

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, May 08, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 298 ~ 1 of 38

Chicken Soup
for the Soul



"Why not learn
to enjoy the
little things - there
are so many of them."
- Author Unknown -

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www.harrmotors.com

605-225-3078 ~ 1-800-658-3463

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

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

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

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1st Callie Weisbeck Mobridge-Pollock 88
2nd Kylie Kasuske Milbank 88
3rd Kierra Silk Sisseton 90
4th Emily Kokales Roncalli 92
5th Courtney Heath Sisseton 92
6th Chloe Jungwirth Mobridge-Pollock
7th Payton Colestock Groton 97
8th Kelsey Heath Sisseton 98
9th Ashley Fliehs Groton 99
10th Lily Miner Mobridge-Pollock 103

Groton Girls Golf Meet Results

Team Results: 1st Sisseton 396 2nd 400 Mobridge-Pollock 3rd Milbank 423 4th Groton 467 5th Redfield 531

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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Kosel recognized for Hoops for Heart Fundraiser

Regional Coordinator from American Heart Association, Wayne Geary, presented Jeslyn Kosel a trophy on Monday during PE Class for raising over \$1,000 for the Hoops for Heart Program. She raised \$1,381, a school record for the program. Brian Schuring is pictured on the right. He is the local coordinator for the Hoops for Heart program.

This does end the reign of the Kosel Family for the Hoop for Hearts. Julianna Kosel was the high fundraiser in her fourth and fifth grade years and Jeslyn Kosel was high fundraiser in her third through fifth grade years. Hoops for Heart has been for fourth and fifth grade, expanding to third grade a few years ago.



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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Pump Prices Packing Punch to Motorists, but Show Signs of Tapering Off

Monday, May 7, 2018 - At \$2.81, the national gas price average is 45 cents more expensive than a year ago. With the unofficial kick-off to summer just weeks away, prices are expected to increase, but a tapering trend may be emerging.

"If this past week's moderate increases are any indicator of what's to come, the fast rate at which gas prices were increasing may be slowing down," said Marilyn Buskohl, AAA spokesperson. "On the week, the national average held steady and 19 state averages remained flat or saw decreases in gas prices. Despite this stability, drivers on the West Coast and in Idaho, Utah and Pennsylvania are paying \$3/gallon."

South Dakota Average Gas Prices:

Current Avg. \$2.686

Yesterday Avg. \$2.696

Week Ago Avg. \$2.674

Month Ago Avg. \$2.599

Year Ago Avg. \$2.378

Quick Stats

The nation's top 10 most expensive markets are: California (\$3.63), Hawaii (\$3.63), Washington (\$3.32), Alaska (\$3.28), Nevada (\$3.25), Oregon (\$3.23), Idaho (\$3.11), Utah (\$3.09), Pennsylvania (\$3.02) and Connecticut (\$2.98).

The nation's top 10 states with the largest yearly increases are: Indiana (+66 cents), California (+66 cents), Utah (+63 cents), Arizona (+60 cents), Hawaii (+56 cents), Idaho (+55 cents), Nevada (+55 cents), Illinois (+52 cents), New Jersey (+51 cents) and Michigan (+51 cents).

Great Lakes and Central

A few of the states in this region — Ohio (-8 cents), Michigan (-7 cents) and Kentucky (-5 cents) — land on this week's top 10 states with the biggest decreases in pump prices. However, the majority of states in the Great Lakes and Central region saw increases: Indiana (+6 cents), Wisconsin (+4 cents), Illinois (+2 cents), Kansas (+2 cents) and Minnesota (+2 cents).

This week, motorists in Indiana (+66 cents) have the largest year-over-year gas price difference in the country. Illinois (+52 cents) and Michigan (+51 cents) join Indiana on the top 10 list of states with the highest year over year increase. South Dakota (+31 cents) ranks as the state with the smallest year-over-year difference in the country and the region below Minnesota (+36 cents) and North Dakota (+35 cents).

Gasoline inventories in the Great Lakes and Central states have declined steadily for eight weeks. With the latest draw of 340,000 bbl, total inventories sit at 56.2 million bbl, which are on par with levels in April 2017.

Oil market dynamics

At the close of Friday's formal trading session on the NYMEX, WTI increased \$1.29 cents to settle at \$69.72 – a new high for the year. Oil prices ticked up higher last week following reports that President Trump will potentially decline to recertify the Iran nuclear deal on May 12 and may impose new sanctions on the country. Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif responded that the country is unwilling to renegotiate the deal it set with the U.S. in 2015 under the Obama Administration. The decision to not recertify the deal could increase tensions in the volatile region, leading to global supply disruptions. Crude prices are likely to continue climbing as the May 12 deadline for the recertifying draws near and it becomes increasingly likely that the U.S. will decline to renew it.

Additionally, EIA's weekly petroleum status report noted that U.S. crude production hit another record high at 10.62 million b/d. The growth in production occurred alongside growth in crude inventories, which grew by 6.2 million bbl last week. At 436 million bbl, inventories are nearly 92 million bbl lower than they were at this time last year.

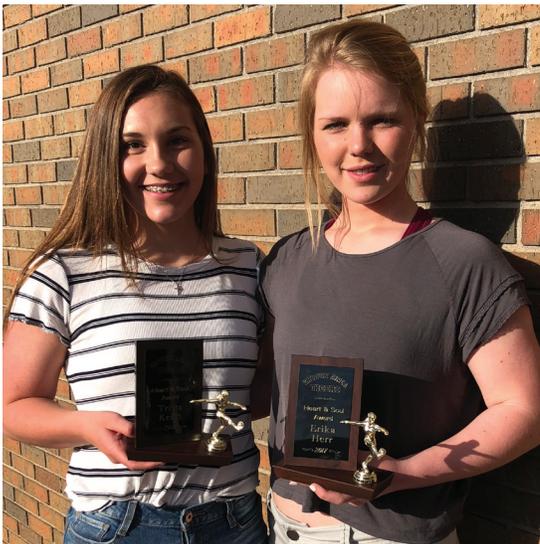
2018 Girls Soccer Awards



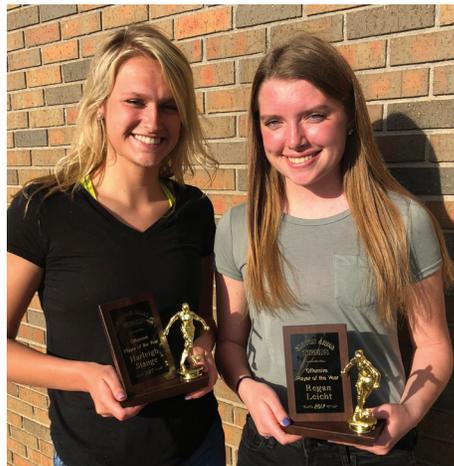
Hustle Award
Madeline Flihs
Jasmine Schinkel
Allyssa Locke
Riley Leicht(not pictured)



Defensive Player of the Year-
Kenzie McInerney
Kaylin Kucker



Heart & Soul Award
Trista Keith
Erika Herr



Offensive Player of the Year-
Harleigh Stange
Regan Leicht



Academic All- State-
Madison Sippel

Blackmun re-elected as Council President

No changes were made on the Groton City Council for the 131st Council that was convened Monday evening. David Blackmun was re-elected as president and Jay Peterson was re-elected as council vice president. David McGannon was appointed to fill his vacant spot for a one-year term. Drew Johnson was appointed as city attorney.

Blackmun reported on the baseball program and said the numbers are up this year. In fact, he added, "We haven't seen these high of numbers in a long time." All four softball age groups are filled as are the baseball teams. All positions are filled except for the Junior Legion Coach. The council hired Ashley Flihs and Kari Hanson as gatekeepers, Ethan Kranhold as the U8, U10 and U12 softball coaches and Matt Locke as the U14 softball coach.

Stacy Mayou and Damian Bahr were authorized to attend the NESD Family Violence Prevention Conference to be held in Aberdeen.

During the department reports, City Supervisor Terry Herron said that the load restrictions in the city limits may be lifted by next Tuesday, which would allow for the garbage trucks to run their regular routes in town.



**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**

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Today in Weather History

May 8, 1934: Pierre recorded its' earliest 100 degrees when the high temperature reached 103 degrees. Mobridge also reached 103 degrees, which is the earliest yearly date for the city Mobridge.

May 8, 1965: The strongest tornado recorded in South Dakota tracked across eastern Tripp County. It was part of a larger tornado outbreak in Nebraska and South Dakota during the afternoon through late evening hours.

May 8, 1986: Thunderstorms produced torrential rainfall of two to four inches over much of central and eastern South Dakota. The very heavy rains caused extensive flooding with Walworth and Potter Counties reporting the most damage. In those counties, most roads were under water. Several bridges and roads were also washed out in that area. The heavy rain washed out the dam at Lake Byre in Lyman County, which produced water waist deep in Kennebec. The city of Kennebec lost their sole source of water when the dam broke. Cow Creek in Lyman County also flooded and broke a part of a dam, causing minor property damage. Rain continued to fall into the morning hours on the 9th. Some two-day rainfall totals include; 4.33 inches in Kennebec; 4.21 in Shelby; 3.91 at 4 miles west of Mellette; 3.30 in Gettysburg; 3.06 in Blunt; 2.99 in Eureka; 2.75 at 2 NNW of Mobridge; 2.70 inches 2 miles south of Ashton and in Britton.

May 8, 1995: Flooding caused by snowmelt from two significant snowstorms in April continued throughout May. The flooding was aggravated by widespread torrential rains, especially from the early morning of the 8th through the early morning of the 9th. Rainfall amounts ranged from one to four inches. Some higher rainfall amounts include; 5.50 inches at Wakpala, 4.50 at Chelsea and Leola, 4.20 at Ipswich, 4.10 inches 12 north of McLaughlin, and 3.91 inches at Aberdeen. A worker was injured near Claremont when the train derailed due to the weakening of the rail-bed caused by high water. The extensive flooding continued to cause road damage and many road closures.

1784: Deadly hailstorm in South Carolina hits the town of Winnsborough. The hailstones, measuring as much as nine inches in circumference, killed several persons, and a great number of sheep, lambs, and birds.

1902: On May 7th, Martinique's Mount Pelee began the deadliest volcanic eruption in the 20th century. On this day, the city of Saint Pierre, which some called the Paris of the Caribbean, was virtually wiped off the map. The volcano killed an estimated 30,000 people.

1979: Widespread damage occurred in the Tampa Bay area. The 19 tornadoes reported are the most in one day in Florida history. Three people drowned in Pinellas County where flooding was most severe. Rainfall amounts of 18 inches in 24 hours were reported with 12.73 inches falling at Tampa, FL; with 7.84 inches of that in just six hours. Worst hit was the Polk County community of Auburndale where a tornado made a direct hit on the Auburndale School. Flying debris hurt only eight students. An 83-year-old woman was killed as she hid in an unreinforced concrete block storage shed. 98 trailers were damaged or destroyed, and 40 people were injured.

2003: This was the second of three consecutive days with strong to violent tornadoes around Oklahoma City. A violent F4 tornado that affected Moore, Oklahoma City, Midwest City and Choctaw took on a path very similar to the 5/3/1999 devastating tornado. This particular storm back in 2003 affected areas from Newcastle and Moore to Del City and Choctaw. Although over 130 people were injured, there were no fatalities.

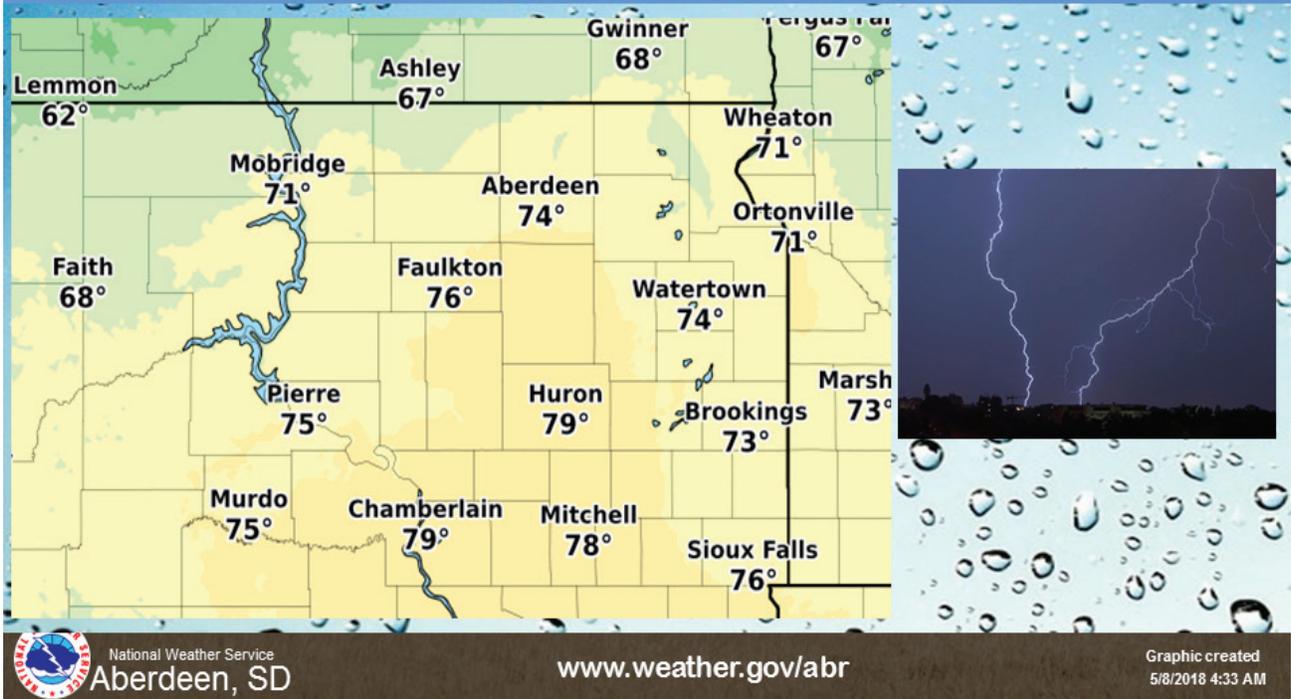
2009: A deadly derecho squall line crosses far southern Illinois at midday devastating the Carbondale area on its way across a 1,200-mile swath of terrain covering sections of nine states. Hundreds of homes and businesses are damaged or destroyed in Kansas, Kentucky, Illinois, Kentucky, and Missouri. The wind gusts to 106 mph in the Carbondale area with sustained winds measured at up to 90 mph. In southern Illinois, the storm system peels siding and roofs off homes and other buildings, blowing out car windows and tearing up trailer parks.

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Tue May 8	Wed May 9	Thu May 10	Fri May 11	Sat May 12	Sun May 13	Mon May 14
						
75° F 50° F	73° F 42° F	60° F 42° F	59° F 40° F	60° F 41° F	69° F 43° F	75° F 58° F
SE 10 MPH Precip 50%	NNW 14 MPH Precip 20%	NNE 13 MPH Precip 40%	ENE 14 MPH Precip 50%	NNE 15 MPH Precip 20%	NW 11 MPH	W 10 MPH

Scattered Showers and Storms This Afternoon and Evening



Published on: 05/08/2018 at 4:37AM

Showers and thunderstorms are expected to develop once again this afternoon and evening. At this time, the threat for severe weather is low, though brief periods of gusty winds will be possible with any storms that develop.

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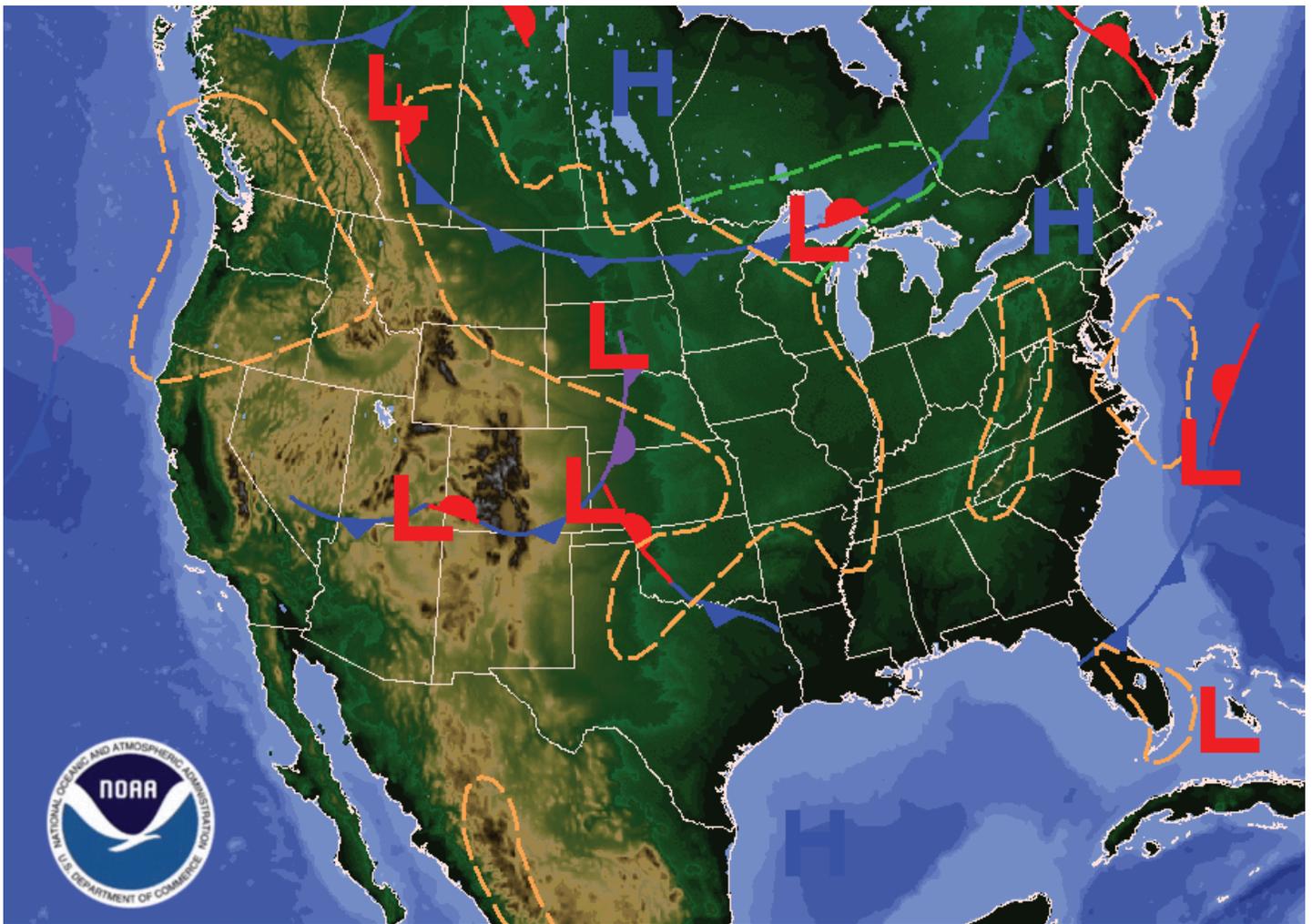
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 83.7 F at 3:11 PM
Low Outside Temp: 46.9 F at 6:30 AM
Wind Chill:
High Gust: 33.0 Mph at 3:15 PM
Precip: 0.47

Today's Info

Record High: 105° in 1934
Record Low: 22° in 1945
Average High: 67°F
Average Low: 41°F
Average Precip in May: 0.81
Precip to date in May: 0.58
Average Precip to date: 4.84
Precip Year to Date: 3.26
Sunset Tonight: 8:49 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:10 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, May 08, 2018, issued 4:46 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

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TRY IT - IT MAY SURPRISE YOU

An atheist confronted a young believer in a park and began to ridicule him for his faith in God. He dared the Christian to refute any of his arguments that he believed disproved the God of believers.

Quietly, another Christian, who had been watching the exchange between the atheist and the Christian, stepped forward and stood next to the young believer.

He did not say a word as he took an orange from his pocket and started to peel it. "What are you doing, fool. If you have something to say, then say it. Otherwise let 'the believer' defend his faith."

After he finished peeling the orange he asked the atheist, "Tell me, is this orange sweet or sour?" Angrily the skeptic shouted and waved his fist and said, "How should I know. I haven't tried it."

"Then," said the Christian, "you would be wise to stop criticizing the Word of God until you've tried it."

Major General Lew Wallace is the author of *Ben Hur*, the most influential Christian novel of the nineteenth century. At one time in his life he was considered to be an atheist. However, in answer to that statement he wrote, "As a result of my own personal research and many years of study, I became convinced that Jesus Christ was not only a Savior of the world, not only the Savior of the world, but that He was my Savior, too, and being thus convinced I wrote *Ben Hur*."

"Whosoever is wise, let him heed these things and consider the great love of the Lord," wrote the Psalmist.

Prayer: Thank You, Father, for Your Word that no one can destroy or diminish, and is the source of our salvation. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 107:43 Let the one who is wise heed these things and ponder the loving deeds of the Lord.

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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

Small plane makes successful emergency landing in Aberdeen

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — No injuries were reported when a small plane made an emergency landing at the airport in the northern South Dakota city of Aberdeen.

The American News reports that the pilot of the fixed wing, single-engine plane landed safely Monday after experiencing a drop in engine power.

A mile stretch of U.S. Highway 12 near the airport and a portion of another area road were closed during the emergency landing.

The Maule M-7-235 plane is registered to a man from Harrisonburg, Virginia. It wasn't immediately clear who was flying it.

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

Dakotas reservation school calls off classes due to threat

AGENCY VILLAGE, S.D. (AP) — A school on the Lake Traverse Reservation has called off classes due to an unspecified threat against the school.

The American News reports that officials with Tiospa Zina Tribal School in Agency Village notified Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate police about the threat Monday and canceled Tuesday classes.

The nature of the threat wasn't detailed.

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

Motorcycle crash west of Custer kills 63-year-old man

CUSTER, S.D. (AP) — A 63-year-old man is dead after crashing his motorcycle west of Custer.

The Highway Patrol says the man failed to negotiate a turn on U.S. Highway 16 shortly before 1 p.m. Monday, and his motorcycle collided with a guide rail.

The man died at the scene. He wasn't immediately identified.

Rapid City hospital alters waste policy amid criticism

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City hospital says it's taking new steps to ensure the appropriate disposal of medical waste after city officials brought attention to improper waste dumping.

Regional Health Rapid City Hospital's chief operating officer and president, Paulette Davidson, posted a Facebook video Friday regarding the hospital's waste disposal policy, the Rapid City Journal reported. The hospital is instituting new measures, including off-site sorting and labeling of bags by department so that officials can trace improperly disposed waste, according to Davidson.

"We know we can do better, and we will remain committed to the environment," Davidson said. "We will address this important issue."

The action follows criticism after Rapid City officials said last week that the hospital continued to dump medical waste at the city landfill despite repeated warnings and fines over the past year.

"You may have seen news reports about disposal of medical waste from our Rapid City hospital," Davidson said. "We want you to know that Regional Health is committed to meeting standards and all regulations governing the disposal of medical waste."

She said that only 254 bags of medical waste, or less than one-tenth of one percent, were improperly disposed.

The hospital has also provided additional training for staff and more monitoring under last year's improvement plan, Davidson said.

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The South Dakota Department of Health recently visited the hospital on request from the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services. Davidson said surveyors "applauded" the hospital "for going above and beyond" expectations outlined in the improvement plan.

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

Ray Szmanda, TV pitchman for Menards stores, dies at 91

ANTIGO, Wis. (AP) — The enthusiastic television pitchman who told viewers they could "save big money" at Wisconsin-based home improvement chain Menards has died. Ray Szmanda was 91.

Szmanda's son, Charles Szmanda, says his father died Sunday in home hospice care in Antigo, Wisconsin, of congestive heart failure.

Ray Szmanda was featured in advertising for Eau Claire-based Menard Inc. starting in 1976 until his retirement in 1998. He was known as "The Menards Guy."

A Milwaukee native and World War II Navy veteran, Szmanda founded a broadcasting school in Wausau. He also narrated a recording of the Bible.

Menards said Szmanda's "friendly, enthusiastic and fun loving personality have made a lasting impression" on the family-owned company and its customers.

Menards has stores in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Alexandria man sentenced for stealing from 90-year-old mom

ALEXANDRIA, S.D. (AP) — An Alexandria man has been sentenced to serve 10 years in prison for stealing from his ailing 90-year-old mother.

A jury in March found Kenneth Hauge guilty of theft by exploitation for stealing more than \$30,000 from his mother's financial assets while she was at a nursing home in Mitchell. Hauge had been named as his mother's power of attorney.

The Daily Republic reports Hauge was out on parole for a previous felony drug conviction when he was arrested for stealing from his mother. That meant he was classified as a habitual offender.

He was ordered to pay nearly \$32,000 in restitution, and to have no contact with his mother.

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

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>

China reports meeting between Xi, North Korea's Kim

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese President Xi Jinping has held talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in a northern China port city, Chinese state media reported Tuesday.

The meeting held Monday and Tuesday in Dalian is the second between the two men in recent weeks, following Kim's March visit to Beijing — his first since taking power six years ago.

Xi hosted a welcome banquet for Kim and the two leaders strolled along the coastline at a government guesthouse and had lunch together on Tuesday, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

"In a cordial and friendly atmosphere, the top leaders of the two parties and the two countries had an all-round and in-depth exchange of views on China-DPRK relations and major issues of common concern," Xinhua said, using the initials for North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

China is North Korea's only major ally, although trade has plummeted in recent months as Beijing enforces United Nations economic sanctions in response to the North's nuclear bomb and ballistic missile tests.

Kim met with South Korean President Moon Jae-in last month, and is expected to hold an historic summit with U.S. President Donald Trump, possibly before the end of the month.

China has been eager to assert its importance in the process of lowering tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

It was not known how long the Xi-Kim meeting had been planned or why Dalian was chosen. Hong Kong's South China Morning Post newspaper cited two unidentified sources as saying that Xi had flown to Dalian on the coast east of Beijing to preside over the official launch of sea trials for China's first entirely self-built aircraft carrier.

Chinese internet users posting on social media described heavy security in the city and extensive flight delays on Monday. Others said they spotted a set of Red Flag limousines used by state leaders.

As with Kim's March visit to Beijing, his presence in Dalian was not officially confirmed until he had left China. Reports said his jet flew out of Dalian airport on Tuesday afternoon.

Iran president warns of 'problems' as Trump decision looms

By AMIR VAHDAT and NASSER KARIMI, Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's president on Tuesday warned the country could face "some problems," just hours before President Donald Trump was to announce whether he is pulling America out of the nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers.

Without directly naming Trump, Hassan Rouhani's remarks at a petroleum conference in Tehran represented the first official Iranian comment on the U.S. president's overnight tweet that he'd make an announcement on the deal Tuesday.

"It is possible that we will face some problems for two or three months, but we will pass through this," Rouhani said.

Rouhani also stressed Iran wants to keep "working with the world and constructive engagement with the world." That appeared to be a nod to Europe, which has struck a series of business deals with Iran since the landmark 2015 nuclear deal.

Iran likely hopes the European Union will pass laws to protect European firms from any potential U.S. sanctions.

Later Tuesday, Trump and the United States also came under fire from Iran's first vice president, Eshaq Jahangiri, a popular reformist politician who has been suggested as a possible presidential contender in Iran's 2021 election.

"Today, the biggest power in the world is yelling that it does not accept it (the deal)," Jahangiri said, according to the semi-official ISNA news agency. "It's up to them what to do with the deal, but (from now on) naive individuals would accept to enter talks with such a country."

"We are ready and have plan for managing the country under any circumstance," he added.

Jahangiri's comments suggest a coming political turn against any rapprochement with the West if Trump pulls out of the deal, especially as he is a reformist — a politician who advocates for change to Iran's theo-

cratic government. It also comes as Trump is set to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un later this year, where negotiations will undoubtedly include talks about the Asian country's atomic weapons program.

Trump's tweet came late on Monday night, meaning major newspapers across Iran missed the announcement for their front pages.

Iran's state-run television broadcaster carried the announcement at 10 a.m. local time, and Iran's state-run IRNA news agency also carried a report on it.

Overnight, Iran's semi-official news agencies carried the news of Trump's tweet, while others shared foreign media reports online.

Trump's announcement, set for the 2 p.m. EST at the White House, will come after nightfall in Iran.

Iran's 2015 nuclear deal imposed restrictions on the Islamic Republic's nuclear program in return for the lifting of most of the U.S. and international sanctions against Tehran.

However, the deal came with time limits and did not address Iran's ballistic missile program or its regional policies. Trump has repeatedly pointed at that, while referring to the accord as the "worst deal ever." However, proponents of the deal have said those time limits were to encourage more discussion with Iran in the future that could grow into addressing those other concerns.

Rouhani, shown smiling and addressing an audience at a table at the expo Tuesday, sought to show calm to Iranians. Meanwhile, Iran's parliament speaker Ali Larijani reportedly said Trump pulling out of the deal would increase unity among Iranians. Iran's parliament discussed the possible U.S. pullout in a closed session on Tuesday.

Iran's Central Bank chief Valiollah Seif also tried to calm nerves, telling state television that the U.S. decisions "does not create a problem" for Iran's economy.

However, many in Tehran and elsewhere in the country are worried about what Trump's decision could mean for the country.

Already, the Iranian rial is trading on the black market at 66,000 to the dollar, despite the government-set rate being at 42,000 to \$1. Many say they have not seen the benefits of the nuclear deal.

Iran's poor economy and unemployment already sparked nationwide protests in December and January that saw at least 25 people killed and, reportedly, nearly 5,000 arrested.

Associated Press writer Jon Gambrell in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, contributed to this report.

AP coverage on the Iran nuclear deal: <https://apnews.com/tag/Irannuclear> .

Attorney general resigns after 4 women accuse him of abuse

By DEEPTI HAJELA, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, who held himself out as a champion of women and a liberal foil to President Donald Trump, resigned from office after four women accused him of physical violence during intimate encounters.

It was a swift and stunning fall for a Democrat who had pledged to use the power of his office to hold others accountable for abusing their power.

In accounts published in *The New Yorker* on Monday, the women described being violently slapped and choked, verbally abused and threatened by Schneiderman. Some also described him as a heavy drinker.

The abuse often happened during what were supposed to be romantic encounters, but the women said the violence was not consensual.

Schneiderman, 63, issued a statement to *The New Yorker*, and later to other media outlets, implying that his conduct was either welcomed by the women, or was not as they described.

"In the privacy of intimate relationships, I have engaged in role-playing and other consensual sexual activity. I have not assaulted anyone. I have never engaged in non-consensual sex, which is a line I would not cross," he said.

But after fellow Democrats in New York, including Gov. Andrew Cuomo and U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand,

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called for his resignation, he capitulated quickly.

"In the last several hours, serious allegations, which I strongly contest, have been made against me," he said in a statement late Monday. "While these allegations are unrelated to my professional conduct or the operations of the office, they will effectively prevent me from leading the office's work at this critical time." He said he would resign at the close of business on Tuesday.

Two women who spoke to The New Yorker on the record, Michelle Manning Barish and Tanya Selvaratnam, both said the physical abuse escalated over time. The Associated Press is identifying the women because they agreed to tell their stories publicly.

"After the most difficult month of my life-I spoke up. For my daughter and for all women. I could not remain silent and encourage other women to be brave for me. I could not...," Manning Barish wrote on Twitter after the story was published.

Manning Barish said she was involved with Schneiderman from mid-2013 through the end of 2014. Selvaratnam said she was involved with him from the summer of 2016 until fall 2017.

Manning Barish said Schneiderman became violent a few weeks after they began dating. She said she confided in friends, including novelist Salman Rushdie.

Selvaratnam, who was born in Sri Lanka, said Schneiderman started calling her his "brown slave" and made her say that she was "his property."

"After I found out that other women had been abused by Attorney-General Schneiderman in a similar manner many years before me, I wondered, who's next, and knew something needed to be done," Selvaratnam said in a statement to the AP.

Schneiderman has been a vocal supporter of the #MeToo movement. He filed a lawsuit in February against disgraced movie producer Harvey Weinstein and the Weinstein Co. following an investigation into allegations of sexual misconduct. Schneiderman said the company broke New York law by failing to protect employees from "pervasive sexual harassment, intimidation and discrimination."

He launched a civil rights probe into the New York City-based company in October after The New York Times and The New Yorker exposed allegations of sexual assault and harassment spanning decades. The company later fired Weinstein.

The women accusing him said seeing him speak out on these issues was part of what prompted them to come forward.

Schneiderman, a former state senator, became attorney general in 2010 and had been running for reelection this year. Under the New York Constitution, a vacancy in the office is filled by the state Legislature.

He also has been a longtime critic of President Donald Trump, and has been part of several efforts to push back against some of his actions in the White House, like the rescinding of protection for immigrants brought to the U.S. illegally as children.

Last month, he urged state lawmakers to close a loophole that he said could be used to fight state charges by anyone who has received a federal pardon for similar federal charges.

On Twitter, Donald Trump Jr. offered pointed commentary. He showcased one of Schneiderman's tweets from last year saying that he would remind President Trump that no one was above the law, with Trump Jr. adding, "You were saying???"

World to learn fate of Iran nuclear pact Tuesday afternoon

By JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is preparing to tell the world whether he plans to follow through on his threat to pull out of the landmark nuclear accord with Iran and almost surely ensure its collapse. There are no signs that European allies enlisted to "fix" the deal have persuaded him to preserve it.

In a burst of last-minute diplomacy, punctuated by a visit by Britain's top diplomat, the deal's European members gave in to many of Trump's demands, according to officials, diplomats and others briefed on the negotiations. Yet they still left convinced he is likely to re-impose sanctions and walk away from the deal he has lambasted since his days as a presidential candidate.

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Under the 2015 nuclear deal struck by the United States, Iran and world powers, most U.S. and international sanctions against the country were lifted. In return, Iran agreed to restrictions on its nuclear program making it impossible to produce a bomb, along with rigorous inspections. If the deal collapses, Iran would be free to resume enrichment activities prohibited under the deal.

As they braced for an expected withdrawal Tuesday, U.S. officials were dusting off plans for how to sell a pullout to the public and explain its complex ramifications to the global financial world, said the officials and others, who weren't authorized to speak ahead of an announcement and requested anonymity.

Building up anticipation for the big reveal, Trump announced on Twitter he would disclose his decision at 2 p.m., with an announcement set for the Diplomatic Room of the White House. With uncharacteristic discipline, he kept the decision confined to a small group within the White House National Security Council, leaving even many of his aides guessing what he had decided.

There was at least as much guessing in Iran, where many are deeply concerned about how Trump's decision could affect the already struggling economy. In Tehran, President Hassan Rouhani sought to calm nerves, smiling as he appeared at a petroleum expo. He didn't name Trump directly, but emphasized that Iran continued to seek "engagement with the world."

"It is possible that we will face some problems for two or three months, but we will pass through this," Rouhani said.

An immense web of sanctions, written agreements and staggered deadlines make up the accord. So Trump effectively has several pathways to pull the United States out of the deal by reneging on its commitments.

Under the most likely scenario, Trump will allow sanctions on Iran's central bank — intended to target its oil exports — to kick back in, rather than waiving them once again on Saturday, the next deadline for renewal, said the individuals briefed on Trump's deliberations. Then the Trump administration would give those who are doing business with Iran a six-month grace period to wind down business and avoid running afoul of those sanctions.

Depending on how Trump sells it — either as an irreversible U.S. pullout, or one final chance to save it — the deal could ostensibly be strengthened during those six months in a last-ditch effort to persuade Trump to change his mind. The first 15 months of Trump's presidency have been filled with many such "last chances" for the Iran deal in which he's punted the decision for another few months, and then another.

Other U.S. sanctions don't require a decision until later, including those on specific Iranian businesses, sectors and individuals that will snap back into place in July unless Trump signs another waiver. A move on Tuesday to restore those penalties ahead of the deadline would be the most aggressive move Trump could take to close the door to staying in the deal.

Even Trump's secretary of state and the U.N. agency that monitors nuclear compliance agree that Iran, so far, has lived up to its side of the deal. But the deal's critics, such as Israel, the Gulf Arab states and many Republicans, say it's a giveaway to Tehran that ultimately paves the path to a nuclear-armed Iran several years in the future.

Iran, for its part, has been coy in predicting its response to a Trump withdrawal. For weeks, Iran's foreign minister had been saying that a re-imposition of U.S. sanctions would render the deal null and void, leaving Tehran little choice but to abandon it as well. But on Monday, Rouhani said Iran could stick with it if the European Union, whose economies do far more business with Iran than the U.S., offers guarantees that Iran would keep benefiting.

It is far from clear that Europe can credibly provide that assurance. Even with the deal in place, Iran complained constantly that European banks and businesses were staying away out of fear they'd be punished by the United States. The global financial system is so interconnected and so dependent on New York that it's nearly impossible to conduct business that doesn't touch the U.S. financial system. That gives Trump incredible leverage if he threatens that anyone doing business with Iran will be cut off from the United States.

For the Europeans, a Trump withdrawal would also constitute dispiriting proof that trying to appease the mercurial American president is an exercise for naught.

The three EU members of the deal — Britain, France and Germany — were insistent from the start that

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the deal could not be re-opened. After all, it was the U.S. that brokered the agreement in 2015 and rallied the world behind it. But all that was under President Barack Obama, whose global legacy Trump has worked to chip away at since taking office.

So the Europeans reluctantly backed down, only slightly at first, agreeing to discuss an "add-on" agreement that wouldn't change the underlying nuclear deal, but would add new restrictions on Iran to address what Trump had identified as its shortcomings. Trump wanted to deter Iran's ballistic missile program and other destabilizing actions in the region. He also wanted more rigorous nuclear inspections and to extend the deal's restrictions on Iranian enrichment and reprocessing, rather than let them phase out after about a decade.

Negotiating an add-on agreement, rather than revising the existing deal, had the added benefit of not requiring the formal consent of Iran or the other remaining members: Russia and China. The idea was that even if they balked at the West's impositions, Iran would be likely to comply anyway so as to keep enjoying lucrative sanctions relief.

Although the U.S. and the Europeans made progress on ballistic missiles and inspections, there were disagreements over extending the life of the deal and over how to trigger additional penalties if Iran were found violating the new restrictions, U.S. officials and European diplomats have said. The Europeans agreed to yet more concessions in the final days of negotiating ahead of Trump's decision, the officials added.

It was not clear what led Trump, whose aides hadn't expected him to make a decision until week's end, to declare Monday he was ready to render judgment on the deal's fate. But on Twitter, he targeted former Secretary of State John Kerry, who led Obama's efforts to broker the deal and has been making the case publicly and privately for its survival.

"The United States does not need John Kerry's possibly illegal Shadow Diplomacy on the very badly negotiated Iran Deal," Trump said. "He was the one that created this MESS in the first place!"

Associated Press writers Matthew Lee, Jill Colvin, Zeke Miller and Catherine Lucey in Washington and Amir Vahdat and Nasser Karimi in Tehran, Iran, contributed to this report.

Despite risks, volcano offers affordable piece of paradise

By CALEB JONES, Associated Press

PAHOA, Hawaii (AP) — The slopes of Kilauea offer a lush rural setting and affordable land that contrasts sharply with Hawaii's more expensive real estate, but living on one of the world's most active volcanoes comes with risks: A dozen lava vents have opened in streets of the Puna district and 35 structures have burned down.

It was difficult to immediately tell from aerial surveys how many are homes and how many are other uninhabited structures, said Wil Okabe, acting mayor of Hawaii County.

Cheryl Griffith's Leilani Estates subdivision was ordered to evacuate after lava from Kilauea volcano burst through cracks in the ground, destroying homes. But the 61-year-old did not leave.

As lava crawled down Leilani Road in a hissing, popping mass, Griffith stood in its path and placed a plant in the crack in the ground as an offering to the Native Hawaiian volcano goddess, Pele.

"I love this place, and I've been around the volcano for a while," Griffith said. "I'm just not one to rush off."

The Puna district is a region of mostly unpaved roads of volcanic rock about a 30-minute drive from the coastal town of Hilo.

Puna has thick jungle as well as dark fields of lava rock from past eruptions. The gently sloping volcano dips from its summit to Puna's white sand beaches and jagged sea cliffs.

The region has macadamia nut farms and other agriculture along with multimillion-dollar homes with manicured lawns. Other houses are modest, sitting on small lots with old cars and trucks scattered about.

For many people outside Hawaii, it's hard to understand why anyone would risk living near an active volcano with such destructive power.

But the people here are largely self-sufficient and understand the risks of their location.

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Amber Makuakane, a 37-year-old teacher and single mother of two, lost her three-bedroom house to the lava. She grew up here and lived in the 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."

Griffith said that is the hardest part of this lifestyle — they won't be able to recoup losses. Moments later, an explosion came from a nearby burning house.

Homeowners use rainwater-catch tanks and cesspools or septic tanks. Many rely on solar power, and some live entirely off the electrical grid.

Sam Knox, 65, who was born in Hawaii and now lives just a few hundred feet from a volcanic fissure, said he decided not to leave, despite the nearby explosions and the lava being hurled into the sky and flowing across his neighbor's property.

"It was roaring sky high. It was incredible. ... Rocks were flying out of the ground," he said. Much of the area filled with lava in just four hours.

Kilauea (pronounced kill-ah-WAY'-ah) is one of the world's most active volcanoes and has been erupting continuously since 1983. There's no indication when this particular lava flow might stop or how far it might spread. Scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey expect the flow to continue until more magma drains from the system.

On Sunday, some of the evacuees were allowed to return briefly to gather medicine, pets, and other necessities. They will be able to do so each day as long as authorities believe it is safe.

Knox has some belongings packed in case he has to make a fast escape.

"I decided to stay because I wanted to experience this in my life," he said. "I'm ready to actually evacuate, but if I don't have to evacuate, I'm just going to keep staying here because I don't have no other home to go to."

This story has been corrected to fix the spelling of Amber Makuakane's name.

Associated Press writers Jennifer Sinco Kelleher and Sophia Yan in Honolulu contributed to this report.

GOP frets over West Virginia as 4 states decide primaries

By STEVE PEOPLES and JOHN RABY, Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — Voters in the heart of Trump country are ready to decide the fate of Don Blankenship, a brash West Virginia businessman and GOP outsider with a checkered past who is testing the appeal of President Donald Trump's outsider playbook in one of the nation's premiere U.S. Senate contests.

The stakes are high for a Republican Party bracing for major losses in this fall's midterm elections. A victory on Tuesday for Blankenship, an ex-convict who has run racially charged ads, could cost Republicans a Senate seat come November. But the anti-establishment fervor unleashed by Trump's 2016 campaign has proved difficult for GOP leaders to rein in.

On the eve of West Virginia's Senate primary election, Trump himself warned on Twitter that a Blankenship win would destroy Republicans' chance of defeating Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin in November.

Blankenship "can't win the General Election in your State...No way!" the president wrote of the retired coal executive, who was released from prison last year for his role in the deadliest U.S. mine disaster in four decades.

Firing back at the Republican president, Blankenship described himself as "Trumpier than Trump" as he shrugged off Trump's call for local Republicans to support one of his two opponents.

"West Virginia will send the swamp a message: No one, and I mean no one, will tell us how to vote," Blankenship declared.

On Tuesday, West Virginia will join Indiana, North Carolina and Ohio in hosting primary elections in states Trump carried in 2016. The Republican contests largely feature candidates jockeying to be seen as the most conservative, the most anti-Washington and the most loyal to the president.

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In Indiana, Republicans will pick from among three Senate candidates who have spent much of the race praising Trump and bashing one another. The winner will take on another vulnerable Democrat, Sen. Joe Donnelly, this fall.

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

Ohio also features primary elections in both parties to decide the candidates for an August special election to replace GOP Rep. Pat Tiberi, who resigned earlier in the year.

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

Yet none of Tuesday's contests is expected to have more impact on the 2018 midterm landscape than West Virginia.

Blankenship has embraced Trump's tactics — casting himself as a victim of government persecution and seizing on xenophobia, if not racism — to stand out in a crowded Republican field that includes state Attorney General Patrick Morrisey and Republican congressman Evan Jenkins.

Republicans have long seen the state as a prime opportunity to expand the party's two-seat majority in the Senate by defeating Manchin. On paper at least, the GOP prospects look good: No state gave Trump a larger margin of victory than West Virginia, where Trump defeated Democrat Hillary Clinton by 42 points.

Yet Republicans across Washington are convinced that Blankenship, an unapologetic conservative who lives part time near Las Vegas, cannot defeat Manchin.

In addition to Trump's warning, the head of the Senate Republican campaign arm has highlighted Blankenship's criminal history. And a group allied with the national GOP, known as Mountain Families PAC, has spent more than \$1.2 million in attack ads against Blankenship in recent weeks.

The retired businessman was released from prison less than a year ago for his role in a 2010 mine explosion that left 29 men dead. Blankenship led the company that owned the mine and was sentenced to a year in prison for conspiring to break safety laws, a misdemeanor.

He has repeatedly blamed government regulators for the disaster, casting himself as the victim of an overzealous Obama-era Justice Department — an argument Trump regularly uses to dismiss federal agents investigating his campaign's ties to Russia.

Blankenship has used race and ethnicity to appeal to supporters in the campaign's final days, just as Trump did throughout his campaign.

The Senate candidate took aim at Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., in an ad claiming that McConnell has created jobs for "China people" and that his "China family" has given him millions of dollars. McConnell's wife is U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, who was born in Taiwan.

Blankenship also called McConnell "Cocaine Mitch" in a previous ad. That reference stems from a 2014 magazine article alleging drugs were found aboard a commercial cargo ship owned by Chao's family.

Arizona Republican Sen. Jeff Flake, a frequent Trump critic, suggested that Blankenship presents a moral problem for the GOP, not just a political one. He said he's ready to donate to Manchin's campaign if Blankenship becomes the GOP nominee.

"You get somebody like that in the Senate, you might get us one seat but you lose your soul," Flake said.

Peoples reported from New York. Associated Press writer Lisa Mascaro in Washington contributed to this report.

Trump considers benching Giuliani from doing TV interviews

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — President Donald Trump is growing increasingly irritated with lawyer Rudy Giuliani's frequently off-message media blitz, which has included muddying the waters on hush money paid to porn actress Stormy Daniels and making claims that could complicate the president's standing in the special counsel's Russia probe.

Trump has begun questioning whether Giuliani, an old friend and former New York City mayor, should be sidelined from television interviews, according to two people familiar with the president's thinking but not authorized to speak publicly about private discussions.

Trump also expressed annoyance that Giuliani's theatrics have breathed new life into the Daniels story. It's a concern shared by Trump allies who think Giuliani is only generating more legal and political trouble for the White House.

Giuliani, the newest addition to the president's legal team, first rattled the White House last week when he sat for interviews on Fox News and seemed to contradict Trump by saying the president was aware of the \$130,000 payout to Daniels from his personal attorney, Michael Cohen. He also suggested the October 2016 settlement had been made because Trump was in the stretch run of his presidential campaign.

After Trump chided Giuliani on Friday, saying the lawyer needed to "get his facts straight," Giuliani put out a statement trying to clarify his remarks. But in weekend interviews, Giuliani appeared to dig himself a deeper hole by acknowledging that "Cohen takes care of situations like this, then gets paid for them sometimes." He did not rule out the possibility that Cohen had paid off other women.

Trump, who has denied the affair with Daniels, was angry that Giuliani had given the impression that other women may have made similar charges of infidelity, according to the people familiar with his views.

Additionally, Trump has grown agitated in recent days by replays of Giuliani's interview with Sean Hannity, in which he said that Trump knew about the payment but that it wasn't a campaign violation. A clearly surprised Hannity then asked, "Because they funneled it through the law firm?"

To which Giuliani responded, "Funneled it through the law firm, and the president repaid him."

Trump snapped at both men in recent days, chiding Hannity for using the word "funneled," which he believes had illegal connotations, according to the people who spoke to The Associated Press. As for Giuliani, the president has not yet signaled to him to stop appearing on television but told a confidant recently that perhaps Giuliani should "be benched" — at least temporarily — if he can't improve his performance.

The president has not publicly discussed dismissing Giuliani and has appreciated his sharp attacks on the Russia investigation and his forceful battles with the press, according to three White House aides and outside allies. The two men have spoken frequently, according to officials familiar with their interactions but not authorized to discuss private conversations.

But many Trump allies both inside and outside the White House have grown anxious in recent days about Giuliani's whirlwind and unpredictable interviews.

"They're admitting to enough that warrants scrutiny. It shouldn't be put on television shows off the cuff," said Alan Dershowitz, the emeritus Harvard law professor who has been informally advising Trump on the Russia collusion probe. "This is not the way to handle a complicated case."

Many in the White House have begun evoking comparisons between Giuliani and Anthony Scaramucci, another hard-charging New Yorker with a knack for getting TV airtime.

Scaramucci lasted 11 days before being fired. The former White House communications director himself drew parallels between his own burn-bright-burn-fast tenure and Giuliani's performance.

"I am enjoying all of the comparisons between me and the mayor #RudyGiuliani," Scaramucci tweeted Sunday. "He is loyal, tough and a fierce competitor. He fights and will win for @realDonaldTrump @POTUS. Big compliment thank you!"

Giuliani did not respond to requests for comment.

West Wing aides were blindsided by Giuliani's TV appearances last week, and many senior advisers and members of the president's legal team have been cut out of the decision-making process. But some aides have been reluctant to broach the subject with Trump because it only increases their liability, according

to officials.

Press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders, who was among those surprised by Giuliani's string of TV appearances, said Monday that Trump felt the former mayor "added value" to his outside legal team. On Friday, Trump said Giuliani was "a great guy but he just started a day ago." He made clear Giuliani was still "learning the subject matter."

Some West Wing aides have complained that Giuliani, who ran for president in 2008, was acting like a "principal" and not a member of a team. And some in Trump's inner circle raised their eyebrows at Giuliani's declaration that Jared Kushner, the president's son-in-law and senior adviser, was "disposable." He also declined to rule out Trump invoking the Fifth Amendment in special counsel Robert Mueller's ongoing Russia probe.

The episode revived worries in Trump's inner circle about Giuliani, who enjoys the media limelight and has a tendency to go off-script. His behavior grew more unpredictable during the stretch run of the 2016 presidential campaign, when Trump chided him for falling asleep on the campaign plane, according to two former campaign officials who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal matters.

Giuliani also alienated a number of people in Trump's inner circle by insisting that the only Cabinet position he would consider would be secretary of state. He did not get the post.

Giuliani's remarks have also been watched with concern at the State Department and Pentagon after he weighed in recently on international affairs. He declared last week that North Korea would be releasing three Americans being held captive, which has not yet happened, and said the administration was committed to regime change in Iran, a stance Trump has not taken.

"He speaks for himself and not on behalf of the administration on foreign policy," State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said Monday.

Associated Press writers Zeke Miller and Josh Lederman contributed to this report from Washington.

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Google to showcase AI advances at its big conference

By RYAN NAKASHIMA, AP Technology Writer

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. (AP) — Google is likely to again put artificial intelligence in the spotlight at its annual developers conference Thursday.

The company's digital concierge, known only as the Google Assistant, could gain new abilities to handle tasks such as making restaurant reservations without human hand-holding.

Google may also unveil updates to its Android mobile operating system, enable better AI-powered navigation suggestions in Google Maps, and push further into augmented reality technology, which overlays a view of the real world with digital images.

The search giant aims to make its assistant so useful that people can't live without it — or the search results that drive its advertising business. But it also wants to play up the social benefits of AI, and plans to showcase how it's being used to improve health care, preserve the environment and make scientific discoveries.

CEO Sundar Pichai probably won't emphasize privacy or data security concerns, which have put companies like Facebook, Twitter and Google in the crosshairs of regulators. But Google could also give parents new tools to manage how children access video and other material on different devices.

The company is also expected to unveil a new app for news that combines elements of its Google Play Newsstand app and YouTube.

It's too early in the year for Google to showcase any new hardware, which it tends to do ahead of the Christmas shopping season. Last week, however, it said its partner Lenovo will sell a \$400 stand-alone virtual reality headset that doesn't require inserting a smartphone. (Facebook last week announced a competing \$199 device called the Oculus Go.)

Google also last week updated actions that its assistant can perform on smartwatches powered by its Wear OS software. For instance, it can tell you about your day if you're wearing headphones instead of making you read your calendar.

Hill panel probing opioids abuse targets distributor firms

By ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional investigators say wholesale pharmaceutical distributors shipped hundreds of millions of prescription opioid pills to West Virginia, a state disproportionately ravaged by deaths caused by the addictive drugs. Now, lawmakers want executives of those companies to explain how that happened.

Current and former officials from five distributor companies are set to give sworn testimony on the subject Tuesday to a House subcommittee. Their appearances come during an election-year push by Congress to pass largely modest legislation aimed at curbing a growing epidemic that saw nearly 64,000 people die last year from drug overdoses, with two-thirds of those deaths involving opioids.

The House Energy and Commerce Committee began investigating the distribution of prescription opioids last May. The panel has said distributors sent more than 780 million pills of hydrocodone and oxycodone — prescription pain-killers that have caused many overdose deaths — to West Virginia from 2007 to 2012. That's an average of more than 400 pills per person over that period in the state, where around 1.8 million people live.

Investigators said 20.8 million opioid pills were shipped from 2006 to 2016 to Williamson, population 2,900. One pharmacy in Kermit, with around 400 residents, ranked 22nd in the U.S. in the number of hydrocodone pills it received in 2006, according to the investigation.

West Virginia had the nation's highest drug overdose death rate of 52 per 100,000 in 2016, according to federal figures. Other states with high death rates included Ohio, Pennsylvania and New Hampshire, as well as Washington, D.C.

Nearly 12 million people misused opioids in 2016, according to federal figures.

Executives slated to testify included top officials from Cardinal Health Inc., AmerisourceBergen Corp. and McKesson Corp., the nation's three biggest wholesale drug distributors. The executives were appearing before the Energy and Commerce committee's oversight and investigations subcommittee.

The government requires distributors of controlled substances to report suspicious drug orders to the federal Drug Enforcement Administration and to deny questionable transactions.

The Trump administration and lawmakers of both parties have been drawing attention to opioids, a range of pain-killing drugs that can be addictive when misused. They include prescription drugs like hydrocodone, oxycodone and codeine, synthetic opioids like fentanyl that can be made illegally, and illegal drugs like heroin.

The Energy and Commerce panel has been working on dozens of bills that include encouraging doctors to use non-addictive pain killers, spurring research on such products, broadening access to treatment and giving financial incentives for drug treatment specialists to work in underserved areas. Senate committees are working on their own legislation.

The setting was reminiscent of 1994 hearings at which executives of the nation's tobacco companies testified before the Energy and Commerce panel, then controlled by Democrats. The officials said they didn't believe cigarettes were addictive, despite evidence to the contrary.

Four years later, the industry reached a settlement to pay the states more than \$200 billion over 25 years to reimburse them for tobacco-related health care costs.

Iran-Contra figure Oliver North named president of the NRA

By LISA MARIE PANE, Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Retired Lt. Col. Oliver North's appointment as the next president of the National Rifle Association gives some star power to the gun lobby but also inspires disdain by gun-control advocates who call it a tone-deaf move that shows an unwillingness to find solutions to gun violence.

North, long a popular speaker before the NRA and other conservative groups, is being appointed at a time when the nation is roiled in debate about gun laws following several high-profile mass shootings that have tested the public's support for the Second Amendment.

North, 74, the Marine at the center of the Iran-Contra scandal in the 1980s and a darling of the right, will be the biggest celebrity to lead the 5-million-member gun lobby since Hollywood leading man Charlton Heston, who famously declared in 2000 that his guns would have to be taken "from my cold, dead hands."

"Oliver North is a legendary warrior for American freedom, a gifted communicator and skilled leader," NRA CEO Wayne LaPierre said.

Momentum for gun control has been building since the mass shooting in Las Vegas last fall that killed 58 people and the Feb. 14 rampage at a Parkland, Florida, high school that left 17 dead.

North was picked Monday by the NRA's board of directors, which elects a president every two years. He's expected to assume office within the next several weeks. North succeeds Pete Brownell, who did not seek a second term.

LaPierre remains as vice president and chief executive, running the powerful group's day-to-day operations. North will lead the board, and NRA observers say they anticipate he will take on a more public role in the style of Heston, a fiery presence who used his acting background to energize members.

North was a military aide to the National Security Council during the Reagan administration in the 1980s when he emerged into the spotlight for his role in arranging the secret sale of weapons to Iran and the diversion of the proceeds to the anti-communist Contra rebels in Nicaragua.

He was convicted in 1989 of obstructing Congress during its investigation, destroying government documents and accepting an illegal gratuity. Those convictions were overturned in 1991.

With his crisp military bearing and teary-eyed testimony before Congress, North came to be regarded as an earnest American patriot by many on the right, and he went on to run for office, write several books and serve as a commentator on Fox News.

In a statement, North said he was honored to be selected and "eager to hit the ground running."

North's appointment was hailed by gun-rights supporters who consider him a warrior who will vigorously battle efforts to restrict access to firearms. Gun-control advocates called his appointment symptomatic of an NRA tone-deaf and unwilling to seek solutions to gun violence.

"The election of Oliver North is the clearest sign yet that the NRA is floundering in the face of plummeting popularity, scrutiny into its Russia ties, and state lawmakers who are defying the gun lobby left and right," said John Feinblatt, president of Everytown for Gun Safety. "The NRA doesn't need a new leader_it needs an entirely new direction."

Said Avery Gardiner, co-president of the Brady Campaign: "For an organization so concerned with law and order, picking a new leader who admitted that he lied to Congress is a truly remarkable decision." The gun lobby, Gardiner said, "will be led by a man whose own concealed carry permit was revoked because he was 'not of good character.'"

Robert J. Spitzer, chairman of political science at the State University of New York at Cortland and an expert on guns and the Second Amendment, called North the closest thing the NRA has to a celebrity.

"And maybe they figure they need a more prominent person at the helm, as opposed to the string of relative unknowns who have served in recent years," Spitzer said.

Heston, who died in 2008, served from 1998 to 2003. In 2000, he sought to rally NRA supporters against Democratic presidential candidate Al Gore, warning that Gore was going to "slander you as gun-toting, knuckle-dragging, bloodthirsty maniacs."

Hoisting a flintlock rifle, Heston declared: "From my cold, dead hands!"

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It was a time similar to today, an election following a high-profile mass shooting — the one at Columbine high school in 1999.

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 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, Tennessee, 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 from Long Island, New York, but got his broadcasting start in Buffalo and maintains a home in the city. "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

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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 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 have 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.'"

This story has been corrected to note Tom Calderone is from Long Island, New York.

Agency's top cop retires amid Limbaugh police escort probe

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — The top law enforcement official at the agency that runs New York's airports and bridges has retired amid an investigation after radio host Rush Limbaugh told listeners he received a police escort.

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey said Monday Michael Fedorko will step down immediately.

Limbaugh said on-air last month he'd received an escort from Newark Liberty International Airport to New York City, where he was appearing at a Marine Corps law enforcement gala.

Port Authority Chairman Kevin O'Toole said recently an internal inquiry was active.

Fedorko fought in the Vietnam War and later served 31 years with the New Jersey State Police and two terms with the state Casino Control Commission. He was named Port Authority police superintendent and director of public safety in 2009.

Military eyes child sex-assault solution without Congress

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

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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.

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 cases," 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.

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. See AP's entire package of stories here: <https://www.ap-news.com/tag/HiddenVictims>

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

Sessions: Zero-tolerance policy may split families at border

By ELLIOT SPAGAT, Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A "zero-tolerance" policy toward people who enter the United States illegally may cause families to be separated while parents are prosecuted, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions said Monday.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security said it would refer all arrests for illegal entry to federal prosecutors, throwing its weight behind Sessions' policy announced last month to vastly expand criminal prosecutions of people with few or no previous offenses. A conviction for illegal entry carries a maximum penalty of six months in custody for first-time crossers, though they usually do far less time, and two years for repeat offenses.

"If you cross the border unlawfully, then we will prosecute you. It's that simple," Sessions told reporters on a mesa overlooking the Pacific Ocean, where a border barrier separating San Diego and Tijuana, Mexico juts out into the ocean.

Nearly one of every four Border Patrol arrests on the Mexican border from October through April was someone who came in a family, meaning any large increase in prosecutions is likely to cause parents to be separated from their children while they face charges and do time in jail.

Children who are separated from their parents would be put under supervision of the U.S. Health and Human Services Department, Sessions said. The department's Office of Refugee Resettlement releases children traveling alone to family and places them in shelters.

"We don't want to separate families, but we don't want families to come to the border illegally and attempt to enter into this country improperly," Sessions said. "The parents are subject to prosecution while children may not be. So, if we do our duty and prosecute those cases, then children inevitably for a period of time might be in different conditions."

A heckler interrupted Sessions on a megaphone, shouting, "Why are you doing this? Do you have a heart?"

Thomas Homan, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's acting director, said there is no "blanket policy" to separate families as a way to deter others, echoing recent comments by Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen. But he said immigration authorities have long separated families if they have reason to doubt the relationship or if parent is prosecuted.

"Every law enforcement agency in this country separates parents from children when they're arrested for a crime," Homan said alongside Sessions. "There is no new policy. This has always been the policy. Now, you will see more prosecutions because of the attorney general's commitment to zero tolerance."

Advocacy groups blasted the moves as cruel and heartless, especially in cases where the family is seeking asylum in the United States.

"Criminalizing and stigmatizing parents who are only trying to keep their children from harm and give them a safe upbringing will cause untold damage to thousands of traumatized families who have already given up everything to flee terrible circumstances in their home countries," said Erika Guevara-Rosas,

Amnesty International's Americas director.

U.S. Rep. Bennie Thompson of Mississippi, the top Democrat on the House Homeland Security Committee, said, "Criminalizing parents seeking protection for themselves and their children is inhumane, excessively punitive, and can deliberately interfere with their ability to seek asylum."

The American Civil Liberties Union is challenging the practice in a case involving a Congolese asylum seeker who was separated from her 7-year-old daughter for five months and a Brazilian woman who was separated from her 14-year-old son after being arrested and serving nearly a month in jail for illegal entry. At a hearing in San Diego last week, a Trump administration lawyer did not dispute a report in The New York Times that more than 700 children had been taken from their families since October. The attorney, Sarah Fabian, said she couldn't say whether there was a shift since Trump took office because officials didn't have historical data.

A sharp increase in prosecutions will strain the court system. Sessions said he has assigned an additional 35 prosecutors and 18 immigration judges to the border regions.

Amy Taxin in Santa Ana, California, contributed to this report.

Trump signals cooperative approach with Mueller is fading

By CHAD DAY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump signaled a more confrontational legal strategy against the special counsel's Russia probe on Monday, ripping into what he dismissed as an investigation into a "made up, phony crime."

His series of tweets were fresh evidence that the cooperative approach with special counsel Robert Mueller that had been advocated by the president's legal team for months has gone by the wayside. It also revealed the president's anxiety about how the investigation could sway voters as they decide whether to keep congressional Republicans in power or force him to face an aggressive Democratic majority.

Trump's new lawyer, former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, has used a string of media appearances over the past week to cast the probe as a "totally garbage investigation." And Giuliani has called into question whether Trump would be treated fairly by Mueller's prosecutors if he were to agree to an interview.

No decision has been made on whether to permit the president to sit for an interview, but a person familiar with the situation but not authorized to speak publicly on it told The Associated Press that the legal team hopes to resolve that question by May 17, the one-year anniversary of Mueller's appointment. Giuliani earlier told The Wall Street Journal that the team hopes to decide by that date.

Mueller's team is investigating Russian interference in the 2016 election and possible coordination with Trump associates as well as whether the president obstructed justice. So far, the special counsel's office has charged 19 people — including four Trump campaign advisers — and three Russian companies.

On Monday, Trump seized on Giuliani's message, focusing on what he sees as the conflicts of interest on Mueller's team.

"The 13 Angry Democrats in charge of the Russian Witch Hunt are starting to find out that there is a Court System in place that actually protects people from injustice...and just wait 'till the Courts get to see your unrevealed Conflicts of Interest!" he wrote.

Trump appeared to be drawing attention to a federal judge's questioning last week of Mueller's authority in a case against former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort. But it was unclear what legal action Trump was referring to that would touch on "unrevealed" conflicts of interest.

Mueller is a longtime Republican, but some members of his team have made political contributions to Democrats, including to Hillary Clinton, Trump's Democratic opponent in the 2016 election.

Mueller could not have barred them from serving on the team based solely on their political contributions. Federal regulations and Justice Department policy prohibit the consideration of political affiliation in hiring and other personnel actions involving career attorneys.

In congressional testimony, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein has defended Mueller's team against

criticism that it was politically tainted.

"We recognize we have employees with political opinions. And it's our responsibility to make sure those opinions do not influence their actions," Rosenstein said, adding: "I believe that Director Mueller understands that and that he is running that office appropriately."

Mueller's investigation has operated largely in secrecy with the public only getting glimpses into its operation through witnesses who are questioned or when indictments and guilty pleas are publicly unsealed.

It's unclear when the investigation will conclude, a fact that Trump seized on as he worried that it could affect Republican chances in the November midterm elections.

"Is this Phony Witch Hunt going to go on even longer so it wrongfully impacts the Mid-Term Elections, which is what the Democrats always intended?" Trump tweeted. "Republicans better get tough and smart before it is too late."

Democratic majorities in either the House or Senate would give the president's political opponents subpoena power to investigate the administration. And White House officials have privately expressed concerns that Republicans may lose the House in November.

Asked about the tweet on Monday, White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Trump was referring to "the fact that we're still talking about it."

Sanders said, "I think the point he's making is how ridiculous it is that we're still having this conversation and the depths to which this research has gone on and investigation has been conducted and still produced nothing."

In his tweets, Trump also took issue with Mueller's investigation into whether he obstructed the Russia investigation. To that, Trump wrote, "There is no O, it's called Fighting Back."

He also criticized FBI lawyer Lisa Page and FBI agent Peter Strzok, who made headlines for exchanging derogatory text messages about Trump. Trump noted that Page has left the bureau and asked, "Why is Peter S still there? What a total mess. Our Country has to get back to Business!"

Text messages between Page and Strzok, who was assigned to Mueller's investigation, show them expressing negative views about Trump and referring to him in derogatory ways. Strzok was reassigned from the special counsel team after the text messages were brought to Mueller's attention. Page had already left the Mueller team.

Rosenstein has said that Mueller handled the matter appropriately.

"When we have evidence of any inappropriate conduct, we're going to take action on it. That's what Mr. Mueller did here," Rosenstein said. "As soon as he learned about this issue, he took action."

Associated Press writers Eric Tucker, Jill Colvin and Zeke Miller contributed to this report.

Melania Trump debuts 'Be Best' campaign for kids' well-being

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Melania Trump gave a splashy launch Monday to her public awareness campaign to help children, calling it "Be Best." In a rare twist on their White House roles, she commanded the Rose Garden lectern while President Donald Trump watched from the audience.

The first lady said the "Be Best" campaign will focus on childhood well-being, social media use and opioid abuse.

"As a mother and as first lady, it concerns me that in today's fast-paced and ever-connected world, children can be less prepared to express or manage their emotions and oftentimes turn to forms of destructive or addictive behavior such as bullying, drug addiction or even suicide," she said.

"I feel strongly that as adults, we can and should 'be best' at educating our children about the importance of a healthy and balanced life," she added.

Trump embraced his wife after she finished her speech and kissed her cheeks five times in a rare public display of affection. They held hands as they walked into the Oval Office after Trump signed a proclamation declaring Monday as "Be Best" day.

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"America is truly blessed to have a first lady who is so devoted to our country and to our children," he said before signing the declaration.

The first lady kicked off the event as the White House pushed back against a published report that referenced rumors Mrs. Trump does not live with the president, with press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders denouncing it as "outrageous" and "ridiculous."

"The first lady lives here at the White House. We see her regularly," Sanders told reporters. "I think that's something that belongs in tabloid gossip, not on the front pages of The Washington Post. And I hope that they'll do better next time."

The first lady lived full-time in New York during the administration's opening months so the couple's son, Barron, now 12, would not have to change schools midyear. She and Barron moved into the White House last June and since then the first lady has gradually been raising her public profile.

Mrs. Trump joined her husband last month to host the prime minister of Japan for a two-day summit at the Trumps' Florida estate, and the Trumps hosted the president of France at the White House on a three-day state visit, including a lavish state dinner. Mrs. Trump also represented the administration at the April funeral of former first lady Barbara Bush.

Mrs. Trump's launch of her platform came as her husband faces questions over \$130,000 in hush money paid by one of his attorneys to a porn actress who says she had sex with Trump in 2006. Trump has acknowledged reimbursing his lawyer for the payment to Stormy Daniels, but denies her allegations. Separately, a former Playboy model has revived her allegations of a 10-month affair with Trump in 2006. Trump also denies the allegations from Karen McDougal.

Such reports have kept the first lady's relationship with her husband under intense scrutiny, and Mrs. Trump has, at times, been noticeably absent from her husband's side. But both made a point of displaying affection during the Rose Garden event.

A brief video that played before the first lady appeared recapped some of her public appearances with children. Several Cabinet members attended, including Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, along with Vice President Mike Pence and his wife, Karen. The first lady's mother, Amalija Knavs, was also in the audience.

During nearly 16 months as first lady, Mrs. Trump has demonstrated her interest in children. She visited young hospital patients in the U.S. and during overseas trips with the president, often reading to them and encouraging them to do their best.

Her interest in the opioid drug crisis has taken her to care centers and hospitals in West Virginia and Ohio to learn about the epidemic's effect on babies born to mothers addicted to the powerful painkillers. She convened a White House roundtable on the issue last fall.

The first lady invited representatives of major online and social media companies to the White House in March to discuss internet safety, a meeting that came more than a year after she promised to use her White House platform to discourage cyberbullying. Her choice was ridiculed almost immediately, given her husband's habit of name-calling on Twitter, but Mrs. Trump said at the meeting that she wouldn't be discouraged from doing what she thinks is right.

Sanders also pushed back Monday against the notion that the president has worsened online bullying.

"When it comes to kids, this is something that has been problematic, and something that we have seen over the last decade," Sanders said. "And the first lady sees it to be an important issue, and something that she wants to address."

Written material distributed in support of the initiative includes a booklet adults can use to talk to children about being online. It is similar to one the Federal Trade Commission released during the Obama administration. A spokeswoman for the first lady said the agency asked Mrs. Trump to include the booklet in her materials. The agency also wrote a blog post thanking the first lady for distributing it.

Modern first ladies typically highlight personal causes.

Nancy Reagan encouraged kids to "Just Say No" to drugs, while Barbara Bush and Laura Bush emphasized literacy and education. Michelle Obama launched her "Let's Move" campaign against childhood obesity

about a year after moving to the White House.

Follow Darlene Superville on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/dsupervilleap>

Illinois seeks talks on keeping Asian carp from Great Lakes

By JOHN FLESHER, AP Environmental Writer

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP) — Illinois has proposed negotiations with federal officials and other states in the Great Lakes region over fortifying a Chicago-area lock and dam to prevent Asian carp from invading Lake Michigan and threatening its native fish.

Gov. Bruce Rauner said his state was willing to team with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on paying for the project but wanted changes to a \$275 million draft plan the federal agency released last year.

The plan, centered on the Brandon Road Lock and Dam near Joliet, Illinois, is backed by some of the region's eight states that consider the location a vital line of defense between the carp-infested Illinois River and Lake Michigan. But Illinois says it would bog down cargo shipping on the busy waterway, with a potential ripple effect on Chicago's highways as more freight is moved by truck.

The Army Corps proposal would install devices such as an electric barrier, noisemakers and water jets at the Brandon Road complex to block fish swimming upstream. Under federal law, such a project requires a state or a local partner that could share costs and help with matters such as securing rights of way.

In a letter to the Corps sent Friday, Rauner said his state would fill the role of "non-federal sponsor" and work with the agency "to review and better understand the underlying scientific justification to support a project of this size, scope and cost

The Republican governor also asked his counterparts in the other states for talks toward an agreement that "protects the Great Lakes and mitigates major deficiencies" in the Corps plan.

Four types of carp imported from Asia in the 1960s are threatening to attack the lakes, where scientists say they could out-compete less aggressive species and damage a \$7 billion fishing industry.

Illinois says it has significantly reduced the threat with commercial fishing of the Asian carp's "leading edge" population in a section of the Illinois River about 50 miles southwest of Lake Michigan. It says the carp have not advanced further since 1990.

But neighboring states and Great Lakes advocacy groups aren't convinced. One of the feared invaders was found last summer in Chicago's Little Calumet River just 9 miles from the lake. Tests showed the silver carp had gotten through or around three electric fish barriers.

"While our efforts to keep Asian carp from Lake Michigan have proven effective, many have suggested we need to do more," Illinois Lt. Gov. Evelyn Sanguinetti said. "If the Corps can address our economic, transportation, environmental and cost concerns in partnership with Illinois, we have no problem working with other states to enhance our efforts at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam."

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder proposed an interstate partnership in January to help cover costs of operating and maintaining the proposed Brandon Road fish-blocking systems. Ohio, Wisconsin, the Canadian province of Ontario and the city of Chicago signed on.

But the Army Corps told Snyder on Friday the coalition couldn't qualify as the legally required non-federal sponsor without Illinois' participation.

Snyder considers Illinois' offer to take part "an important step forward," spokeswoman Jordan Kennedy said.

"We all have the same objective, which is to protect the Great Lakes," she said.

The Alliance for the Great Lakes, a Chicago-based environmental group, urged the other states to resist weakening the Army Corps plan.

"Any efforts to change it should be to make it stronger," said Molly Flanagan, the group's vice president for policy.

From prison to politics: Chelsea Manning runs for US Senate

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,

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 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."

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

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Court says schools can be liable for suicides but clears MIT

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER, Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Schools can be held liable for student suicides in certain circumstances, Massachusetts' highest court said Monday in a ruling that also cleared the Massachusetts Institute of Technology of responsibility for the death of a graduate student who killed himself on campus in 2009.

The Supreme Judicial Court said MIT cannot be blamed for the death of 25-year-old Han Nguyen, who jumped from the top of a campus building minutes after a professor confronted him about an offensive email.

But it found that schools can be liable if they fail to act after they become aware that a student has attempted suicide while enrolled, or shortly before entering, or learn that the student had threatened to commit suicide.

Gary Pavela, a consultant on law and policy issues in higher education, said he's unaware of another state appellate court that has explicitly found that universities have a duty to prevent suicide in limited cases and defines those circumstances.

"This will be very newsworthy to colleges around the country," said Pavela, who has written a book about the legal questions surrounding student suicides.

Jeffrey Beeler, an attorney for Nguyen's estate, said they were disappointed the court sided with MIT, but believe its ruling will nonetheless "save student lives going forward."

An MIT spokeswoman said in a statement that Nguyen's death was a tragedy and students' well-being is of "paramount importance to the school." Spokeswoman Kimberly Allen said the school already offers

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a "robust network" of services for students and "continually considers ways to enhance those resources."

The court noted that Nguyen never told anyone at MIT that he planned to kill himself or tried to kill himself while enrolled at the school. Furthermore, he was living off campus instead of a dormitory under "daily observation," the court said.

But the judges said schools must take "reasonable measures" to help students they know have attempted suicide while at the school or have threatened to kill themselves. That would include initiating a suicide prevention protocol, getting the student in the care of a medical professional, or contacting police, fire or emergency medical personnel.

"It requires the school to really have a lot of information that the suicide is likely and the reasonable measures that the school needs to take are not extremely onerous," said Naomi Shatz, an attorney who's not involved in the case.

A group of 18 colleges and universities — including Harvard University and Boston College — told the court that holding MIT responsible for Nguyen's death would have far-reaching consequences by causing officials with no medical expertise to overreact to concerns out of fear of liability.

Nguyen's professors shared concerns about his mental health in the months leading up to his death, and one encouraged his colleagues to pass him or they might have "blood on their hands."

In a telephone call 11 minutes before he killed himself, a professor "read him the riot act" over an email Nguyen sent to another MIT official that they believed was inappropriate, court records said.

The family said that the school should have known that "mishandling this fragile student" would result in his suicide.

But MIT said the school wasn't aware of the severity of his condition, noting that he was treated by outside professionals and refused on-campus resources. None of the professionals who treated Nguyen while he was at MIT believed he was an imminent risk of killing himself, the school said.

Follow Alanna Durkin Richer at <http://twitter.com/aedurkinricher> . Read more of her work at <http://bit.ly/2hIhzDb> .

Fed's Powell: Rate hikes should not upend the global economy

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Moves by the Fed and other major central banks to raise interest rates after a long period of keeping them low should not be disruptive to the global economy, Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said Tuesday.

In remarks prepared for a financial conference in Zurich, Powell said that the role U.S. monetary policy plays in driving global financial conditions and capital flows is often exaggerated.

The pickup in both global growth and commodity prices have played bigger roles in the recent recovery of capital flows to emerging market economies than any policy moves by central banks, he said.

"Monetary stimulus by the Fed and other advanced economies played a relatively limited role in the surge of capital flows to (emerging market economies) in recent years," Powell said. "There is good reason to think the normalization of monetary policies in advanced economies should continue to prove manageable for" emerging economies.

After keeping its benchmark interest rate at a record low near zero for seven years following the 2008 financial crisis, the Fed began gradually increasing the rate in December 2015. It made a sixth quarter-point move in March. Many private economists believe the Fed will raise rates again in June and will hike rates a total of three or four times this year.

In his remarks, Powell said he did not dismiss the risks as the Fed, the European Central Bank and other major central banks raise rates.

"Some investors and institutions may not be well positioned for a rise in interest rates, even one that markets broadly anticipate," he said. "And, of course, future economic conditions may surprise us, as they often do."

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But he stressed that the Fed planned to do what it could to minimize disruptions by communicating policy changes clearly and well in advance.

In 2013, remarks by then-Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke triggered what was dubbed a "taper tantrum." Investors feared that the U.S. central bank would start trimming or "tapering" its program of buying bonds sooner than expected and U.S. bond rates temporarily surged, sending shock waves through a number of emerging-market economies. The Fed was using its bond purchases to hold down long-term interest rates.

Bernanke and other Fed officials realized they had botched the communication of future Fed moves and since that time, Fed officials have been more cautious when commenting about future moves.

In his remarks Tuesday, Powell indicated the Fed would seek to avoid repeating the 2013 mistake.

"We will communicate our policy strategy as clearly and transparently as possible to help align expectations and avoid market disruptions," he said.

Asian shares advance as China reports recovery in exports

By ELAINE KURTENBACH, AP Business Writer

Shares were mostly higher in Asia on Tuesday following an upbeat finish on Wall Street. Chinese benchmarks surged after Beijing reported that exports rebounded in April, jumping nearly 22 percent from a year earlier. Oil prices fell back from a three-year high.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 stock index added 0.2 percent to 22,508.24 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index climbed 1.2 percent to 30,345.95. The Shanghai Composite index jumped 0.9 percent to 3,165.08. South Korea's Kospi rose 0.2 percent to 2,466.86 and Australia's S&P ASX 200 also picked up 0.2 percent to 6,098.70. Shares were higher in Singapore and Taiwan but fell 2 percent in Indonesia, where the government reported economic growth slowed in January-March.

CHINA TRADE: China's exports expanded by 21.5 percent from a year earlier in April, bouncing back from a contraction the previous month. Imports expanded 12.9 percent year-on-year in dollar terms, leaving the country's politically sensitive monthly trade surplus with the rest of the world at \$28.8 billion, a turnaround from the previous month's \$5 billion deficit.

WALL STREET: U.S. stocks closed modestly higher Monday, extending gains from last week, with advances for technology companies and banks outweighing losses for consumer goods companies. The S&P 500 index rose 0.3 percent to 2,672.63, while the Dow Jones industrial average gained 0.4 percent to 24,357.32. The Nasdaq added 0.8 percent to 7,265.21. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks picked up 0.9 percent to 1,578.95.

ENERGY: Oil prices fell back after a rally that had them closing above \$70 a barrel for the first time since November 2014. On Monday, oil futures climbed to their highest level since November 2014 as a May 12 deadline approached for the U.S. to decide whether to remain in the nuclear agreement with Iran. Tuesday in Asia, benchmark U.S. crude oil dropped 84 cents to \$69.89 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude, which is used to price international oils, lost 74 cents per barrel to \$75.43 per barrel.

THE QUOTE: "Geopolitical risk has cooled a little bit and economic data, even if it isn't accelerating as fast as it was a month ago, is still accelerating," said Karyn Cavanaugh, senior markets strategist at Voya Investment Management. "The last couple of days are showing that investors are getting their sea legs back."

CURRENCIES: The dollar edged lower to 109.05 yen from 109.07 yen on Monday. The euro weakened to \$1.1914 from \$1.1924.

AP Business Writer Alex Veiga contributed to this report.

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, May 8, the 128th day of 2018. There are 237 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 8, 1978, David R. Berkowitz pleaded guilty in a Brooklyn courtroom to murder, attempted murder and assault in connection with the "Son of Sam" shootings that claimed six lives and terrified New Yorkers. (Berkowitz was sentenced to six consecutive life prison terms.)

On this date:

In 1429, the Siege of Orleans during the Hundred Years' War ended as English troops withdrew after being defeated by French forces under Joan of Arc.

In 1541, Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto reached the Mississippi River.

In 1660, the British Parliament moved to restore the monarchy by declaring that Charles II had been the country's lawful king since the execution of his father, Charles I, in 1649.

In 1794, Antoine Lavoisier (lah-vwahz-YAY'), the father of modern chemistry, was executed on the guillotine during France's Reign of Terror.

In 1884, the 33rd president of the United States, Harry S. Truman, was born in Lamar, Missouri.

In 1921, Sweden's Parliament voted to abolish the death penalty.

In 1945, President Harry S. Truman announced on radio that Nazi Germany's forces had surrendered, and that "the flags of freedom fly all over Europe."

In 1958, Vice President Richard Nixon was shoved, stoned, booed and spat upon by anti-American protesters in Lima, Peru.

In 1962, the musical comedy "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" opened on Broadway.

In 1973, militant American Indians who had held the South Dakota hamlet of Wounded Knee for ten weeks surrendered.

In 1984, the Soviet Union announced it would boycott the upcoming Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

In 1996, South Africa took another step from apartheid to democracy by adopting a constitution that guaranteed equal rights for blacks and whites.

Ten years ago: During the 2008 race for the White House, Sen. Barack Obama got a front-runner's welcome back at the U.S. Capitol, where he was surrounded on the House floor by well-wishers calling him "Mr. President" and reaching out to pat him on the back or shake his hand. Silvio Berlusconi was sworn in as Italy's premier. Country music star Eddy Arnold died in Nashville at age 89, a week before his 90th birthday.

Five years ago: A jury in Phoenix convicted Jodi Arias of first-degree murder in the 2008 death of her one-time boyfriend, Travis Alexander (Arias was later sentenced to life in prison). George Karl was named the NBA's Coach of the Year for leading the Denver Nuggets to a team-record 57-win regular season. An apparent game-tying homer by Oakland's Adam Rosales was ruled a double by umpires in the ninth inning, and the Cleveland Indians held on to beat the Athletics 4-3. Jeanne Cooper, the enduring soap opera star who had played grande dame Katherine Chancellor for nearly four decades on "The Young and the Restless," died in Los Angeles at age 84.

One year ago: A suspect was arrested in a string of serial killings that terrified a Phoenix neighborhood, a huge break in a case that involved nine deaths and a dozen separate shootings; Aaron Juan Saucedo, 23, faces 26 felony counts of homicide, aggravated assault and drive-by-shooting.

Today's Birthdays: Naturalist Sir David Attenborough is 92. Singer Toni Tennille is 78. Actor James Mitchum is 77. Country singer Jack Blanchard is 76. Jazz musician Keith Jarrett is 73. Actor Mark Blankfield is 70. Singer Philip Bailey (Earth, Wind and Fire) is 67. Rock musician Chris Frantz (Talking Heads) is 67. Rockabilly singer Billy Burnette is 65. Rock musician Alex Van Halen is 65. Actor David Keith is 64. New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio is 57. Actress Melissa Gilbert is 54. Rock musician Dave Rowntree (Blur) is

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54. Country musician Del Gray is 50. Rock singer Darren Hayes is 46. Singer Enrique Iglesias is 43. Blues singer-musician Joe Bonamassa is 41. Actor Matt Davis is 40. Singer Ana Maria Lombo (Eden's Crush) is 40. Actor Elyes Gabel is 35. Actor Domhnall Gleeson is 35. Neo-soul drummer Patrick Meese (Nathaniel Rateliff & the Night Sweats) is 35. Actress Julia Whelan (WAY'-lan) is 34. Actress Nora Anezeder is 29.

Thought for Today: "The biggest big business in America is not steel, automobiles, or television. It is the manufacture, refinement and distribution of anxiety." — Eric Sevareid, American news commentator (1912-1992).