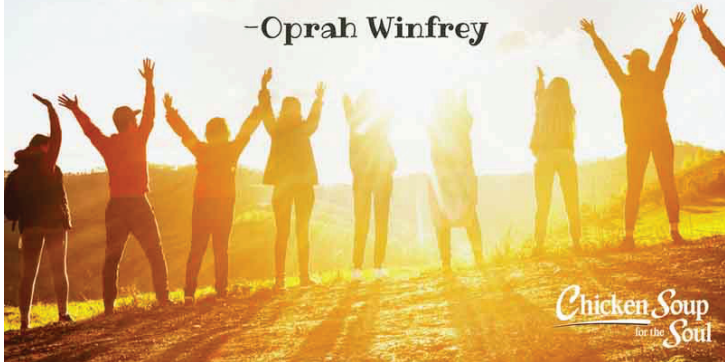


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“Surround yourself
with only people
who are going to
lift you higher.”

—Oprah Winfrey



- 1- Harr Motors Ad
- 1- Lewandowski Bridal Shower
- 1- SunDial Help Wanted ad
- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 2- Helmer's 90th Birthday
- 2- Reminder of Sump Pumps
- 2- Robert Whitmyre for Dist. 1
- 3- Groton Garden Club
- 3- Watertown LATI graduation
- 3- Groton Legion Ad
- 3- Agtegra Ad
- 4- Groton State Bound in Track
- 5- March Students of the Month
- 6- Groton Majors Team takes first
- 7- Groton Care and Rehab Help Wanted Ad
- 7- Today in Weather History
- 8- Today's Forecast
- 9- Yesterday's Weather
- 9- National Weather map
- 9- Today's Weather Almanac
- 10- Daily Devotional
- 11- 2018 Groton Community Events
- 12- News from the Associated Press



www.harrmotors.com

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



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

Today, Wednesday, May 23
2 p.m.: D.A.R.E. Graduation

Thursday, May 24
10 a.m.: Girls region golf at Dell Rapids
Lewandowski Bridal Shower

Come and Go Bridal Shower honoring Bride to Be, Sarah Lewandowski, Saturday, June 2, 2018 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church – Groton. Lance Dennert and Sarah are registered at Bed, Bath and Beyond and Target.

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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90th Birthday

LaVonne J. Helmer of Groton will be honored for her 90th birthday on May 27th from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Groton Community Center. Her family will host the event.

Just A Reminder



Sump Pumps
Must Be
Discharged
Outside (NOT In The
Sanitary Sewer)!

Thanks For Your
Immediate Compliance!

If You Are Already Pumping Outside
Please Disregard This Notice.

Groton City Council

Failure To Comply Will Result In Fines

Robert Whitmyre

Democrat for District 1
House of Representatives



I would like to be a new voice in Pierre to work for our rural areas, the needs and rights of our citizens, and improve the opportunities for our young people that want to make South Dakota their home.

I ask for your vote in the June 5th primary.

- Lifelong Day County Ag Producer
- 30 Years in Manufacturing Industry
 - WEB Water Board of Directors
- National Farmers Union Policy Committee
- Odin Lodge Sons of Norway President
 - Webster High School Graduate
- BS in Mechanical Engineering from SDSU

Authorized and Paid for by
Whitmyre for District 1 House Committee, |
David Sigdestad Treasurer - 42449 133rd St. -
Pierpont, SD 57468

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Groton Garden Club

The Groton Garden Club met at the home of Deb McKiver with Bev Sombke assisting. President Deb Sombke opened the meeting by leading the pledges. Nine members answered roll call with what they will do for Memorial Day.

Bev Sombke reported on the state convention in Mobridge April 27-28. Programs included Craig Docktor telling about starting a winery. The afternoon program was on essential oils.

The Blue Star Marker that has been missing from Selby was found and rededicated to the park in Mobridge.

The group will meet May 31, 1 p.m., in the City Park to plant the Arbor Day Tree a month late because of the cold spring. Later the group will plant perennials donated by members and annuals purchased for the circle project.

New business included a July 14 date at Pizza Ranch at 11:30 a.m. for the Northern District SDFGC meeting with the theme "Bloom Where You Are Planted."

The next meeting will be June 18, at the Methodist Church with Laurie Mitchell and Pam Rix hosting and Laurie will give the program.

Watertown LATI graduation

Four local students graduated at the 51st Annual Lake Area Technical Institute graduation ceremony held Friday, May 11, in Watertown. Eight hundred eight students received their diplomas including Lane M. Weig, Groton, with a major in agriculture, Alexia A. Musch, Aberdeen, and Aaron A. Severson, Groton, with a degree in business associate, and Brady A. Graf, Groton, with a degree in energy operations.



The Groton American Legion will perform Military honors as follows on Memorial Day:

Huffton 7:30

James 8:15

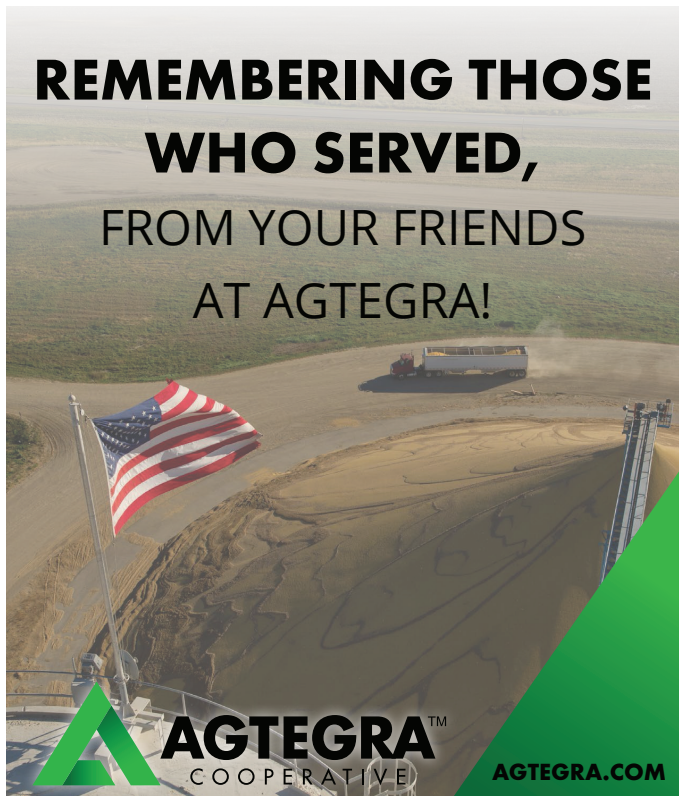
Verdon 8:45

Bates-Scotland 9:15

Ferney 10:00

Groton 11:00 (Lunch to follow at Groton Post #39)

**REMEMBERING THOSE
WHO SERVED,
FROM YOUR FRIENDS
AT AGTEGRA!**





State Bound in Track

These Groton Area athletes have qualified for the state track meet May 25 in Spearfish and May 26 in Rapid City. In back, left to right, are Jessica Bjerke (discus, shot), Gia Gengerke (long jump), Luke Thorson (discus), Jennie Doeden (discus) and Harleigh Stange (long jump, triple jump); in front is the boys 400m relay team of Thomas Cranford, Austin Jones, Lucas Hinman and Johnathan Doeden (plus 110m hurdles, 300m hurdles and long jump). (Photo by

Paul Kosel)

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March Students of the Month

The student council is sponsoring Student of the Month. Each month the faculty select students who show outstanding academic achievement. These students receive certificates and have an end of the year lunch with the principal.

March Students of the Month are Emma Schinkel, sixth grade; Jackson Dinger, seventh grade; Seth Johnson, eighth grade; Grace Wambach, freshman; Kaylin Kucker, sophomore; Jillian Barton, junior; and Gia Gengerke, senior.



Emma Schinkel, sixth grader, is the daughter of Dan and Marjae Schinkel, Groton. Siblings are Danielle, Jasmine and Anthony Schinkel. Her activities include soccer, volleyball, basketball, softball, ice skating, going to the lake, youth group, confirmation and hanging out with friends. She has been named to the honor roll and math is her favorite subject. Her role model is her grandpa, Emery Sippel.



Jackson Dinger, Groton, is the son of Elizabeth and Weston and a stepdad, Brian. Step brothers are Nolan and Hunter; half brother is Roman, half sister is Ravan, and sisters are Gretchen and Arianna. He is involved in robotics, Destination Imagination, Legos, gaming, watching TV, swimming, camping, going for walks and watching YouTube. His accomplishments are getting second at the State DI Tournament and a completing a 5K walk once a year. He is interested in baking, history, studying and plants. Social studies is his favorite subject. He plans to own a small restaurant in town. His dad is his role model.



Seth Johnson, eighth grader, is the son of Mary and Greg Johnson, Bristol. He has a brother, Cole. His activities include football, snowmobiling and hanging out at the lake. He has been named to the honor roll and science is his favorite subject. He likes playing video games and is uncertain about future plans.



Grace Wambach, freshman, is the daughter of Richal and Jason Wambach, Groton. Siblings are Bryson and Wyatt. Her activities include previous year being named Student of the Month, honorable mention at the NSU Math Competition and being named to the honor roll. Her interests are baking and sports and her favorite subject is math. She plans to graduate from high school and go on to college. Her mom is her role model.



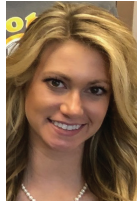
Kaylin Kucker, sophomore, is the daughter of Chris and Amy Kucker, Groton. Her siblings are Korbin, Keegan and Kyson Kucker. Her interests are soccer, volleyball, trap, softball, track, wrestling stats, hunting and fishing. Her accomplishments are being named 2017 Junior Snow Queen, being on the 2014 State Softball Team, being on the Principal's Honor Roll and being previously named as Student of the Month. Her interests are hunting, fishing and sports. She plans to attend a four-year college and then go into the medical field. Her grandma, Dianne, is her role model.

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Jillian Barton, junior, is the daughter of Kris and Brian Barton, Aberdeen. Her siblings are Jordan and Josh. She is involved in FFA and has been named to the 4.0 Honor Roll and was a previous Student of the Month. Interests are FFA, farming, driving long distance and visiting family. Agriculture is her favorite subject and her role model is her mother, Kris Barton. Her future plans are psychology, nursery, clinical mental health and counseling.



Gia Gengerke, senior, is the daughter of Shawn and Lara Gengerke, Groton. Her siblings are Jasmine, 15, and Ethan, 14. Her activities include volleyball, track, FBLA, FCCLA, One Cause Youth Group and Student Leadership Team. Her accomplishments are being named twice to the NEC All-Conference Volleyball Team, All-State Team for volleyball, MVP Offensive for volleyball, All-Area Volleyball Team, and MVP Field Events in track. She is interested in cooking, baking, gardening, reading a good book, and she loves to learn about different cultures and languages. English is her favorite subject and she plans to attend Oral Roberts University this fall and double major in language interpretation/translation (Spanish) and International Business and Ministry. Her role model is Sadie Robertson.



Groton Majors Team takes first

Smitty's has three leagues of youth spring baseball: Rookies (1st & 2nd graders), Minors (3rd & 4th) and Majors (5th & 6th). Groton had one or two teams in all divisions. These kids are one of the two Groton teams in the Majors and they won the championship in the tournament Monday night. Pictured in back, left to right, are Coaches Craig Dunker, Nick Simon and Jarod Fliehs; in the middle row, left to right, are Drew Thurston, Bryson Wambach, Bradin Althoff, Colby Dunker and Teylor Diegel; and in front, left to right, are Brevin Fliehs, Carter Simon, Lane Tietz, Nick Morris, Braxton Imrie and Alec Woodward. (Photo by Dawn Imrie)

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Today in Weather History

May 23, 1989: A complex of thunderstorms moved from southwest Minnesota through Iowa. One small tornado touched down briefly in Lyon County. But the main story with this complex was high winds and hail. Baseball size hail fell north of George in Lyon, County. Also, two-inch hail occurred in Sac County in Schaller and Odebolt, and golf ball size hail fell in Carroll, Iowa. The hail caused a lot of damage to vehicles, trees, and roofs. Thunderstorm winds of 60 miles an hour were also common across all of northwest Iowa with these storms.

1968: One of the costliest hailstorms in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma history pummeled the city on this date. Hail the size of baseballs fell over much of the city, resulting in more than 40,000 insurance claims over the 90,000 square mile path of the storm. The final cost was more than \$20 million. The parent thunderstorm also caused flash flooding that left 2 to 4 feet of water in some underpasses and a lightning strike that started a fire that killed two people.

1960: A massive earthquake in Chile the previous day produced a tsunami that killed 61 people in Hilo, Hawaii. An additional 180 people died on the islands of Honshu and Hokkaido in Japan.

1997: David McWilliams Ludlum was born 1910 in East Orange, NJ - He is responsible for researching and publishing much of the early history of weather at the beginning of America. David died May 23, 1997, in Princeton, New Jersey. He was an American historian, meteorologist, entrepreneur, and author.

2010: A rare tropical cyclone dubbed Bandu brings high winds and heavy rains to Somalia. The storm then moved into the Gulf of Aden where it quickly weakens and dissipates on the 23rd as it passes between Yemen and Somalia.

1882 - An unusual late season snow blanketed eastern Iowa, with four to six inches reported around Washington. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1953 - The temperature at Hollis OK soared from a morning low of 70 degrees to an afternoon high of 110 degrees to establish a state record for the month of May. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - It was a busy day for thunderstorms in the central U.S. Thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 65 mph at Shreveport LA and golf ball size hail at Marfa, TX. Hobart, OK, received 3.55 inches of rain in the morning, and another 4.03 inches of rain that evening. Thunderstorms in Nebraska produced 8.5 inches of rain in two hours north of Potter, and 7.5 inches of rain in ninety minutes north of Minatare. Thunderstorms in Colorado produced five inches of hail at Greeley. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather across much of the eastern U.S. Golf ball size hail was reported in Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina and Ohio. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Severe thunderstorms developing along a cold front resulted in 98 reports of large hail and damaging winds in the Northern Plains and Upper Mississippi Valley. Golf ball size hail caused a million dollars damage around Buffalo City, WI, baseball size hail was reported at Northfield and Randolph, MN, and thunderstorm winds gusted to 95 mph at Dunkerton, IA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Unseasonably hot weather continued in the south central U.S. Pueblo, CO, equalled their May record with a high of 98 degrees, and the high of 106 degrees at Midland, TX, marked a record six straight days of 100 degree heat. (The National Weather Summary)

Groton Job Opportunities C.N.A.s ~ Nurses Part-Time Cook

Contact Brynn Pickrel or Nellie Hatfield at 605-397-2365 or apply in person.

EOE/AA/M/F/V/D-Drug Free Workplace



1106 N. 2nd Street, Groton

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Wed May 23	Thu May 24	Fri May 25	Sat May 26	Sun May 27	Mon May 28	Tue May 29
91°F	89°F	92°F	92°F	91°F	90°F	87°F
67°F	61°F	62°F	63°F	63°F	64°F	69°F
ESE 21 MPH Precip 40%	S 16 MPH Precip 50%	SW 13 MPH	SW 7 MPH	ESE 8 MPH	ESE 8 MPH	SE 9 MPH Precip 20%

Warmer and Unsettled, Starting Tonight

Wednesday

Highs 86 - 92°
PM Storms
Developing

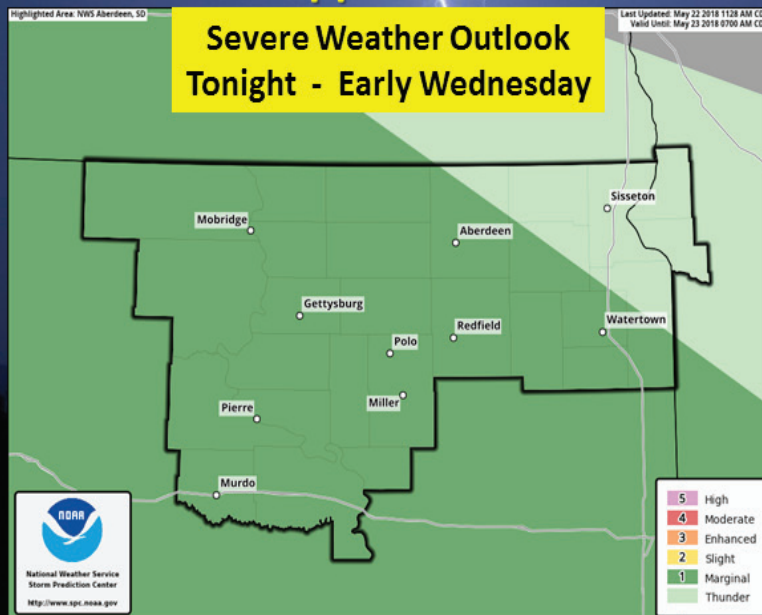
Thursday

Highs 86 - 92°
Early AM Storms,
then PM Storms

Friday

Highs 87 - 93°,
Early AM Storms
East

Thunderstorm Chances Increase
Tonight, Especially South & West
Lows in the Upper 50s to Low 60s



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 5/22/2018 2:34 PM Central

Published on: 05/22/2018 at 2:50PM

A more unsettled weather pattern is beginning to take shape and looks to remain persistent the next few days. Warmer nights and relatively hot days look to be here to stay through the end of the week. Upper level disturbances moving through the region will give the area periodic chances for showers and storms. Some of the storms could be on the strong to severe side, especially Wednesday afternoon and evening. Some of these storms will also be capable of producing locally heavy rainfall. Rain chances dwindle for the upcoming holiday weekend with hot temperatures expected to continue.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 85.2 F at 4:46 PM

Low Outside Temp: 51.8 F at 6:20 AM

Wind Chill:

High Gust: 16.0 Mph at 11:54 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 94° in 1950

Record Low: 26° in 1897

Average High: 71°F

Average Low: 47°F

Average Precip in May: 2.34

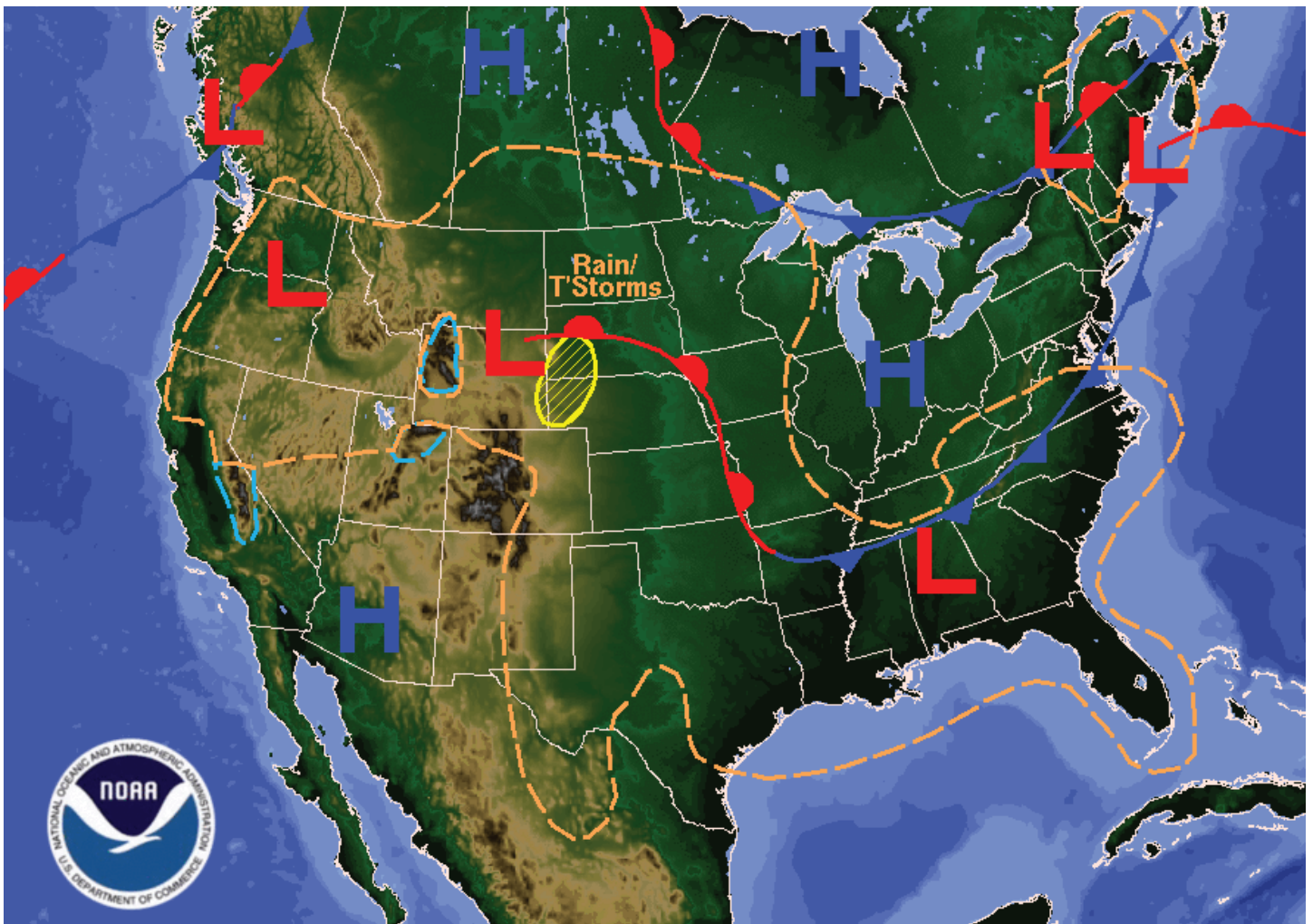
Precip to date in May: 1.31

Average Precip to date: 6.37

Precip Year to Date: 3.99

Sunset Tonight: 9:06 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:54 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Wed, May 23, 2018, issued 4:30 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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OUR GOD WILL BLESS US

"My," said the guest to the owner of a dairy farm, "I have never seen such a beautiful herd of cows. They must be worth a lot of money."

"We don't look at the herd as far as value goes," he replied. "We look at each cow individually. Each one has its own record," he continued. "It does not matter how handsome these purebred Holstein are, their value is their 'Record of Performance.' Every day we keep track of the milk each cow produces. First, it is measured by its weight. Then it is tested for butterfat content. Then we enter it into the cow's individual record."

Our Creator also keeps a "Record of Performance" on each of us. The Psalmist wrote, "The Lord remembers us and will bless us...He will bless those who fear the Lord - small and great alike."

It does not matter what we have or do not have, the size of our home, the amount of education we have, the titles we have earned, or our position in society - God's blessings come from our attitude toward Him. If we fear Him, or stand in awe of Him and bow in respect to Him and submit to His Lordship, He will indeed bless us.

Each of us has a "Record of Performance" - we are all measured by God's standards. Each day we are tempted by Satan in various settings. In these settings we have many opportunities to expose our attitude toward God. Do we honor Him by what we say and how we behave? Do we stand up for righteousness? Are we faithful to His Word? Does our language express God's love? Do we care?

Prayer: We pray, Heavenly Father, that our Record of Performance will bring honor and praise to Your Name! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 115:12a & 13 The Lord remembers us and will bless us: he will bless those who fear the Lord— small and great alike.

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2018 Groton SD Community Events

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

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

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News from the Associated Press

Authorities ID 18-year-old New Effington man killed in crash

SISSETON, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have identified a New Effington man who died in a one-vehicle crash in Roberts County.

The Highway Patrol says 18-year-old Shawn Renville was driving a car that rolled at a rural intersection 3 miles southwest of Sisseton shortly before 1 a.m. Saturday.

Renville died at the scene. Three passengers suffered injuries not considered life-threatening.

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

16-17-21-36-48, Mega Ball: 9, Megaplier: 3

(sixteen, seventeen, twenty-one, thirty-six, forty-eight; Mega Ball: nine; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$60 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$40 million

State finalizes settlement after DCI head ordered to court

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Attorney General's office says the state has finalized a settlement with a former Division of Criminal Investigation agent after a federal judge ordered the agency's director to appear in court over it.

The office says DCI Director Bryan Gortmaker first got the compromise agreement Friday and the paperwork was finalized Monday. Judge Charles Kornmann on Friday had ordered Gortmaker to explain why the court shouldn't enforce the \$1.5 million agreement and order immediate payment to former DCI agent Laura Zylstra Kaiser.

A jury backed her claim in December and Kornmann's order says payment was set for April.

A new colleague joined Zylstra Kaiser on a drug task force in 2011. She says he soon began making inappropriate comments. She complained to superiors, got a bad review and a demotion. She eventually quit.

South Dakota teen guilty in fatal crash to attend graduation

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Family and friends of a 15-year-old boy killed in a crash last year in South Dakota are criticizing a judge's decision to temporarily release the teen convicted in his death so he can attend his high school graduation.

Alex Lingor, 17, of Sioux Falls, has been granted a furlough from the Minnehaha County Juvenile Detention Center so he can receive his diploma from Roosevelt High School on June 3, the Argus Leader reported. Second Circuit Court Judge Bradley Zell granted the furlough last week for a few hours on graduation day, the newspaper confirmed.

Lingor pleaded guilty to manslaughter, aggravated assault and possession with intent to distribute marijuana in the death of Kareem Cisse last year. Lingor was driving a truck and forced a sedan off the road during a chase in February 2017. Cisse was a passenger in the sedan and died when it crashed.

More than a dozen people opposed to the furlough protested outside the Minnehaha County Administration building Monday.

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"It's not right," said Andre Jordan, a family friend of Cisse who coordinated the demonstration. "(Kareem's mom) is still grieving. It's like a spit in her face."

Jordan plans to march near the building every day until the school district's graduation day, he said.

Sioux Falls School District DeeAnn Konrad said that the district "is aware of the concern and continues to look into the matter."

"Kareem didn't get to graduate," said Jordan Randle, who attended Roosevelt High School at the time of the crash. "I came out here because he deserves justice."

Lingor's attorneys declined to comment on the pending case. Lingor is slated to be sentenced in June.

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

California businessman gives \$450K to Marsy's Law fix effort

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The campaign supporting changes to the "Marsy's Law" victims' bill of rights on South Dakota's June ballot has received \$450,000 from the California businessman that bankrolled the original constitutional amendment voters approved in 2016.

Marsy's Law for South Dakota LLC this week filed a pre-primary campaign finance report listing businessman Henry Nicholas as the campaign's sole contributor. Voters will decide June 5 whether to alter the Marsy's Law amendment.

It's named after Nicholas' sister, California college student Marsalee "Marsy" Nicholas, who was stalked and killed in 1983 by an ex-boyfriend.

The proposed South Dakota changes would require victims to opt in to many of their rights and specifically allow authorities to share information with the public to help solve crimes. The campaign reported spending nearly \$290,000 on advertising, with \$160,000 on hand as of mid-May.

Man sentenced to 30 years for selling meth in South Dakota

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Kansas man accused of selling large quantities of methamphetamine throughout South Dakota has been sentenced to 30 years in federal prison.

Thirty-six-year-old Justin Morales, also known as Speedy, was convicted in February of conspiracy to distribute 500 grams or more of meth. Authorities say Morales admitted to selling meth in several cities and at least one American Indian reservation within South Dakota.

Court documents show that Morales, of Wichita, Kansas, had rented a small house in Sioux Falls to store meth for distribution. The meth was allegedly produced by drug cartels in Mexico and transported across the southern border of the United States.

Prosecutors say Morales has a previous felony drug conviction.

Two other defendants in the case, Chase Guzman and Daniel Guzman, have been sentenced to prison.

Rapid City official: New stormwater cell worked in downpour

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City official says a recent downpour that washed away vehicles and flooded structures was a 100-year event.

The Rapid City Journal reports the Friday storm occurred just days after officials showed off a large new stormwater detention cell in Robbinsdale Park. Dale Tech, Rapid City director of public works, says there were informal reports of 3 to 4 inches in some Robbinsdale area rain gauges, with lesser but still significant amounts measured elsewhere in Rapid City.

Tech described the rain as so heavy the chance of it occurring in a year is 1 percent. He says the new stormwater cell worked as planned and protected areas downstream.

Lt. Jim Bussell of the Rapid City Fire Department says the agency responded to 21 calls for service Friday between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.

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

Man sentenced in woman's death on Pine Ridge reservation

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — One of two defendants accused in the slaying of a woman on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation has been sentenced to 15 years in prison.

The Rapid City Journal reports 32-year-old Fred Quiver was sentenced Monday. He pleaded guilty to being an accessory to second-degree murder in the killing of his childhood friend Emily Bluebird in January 2016.

Bluebird's body was found on the reservation several weeks after her death following a search by volunteers. Authorities say she was strangled with an electronics cord and hit in the head with a hammer multiple times.

Quiver's girlfriend at the time, 24-year-old Elizabeth Ann LeBeau, pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in Bluebird's death. She faces up to life in prison.

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

5 western states change branding for international markets

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A group of five western states that banded together nearly three decades ago to market the region internationally is changing its brand.

The Dakotas, Wyoming, Montana and Idaho are dropping the "Real America" brand in favor of "The Great American West."

North Dakota Tourism Director Sara Otte (AW'-tee) Coleman says the new brand "captures the essence" of the region. Officials hope it will strengthen the region's appeal to international travelers.

The multi-state international promotional cooperative has been marketing collectively in Europe and Australia since the early 1990s.

Georgia Democrat challenges racial barrier in governor race

By BILL BARROW, Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Georgia Democrats gave Atlanta lawyer Stacey Abrams a chance to become the first black female governor in American history on a primary night that ended well for several women seeking office.

Abrams set new historical marks with a primary victory Tuesday that made her the first black nominee and first female nominee for governor of either majority party in Georgia.

Voters also picked nominees in Kentucky, Arkansas and Texas ahead of the November midterms. A closer look at key story lines:

GEORGIA GOVERNOR'S RACE

Democrats were set to nominate a woman for governor either way, with Stacey Abrams and Stacey Evans battling it out in a pitched primary fight.

But the 44-year-old Abrams stood out in her bid to be the nation's first African-American woman to lead a state. The former state General Assembly leader was insistent that the way to dent Republican domination in Georgia wasn't by cautiously pursuing the older white voters who had abandoned Democrats over recent decades. Rather, she wanted to widen the electorate by attracting young voters and nonwhites who hadn't been casting ballots.

She will test her theory as the underdog against either Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle or Secretary of State Brian Kemp, who will meet in Republican runoff in July. Cagle led a five-man Republican field, with Kemp qualifying for the second spot after a campaign that was a sprint to the right on everything from immigration to support for President Donald Trump.

Kemp promised to keep pulling in that direction, with Cagle trying to balance the demands of a conservative primary electorate with his support from the business establishment. The scenario worried some

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Georgia Republicans who were accustomed to centrist, business-aligned governors who rarely flouted Atlanta-based behemoths like Delta and Coca-Cola.

Some GOP figures worried the GOP gamesmanship on immigration and gay rights, in particular, already had ensured Georgia wouldn't land Amazon's second headquarters.

TEXAS CONGRESSIONAL RUNOFFS

Texas had three House runoffs that will be key to whether Democrats can flip the minimum 24 GOP-held seats they would need for a majority in next year's Congress. All three were among 25 districts nationally where Trump ran behind Hillary Clinton in 2016. Democrats nominated women in two of the districts and a black man in the third.

Attorney Lizzie Fletcher far outpaced activist Laura Moser in a metro-Houston congressional contest that became a proxy for Democrats' fight between liberals and moderates. National Democrats' campaign committee never endorsed Fletcher, but released opposition research against Moser amid fears that she was too liberal to knock off vulnerable Republican Rep. John Culberson in the fall.

In a San Antonio-Mexican border district, Gina Ortiz Jones, an Air Force veteran and former intelligence officer, got Democrats' nod to face Republican Rep. Will Hurd in November. Jones would be the first openly lesbian congresswoman from her state. Hurd is black.

Former NFL player Colin Allred won a battle of two attorneys and former Obama administration officials in a metro-Dallas House district. Allred, who is black, topped Lillian Salerno and will face Republican Rep. Pete Sessions in November. The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee lined up behind Allred after the group's initial favorite failed to make the runoff.

Among Republicans, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz showed off his endorsement muscle, with his former chief of staff, Chip Roy, winning a competitive runoff for a San Antonio-area congressional seat opened by the retirement of Rep. Lamar Smith.

In the governor's race, Democrats tapped former Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez to take on Republican incumbent Greg Abbott in November. Valdez is Texas' first openly gay and first Latina nominee for governor.

DEMS BATTLE IN KENTUCKY

Voters in a central Kentucky congressional district opted for retired Marine officer and fighter pilot Amy McGrath over Lexington Mayor Jim Gray to advance to a fall campaign against Republican Rep. Andy Barr.

National Democrats once touted Gray as one of their best recruits in their efforts for a House majority. They said in recent weeks they'd be happy with McGrath, but the race still shaped up as a battle between rank-and-file activists and the party establishment.

McGrath was making her first bid for public office, among a handful of female Naval Academy graduates running for Congress this year.

Gray also lost a 2016 Senate race.

In eastern Kentucky's Rowan County, voters denied the Democratic nomination to a gay candidate who wanted to challenge the local clerk who denied him and others same-sex marriage licenses.

David Ermold had wanted to face Republican Kim Davis, who went to jail three years ago for denying marriage licenses in the aftermath of an historic U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing same-sex marriage.

ARKANSAS' HEALTH CARE PREVIEW

While Washington fixates on the daily developments in the Russia election meddling investigation, Democratic congressional candidates insist they'll win in November arguing about bread-and-butter issues like health care.

Arkansas state Rep. Clarke Tucker captured Democrats' congressional nomination in a Little Rock-based district by telling his story as a cancer survivor. Though he faced a crowded primary field, his real target all along has been Republican Rep. French Hill, who voted many times to repeal the 2010 Affordable Care Act.

The Arkansas district may not be at the top of Democrats' national target list, but it's the kind of district the party might have to win to be assured of regaining House control in November.

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The state's Republican governor, Asa Hutchinson, dispatched primary opposition as he sought another term. Democrats nominated former Teach for America executive Jared Henderson.

Follow Barrow on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/BillBarrowAP>

Sign up for "Politics in Focus," a weekly newsletter showcasing the AP's best political reporting from around the country leading up to the midterm elections: <http://apne.ws/3Gzcraw>

This story has been corrected to show that Republican Rep. Will Hurd of Texas is black, not white.

Foreign media depart on train for North Korean nuclear site

WONSAN, North Korea (AP) — A group of foreign journalists departed by train Wednesday to watch the dismantling of North Korea's nuclear test site after eight reporters from South Korea received last-minute permission to join them.

The remote site deep in the mountains of the North's sparsely populated northeast interior is expected to have a formal closing ceremony in the next day or two, depending on the weather. The closing was announced by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un ahead of his planned summit with U.S. President Donald Trump next month.

The train trip was expected to take 8-12 hours, followed by several hours on a bus and then an hour hike to the site itself.

The journalists were put in sleeping cars on the train, four bunks to a compartment. The compartments had windows covered with blinds, and the journalists were told not to open the blinds throughout the journey.

Media were also expected to pay their own costs for the trip. The train fare was \$75 per person round trip. Each meal was \$20.

North Korea had earlier refused to grant entry visas to the South Korean journalists after the North cut off high-level contact with Seoul to protest joint U.S.-South Korean military exercises. But North Korea accepted the list of the South Korean journalists to attend via a cross-border communication channel.

The journalists from the MBC television network and News1 wire service took a special government flight later Wednesday to go to the North's northeastern coastal city of Wonsan. The other journalists from the United States, the UK, China and Russia arrived in Wonsan on Tuesday.

The group includes an Associated Press Television crew.

The North's eleventh-hour decision to allow the South Koreans to join came just after Trump met South Korean President Moon Jae-in in Washington to try to keep the Kim-Trump summit from going off the rails. Trump indicated he believes the meeting will take place, but left open the possibility it would be delayed or even cancelled if a fruitful outcome doesn't seem likely.

The summit could offer a historic chance for peace on the Korean Peninsula.

But there has been increasing pessimism about the meeting after North Korea scrapped the inter-Korean talks and threatened to do the same for the Kim-Trump summit in protest of the South Korea-U.S. military drills and what it calls Washington's push for "one-sided" disarmament.

The North's decision to close the Punggye-ri nuclear test site has generally been seen as a welcome gesture by Kim to set a positive tone ahead of the summit. Even so, it is not an irreversible move and would need to be followed by many more significant measures to meet Trump's demands for real denuclearization.

By bringing in the foreign media, mainly television networks, the North is apparently hoping to have images of the closing — including explosions to collapse tunnel entrances — broadcast around the world. But it has not invited international inspectors to the ceremony, which limits its value as a serious concession.

AP Pyongyang bureau chief Eric Talmadge contributed to this report from Tokyo. AP writer Hyung-jin Kim contributed from Seoul.

Trump boosts pressure on Justice Department in Russia probe

By **DESMOND BUTLER** and **CHAD DAY**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is increasing the pressure on the Justice Department, declining to say whether he has confidence in Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein after the White House negotiated rare access to classified documents for Trump's congressional allies.

Asked before a private meeting Tuesday with the president of South Korea if he has confidence in Rosenstein, who is overseeing the special counsel's Russia investigation, he told reporters to move on to another question.

"Excuse me, I have the president of South Korea here," Trump said. "He doesn't want to hear these questions, if you don't mind."

The comments came just before White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders announced that a meeting to allow House Republicans to review highly classified information on the Russia probe will happen Thursday.

Sanders said FBI Director Christopher Wray, National Intelligence Director Dan Coats and Justice Department official Edward O'Callaghan will meet with House Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nunes and House Oversight and Government Reform Chairman Trey Gowdy.

Nunes, an ardent Trump supporter, has been demanding information on an FBI source in the Russia investigation, according to the Justice Department. And Trump has taken up the cause as the White House tries to combat the threat posed by special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into potential ties between Russia and the Trump campaign.

Trump said Tuesday it would be a "disgrace" to the country if it's shown that the FBI had spies in his campaign, and that would "make probably every political event ever look like small potatoes."

Later Tuesday, Trump tweeted, "The spy was there early in the campaign and yet never reported Collusion with Russia, because there was no Collusion."

In a tweet Sunday, Trump demanded that the Justice Department investigate whether the FBI infiltrated his presidential campaign and "if any such demands or requests were made by people within the Obama Administration!"

In response to Trump's tweet, the Justice Department said it would expand an open, internal investigation into the ongoing Russia probe by examining whether there was any politically motivated surveillance. The White House then said Monday that Trump chief of staff John Kelly would organize the meeting to review the documents.

Sanders said no White House staffers — including Kelly — will be present at Thursday's meeting. She said no Democrats were invited because they had not requested the information, despite calls from lawmakers for the briefing to be bipartisan.

The top Democrat on the House intelligence panel, California Rep. Adam Schiff, said the briefing should have been done through the bipartisan "Gang of 8," which includes Republican and Democratic leaders and the top Republicans and Democrats on the House and Senate intelligence panels. That group regularly receives classified briefings.

The New York Times was the first to report that the FBI had an informant who met several times with Trump campaign officials who had suspicious contacts linked to Russia.

The Justice Department's internal probe began in March at the request of Attorney General Jeff Sessions and congressional Republicans. Sessions and the lawmakers urged Inspector General Michael Horowitz to review whether FBI and Justice Department officials abused their surveillance powers by using information compiled by Christopher Steele, a former British spy, and paid for by Democrats to justify monitoring Carter Page, a former campaign adviser to Trump.

Horowitz said his office will look at those claims as well as communications between Steele and Justice and FBI officials.

Associated Press writers Mary Clare Jalonick, Jill Colvin, Eric Tucker, Darlene Superville and Jonathan Lemire contributed to this report.

US, South Korea work to keep North Korea summit on track

By ZEKE MILLER and CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States and South Korea are laboring to keep the highly anticipated U.S. summit with North Korea on track, even after President Donald Trump abruptly said “there’s a very substantial chance” it won’t happen as scheduled.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in reminded Trump Tuesday of the sky-high stakes, saying, “The fate and the future of the Korean Peninsula hinge” on the meeting.

The June 12 summit, planned for Singapore, offers a historic chance for peace on the peninsula — but also the risk of an epic diplomatic failure that would allow the North to revive and advance its nuclear weapons program.

U.S. officials say preparations are still underway. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who is appearing Wednesday before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said, “We’re driving on.”

Trump’s newfound hesitation appeared to reflect recent setbacks in efforts to bring about reconciliation between the two Koreas, as well as concern whether the self-proclaimed dealmaker can deliver a nuclear accord with the North’s Kim Jong Un.

Seated in the Oval Office with Moon Jae-in Tuesday, Trump said Kim had not met unspecified “conditions” for the summit. However, the president also said he believed Kim was “serious” about negotiations, and Moon expressed “every confidence” in Trump’s ability to hold the summit and bring about peace.

“I have no doubt that you will be able to ... accomplish a historic feat that no one had been able to achieve in the decades past,” Moon said.

U.S. officials said preparations for the summit were still underway despite recent pessimism — and privately suggested there would be additional public maneuvering as both sides seek to maximize their leverage. Both parties to the talks are invested in holding the meeting, with Kim seeing an opportunity for international legitimacy and Trump the prospect of securing Korean stability — and perhaps a Nobel Peace Prize.

Trump suggested the summit could be delayed rather than canceled: “It may not work out for June 12, but there is a good chance that we’ll have the meeting.”

He did not detail the conditions he had laid out for Kim but said if they aren’t met, “we won’t have the meeting.” Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said Trump was referring to a commitment to seriously discuss denuclearization.

Skepticism about the North’s intentions have mounted in recent weeks after Kim’s government pulled out of planned peace talks with the South last week, objecting to long-scheduled joint military exercises between U.S. and South Korean forces. The North also threatened to abandon the planned Trump-Kim meeting over U.S. insistence on rapidly denuclearizing the peninsula, issuing a harshly worded statement that the White House dismissed as a negotiating ploy.

Trump expressed suspicion that the North’s recent aggressive barbs were influenced by Kim’s unannounced trip to China two weeks ago — his second in as many months. Trump said he’d noticed “a little change” in Kim’s attitude after the trip.

“I don’t like that,” he said.

The president added that he hoped Chinese President Xi Jinping was actually committed to the goal of denuclearizing the Korean peninsula, calling him a “world-class poker player.” Trump said he was displeased by China’s softening of border enforcement measures against North Korea.

Trump encouraged Kim to focus on the opportunities offered by the meeting and to make a deal to abandon his nuclear program, pledging not only to guarantee Kim’s personal security but also predicting an economic revitalization for the North.

“I will guarantee his safety, yes,” Trump said, noting that promise was conditioned on an agreement to complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization. Trump said if such an agreement is reached, China, Japan and South Korea would invest large sums to “make North Korea great.”

_____ Associated Press writer Ken Thomas contributed to this report.

Energy wells plugged as Hawaii's volcano sends lava nearby

By JAE C. HONG and SOPHIA YAN, Associated Press

PAHOA, Hawaii (AP) — Production wells at a geothermal plant under threat by lava flowing from Hawaii's Kilauea volcano have been plugged to prevent toxic gases from seeping out.

Lava from a nearby, new volcanic vent entered, then stalled, on the 815-acre (329.8 hectare) property where the Puna Geothermal Venture wells occupy around 40 acres (16 hectares). Residents have been concerned about hazards if the lava flowed over the plant's facilities, or if heat generated would interact with various chemicals used on-site.

Ten wells were "quenched," which cools them with enough cold water to counter the pressure of volcanic steam coming from below, said Hawaii Gov. David Ige. The last well was plugged with mud, because it had remained hot despite the infusion of water. Metal plugs in the wells, which run as deep as 8,000 feet (2,438 meters) underground, are an additional stopgap measure.

"All wells are stable at this point," said Ige. County officials are also monitoring various gases that may leak into the atmosphere.

A spike in gas levels could prompt a mass evacuation, said Hawaii County Civil Defense Administrator Talmadge Magno. Officials, however, have not discussed specific scenarios that would lead to such an emergency.

Puna Geothermal, owned by Nevada's Ormat Technologies, was shut down shortly after Kilauea began spewing lava on May 3. The plant harnesses heat and steam from the earth's core to spin turbines to generate power. A flammable gas called pentane is used as part of the process, though officials earlier this month removed 50,000 gallons (190,000 liters) of the gas from the plant to reduce the chance of explosions.

The plant has capacity to produce 38 megawatts of electricity, providing roughly one-quarter of the Big Island's daily energy demand.

Lava destroyed a building near the plant late Monday, bringing the total number of structures overtaken in the past several weeks to nearly 50, including dozens of homes. The latest was a warehouse adjacent to the Puna plant, Hawaii County spokeswoman Janet Snyder told the Honolulu Star-Advertiser. The building was owned by the state and was used in geothermal research projects in the early days of the site.

Native Hawaiians have long expressed frustration with the plant since it came online in 1989; they say it is built on sacred land. Goddess of fire, Pele, is believed to live on Kilauea volcano, and the plant itself is thought to desecrate her name.

Other residents have voiced concerns over health and safety.

Scientists, however, say the conditions on Kilauea make it a good site for harnessing the earth for renewable energy.

"There's heat beneath the ground if you dig deep enough everywhere," said Laura Wisland, a senior analyst at the Union of Concerned Scientists. But in some places in the U.S. "it's just hotter, and you can access the geothermal energy more easily."

Geothermal energy is also considered a clean resource as it doesn't generate greenhouse gas emissions, said Bridget Ayling, the director of Nevada's Great Basin Center for Geothermal Energy.

Ormat said in a May 15 statement that there was a low risk of surface lava making its way to the facility. The company also said there was no damage to the facilities above-ground and that it was continuing to assess the impact. The plant is expected to begin operating "as soon as it is safe to do so," according to the statement.

Puna Geothermal represents about 4.5 percent of Ormat's worldwide generating capacity. Last year, the Hawaii plant generated about \$11 million of net income for the company. Ormat is traded on the New York Stock Exchange, and shares have fallen nearly 10 percent since Kilauea began erupting.

Kaleikini said the gases that could potentially leak from the Puna plant are no different from those coming from active fissures.

The U.S. Geological Survey said sulfur dioxide emissions from the volcano have more than doubled since the current eruption began. Kilauea's summit is now belching 15,000 tons (13,607 metric tons) of the gas

each day up from 6,000 tons (5443 metric tons) daily prior to the May 3 eruption.

Scientists say lava from Kilauea is causing explosions as it enters the ocean, which can look like fireworks. When lava hits the sea and cools, it breaks apart and sends fragments flying into the air, which could land on boats in the water, said U.S. Geological Survey scientist Wendy Stovall.

Underscoring the eruption's dangers, a Hawaii man was hit by a flying piece of lava over the weekend said the molten rock nearly sheared his leg in half.

Darryl Clinton told the Honolulu television station KHON that he was on the roof of a home helping to put out fires from flying rocks when an explosion a couple hundred yards away launched a "lava bomb" his way. It hit him above the ankle.

Clinton says doctors saved his leg, but he must avoid putting weight on it for six weeks.

Clinton was the first to suffer a major injury because of the eruption.

Yan reported from Honolulu. Associated Press writer Audrey McAvoy contributed from Honolulu.

Follow AP's complete coverage of the Hawaii volcano here: <https://apnews.com/tag/Kilauea>

Legend of Loch Ness Monster will be tested with DNA samples

By NICK PERRY, Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — The stories seem as tall as the lake is deep. For hundreds of years, visitors to Scotland's Loch Ness have described seeing a monster that some believe lurks in the depths.

But now the legend of "Nessie" may have no place left to hide. A New Zealand scientist is leading an international team to the lake next month, where they will take samples of the murky waters and conduct DNA tests to determine what species live there.

University of Otago professor Neil Gemmill says he's no believer in Nessie, but he wants to take people on an adventure and communicate some science along the way. Besides, he says, his kids think it's one of the coolest things he's ever done.

One of the more far-fetched theories is that Nessie is a long-necked plesiosaur that somehow survived the period when dinosaurs became extinct. Another theory is that the monster is actually a sturgeon or giant catfish. Many believe the sightings are hoaxes or can be explained by floating logs or strong winds.

Gemmill said that when creatures move about in water, they leave behind tiny fragments of DNA. It comes from their skin, feathers, scales and urine.

He said his team will take 300 samples of water from different points around the lake and at different depths. They will filter the organic material and extract the DNA, he said, sequencing it by using technology originally created for the human genome project.

He said the DNA results will then be compared against a database of known species. He said they should have answers by the end of the year.

"I'm going into this thinking it's unlikely there is a monster, but I want to test that hypothesis," Gemmill said. "What we'll get is a really nice survey of the biodiversity of the Loch Ness."

He said the real discoveries may come in determining things like the prevalence of invasive species.

Gemmill, 51, said he first visited Loch Ness in his late 20s while on vacation. Like thousands of tourists before him, he gazed out over the lake trying to catch sight of a monster. He said he first came up with the idea of testing DNA from the lake a couple of years ago and it resonated with many, including his children, aged 7 and 10.

Graeme Matheson, chief of the Scottish Society of New Zealand, said he, too, has visited Loch Ness and gazed out over the water, and that he wishes Gemmill all the best.

"I hope he and his cohorts find something, although I think they'll be battling," Matheson said. "Still, it's a good way to get a trip to Scotland."

Gemmill said that even if they don't find any monster DNA, it won't deter some Nessie believers. He

said they've already been offering him theories, like that Nessie might be on vacation after swimming to the sea via hidden underwater caves, or that the creature might be extraterrestrial and not leave behind any DNA.

"In our lives we want there still to be mysteries, some of which we will ultimately solve," Gemmell said. "That's part of the spirit of discovery. And sometimes, what you find may not be what you were expecting."

Tens of thousands of Las Vegas casino workers OK strike

By REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Las Vegas casinos could watch tens of thousands of employees walk off the job for the first time in more than three decades after union members voted to authorize a strike at any time starting June 1, a move that could cripple the city's world-famous resorts.

About 25,000 members of the Culinary Union who work at 34 different casino-resorts across the tourist destination cast ballots in two sessions Tuesday, showing the collective power of the largest labor organization in Nevada. The move hands union negotiators a huge bargaining chip as they work to solidify new five-year contracts.

The union last voted for a strike in 2002 but reached a deal before employees walked out. The last strike, in 1984, spanned 67 days and cost the city and workers tens of millions of dollars.

The latest strike would mean losing workers with roles critical to making a casino-hotel run: bartenders, housekeepers, cocktail and food servers, porters, bellmen, cooks and other kitchen workers. It would affect properties including Caesars Palace, Planet Hollywood, Bellagio, MGM Grand, Stratosphere, The D and El Cortez.

It also could cause problems for fans heading to the city to watch the Vegas Golden Knights hockey team play in the Stanley Cup Final in early June, a rare feat for a team in its first year.

"I'm here to show the younger generations that this is the way we fight to maintain our jobs, job security, health benefits and to gain a pay raise," Lewis Thomas, a utility porter at the Tropicana casino-hotel, said. "This will be a wake-up call to let (the companies) know we are together, we are united, we are not separated."

The contracts of 50,000 unionized workers are set to expire at midnight May 31, and negotiations with individual casino-operating companies have not led to agreements for new terms.

Union officials have said they want to increase wages, protect job security against the increasing use of technology at hotel-casinos, and strengthen language against sexual harassment.

"We've been in negotiations with the companies, and they are not giving the workers what they deserve according to the economy right now," Geoconda Arguello-Kline, union secretary-treasurer, said after the first voting session. "They are very successful. They have a lot of money."

MGM Resorts International and Caesars Entertainment operate more than half the properties that would be affected by a strike. MGM said it will keep meeting with the union.

"A vote such as this is an expected part of the process," the company said in a statement after results were released. "We are confident that we can resolve the outstanding contract issues and will come to an agreement that works for all sides."

Caesars released a statement late Tuesday saying it expects to reach an agreement with the union "on or about June 1."

Union members enthusiastically gathered Tuesday at the Thomas and Mack Center at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. They high-fived, took selfies and carried signs urging people to vote.

Banners outside said, "Show up or give up, security strike vote" amid pro-union chants in English and Spanish. Some workers chanted, "Hey, Caesars, look around, Vegas is a union town" and "No contract, no peace."

Some employees stopped by in their casino-resort uniforms on their way to or from work, while others donned shirts emblazoned with "Vegas Strong" and the union logo.

Inside, union organizers verified people were eligible to vote, and workers dropped their paper ballots

in numbered boxes.

When casino workers across Las Vegas went on a strike in 1984, union members lost an estimated \$75 million in wages and benefits and the city lost a similar amount in tourism revenue. Millions more were lost in gambling income.

Don Leadbeter, a bellman at the MGM Grand, has worked at Las Vegas casino-hotels for more than four decades and participated in previous strike votes. He said workers this time want to protect their job security and ensure that employers provide training as they adopt more workplace technology.

He said bartenders are already using automated systems that could potentially eliminate their jobs, and guests are now able to check in and out of resorts without interacting with front-desk personnel, putting those jobs at risk, too.

"I want the companies to open up their eyes and think what's going to happen if we go on a strike," Leadbeter said. "That's a lot of business that's going to go down."

Follow Regina Garcia Cano on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/reginagarciaakNO>

Body of Pakistani killed at Texas school arrives in Karachi

By ADIL JAWAD, Associated Press

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) — The body of a 17-year-old Pakistani exchange student killed in a mass shooting at a high school in Texas arrived before dawn Wednesday in the port city of Karachi, where her family lived and where she was being buried.

Sabika Sheikh was among 10 students and staff slain Friday at Santa Fe High School. The alleged shooter is 17-year-old Dimitrios Pagourtzis, who is being held on capital murder charges.

Sabika had planned to return home in a few weeks for Eid al-Fitr, the three-day holiday marking the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

She was her family's oldest child and began classes at Santa Fe High School last August. She had hoped to one day join Pakistan's foreign service.

Her tearful father was there to receive the body at Karachi airport. Abdul Aziz Sheikh has said he hopes her death leads to stricter gun control in the United States.

Later, thousands of mourners, including the provincial governor, attended her funeral at city's mosque. "Before her death, she was just my daughter, but now she is the daughter of Pakistan, and it is only because of the love of people, who mourned her killing," her father said.

The shooting reignited the debate over gun control in the United States. Pakistan requires gun owners to be licensed, but the rules are poorly enforced, particularly in the tribal regions along the border with Afghanistan. Heavily armed militant groups have carried out scores of attacks in recent years.

Vegas casino workers OK strike that may hobble famed resorts

By REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Las Vegas casinos could watch tens of thousands of employees walk off the job for the first time in more than three decades after union members voted Tuesday to authorize a strike at any time starting June 1, a move that could cripple the city's world-famous resorts.

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Follow Regina Garcia Cano on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/reginagarciakNO>

Can anything stop foreign government favors to Trump?

By TAMI ABDOLLAH, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — First came news that a Chinese government-owned company had signed on to help build an Indonesian project that will include a Donald Trump-branded hotel and golf course. Then,

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days later, the president tweeted that his administration would ease sanctions against a Chinese smart-phone maker accused of espionage. "Too many jobs in China lost," he wrote.

Ethics watchdogs and political adversaries called last week's events a blatant case of Trump appearing to trade foreign favors to his business for changes in government policy, exactly the kind of situation they predicted would happen when the real estate mogul turned politician refused to divest from his sprawling business interests.

And they say that such dealmaking will likely become business as usual, unchecked by a Republican-led Congress, court cases that could take years and a public that hasn't gotten broadly excited about the obscure constitutional prohibition on accepting emoluments, or benefits, from foreign governments without congressional approval.

"It's an issue that seems highly technical and complex, and is difficult to link to everyday lives," said Sen. Richard Blumenthal, a Connecticut Democrat who is heading up an emoluments lawsuit brought by about 200 or so members of Congress.

"But when you bring it home to the reason for the emoluments clause, namely to prevent conflicts of interest, so the president will act only for the benefit of the United States, not for his own self-interest, then people should understand that his taking that benefit compromises his priorities," Blumenthal said.

Such concerns have dogged Trump since he took office. His Washington hotel, just steps from the White House, has become a magnet for foreign governments seeking to influence his administration, including groups tied to Kuwait, Bahrain, Turkey, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia. Trump's financial disclosure last week showed the hotel took in more than \$40 million in revenue last year. To allay fears of conflicts, Trump promised to give the U.S. Treasury the profits from foreign stays at his hotels, which came to \$151,470. His company declined to say how that figure was calculated.

A Quinnipiac University National Poll released in March found that 57 percent of Americans believe Trump is not honest. Still, in the latest Quinnipiac poll last month, Trump's job approval rating stood at 41 percent, matching the highest mark of his presidency.

Shana Gadarian, a political psychologist at Syracuse University, said those who pay attention to politics tend to be more partisan and often set aside information they find inconsistent with their beliefs.

"To the extent that you like this administration," she said, "you might say this is just the way business is done. This isn't a concern."

Whether there was a quid pro quo in the in the China-Indonesia deal, similarly, depends on whom you ask.

An Indonesian company, MNC Land, confirmed last week that it hired the subsidiary of the state-owned Metallurgical Corp. of China to build a theme park in its Lido City development outside Jakarta. MNC Land three years earlier struck a deal for the development to include a Trump-branded hotel, 400 luxury villas and condos, and an 18-hole championship golf course.

MNC Land said the Trump Organization has "no relationship" with the theme park that the Chinese company is building. It also said that news reports that a Chinese government-backed \$500 million loan for the project had been signed were false.

The Trump Organization did not respond to a request for comment.

James Schultz, a former associate White House counsel for Trump, said the argument that Trump was violating the emoluments clause merely because a theme park is being built near a Trump hotel property is "farfetched."

Just 72 hours after that deal was announced, Trump sent a tweet that marked what appeared to be a major reversal in the government's stance on massive Chinese phone company ZTE and on Trump's "America First" foreign policy.

The U.S. intelligence community has warned about the Chinese smartphone maker's perceived ties to the Chinese government and its possible use for remote surveillance. ZTE has been fined in recent years for shipping American goods to five embargoed countries, including Iran and North Korea. The Pentagon banned ZTE phones from retail stores on military bases because the devices could be a security risk. And the Trump administration ordered a seven-year halt in American shipments of computer microchips and

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software that are at the heart of most of ZTE's telecommunications gear.

That ban particularly was devastating to ZTE and its 75,000 employees, with the company recently announcing it was halting operations.

Trump tweeted that he was working with the president of China "to give massive Chinese phone company, ZTE, a way to get back into business, fast. Too many jobs in China lost. Commerce Department has been instructed to get it done!"

Don Fox, the former general counsel of U.S. Office of Government Ethics, said the Chinese "knew exactly what they were investing in" with the deal in Indonesia. "It also strains credulity that the president wasn't aware of this when he made his favorable comments about ZTE."

Three pending lawsuits, which could potentially take years to litigate, are likely the key to untangling whether such a business deal, in addition to the various bookings of Trump properties by lobbyists, foreign governments, corporate and political interests, constitute emoluments. The president's attorneys have disputed that.

"It is our only real remedy," Blumenthal said of the cases. "It may sound like a sign of frustration, and inertia, but the founders provided us this sole remedy. ... We need a judge to order the president to obey the law."

Philip Roth, fearless and celebrated author, dies at 85

By HILLEL ITALIE, AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Philip Roth, the prize-winning novelist and fearless narrator of sex, death, assimilation and fate, from the comic madness of "Portnoy's Complaint" to the elegiac lyricism of "American Pastoral," died Tuesday night at age 85.

Roth's literary agent, Andrew Wylie, said that the author died in a New York City hospital of congestive heart failure.

Author of more than 25 books, Roth was a fierce satirist and uncompromising realist, confronting readers in a bold, direct style that scorned false sentiment or hopes for heavenly reward. He was an atheist who swore allegiance to earthly imagination, whether devising pornographic functions for raw liver or indulging romantic fantasies about Anne Frank. In "The Plot Against America," published in 2004, he placed his own family under the anti-Semitic reign of President Charles Lindbergh. In 2010, in "Nemesis," he subjected his native New Jersey to a polio epidemic.

He was among the greatest writers never to win the Nobel Prize. But he received virtually every other literary honor, including two National Book Awards, two National Book Critics Circle prizes and, in 1998, the Pulitzer for "American Pastoral." He was in his 20s when he won his first award and awed critics and fellow writers by producing some of his most acclaimed novels in his 60s and 70s, including "The Human Stain" and "Sabbath's Theater," a savage narrative of lust and mortality he considered his finest work.

He identified himself as an American writer, not a Jewish one, but for Roth the American experience and the Jewish experience were often the same. While predecessors such as Saul Bellow and Bernard Malamud wrote of the Jews' painful adjustment from immigrant life, Roth's characters represented the next generation. Their first language was English, and they spoke without accents. They observed no rituals and belonged to no synagogues. The American dream, or nightmare, was to become "a Jew without Jews, without Judaism, without Zionism, without Jewishness." The reality, more often, was to be regarded as a Jew among gentiles and a gentile among Jews.

In the novel "The Ghost Writer" he quoted one of his heroes, Franz Kafka: "We should only read those books that bite and sting us." For his critics, his books were to be repelled like a swarm of bees.

Feminists, Jews and one ex-wife attacked him in print, and sometimes in person. Women in his books were at times little more than objects of desire and rage and The Village Voice once put his picture on its cover, condemning him as a misogynist. A panel moderator berated him for his comic portrayals of Jews, asking Roth if he would have written the same books in Nazi Germany. The Jewish scholar Gershom Scholem called "Portnoy's Complaint" the "book for which all anti-Semites have been praying." When Roth

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won the Man Booker International Prize, in 2011, a judge resigned, alleging that the author suffered from terminal solipsism and went "on and on and on about the same subject in almost every single book." In "Sabbath's Theater," Roth imagines the inscription for his title character's headstone: "Sodomist, Abuser of Women, Destroyer of Morals."

Ex-wife Claire Bloom wrote a best-selling memoir, "Leaving a Doll's House," in which the actress remembered reading the manuscript of his novel "Deception." With horror, she discovered his characters included a boring middle-aged wife named Claire, married to an adulterous writer named Philip. Bloom also described her ex-husband as cold, manipulative and unstable. (Although, alas, she still loved him). The book was published by Virago Press, whose founder, Carmen Callil, was the same judge who quit years later from the Booker committee.

Roth's wars also originated from within. He survived a burst appendix in the late 1960s and near-suicidal depression in 1987. After the disappointing reaction to his 1993 novel, "Operation Shylock," he fell again into severe depression and for years rarely communicated with the media. For all the humor in his work — and, friends would say, in private life — jacket photos usually highlighted the author's tense, dark-eyed glare. In 2012, he announced that he had stopped writing fiction and would instead dedicate himself to helping biographer Blake Bailey complete his life story, one he openly wished would not come out while he was alive. By 2015, he had retired from public life altogether.

He never promised to be his readers' friend; writing was its own reward, the narration of "life, in all its shameless impurity." Until his abrupt retirement, Roth was a dedicated, prolific author who often published a book a year and was generous to writers from other countries. For years, he edited the "Writers from the Other Europe" series, in which authors from Eastern Europe received exposure to American readers; Milan Kundera was among the beneficiaries. Roth also helped bring a wider readership to the acclaimed Israeli writer Aharon Appelfeld.

Roth began his career in rebellion against the conformity of the 1950s and ended it in defense of the security of the 1940s; he was never warmer than when writing about his childhood, or more sorrowful, and enraged, than when narrating the shock of innocence lost.

Roth was born in 1933 in Newark, New Jersey, a time and place he remembered lovingly in "The Facts," "American Pastoral" and other works. The scolding, cartoonish parents of his novels were pure fiction. He adored his parents, especially his father, an insurance salesman to whom he paid tribute in the memoir "Patrimony." Roth would describe his childhood as "intensely secure and protected," at least at home. He was outgoing and brilliant and, tall and dark-haired, especially attractive to girls. In his teens he presumed he would become a lawyer, a most respectable profession in his family's world.

But after a year at Newark College of Rutgers University, Roth emulated an early literary hero, James Joyce, and fled his hometown. He transferred to Bucknell College in Pennsylvania and only returned to Newark on paper. By his early 20s, Roth was writing fiction — at first casually, soon with primary passion, with Roth observing he could never really be happy unless working on a novel, inside the "fun house" of his imagination. "The un-lived, the surmise, fully drawn in print on paper, is the life whose meaning comes to matter most," he wrote in the novel "Exit Ghost."

After receiving a master's degree in English from the University of Chicago, he began publishing stories in The Paris Review and elsewhere. Bellow was an early influence, as were Thomas Wolfe, Flaubert, Henry James and Kafka, whose picture Roth hung in his writing room.

Acclaim and controversy were inseparable. A short story about Jews in the military, "Defender of the Faith," introduced Roth to accusations of Jewish self-hatred. His debut collection, published in 1959, was "Goodbye, Columbus," featuring a love (and lust) title story about a working class Jew and his wealthier girlfriend. It brought the writer a National Book Award and some extra-literary criticism.

The aunt of the main character, Neil Klugman, is a meddling worrywart, and the upper-middle-class relatives of Neil's girlfriend are satirized as shallow materialists. Roth believed he was simply writing about people he knew, but some Jews saw him as a traitor, subjecting his brethren to ridicule before the gentile world. A rabbi accused him of distorting the lives of Orthodox Jews. At a writers conference in the early

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1960s, he was relentlessly accused of creating stories that affirmed the worst Nazi stereotypes.

But Roth insisted writing should express, not sanitize. After two relatively tame novels, "Letting Go" and "When She was Good," he abandoned his good manners with "Portnoy's Complaint," his ode to blasphemy against the "unholy trinity of father, mother and Jewish son." Published in 1969, a great year for rebellion, it was an event, a birth, a summation, Roth's triumph over "the awesome graduate school authority of Henry James," as if history's lid had blown open and out erupted a generation of Jewish guilt and desire.

As narrated by Alexander Portnoy, from a psychiatrist's couch, Roth's novel satirized the dull expectations heaped upon "nice Jewish boys" and immortalized the most ribald manifestations of sexual obsession. His manic tour of one man's onanistic adventures led Jacqueline Susann to comment that "Philip Roth is a good writer, but I wouldn't want to shake hands with him." Although "Portnoy's Complaint" was banned in Australia and attacked by Scholem and others, many critics welcomed the novel as a declaration of creative freedom. "Portnoy's Complaint" sold millions, making Roth wealthy, and, more important, famous. The writer, an observer by nature, was now observed. He was an item in gossip columns, a name debated at parties. Strangers called out to him in the streets. Roth would remember hailing a taxi and, seeing that the driver's last name was Portnoy, commiserating over the book's notoriety.

In an Oval Office recording from November 1971, President Richard Nixon and White House chief of staff H.R. Haldeman discussed the famous author, whom Nixon apparently confused with the pornographer Samuel Roth.

Haldeman: I never read "Portnoy's Complaint," but I understand it was a well written book but just sickeningly filthy.

Nixon: Roth is of course a Jew.

Haldeman: Oh, yes ... He's brilliant in a sick way.

Nixon: Oh, I know —

Haldeman: Everything he's written has been sick ...

With Roth finding himself asked whether he really was Portnoy, several of his post-Portnoy novels amounted to a dare: Is it fact of fiction? In "The Anatomy Lesson," "The Counterlife" and other novels, the featured character is a Jewish writer from New Jersey named Nathan Zuckerman. He is a man of similar age to Roth who just happened to have written a "dirty" best seller, "Carnovsky," and is lectured by friends and family for putting their lives into his books.

"Operation Skylock" featured a middle-aged writer named Philip Roth, haunted by an impersonator in Israel who has a wild plan to lead the Jews back to Europe. In interviews, Roth claimed (not very convincingly) the story was true, lamenting that only when he wrote fiction did people think he was writing about his life.

Even when Roth wrote non-fiction, the game continued. At the end of his autobiography, "The Facts," Roth included a disclaimer by Nathan Zuckerman himself, chastising his creator for a self-serving, inhibited piece of storytelling.

"As for characterization, you, Roth, are the least completely rendered of all your protagonists," Zuckerman tells him.

In the 1990s, after splitting with Bloom and again living full time in the United States (he had been spending much of his time in England), Roth reconnected with the larger world and culture of his native country. "American Pastoral" narrated a decent man's decline from high school sports star to victim of the '60s and the "indigenous American berserk." In "The Human Stain," he raged against the impeachment of President Bill Clinton over his affair with a White House intern. "The fantasy of purity is appalling. It's insane," he wrote.

In recent years, Roth was increasingly preoccupied with history and its sucker punch, how ordinary people were defeated by events beyond their control, like the Jews in "The Plot Against America" or the college student in "Indignation" who dies in the Korean War. Mortality, "the inevitable onslaught that is the end of life," became another subject, in "Everyman" and "The Humbling," despairing chronicles as

told by a non-believer.

Writing proved the author's most enduring relationship. Roth, who married Bloom in 1990, had one previous wife. In 1959, he was married to the former Margaret Martinson Williams, a time remembered bitterly in "The Facts" and in his novel "My Life as a Man." They were legally separated in 1963 and she died in a car crash five years later. There were no children from either marriage.

Roth's non-literary life could be as strange, if not stranger than his fiction. In the mid-'90s, he split up with Bloom, whose acting roles included a part in Woody Allen's "Crimes and Misdemeanors." Roth then reportedly dated Mia Farrow, the ex-lover of Allen, who in another movie played a writer with the last name Roth.

Bloom turned her marriage into a memoir, and Roth turned her memoir into fiction. In the novel "I Married a Communist," one character just happens to have been married to an actress who wrote a book about him after their divorce.

"How could she publish this book and not expect him to do something?" he asks. "Did she imagine this openly aggressive hothead was going to do nothing in response?"

Amazon urged not to sell facial recognition tool to police

By GENE JOHNSON, Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Amazon's decision to market a powerful face recognition tool to police is alarming privacy advocates, who say the tech giant's reach could vastly accelerate a dystopian future in which camera-equipped officers can identify and track people in real time, whether they're involved in crimes or not.

It's not clear how many law enforcement agencies have purchased the tool, called Rekognition, since its launch in late 2016 or since its update last fall, when Amazon added capabilities that allow it to identify people in videos and follow their movements almost instantly.

The Washington County Sheriff's Office in Oregon has used it to quickly compare unidentified suspects in surveillance images to a database of more than 300,000 booking photos from the county jail — a common use of such technology around the country — while the Orlando Police Department in Florida is testing whether it can be used to single out persons-of-interest in public spaces and alert officers to their presence.

The American Civil Liberties Union and other privacy advocates on Tuesday asked Amazon to stop marketing Rekognition to government agencies, saying they could use the technology to "easily build a system to automate the identification and tracking of anyone."

That could have potentially dire consequences for minorities who are already arrested at disproportionate rates, immigrants who may be in the country illegally or political protesters, they said.

"People should be free to walk down the street without being watched by the government," the groups wrote in a letter to Amazon on Tuesday. "Facial recognition in American communities threatens this freedom."

In an emailed statement, Amazon Web Services stressed that it requires all of its customers to comply with the law and to be responsible in the use of its products.

The statement said some agencies have used the program to find abducted people, and amusement parks have used it to find lost children. British broadcaster Sky News used Rekognition to help viewers identify celebrities at the royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle last weekend.

Amazon's technology isn't that different from what face recognition companies are already selling to law enforcement agencies. But its vast reach and its interest in recruiting more police departments — at extremely low cost — are troubling, said Clare Garvie, an associate at the Center on Privacy and Technology at Georgetown University Law Center.

"This raises very real questions about the ability to remain anonymous in public spaces," Garvie said.

While police might be able to videotape public demonstrations, face recognition is not merely an extension of photography but a biometric measurement — more akin to police walking through a demonstration and demanding identification from everyone there, she said.

Some police departments, including Seattle, have policies that bar the use of real-time facial recognition in body camera videos.

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Amazon released Rekognition in late 2016, and the sheriff's office in Washington County, west of Portland, became one of its first law enforcement agency customers.

A year later, deputies were using it about 20 times a day — for example, to identify burglary suspects in store surveillance footage. Last month, the agency adopted policies governing its use, noting that officers in the field can use real-time face recognition to identify suspects who are unwilling or unable to provide their own ID, or if someone's life is in danger.

"We are not mass-collecting. We are not putting a camera out on a street corner," said Deputy Jeff Talbot, a spokesman for the sheriff's office. "We want our local community to be aware of what we're doing, how we're using it to solve crimes — what it is and, just as importantly, what it is not."

It cost the sheriff's office just \$400 to load 305,000 booking photos — which are already public records — into the system and \$6 a month in fees to continue the service, according to an email obtained by the ACLU under a public records request.

Last year, the Orlando, Florida, Police Department announced it would begin a pilot program relying on Amazon's technology to "use existing city resources to provide real-time detection and notification of persons-of-interest, further increasing public safety."

Orlando has a network of public safety cameras, and in a presentation posted to YouTube this month, Ranju Das, who leads Amazon Rekognition, said the company would receive feeds from the cameras, search them against photos of people being sought by law enforcement and notify police of any hits.

"It's about recognizing people, it's about tracking people, and then it's about doing this in real time, so that the law enforcement officers ... can be then alerted in real time to events that are happening," he said.

The Orlando Police Department said in an email that it "is not using the technology in an investigative capacity or in any public spaces at this time."

The testing has been limited to eight city-owned cameras and a handful of officers who volunteered to have their images used to see if the technology works, Sgt. Eduardo Bernal wrote in an email Tuesday.

"As this is a pilot and not being actively used by OPD as a surveillance tool, there is no policy or procedure regarding its use as it is not deployed in that manner," Bernal wrote.

The privacy advocates' letter to Amazon followed public records requests from ACLU chapters in California, Oregon and Florida. More than two dozen organizations signed it, including the Electronic Frontier Foundation and Human Rights Watch.

Follow Gene Johnson at <https://twitter.com/GeneAPseattle>

Judge: Suspect in officer's death a 'one-man crime wave'

By **DAVID McFADDEN** and **SARAH RANKIN**, Associated Press

PERRY HALL, Md. (AP) — A 16-year-old charged with first-degree murder in the death of a Maryland police officer has been ordered held without bail by a judge who called him a "one-man crime wave."

Dawnta Anthony Harris was supposed to be on house arrest and was still wearing a court-ordered ankle bracelet when he ran down Baltimore County police Officer Amy Caprio with a stolen Jeep, authorities said Tuesday.

Authorities also anticipate bringing felony murder charges against three other teens who police say were burglarizing a nearby home while Harris waited in the car, according to Scott Shellenberger, the state's attorney for Baltimore County.

"They are in for everything that occurs as a result of that burglary, including when their co-defendant is outside running over a police officer and killing her," Shellenberger said.

Police expect to announce the charges against the three other teens— ages 15, 16, and 17 — on Wednesday morning, said Officer Jennifer Peach, a department spokeswoman. The three were taken into custody Tuesday but not immediately identified.

More than 20 police officers were in the courtroom when Harris, who is charged as an adult, made his first court appearance by video Tuesday.

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Caprio was responding to a report of a suspicious vehicle.

The slain officer's body camera footage clearly shows Harris accelerating the Jeep at her after she tried to apprehend him on the cul-de-sac in the suburban Perry Hall community northeast of Baltimore, prosecutor William Bickel said during the hearing.

"She fired her weapon. He ran over her," Bickel said. Harris was apprehended shortly after abandoning the Jeep, which had been stolen May 18 in Baltimore, he said. According to probable cause statement, Harris admitted as much, telling a detective that he "drove at the officer."

A yellow lockup jumpsuit appeared baggy on Harris' slight 120-pound, 5-foot-7 frame during the hearing in Towson. When asked if he understood the charge he faces, Harris mumbled "yes" as he sat next to his public defender. The lawyer had requested Harris be sent to a juvenile lockup, but prosecutors noted his series of auto theft arrests and a repeated history of running away from juvenile facilities.

The ninth-grader was on house arrest at his mother's West Baltimore home, but ran away May 14, they said.

"Your client is one-man crime wave," Judge Sally Chester told the public defender and ordered Harris held at Baltimore County Detention Center, an adult lockup.

Sam Abed, the Maryland Secretary of Juvenile Services, said at a news conference that his department had made "many attempts" to contact Harris after he went missing from his mother's house but was unsuccessful.

The ankle bracelet Harris was wearing Monday simply indicated whether he was inside or outside his home — it did not track his whereabouts, Shellenberger said.

"Did the system not work?" police Chief Terrence Sheridan said. "It sounds like ... it could have worked better in this particular case."

Caprio, who would have been on the force four years in July, was smart, athletic and energetic, just the type of officer you want to hire, Sheridan said. She and her husband were to start vacation this weekend to celebrate their third wedding anniversary and their upcoming birthdays, police said.

A medical examiner determined that she died of trauma to the head and torso, according to Sheridan.

The death stunned the quiet, residential neighborhood, said Baltimore County Councilman David Marks, who lives nearby.

"The community I represent stands united in grief for this fallen police officer, and our hope is that all those involved are brought to justice," Marks said.

Rankin reported from Richmond, Virginia. Associated Press writers Denise Lavoie in Richmond, Virginia, Courtney Columbus in Towson, Maryland, and Randall Chase in Dover, Delaware, contributed to this report.

Trump rallies abortion opponents to vote for Republicans

By JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Tuesday issued a rallying call to opponents of abortion, encouraging them to head to the polls to elect conservative lawmakers.

Speaking at the Susan B. Anthony List's annual "Campaign for Life Gala," Trump took a victory lap for his anti-abortion policies and nominations of conservative justices to federal courts. But he warned the group that they must show up at the polls to preserve their gains under his administration.

"Every day between now and November we must work together to elect more lawmakers who share our values, cherish our heritage, and proudly stand for life," Trump said. He summed it up for the roomful of enthusiastic supporters: "The story is, '18 midterms, we need Republicans."

Trump has long been an unlikely sweetheart for conservative and evangelical voters. But now, in the lead-up to the midterm elections, the thrice-married former Democrat who used to describe himself as "very pro-choice" has been offering catnip to conservatives.

Last week, the administration unveiled a new push to strip funding from Planned Parenthood and other family planning clinics. The initiative, which was formally unveiled Tuesday, is aimed at resurrecting parts

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of a Reagan-era mandate banning federally funded family planning clinics from referring women for abortions, or sharing space with abortion providers.

And it arrived just in time for Trump to highlight it Tuesday at the gala. The speech, said one administration official, had been aimed at a core constituency of conservative activists who are seen as key to energizing the party entering the fall midterm elections.

Trump, for his part, promised a "massive campaign" to assist Republicans this fall, and highlighted his role contributing toward the Republican National Committee's fundraising haul.

"Your vote in 2018 is every bit as important as your vote in 2016," Trump said, reading off a teleprompter. He paused before telling the crowd, "I'm not sure I really believe that.

"I don't know who the hell wrote that line," he said, prompting laughs.

Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of the anti-abortion Susan B. Anthony List, branded Trump "the most pro-life President in history" at the Gala, and told the AP the move "will help tremendously" in the midterms.

It's also the latest evidence that as he frets over the Russia investigation and prepares for a planned summit with North Korea, Trump has also been focused on fulfilling campaign promises and tending to issues that galvanize his base: holding a series of events to rail against the dangers of illegal immigration, pulling out of the Iran-nuclear deal and wading anew into the fight over abortion rights.

Trump is far from a natural fit for conservative voters. He recently admitted to reimbursing his lawyer for paying pay hush money to a porn star who claimed she had sex with Trump (a charge that he denies). And Trump has bragged about groping women without their permission. During the campaign, he sometimes had trouble articulating his views on abortion, at one point suggesting women should be punished for having abortions. His campaign later walked back the statement, saying that if abortion were ever outlawed, he believed that doctors who perform them should be punished.

Nonetheless, white evangelical voters overwhelmingly supported Trump in 2016, and that support has only grown. A PRRI survey released last month found white evangelical support for Trump at an all-time high, with 75 percent of those polled holding a favorable view of the president and just 22 percent holding an unfavorable view. Support for Trump within the general population in the poll stood at just 42 percent.

Religious groups like the Catholic Medical Association approve of a series of actions Trump has taken, beginning with his appointment of judges who oppose abortion rights, including Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch, and Trump's reinstatement of the global "gag rule" that bars federal funding for nongovernmental organizations that provide abortion referrals.

The White House also points to the administration's support for religious objectors in court and Trump's efforts to bring religious groups "back into the fold by ensuring religious groups and their partners are critical participants in the policy making process."

Dannenfelser, whose group works to elect candidates who want to reduce and ultimately end abortion, is planning to raise and spend \$25 million this cycle, up from the \$18 million the group spent in the lead-up to the 2016 elections.

She said the president's latest move would play especially well with voters in states like Missouri, where Republican Attorney General Josh Hawley is challenging Democratic Sen. Claire McCaskill, one of the Senate's most vulnerable incumbents, as well as in Indiana and North Dakota, where Republican Rep. Kevin Cramer is challenging Democratic Sen. Heidi Heitkamp.

Abortion rights activists, meanwhile, argue that Trump's moves on the issue will only embolden women to turn out at the polls, just as they took to the streets in marches after Trump's election.

"It's going to cost this administration at the ballot box in November," said Planned Parenthood Federation of America's Kevin Griffis.

"We have to fight back in the best way we know how," the group Emily's List wrote in a fundraising email, "electing pro-choice Democratic women who will always protect reproductive freedom."

Associated Press writers Zeke Miller, Ken Thomas and Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar contributed to this report.

Trump won't say if he has confidence in Rosenstein

By **DESMOND BUTLER** and **CHAD DAY**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump declined to say Tuesday whether he has confidence in Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, escalating pressure on the Justice Department as his White House negotiated rare access to classified documents for his congressional allies.

Asked before a private meeting with the president of South Korea if he has confidence in Rosenstein, who is overseeing the special counsel's Russia investigation, he asked reporters to move on to another question.

"Excuse me, I have the president of South Korea here," Trump said. "He doesn't want to hear these questions, if you don't mind."

The comments came just before White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders announced that a meeting to allow House Republicans to review highly classified information on the Russia probe will happen on Thursday.

Sanders said FBI Director Christopher Wray, National Intelligence Director Dan Coats and Justice Department official Edward O'Callaghan will meet with House Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nunes and House Oversight and Government Reform Chairman Trey Gowdy.

Nunes, an ardent Trump supporter, has been demanding information on an FBI source in the Russia investigation, according to the Justice Department. And Trump has taken up the cause as the White House tries to combat the threat posed by special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into potential ties between Russia and the Trump campaign.

Trump said Tuesday it would be a "disgrace" to the country if it's shown that the FBI had spies in his campaign, and that would "make probably every political event ever look like small potatoes."

Later Tuesday, Trump tweeted, "The spy was there early in the campaign and yet never reported Collusion with Russia, because there was no Collusion."

In a tweet on Sunday, Trump demanded that the Justice Department investigate whether the FBI infiltrated his presidential campaign and "if any such demands or requests were made by people within the Obama Administration!"

Trump's demand alarmed some observers, who felt it not only violated presidential protocol but also could have a chilling effect on federal law enforcement or its use of informants.

In response to Trump's tweet, the Justice Department said it would expand an open, internal investigation into the ongoing Russia probe by examining whether there was any politically motivated surveillance. The White House then said Monday that Trump chief of staff John Kelly would organize the meeting to review the documents.

Sanders said no White House staffers — including Kelly — will be present at Thursday's meeting. She said no Democrats were invited because they had not requested the information, despite calls from lawmakers for the briefing to be bipartisan.

The top Democrat on the House intelligence panel, California Rep. Adam Schiff, said the briefing should have been done through the bipartisan "Gang of 8," which includes Republican and Democratic leaders and the top Republicans and Democrats on the House and Senate intelligence panels. That group regularly receives classified briefings.

With his demand, Trump entered into the realm of applying presidential pressure on the Justice Department regarding an investigation into his own campaign — a move few of his predecessors have made. He made it amid days of public venting about the special counsel investigation, which he has deemed a "witch hunt" that he says has yielded no evidence of collusion between his campaign and Russia.

In response, the Justice Department moved to defuse the confrontation by asking its watchdog to investigate whether there was inappropriate surveillance.

"If anyone did infiltrate or surveil participants in a presidential campaign for inappropriate purposes, we need to know about it and take appropriate action," Rosenstein said in a statement announcing the move.

The Justice Department had originally rejected the request from Nunes, saying his request for information

“regarding a specific individual” could have severe consequences, including potential loss of human life. The department said then that the White House had signed off on its letter, but Nunes wasn’t satisfied, and continued to pressure DOJ officials.

The New York Times was the first to report that the FBI had an informant who met several times with Trump campaign officials who had suspicious contacts linked to Russia.

The Justice Department’s internal probe began in March at the request of Attorney General Jeff Sessions and congressional Republicans. Sessions and the lawmakers urged Inspector General Michael Horowitz to review whether FBI and Justice Department officials abused their surveillance powers by using information compiled by Christopher Steele, a former British spy, and paid for by Democrats to justify monitoring Carter Page, a former campaign adviser to Trump.

Horowitz said his office will look at those claims as well as communications between Steele and Justice and FBI officials.

Sunday was not the first time that Trump accused his predecessor of politically motivated activity against him.

Without substantiation, Trump tweeted in March 2017 that former President Barack Obama had conducted surveillance the previous October at Trump Tower, the New York skyscraper where Trump ran his campaign and transition and maintains a residence.

Former FBI Director James Comey later testified to Congress that internal reviews found no information to support the president’s tweets. Trump fired Comey over the FBI’s Russia investigation.

Associated Press writers Mary Clare Jalonick, Jill Colvin, Eric Tucker, Darlene Superville and Jonathan Lemire contributed to this report.

Sheriff: Suspect in Florida standoff, gunfire, found dead

PANAMA CITY, Fla. (AP) — A man suspected of trading wild bursts of gunfire with officers during a long standoff in the Florida Panhandle was found dead Tuesday in a gasoline-soaked apartment after an armored vehicle approached, authorities said.

“We were just blessed that we didn’t lose multiple officers and citizens today,” Bay County Sheriff Tommy Ford said at a news conference in Panama City, a small Gulf Coast city near the state’s famous sugar-sand beaches. He said a robot had to be deployed to check the apartment before officers could enter, finding the man dead.

No law enforcement agents were shot or wounded but one person leaving her apartment was injured and in stable condition, he said.

He described the dangerous situation that unfolded Tuesday in the tourist community as a “nightmare scenario for us,” with authorities estimating 100 rounds fired during the altercation. Ford said sporadic bursts of heavy gunfire had pinned several officers down at times as the suspected assailant fired from an elevated position with a rifle. Several law enforcement agents had surrounded the apartment building.

The sheriff wouldn’t say whether the suspect, 49-year-old Kevin Robert Holroyd, killed himself during the barrage of bullets or if he was struck by an officer’s bullet, but he said officers did hear a final, muffled shot from inside the apartment before the scene went silent.

He also said Holroyd doused the apartment in gasoline, saying they believe Holroyd intended to start a fire. Inside the home, authorities also uncovered hundreds of rounds of ammunition, several high powered rifles and flares.

Broadcasters showed televised footage of armed officers kneeling behind police cars and other positions around the building as gunfire continued sporadically and sirens blared.

“These units were taking numerous rounds of fire from the subject,” the sheriff said.

Witnesses heard rounds of gunfire between noon and 12:30 p.m. The gunfire peppering officers was so heavy that it shattered the windows of patrol cars along with computers inside the vehicles.

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During the day Tuesday, authorities elsewhere on the Panhandle said they discovered a suspicious death in Santa Rosa Beach, a community in neighboring Walton County about 40 miles (65 kilometers) northwest along the Florida coast. There, they said, 30-year-old Clinton Street was shot to death — and authorities said they had connected that slaying with the Panama City standoff.

Ford said police officers eventually used an armored vehicle to get to the apartment. Around 2:30 p.m., he said, officers ignited a flash grenade and drove the armored vehicle to break into Holroyd's apartment, and used a robot to search the residence.

Nearby businesses and schools had to be evacuated and several police agencies responded to the scene. Kim Allagood, owner of a nearby pizza restaurant, said "tons and tons" of police descended on the area and she locked down her restaurant for close to two hours amid sporadic shooting.

Florida Gov. Rick Scott talked to Bay County Sheriff Tommy Ford about the situation in Panama City. John Tupps, a spokesman for Scott, said the main point of the call was to offer state law enforcement assistance.

Congress moves to dismantle key post-crisis bank rules

By MARCY GORDON, AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress moved Tuesday to dismantle a chunk of the rules framework for banks, installed to prevent a recurrence of the 2008 financial crisis that brought millions of lost jobs and foreclosed homes.

The House voted 258-159 to approve legislation rolling back the Dodd-Frank law, notching a legislative win for President Donald Trump, who made gutting the landmark law a campaign promise.

The Republican-led legislation, pushed by Wall Street banks as well as regional banks and smaller institutions, garnered 33 votes from House Democrats. Similarly, the bill splintered Democrats into two camps when the Senate voted 67-31 to approve it in March.

The bill raises the threshold at which banks are deemed so big and plugged into the financial grid that if one were to fail it would cause major havoc. Those banks are subject to stricter capital and planning requirements. Backers of the legislation are intent on loosening the restraints on them, asserting that would boost lending and the economy.

The legislation is aimed at especially helping small and medium-sized banks, including community banks and credit unions. But critics argue that the likelihood of future taxpayer bailouts will be greater once it becomes law. They point to increases in banks' lending and profits since Dodd-Frank's enactment in 2010 as debunking the assertion that excessive regulation of the banking industry is stifling growth.

U.S. banks' net income climbed to \$56 billion in the January-March quarter, a 27.5 percent increase from a year earlier, as profits were revved up by the corporate tax cuts enacted late last year, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. reported Tuesday.

"This is not a bill that benefits consumers. It is a big-bank bonanza," Rep. Al Green, D-Texas, said in debate on the House floor before the vote.

The bill makes a fivefold increase, to \$250 billion, in the level of assets at which banks are deemed to pose a potential threat if they fail. The change would ease regulations and oversight on more than two dozen financial institutions, including BB&T Corp., SunTrust Banks, Fifth Third Bancorp and American Express.

Eventually, the exempted banks will no longer have to undergo an annual stress test conducted by the Federal Reserve. The test assesses whether a bank has a big enough capital buffer to survive an economic shock and keep on lending. The banks also will be excused from submitting plans called "living wills" that spell out how a bank would sell off assets or be liquidated in the event of failure so it wouldn't create chaos in the financial system.

Rep. Jeb Hensarling, the Texas Republican who heads the House Financial Services Committee, said Main Street banks "have been suffering for years under the weight" of the Dodd-Frank regulations. "Help is on the way," Hensarling declared. "Today is an important day in the history of economic opportunity in America."

Republican lawmakers, with Hensarling at the forefront, have been chafing at Dodd-Frank's restrictions

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in the eight years since its enactment by President Barack Obama and Democrats in Congress, and finally prevailed with Tuesday's vote.

Trump is probably eager to sign the bill. "We're going to be doing a big number on Dodd-Frank," he promised just weeks after taking office last year, complaining that the regulations choked lending, cramped the economy and hampered job creation.

A senior White House official, speaking on condition of anonymity in order to discuss private talks, told reporters after the vote that aides were anxious to get the bill on Trump's desk before Memorial Day to speed the signing.

The win on the banking bill adds to Trump's marquee business-friendly legislative achievement, the sweeping tax bill enacted late last year that deeply cut taxes for corporations and wealthy individuals and offered more modest reductions for most ordinary Americans.

Supporters of the bill say Dodd-Frank was too blunt an instrument in response to the financial crisis, hurting smaller lenders that played no role in the debacle. They provide more than half of small business loans and over 80 percent of agricultural loans.

The legislation also exempts certain banks and credit unions from requirements to report some mortgage loan data. The exempted data includes the age of a loan applicant, credit score, total loan costs and interest rate. Critics say that would make it easier for banks to discriminate against minorities seeking home mortgages and go undetected.

In response to the Equifax breach that exposed personal information for more than 145 million Americans, the bill requires free credit freezes for all consumers affected by data breaches. Currently most states allow the credit reporting companies to charge consumers a fee for freezing their credit.

Backers of the legislation note that the Federal Reserve still will have the authority to apply tougher standards for banks with \$100 billion to \$250 billion in assets.

A sole Republican, Walter Jones of North Carolina, voted against the bill Tuesday.

Target's 1Q profit falls short as it continues transition

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Target, which is pushing through a year of transition, is posting weaker-than-expected profits for the first quarter.

The Minneapolis retailer on Wednesday reported a profit of \$718 million, or \$1.33 per share. Earnings, adjusted for pretax gains and to account for discontinued operations, were \$1.32 per share, far short of the \$1.38 expected on Wall Street, according to a poll by Zacks Investment Research.

Revenue jumped to \$16.78 billion, edging out analyst projections for \$16.53 billion.

For the current quarter, Target expects per-share earnings of between \$1.30 and \$1.50, about in line with expectations.

The company expects full-year earnings in the range of \$5.15 to \$5.45 per share, compared with the \$5.29 analysts expect.

Shares of Target Corp. are down about 3 percent before the opening bell.

This story was generated by Automated Insights (<http://automatedinsights.com/ap>) using data from Zacks Investment Research. Access a Zacks stock report on TGT at <https://www.zacks.com/ap/TGT>

Asian shares fall amid worries over US-China trade, Koreas

By YURI KAGEYAMA, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian indexes were mostly lower on Wednesday as investors shifted their attention to uncertainties over a planned U.S.-North Korea summit after the perk from eased U.S.-China trade tensions faded.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 dipped 1.3 percent to 22,661.88, while Australia's S&P/ASX 200 inched down nearly 0.2 percent at 6,031.40 in early trading. South Korea's Kospi added 0.1 percent to 2,467.25. Hong Kong's Hang Seng lost 1.0 percent to 30,912.13, while the Shanghai Composite index shed 0.9 percent to 3,185.92.

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NORTH KOREA: President Donald Trump suggested that his highly anticipated June 12 summit meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un could be delayed. The summit, planned for Singapore, offers a historic chance for peace on the peninsula but also the risk of a diplomatic failure.

U.S.-CHINA TRADE: Trump said the United States and China are working toward an agreement that would ease U.S. sanctions that were imposed on ZTE Corp. and let the Chinese telecommunications giant stay in business. The deal might require ZTE to revamp its board and to pay a fine of \$1 billion or more, Trump said. The talks follow an agreement by both sides to hold off on punitive tariffs they had threatened to impose on up to \$200 billion of each other's goods.

WALL STREET: The S&P 500 index slid 0.3 percent to 2,724.44. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 0.7 percent to 24,834.41. The Nasdaq composite fell 0.2 percent to 7,378.46. The Russell 2000 index of smaller company stocks gave up 0.7 percent to 1,625.24 after it closed at record highs the four previous trading sessions.

THE QUOTE: "Equity markets can be seen continuing to sing to the tune of geopolitics with freshly brewed U.S.-China and U.S.-North Korean concerns," says Jingyi Pan, market strategist at IG in Singapore.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude lost 27 cents to \$71.93 per barrel. Brent crude, used to price international oils, rose dropped 52 cents to \$79.05.

CURRENCIES: The dollar slipped to 110.50 yen from Tuesday's 110.96 yen. The euro rose to \$1.1761 from \$1.1826.

AP Markets Writer Marley Jay, who contributed to this report, can be reached at <http://twitter.com/MarleyJayAP>

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, May 23, the 143rd day of 2018. There are 222 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 23, 1618, the Defenestration of Prague took place as Bohemian Protestants angry over what they saw as a threat to their religious freedom threw two Catholic imperial regents and their secretary out an upper-story palace window; the men survived the incident, which helped trigger the Thirty Years' War.

On this date:

In 1430, Joan of Arc was captured by the Burgundians, who sold her to the English.

In 1533, the marriage of England's King Henry VIII to Catherine of Aragon was declared null and void by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer.

In 1788, South Carolina became the eighth state to ratify the United States Constitution.

In 1814, a third version of Beethoven's only opera, "Fidelio," had its world premiere in Vienna.

In 1915, Italy declared war on Austria-Hungary during World War I.

In 1934, bank robbers Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker were shot to death in a police ambush in Bienville Parish, Louisiana.

In 1939, the Navy submarine USS Squalus sank during a test dive off the New England coast. Thirty-two crew members and one civilian were rescued, but 26 others died; the sub was salvaged and re-commissioned the USS Sailfish.

In 1945, Nazi official Heinrich Himmler committed suicide by biting into a cyanide capsule while in British custody in Luneburg, Germany.

In 1967, Egypt closed the Straits of Tiran to Israeli shipping, an action which helped precipitate war between Israel and its Arab neighbors the following month.

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In 1977, Moluccan extremists seized a train and a primary school in the Netherlands; the hostage drama ended June 11 as Dutch marines stormed the train, resulting in the deaths of six out of nine hijackers and two hostages, while the school siege ended peacefully.

In 1984, Surgeon General C. Everett Koop issued a report saying there was "very solid" evidence linking cigarette smoke to lung disease in non-smokers.

In 1993, a jury in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, acquitted Rodney Peairs of manslaughter in the shooting death of Yoshi Hattori, a Japanese exchange student he'd mistaken for an intruder. (Peairs was later found liable in a civil suit brought by Hattori's parents.)

Ten years ago: Hillary Rodham Clinton quickly apologized after citing the 1968 assassination of Robert F. Kennedy as a reason to remain in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination despite increasingly long odds. Televangelist John Hagee (HAY'-gee) parted ways with John McCain following a storm over his endorsement of the Republican presidential candidate. (McCain rejected Hagee's endorsement a day earlier after an audio recording from the late 1990s surfaced in which the preacher suggested that God had sent Adolf Hitler to help Jews reach the Promised Land.)

Five years ago: President Barack Obama, in a speech to the National Defense University, defended America's controversial drone attacks as legal, effective and a necessary linchpin in an evolving U.S. counterterrorism policy, but acknowledged the targeted strikes were no "cure-all" and said he was haunted by the civilians who were unintentionally killed. The Boy Scouts of America threw open its ranks to gay Scouts but not to gay Scout leaders. LeBron James was a unanimous pick for the All-NBA team and Kobe Bryant earned his record-tying 11th first-team selection.

One year ago: President Donald Trump made a personal appeal for peace between Israel and the Palestinians as he closed a four-day swing through the Middle East. Roger Moore, the suavely insouciant star of seven James Bond films, died in Switzerland at age 89. NFL owners meeting in Chicago cut the overtime period from 15 to 10 minutes during the regular season, but also gave players plenty of leeway to celebrate after a touchdown.

Today's Birthdays: Bluegrass singer Mac Wiseman is 93. Actress Barbara Barrie is 87. Actress Joan Collins is 85. Actor Charles Kimbrough is 82. International Tennis Hall of Famer John Newcombe is 74. Actress Lauren Chapin is 73. Country singer Misty Morgan is 73. Country singer Judy Rodman is 67. Chess grandmaster Anatoly Karpov is 67. Boxing Hall of Famer Marvelous Marvin Hagler is 64. Singer Luka Bloom is 63. Baseball manager Buck Showalter is 62. Actor-comedian-game show host Drew Carey is 60. Actress Lea DeLaria is 60. Country singer Shelly West is 60. Author Mitch Albom ("Tuesdays with Morrie") is 60. Actor Linden Ashby is 58. Actress-model Karen Duffy is 57. Actress Melissa McBride is 53. Rock musician Phil Selway (Radiohead) is 51. Actress Laurel Holloman is 50. Rock musician Matt Flynn (Maroon 5) is 48. Singer Lorenzo is 46. Country singer Brian McComas is 46. Actor John Pollono is 46. Singer Maxwell is 45. Singer Jewel is 44. Game show contestant Ken Jennings is 44. Actor LaMonica Garrett is 43. Actor D.J. Cotrona is 38. Actor Lane Garrison is 38. Actor-comedian Tim Robinson is 37. Actor Adam Wylie is 34. Movie writer-director Ryan Coogler is 32. Golfer Morgan Pressel is 30. Actor Alberto Frezza (TV: "Station 19") is 29. Folk/pop singer/songwriter Sarah Jarosz (juh-ROHZ') is 27.

Thought for Today: "We do not usually look for allies when we love. Indeed, we often look on those who love with us as rivals and trespassers. But we always look for allies when we hate." — Eric Hoffer, American author and philosopher (1902-1983).