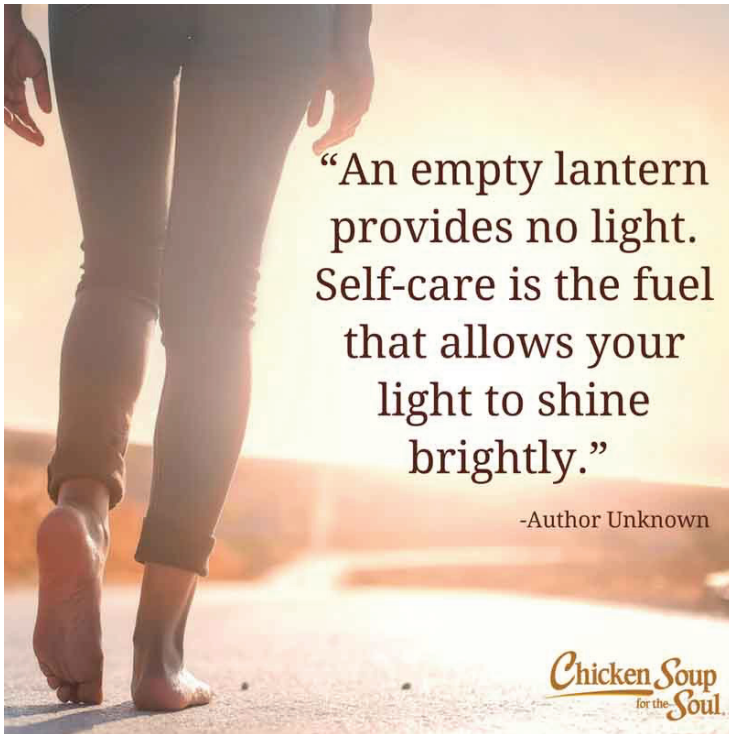


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“An empty lantern provides no light. Self-care is the fuel that allows your light to shine brightly.”

-Author Unknown

Chicken Soup  
for the Soul

- 1- Hanlon Brothers Ad
- 1- Mail Highway Route Relief Driver
- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 2- Dairy Queen \$5 Buck Lunch Ad
- 3- Weekly Vikings Roundup
- 3- HS Booster PAC Thank You
- 4- SunDial Manor Help Wanted Ad
- 5- Dr. Holm's Column
- 6- Rep. Noem's Weekly Column
- 7- Today in Weather History
- 8- Today's Forecast
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- 9- Today's Weather Almanac
- 10- Daily Devotional
- 11- 2018 Groton Community Events
- 12- News from the Associated Press

## Mail Highway Route Relief Driver

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

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

Contact Dave Miller 605-397-8277 Leave Message

Monday, May 7

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

(Aberdeen Roncalli, Milbank, 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

**Hanlon Brothers**  
**Gravel Hauling**  
New & Cleaning of  
Stockdams with our  
60' reach trackhoe  
**605/395-6531**

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

## 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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## Weekly Vikings Roundup By Jordan Wright

Last week we covered the Minnesota Vikings' first four draft picks. And as promised, this week we take a look at the remaining draft picks as well as any undrafted rookie free agents the team may have brought in. There are a lot of names to cover, so without further ado let's jump right in!

In the fifth round the Vikings surprised everyone when they traded up in the draft and selected Daniel Carlson, a kicker from Auburn. After the Blair Walsh experiment ended, the Vikings have been searching for a full-time replacement. Kai Forbath played admirably after being signed off the street, but the Vikings were looking for more consistency. Last season, the Vikings were in the bottom half of the league after hitting 32 of 38 field goals (84.2%) and the second to last percentage of extra-point field goals (34 of 39, 87.2%). In his college career, Carlson has made every single extra point attempt (141 attempts). He also has a strong leg which will help on kickoffs, as he sent 156 of 222 kickoffs for touchbacks (70% for his career, compared to the Vikings 51.55% last season).

In the sixth round the Vikings drafted another offensive lineman, Colby Gossett from Appalachian State. Gossett is a player who will likely end up on the Vikings' practice squad for a year or two while he works on adding strength. He has a body type that should be able to add strength without losing functionality (6'5" 311 pounds). He projects as a guard in the NFL, as his lack of athleticism will prohibit him from effectively mirroring the fast defensive ends he will see in the NFL.

Later in the sixth round, the Vikings selected defensive end De Ade Aruna from Tulane. Aruna came to the United States from Nigeria to attend high school and play basketball. He played football his senior season and ended up getting a scholarship to Tulane. He is a very raw prospect but has very intriguing athletic ability. He is 6'5", 262 pounds and ran a 4.6 second 40-yard dash (faster than Anthony Barr's 4.66). He is another player that is destined to sit on the Vikings' practice squad for a year or two, but if any coach can bring out his potential it's Mike Zimmer.

With their last pick in the 2018 NFL draft, the Vikings selected linebacker Devante Downs from Cal. Downs was an impact player on Cal's defense before an injury caused him to miss the second half of his senior season. He was on watch lists for the Chuck Bednarik Award and the Lott Impact Trophy – both honoring the nation's top defensive player – as well as The Butkus Award given annually to the nation's best linebacker. He was also named the Pac-12 Defensive Player of the Week twice in the first three games of the season. He has an uphill battle to make the roster, but he certainly has skills the Vikings can work with.

After the draft was over, the Vikings were still hard at work, hitting the phones and trying to sign as many undrafted rookie free agents as they could. As usual, the Vikings were one of the best teams in this regard. The team signed 17 players after the draft was over:

Jeff Badet – WR, Oklahoma  
Mike Boone – RB, Cincinnati  
Curtis Cothran – DT, Penn State  
Garret Dooley – LB, Wisconsin

### **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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Amanti Foreman – WR, Texas  
Chris Gonzalez – G, San Jose State  
Holton Hill – CB, Texas  
Tyler Hoppes – TE, Nebraska  
Hercules Mata'afa – LB, Washington State  
Trevon Mathis – CB, Toledo  
Tray Matthews – S, Auburn  
Kamryn Pettway – FB, Auburn  
Peter Pujals – QB, Holy Cross  
Korey Robertson – WR, Southern Mississippi  
Roc Thomas – RB, Jacksonville State  
Jake Wieneke – WR, South Dakota State  
Jonathan Wynn – DE, Vanderbilt

Some names to keep an eye on are Holton Hill, Hercules Mata'afa and Roc Thomas.

Hill is an excellent cornerback that would have been drafted in the earlier rounds of the draft if it weren't for some character concerns that plagued him in college. If he can put his past behind him he can be a starter in the NFL.

Mata'afa played defensive tackle in college but will attempt to make the transition to linebacker in the NFL. He might not have the best measurables, but he gives 110% on every snap and is the type of player teams love to have in the locker room. He could possibly contribute on special teams right away.

Roc Thomas was a five-star recruit coming out of high school. He signed to Auburn but ended up transferring to an FCS school (Jacksonville State) in order to get more playing time. He has excellent athletic ability, and if he can learn patience in the NFL, he has a chance to be a good change-of-pace running back.



**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**

Most rookie free agents don't make the team, or even the practice squad, but every once in awhile the team will find a diamond in the rough. Some recent rookie free agents the Vikings have signed include Adam Thielen and Marcus Sherels.

And as always, if you have any questions or comments, reach out to me on Twitter (@Jordan-WrightNFL). Skol!

## The Health Benefits of Living in a Prairie Community

By Richard P. Holm, MD

I love our home in Brookings, SD. When anyone asks me where I am from, instead of saying my home of 37 years, I almost always answer that I grew up in the sweet town of De Smet where I attended twelve years of school. Emotional and physical health starts in the community in which we were raised.



By Richard P. Holm M.D.

Many people take a lot of pride in being from that little town and much of that is from its history. Back then, within the library and the local Masonic Lodge, there were several original oil paintings by Harvey Dunn the famous painter and illustrator. It's neat that De Smet has a connection to such a famous artist.

However, it's most significant notoriety comes from the Laura Ingalls Wilder books because De Smet is the Little Town on the Prairie. Laura's tales of growing up in the late 1800s in a pioneer town are famous throughout the world. Her clearly written words tell how those of European ancestry first moved and homesteaded onto American Indian land of the Minnesota and Dakota prairie. In particular, her book *The Long Winter* illustrates how challenging the conditions could be on the winter prairie, and how settlers (and Indians) had to be tough as nails to survive and thrive.

History is important, but the continued thriving character of present day De Smet is the result of the myriad of activities occurring in the community. For example, Old Settler's Day is De Smet's summer festival, usually taking place on June 10th, has parades, tractor pulling, (and a carnival that used to come to town). I remember, as an eight-year-old, thinking that June 10th was almost better than Christmas. It was a surprise and disappointment to my young self when I found out, one day, that June 10th wasn't celebrated everywhere as it was in De Smet. I was not quite correct, however; South Dakota is abundant with similar community summer planting or harvest festivals.

Of course, most important are the lifetime friendships that develop in these communities. I remember joining with other families during holiday meals, celebrations and funerals, and even sitting around family campfires. There was sledding, camping, and canoeing with the Boy Scouts; hayrides, roller skating, dances, and rock and roll music; football, basketball games, track meets, talent contests, and many band and choir performances; and there was church.

Innumerable studies show how such social and community connections are related to enhancing the overall health of individuals. How lucky and healthy can a guy be, growing up in a little town on the prairie!



## Motherly Advice

My grandma gave me some of the best advice when I was pregnant with our oldest, Kassidy. It was simple. She said: "Say yes when you can, because as a parent, there's a lot that you're going to have to say no to."

I've always loved that advice, and as a mom, I've tried to live by it. So, if the kids wanted to race down the driveway, it didn't matter how tired I was, we did it. If they wanted to have their cousins over in the middle of planting corn, we made it work. If they wanted to jump through mud puddles, I said yes – even if it meant a little extra laundry that week.

Of course, none of this is to say that I didn't ever said "no" (just ask my kids). But I do have to say that some of our best family memories are from the times when we took grandma's advice.

I don't know if my own mom got the same motherly insight when she was expecting, but I think back often on the guts it must have taken to let us kids step into the role we did after my dad died. She believed in her children enough to trust them to make important business decisions and grow into their new roles as managers of a family business. She took risks to ensure that no matter what, my dad's dream of all his kids farming together could be realized, even after his death.

When I now see our children – her 16 grandchildren – growing up as close as brothers and sisters, I am overwhelmed by the unique blessing we enjoy because of her decision to say yes. There's no doubt that I love her with all my heart, and I am so grateful God saw it fit for me to call her Mom.

This Mother's Day, I encourage you to thank the moms in your life for all the times they said yes. Consider the opportunities those "yes" moments created and the memories they made.

To all the moms reading this article, I wish you a very happy Mother's Day!

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## Today in Weather History

May 7, 1896: A strong, estimated F3 tornado moved northeast from 12 miles SSW of Clark to 3 miles west of Watertown, to beyond Lake Kampeska. It was estimated to be on the ground for a distance of 30 miles. Near the start of the path, a woman was killed, and ten people were injured in one home. Parts of a house were found up to two miles away. The tornado also leveled barns near Watertown.

1840: A powerful tornado wrecked many boats at the Natchez Landing in Mississippi then plowed through the city on the bluff. The tornado killed 317 people and injured 109 others. The storm is currently the second deadliest tornado on record. The actual death toll could be higher as slaves were not counted. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the Weather Doctor.

1993: Serious flooding occurred in central Oklahoma following torrential rain and hail on this date through the 8th. Rainfall amounts on this date were generally around one inch. Oklahoma City, OK then recorded 6.64 inches of rain on the 8th, the third greatest daily rainfall amount ever observed in the city. Extensive flooding resulted, which killed four people, and the fire department had to rescue 183 others. More than 2,000 homes and businesses were damaged or destroyed. Damages were estimated at \$8 million.

1989: Thirty-two cities in the central and eastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, and 24-hour snowfall totals of 7.2 inches at Buffalo and 10.7 inches at Rochester New York were records for May.

1964 - The temperature at White Mountain 2, located in California, dipped to 15 degrees below zero to set a record for May for the continental U.S. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thirty-one cities in the western U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Highs of 93 degrees at Portland OR and San Jose CA were the warmest of record for so early in the season. The high of 92 degrees at Quillayute WA was a record for the month of May. The temperature at Sacramento CA hit 105 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - A powerful storm in the north central U.S. produced up to three feet of snow in the Bighorn Mountains of Wyoming and the mountains of south central Montana. Up to five inches of rain drenched central Montana in less than 24 hours, and flash flooding in Wyoming caused a million dollars damage. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thirty-two cities in the central and eastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, and 24 hour snowfall totals of 7.2 inches at Buffalo NY and 10.7 inches at Rochester NY were records for the month of May. While northerly winds ushered unseasonably cold air into the eastern U.S., temperatures warmed rapidly in the Great Plains Region, reaching the 90s in Kansas. The temperature at Manhattan KS soared from a low of 30 degrees to a high of 88 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Gale force winds lashed the northern and central Pacific coast. A wind gust of 52 mph at Eureka CA established a record for the month of May. Strong winds over northeastern Colorado, associated with a fast moving Pacific cold front, gusted to 63 mph at Peetz. Snow developed over the northwest mountains of Wyoming late in the day, and Yellowstone National Park was whitened with 6 to 14 inches. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Mon May 7	Tue May 8	Wed May 9	Thu May 10	Fri May 11	Sat May 12	Sun May 13
85°F	73°F	74°F	62°F	57°F	58°F	65°F
55°F	52°F	44°F	43°F	40°F	40°F	51°F
S 18 MPH	SE 11 MPH Precip 50%	NW 13 MPH Precip 20%	NE 12 MPH Precip 40%	ENE 13 MPH Precip 50%	NNE 13 MPH Precip 20%	NW 10 MPH Precip 20%

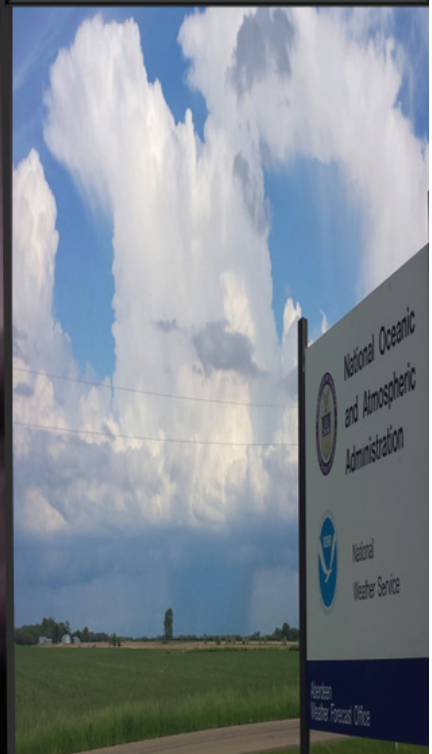
*Breezy Warm  
& Dry Today*



*Overnight  
Showers &  
Storms*



*More Storms  
Tuesday*



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Published on: 05/07/2018 at 5:23AM

Dry warm and breezy conditions with heightened fire weather concerns Today will be replaced by showers and storms this evening and overnight. Additional moisture can be found in the area Tuesday.



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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 81.1 F at 5:32 PM**

**Low Outside Temp: 40.4 F at 6:07 AM**

**Wind Chill:**

**High Gust: 26.0 Mph at 4:37 PM**

**Precip: 0.00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 94° in 1928**

**Record Low: 24° in 1982**

**Average High: 66°F**

**Average Low: 41°F**

**Average Precip in May: 0.71**

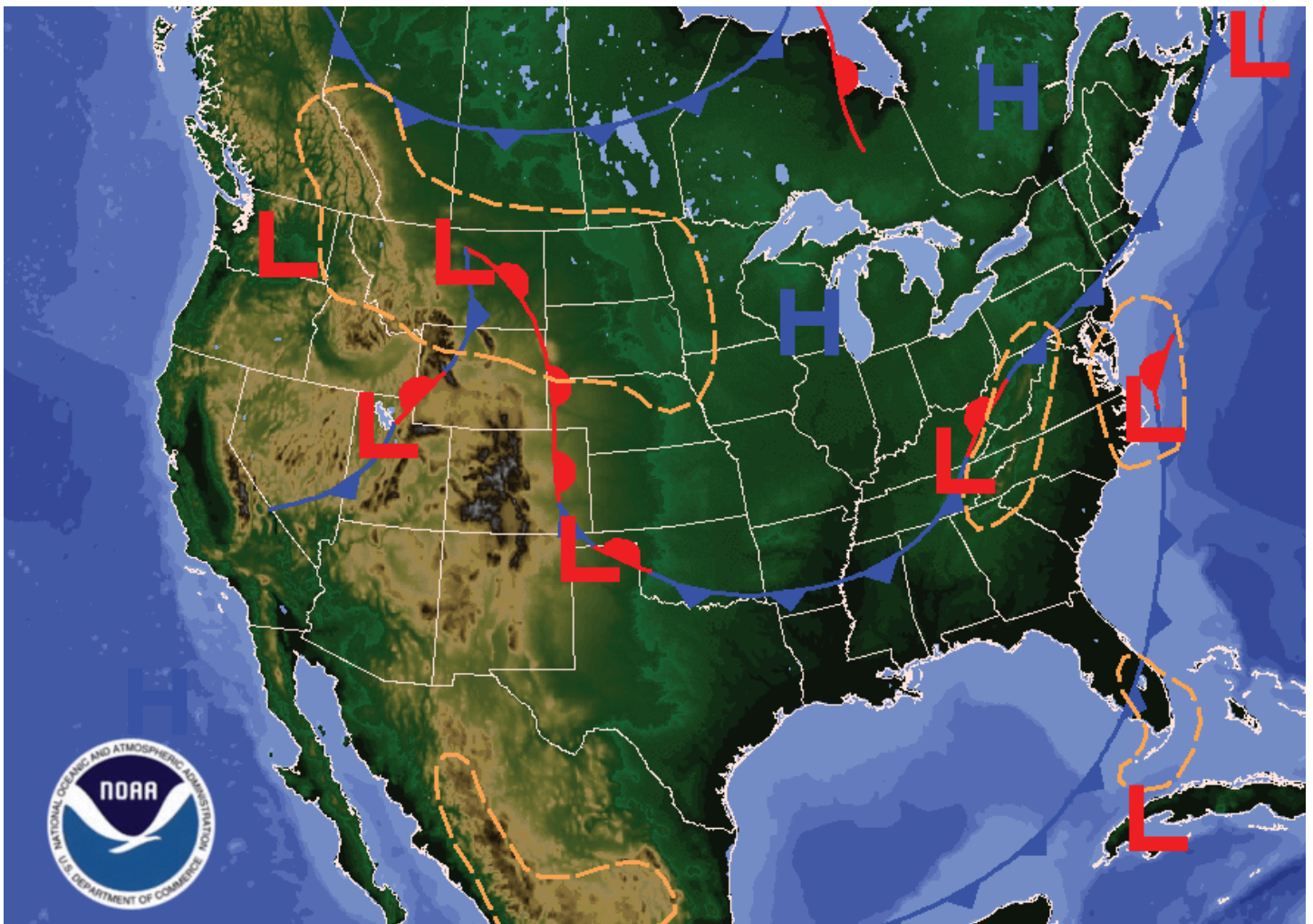
**Precip to date in May: 0.11**

**Average Precip to date: 4.74**

**Precip Year to Date: 2.79**

**Sunset Tonight: 8:47 p.m.**

**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:11 a.m.**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Mon, May 07, 2018, issued 4:45 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

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## ONLY ONE KING IS ALL POWERFUL

Canute was the king of the Danes in the eleventh century. Under his leadership they overran Britain, the King of Denmark and then the King of Norway. He was recognized as the most powerful man of his time.

One day while standing at the sea shore with the waves gently rolling back and forth over his feet, a group of his subjects stood before him and called out, "You are all powerful, O King! There is no one who dare disobey you and nothing can ever stop you."

As the waves lapped about his feet he asked, "Will the sea obey me?"

"Command it, O King, and it will!" they responded.

"Sea," he shouted in a loud voice, "I command you to come no further. Waves, stop your rolling. Do not touch my feet!" Suddenly a large wave erupted from the sea and swept over him.

"Learn a lesson," he said as he took off his crown. "There is only one King who is all-powerful. It is He who rules the sea and holds the ocean. It is whom you ought to worship and praise and serve above all others."

How powerful is this "only one King?" The Psalmist wrote, "He stilled the storm to a whisper. The waves of the sea were hushed."

Often our lives are as troubled as an angry sea. Far too frequently the waves attack us and would wash us in to the depths of the unknown. Thunder echoes in our ears and lightning strikes nearby filling our hearts with fear.

Then, just before we are swept under, He stills the storm.

Prayer: We thank You, Father, that the winds of life and the waves of disaster cannot destroy Your beloved. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 107:29 He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed.

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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

## News from the Associated Press

### **FBI offering reward in Pine Ridge killing investigation**

PINE RIDGE, S.D. (AP) — The FBI is offering a reward of up to \$2,500 for information in a slaying on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation last fall.

Twenty-four-year-old Raymond Waters Jr. was found dead inside a burned mobile home in Allen on Oct. 16. The FBI says an autopsy concluded he had died before the fire, likely from ax blows, and the fire might have been an act of arson intended to conceal the killing.

The Rapid City Journal reports a juvenile has been charged with second-degree murder in Ray's death. Water's uncle, 45-year-old Nathaniel Waters, was charged in March with being an accessory and lying to federal investigators. He has pleaded not guilty.

Authorities have not said if they are seeking additional suspects.

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

### **Minnesota horse owners cautioned about disease in Dakotas**

ST. PAUL, Min.. (AP) — Minnesota's Board of Animal Health is urging horse owners to help stop the spread of a disease that's been found in neighboring states.

The disease more commonly known as EHM has recently been confirmed in both North Dakota and south Dakota.

There is no threat to people from the disease, but it's highly contagious among horses and can kill the animals.

It hasn't been found in Minnesota since 2015. The Board of Animal Health is urging horse owners to be vigilant about biosecurity practices.

### **Board narrowing candidates for Sanford Health \$1M award**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — An advisory board is convening this spring to narrow candidates for Sanford Health's inaugural Lorraine Cross Award.

The Dakotas-based health system is giving a \$1 million global medical research prize to honor advancements in medicine. The amount rivals that which goes to the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.

A nomination period was held earlier this year. The first award will be presented in December.

Sanford Health is based in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and Fargo, North Dakota. It bills itself as one of the largest health systems in the nation, with 44 hospitals and nearly 300 clinics in nine states and four countries.

### **Homestead Nursery for sale after 30 years in South Dakota**

By LACEY PETERSON, Black Hills Pioneer

BELLE FOURCHE, S.D. (AP) — After 30 years in the nursery business, mother-son team Mary Ann Wells and Richard Wells have put the Homestead Nursery in Belle Fourche up for sale.

"It's been interesting to have 30 years to work at a garden," Richard said. "You get to see some real change."

The 2.55-acre nursery, started in the spring of 1988, and has been in business for 30 years at its location along Hay Creek.

The business was once known as Robb House Antiques, established by Jack Wells, Richard's father and Mary Ann's husband, after he retired from Wells Plumbing Supplies, the nursery's northern neighbors.

The Black Hills Pioneer reports that Homestead Nursery, started small by Richard and later joined by his

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mother, Mary Ann Wells, gradually built a customer base in the Northern Hills and Tri-State area to offer all kinds of hardy plants, and bedding plants in season.

Richard had previously worked in hospitals with a health services administration degree, living in Oakland and San Francisco, California, before returning home to Belle Fourche to build a new business and a different way of life.

"It's a very different environment here," Richard said. "In hospitals, not a lot of people want to be there, whether patients or visitors. Where this (the nursery business) people are motivated to be here and for a lot of people, this is their most exciting thing."

Richard said the nursery has been a low tech, custom operation, with a lot of individual care with many good workers, sometimes called plant tenders or plant wranglers.

"We've had lots of good workers over the years," Richard said.

The Wells' practice a no plant left behind philosophy.

"You watch every detail that you can to make sure your plants are doing the best they can and not miss the little subtle clues that you observe on a daily basis," Richard said. Working with plants, nature, and motivated gardeners has been a positive experience, but Richard said, with aging, it's time to scale back. Mary Ann is 90 years old and Richard is 70.

The Wells wonder if there is someone who would like to continue the tradition of a small family business that offers personal service and knowledge of plants.

"Part of the story is, is there room for a small niche business in an era of big box stores?" Richard asked.

With mostly outdoor work environment, Richard said 30 seasons have had ups and downs, especially related to weather. Two major hailstorms — during the mid-1990s and more recently in August 2015 - along with three severe drought periods, including last year, and heavy snowstorms like Winter Storm Atlas in 2013 have been among the challenges of managing the nursery.

"You rise and fall with the weather," Richard said. "I don't know that we've ever had the perfect growing year."

The climate in the plains is one of the most challenging for growing in the country, he said.

"For instance, Spearfish and Rapid (City) have the all-time records for temperature change in a short time which makes life interesting, but for plants, it's difficult," Richard said.

Still, Richard said, it has been mostly positive to see the power of healing when it comes to plants and learn to live with the cycles of nature.

"Working with local gardeners has been the greatest pleasure," Richard said. "As with fellow master gardeners with an active Northern Hills Master Gardener group that meets in Spearfish. We have developed a customer base in the Northern Hills with strong ties to the ag community in the Tri-State area."

One thing that the Wells still have that was original to the property when it was purchased some 30 years ago is a rhubarb patch.

"Had a whole row of beautiful rhubarb back there and we built a root cellar back there," Richard said.

In the process of building the root cellar, Richard said, because of the location of the patch and where they intended to build the cellar, dirt was put on top of the rhubarb.

"And we felt really bad; this rhubarb had probably been around for 100 years," he said. "Well, the next year, it came up through four feet of dirt. So we didn't have to feel bad for the rhubarb; it's still out there."

"And we still use it," Mary Ann said.

The property was once home to the first house built in Belle Fourche.

"When we bought it, it was still here and it was falling down," Mary Ann said.

After tearing the decrepit building down, the Wells realized its significance.

"We didn't realize it was the first house until some Girl Scouts came in and wanted a picture (with it)," she said.

The Girl Scouts were able to locate a photo of the house from another source, Mary Ann said.

Running the nursery that is open the first day of spring through Nov. 1 each year has taken a toll.

"We're realizing at age 90, there are certain realities that come into play, even though she does pretty good," Richard said. "Even age 70, there's so many hints (that it's time to retire due to physical constraints)."

We really enjoy doing it but just realize that because of the seasonal nature, you do have to do a lot of things for a short period of time that really are pretty intense.”

Mary Ann echoed her son’s sentiments.

“Well, and you sell the majority (of product) from the first of May through mid-June,” Mary Ann said. “And then we have these hours that are seven days a week. So it’s a lot of hours to work.”

Although difficult, Richard called the nursery a labor of love.

“It’s a lot of heavy physical labor,” he said. “Which I love. I’d rather do that than sit at a desk. But it does take a toll on some days. It does keep you more in with the cycles of nature rather than just with people and the cycles there. Sometimes they’re not as rewarding.”

Gardening is “dirt-cheap therapy,” Richard said.

“And it’s good for your head,” Mary Ann said.

The nursery carries a wide range of hardy plants that grow in the area.

“I was not knowledgeable at first, I had some interest but not much knowledge, epically growing a lemon tree and a fig tree in the back yard in Oakland does not really help you too much here,” Richard said. “And in hearing from people too; you get a lot of feedback so you know what’s working and what’s not working.”

Richard said they’ve had some interest in the business that has been for sale since last year.

He said he hopes that someone can take over the business with respect for a unique environment and see gardens as bridges between nature and the developed world, amid loss of natural habitat and resources.

“Our garden reflects the growth and changes over 30 years, the opportunity to see plants growth to their potential,” he said. “We have enjoyed life in this green island in Belle Fourche and hope that it evolves with someone else here to enjoy the seasons here as we have at Homestead Nursery.”

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

## **1 teen killed, 4 hurt in southwest South Dakota SUV rollover**

EDGEMONT, S.D. (AP) — One teenager was killed and four others injured when a sport utility vehicle crashed in southwestern South Dakota.

Authorities say the 2000 Subaru Outback was heading west on U.S. Highway 18 when it went off the road and rolled east of Edgemont early Sunday.

The 18-year-old man who was driving died at the scene. All four teenage passengers — two boys and two girls — suffered minor injuries. Two were taken to a hospital and the other two were released to their parents.

No one was wearing seat belts.

South Dakota’s Highway Patrol is investigating.

## **The many challenges of life after prison**

**By TIFFANY TAN, Rapid City Journal**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — In the span of about an hour April 27, a man had robbed a bank, got thrown in jail, bonded out, distributed illegal drugs and robbed another bank. He got away with the last two offenses and made money too.

After another hour, he ended up back in jail, along with dozens of people who participated in a simulation of the challenges faced by people who have just been released from prison.

The Rapid City Journal reports that during the three-hour activity in the auditorium of the South Dakota National Guard Armory on Range Road, the 50 participants were assigned to play the role of a person who had just come out of state or federal prison.

They were each given a packet describing the prison background of their persona and a list of what they were court-ordered to accomplish each week. They also got varying amounts of startup money and, if they were lucky, a type of official identification. The general goal was to earn enough money to make

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rent, buy food and pay for public transportation while going to treatment or substance abuse testing.

Around 30 stations had been set up to represent institutions that people deal with in real life: the workplace, supermarket, bank, payday lender, social services, blood bank, probation office and jail.

Most of the participants were criminal justice students from Western Dakota Tech and Black Hills State University, but they also included probation officers, people who work in nonprofit organizations and the relatives of men and women currently in prison.

During the exercise, the participants' most commonly expressed sentiment was frustration. They could hardly get anything done — like get a job, cash a check or get social assistance — since many didn't have a valid identification card.

There was a booth where they could get their birth certificate, social security card, state ID or driver's license for \$15 a pop. But lines were often long, people didn't have enough money or they first needed to get one document to obtain another.

"That's the main thing that holds you back when you get out, the ID," said Krista Olson, a volunteer who operated the supermarket booth. Olson is speaking from experience. She's on parole after serving time in state prison and is reintegrating into society with the help of a Rapid City nonprofit, Passages Women's Transitional Living.

To survive without an ID, the persona played by Western Dakota Tech student Tom Gioia decided to go to the "chance" booth. There, participants can choose to commit a crime and hope the card they pick will pay off with cash rather than land them in jail. Gioia's persona was the man who went to jail for a robbery, but got away with another robbery and a drug crime.

One female participant apparently thought it was easier to survive in jail, where necessities such as food and medical services were free. Immediately after bonding out, she went straight to pick out a crime card that got her locked back up.

Shawen Stolz, a probation officer in Rapid City, said joining the exercise helped him gain new insights into the systemic difficulties that former inmates continually face.

"You think you understand, but you can't," Stolz said. "You really have to live it."

The simulation, the first of its kind in South Dakota, was organized by the Rapid City Re-entry Task Force made up of local, state and federal agencies and nonprofit organizations. It was designed to raise community awareness, and the task force is hoping to hold simulations regularly, said Daniel Kivi, a co-organizer representing the U.S. Attorney's Office.

One of the task force's major goals is to advocate a state law that would provide a free, temporary valid ID to all people leaving prison, said Passages director Marge Beam. The idea is to give former inmates more time to obtain permanent IDs at the same time that they're rebuilding their lives outside prison.

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

## South Dakota agency begins 4-year walleye study

BELLE FOURCHE, S.D. (AP) — Biologists with the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks agency are beginning a four-year study of walleye in three western lakes.

Fisheries biologists plan to tag about 500 fish in Angostura, Belle Fourche and Shadehill reservoirs each year, the Black Hills Pioneer reported. The study intends to determine the population age, size, mortality and exploitation of walleye in the area.

The biologists already had tagged 300 fish in Belle Fourche by April 25. They're heading to the Shadehill reservoir next.

Biologists place net traps in bays and retrieve spawning walleye from the traps daily. The walleye are then measured, evaluated and fitted with a lip or jaw tag.

About 5 percent of the fish in the study will be marked with a \$100 reward tag. Anglers will need to remove the tag and turn it into the department to claim the reward.

"This will give us an even better look at population size and angler harvest as well as get a good age structure," said Gene Galinat, a fisheries biologist with the state agency.

Anglers that catch tagged walleye are asked to report them online or call the state agency.

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

## Meade County won't reduce land values despite drought

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — A county commission in western South Dakota has decided not to reduce agriculture land values despite the continued drought.

The Meade County Commission recently voted against the assessment adjustment, the Black Hills Pioneer reported. The adjustment was proposed by the county's director of equalization to reduce agriculture land assessments by 26 percent to account for the drought.

The U.S. Drought Monitor recently listed nearly two-thirds of Meade County in the moderate drought category. The remaining third is listed as abnormally dry.

"I think this is justifiable because of the severity of the drought," said Commission Chairman Galen Niederwerder, the only commissioner to vote for the proposal. "It has tremendously affected a large part of this county."

Commissioner Linda Rausch expressed concern that the adjustment would shift the tax burden onto taxpayers that aren't affected.

Meade School District Superintendent John Pedersen cautioned that lowering assessments could mean that the school district would receive less funding from the state.

"You folks are going into uncharted territory," Pedersen said. "This hasn't been done before."

Commissioner Ted Seaman said the proposal sets a bad precedent.

"I personally don't see how we can move on this," he said. "I would like to lower ag taxes just as much as anybody here in the room. but I don't think we can do it without lower commercial taxes and lowering residential taxes when people get in trouble."

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

## Military seeks to limit Congress on fixing child sex assault

By JUSTIN PRITCHARD and REESE DUNKLIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. military officials have sought to ward off congressional efforts to address child-on-child sexual assaults on bases, even as they disclose that the problem is larger than previously acknowledged.

Members of Congress expressed alarm and demanded answers after an Associated Press investigation revealed that reports of sexual violence among kids on U.S. military bases and at Pentagon-run schools are getting lost in a dead zone of justice that often leaves both victim and offender without help.

With at least three potential legislative fixes being drafted, military officials have had a clear message during briefings with lawmakers and their staffs: We can handle this on our own. It's a strategy that began months ago, after the Pentagon received AP's questions and well before officials understood the scope or severity of the problem.

In March, AP documented nearly 600 sex assault cases among children and teens on U.S. bases worldwide over a 10-year period. Army criminal investigators have now added another 86 investigations to the 223 they initially disclosed. The revision came after AP challenged data that suggested major installations in several states and overseas had no or only a few such sexual assault cases.

One Texas congressman has filed legislation that would direct the Pentagon to transfer cases to state authorities, who unlike the military or federal prosecutors have much more experience handling juvenile offenders. At least two Senate offices are drafting legislative language to address the problems that AP's reporting revealed.

In response, officials from the service branches and the Pentagon school system lobbied for time to fix the problem themselves, according to interviews and records.



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School system officials have told AP they were developing new rules for responding to the sexual violence. The Defense Department promised more broadly to take "appropriate actions" to help juveniles involved in sex assaults.

"I think they would like to make the corrections ... because, simply, they can do it faster than Congress can," Sen. Joni Ernst, an Iowa Republican who served in the Army National Guard and is a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said of her meeting with Pentagon school system officials.

Ernst said school officials did not offer specific steps they would take and that, while she supported internal reforms, she might still back legislation.

A staffer in another senator's office said the military briefers thought they were getting the problem under control.

"They did not want any legislative action on this," said the staffer, who was not authorized to speak publicly and did so on condition of anonymity. The staffer thought legislation would be needed.

Some military officials began discussing how to limit congressional involvement last fall, as AP was gathering records and data about child-on-child sexual assaults on bases. At that point, the Pentagon was not tracking the problem, but some military officials expected news coverage to generate attention from Congress.

AP's investigation found that many reports were shelved by military criminal investigators, while other cases were unprosecuted by civilian authorities, who are responsible because military law doesn't apply to service members' families.

"I hope to be able to demonstrate that we are making progress on our own, and do not need any legislative assistance," Col. William Smoot, the Army's chief of criminal law, wrote in an October email to fellow Judge Advocate General lawyers. Smoot asked colleagues to relate how they were coordinating with civilian prosecutors so that the Army could "determine what, if any, changes should be made."

Approached in person recently, Smoot referred a reporter to the Army's press office, which later characterized the email as reflecting the Army's desire to "coordinate its efforts with Congress."

"Although the Army has sufficient authority to improve its response to juvenile misconduct case," a statement said, "the Army greatly respects Congress' oversight role and will continue to work closely with Congress on this issue."

Last month, the Army's Criminal Investigation Command released data under a Freedom of Information Act request that showed it had undercounted the number of investigations its agents had conducted.

The additional cases the Army released showed that installations where the agency had reported zero incidents in fact did have investigations. Those included bases in Hawaii, Louisiana, Missouri, Alabama, Alaska, Oklahoma, South Korea and Germany.

Army Criminal Investigation Command spokesman Chris Grey wrote in an email that the agency "hand searched" cases that it had recorded as still "open," some dating to 2007, and found that 86 had been closed. Investigators concluded the allegations were true in 83 percent of those cases, AP found.

The Army still has not disclosed the number of pending sexual assault investigations it has involving kids on base.

The lack of reliable tracking concerns Sen. Claire McCaskill, a Missouri Democrat and former prosecutor who also sits on the Senate Armed Services Committee. In an April 27 letter to Army Secretary Mark Esper, she wrote of the "strong possibility" that the military was not coordinating well with civilian authorities.

"I am sure you would agree that close coordination between the Army and local or federal law enforcement is critical to ensuring all cases of sexual assault on Army installations are addressed appropriately," McCaskill wrote.

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If you have a tip, comment or story to share about child-on-child sexual assault on U.S. military bases, please email: [schoolhousesexassault@ap.org](mailto:schoolhousesexassault@ap.org). See AP's entire package of stories here: <https://www.ap-news.com/tag/HiddenVictims>

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Contact the reporters on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/lalanewsman> or <https://twitter.com/ReeseDunklin>

## Chelsea Manning: Insurgent bid for US Senate is genuine

By DAVID McFADDEN, Associated Press

NORTH BETHESDA, Md. (AP) — Chelsea Manning is no longer living as a transgender woman in a male military prison, serving the lengthiest sentence ever for revealing U.S. government secrets. She's free to grow out her hair, travel the world, and spend time with whomever she likes.

But a year since former President Barack Obama commuted Manning's 35-year sentence, America's most famous convicted leaker isn't taking an extended vacation. Far from it: The Oklahoma native has decided to make an unlikely bid for the U.S. Senate in her adopted state of Maryland.

Manning, 30, filed to run in January and has been registered to vote in Maryland since August. She lives in North Bethesda, not far from where she stayed with an aunt while awaiting trial. Her aim is to unseat Sen. Ben Cardin, a 74-year-old Maryland Democrat who is seeking his third Senate term and previously served 10 terms in the U.S. House.

Manning, who also has become an internationally recognized transgender activist, said she's motivated by a desire to fight what she sees as a shadowy surveillance state and a rising tide of nightmarish repression.

"The rise of authoritarianism is encroaching in every aspect of life, whether it's government or corporate or technological," Manning told The Associated Press during an interview at her home in an upscale apartment tower. On the walls of her barely furnished living room hang Obama's commutation order, and photos of U.S. anarchist Emma Goldman and British playwright Oscar Wilde.

Manning's longshot campaign for the June 26 primary would appear to be one of the more unorthodox U.S. Senate bids in recent memory, and the candidate is operating well outside the party's playbook. She says she doesn't, in fact, even consider herself a Democrat, but is motivated by a desire to shake up establishment Democrats who are "caving in" to President Donald Trump's administration. She vows she won't run as an independent if her primary bid fails.

She's certainly got an eye-catching platform: Close prisons and free inmates; eliminate national borders; restructure the criminal justice system; provide universal health care and basic income. The top of her agenda? Abolish the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, a federal agency created in 2003 that Manning asserts is preparing for an "ethnic cleansing."

Manning ticks off life experiences she believes would make her an effective senator: a stint being homeless in Chicago, her wartime experiences as a U.S. Army intelligence analyst in Iraq — even her seven years in prison. She asserts she's got a "bigger vision" than establishment politicians.

But political analysts suspect the convicted felon is not running to win.

"Manning is running as a protest candidate, which has a long lineage in American history, to shine light on American empire," said Daniel Schlozman, a political science professor at Johns Hopkins University. "That's a very different goal, with a very different campaign, than if she wanted to beat Ben Cardin."

Manning's insurgent candidacy thus far has been a decidedly stripped-down affair, with few appearances and a campaign website that just went up. In recent days, she approached an anti-fracking rally in Baltimore almost furtively, keeping to herself for much of the demonstration. But when it was her turn to address the small group, her celebrity status was evident. People who never met her called her by her first name and eagerly took photos.

Manning has acknowledged leaking more than 700,000 military and State Department documents to anti-secrecy site WikiLeaks in 2010. She said her motivation was a desire to spark debate about U.S. foreign policy, and she has been portrayed as both a hero and a traitor.

Known as Bradley Manning at the time of her arrest, she came out as transgender after her 2013 court-martial. She was barred from growing her hair long in prison, and was approved for hormone therapy only after litigation. She spent long stints in solitary confinement, and twice tried to kill herself.

The Pentagon, which has repeatedly declined to discuss Manning's treatment in military prison, is also staying mum about her political ambitions. Democratic Party officials say they have no comment, citing a policy not to weigh in on primaries. Republican operatives are quiet.

In Maryland, a blue state that's home to tens of thousands of federal employees and defense contractors,

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it appears Manning's main supporters are independents or anti-politics, making them unlikely to coalesce politically. She recently reported contributions of \$72,000 on this year's first quarterly finance statement, compared with Cardin's \$336,000.

The candidate has barely made an effort at tapping sources of grassroots enthusiasm outside of activism circles. And it's easy to find progressive Democrats who feel her candidacy is just a vehicle to boost her profile.

"It feels to me almost like it's part of a book tour — that this is her moment after being released from prison," said Dana Beyer, a transgender woman who leads the Gender Rights Maryland nonprofit and is a Democratic candidate for state senate. "I don't think this is a serious effort."

Manning is indeed working on a book about her dramatic life. For now, she says she supports herself with income from speaking engagements. She's spoken at various U.S. colleges and is due to take the stage at a Montreal conference later this month.

Last week, she appeared at a tech conference in Germany's capital of Berlin, arriving to cheers from the audience of several thousand people. She told attendees she's still struggling to adjust to life after prison and hasn't gotten used to her celebrity status yet.

"There's been a kind of cult of personality that is really intimidating and that is overwhelming for me," she said in Berlin.

At her Maryland apartment, Manning told the AP she occasionally wakes up panicked that she's back in the cage in Kuwait where she was first jailed, or incarcerated at the Marine base at Quantico, Virginia, where a U.N. official concluded she'd been subjected to "cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment." She works hard to overcome anxiety, centering herself with yoga, breathing exercises, and reading.

"I've been out for almost a year now and it's becoming increasingly clear to me just how deep the wounds are," she said in her Spartan living room.

Asked how she would define success, Manning responded with passionate intensity: "Success for me is survival."

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Associated Press writer Frank Jordans in Berlin contributed to this report.

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Follow McFadden on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/dmcfadd>

## Putin sworn in for 4th term; promises economic reforms

By JIM HEINTZ, Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Vladimir Putin took the oath of office for his fourth term as Russian president on Monday, promising to pursue an economic agenda that would boost living standards across the country.

In a ceremony in an ornate Kremlin hall in Moscow, Putin said improving Russia's economy following a recession partly linked to international sanctions would be a primary goal of his next six-year term.

"Now, we must use all existing possibilities, first of all for resolving internal urgent tasks of development, for economic and technological breakthroughs, for raising competitiveness in those spheres that determine the future," he told thousands of guests standing in the elaborate Andreevsky Hall of the Grand Kremlin Palace and two adjacent halls.

"A new quality of life, well-being, security and people's health — that's what's primary today," he said.

Although Putin has restored Russia's prominence on the world stage through military actions, he has been criticized for inadequate efforts to diversify Russia's economy away from its dependence on oil and gas exports and to develop the country's manufacturing sector.

"Russia should be modern and dynamic, it should be ready to accept the call of the times," he said.

In his speech, he made only brief reference to Russia's international role, saying "Russia is a strong, active, influential participant in international life. The security and defense capability of the country is reliably ensured. We will give these matters the necessary constant attention."

He acknowledged that the challenges facing Russia were formidable "but we all remember well that,

for more than a thousand years of history, Russia has often faced epochs of turmoil and trials, and has always revived as a Phoenix, reached heights that others could not."

Putin held onto the presidency in March's election when he tallied 77 percent of the vote.

Putin has effectively been the leader of Russia for all of the 21st century. He stepped down from the presidency in 2008 because of term limits, but was named prime minister and continued to steer the country until he returned as president in 2012.

The ceremony Monday was covered in assiduous detail on state television, showing Putin working at his desk in his shirt sleeves, then donning a suit coat to begin a long walk through the corridors of the Kremlin's Senate building, then boarding a limousine for a short drive to the Grand Kremlin Palace.

Thousands of guests stood in the three halls for the inauguration. One of the most prominent was former German chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, who is now chairman of Russia's state oil company Rosneft and one of the most prominent Western voices arguing for an end to sanctions against Russia.

Schroeder stood with Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev and Putin prominently shook hands with him after the speech.

## Hawaii volcano destroys dozens of homes, forces evacuations

By CALEB JONES, JENNIFER PELTZ and SOPHIA YAN, Associated Press

PAHOA, Hawaii (AP) — Hawaii's Kilauea volcano destroyed 26 homes and spewed lava hundreds of feet into the air, leaving evacuated residents unsure how long they might be displaced.

In revised figures Sunday, Hawaii County officials said another four unspecified structures were covered by lava.

Hawaii officials said the decimated homes were in the Leilani Estates subdivision, where molten rock, toxic gas and steam have been bursting through openings in the ground created by the volcano.

Some of the more than 1,700 residents who have been evacuated were allowed to briefly return to gather medicine, pets, and other necessities.

Officials say residents would be able to do so each day until further notice as authorities monitor which areas are safe.

Amber Makuakane Kane, 37, a teacher and single mother of two, said her three-bedroom house in Leilani Estates was destroyed by lava.

The dwelling was across from a fissure that opened Friday, when "there was some steam rising from all parts of the yard, but everything looked fine," Makuakane said.

On Saturday, she received alerts from her security system that motion sensors throughout the house had been triggered. She later confirmed that lava had covered her property.

Makuakane grew up in the area and lived in her house for nine years. Her parents also live in Leilani Estates.

"The volcano and the lava -- it's always been a part of my life," she said. "It's devastating ... but I've come to terms with it."

Lava has spread around 387,500 square feet (36,000 square meters) surrounding the most active fissure, though the rate of movement is slow. There was no indication when the lava might stop or how far it might spread.

"There's more magma in the system to be erupted. As long as that supply is there, the eruption will continue," U.S. Geological Survey volcanologist Wendy Stovall said.

Cherie McArthur wondered what would become of her macadamia nut farm in Lanipuna Gardens, another evacuated neighborhood near Leilani Estates. One of the year's first harvests had been planned for this weekend.

"If we lose our farm, we don't know where we're going to go. You lose your income and you lose your home at the same time," said McArthur, who's had the farm for about 20 years. "All you can do is pray and hope and try to get all the information you can."

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About 250 people and 90 pets spent Saturday night at shelters, the American Red Cross said.

The number of lava-venting fissures in the neighborhood grew overnight from eight to as many as 10, Stovall said, though some have quieted at various points. Regardless, USGS scientists expect fissures to keep spewing.

The lava could eventually be channeled to one powerful vent while others go dormant, as has happened in some previous Hawaii eruptions, Stovall said.

Kilauea (pronounced kill-ah-WAY'-ah), one of the world's most active volcanoes, has been erupting continuously since 1983.

The USGS's Hawaiian Volcano Observatory issued a notice in mid-April that there were signs of pressure building in underground magma, and a new vent could form on the cone or along what's known as the East Rift Zone. Leilani Estates sits along the zone.

The crater floor began to collapse Monday, triggering earthquakes and pushing lava into new underground chambers that carried it toward Leilani Estates and nearby communities. A magnitude-6.9 earthquake — Hawaii's largest in more than 40 years — hit the area Friday.

It set Michael McGuire's car rocking in his driveway, knocking things off his shelves and shattering glass in his cabinets near Leilani Estates.

He hoped to check on his home Sunday but realized it was too soon to be sure when, or if, it would be safe from the moving lava.

"I'm somewhat fatalistic: if it happens, it happens," he said. "And I'm enjoying life here, so you know, you put up with a lot of things here. This is one of them."

Noah and Laura Dawn own a retreat center about 3 miles downhill from the most active vents. They were clearing out items Sunday and relocating up the coast indefinitely.

"We're just removing all things of value to us and precious things because I have the feeling it could get real - real, real fast," Noah Dawn said.

Peltz reported from New York and Yan from Honolulu. Associated Press photographer Marco Garcia and videographer Haven Daley contributed to this report from Pahoehoe.

## Giuliani finds aiding Trump with his defense is a struggle

By ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's new attorney, Rudy Giuliani, is trying hard to support his client's stance on legal challenges coming from investigations into Russian interference in the 2016 election and a \$130,000 hush payment to a porn actress, but he is off to a rough start.

The former New York City mayor is delivering confounding and at times contradictory statements as he mounts Trump's defense through the media in a bewildering display that has even the president's allies concerned. Giuliani's aggressive defense of the president in recent weeks has pleased Trump, but exasperated White House aides and attorneys.

Alan Dershowitz, a Harvard law professor who has informally counseled the president, said on NBC's "Meet the Press" that recent developments are aiding the efforts of special counsel Robert Mueller.

"It seems to me that the approach last week of the Trump team plays into the hands of Mueller's tactic to try, at any cost, to try to find technical violations against lower-ranking people so that they can be squeezed," said Dershowitz.

In an interview Sunday with ABC's "This Week," Giuliani dismissed as rumor his own statements about Trump's payment to adult-film actress Stormy Daniels, said he can't speak to whether the president lied to the American people when he denied knowledge of the silencing agreement and wouldn't rule out the president asserting his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination in the Russia investigation. Giuliani also couldn't say whether Trump's personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, had made similar payments to other women on the president's behalf.

Giuliani said despite Trump's openness to sit down with Mueller in the Russia investigation, he would

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strongly advise Trump against it.

"I'm going to walk him into a prosecution for perjury like Martha Stewart?" Giuliani asked, referring to the lifestyle maven convicted in 2004 of lying to investigators and obstruction in an insider trading case.

Giuliani couldn't guarantee that Trump wouldn't end up asserting his constitutional right to refuse to answer any questions that might incriminate him.

"How could I ever be confident of that?" Giuliani said.

During a 2016 campaign rally, Trump disparaged staffers of his Democratic opponent, Hillary Clinton, for taking the Fifth Amendment during a congressional investigation into Clinton's use of a private email server as secretary of state.

"The mob takes the Fifth," Trump said. "If you're innocent, why are you taking the Fifth Amendment?"

Giuliani also suggested that Trump wouldn't necessarily comply with a subpoena from Mueller, whose investigation Trump has repeatedly labeled a "witch hunt."

A subpoena fight would likely find its way to the Supreme Court, which has never firmly decided whether presidents can be compelled to speak under oath.

Giuliani, who was hired by Trump last month, said he's still learning the facts of the Mueller case and the details of Trump's knowledge of the payment to Daniels, who has alleged a sexual tryst with Trump in 2006. The \$130,000 payment was made by Cohen days before the 2016 election, raising questions of compliance with campaign finance and ethics laws.

When Trump was asked last month aboard Air Force One if he knew about the payment to Daniels, he said no. Trump also said he didn't know why Cohen had made the payment or where he got the money.

Kellyanne Conway, a counselor to the president, said Sunday on CNN's "State of the Union" that Trump meant that he didn't know about the payment at the time it was made, not at the time the question was asked.

Giuliani said last week that Trump had reimbursed Cohen for that payment and other unspecified items.

Giuliani said then that he first made Trump aware of the payment shortly after joining the case but now says he doesn't know when Trump found out about it. Giuliani told BuzzFeed last week that Cohen had complained after the election about not being paid by Trump for his work in silencing Daniels and that Cohen and Trump then met to work out a \$35,000 monthly retainer.

Trump said Friday that Giuliani needed to "get his facts straight" but insisted they weren't changing their story. He has called Daniels' allegations of an affair "false and extortionist."

When asked Sunday whether Trump knew about the payment to Daniels after the campaign, Giuliani demurred.

"I can't prove that. I can just say it's rumor," Giuliani said.

Giuliani also said he wasn't sure whether Cohen had paid off any other women for Trump but indicated it was possible. "I have no knowledge of that, but I would think if it was necessary, yes," Giuliani said.

Cohen no longer represents Trump, Giuliani said, adding that it would "be a conflict right now." Cohen faces a criminal investigation in New York, where FBI agents raided his home and office several weeks ago seeking records about the Daniels nondisclosure agreement and other matters.

Michael Avenatti, Daniels' attorney, said Sunday on "This Week" that he thinks it's "obvious ... to the American people that this is a cover-up, that they are making it up as they go along."

Legal experts have said the revelation that Trump reimbursed Cohen raises new 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.

Both Giuliani and Trump have insisted the payment to Daniels was not a campaign expense.

Giuliani maintained Sunday that the payment can't be considered an in-kind campaign contribution because there was another explanation for it.

"This was for another purpose, to protect him, to protect his family," he said. "It may have involved the campaign. Doesn't matter."

Giuliani said the financial arrangement with Cohen wasn't revealed on Trump's 2017 personal financial

disclosure because "it isn't a liability, it's an expense."

## Guatemala's crusading prosecutor exits amid praise, threats

By SONIA PEREZ D., Associated Press

GUATEMALA CITY (AP) — It's been a long time since it was safe for Thelma Aldana to go out in public alone, and perhaps it never will be again.

As chief prosecutor for Guatemala, Aldana won plaudits at home and abroad as the woman who sent a president to prison and broke up a number of high-level corruption rings. But it came at a cost — her own personal safety — as her crusading angered some of the country's most powerful and dangerous people, long accustomed to doing as they pleased with little or no consequences.

The biggest trophy on her wall from four years in office: Taking down a network allegedly led by then-President Otto Perez Molina, who is accused of defrauding the state of millions of dollars.

"In the Bible it says you shall know them by their fruits, and I gave my best effort," Aldana said in a series of interviews with The Associated Press as she prepares to leave office when her term ends this month. "With all modesty, I leave with my head high."

Those close to her call the 62-year-old Aldana "the boss." She is described as a strictly punctual person and a voracious reader. Appearing before news cameras to announce the latest corruption ring to fall, she typically appears calm, collected and intrepid. Her facial expression is often tough and inscrutable, making it difficult to guess what she is thinking.

It seems the only one able to crack that demeanor is Toby, her 5-year-old Shih Tzu. Speaking to the AP in a small room at her offices decorated with recognitions where she likes to receive visitors, Aldana broke into a broad smile recalling how when she brings work home, Toby likes to rest in the cardboard box she uses to carry the same documents that could end up putting criminals and politicians behind bars.

Aldana's long path to becoming Guatemala's top prosecutor began in 1981 as a low-level judicial counselor and progressed through a number of posts — including Supreme Court president in 2011. She holds a master's degree in civil law and another pending that is related to women's rights and gender issues.

Perez Molina tapped her to be chief prosecutor in 2014, replacing Claudia Paz y Paz, who was the first woman to hold the job and who also angered influential interests and received threats for aggressively prosecuting corruption and human rights abuses dating to Guatemala's 1960-1990 civil war.

Perez Molina, who had been a powerful general in one of the region's most feared armies during the conflict, likely never imagined that his downfall would come not on the battlefield but in a courtroom and at the hands of a woman he himself selected.

Indeed, at the time many Guatemalans also thought it improbable that Aldana would investigate suspicions of corruption on the part of the man who picked her for the post.

Ivan Velasquez, a Colombian lawyer, heads a U.N.-sponsored anti-corruption commission that has been a key partner with Aldana's office in investigating corruption cases and bringing them to trial.

Velasquez told the AP that trust did not come immediately between him and Aldana, but over time they developed a close working relationship where they were able to reconcile differences and reach consensus. What cemented his confidence was when she didn't shy from going after Perez Molina.

Aldana did not hesitate at "a very critical moment," Velasquez said, praising her strength and valor in the job.

Perez Molina, who denies wrongdoing, is currently behind bars along with his then vice president and others from his inner circle.

In 2017 alone, Aldana's office won 9,358 convictions. She has also made great strides in clearing what has been a crushing backlog: In 2014 prosecutors had 1,280,378 unresolved cases. Today that has been reduced by over half.

Last year, Time magazine named her one of the world's most influential people, along with the likes of NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick, Academy Award-winning actor Viola Davis and Brazilian soccer star Neymar. She was named a recipient of the U.S. State Department's 2016 International Women of Courage

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Award. But her personal favorite among dozens of other recognitions is a wand of authority presented to her by indigenous Guatemalan leaders.

The work has been far from glamorous — more of a slow slog, she says.

"Fighting corruption is a process, and it is not easy," Aldana said.

Aldana said the last four years had been by far the toughest of the 37 she has spent working in Guatemala's judicial system.

One of the hardest moments came when current President Jimmy Morales, whom she and Velasquez sought to investigate on suspicion of illegal campaign financing, seemed ready to expel Velasquez from the country. Aldana rallied to her colleague's defense.

"I announced that if he left, I would resign," Aldana recalled.

Along the way there have been numerous death threats, harassment and attempts to sully her character. In 2016 government officials confirmed that a criminal group had paid for a hit on Aldana that was never carried out.

Today she lives under protective measures provided by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and has been forced to abandon the routines of daily life.

"I practically do not go to public places and I cannot walk in the street. I always have to be accompanied by a security team," Aldana said. "My way of life changed drastically. ... We have investigated powerful criminal structures, and as a consequence I must behave with great caution."

She added that she worries about safety after she leaves office, saying, "It will be the responsibility of the Guatemalan state to protect my life, and that of my family."

Though the law did not bar Aldana from seeking a new term as prosecutor, she said she decided against it for security concerns and because she was convinced Morales would never have agreed for her to continue.

On Thursday, Morales selected career jurist and Constitutional Court alternate magistrate Maria Consuelo Porras to replace Aldana effective May 17. Some civil society groups have expressed concern over Porras' military ties, but institutions such as the U.N. commission and the Human Rights Prosecutor's Office asked Guatemalans to give her the benefit of the doubt. At a news conference, Porras promised to work with the U.N. body.

Asked how she wants to be remembered, Aldana expressed pride over spearheading efforts to raise national attention to violence against women and said she hopes she has proved to Guatemalans that an independent prosecutor's office is possible.

"It is a precious commodity," she said.

She confessed she feels she owes a debt to her family and hopes to make up for lost time with her two children, ages 21 and 24. In retirement, "the boss" hopes to become a professor, drawing on her career experience to teach a new generation about prosecuting crime and corruption.

For now, Aldana has a more personal wish: To take in, on TV and in real time, the entirety of this summer's World Cup, something that until now has been impossible due to the demands of office.

"I have always had to watch it at night, delayed. But now I have a desire to watch it live," she said. "After that I will see what to do with my professional life."

## Buffalo buzzing over Bills draft picks, Sabres lottery win

By JOHN WAWROW, AP Sports Writer

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — The Buffalo Bills were so dull during their lean years, comedian Nick Bakay feared his body would fuse to the couch while watching them play.

"It's an incredibly disturbing image," Bakay said of wasting away Sundays witnessing his hometown team sleepwalk through one loss after another during a 17-season playoff drought that ended last year.

"I never missed a Bills game. But I was always slumped on my couch. I was never sitting forward. I was never jumping to my feet," said Bakay, who wrote "Paul Blart: Mall Cop" and its sequel, and produced and appeared on the TV sitcom "King of Queens." "You sit on your couch, and your couch slowly eats you."

No different for fans of Buffalo's other pro sports franchise, the NHL's Sabres, who finished last for the



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third time in five years and extended their franchise-worst playoff drought to a seventh season.

In a shot-and-a-beer town where the winters are interminably long, Buffalo sports fans ride things out on the notion of renewal always being just around the corner.

And there's a new, palpable optimism for this hearty fan base, thanks to a three-day stretch which showed potential to alter the trajectory of both teams.

First, the Bills made a pair of splashes in the first round of the NFL draft on April 26 by trading up to select Wyoming quarterback Josh Allen and Virginia Tech linebacker Tremaine Edmunds.

Two days later, the Sabres won the NHL draft lottery — something Buffalo lost the previous two times it finished last — and the opportunity to select projected No. 1 pick, Swedish defenseman Rasmus Dahlin.

During the NFL draft, CBS Evening News anchor Jeff Glor got dirty looks from his wife during a rare dinner date sneaking peeks at the Bills' picks. He then yelped with excitement upon learning the Sabres won the lottery while attending the White House Correspondents' Association dinner in Washington.

"I had just resigned myself to never winning it," Glor said. "But listen, I always have hope."

In Buffalo, there's a fine line between affection and affliction for hope.

"I always try to keep it in check a little bit," said Glor, who grew up in the Buffalo suburb of Tonawanda. "Unfortunately, you get conditioned to where there are times you can be defeatist. And you try not to be. But you just don't give up."

Fans have little choice but to persevere in a place where nickname-worthy moments are tied to losses.

For the Bills, it's "Wide Right," after kicker Scott Norwood missed a last-second field-goal attempt in a 20-19 loss to the New York Giants in the 1991 Super Bowl — the first of four consecutive Super Bowl losses.

For the Sabres, it's "No Goal," following a 2-1, triple-overtime loss to Dallas in Game 6 of the 1999 Stanley Cup Final. Brett Hull's Cup-clinching goal stood even though replays showed his skate in the crease.

Those were the so-called glory days.

The Bills and Sabres have won five playoff games combined since 2008. By comparison, the NHL's expansion Vegas Golden Knights have already won eight in their first year of existence.

Buffalo joins Nashville and Charlotte, North Carolina, as the only North American markets with two or more major pro teams to not have won a title.

"I think it builds character in a way. I joke with my friends that one day my kids will have to go through therapy because we are Sabres, Bills and Mets fans," said former VH1-cable TV chief Tom Calderone, who's based in New York City but maintains a home in his native Buffalo. "It's easy to be a Cowboys fan or a Patriots fan. But it takes true dedication to be a Bills or Sabres fan."

Calderone sees more hope reflected in signs of resurgence for the city itself.

The former site of the Erie Canal has been transformed from vacant gravel lots to parkland, a water park that doubles as an ice rink in winter, and an entertainment/hockey complex built by Bills and Sabres owner Terry Pegula.

Housing prices have tripled and a medical corridor is newly bustling along Main Street, where shuttered and boarded-up buildings have been renovated or replaced by new steel and glass structures.

Buffalo still has its rust-belt blemishes as one of the nation's poorest cities. Racial inequities, failing schools and a crumbling infrastructure remain issues.

The Bills and Sabres aren't immune to troubling headlines. Last week, the two teams' president Russ Brandon resigned amid allegations of having inappropriate relationships with female employees.

Buffalo might never regain the industrial-age prominence it held in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when the city became a Great Lakes shipping hub as the gateway to the Erie Canal.

Nor, however, should it become the punchline comedian Jon Stewart once delivered during a stop in Buffalo, calling the city the gateway to the Ontario border town of Fort Erie just across the Niagara River — population 30,000.

Watching a documentary on former Bills running back O.J. Simpson, Bakay was reminded of the gloomy times in the 1970s when the steel mills began closing and legions of people left to find jobs.

"It depressed me so much," he said. "Every shot of Buffalo looked like a moose that farted into the sky."

The decline led to Buffalo investing its psyche into its sports teams as a way of remaining part of the

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national conversation.

"Our teams were the only way we could punch back and say, 'Yeah, we're here,'" Bakay said.

Allen and the prospect of adding Dahlin has recaptured his imagination as to what's possible.

"It's like all of a sudden we've got go-big-or-go-home-talent coming our way," Bakay said.

He recalled how the Bills once pinned their hopes on quarterback Trent Edwards, who earned the nickname "Captain Checkdown" for being overly cautious.

"After years of the Trent Edwards of the world, we get a kid who has that kind of talent," Bakay said.

Maybe, he'll finally be able to get off that couch.

"I don't think we need any kind of help of, 'Can we believe?' We can believe in a bag of doughnuts," Bakay said. "But that weekend was like, 'Oh my god. Things are really happening. Pinch me.'"

## Springsteen escorts Van Zandt in to New Jersey Hall of Fame

By WAYNE PARRY, Associated Press

ASBURY PARK, N.J. (AP) — Oh what a night: Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons were inducted Sunday into the New Jersey Hall of Fame, but it was Bruce Springsteen who stole what could have been Meryl Streep's show.

The Boss made a surprise appearance at Asbury Park's Convention Hall to introduce his longtime friend and guitarist Steven Van Zandt into the hall. Springsteen himself was admitted a decade earlier.

The two joined forces onstage and played "I Don't Want To Go Home," trading vocals and eventually welcoming the entire class of inductees — and many of their family members — onstage to close the show.

"We did the impossible: We made New Jersey hip," said Van Zandt, who is from Middletown.

Then, referring to his surprising second career as an actor in the hit HBO series "The Sopranos," in which he played mobster Silvio Dante, Van Zandt quipped, "I had the experience of witnessing New Jersey become fashionable twice in one lifetime. Thank you, New Jersey; you have been very, very good to me."

Springsteen introduced the erratically clothed Van Zandt as "the only man I know besides Hugh Hefner who has figured out how to spend his whole life in his pajamas. Though born in Boston, Massachusetts, there is no purer distillation of the Jersey ethos than Little Stevie Van Zandt."

Meryl Streep, of Summit, who actually was named to the hall in its first year in 2008 but has yet to appear at an induction ceremony, had to bail again due to a production conflict with her hit HBO series "Big Little Lies." Because of that, she has not yet officially entered the New Jersey hall.

Comedian and actor Joe Piscopo, who introduced former Mets and Yankees pitcher Al Leiter, said the event was "so New Jersey that I had to pay a toll to get in."

Other performers getting the nod included Blondie lead singer Debbie Harry, of Hawthorne. She confessed that while on tour, she gets really sad if she misses tomato-ripening season in New Jersey, and that she has long wanted to name an album "Jersey Tomato," but never did.

Disco queen Gloria Gaynor, who is from Newark, turned the hall into a giant dance party as audience members leapt from their seats and boogied to her hit "I Will Survive."

Frankie Valli, who also is from Newark, and his Four Seasons bandmates Bob Gaudio, Tommy DeVito, Nick Massi and Joe Long, also were inducted.

Astronauts Mark and Scott Kelly, of Orange, were inducted, along with Republican Congresswoman Millicent Fenwick, of Bernardville, the inspiration behind Lacey Davenport, a fictional character in the "Doodles" comic strip; nurse Clara Maass, of East Orange, who died after volunteering for medical experiments to study yellow fever; Olympic soccer gold medalist Carli Lloyd, of Delran; publisher and flat-tax advocate Steve Forbes, of Morristown; businessmen Joe Buckelew, of Lakewood, and Jon Hanson, of Bogota; author Harlan Coben, of Newark; novelist and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Anna Quindlen, of South Brunswick; and TV "Cake Boss" Buddy Valastro, of Hoboken.

"I'm a baker, right?" Valastro said. "And I'm standing up here in the hall of fame. It's a dream come true."

The Hall's Unsung Hero award went to Kevin Hoagland, founder of the Central Jersey Spinal Cord Association.

Follow Wayne Parry at <http://twitter.com/WayneParryAC>

## Giuliani confounds, contradicts as he defends Trump in media

By ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's new attorney Rudy Giuliani is delivering confounding and at times contradictory statements as he tries to lessen the legal burdens on his client from an investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election and a \$130,000 hush payment to a porn actress.

The former New York City mayor is embracing his client's preferred approach to challenges as he mounts Trump's defense through the media. But it's proving to be a bewildering display.

In an interview Sunday with ABC's "This Week," Giuliani dismissed as rumor his own statements about Trump's payment to adult-film actress Stormy Daniels, said he can't speak to whether the president lied to the American people when he denied knowledge of the silencing agreement and wouldn't rule out the president asserting his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination in the Russia investigation. Giuliani also couldn't say whether Trump's personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, had made similar payments to other women on the president's behalf.

Giuliani said despite Trump's openness to sit down with special counsel Robert Mueller in the Russia investigation, he would strongly advise Trump against it.

"I'm going to walk him into a prosecution for perjury like Martha Stewart?" Giuliani asked, referring to the lifestyle maven convicted in 2004 of lying to investigators and obstruction in an insider trading case.

Giuliani couldn't guarantee that Trump wouldn't end up asserting his constitutional right to refuse to answer any questions that might incriminate him.

"How could I ever be confident of that?" Giuliani said.

During a 2016 campaign rally, Trump disparaged staffers of his Democratic opponent, Hillary Clinton, for taking the Fifth amendment during a congressional investigation into Clinton's use of a private email server as secretary of state.

"The mob takes the Fifth," Trump said. "If you're innocent, why are you taking the Fifth Amendment?"

Giuliani also suggested that Trump wouldn't necessarily comply with a subpoena from Mueller, whose investigation Trump has repeatedly labeled a "witch hunt."

A subpoena fight would likely find its way to the Supreme Court, which has never firmly decided whether presidents can be compelled to speak under oath.

Giuliani's aggressive defense of the president in recent weeks has pleased Trump but exasperated White House aides and attorneys and left even supporters questioning his tactics.

"It seems to me that the approach last week of the Trump team plays into the hands of Mueller's tactic to try, at any cost, to try to find technical violations against lower-ranking people so that they can be squeezed," Alan Dershowitz, a Harvard law professor who has informally counseled the president, said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Giuliani, who was hired by Trump last month, said he's still learning the facts of the Mueller case and the details of Trump's knowledge of the payment to Daniels, who has alleged a sexual tryst with Trump in 2006. The \$130,000 payment was made by Cohen days before the 2016 election, raising questions of compliance with campaign finance and ethics laws.

When Trump was asked last month aboard Air Force One if he knew about the payment to Daniels, he said no. Trump also said he didn't know why Cohen had made the payment or where he got the money.

Kellyanne Conway, a counselor to the president, said Sunday on CNN's "State of the Union" that Trump meant that he didn't know about the payment at the time it was made, not at the time the question was asked.

Giuliani said last week that Trump had reimbursed Cohen for that payment and other unspecified items.

Giuliani said then that he first made Trump aware of the payment shortly after joining the case but now says he doesn't know when Trump found out about it. Giuliani told BuzzFeed last week that Cohen had

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complained after the election about not being paid by Trump for his work in silencing Daniels and that Cohen and Trump then met to work out a \$35,000 monthly retainer.

Trump said Friday that Giuliani needed to "get his facts straight" but insisted they weren't changing their story. He has called Daniels' allegations of an affair "false and extortionist."

When asked Sunday whether Trump knew about the payment to Daniels after the campaign, Giuliani demurred.

"I can't prove that. I can just say it's rumor," Giuliani said.

Giuliani also said he wasn't sure whether Cohen had paid off any other women for Trump but indicated it was possible.

"I have no knowledge of that, but I would think if it was necessary, yes," Giuliani said.

Cohen no longer represents Trump, Giuliani said, adding that it would "be a conflict right now." Cohen faces a criminal investigation in New York, where FBI agents raided his home and office several weeks ago seeking records about the Daniels nondisclosure agreement and other matters.

Michael Avenatti, Daniels' attorney, said Sunday on "This Week" that he thinks it's "obvious ... to the American people that this is a cover-up, that they are making it up as they go along."

Legal experts have said the revelation that Trump reimbursed Cohen raises new 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.

Both Giuliani and Trump have insisted the payment to Daniels was not a campaign expense.

Giuliani maintained Sunday that the payment can't be considered an in-kind campaign contribution because there was another explanation for it.

"This was for another purpose, to protect him, to protect his family," he said. "It may have involved the campaign. Doesn't matter."

Giuliani said the financial arrangement with Cohen wasn't revealed on Trump's 2017 personal financial disclosure because "it isn't a liability, it's an expense."

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This version of the story corrects quote in paragraph 9 to delete the word 'amendment' in the first reference to 'the Fifth.'

## Monday hearing could have big implications in Greitens' case

By JIM SALTER, Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — A judge on Monday will consider whether the pivotal witness in Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens' criminal trial — a woman involved in an affair with him — should be prohibited from testifying.

Circuit Judge Rex Burlison will preside over the hearing, just a week before Greitens stands trial for felony invasion of privacy.

The married Republican governor is accused of taking an unauthorized photo of the woman during a sexual encounter at his St. Louis home in 2015, before he was elected. Four days after the trial begins, Missouri lawmakers will convene a special session to consider impeaching Greitens over allegations of sexual misconduct stemming from the affair and misuse of a charity donor list for his political campaign.

Defense attorneys contend the woman's testimony has been tainted by the misdeeds of William Tisaby, a private investigator hired by Circuit Attorney Kim Gardner who interviewed the woman. They have accused Tisaby of lying to the court and withholding evidence. He has repeatedly declined to reply to phone messages and emails seeking comment.

Prosecutors have not obtained the alleged photo, so the woman's testimony is crucial to their case.

In a court filing Thursday, defense attorney Jim Martin wrote that Gardner shares the blame for Tisaby's actions.

"Everything Mr. Tisaby has touched (all with the help of Ms. Gardner) must be excluded from any trial," Martin wrote.

The circuit attorney's office acknowledges missteps by Tisaby but has denied that his actions tainted

the case.

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

Republican state House and Senate leaders said Thursday that they had enough signatures from each chamber for a special session beginning May 18. It marks the first time in Missouri history that lawmakers have called a special session, which are typically called by the governor.

If the House votes to impeach Greitens, the Senate would appoint a panel of seven judges to conduct a trial on whether to remove him from office. No Missouri governor has ever been forced out of office.

Greitens, once considered a rising star in GOP politics, admitted in January that he had an affair with his St. Louis hairdresser. He was indicted by a St. Louis grand jury on invasion of privacy in February.

His problems escalated in April when a special House committee released a report on the relationship. The woman told the committee that Greitens had restrained, slapped, shoved, threatened and belittled her during a series of sexual encounters in 2015 that at times left her crying and afraid.

Last week, the same committee released a report on Greitens' alleged misuse of the charity donor list. The report included testimony from a former Greitens aide indicating the campaign also falsely identified the source of the donor list in a settlement with the Missouri Ethics Commission.

## Britain hopes to address Trump concerns on Iran nuclear deal

WASHINGTON (AP) — Britain's ambassador to the U.S. said Sunday his country believes it's still possible to address President Donald Trump's concerns about the Iran nuclear deal in time to prevent him from pulling out of the agreement.

Kim Darroch said Britain has ideas for dealing with those concerns. They include Iran's ballistic missile program and its involvement in Mideast conflicts, issues that aren't part of the international agreement. Trump also objects to the accord's sunset clause, which allows Iran to resume part of its nuclear program after 2025.

"We think that we can find some language, produce some action that meets the president's concerns," Darroch told CBS' "Face the Nation."

The deadline for Trump's decision is this coming Saturday.

Britain's foreign secretary, Boris Johnson, has scheduled talks with U.S. officials in Washington this week. His trip follows visits in recent weeks by the leaders of France and Germany, who also tried to convince Trump to stick with the agreement. All three European countries signed the 2015 deal, along with Russia and China.

In an op-ed Sunday for The New York Times, Johnson wrote that the agreement offered the fewest disadvantages of all the options available. "It has weaknesses, certainly, but I am convinced they can be remedied. Indeed at this moment Britain is working alongside the Trump administration and our French and German allies to ensure that they are," he wrote.

Iran's president warned Trump on Sunday that leaving the nuclear deal would be a "historic regret."

The chairman of the House Armed Services Committee also advised against pulling out of the accord without a clearer idea of the consequences and urged Trump to give the Europeans time to address his concerns.

"So maybe the best thing is for the president to delay a bit more his deadline of this month and put the French and the British up to the test about whether it is possible to get this other sort of agreement," Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, said on "Fox News Sunday."

## Expansion Golden Knights top Sharks to make conference final

By JOSH DUBOW, AP Sports Writer

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Shortly after the San Jose Sharks were denied by the iron for the fourth time of the night, Marc-Andre Fleury rubbed the goal post to thank it for his good fortune.

There's something magical about the ride the expansion Vegas Golden Knights have been on all season and now it's going all the way to the Western Conference Final.

Fleury made 28 saves in his fourth shutout of the playoffs and the Golden Knights have made it to the NHL's final four in their inaugural season after beating the San Jose Sharks 3-0 in Game 6 of their second-round series Sunday.

"It was maybe a little bit of a shock, but I'm proud of our team, our organization, the way they did things here," Fleury said. "I'm proud to be where we are right now."

Fleury, who was part of three Stanley Cup-winning teams in Pittsburgh, is a main reason for the success. He allowed just three goals in a first-round sweep against Los Angeles, posted shutouts in Games 1 and 6 against the Sharks and was also spectacular in an overtime win in Game 3.

He had plenty of help from a crew of castoffs who have come together in Vegas to form a team that has a legitimate shot at a championship. Vegas next will play either Winnipeg or Nashville in the Western Conference Final. The Jets lead that series 3-2 heading into Game 6 on Monday night.

"We deserve to be here," coach Gerard Gallant said. "We're a good team, we play hard and we played well all season long. The two teams we played were very good hockey teams and we were very evenly matched with those teams."

Jonathan Marchessault opened the scoring, Nate Schmidt added an insurance goal that was only detectable by replay and Cody Eakin sealed it with an empty-netter to help Vegas become just the third team in NHL history to win multiple series in its first season.

The Toronto Arenas won the Stanley Cup in the first postseason in league history in 1918 and St. Louis won two rounds to win the all-expansion West Division in 1968.

The Sharks had numerous opportunities all night but were thwarted by a couple of shots that hit the iron, some acrobatic saves from Fleury and other chances that trickled just wide. This marked the fourth straight postseason for the Sharks that ended with a loss on home ice.

"It's very disappointing, you get this far and lose, it's disappointing," Sharks forward Logan Couture said. "'It's extra disappointing when you don't play the way that you know that you're capable of. ... That's something that's very difficult to take."

The Golden Knights took control of this game with some good fortune in the second period. It started when usually reliable Marc-Edouard Vlasic turned the puck over in his own zone. Reilly Smith took control near the blue line and found Marchessault alone in front for a goal that trickled between Martin Jones' pads.

The Golden Knights then added to the lead after an icing by Brent Burns led to an offensive zone faceoff. David Perron beat Tierney on the draw and Schmidt took a shot that appeared to deflect off the post and out.

Play went on for 25 more seconds before the buzzer rang, with the situation room in Toronto calling for a video review. That quickly showed that the puck bounced off the post, off a piece of equipment inside the net and out.

Vegas then had a delayed celebration for the goal that made it 2-0.

"I had no idea," Schmidt said. "I'd never seen something like that happen where they blew the play dead, but when I was skating back to the bench and all the guys were yelling, 'It's in.'"

That was the type of bounce the Sharks didn't get early in the game when they hit the post or crossbar three times in the opening period and then again in the third when they tried to cut into Vegas' lead.

They also had several other chances that either Fleury turned aside with acrobatic saves, trickled just wide or they were unable to get a clean shot, like a rebound Couture whiffed on from the slot in the first period with an open net.

"It's a fine line," coach Peter DeBoer said. "I think we had a couple of those that didn't go in. That's hockey. But Vegas deserves to be moving on. They played great. They finished the chances when they

needed to and got saves when they needed to.”

NOTES: Jones made 30 saves. ... Vegas F William Carrier was scratched with a lower-body injury and replaced by Ryan Reaves, who played his first game this postseason.

More AP NHL: [www.apnews.com/tag/NHLhockey](http://www.apnews.com/tag/NHLhockey)

## **CIA nominee offered to withdraw over interrogation program**

**By ZEKE MILLER and DEB RIECHMANN, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Gina Haspel, President Donald Trump’s nominee to lead the Central Intelligence Agency, offered to withdraw her nomination, two senior administration officials said Sunday, amid concerns that a debate over a harsh interrogation program would tarnish her reputation and that of the CIA.

White House aides on Friday sought out additional details about Haspel’s involvement in the CIA’s now-defunct program of detaining and brutally interrogating terror suspects after 9/11 as they prepared her for Wednesday’s confirmation hearing. This is when she offered to withdraw, the officials said.

They said Haspel, who is the acting director of the CIA, was reassured that her nomination was still on track and will not withdraw. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations. The news was first reported Sunday by The Washington Post.

Haspel, who would be the first woman to lead the CIA, is the first career operations officer to be nominated to lead the agency in decades. She served almost entirely undercover and much of her record is classified. Democrats say she should be disqualified because she was the chief of base at a covert detention site in Thailand where two terrorism suspects were subjected to waterboarding, a technique that simulates drowning.

Haspel has told lawmakers in recent weeks that she would stand firm against any effort to restart the brutal detention and interrogation program, administration officials told The Associated Press on Friday. She is expected to reiterate that publicly this week.

Haspel, one official said, was wary of suffering the same fate as failed veterans affairs nominee Ronny Jackson and of dredging up the CIA’s troubled past. She took over last month as the acting CIA director after the previous director, Mike Pompeo, was sworn in as secretary of state.

After her offer to withdraw, White House aides worked to reassure her that she had the president’s support.

As with other nominations, this one hit a roadblock but is back on track, said a third administration official familiar with the effort to get her confirmed.

Haspel’s conversations with senators continue ahead of Wednesday’s confirmation hearing at the Senate Intelligence Committee and a later full vote in the Senate.

In addition, the CIA has sent materials to the Senate, some classified, that the lawmakers can read to better understand not only her work in the Counterterrorism Center, which oversaw the harsh interrogation program, but also other aspects of her 33-year career, including more than 30 years undercover.

She has received robust backing from former intelligence, diplomatic, military and national security officials, who praise her extensive intelligence career.

On the opposing side are groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union, which says she should have stood up against the interrogation practices then.

Raj Shah, a White House spokesman, on Sunday called Haspel a highly qualified nominee. “Her nomination will not be derailed by partisan critics who side with the ACLU over the CIA on how to keep the American people safe,” he said.

## Low turnout worries politicians as Lebanon voting ends

By PHILIP ISSA and BASSEM MROUE, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon's first national elections in nine years were marked by a tepid turnout Sunday, reflecting voter frustration over endemic corruption and a stagnant economy.

Politicians had urged citizens to vote, and security forces struggled to maintain order as fights broke out in and around polling stations.

President Michel Aoun broadcast an appeal to voters to participate in a televised address an hour before polls closed in the evening. "If you want change, you should exercise your right" to vote, he said in a message published on Twitter at the same time.

The elections were the first since war broke out in neighboring Syria in 2011, sending over one million refugees to Lebanon, a small country with a population estimated at around 4.5 million. The war has divided the country, pitting parties supporting the Iran-sponsored Hezbollah's intervention in Syria to aid President Bashar Assad against Saudi-aligned parties opposed to it.

Early results were expected to start coming in late Sunday, but official results were not expected to be announced before Monday.

The low turnout — between 32 percent and 42 percent in Beirut precincts, according to Interior Minister Nouhad Machnouk — betrayed widespread voter apathy for the main political currents governing the country and left open the possibility that outside candidates could win seats in Parliament.

Machnouk put national turnout at 49 percent, compared to 54 percent in 2009. The drop came despite a reformulated electoral law designed to encourage voting through proportional representation.

"These leaders are destroying homes, not building them," said Ahmad Khashouq, 43, a private security guard in Beirut. Khashouq, from the town of Zahle in the country's Bekaa Valley, said he was not voting in the elections after feeling his vote was wasted in 2009, the last time elections were held.

More than 500 candidates ran for 128 seats in Lebanon's National Assembly.

Fist fights broke out in and around polling stations around the country, as rival partisans accused each other and election officials of ballot stuffing and illegal campaigning. In the Choueifat district, a crowd inside a station accused the station supervisor of illegal voting practices and smashed a ballot box, spilling its contents across the floor. The army ordered the media to turn off their cameras.

In Zahle, politician Mryyam Skaff accused members of the right-wing Lebanese Forces party of beating up her supporters in polling stations.

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

Sarah Brjawi, 33, said she was voting for Nouhad Yazbek, a woman running on a coalition list of political independents and activists running in Beirut.

Brjawi, who walked the streets of Beirut's Ras el-Nabea neighborhood with her clown troupe before voting, said she was perplexed by voters who said they supported their satirical act, poking fun at the country's endemic corruption and political stagnation, while saying they would vote for establishment parties again.

"This country is really bipolar," said Brjawi.

The main race was between a Western and Saudi-backed coalition headed by Prime Minister Saad Hariri and the Iranian-backed Hezbollah group, part of a region-wide power struggle that is tearing apart the Middle East.

"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," Machnouk, the interior minister who was a candidate on Hariri's list, said after casting his ballot in Beirut.

As Hariri entered a public school in Beirut to vote, a woman in a wheelchair complained that polling stations were not equipped for disabled voters.

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



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"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.

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

Leading Hezbollah legislator Ali Ammar defended his group's involvement in Syria, saying it is protecting 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. Streets were festooned with candidates' posters and Hezbollah's signature yellow flags. 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 was theirs and how to vote for it. They wore yellow shirts with the slogan "We protect and build" written on them.

"We love the resistance," Amira Sidani, 85, said after casting her ballot.

This year's vote was according to a new election law providing for proportional representation for the first time. Voters chose 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 an electoral district.

The change cracked open the door for more outsiders to compete in elections, challenging political titans who have long ruled Lebanon based on a sectarian and family patronage system.

Mohammed Ali, 30, riding his scooter to the beach, said he was not voting because there are no choices. He said his relatives vote for whoever pays them, but he was not interested in the money.

The legislature's term was supposed to expire in 2013, but lawmakers 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.

Some 586 candidates, including 86 women, were running for the 128-seat parliament, which is equally divided between Muslims and Christians.

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

Still, Hariri would 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 came 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 an election. That, along with the new electoral law, injected some unpredictability to the process.

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Associated Press writers Hassan Ammar contributed to this report.

## Egypt says no hidden rooms in King Tut's tomb after all

By MOHAMMED WAGDY, Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — New radar scans have provided conclusive evidence that there are no hidden rooms inside King Tutankhamun's burial chamber, Egypt's antiquities ministry said Sunday, bringing a disappointing end to years of excitement over the prospect.

Mostafa Waziri, Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, said an Italian team conducted extensive studies with ground-penetrating radar that showed the tomb did not contain any hidden, man-made blocking walls as was earlier suspected. Francesco Porcelli of the Polytechnic University of Turin presented the findings at an international conference in Cairo.

"Our work shows in a conclusive manner that there are no hidden chambers, no corridors adjacent to Tutankhamun's tomb," Porcelli said, "As you know there was a theory that argued the possible existence

of these chambers but unfortunately our work is not supporting this theory.”

In 2015, British Egyptologist Nicholas Reeves proposed, after analysis of high-definition laser scans, that queen Nefertiti’s tomb could be concealed behind wall paintings in the famed boy king’s burial chamber. The discovery ignited massive interest, with officials first rushing to support the theory but then later distancing themselves and ultimately rejecting it.

The ministry says two previous scans by Japanese and American scientists had proved inconclusive, but insists this latest ground-penetrating radar data closes the lid on the tomb having such hidden secrets.

“It is concluded, with a very high degree of confidence, said Dr. Porcelli, the hypothesis concerning the existence of hidden chambers or corridors adjacent to Tutankhamun’s tomb is not supported by the GPR data,” it said in its statement.

The ministry has been gradually moving King Tut’s belongings to a new museum outside Cairo near the Giza Pyramids to undergo restoration before they are put on display. The transfer of the priceless belongings has become a particularly sensitive issue; In 2014 the beard attached to the ancient Egyptian monarch’s golden mask was accidentally knocked off and hastily reattached with an epoxy glue compound, sparking uproar among archaeologists.

The fourth International Tutankhamun Conference in Cairo where Porcelli presented the findings, the most extensive radar survey of the site to date, was attended by a wide range of Egyptologists and archaeologists from the world over.

During the conference, Antiquities Minister Khaled al-Anani said that the first phase of the new museum, including King Tut’s halls, will be completed by the end of this year but the date for the museum’s “soft opening” has yet to be decided. The museum currently hosts more than 43,200 artifacts of which over 4,500 belong to King Tut alone, and its grand opening is planned for 2022.

## Lebanon votes in shadow of Syria war, reflecting divisions

By **BASSEM MROUE**, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Voting Sunday for the first time in her life, the young Shiite Muslim woman said she was casting her ballot for the Shiite militant Hezbollah group. One of her relatives was killed while fighting Sunni militants near the border with Syria and she wanted to honor that sacrifice with her vote.

“Had it not been for the resistance we wouldn’t be here,” said Zahraa Harb, 24, as she and her husband entered a polling station in the southern Beirut suburb of Burj al-Barajneh. “The arms of the resistance protected Lebanon. Had it not been for the resistance all of Lebanon would have fallen into the hands of the terrorists.”

Sunday’s parliamentary election was the first in nine years — and the first since the catastrophic civil war in Syria broke out seven years ago. The conflict has nearly torn apart this tiny Arab nation with bouts of spillover violence and sent more than a million Syrian refugees — a quarter of Lebanon’s population — pouring across the border.

The war next door has divided Lebanese, with some supporting Syrian President Bashar Assad and others sympathizing with the rebels trying to bring him down. In May 2013, the Iranian-backed Hezbollah began openly sending its fighters to back Assad and since then has taken part in almost every major battle in the country. Hundreds of its fighters have been killed and wounded while fighting in Syria, an intervention that Hezbollah says was necessary to protect Lebanon from the Sunni militants that proliferated across the border in the chaos of Syria’s civil war.

The divisions and open hostility were on display Sunday among Hezbollah supporters and opponents of the Shiite militants. As polls closed, fist fights broke out in the Beirut district of Tareeq Jdideh, a bastion of support for Saad Hariri, Lebanon’s Western-backed Sunni prime minister, with both sides throwing stones at each other as security forces rushed to contain the violence.

Hariri, who heads a national unity government that includes members of Hezbollah, is widely expected to return as prime minister and recreate that coalition following Sunday’s election. But that political alliance, seen as necessary to keep the peace, is not often translated into harmony on the street.

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For Harb and her husband, Ashraf Harake, casting their ballots for Hezbollah came down to a matter of survival.

She recalled how her parents' home shook when twin suicide bombings claimed by the Islamic State group targeted their hometown of Burj al-Barajneh on Nov. 12, 2015, killing 43 people in the deadliest attack by extremists in Lebanon since the war in Syria broke out. Harake, who was her fiance back then, rushed from the house to help dozens of people wounded in the streets.

"The Burj al-Barajneh blasts made us more determined," said Harb, her face framed by a black traditional Islamic head scarf. Her husband's cousin, Ali Harake, had been killed a year earlier when IS militants sent explosives-rigged vehicles into Hezbollah strongholds in the Qalamoun mountains on Lebanon's border with Syria.

"I will raise my children on the ideology of the resistance," said Harb, who is six months pregnant with her first child, and sees Hezbollah as a group that once fought to liberate Lebanon from Israeli occupation and now protects the country from Syria-based militant groups.

For 60-year-old Sami Kara, who is a strong supporter of Hariri, the Iranian-backed Hezbollah's involvement in the war in Syria is to blame for the militant attacks in Lebanon.

"Hezbollah attracted explosions to this country. Had we kept our distance from (regional) conflicts we wouldn't have reached this point," said the clothes merchant, standing near a tent decorated with the blue flags of Hariri's Future Movement in Beirut's Sunni stronghold of Tareeq Jdideh.

He said Hariri will always stand against Hezbollah and prevent the Shiite militants from dominating Beirut, adding that his city will not become the fourth Arab capital dominated by Iran — a reference to Iran's influence in Syria's Damascus, Yemen's Sanaa and Baghdad.

Wissam Shqifi, 44, another Hezbollah critic, said the group's intervention in Syria "is an aggression on another country. Hezbollah is ruining our relations with regional countries" — a reference to Hezbollah's military intervention in Yemen, Iraq and Syria that has led several oil-rich Gulf states to join the United States in naming it as a terrorist organization.

Casting his ballot in the capital on Sunday, Hezbollah's deputy leader, Sheik Naim Kassem, countered the charges that Hezbollah was trying to turn Lebanon into a state controlled by Iran. Beirut, he said, "is an Arab city and is not Persian."

Stormy Daniels to Baldwin's Trump: 'Storm's a coming, baby'

NEW YORK (AP) — Stormy Daniels made a surprise appearance on "Saturday Night Live" to deliver a message to President Donald Trump: "A storm's a coming, baby."

The porn actress, who says she had a sexual encounter with Trump in 2006 and was paid \$130,000 the month before he was elected to stay silent about it, delivered the warning to Alec Baldwin's Donald Trump in the show's opening skit.

When the fake Trump asks Daniels what she would need to "for this all go away," she replies: "A resignation."

Daniels, whose legal name is Stephanie Clifford, is seeking to be released from the nondisclosure agreement. She has also filed defamation suits against Trump and his personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, who paid her the money.

Trump denies he and Daniels had an affair and has said he didn't know about the settlement.

## Israeli PM steps up calls to end the Iranian nuclear deal

By JOSEF FEDERMAN, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's prime minister on Sunday stepped up his calls for world powers to end the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran as President Donald Trump decides whether to withdraw from the agreement by next week.

In a briefing to foreign reporters, Benjamin Netanyahu said the world would be better off without any deal than with what he called the "fatally flawed" agreement reached in 2015.

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Netanyahu said Israel is sharing a trove of confiscated Iranian nuclear documents with the six world powers that signed the deal, as well as other countries, in hopes of mounting further opposition to the deal. He heads to Moscow later this week for a meeting with President Vladimir Putin, where talks will focus on the Iranian nuclear program and Iran's involvement in neighboring Syria.

"I said it from the start, it has to be either fully fixed or fully nixed," Netanyahu said. "But if you do nothing to this deal, if you keep it as is, you will end up with Iran with a nuclear arsenal in a very short time."

Netanyahu was a vocal opponent of the deal when it was reached during the Obama administration. The agreement lifted painful economic sanctions against Iran in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program.

Netanyahu has repeatedly argued that the deal will not prevent Iran from gaining nuclear weapons capability after its restrictions expire in the next decade or so. Trump has voiced similar objections and hinted he will withdraw from the deal unless it is renegotiated.

Netanyahu did not accuse Iran of violating the deal. Instead, he said the deal, reached by the Obama administration, was so weak that Iran has no need to break it. He said the flaws include permission for Iran to continue some low-level enrichment of uranium and its continued development of long-range missiles capable of delivering a bomb. He said the nuclear documents unveiled by Israel last week prove that Iran also pursued the know-how on how to develop and detonate a bomb.

"I say that a deal that enables Iran to keep and hide all its nuclear weapons know-how, is a horrible deal," he said.

Netanyahu last week showed off what he said was a "half ton" of Iranian nuclear documents dating back to 2003.

A senior Israeli intelligence official said there were over 100,000 pages of documents that gave Israel new insight into how far the Iranian nuclear program progressed. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity under briefing guidelines, said the volume of information showed the program was more "comprehensive and robust" than previously thought.

Trump's criticism of the deal has given Netanyahu a rare chance to reopen negotiations that appeared to have concluded in 2015. So far, Europe, China and Russia have shown no interest in revisiting the topic.

European countries, which have been pressing Trump to stick with the deal, have said Netanyahu's presentation only reinforced the importance of the agreement, which provides for inspections.

It remains unclear what would happen if the U.S. withdraws from the deal but the other countries remain committed.

Netanyahu appears to be betting that the pressure of renewed American sanctions could be enough to persuade companies to stop doing business with Iran. He also seems to be hopeful that the threat of military action, either U.S. or Israeli, will deter Iran from resuming its nuclear activities.

Yoel Guzansky, an analyst at the Institute for National Security Studies, an Israeli think tank, said Trump is playing "a game of chicken" with Iran in hopes of renegotiating a better deal.

"They hope that by threatening to walk away from the deal they might get that. I am not so sure, not so sure, the Europeans are not on board, of course the Russians and the Chinese are not on board," he said. Walking away, he added, could have hard-to-predict consequences.

Israel considers Iran its arch-enemy, citing Iran's calls for Israel's destruction, support for militant groups across the region and growing military activity in neighboring Syria. Israel has warned that it will not allow Iran, whose troops are backing Syrian President Bashar Assad, to establish a permanent military presence in Syria.

Israel is believed to have been behind recent airstrikes on Syrian military bases that killed Iranian soldiers, prompting Tehran to vow retaliation. Israel has neither confirmed nor denied involvement.

The possibility of the nuclear deal collapsing has raised concerns it might embolden Iran to strike Israeli targets.

Netanyahu told his Cabinet earlier Sunday that Iran has delivered advanced weapons to Syria "in order to attack us both on the battlefield and on the home front."

"We are determined to block Iran's aggression against us even if this means a struggle. Better now than later," he said. "We do not want escalation, but we are prepared for any scenario."

## 'Avengers: Infinity War' scores second best weekend 2 ever

By LINDSEY BAHR, AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After breaking opening weekend records, "Avengers: Infinity War" continued to dominate in its second weekend in theaters, but alternative programming like the romantic comedy "Overboard" also found an audience in what has historically been considered the "official" kick-off to the summer movie season.

The Walt Disney Co. said Sunday that "Avengers: Infinity War" will gross an estimated \$112.5 million from North American theaters over the weekend, becoming the second highest grossing film in weekend two behind "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" \$149.2 million and just slightly ahead of "Black Panther" (\$111.7 million).

It's a 56 percent drop from its first weekend in theaters — less steep than the second weekend fall of "Avengers: Age of Ultron" (59.4 percent) or "Captain America: Civil War" (59.5 percent), but more than "Black Panther's" uniquely soft 44.7 percent sophomore weekend decline.

"We're in uncharted territory again," said comScore senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian. "This is a second weekend number that many films would aspire to have on opening weekend."

Globally, "Avengers: Infinity War" has now grossed over \$1.2 billion and become the first film ever to cross the \$1 billion mark in 11 days of release, and it has yet to even open in China.

There was little new competition this weekend in the blockbuster space, although there were a handful of other options, like "Overboard," which came in a very distant second to "Avengers," but still made a notable splash for a film its size.

MGM and Lionsgate's Pantelion Films' gender-swapped remake of Garry Marshall's 1987 comedy, "Overboard" scored the highest-grossing opening weekend for Pantelion Films with a better-than-expected \$14.8 million from 1,623 theaters. It's already surpassed its modest mid-teens production budget.

Pantelion Films CEO Paul Presburger and Jonathan Glickman, president of the Motion Picture Group at MGM, both attribute the success to the star-power of Eugenio Derbez ("Instructions Not Included," "How to be a Latin Lover") who helped developed the bilingual remake with an American star (Anna Faris) to appeal not just to his Hispanic fan base but all audiences.

The cast, including Derbez and Eva Longoria, helped promote the film on their social media accounts too.

"It's great to have a large base especially in the wake of 'Avengers,'" Presburger said. "We have a movie out there that plays to families and all audiences that should have success into Mother's Day and onwards."

Although critics were not especially won over by "Overboard," audiences gave the film a more favorable A- CinemaScore.

Third place went to "A Quiet Place," which has grossed \$159.9 million in five weeks in theaters, and fourth place to "I Feel Pretty," now up to \$37.8 million in weekend three. "Rampage" rounded out the top five with \$4.6 million, bumping its domestic total to \$84.8 million.

In sixth place, "Tully," starring Charlize Theron, launched on 1,353 screens with \$3.2 million. It's the third collaboration between director Jason Reitman and screenwriter Diablo Cody, the team behind "Juno," and their second with Theron, who also starred in their film "Young Adult."

Hollywood's summer movie season typically runs from the first weekend in May through Labor Day, but this year got a jump-start with the late April release of "Avengers: Infinity War."

"This was not the strongest weekend ever in terms of the official kick-off of the summer season, but we could be looking at a record May ultimately," Dergarabedian said, noting upcoming releases like "Deadpool 2" (May 18) and "Solo: A Star Wars Story" (May 25). "This weekend just shows how the strategy of release dates is changing how the box office plays out."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "Avengers: Infinity War," \$112.5 million (\$162.6 million international).
2. "Overboard," \$14.8 million.

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3. "A Quiet Place," \$7.6 million (\$4.1 million international).
4. "I Feel Pretty," \$4.9 million (\$3.2 million international).
5. "Rampage," \$4.6 million (\$13.7 million international).
6. "Tully," \$3.2 million (\$200,000 international).
7. "Black Panther," \$3.1 million (\$390,000 international).
8. "Truth or Dare," \$1.9 million (\$5.7 million international).
9. "Super Troopers 2," \$1.8 million (\$90,000 international).
10. "Bad Samaritan," \$1.8 million.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to comScore:

1. "Avengers: Infinity War," \$162.6 million.
2. "Us And Them," \$27 million.
3. "Rampage," \$13.7 million.
4. "A or B," \$11.1 million.
5. "Baahubali: The Conclusion," \$7.9 million.
6. "Ready Player One," \$6.3 million.
7. "Truth or Dare," \$5.7 million.
8. "Champion," \$5.5 million.
9. "102 Not Out," \$3.4 million.
10. "I Feel Pretty," \$3.2 million.

Universal and Focus are owned by NBC Universal, a unit of Comcast Corp.; Sony, Columbia, Sony Screen Gems and Sony Pictures Classics are units of Sony Corp.; Paramount is owned by Viacom Inc.; Disney, Pixar and Marvel are owned by The Walt Disney Co.; Miramax is owned by Filmyard Holdings LLC; 20th Century Fox and Fox Searchlight are owned by 21st Century Fox; Warner Bros. and New Line are units of Time Warner Inc.; MGM is owned by a group of former creditors including Highland Capital, Anchorage Advisors and Carl Icahn; Lionsgate is owned by Lions Gate Entertainment Corp.; IFC is owned by AMC Networks Inc.; Rogue is owned by Relativity Media LLC.

Follow AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/ldebahr>

## Bombing at mosque in Afghanistan kills 14, wounds 33

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A bomb blast inside a mosque in eastern Afghanistan that was being used as a voter registration center killed at least 14 people and wounded 33, officials said on Sunday.

Talib Mangal, spokesman for the provincial governor in Khost, said that there was one female among those killed in the attack. "The blast happened while people were busy with prayers, meanwhile in other part of the mosque people had gathered to get their voter registration cards for the election," he added.

Afghanistan plans to hold elections in October, the first since 2014.

Habib Shah Ansari, the provincial head of public health, also confirmed the toll from the attack in the city of Khost, the capital of the province of the same name.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid denied the group's involvement. "We reject any kind of involvement in this incident," he said.

Both the Taliban and a local affiliate of the Islamic State group reject democratic elections and have targeted them in the past. IS is not known to have a presence in Khost, but has expanded its footprint into other areas in recent years.

Last month, an Islamic State suicide bomber attacked a voter registration center in Kabul, killing 60 people and wounding at least 130 others.

The Taliban and IS have launched a relentless wave of attacks since the start of the year, killing scores of

civilians in the capital, Kabul, and elsewhere. Afghan security forces have struggled to combat the groups since the U.S. and NATO concluded their combat mission at the end of 2014, switching to a counterterrorism and support role.

Elsewhere in Afghanistan, a vehicle carrying shopkeepers on their way to a market struck a roadside bomb in Afghanistan's northern Faryab province, killing seven of them. Police spokesman Karim Yuresh said another civilian was wounded in Sunday's attack, in an area where both the Taliban and IS are active.

In the eastern Paktia province, a car bomb killed two people and wounded another three. Abdullah Hsart, the provincial governor's spokesman, said the attack late Saturday targeted Hazart Mohammad Rodwal, a district chief, who was among the wounded. The Taliban claimed the attack.

## VW board eyes damage claims against former CEO Winterkorn

By DAVID McHUGH and KIRSTEN GRIESHABER

BERLIN (AP) — Former Volkswagen CEO Martin Winterkorn may never see the inside of a courtroom in the United States in connection with the company's diesel emissions scandal. But his legal troubles are far from over.

A VW spokesman says the German automaker's supervisory board is checking whether it can demand damage claims from Winterkorn in connection with the company's diesel emissions cheating scandal.

Michael Brendel tells German news agency dpa "the investigation has been going on for quite some while and is conducted independently from the authorities' investigation."

German newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung reported Sunday that Winterkorn could lose his property in connection with the company's investigation.

Winterkorn, 70, was indicted Thursday in the United States on charges of fraud and conspiracy stemming from the company's diesel emissions cheating scandal. It is unlikely that he could be extradited — Germany's constitution forbids extradition of its citizens except to another European Union member state or to an international tribunal. But he's far from in the clear. For one thing, he could risk arrest if he travels to another country that would be willing to send him to the U.S.

And on top of any possible attempt by Volkswagen to seek damages, Winterkorn is among suspects being investigated in a criminal probe by prosecutors in the German city of Braunschweig, located in Volkswagen's home region.

Volkswagen has admitted to programming its diesel engines to activate pollution controls when being tested in government labs and turning them off when on the road. When he resigned in September 2015 Winterkorn said he was unaware of any wrongdoing on his part. He later told the German parliament that he did not know of the emissions cheating during the years it was going on.

The indictment detailing the U.S. charges said that Winterkorn and other top VW officials were briefed on July 27, 2015 using a PowerPoint presentation on "how VW was deceiving U.S. regulators," the document said. Employees suggested that VW could seek regulatory approval for 2016 cars by providing only partial disclosures to U.S. officials and "without revealing the existence of the cheating software." The indictment says Winterkorn "agreed to this plan of action."

The indictment also said that Winterkorn was sent a memorandum on the cars' high emissions levels in May, 2014, which referred to a "defeat device," the technical name for the software trick.

German prosecutors say their investigation is ongoing.

Two Volkswagen executives have been sentenced to prison terms in the United States. Five others have been charged but are believed to reside in Germany and to remain beyond the reach of U.S. prosecutors. One former manager, an Italian citizen, has also been charged and is in Germany pending extradition.

Additional revelations from the criminal cases about what Winterkorn knew and when he knew it could mean more trouble for Volkswagen as it defends civil shareholder lawsuits from investors who say the company did not give them timely warning of the impending scandal.

McHugh reported from Frankfurt, Germany.

## Families hoping for justice in suit over 1968 mine disaster

By DENISE LAVOIE, AP Legal Affairs Writer

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Nearly half a century after an explosion tore through the Farmington No. 9 mine in West Virginia, the families of the 78 men who died there are still looking for justice.

Many of the children of the lost miners are now grandparents and older than their fathers ever were. Some have given up hope of ever holding anyone accountable for the disaster. But others are looking to a federal appeals court for some measure of closure.

On Wednesday, the families will ask the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to reinstate a lawsuit they filed in 2014. A judge ruled the lawsuit was filed too late, but the families argue that the case should be allowed to move forward because they claim the mining company concealed the cause of the explosion for decades.

James Matish, then 14, remembers saying goodbye to his father, Frank, the same way he always did before his Dad left to work the "cateye shift" — midnight to 8 a.m. — on Nov. 20, 1968: "So long, Dad, don't work too hard and be careful."

Matish remembers his father's reply — "See you tomorrow" — and then, the next day at school, being called out of class and seeing his mother standing in the hallway crying.

Five decades later, Matish is a 64-year-old Circuit Court judge whose voice still catches in his throat when he talks about his father.

"It's something that's never ended," he said. "There's always a question — at least in my mind — how long were they able to survive, whether they were killed outright — those are questions that will never be answered."

The families say they tried for years to find out what caused the explosion and whether the mining company, Consolidation Coal, was responsible. They accuse the company of fraudulently concealing key information that would have allowed them to file a wrongful death lawsuit years earlier.

Last year, a federal judge threw out their 2014 lawsuit, saying the "suit, brought forty-six years after the explosion, is late by more than forty-four years."

According to the lawsuit, it was not until 2008 when the families learned about a 1970 memo by an investigator who wrote that an alarm on a ventilation fan used to flush explosive methane gas from the mine was disabled the night of the explosion. The alarm was supposed to shut off power to the mine if the fan stopped, which would alert the miners to evacuate.

The suit says it wasn't until 2014 when the families learned that the mine's chief electrician had disabled the fan. It alleges that the company had concealed the electrician's identity.

"Our position is that but for the fraudulent concealment of the facts, these folks could have filed and had a successful wrongful-death case," said Timothy Bailey, a West Virginia lawyer who represents the families.

Bailey argues that the two-year limitation period on wrongful-death cases should be extended based on the families' claims.

In court documents, lawyers for the mining company say problems with the mine's ventilation fans became public knowledge a month after the explosion when multiple witnesses testified during public hearings that despite the alarm system, power to some areas of the mine sometimes did not automatically shut down as it was designed to do.

In 2013, the mining company sold five of its mines and its transportation division to Murray Energy Corp., which assumed certain liabilities from the former Consolidation operations, including the No. 9 mine.

A spokesman for Murray Energy declined to comment on the specific claims made in the lawsuit but released a statement.

"Murray Energy had absolutely nothing to do with the Farmington Mine disaster," the statement said.

"Indeed, Murray Energy did not even exist in 1968, when the accident occurred. There is no higher priority at Murray Energy than the health and safety of our coal miners."

As a result of the disaster, Congress passed the Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969, which increased federal mine inspections and toughened safety standards.



Mike Michael was 13, the oldest of five children, when his father, Jay, was killed in the explosion on his 44th birthday.

He remembers pleading to go into the mine to search for his dad, but his uncle stopped him. His father is one of 19 miners whose bodies were never recovered and are still trapped in the mine.

After his father died, his mother went back to school to become an X-ray technician so she could support her children. The family could not maintain the small sheep and cattle farm his father owned. Mike and his two brothers went into different branches of the service, a calling their father had urged them to follow.

"There was a huge hole," the 62-year-old said. "Dad was everything to us."

## NYC's historic Trinity Church to partially close for 2 years

By KAREN MATTHEWS, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — New York City's Trinity Church, a tourist attraction loved for its ties to colonial America and links to a Broadway hit, will be largely closed to visitors during a two-year renovation intended to brighten the church and improve disabled access.

The neo-Gothic church surrounded by soaring skyscrapers embarks Monday on a \$98 million renovation that will put its nave, with its 66-foot vaulted ceiling, off limits.

A small chapel in the building's northwest corner will be open, as will the church's picturesque graveyard, where luminaries including Alexander Hamilton and his wife, Eliza, are buried, will remain open throughout the renovation.

"We're trying to create much more accessibility and much more capacity to welcome people," said the church's rector, William Lupfer.

An estimated 1.9 million people visited Trinity in 2017, according to the church. Those numbers are swollen by fans of the musical "Hamilton," who often leave flowers or other mementos on the founding father's memorial stone and the tomb of his wife.

The church's stained-glass windows will be restored and a new one will be installed at the front of the church facing Broadway. A new organ with more than 7,500 pipes is being built in Germany at a cost of \$11.4 million.

The renovations will add a wheelchair ramp to the church, lower the pews, which are now a 4-inch step up from the aisles, and increase seating capacity from 514 to 652.

A clear canopy will be attached to one side of the building to protect clergy members from the elements when they're assembling for the Sunday procession into the church.

New gender-neutral bathrooms will be added as well.

David Maddox, director of facilities and property management for the church, said the columns and window casements inside Trinity are stone, but the interior walls are plaster painted to look like stone when the church was built in the 1840s. Maddox said the plaster will once again be painted with veining that mimics stone, but in a lighter shade than the dark brown favored in the Victorian era.

The building being renovated is the third Trinity Church to occupy the site at the head of Wall Street. The first was built in 1698 and burned in the great New York fire of 1776, which destroyed hundreds of buildings. The second was built in 1790 and torn down after support beams bucked in 1838. George Washington and members of his government worshipped at the second Trinity Church during the period when New York was the capital of the United States.

The current Trinity Church, designed by architect Robert Upjohn in the Gothic Revival style, was consecrated in 1846. Its 281-foot steeple made it the tallest building in New York City until 1890.

The parish also includes St. Paul's Chapel five blocks away, built in 1766 and operating continuously since then, which will host Trinity's Sunday services during the renovation.

Both Trinity and St. Paul's survived the destruction of the nearby World Trade Center, and St. Paul's ministered to recovery workers for months after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Trinity's lower Manhattan neighborhood has become both a prime residential area and a tourist destination in the years since the attacks, and Lupfer said hundreds of neighborhood residents as well as visitors

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worship at Trinity every week.

Insurance broker Alda Dhingra said she lives in New York but hadn't been inside Trinity Church before visiting last week.

"I've always passed it and just walked by," Dhingra said. "But I needed prayer so I went inside and sat and prayed. And I feel so much better now that I did." She added, "It's so beautiful that it's here amidst all these buildings of commerce. Because I think we all need to remember sometimes we are spiritual beings, we're not just business people."

## Cloud computing, artificial intelligence on Microsoft agenda

SEATTLE (AP) — Microsoft's annual Build conference for software developers kicks off on Monday, giving the company an opportunity to offer updates on its computing platforms and services.

The three-day event in Seattle features sessions on cloud computing, artificial intelligence, internet-connected devices and virtual reality. It comes as Microsoft faces off with Amazon and Google to offer internet-connected services to businesses and organizations.

Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella will speak Monday to more than 6,000 people, mostly developers who build apps for Microsoft's products.

Facebook had its F8 developers' gathering last week. Google's I/O conference begins Tuesday. Apple's takes place in early June.

This is the second year in a row that Microsoft has held its conference in Seattle, not far from its Redmond, Washington headquarters.

## Airplane and oil deals at risk in Trump pullout of Iran deal

By JON GAMBRELL, Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — From airplanes to oilfields, billions of dollars are on the line for international corporations as President Donald Trump weighs whether to pull America out of Iran's nuclear deal with world powers.

Regardless of where they are headquartered, virtually all multinational corporations do business or banking in the U.S., meaning any return to pre-deal sanctions could torpedo deals made after the 2015 agreement came into force.

That threat alone has been enough to scare risk-averse firms, like Boeing Co., into slow-walking deals agreed to months ago. A complete pullout by the U.S. would wreak further havoc and likely frighten off those considering making the plunge.

"I absolutely think those on the fence will not jump in," said Richard Nephew, a former sanctions expert at the U.S. State Department who worked on the nuclear deal and now is at New York's Columbia University. "The only ones who will, will be those who see tremendous monetary benefit and no U.S. risk."

The 2015 Iran nuclear deal lifted crippling economic sanctions that had locked Iran out of international banking and the global oil trade. In return, Tehran limited its enrichment of uranium, reconfigured a heavy-water reactor so it couldn't produce plutonium and reduced its uranium stockpile and supply of centrifuges.

For Western businesses, the deal meant access to Iran's largely untapped market of 80 million people. Most prominently, airplane manufacturers rushed in to replace the country's dangerously dilapidated civilian fleet.

In December 2016, Airbus Group signed a deal with Iran's national carrier, IranAir, to sell it 100 airplanes for around \$19 billion at list prices. Boeing later struck its own deal with IranAir for 80 aircraft with a list price of some \$17 billion, promising that deliveries would begin in 2017 and run until 2025. Boeing separately struck another 30-airplane deal with Iran's Aseman Airlines for \$3 billion at list prices.

But Boeing has yet to deliver a single aircraft to Iran. The Chicago-based company's CEO recently stressed it understands the "risks and implications around the Iranian aircraft deal," which would be the biggest business agreement between an American company and Iran since the 1979 Islamic Revolution

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and U.S. Embassy takeover.

"We continue to follow the U.S. government's lead here and everything is being done per that process," Dennis Muilenburg said during a quarterly earnings conference call on April 25. "We have no Iranian deliveries that are scheduled or part of the skyline this year, so those have been deferred again in line with the U.S. government process."

Airbus, a European airline consortium based in Toulouse, France, likewise continues its sales at the discretion of the American government. At least 10 percent of its aircraft components are of American origin, meaning it requires permission from the U.S. Treasury for its sales to Iran. Airbus has already delivered two A330-200s and one A321 to Iran.

Airbus declined to comment when asked by The Associated Press about its possible plans ahead of Trump's decision.

European airplane manufacturer ATR struck a \$536-million deal with IranAir for at least 20 aircraft last year. It's already has delivered eight of its twin-engine turboprops to Tehran after earlier winning permission from the U.S. Treasury.

"To date, we are on track to deliver the remaining ATR aircraft in due time, before the end of the year," ATR spokesman David Vargas told the AP.

The speed at which Western airplane manufacturers went into Iran is contrasted by a slow start by Western energy firms despite the country's vast oil and gas wealth. The exception is French oil giant Total SA, which in July signed a \$5 billion, 20-year agreement with Iran and a Chinese oil company to develop the country's massive South Pars offshore natural gas field. The natural gas pumped by the deal will go toward Iran's domestic market.

The deal marked a return to Iran for Total, which pulled out of the country in 2008 as Western sanctions over its nuclear program began to ramp up. Total did not respond to requests for comment, though its CEO Patrick Pouyanne reportedly told Trump in February to stick with the deal.

"If the framework, the rules of the game, change, of course we will have to re-evaluate," Pouyanne told the Financial Times.

French carmaker PSA Peugeot Citroen reached a deal in 2016 to open a plant producing 200,000 vehicles annually in Iran. Peugeot, once a major player in Iran's car market before sanctions, did not respond to a request for comment.

Meanwhile, fellow French automobile manufacturer Groupe Renault signed a \$778-million deal to build 150,000 cars a year at a factory outside of Tehran.

"The Renault Group is closely monitoring the evolution of the diplomatic situation," the company said in a statement to the AP, without elaborating.

Volkswagen also began exporting cars to Iran.

"Currently we are tracking and examining the development of the political and economic environment in the region very closely," the German carmaker said in a statement. "In principle, Volkswagen adheres to all applicable national and international laws and export regulations."

Nuclear deal co-signers Britain, France and Germany, which have urged Trump to preserve the deal, may seek exemptions to protect their companies if the U.S. snaps back sanctions, said Ellie Geranmayeh, a senior policy fellow studying Iran at the European Council on Foreign Relations.

"This should include a series of exemptions and carve-outs for European companies already involved in strategic areas of trade and investment with Iran, with the priority being to limit the immediate shock to Iranian oil exports," she wrote Wednesday.

Follow Jon Gambrell on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/jongambrellap](http://www.twitter.com/jongambrellap) . His work can be found at <http://apne.ws/2galNpz> .

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## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, May 7, the 127th day of 2018. There are 238 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 7, 1915, a German U-boat torpedoed and sank the British liner RMS Lusitania off the southern coast of Ireland, killing 1,198 people, including 128 Americans, out of the nearly 2,000 on board.

On this date:

In A.D. 558, the original main dome of the Hagia Sophia in Constantinople completely collapsed during an earthquake; Emperor Justinian I ordered that the structure be rebuilt.

In 1763, Pontiac, chief of the Ottawa Indians, attempted to lead a sneak attack on British-held Fort Detroit, but was foiled because the British had been tipped off in advance.

In 1789, America's first inaugural ball was held in New York in honor of President George Washington, who had taken the oath of office a week earlier.

In 1824, Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 in D minor, Op. 125, had its premiere in Vienna.

In 1939, Germany and Italy announced a military and political alliance known as the Rome-Berlin Axis.

In 1942, U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Jonathan Wainwright went on a Manila radio station to announce the Allies' surrender of the Philippines to Japanese forces during World War II.

In 1945, Germany signed an unconditional surrender at Allied headquarters in Rheims (rams), France, ending its role in World War II.

In 1954, the 55-day Battle of Dien Bien Phu in Vietnam ended with Vietnamese insurgents overrunning French forces.

In 1963, the United States launched the Telstar 2 communications satellite.

In 1975, President Gerald R. Ford formally declared an end to the "Vietnam era." In Ho Chi Minh City — formerly Saigon — the Viet Cong celebrated its takeover.

In 1984, a \$180 million out-of-court settlement was announced in the Agent Orange class-action suit brought by Vietnam veterans who said they'd been injured by exposure to the defoliant.

In 1998, the parent company of Mercedes-Benz agreed to buy Chrysler Corp. for more than \$37 billion. Londoners voted overwhelmingly to elect their own mayor for the first time in history. (In May 2000, Ken Livingstone was elected.)

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush, addressing the Council of the Americas, said Cuba's post-Fidel Castro leadership had made only "empty gestures at reform" as he rejected calls for easing U.S. restrictions on the communist island. Dmitry Medvedev (dih-MEE'-tree med-VYEH'-dyev) was sworn in as Russia's president, succeeding Vladimir Putin (POO'-tih).

Five years ago: President Barack Obama and South Korea's new leader, Park Geun-hye (goon-hay), met at the White House, where they projected a united front as they warned North Korea against further nuclear provocations. Twenty-four people were killed by a gas tanker-truck explosion on the outskirts of Mexico City. The Dow Jones industrial average closed above 15,000 for the first time, ending the day at 15,056.20, up 87.31 points. Movie special effects wizard Ray Harryhausen, 92, died in London.

One year ago: French voters elected independent centrist Emmanuel Macron, 39, as the country's youngest president, delivering a resounding victory to the pro-European former investment banker and dashing the populist dream of far-right rival Marine Le Pen. Former President Barack Obama briefly returned to the spotlight as he accepted the annual John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award at the JFK presidential library in Boston.

Today's Birthdays: Rhythm-and-blues singer Thelma Houston is 75. Actress Robin Strasser is 73. Singer-songwriter Bill Danoff is 72. Rock musician Bill Kreutzmann (Grateful Dead) is 72. Utah Gov. Gary Herbert is 71. Rock musician Prairie Prince is 68. Movie writer-director Amy Heckerling is 66. Actor Michael E. Knight is 59. Rock musician Phil Campbell (Motorhead) is 57. Country musician Rick Schell is 55. Rock singer-musician Chris O'Connor (Primitive Radio Gods) is 53. Actress Traci Lords is 50. Actor Morocco Omari is

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48. Singer Eagle-Eye Cherry is 47. Actor Breckin Meyer is 44. Rock musician Matt Helders (Arctic Monkeys) is 32. Actress-comedian Aidy Bryant is 31. Actor Taylor Abrahamse is 27. Actor Alexander Ludwig is 26. Actress Dylan Gelula is 24.

Thought for Today: "When an old man dies, a library burns down." — African proverb.