lunch**



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

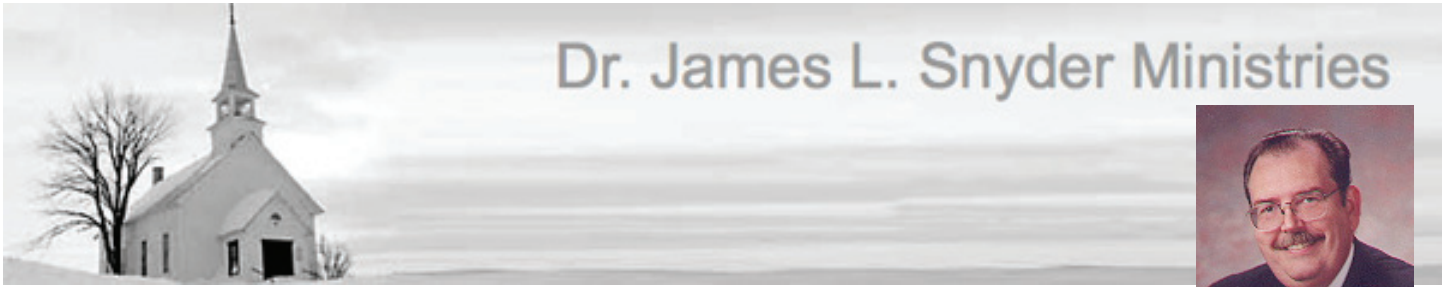


Grill & Chill

US 12, Groton

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries



Dealing with Tuesday, the Worst Day of the Week

The worst day of the week for me is Monday. That means that I'm starting a new week and usually I have to start from scratch. All the things around me that annoy me, make me itchy and I have to scratch.

I cannot wait until the weekend gets here. It is the weekend where I can enjoy myself the most.

I know on Sunday, the best day of the week for me, I enjoy fellowshiping with other believers and preaching the word of God. I do not claim to be the best preacher in the world, I just love preaching. When Sunday comes around, I have an opportunity to preach.

The rest of the week, however, is really a drag.

It was Tuesday morning and I was a little down, drinking my coffee rather slowly and the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage looked at me and said quite sternly, "What's wrong with you?"

It is a simple question and deserves a simple answer. From my point of view, it's not really that simple.

Tuesday is not really Monday, which is a little better. However, Tuesday is not Wednesday either. Tuesday is a very slow day in my week and, do not quote me here, but I think there are at least 30 hours on Tuesday. At least 30. Probably more.

No matter what I do on Tuesday, it has nothing whatsoever to do with getting me to the weekend. Not only is this the slowest day of the week, but it is the least productive.

If I do not do very much on Monday, I can always blame the fact that it's Monday and I am just getting started. Tuesday I can't say that. Monday should prepare me for Tuesday and Tuesday should be the most productive day of my week. Either, I'm not using Monday as I should or, Tuesday is just a bad day for me.

I still did not know how to answer my wife. I was so gloomy that I really did not have any way to explain why I was so gloomy.

"Why," my wife said, "Tuesday is my favorite day of the week."

I just looked at her in my gloomy attire, grunted and couldn't say anything to her.

"I can get more done on Tuesday than any day of the week," she boasted.

I do admit she gets a lot done on Tuesday, but that has nothing whatsoever to do with me. She is the most talented multitasker I have ever known. She can handle up to a dozen projects simultaneously. Get her going, and she

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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does not know how to stop.

If I had her talent, I could conquer the world. However, after all, it's only Tuesday and I was a little gloomy.

On Monday, I can say I worked hard over the weekend and deserve to take a little bit of a rest. Nobody would worry about that not even my wife.

But Tuesday? There is no excuse I have ever made that justifies not doing something on a Tuesday, I know because I have tried everything on my wife.

Tuesday is the dead point in my week. On Monday, for example, I can relax and just think about what I did over the weekend and how my sermon went.

I cannot do that on a Tuesday. The weekend is already over and the next weekend is far down the road. I can sit in my chair, sigh deeply and think about how soon the weekend will get here.

It could be that as you get older your brain does not function as much as it did when you were younger. I wonder if that is a good excuse?

"Oh," I could say to my wife, "I'm getting older now and my brain doesn't function as it once did. I got to slow down a little bit."

She could look at me and say, "Your brain never functioned as long as I've known you. It has nothing whatsoever to do with how old you are. It has everything to do with a nonfunctioning brain."

So, I'm not going to give her an opportunity to opinionize on the functionality of my brain. My brain works enough to know that I better let that one alone.

I have a lot of guilt on a Tuesday. I should be doing things, but I just cannot get the focus on what I should be doing. I'm looking down the week and I vaguely see Saturday approaching. It is so far down the road I am not sure I am going to get it in time. In time for what? I don't know.

At least on Wednesday the week is half over. Monday means a new week has started, but Tuesday does not mean anything.



**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**

I was sitting in my chair drinking some coffee when my wife comes up and saw me and asked me, "Do you have anything to do?"

Since my brain functioning was limited because of my age, I quickly responded, "No."

Before I realized what I had said, I was in deep trouble. My wife said, "Good, you can help me with some chores today."

As she led me to the garage, I thought of the Scripture, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest" (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

The weekend cannot come soon enough for me!

GOP gubernatorial candidates plug qualifications

By Dana Hess

For the S.D. Newspaper Association

Sioux Falls — Two candidates seeking the Republican nomination for governor did not differ much on the issues, instead used most of a debate to offer their qualifications for the office.

The debate between U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem and S.D. Attorney General Marty Jackley took place Saturday at the annual convention of the South Dakota Newspaper Association.

The debate was moderated by Mark Roby, retired publisher of the Watertown Public Opinion and the Aberdeen American News. Reporters questioning the candidates included Seth Tupper of the Rapid City Journal, Stu Whitney of the Sioux Falls Argus Leader, Robert Slocum of the Timber Lake Topic and Brianna Schreurs of the Collegian at South Dakota State University.

"I think really, when you look at it, who's ready to take over the role of being the next governor of South Dakota, these races tend to come down to experience," Noem said, noting that she has been prepared through her experiences in farming, business, serving in the state Legislature and in the U.S. Congress.

"When you look at executive experience, I've had the opportunity to learn that firsthand as a partner running a Main Street business, to learn it as your United States Attorney, as your attorney general and as chairman of the nation's attorney generals," Jackley said.

Asked what it means to be a Republican, Noem said it was a belief in a smaller government role in the lives of its citizens.

"Republicans look to balance budgets, pay off debts, give people more freedom and opportunities," said Noem. "It's a little bit of a challenge being a conservative in Washington, D.C., because of the things that are going on."

"I'm a Republican because I believe in limited government," Jackley said. "I'm a Republican because I believe that we need to protect taxpayer dollars and balance our budget."

Both candidates said they would work to strengthen education in South Dakota, work to broaden the economy if the Internet sales tax lawsuit fails, bolster the agricultural economy, work on housing, jobs and Internet connectivity as a means for keeping more young people in the state and continue to combat human trafficking.

The candidates agreed that if elected governor they would likely sign a constitutional carry law that allows citizens to carry handguns without a permit.

Noem said gun rights are under fire. "We are at war at the national level," she said.

Jackley said the legislation contains protections to keep handguns out of the hands of people convicted of a violent crime, a drug crime or those treated for a mental health issue.

"Yes, I will sign that legislation because it protects our Second Amendment rights, it protects our communities," Jackley said.

Throughout the debate, Jackley asserted that the federal government in Washington, D.C., isn't solving its citizens' problems, calling for the state to come up with "South Dakota solutions."

This tactic wasn't lost on South Dakota's sole representative in the House.

"I know Marty's talking a lot about Washington and he's kind of hoping as he throws mud at Washington, it sticks to me, but my record on this is clean," Noem said, noting her vote against the recent \$1.3 trillion spending bill.

While both candidates said that the federal government isn't doing all it can to help South Dakotans, they both had praise for President Donald Trump. Jackley said the president's plan for a southern border wall will help combat methamphetamine and opioid addiction. Noem praised the tax cut championed by the president, saying that it put \$2,400 more in the pocket of each South Dakota family of four.

Both candidates called on the memory of former Gov. George Mickelson and his efforts to build reconciliation between whites and the state's Native American population.

"I'm a mom," Noem said. "I know how those moms on the reservation feel when they see that the opportunities for their kids are limited. We, years ago, talked about South Dakota having a reconciliation

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opportunity with our tribes and I think that's in front of us again."

Jackley noted his relationships with the tribes and his appointment of special assistant attorneys general in tribal law enforcement to enhance cooperation.

"I think it's based upon that relationship I've built with them that a reconciliation like Gov. Mickelson envisioned can and will happen under a Jackley administration," the attorney general said.

Asked how the state could avoid future scandals like EB-5 and Gear Up, Jackley noted that those were federal programs. He said since those scandals he has sponsored legislation to protect whistleblowers and better regulate state agencies using federal funds.

Noem noted that the money from the federal programs was administered by the state.

"We've been making headlines for scandal and mismanagement and million dollar settlements," Noem said. "We should be making headlines for the wonderful things that we're doing in the state."

The candidates disagreed on how to tackle the state's problems with Noem taking issue with Jackley's history of forming task forces to address issues.

"You don't have to form more government in order to listen to people," Noem said. "I'm a big believer that you don't have to go forward and create a new task force to address an issue."

Jackley said it was a practice he would continue as governor.

"I will put the right people together in task forces," Jackley said. "That's not more government. That's utilizing citizens to be able to help make government better, to make government more transparent."

The winner of the Republican nomination for governor will face Democrat Billie Sutton in the fall. Sutton does not face a primary challenger. The winner of the general election will replace Gov. Dennis Daugaard who is term limited.

Niskata - Evening Thought

When I Whine

Today, upon a bus, I saw a very beautiful woman and wished I were as beautiful.
When suddenly she rose to leave, I saw her hobble down the aisle.
She had one leg and used a crutch. But as she passed, she passed a smile.
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine. I have two legs; the world is mine.

I stopped to buy some candy. The lad who sold it had such charm.
I talked with him, he seemed so glad. If I were late, it'd do no harm.
And as I left, he said to me, "I thank you, you've been so kind.
It's nice to talk with folks like you. You see," he said, "I'm blind."
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine. I have two eyes; the world is mine.

Later while walking down the street, I saw a child I knew.
He stood and watched the others play, but he did not know what to do.
I stopped a moment and then I said, "Why don't you join them, Dear?"
He looked ahead without a word. I forgot, he couldn't hear.
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine. I have two ears; the world is mine.

With feet to take me where I'd go. With eyes to see the sunset's glow.
With ears to hear what I would know.
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine.
I've been blessed indeed, the world is mine.

Thanks Gene Brolin for sharing this with us.

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Today in Weather History

May 6, 1988: High winds produced blowing dust which reduced visibilities to less than one-half mile in northeastern South Dakota. Wind gusts of 62 mph were reported at Aberdeen. A small building was destroyed in Gettysburg, and a building was damaged near Timber Lake. Winds also blew over a tractor-trailer injuring a man in Okaton.

May 6, 1999: High winds of 35 to 50 mph, gusting to over 60 mph blew across central and north central South Dakota from the early morning to the late evening hours causing some damage. In Pierre, the high winds blew a large tree down and tore loose a piece of the sheet metal cornice atop a downtown building. At the Legion Memorial Park in Mobridge, the high winds knocked the centerfield lights to the ground. In Jones County, a semi-tractor trailer was blown over and damaged. A fishing tournament at Lake Oahe had to be postponed as a result of the high winds.

1876: A tornado, estimated at F3 intensity, tracked four miles across Chicago, Illinois. The damaged buildings included a candy factory, a hospital, a freight depot, and a church. The tornado moved out over Lake Michigan and was observed to have multiple vortices by a reporter. Further south in Illinois, a tornado blew a moving passenger train off the tracks near Neoga, injuring all 19 people aboard.

1937: The German passenger airship LZ 129 Hindenburg caught fire and was destroyed during its attempt to dock with its mooring mast at Naval Air Station Lakehurst in Manchester Township, New Jersey, United States. Of the 97 people on board (36 passengers and 61 crewmen), there were 35 fatalities (13 passengers and 22 crewmen). One worker on the ground was also killed, making a total of 36 deaths. The Hindenburg was delayed two hours from docking due to thunderstorms in the area. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the History.com.

1975: A massive tornado hit Omaha, Nebraska killing three persons, injuring 133 others, and causing over 250 million dollars damage. The tornado struck during the late afternoon moving northeastward through the industrial and residential areas of west-central Omaha and lifting over the northern section of the city. The twister, which cut a swath ten miles long and as much as a quarter of a mile wide. It was the most costly in U.S. history up till that time. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the NWS Office in Omaha, Nebraska.

1933 - Charleston, SC, was deluged with 10.57 inches of rain, an all-time 24 hour record for that location. (The Weather Channel)

1975 - A massive tornado hit Omaha, NE, killing three persons, injuring 133 others, and causing 150 million dollars damage. The tornado struck during the late afternoon moving northeastward through the industrial and residential areas of west central Omaha, and lifting over the northern section of the city. The twister, which cut a swath ten miles long and as much as a quarter of a mile wide, was the mostly costly in U.S. history up til that time. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Eighteen cities in California and Oregon reported record high temperatures for the date. Highs of 91 degrees at Portland OR, 101 degrees at Medford OR, and 104 degrees at Sacramento CA, were the warmest of record for so early in the season. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - A major storm brought high winds to the western half of the country. A wind gust of 74 mph at Pueblo CO broke their May record established just four days earlier, and winds in the Arapahoe Ski Basin area of Colorado reached 85 mph. In North Dakota, the high winds reduced visibilities to near zero in blowing dust closing many roads. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

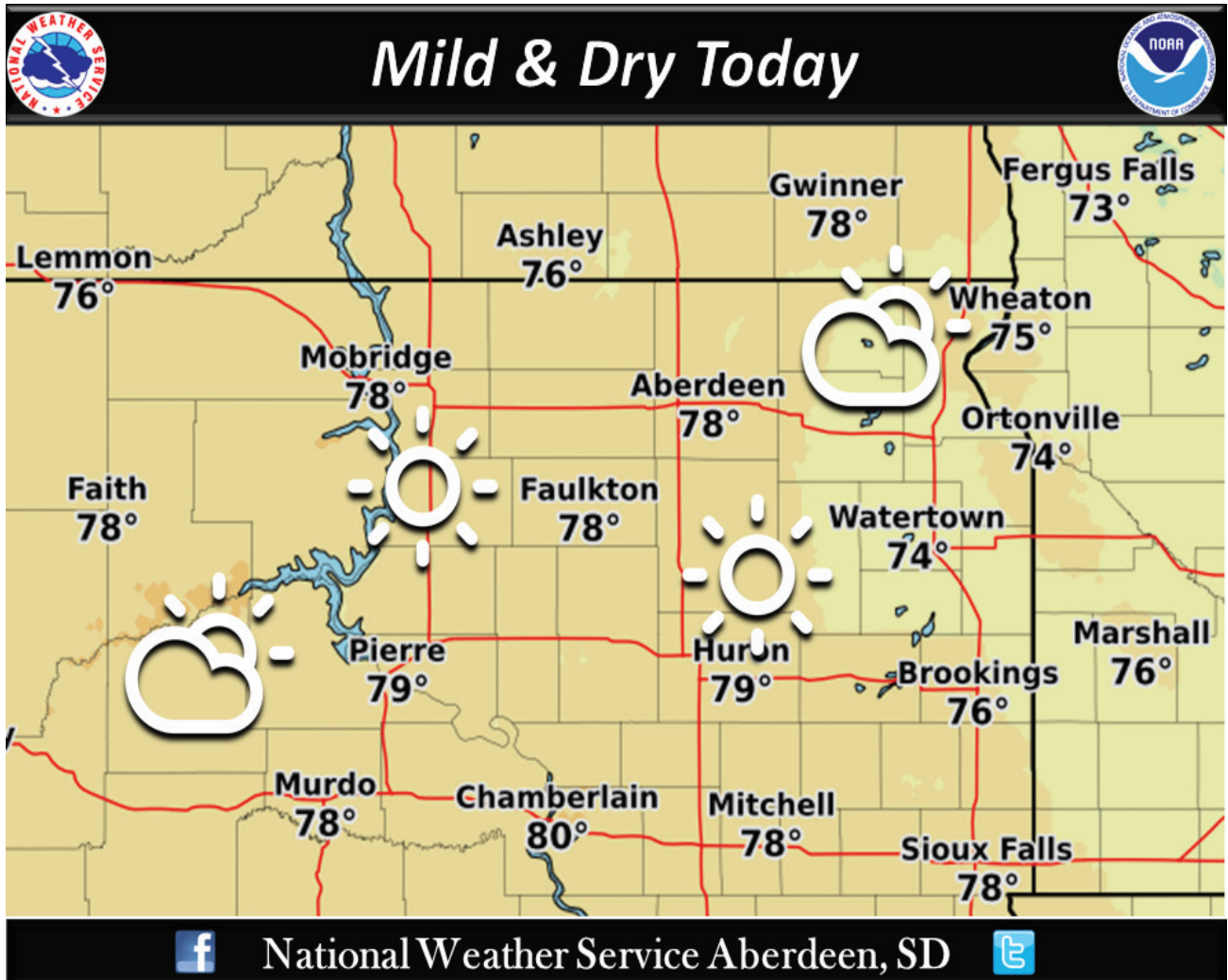
1989 - Sixteen cities in the north central U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date. Morning lows of 17 at Bismarck ND and 26 at Minneapolis MN were the coldest of record for so late in the season. A reading of 43 degrees at the start of the Kentucky Derby was the coldest in 115 years of records. Light snow was reported in the Upper Midwest, with an inch reported at Chicago IL. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Snow and high winds prevailed behind a Pacific cold front crossing the northwestern U.S. Wind gusts above 50 mph were reported in southeastern Idaho, and heavy snow blanketed the Cascade Mountains of Washington State, with twelve inches reported at Stampede Pass. (The National Weather Summary)

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Sun May 6	Mon May 7	Tue May 8	Wed May 9	Thu May 10	Fri May 11	Sat May 12
78°F	80°F	72°F	71°F	66°F	63°F	60°F
49°F	55°F	52°F	45°F	46°F	42°F	42°F
NW 5 MPH	S 18 MPH	SSE 15 MPH Precip 50%	NW 15 MPH	NE 11 MPH Precip 40%	ENE 11 MPH Precip 20%	N 13 MPH Precip 30%



Published on: 05/06/2018 at 5:01AM

Mild and dry conditions today, and this will continue into Monday as well. A little humidity returns late Monday with the chance for Moisture Monday night through Tuesday afternoon.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 82.0 F at 5:29 PM

Low Outside Temp: 46.4 F at 6:19 AM

Wind Chill:

High Gust: 28.0 Mph at 3:24 PM

Precip: 0.06

Today's Info

Record High: 93° in 2016

Record Low: 23° in 1931

Average High: 66°F

Average Low: 40°F

Average Precip in May: 0.61

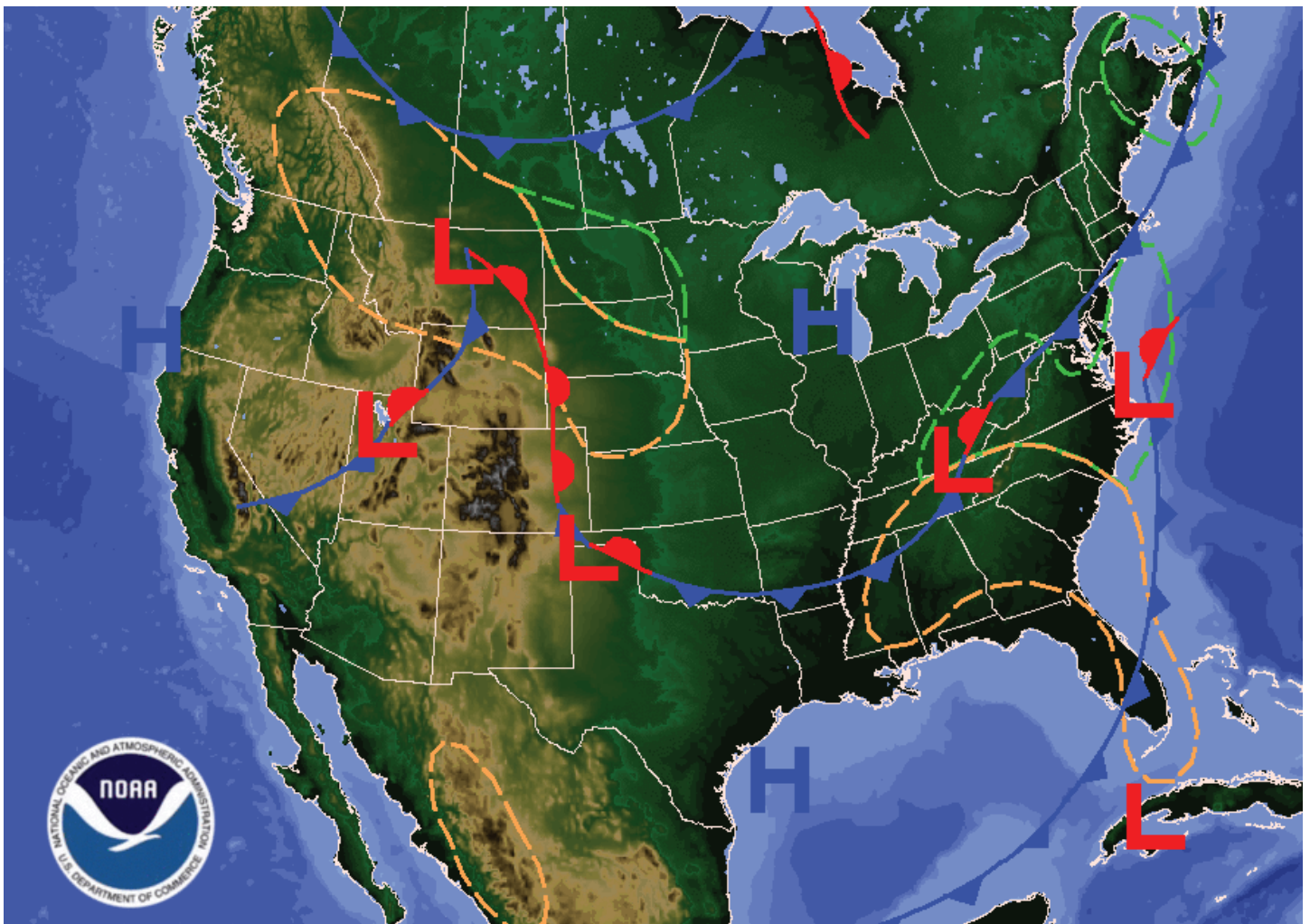
Precip to date in May: 0.11

Average Precip to date: 4.64

Precip Year to Date: 2.79

Sunset Tonight: 8:46 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:13 a.m.



Day 2 National Forecast Chart

Valid Mon, May 07, 2018, issued 3:46 AM EDT Sun, May 06, 2018
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)



WHEN COURAGE FAILS

"Pastor," said the voice on the phone, "I don't know what to do. My business that was doing well has crashed and I've had to declare bankruptcy. I've never been sick a day in my life and now my health is failing. And to add more grief, my wife told me a few moments ago that she is going to leave me. I can't go on any longer. My life is not worth living!"

Fearing he was about to do something desperate that would end his life the pastor asked, "Where are you?"

"At wit's end," he replied.

"Yes, I can understand, but where can I find you?" asked the pastor.

He gave his location, the pastor hurried to meet him, shared God's Words of love, salvation and hope with him. The man surrendered his life to the Lord and was saved.

Psalm 107 contains a story of a group of merchants that reminds us of this business man. They went out to sea in ships. Things went well for a while. They marveled at "the works of the Lord." But suddenly things changed. "He stirred up a tempest...lifted high the waves...up to the heavens and then they came crashing down to the depths...and they were at wit's end. Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble and He brought them out of their distress."

Every now and then God has to bring us to the end of our resources - our wit's end - before we turn to Him and cry out for His resources. How blest we are to know that He will calm the storm, still the waves, rescue us, bring out the stars and guide us safely into His harbor of hope.

Prayer: We thank You, Father, for the difficulties and challenges of life that force us to recognize Your greatness. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 107:27 They reeled and staggered like drunkards; they were at their wits' end.

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2018 Groton SD Community Events

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

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

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News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash
02-25-30-33-34
(two, twenty-five, thirty, thirty-three, thirty-four)
Estimated jackpot: \$20,000

Lotto America
08-15-18-32-45, Star Ball: 1, ASB: 2
(eight, fifteen, eighteen, thirty-two, forty-five; Star Ball: one; ASB: two)
Estimated jackpot: \$4.38 million

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$40 million

Powerball
14-29-36-57-61, Powerball: 17, Power Play: 4
(fourteen, twenty-nine, thirty-six, fifty-seven, sixty-one; Powerball: seventeen; Power Play: four)
Estimated jackpot: \$215 million

AP source: Spurs' Becky Hammon plans to interview with Bucks

By GENARO C. ARMAS, AP Sports Writer

MILWAUKEE (AP) — San Antonio Spurs assistant Becky Hammon plans to interview for the Milwaukee Bucks' coaching job, a person familiar with the search told The Associated Press.

The person requested anonymity because the team does not comment on potential candidates.

A woman has never been a head coach in the NBA. Hammon is the first full-time female assistant in the league.

ESPN.com first reported the planned interview.

Hammon just finished her fourth season as an assistant with the Spurs. She served as coach of the Spurs' Las Vegas Summer League entry in 2015 and 2016.

Hammon retired after the 2014 WNBA season following a 16-year playing career.

The Bucks have said they have a thorough plan and process in place to hire their next coach, but with no timeline. Interim coach Joe Prunty is also expected to interview for the job after the former assistant led the team to a 21-16 record following Jason Kidd's firing in late January.

The job is attractive because of a new arena opening in the fall and budding NBA superstar Giannis Antetokounmpo leading a young core.

The Bucks took a small step forward this year after winning 44 games, two better than last year. They were eliminated in seven games in the first round of the playoffs by the Boston Celtics, a year after losing in six in the first round to Toronto.

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

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2 South Dakota groups partner for soil health initiative

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Corn Growers Association and Pheasants Forever have partnered and pledged \$100,000 toward a soil health initiative.

Two unlikely partners have had differing views on land management practices, but the threat saline soils pose to the state's landscape has provided a common ground, the Aberdeen American News reported.

"Saline soils is an area of concern for them and for us, so it was a logical place to start a partnership," said Matt Morlock, acting director for Pheasants Forever in South Dakota.

Morlock said the effort will target more than 2 million acres across nearly 30 counties throughout the James and Missouri river valleys, as well Lyman, Jones and Stanley counties.

Lisa Richardson is the executive director of South Dakota Corn Growers Association. She called the partnership a win-win.

"The goal of the partnership is to minimize the impact of saline soils, but it's a unique partnership that helps our soils and provides habitat for pheasants," she said.

Richardson said the association has spent significant resources during the last decade on different research projects for soil health.

"This problem really came about because our water table came up, left the salt and then went back down," said Richardson. "When that happens, some of the land becomes unproductive, so we had to figure out a way to bring it back in a sustainable manner."

Saline soils are areas where an abundance of salt inhibits plant growth and productivity. The association estimates saline soils affect 7.6 million acres of farmland in the South Dakota with most found in the upper James River area.

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

New way to see art? Paris museum welcomes naked visitors

PARIS (AP) — Visitors at a leading contemporary art museum in Paris didn't leave only their coats in the cloakroom — they left all their clothes.

The Palais du Tokyo museum opened its doors to nudists for a special visit Saturday. It's part of growing efforts by France's tiny nudist community to encourage acceptance of clothes-free activities, after a nudist restaurant and nudist park opened in the French capital.

The museum visit was arranged before regular opening hours so the nudists wouldn't mingle with other visitors. They viewed an exhibit of contemporary works focused on "Discord."

Organizers said they are hoping to attract younger members and get rid of "complexes" around their nudist practices, which they don't wanted "limited to beaches, summertime or a certain category of the population."

Some calming of Hawaii volcano, but scientists remain wary

By CALEB JONES and AUDREY McAVOY, Associated Press

PAHOA, Hawaii (AP) — The number of homes destroyed by lava shooting out of openings in the ground created by Hawaii's Kilauea volcano climbed to five as some of the more than 1,700 people who evacuated prepared for the possibility they may not return for quite some time.

"I have no idea how soon we can get back," said Todd Corrigan, who left his home in Leilani Estates with his wife on Friday as lava burst through the ground three or four blocks from their home. They spent the night on the beach in their car and began looking for a vacation rental.

The Hawaiian Volcanoes Observatory said eight vents, each several hundred yards (meters) long, opened in the neighborhood since Thursday. By late Saturday the fissures had quieted down and were only releasing steam and gas.

Scientists said Kilauea was likely to release more lava through additional vents, but they were unable

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to predict exactly where. Leilani Estates, a subdivision in the mostly rural district of Puna, is at greatest risk. Authorities ordered more than 1,700 residents to evacuate from there and nearby Lanipuna Gardens.

Hundreds of small earthquakes continued to rumble through the area Saturday, one day after a magnitude-6.9 temblor hit — the largest earthquake to hit Hawaii in more than 40 years. Magma moving through Kilauea set off the earthquakes, said geologists, who warned of aftershocks.

Authorities cautioned sulfuric gas pouring out of the vents also posed dangers, particularly to elderly and people with respiratory problems. Hawaii County spokeswoman Kanani Aton said some residents may be allowed to return home briefly to pick up medicine or take care of pets if sulfur dioxide levels drop as a result of the calming vents.

Tesha "Mirah" Montoya, 45, said the threat of toxic fumes wasn't enough to make her family evacuate, but the tipping point was the earthquakes.

"I felt like the whole side of our hill was going to explode," she said. "The earthquake was what made us start running and start throwing guinea pigs and bunnies in the car."

Montoya, her husband and daughter don't know how long they will be away from the three-story octagonal house they built nearly 20 years ago in a patch of "raw jungle."

"My heart and soul's there," she said in a phone interview from a cabin on the north side of the Big Island, where the family had hunkered down. "I'm nothing without the land. It's part of my being."

Gary McMillan said his home is about 3,000 feet (914 meters) from one of the fissures in Leilani Estates. He monitored remote cameras set up in his home and said his home was still intact.

He's living out of his van with his wife at the nearby community center and constantly thinks about things they left behind, but understands why authorities evacuated residents.

"I was a critical care nurse for 37 years, so I understand the health implications and the dangers involved," McMillan said.

Kilauea has been continuously erupting since 1983 and is one of the world's most active volcanoes. In 2014, lava burned a house and smothered a cemetery as it approached Pahoā, the town closest to Leilani Estates. But this flow stalled just before it reached Pahoā's main road.

Nearly 30 years ago, lava slowly covered an entire town, Kalapana, over the period of about a year.

Associated Press photographer Marco Garcia in Pahoā, Hawaii; Jennifer Sinco Kelleher and Sophia Yan in Honolulu; Mark Thiessen in Anchorage, Alaska, and Gillian Flaccus in Portland, Oregon, contributed to this report.

Lebanon holds first general elections in 9 years

By **BASSEM MROUE**, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Tens of thousands of Lebanese began casting their ballots Sunday in the first parliamentary elections in nine years, with people lining up early in the morning to take part in a vote that is being fiercely contested between rival groups backed by regional powers.

The voting is unlikely to change the existing balance of power among the major groups in Lebanon, but many hope new contenders from civil society groups can challenge the decades-old sectarian political system.

Thousands of army and police forces deployed near polling stations and on major intersections across the country to ensure security. Electoral campaigns have been tense as each group has mobilized its supporters, with fist fights and shootings occurring in several areas in recent weeks.

The main race is between a Western and Saudi-backed coalition headed by Prime Minister Saad Hariri and the Iranian-backed Hezbollah group, part of a region-wide struggle for power between Riyadh and Tehran.

"This shows Lebanon's democracy and the importance of democracy. This is a democratic wedding, and as we said from the start, congratulations to whoever wins tonight," said Interior Minister Nouhad Machnouk, who is running on Hariri's list, after casting his ballot in Beirut.

As Hariri entered a public school to vote, a woman in a wheelchair complained that polling stations were

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not equipped for disabled voters.

"We are human beings. It is not fair that we have to be carried like bags of potatoes," the woman, Silvana Lakkis, said. The prime minister promised to address the problem in the next elections.

"When we see what is happening in countries around us and Lebanon is holding democratic elections, this shows that Lebanon is fine," Hariri said after waiting in line around 20 minutes to cast his ballot. "Order is nice," he quipped.

The vote is the first since Syria's war broke out in 2011, sending a flood of around million refugees to neighboring Lebanon and adding to the country's economic woes.

Hezbollah has sent thousands of fighters to back President Bashar Assad's forces, a move that has been criticized by many Lebanese, mainly Sunni Muslims and Christians, who see the group as dragging the country into regional conflicts.

Leading Hezbollah legislator Ali Ammar defended his group's involvement in Syria, saying it protected Lebanon from the "evil powers" of the Islamic State group and al-Qaida.

In Hezbollah strongholds in southern Beirut, there was a steady flow of voters Sunday. Outside polling stations, Hezbollah supporters displayed a replica of the voting ballot on a big board and explained to voters which among the color-coded lists is theirs, and how they can vote for it. They wore yellow shirts with the slogan "We protect and build" written on them.

"We love the resistance," said Amira Sidani, an 85-year-old woman, after casting her ballot.

This year's vote is according to a new election law that is based on proportional representation. Voters will choose one list of allied candidates, as well as a preferred candidate from among them. In the past, the winning list took all the seats in the electoral district.

At midday, after casting his ballot in southern Beirut, President Michel Aoun described the process as "successful." Wary of voters' apathy toward a vote unlikely to change much, he urged people to turn out in large numbers.

Mohammed Ali, 30, riding his scooter to the beach, said he's not voting because there are no choices. He says his family members will vote for whoever pays them, but he's not interested in the money.

The legislature's term was supposed to expire in 2013, but lawmakers have approved several extensions since then, citing security concerns linked to the spillover from Syria's war. Lebanese who support opposing sides in the war have clashed on a number of occasions, and Sunni extremists have carried out several bombings.

There are about 3.6 million eligible voters, and early results are expected after polling stations close at 7 p.m. (1600 GMT). Some 586 candidates, including 86 women, are running for the 128-seat parliament, which is equally divided between Muslims and Christians.

Hezbollah and its allies are likely to add more seats, while Hariri is likely to lose several. Some of his Sunni supporters see him as being too soft on Hezbollah, and the billionaire businessman has also faced criticism after laying off scores of employees from his companies in Lebanon and Saudi Arabia.

Still, Hariri will most likely be named to form a national unity Cabinet after the vote. The rival sides are expected to recreate the unity government that currently exists, which includes Hezbollah.

The vote comes a week after Lebanese living overseas voted in 39 countries around the world. It was the first time Lebanon's large expatriate community was allowed to take part in the vote. That, along with the new electoral law, has injected some unpredictability to the process.

Associated Press writer Hassan Ammar contributed to this report.

China could target US firms, debt if Trump plays hardball

By JOE McDONALD, AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — In a looming trade war between the world's two largest economies, American companies in China may have a bull's-eye on their backs.

The Trump administration is pushing China to cut its trade surplus with the United States by \$200 billion

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by the end of 2020 and give up policies that favor domestic companies — the core of Beijing's state-led economic model.

As the two sides exchange threats of tariff hikes, their lopsided trade balance means China will run out of imports for retaliation before President Donald Trump does.

But Beijing has other ways to inflict pain. Chief among those is harassing American companies that make autos, operate restaurant chains, sell computer software and do other business in China's heavily regulated economy.

Other possible options include selling U.S. government debt or disrupting diplomatic efforts over North Korea, but those would damage Beijing's own interests.

Trump has threatened higher tariffs on \$150 billion of Chinese goods in response to complaints Beijing violates its free-trade commitments by stealing or pressuring foreign companies to hand over technology.

Beijing reacted to his first round with a \$50 billion list including American aircraft, soybeans and pork for possible retaliation. If it raises that to match Trump's total, that would be nearly equal to China's 2017 imports of U.S. goods.

The Commerce Ministry has warned that no option is off the table.

TARGET AMERICAN COMPANIES

Chinese regulators have wide discretion and an arsenal of tools to disrupt U.S. businesses from withholding licenses to launching tax, anti-monopoly or other investigations.

The U.S. chipmaker Qualcomm Inc. might serve as an early example. China is the final major government withholding approval of Qualcomm's proposal for its \$44 billion acquisition of rival NXP Semiconductors.

In April, the Commerce Ministry said Qualcomm's proposal "has difficulty" resolving concerns of Chinese anti-monopoly regulators. Qualcomm and NXP said April 19 that at the Chinese ministry's request, the companies withdrew and refiled an application for Beijing to clear the acquisition.

China's entirely state-controlled media have encouraged consumer boycotts against Japanese, South Korean and other products during previous disputes with those governments.

"China can harm the interests of the United States by limiting the operations of multinational corporations," said Jin Canrong, a foreign relations specialist at Beijing's Renmin University, in comments to the website wallstreetcn.com.

Jin pointed to the example of South Korean retailer Lotte, whose business was destroyed by Beijing last year after it sold land to the Seoul government for an anti-missile system opposed by Chinese leaders.

Beijing retaliated by closing most of Lotte's 99 supermarkets and other outlets in China. Seoul and Beijing later mended relations, but South Korean news reports said Lotte has given up on China and is trying to sell its stores.

"Already we are hearing that approvals for some types of licenses for U.S. firms operating are being put on hold," the Eurasia Group said in a report.

FINANCIAL LEVERAGE

Chinese commentators say Beijing has financial weapons, though using them would cost China's own economy and international standing.

Nationalists point to China's \$1.2 trillion holdings of U.S. government debt as leverage. But Beijing would suffer losses if it sold enough of that to influence U.S. debt financing costs. And there are few other places to store such vast foreign currency reserves.

Beijing also could obstruct U.S. investment in China, wrote commentator Ren Zeping on money.163.com. But that also would impose a cost by worsening an investment slump Chinese leaders are trying to reverse.

Regulators could depress the state-controlled exchange rate for China's yuan against the dollar. That could help Chinese exporters and make U.S. imports more expensive. But it would carry a political cost by hurting other trading partners and making Beijing look reckless, possibly destabilizing financial markets.

DIPLOMATIC PRESSURE

Beijing can appeal for support to U.S. allies that are miffed by Trump's "America first" approach and the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris climate pact and the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership, a regional trade agreement.

Trump's unilateral actions have allowed China, the most-closed major economy, to position itself as a defender of free trade. That could help Beijing win over governments that have criticized Trump for acting outside the World Trade Organization.

China is a "central pillar" of the global trading system, "and we want to fully cooperate with China," U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said during a visit to Beijing last month.

Beijing also has potential support from American companies and business groups that have criticized Trump and favor globalization.

More broadly, Chinese commentators have suggested Beijing also could disrupt diplomatic work over North Korea's nuclear and missile programs or other initiatives. But analysts say that would risk setting back work Chinese leaders see as a priority.

Malaysia's Anwar joins with former persecutor for election

By EILEEN NG, Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Malaysian opposition icon Anwar Ibrahim can't vote in what he believes will be a "defining election" for his country on Wednesday but even from his prison cell has remained a political force to be reckoned with.

The firebrand politician's conviction in 2015 for what he and his supporters said were false allegations of sodomy fractured the alliance of opposition parties that under Anwar's leadership was threatening the ruling National Front's decades-long hold on power.

It was Anwar's second spell in prison and it seemed he'd finally been done in by dirty political tactics. Once a high flyer in the ruling party, in 1998 he was convicted of homosexual sodomy — a criminal offense in Muslim-majority Malaysia inherited from the British colonial era — and corruption following a power struggle with Mahathir Mohammad, Malaysia's authoritarian prime minister for more than two decades.

Anwar, however, played an unexpected card. From prison he helped forge a new opposition alliance by ending the two-decade feud with his former persecutor-in-chief, Mahathir, who'd once called Anwar "morally unfit" to govern the country.

It was a hard but pragmatic decision, Anwar's eldest daughter, lawmaker Nurul Izzah Anwar, told The Associated Press.

Anwar, 70, is an "incorrigible optimist" who believes there must be sacrifices to bring about a change of government and badly needed reforms, she said.

"He was instrumental in galvanizing an eventual approval to get Mahathir to be part of our coalition," said Nurul Izzah. "He was the first to state that it's time for us to be actively playing our part to design the Malaysia that we want."

Mahathir, 92, now leads an opposition alliance that includes Anwar's party. They're campaigning to oust Prime Minister Najib Razak, who is mired in scandal, and end the National Front's unbroken 60-year rule.

Even with Mahathir, who is popular with Malaysia's Malay majority, the odds are stacked against the opposition. It won the popular vote in 2013 but the ruling party clung to a majority in Parliament because of an electoral system that gives more weight to Malay-dominated rural seats that traditionally support the government.

A popular Islamic student leader, Anwar joined the ruling Malay party in 1982, a year after Mahathir became prime minister. He quickly rose up the ranks, becoming finance minister in 1991 and deputy premier two years later. Anwar became the heir apparent to Mahathir but they fell out during the 1998 Asian financial crisis and Anwar was sacked.

He refused to go quietly, leading tens of thousands of demonstrators in street rallies in Kuala Lumpur demanding reforms before he was arrested. He was later produced in court with a black eye from a beating by the police chief. That black eye has become the logo of the People's Justice Party led by his wife

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and is now the symbol of the opposition challenge against Najib.

Anwar was freed in 2004 after Mahathir retired and cleared of the sodomy charges.

In 2008 elections, his opposition pact known as the People's Alliance made major inroads by depriving the National Front of a two-thirds majority in Parliament for the first time. In 2013, the National Front lost the popular vote, its worst result since independence from Britain in 1957. It currently holds 132 of 222 seats.

But in 2015, Anwar was imprisoned again after new allegations of sodomizing an aide that he and his supporters said was a government plot to crush the opposition.

"Authoritarian leaders always believe the best way to deal with dissidents is to jail them, but throughout history, it has always backfired," Anwar said at the time.

His opposition alliance broke up after its Islamist ally left. It regrouped as the Alliance of Hope but the pact was shaky due to infighting and the lack of a charismatic figure to hold it together day to day.

Mahathir's political comeback in 2016 provided the missing glue. Despite his advanced age, Mahathir was seen as the best chance for the opposition to win support from rural Malays.

The former prime minister was spurred out of retirement by the corruption scandal at 1MDB, a state fund that is being investigated by the U.S. and several other countries after associates of Najib allegedly stole and laundered \$4.5 billion from it. The fund was set up by Najib in 2009 to promote economic but accumulated billions in debts.

In September 2016, Mahathir met Anwar for the first time in 18 years. Social media was awash with pictures of the two men shaking hands and chatting in court, where Anwar was challenging a repressive new security law.

An opposition victory in the election, though unlikely, could result in a spectacular comeback for Anwar.

He is due to be released from prison on June 8 and Mahathir has pledged to hand leadership to him. Officials say Anwar could take power with a royal pardon.

Anwar, said Nurul Izzah, "knows it's a defining election, he knows the stakes are high."

"We have to face a lot of onslaught against Mahathir especially in the lead-up to the election, but we are also saying that we are not apologists. Like it or not, he is now doing his bit at the age of 92, what are you doing about it? That's the key message we are giving out."

North Korea says US ruining mood of detente ahead of summit

By ERIC TALMADGE, Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — With just weeks to go before President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un are expected to hold their first-ever summit, Pyongyang on Sunday criticized what it called "misleading" claims that Trump's policy of maximum political pressure and sanctions are what drove the North to the negotiating table.

The North's official news agency quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman warning the claims are a "dangerous attempt" to ruin a budding detente on the Korean Peninsula after Kim's summit late last month with South Korean President Moon Jae-in.

At the summit, Kim agreed to a number of measures aimed at improving North-South ties and indicated he is willing to discuss the denuclearization of the peninsula, though exactly what that would entail and what conditions the North might require have not yet been explained.

Trump and senior U.S. officials have suggested repeatedly that Washington's tough policy toward North Korea, along with pressure on its main trading partner China, have played a decisive role in turning around what had been an extremely tense situation. Just last year, as Kim was launching long-range missiles at a record pace and trading vulgar insults with Trump, it would have seemed unthinkable for the topic of denuclearization to be on the table.

But the North's statement on Sunday seemed to be aimed at strengthening Kim's position going into his meeting with Trump. Pyongyang claims Kim himself is the driver of the current situation.

"The U.S. is deliberately provoking the DPRK at the time when the situation on the Korean Peninsula is moving toward peace and reconciliation," the spokesman was quoted as saying. DPRK is short for the

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Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the North's formal name.

Kim and Trump are expected to meet later this month or in early June.

Trump has indicated the date and place have been chosen and said he believes the Demilitarized Zone that divides the Koreas might be a good venue. Singapore was also believed to be a potential site.

Experts are split over whether Kim's statement made with Moon at the DMZ marks a unique opening for progress or a rehash of Pyongyang's longstanding demand for security guarantees.

Sunday's comments were among the very few the North has made since Trump agreed in March to the meeting.

The spokesman warned the U.S. not to interpret Pyongyang's willingness to talk as a sign of weakness. He also criticized Washington for its ongoing "pressure and military threats" and its position that such pressure won't be eased until North Korea gives up its nuclear weapons completely.

Before Trump meets Kim, Washington is hoping to gain the release of three Korean-Americans accused of anti-state activities. Trump hinted the release of Kim Dong Chul, Kim Hak Song and Tony Kim was in the offing.

There was no sign of an imminent release on Sunday, though the men had reportedly been moved to the capital.

The White House, meanwhile, has announced a separate meeting between Trump and Moon at the White House on May 22 to "continue their close coordination on developments regarding the Korean Peninsula."

Talmadge is the AP's Pyongyang bureau chief. Follow him on Twitter and Instagram: @EricTalmadge

APNewsBreak: Mueller team questions Trump friend Tom Barrack

By TOM LOBIANCO, JONATHAN LEMIRE and ALAN SUDERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Investigators working for special counsel Robert Mueller have interviewed one of President Donald Trump's closest friends and confidants, California real estate investor Tom Barrack, The Associated Press has learned.

Barrack was interviewed as part of the federal investigation of possible coordination between the Trump campaign and Russia in the 2016 election, according to three people familiar with the matter who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations.

The specific topics covered in questions from Mueller's team were not immediately clear.

One of the people who spoke to AP said the questioning focused entirely on two officials from Trump's campaign who have been indicted by Mueller: Trump's former campaign chairman, Paul Manafort, and Manafort's longtime deputy, Rick Gates. Gates agreed to plead guilty to federal conspiracy and false-statement charges in February and began cooperating with investigators.

This person said Barrack was interviewed "months ago" and was asked a few questions about Gates' work on Trump's inaugural committee, which Barrack chaired, and but there were no questions about the money raised by that committee.

A second person with knowledge of the Barrack interview said the questioning was broader and did include financial matters about the campaign, the transition and Trump's inauguration in January 2017.

Barrack's spokeswoman, Lisa Baker, declined comment.

Barrack has rare access and insight into Trump going back decades, since their days developing real estate. Barrack played an integral role in the 2016 campaign as a top fundraiser at a time when many other Republicans were shunning the upstart candidate. Barrack later directed Trump's inauguration.

While the specifics of Barrack's questioning were unclear, Mueller's team has asked several other witnesses about the flow of money related to the campaign.

Investigators have for months been inquiring about the Trump campaign's finances and compliance with federal election law, according to four people familiar with the matter.

Prosecutors' questions have been wide-ranging, these people said, touching on the campaign's data operations, its relationship with data-mining company Cambridge Analytica, payments to Gates and whether

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there were arrangements that weren't disclosed in filings to the Federal Election Commission, they said. The four people familiar with the investigation spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss details of the confidential interviews.

The investigators' questions about the campaign's finances have come up in interviews dating to early fall while prosecutors were preparing the first indictment against Manafort and Gates.

Barrack, a wealthy real estate investor with close ties to several Mideast leaders, met Trump in 1988 when he negotiated the sale of The Plaza Hotel in New York to Trump. Barrack's publicist in 2016 described the men as having since "solidified a lifelong friendship between themselves and their families."

Barrack employed Gates last year, wrapping up operations on the Presidential Inaugural Committee, before Gates was charged by Mueller.

Barrack spoke glowingly of Trump in a CNBC interview in early 2016.

"He's one of the kindest, and actually most humble, friends that I've had," Barrack said. "I have so much respect for him because at this point in his career, wandering into the milieu was not easy, and he's changed the dialogue of the debate."

Barrack also was among the featured speakers at the Republican convention where Trump formally received the nomination.

Days after Trump's victory in November 2016, Barrack told CBS' "This Morning" that Trump was like an ultimate fighter during the campaign who used "whatever tools necessary to convey a really disruptive message." Barrack said America would see "a softer, kinder" Trump now that Trump had won the presidency.

Mueller's investigators have interviewed dozens of witnesses in the probe into Russia's meddling in the 2016 election. They have also secured the cooperation of former Trump national security adviser Michael Flynn and former Trump foreign policy adviser George Papadopoulos.

But few witnesses have as much insight into the president's lengthy business career and all facets of his campaign and administration as Barrack.

Lemire reported from New York and Suderman reported from Richmond, Virginia. Associated Press writers Chad Day, Eric Tucker and Zeke Miller contributed to this report.

Early GOP primaries shaping up as rightward march with Trump

By **BILL BARROW**, Associated Press

As primary season kicks into high gear, Republicans are engaged in nomination fights that are pulling the party to the right, leaving some leaders worried their candidates will be out of a step with the broader electorate in November.

Primaries in four states on Tuesday, all in places Donald Trump carried in 2016, showcase races in which GOP candidates are jockeying to be seen as the most conservative, the most anti-Washington and the most loyal to the president. It's evidence of the onetime outsider's deepening imprint on the Republican Party he commandeered less than two years ago.

In Indiana, Republicans will pick from among three Senate candidates who have spent much of the race praising Trump and bashing each other. In West Virginia, a former federal convict and coal baron has taken aim at Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., with racially charged accusations of corruption.

In Ohio, Republicans are certain to nominate someone more conservative than outgoing GOP Gov. John Kasich, a 2016 presidential candidate, moderate and frequent Trump critic. Even Kasich's former running mate, Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor, has pledged to unwind some of Kasich's centrist policies, including the expansion of the Medicaid government insurance program following Democrats' 2010 health insurance overhaul.

With Trump's job approval hanging around 40 percent and the GOP-run Congress less than half that, the abandonment of the middle has some Republicans raising alarms.

"The far left and the far right always think they are going to dominate these elections," said John Weaver, a Trump critic and top strategist to Kasich, who has been become a near-pariah in the primary to succeed

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him.

"You may think it's wise in a primary to handcuff yourself to the president," Weaver said. "But when the ship goes down, you may not be able to get the cuffs off."

North Carolina Republicans will weigh in on the fate of Republican Rep. Robert Pittenger, facing a primary challenger who almost upset him two years ago. Pittenger features Trump prominently in his campaign. Challenger Mark Harris, a prominent Charlotte pastor, has tried to turn the table, saying Pittenger is a creature of Washington who refuses to help Trump "drain that swamp."

Tough primaries certainly don't have to be disastrous. They often gin up voter attention and engagement, and can signal strong turnout in the general election.

Dallas Woodhouse, who runs the North Carolina Republican Party, said candidates benefit because they must "make their arguments and voters become more aware of the election."

Trump and his Democratic opponent Hillary Clinton each survived internal party battles in 2016. Clinton won the national popular vote that year, but in the states that mattered most — Ohio and North Carolina, among them — wary Republicans gravitated back to Trump while Clinton struggled to hit the usual Democratic base targets.

Few national Republicans look at West Virginia and see helpful enthusiasm.

Former coal executive Don Blankenship has accused McConnell of creating jobs for "China people" and charges that the senator's "China family" has given him millions of dollars. McConnell's wife is Trump's transportation secretary, Elaine Chao, who was born in Taiwan.

Indiana Senate candidates are trying to appeal to Trump voters by adopting the president's harsh immigration rhetoric and penchant for personal insults. The candidates have even channeled Trump by assigning derisive nicknames to one another: "Lyn" Todd Rokita, Luke "Missing" Messer and "Tax Hike" Mike Braun.

In several of the Tuesday primaries, Democrats are watching with delight, and having less trouble aligning behind nominees. The chief beneficiaries would be Democratic Sens. Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Joe Donnelly of Indiana, both sitting on healthy campaign accounts after avoiding their own primary fights.

The leading Democrat for the North Carolina seat, Marine veteran Dan McCready, has raised almost \$2 million, slightly more than Harris and Pittenger combined, in a district Trump won by about 12 percentage points. "He will absolutely make this competitive," Harris said.

In the Ohio governor's race, liberal former Rep. Dennis Kucinich and former state Attorney General Richard Cordray have managed to avoid open warfare. Cordray, who also led the federal consumer watchdog agency launched under President Barack Obama, is the favorite.

Republicans watched their state party, led by pro-Trump leadership that replaced Kasich allies after the 2016 elections, endorse state Attorney General Mike Dewine, while Taylor has effectively shunned an earlier endorsement from Kasich.

"If Ohio Republicans are divided into Trump Republicans and Kasich Republicans, the Trump Republicans have won," said the state Democratic chairman, David Pepper. "That helps us."

Gallup measures Trump with an 89 percent job approval rating among Republicans nationally, but 35 percent among independents and 42 percent overall. Historically, presidents below 50 percent watch their party suffer steep losses in midterm elections.

Democrats must flip about two dozen Republican-held seats to reclaim a House majority, and they must do it with Republican-run legislatures having drawn many districts to the GOP's advantage. In North Carolina, Harris said the makeup of the district, which stretches from Republican areas of metro Charlotte east through small towns and rural counties, makes his pro-Trump, anti-establishment message a primary and November winner.

Senate Democrats are just two seats shy of a majority, but must defend 26 incumbents, 10 in states where Trump won, including Ohio, Indiana and West Virginia. Republicans are defending nine seats, just one in a state Trump lost.

Barrow reported from Washington and Atlanta. Follow Barrow on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/BillBarrowAP>

Doctors reject Trump's 'war zone' comments on London crime

By GREGORY KATZ, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Some British doctors and legislators reacted angrily Saturday to President Donald Trump's pro-gun comments at an NRA convention comparing a London hospital to a war zone because of knife crime.

Trump's provocative comments are expected to increase concerns about his planned first presidential visit to Britain on July 13.

Dr. Martin Griffiths, a surgeon at the Royal London Hospital, tweeted that he would be "happy to invite Mr. Trump" to visit his hospital and meet with London's mayor and police chief to learn how the city has reduced violent crime.

Dr. Karim Brohi, another Royal London surgeon, said Trump's position makes no sense.

"There is more we can all do to combat this violence, but to suggest guns are part of the solution is ridiculous," Brohi tweeted. "Gunshot wounds are at least twice as lethal as knife injuries and more difficult to repair."

At the NRA convention Friday in Dallas, Trump said Britain has tough gun laws but that one London hospital is awash with blood because of knife wounds.

"They don't have guns. They have knives and instead there's blood all over the floors of this hospital," Trump said. "They say it's as bad as a military war zone hospital ... knives, knives, knives."

Labour Party lawmaker Sarah Jones tweeted that Trump's speech was a disgrace.

"U.K. knife crime nowhere near your off-the-scale gun deaths," she said.

Trump spoke as London is experiencing an increase in knife-related violence.

At the NRA convention, Trump also suggested that a coordinated extremist attack on Paris in 2015 that claimed 130 lives would have been far less deadly if Parisians had been carrying guns to protect themselves.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian expressed his "firm disapproval" of Trump's remarks and vigorously defended France's gun controls.

"Free circulation of weapons in society does not constitute a rampart against terrorist attacks, to the contrary, it can facilitate ... this type of attack," he said in a statement Saturday.

The U.S. president plans a one-day stop in Britain as part of a working visit. He has been invited for a state visit to be hosted by Queen Elizabeth II, but no date has been set for that ceremonial event.

Trump has riled many Britons in the past by suggesting that Muslim extremists have made some British cities unsafe. He also drew criticism from Prime Minister Theresa May, a conservative, and other political leaders for retweeting anti-Muslim videos originally posted by one of the leaders of the far-right Britain First group.

Trump has criticized London's Metropolitan Police and Mayor Sadiq Khan, a Muslim, on several occasions.

Nearly 1600 reported arrested in Russian anti-Putin protests

By JIM HEINTZ, Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russians angered by the impending inauguration of Vladimir Putin to a new term as president protested Saturday in scores of cities across the country — and police responded by reportedly arresting nearly 1,600 of them.

Among those arrested was protest organizer Alexei Navalny, the anti-corruption campaigner who is Putin's most prominent foe. Police seized Navalny by the arms and legs and carried the thrashing activist from Moscow's Pushkin Square, where thousands were gathered for an unauthorized protest.

Police also used batons against protesters who chanted "Putin is a thief!" and "Russia will be free!"

Demonstrations under the slogan "He is not our czar" took place throughout the country, from Yakutsk in the far northeast to St. Petersburg and Kaliningrad on the fringes of Europe.

The protests demonstrated that Navalny's opposition, although considered beleaguered by Russian officials and largely ignored by state-controlled television, has sizeable support in much of the country.

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"I think that Putin isn't worthy of leading this country. He has been doing it for 18 years and has done nothing good for it," said Moscow demonstrator Dmitry Nikitenko. "He should leave for good."

OVD-Info, an organization that monitors political repression, said late Saturday that 1,599 people had been detained at demonstrations in 26 Russian cities. It said 702 were arrested in Moscow alone, and another 232 in St. Petersburg.

Moscow police said about 300 people were detained in the capital, state news agencies said, and there was no official countrywide tally.

"Let my son go!" Iraida Nikolaeva screamed, running after police in Moscow when they detained her son. "He did not do anything! Are you a human or not? Do you live in Russia or not?"

Navalny was to be charged with disobeying police, an offense that carries a sentence of up to 15 days, news reports said, though when he would face a judge was not immediately clear. Navalny has served several multi-week stretches in jail on similar charges.

In St. Petersburg, police blocked off a stretch of Nevsky Prospekt as a crowd of about 1,000 marched along the renowned avenue. Video showed some demonstrators being detained.

Putin is to be inaugurated for a new six-year term on Monday after winning re-election in March with 77 percent of the vote. Navalny had hoped to challenge him on the ballot but was blocked because of a felony conviction in a case that supporters regard as falsified in order to marginalize him.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert criticized the actions of the Russian police.

"The United States condemns #Russia's detention of hundreds of peaceful protesters and calls for their immediate release. Leaders who are secure in their own legitimacy don't arrest their peaceful opponents for protesting," she tweeted.

Navalny has called nationwide demonstrations several times in the past year, and their turnout has rattled the Kremlin.

Saturday's protests attracted crowds of hundreds in cities that are far remote from Moscow, challenging authorities' contention that Navalny and other opposition figures appeal only to a small, largely urban elite.

Trump promotes 'America First' in Ohio ahead of primaries

By ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — President Donald Trump said Saturday "we want to make everything here" as he promoted his "America First" agenda during an appearance in Cleveland, days before the state's primary election.

Trump spent several hours in Ohio meeting with supporters and participating in a roundtable designed to highlight the benefits of the new Republican tax law. Striking a celebratory tone, Trump listed his poll numbers and recounted the successes of his first year in office. He also looked ahead to his meeting with North Korea's Kim Jong Un.

"We have the time and place all finished," Trump said, but he wouldn't predict the outcome of the talks, saying, "we'll see what happens."

Trump criticized U.S. immigration policy, saying people entering the U.S. illegally are taking advantage of "catch-and-release" practices and don't show up for their immigration court dates. He said: "We may have to close up our country to get this straight."

He also said U.S. protectionist trade policies and his more isolationist policies would benefit Americans. Trump pledged a strong stand on trade to achieve "a level playing field," saying that "other countries, they put themselves first. ... The fact is we want to be first."

"We'll be taking care of our people," he added.

Trump also attended a fundraiser for Trump Victory, the joint committee funding his campaign and the Republican National Committee, meeting first with high-dollar givers and then addressing a larger group of about 250 donors. The RNC said Trump raised \$3 million during the events.

Trump sought to boost Republican lawmaker Jim Renacci in his bid for the Senate, saying "we need his

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vote very badly.”

Renacci, a member of the House, is running for the Senate against Democratic incumbent Sherrod Brown. Trump predicted: “He’ll be fantastic.”

At the official taxpayer-funded event, Trump also criticized Brown, saying he shares Democrats’ “deep-seated” support for what he claims are looser immigration policies. Renacci greeted Trump on the tarmac in Cleveland and was seated next to the president at the event.

Trump’s visit comes as Republicans are facing an increasingly challenging midterm election environment.

Ohio has several competitive races this November. The GOP is placing its election hopes on convincing Americans that the tax law is improving their lives, as the party seeks to skirt political headwinds emanating from the White House.

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 fog-soaked Vandenberg Air Force Base and rocket watchers down the California coast into Baja.

“This is a big day. We’re going back to Mars!” NASA’s new boss, Jim Bridenstine, said following liftoff. “This is an extraordinary mission with a whole host of firsts.”

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.

“That’s the real payoff of this whole mission and that’s still lying ahead of us,” said the mission’s chief scientist, Bruce Banerdt of NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

Although fog prevented Banerdt from seeing the liftoff of the \$1 billion U.S.-European mission, he heard the roar of the rocket and all the blaring car alarms it set off.

“It was just an incredible moment,” Banerdt told The Associated Press by phone. Despite the challenges still ahead, “I think I can bask in a little bit of satisfaction and just feeling like we really accomplished something today.”

Besides InSight, the United Launch Alliance’s Atlas V rocket gave a lift to a pair of mini test satellites, or CubeSats, that are trailing InSight to Mars to serve as a potential communication link. Nicknamed WALL-E and EVE from the 2008 animated movie, the twin briefcase-size spacecraft popped off the rocket’s upper stage in hot pursuit of InSight, as elated launch controllers applauded and shook hands following the morning’s success.

NASA hasn’t put a spacecraft down on Mars since the Curiosity rover in 2012. The U.S., in fact, 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.

Banerdt 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. InSight might also help explain why some planets — like ours — went on to develop life, while others did not.

Over the course of two Earth years — or one Martian year — NASA expects InSight’s three main experi-

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ments to provide a true 3-D image of the interior of Mars. Scientists know Mars has an iron core and a crust, but beyond that, the inside is "basically, completely unknown," said Banerdt.

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.

The fog ruined the view for those gathered at Vandenberg along the central California coast. But it was a marvelous sight 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, 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 tweeted.

United Launch Alliance's president, Tory Bruno, also took to Twitter to celebrate. "Next stop: Mars."

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

Online:

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

California's Orange County could determine Congress control

By **MICHAEL R. BLOOD, AP Political Writer**

IRVINE, Calif. (AP) — Once considered conservative holy ground, Orange County is starting to look like a last stand for California Republicans.

Chased out of much of California by Democrats who hold every statewide office and a 39-14 advantage in U.S. House seats, the party is trying to hold its ground in a place whose nickname, the Orange Curtain, recalls its famous Republican bona fides and where white, suburban homeowners once delivered winning margins for its candidates year after year.

But that's changed. And Democrats emboldened by an unpopular president and a diversifying population that favors their party hope to capture all four of the Republican-held U.S. House seats in the county.

Republican leaders, hoping to retain control of the House, have opened a 10,000-square-foot (929-square-meter) war room in an office tower near John Wayne Airport, filled with computers, phones and, on one day last month, dozens of volunteers making calls to potential voters in the June 5 primary election.

To Rep. Steve Stivers, who heads the party's campaign arm in the House, the Republican majority runs through Orange County.

It's in suburbs that "we are going to either hold the majority in '18, or lose the majority," the Ohio Republican said.

The risks are plain for Republicans in the state that is home to House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi: Democrats dominate California politics, and midterm elections generally favor the party not in control of the White House. But President Donald Trump lost the state by more than 4 million votes in 2016 and there's no sign he's gained support since then.

"I'm profoundly concerned about my kids growing up in Donald Trump's America," David Min, the endorsed Democratic candidate in the battleground 45th District held by Republican Rep. Mimi Walters, says in an online video.

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Nationally, Democrats have hopes of gaining 23 seats they need to take control of the chamber. They've been heartened by recent Democratic victories in Pennsylvania and Alabama, and House Speaker Paul Ryan's decision to retire at the end of the term has fanned the headwinds faced by the GOP.

The toughest fights in California are taking shape in seven Republican-held House districts carried by Hillary Clinton in the 2016 presidential contest, most of them in Southern California.

California Republicans are hoping immigration and a proposed gas-tax repeal will energize their voters.

Party leaders have been pumping money into the effort to get the tax repeal on the November ballot. Meanwhile, Republican elected officials in a string of cities and two counties — Orange and neighboring San Diego — have passed ordinances or taken other actions in opposition to the state's so-called sanctuary law, enacted by the Democratic-run Legislature in response to Trump's calls for more deportations and a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border.

For the GOP, there is a special urgency with the races in Orange County, an expanse of freeways, suburban sprawl and beaches long associated with conservative politics.

Richard Nixon's seaside estate known as the Western White House was in San Clemente, and county voters had supported an unbroken string of Republican presidential candidates reaching back to the Depression era, until Clinton broke through in 2016.

Losing one or more of the House districts would be a humiliating blow to a party that has been drifting toward irrelevancy in California for years. Independent voters are on track to soon surpass Republican registration, and Democrats boast a 3.6-million edge in voter registrations.

"Orange County is undergoing the biggest political challenge we've ever had," Republican National Committeeman Shawn Steel, who lives in the county, told volunteers at the GOP headquarters.

The plight of Republicans can be witnessed in voter registration numbers.

Ten years ago, the GOP held a 13-point edge in Orange County, but that's shriveled to 3 points while the number of independents, who tend to vote like Democrats in California, has climbed to 25 percent.

Why the shift? A surge in immigrants transformed California and its voting patterns. The number of Hispanics, blacks and Asians combined has outnumbered whites in the state since 1998. Meanwhile, new voters, largely Latinos and Asians, lean Democratic.

Those changing demographics transformed the 49th District, which includes parts of Orange and San Diego counties. Nine-term Rep. Darrell Issa is exiting after surviving by 1,600 votes in 2016. More than a dozen candidates are on the ballot to replace him, including Marine-turned-lawyer Doug Applegate, the Democrat who nearly won in 2016.

Arguably the toughest challenge for Republicans will be holding the 39th District, anchored in northern Orange County. Rep. Ed Royce, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, is stepping aside after 13 terms.

The district is about equally split in registration.

Republicans have established names on the ballot, including former state Senate leader Bob Huff, Orange County Supervisor Shawn Nelson and former state Assembly member Young Kim, a former Royce aide who has his endorsement.

The Democrats include several candidates that have invested heavily in their campaigns.

Gil Cisneros, a \$266 million lottery winner and Navy veteran, has the look of the establishment pick and has loaned his campaign \$2 million. He's been named to a select group of candidates by the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, the House campaign arm.

Former insurance executive Andy Thorburn, meanwhile, appears a favorite of liberals, with endorsements from nurses who want universal health care and Our Revolution, a Bernie Sanders-inspired political committee. He's loaned his campaign over \$2 million. Pediatrician Mai Khanh Tran has pumped \$480,000 into her campaign.

But 17 candidates will be on the ballot, creating tricky math for candidates, a challenge that extends to other districts with large fields.

In California, what matters is finishing first or second in the primary. That's because under election rules

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the top two vote-getters advance to November, regardless of party affiliation.

Meanwhile, some Republicans believe the threat is overrated for two incumbents in the county, Walters in the 45th District and Dana Rohrabacher in the 48th. Both won by double digits in 2016, even though Clinton carried their districts.

There are other risks. It's possible Republicans could be shut out of the November runoff in two marquee races — U.S. Senate and governor. That would almost certainly depress turnout, which would hurt Republican candidates down the ballot.

Last month, Republican volunteers hunched over their phones at tables covered, appropriately, in red, trying to tease swing voters into sharing telltale thoughts on the president and taxes.

On a message board, someone scribbled a portrait of the party's enduring mascot, an elephant, beside an urgent reminder: The election is one day closer.

Normalcy elusive in community where women were held captive

CLEVELAND (AP) — Residents on the Cleveland street where three women were secretly held captive in Ariel Castro's house of horrors for about a decade say they're tired of being eyed by spectators who still visit the site five years after the home was demolished.

Cars and sometimes even buses continue to pass by the lot where Ariel Castro's house once stood, with passengers pressing their faces against the windows and staring at the neighbors.

"It's like being a monkey in a cage," resident Anthony Westry told Cleveland.com .

Castro kidnapped Michelle Knight, Amanda Berry and Gina DeJesus between 2002 and 2004. Berry gave birth to Castro's daughter in 2006.

The women escaped from the home on May 6, 2013.

Castro was sentenced to life in prison after pleading guilty to a series of charges. He later hanged himself in his prison cell.

"This is where the monster lived!" one woman wrote after posting a photo of the home online before it was razed. "Last stop before the Pro Football Hall of Fame!"

Another person posted a photo after the home was demolished in August 2013 with the caption, "Look where I was."

City officials previously discussed turning the space into townhomes. There are no current plans for the lot, city spokesman Dan Williams said.

Justin Rose, who owns a small car lot nearby, said he would like to see a playground or a basketball hoop installed at the site. He said anything would be better than what it is right now.

Some things haven't changed in the neighborhood, such as their weekend barbecues that Castro famously attended. However, residents keep a close eye on their daughters.

No matter what happens to the vacant lot, Westry said, his community just wants to feel normal again.

"We don't want to be the people that people point at anymore," he said.

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.

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.

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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 police armored vehicle. As the anti-India protests and clashes spiraled, shops in the city shuttered and authorities switched off mobile 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. The armed confrontation was the first this year in the heart of Srinagar.

Later Saturday, thousands in Srinagar participated in the funerals of a slain rebel and the civilian. While the civilian was buried in his neighborhood graveyard, thousands marched while carrying the rebel's body to Srinagar's main martyr's graveyard, where hundreds of Kashmiri militants and civilians killed in decades of fighting have been buried.

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.

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 last 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 in Phoenix 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.

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"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.

McCain hasn't been seen in public since December, just before he was hospitalized for a viral infection at Walter Reed National Medical Center in Maryland. He then returned home to Arizona to recover, do physical therapy and continue cancer treatment at the Mayo Clinic. 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. Associated Press writer Josh Lederman contributed to this report.

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

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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.

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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 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

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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.

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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.

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

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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>

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, May 6, the 126th day of 2018. There are 239 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 6, 1937, the hydrogen-filled German airship Hindenburg caught fire and crashed while attempting to dock at Lakehurst, New Jersey; 35 of the 97 people on board were killed along with a crewman on the ground.

On this date:

In 1527, unpaid troops loyal to Holy Roman Emperor Charles V attacked Rome, forcing Pope Clement VII to flee to safety; some scholars mark the ensuing sack of the city as the end of the Renaissance in Italy.

In 1757, during the Seven Years' War, Prussian troops under King Frederick II forced Austrian soldiers to retreat in the Battle of Prague. (Prussia then lay siege to Prague, but ultimately failed to take the city.)

In 1889, the Paris Exposition formally opened, featuring the just-completed Eiffel Tower.

In 1910, Britain's Edwardian era ended with the death of King Edward VII; he was succeeded by George V.

In 1935, the Works Progress Administration began operating under an executive order signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1941, Josef Stalin assumed the Soviet premiership, replacing Vyacheslav M. Molotov. Comedian Bob

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Hope did his first USO show before an audience of servicemen as he broadcast his radio program from March Field in Riverside, California.

In 1942, during World War II, some 15,000 American and Filipino troops on Corregidor surrendered to Japanese forces.

In 1954, medical student Roger Bannister broke the four-minute mile during a track meet in Oxford, England, in 3:59.4.

In 1968, French student protesters and police clashed outside the Sorbonne in Paris, resulting in hundreds of arrests and injuries.

In 1974, West German Chancellor Willy Brandt resigned after one of his aides was exposed as an East German spy.

In 1981, Yale architecture student Maya Lin was named winner of a competition to design the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

In 1992, former Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev delivered a speech at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri, where Winston Churchill had spoken of the "Iron Curtain"; Gorbachev said the world was still divided, between North and South, rich and poor. Actress Marlene Dietrich died at her Paris home at age 90.

Ten years ago: Presidential candidate Barack Obama swept to a convincing victory in the North Carolina Democratic primary while Hillary Rodham Clinton eked out a win in Indiana. A Georgia man who killed his live-in girlfriend was executed; he was the first inmate put to death since the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of lethal injections. Kobe Bryant won his first MVP award after leading the Los Angeles Lakers to the best record in the Western Conference.

Five years ago: Kidnap-rape victims Amanda Berry, Gina DeJesus and Michelle Knight, who went missing separately about a decade earlier while in their teens or early 20s, were rescued from a house just south of downtown Cleveland. (Their captor, Ariel Castro, hanged himself in prison in September 2013 at the beginning of a life sentence plus 1,000 years.) Grammy-winning singer Lauryn Hill was sentenced by a federal judge in Newark, New Jersey, to three months in prison for failing to pay about \$1 million in taxes over the previous decade. Italian statesman Giulio Andreotti, 94, died in Rome.

One year ago: A Nigerian military official said 83 Chibok (chih-BAWK') schoolgirls had been released more than three years after they were abducted from their boarding school by Boko Haram (BOH'-koh hah-RAHM') extremists. Women banged on pans and some stripped off their white shirts as they protested Venezuela's socialist government in an event the opposition billed as a "women's march against repression." Always Dreaming won the Kentucky Derby, pulling away in the slop, to win by 2 3/4 lengths over long shot Lookin At Lee, with another long shot, Battle of Midway, five lengths back.

Today's Birthdays: Baseball Hall of Famer Willie Mays is 87. Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., is 84. Rock singer Bob Seger is 73. Singer Jimmie Dale Gilmore is 73. Gospel singer-comedian Lulu Roman is 72. Actor Alan Dale is 71. Actor Ben Masters is 71. Actor Richard Cox is 70. Actor Gregg Henry is 66. Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair is 65. TV personality Tom Bergeron is 63. Actress Roma Downey is 58. Rock singer John Flansburgh (They Might Be Giants) is 58. Actress Julianne Phillips is 58. Actor-director George Clooney is 57. Actor Clay O'Brien is 57. Rock singer-musician Tony Scalzo (Fastball) is 54. Actress Leslie Hope is 53. Actress Geneva Carr (TV: "Bull") is 52. Rock musician Mark Bryan (Hootie and the Blowfish) is 51. Rock musician Chris Shiflett (Foo Fighters) is 47. Actress Stacey Oristano is 39. Model/TV personality Tiffany Coyne is 36. Actress Adrienne Palicki is 35. Actress Gabourey Sidibe (GA'-bah-ray SIH'-duh-bay) is 35. Actress-comedian Sasheer Zamata is 32. Rapper Meek Mill is 31. Actress-singer Naomi Scott is 25. Actor Noah Galvin is 24.

Thought for Today: "The people no longer believe in principles, but will probably periodically believe in saviours." — Jacob Christoph Burckhardt, Swiss historian (1818-1897).