

# Groton Daily Independent

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**Sperry Stump Removal** Tyler: 605/216-8431  
**Over 30 Years of Combined Experience!**  
TJ: 605/380-7915 **TreeLine Tree Service**

## 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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## 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

## 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



**GROTON**  
CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER

**1106 N. 2nd Street, Groton**

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## Groton hosts Memorial Day Program and Luncheon



**Pictured left to right are the members of the Honor Guard: Ron Falk, Dale Wolter, Bruce Babcock, Ben Schaller, Bud Bell, Dale Kurth, Roger Overacker, Jake McKiver and Robert Wegner, and guest speaker Greg Von Wald. (Photo by Paul Kosel)**



**The Groton American Legion Auxiliary served lunch after the Memorial Day Service. Pictured are Rose Locke, Mary Flihs, Coralea Wolter, Wendy Cooper and Deb McKiver. McKiver is handing the plate to Bill Duncan. (Photo by Paul Kosel)**

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## The POW/MIA Table: A Place Setting for One, A Table for All

October 6, 2014 Community, History & Heritage

By Annalisa C. Underwood

### Naval History and Heritage Command Communication and Outreach Division

If you've ever been to a military ball, stepped inside a chow hall, or attended an event at a military veterans association in your local community, you've likely noticed the small, round table that is always set but never occupied—the prisoners of war/missing in action (POW/MIA) table.

The tradition of setting a separate table in honor of our prisoners of war and missing comrades has been in place since the end of the Vietnam War. The manner in which this table is decorated is full of special symbols to help us remember our brothers and sisters in arms.

The POW/MIA table is smaller than the others, symbolizing the frailty of one prisoner alone against his or her oppressors. This table is separate from the others and can be set for one to four place settings to represent each service participating in the event.

The white tablecloth draped over the table represents the purity of their response to our country's call to arms.

The empty chair depicts an unknown face, representing no specific Soldier, Sailor, Airman, or Marine, but all who are not here with us.

The table itself is round to show that our concern for them is never ending.

The Bible represents faith in a higher power and the pledge to our country, founded as one nation under God.

The black napkin stands for the emptiness these warriors have left in the hearts of their families and friends. A Purple Heart medal can be pinned to the napkin.

The single red rose reminds us of their families and loved ones. The red ribbon represents the love of our country, which inspired them to answer the nation's call.

The yellow candle and its yellow ribbon symbolize the everlasting hope for a joyous reunion with those yet accounted for.

The slices of lemon on the bread plate remind us of their bitter fate.

The salt upon the bread plate represent the tears of their families.

The wine glass, turned upside down, reminds us that our distinguished comrades cannot be with us to drink a toast or join in the festivities of the evening.

The significance of the POW/MIA table is called to attention during the toast of the evening. This is an important part of many military banquets to remind us that the strength of those who fight for our country often times rests in the traditions that are upheld today. As we celebrate the Navy's birthday this week and you find yourself at one of the many birthday events that will take place around the world, take the time to reflect on why that small, lone table is there and raise a glass for our fallen comrades.



**This table was set up in memory of POW/MIA at the Legion Auxiliary Luncheon held at the Groton American Legion Post #39 home.**

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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**Legion Commander Robert Wegner drove the posts' Jeep to the cemetery with the guest speaker, Greg Von Wald.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Lori Giedt served a beverage to Lois Pasch.**  
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Bruce Babcock placed the wreath in front of the Veteran's Circle at the Groton Union Cemetery.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Jake McKiver and Tammi Zimney read the Honor Roll.** (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)

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**Legion Post Commander Robert Wegner was the master of ceremonies. He led the Pledge of Allegiance, introduced the guest speaker and read the Memorial Prayer.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Retired Lt. Col. Greg Von Wald, USMC, was the guest speaker.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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**A large crowd was on hand for the Memorial Day service held Monday at the Groton Union Cemetery. It was a beautiful morning with a cloudy sky keeping the temperature to around 80 degrees and there was a northwest breeze at about 5-10 mph. (Photo by Paul Kosel)**



**Greg Von Wald was the guest speaker with the Honor Guard pictured in the back ground. (Photo by Paul Kosel)**

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**The Saluting of the Dead with the firing of the guns was done by the Honor Guard. Jake McKiver gave the orders.**

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Robert Wegner played "Taps."** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

**Robert Wegner raised the flag to full mast at the end of the service.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)





## The Life of Leon Stange



Services for Leon Stange, 84, of Stratford will be 11:00 a.m., Friday, June 1st at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ferney. Rev. Craig Grams will officiate. Burial will follow in Sunset Memorial Gardens, Aberdeen under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Visitation will be held at the chapel on Thursday from 5-7 p.m. with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m.

Leon Stange, born August 23rd, 1933 to Hubert and Viola Stange in Stratford, passed away peacefully on May 25th, 2018, his 62nd wedding anniversary, after a battle with heart disease.

He went to grade school in Verdon and high school in Conde. He married Wanda (Vitense) May 25th, 1956 in Columbia. He served in the Army and Army Reserve from January 1957 to July 1962.

Leon farmed with his dad on the Stange homestead until 1972, when he moved his family onto the farmstead after Hubert and Viola moved to Redfield. Leon was the South Dakota Outstanding Young Farmer in 1969. However, Leon was also an entrepreneur, long before it was trendy. He did

custom combining in the early 50's and again in the 80's. While still farming during an extended drought period, Stange Trucking began and operated from 1966 to 1978. Starting with one semi, Leon expanded to a fleet of semis, eventually moving the operation from Stratford to Redfield.

In 1979 Truck World began and was Leon's favorite adventure. The man could sell trucks! He excelled because he was a uniquely honest salesman. He very much enjoyed buying trucks by phone and going to get them with his buddies who drove them back. Let's just say he bought and sold a LOT of trucks in the past 38 years, had lots of fun, and made friends in many states. During this time Leon gathered quite a collection of antique tractors.

Family was important to Leon. He raised his children with a strong work ethic which was very important to him. He balanced work and family (and extended family) through pheasant hunting, playing pool and drinking libations, snowmobiling on holidays, piloting water skiers in his boat at Pickerel Lake, camping at Vitense family reunions, Februarys in Yuma, and just visiting-he seemed to know everyone. Leon loved to fish the Missouri River and share fond memories of fishing Lake Michigan. Leon had a great sense of humor and never met a democrat that he didn't like. A pet lover, Leon always had a dog, a housecat (or 3), bottle lambs in the basement, goats that ate everything (that didn't last long), and when the vet had to come out to help birth a colt, Leon made sure his kids were in the barn to enjoy the miracle of new life. Leon would proudly tell anyone who would listen that his mother is 105 years old.

Leon was preceded in death by his father, Hubert Stange, brother-in-laws Durwood Wahl, John Leif, Bud Frohling, Bob Vitense, Ben Dayton, Lloyd Schelbitzki, Walt Sieber, and John Daly, sister-in-laws Myrtis Daly, Myrtle Sieber, Georgia Vitense, Norma Vitense, Angie Vitense; nephew Keith Wahl, and niece Denise Frohling.

He leaves behind his wife, Wanda, 4 sons, Cal Stange, Renner, Loy Stange, Stratford, Von (Cathy) Stange, Coralville, IA, Channon (Julie) Stange, Dell Rapids, and one daughter, Pam (Tim) O'Neil, Overland Park, KS. He also leaves behind 14 beloved grandchildren and 18 (and counting) great grandchildren, his sister, Darlene Wahl, Aberdeen, and his mother, Viola Stange at Bethesda Home, Aberdeen.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests a contribution in Leon's name to the Stratford SD Fire Department, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ferney, SD, or the American Heart Association.

## Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

For the past few weeks we have been covering the NFL draft, and while the draft is one of my favorite events every year, it's time to shift our focus back to the entire team. Starting this week, we will be breaking down the Minnesota Vikings' roster. Today we start with the most important position in all of football – the quarterback.

The Minnesota Vikings have the fourth highest win percentage in the history of the NFL, which is even more incredible when you realize they have only had three quarterbacks start the majority of the games for four seasons or more: Fran Tarkenton, Tommy Kramer and Daunte Culpepper. The team thought they had a franchise quarterback in Teddy Bridgewater, until he blew out his knee in practice two years ago. The team thinks it has finally ended the revolving door at quarterback by signing Kirk Cousins this offseason, and as fans we can only sit and keep our fingers crossed that they are right.

Kirk Cousins comes to Minnesota with a ton of pressure. The team was one game away from the Super Bowl last season and pretty much all the players who were a factor for that success will be back in 2018. The team also has the number one defense – and added to it this offseason with Sheldon Richardson and first-round draft pick Mike Hughes. The Vikings front office thinks Cousins is the missing piece to the puzzle, and they paid a lot of money to acquire him.

Last season, Cousins had a down season, yet he still threw for over 4,000 yards and 27 touchdowns (while adding another four touchdowns on the ground). The Vikings haven't had a quarterback produce like that since 2009 when Brett Favre had his one good season in purple and gold. In fact, over the last three seasons Cousins has averaged 4,392 yards and 31.3 total touchdowns per season. Needless to say, Cousins has shown the ability to produce at a high level in the National Football League.

Cousins is very good at throwing the deep ball and play action passes, two things that are vital in today's NFL. According to Pro Football Focus, Cousins has the second highest deep-passer rating of all qualifying quarterbacks since 2007. That should only improve with his move to Minnesota, as he will have two excellent receivers to throw to in Stefon Diggs and Adam Thielen. Cousins also has the best passer rating off play action throws in the NFL over the past three seasons. With Dalvin Cook coming back from injury, expect the Vikings to throw plenty of play action and bootleg passes to really maximize Cousins' strengths.

No player is perfect, however, and Kirk Cousins has a few areas that he will look to improve upon. The biggest one is the red-zone, where he has a bad habit of trying to force passes and turning the ball over. The other area of concern is his ability to handle pressure. The Vikings don't have a great offensive line, and according to Pro Football Focus, Cousins' passer rating drops 29 points when he is pressured versus when he has a clean pocket. The 29-point drop off is seventh worst of all quarterbacks with at least 600 pass attempts over the past three seasons. A quarterback playing worse under pressure is pretty par for the course, but the steep drop off is worrisome. However, the biggest thing he will need to fix is his red-zone issues, otherwise he will have an angry Mike Zimmer to deal with – and nobody wants to see that.

Backing up Cousins will be Trevor Siemian and Kyle Slotter. Slotter is the only returning quarterback from last season, and the team has kept him around because they see a lot of promise with the young kid from Northern Colorado. Siemian was brought in via trade with the Denver Broncos this offseason and gives the team a good backup who can start a couple games if needed. He might not be a quality starter, but he should be a dang good backup – and as any Vikings' fan can tell you, having a solid backup quarterback is incredibly important!

If you have any questions or comments, reach out to me on Twitter (@JordanWrightNFL). Make sure to check out next week's article, as we cover the running back position. Skol!

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## Today in Weather History

May 29, 1953: An auditorium was almost entirely unroofed, and barns, along with outbuildings were destroyed in McLaughlin by a tornado. Seven businesses and two homes were also damaged. Estimate of property damage at \$100,000. This tornado was estimated to have F2 strength.

May 29, 2004: Hail, with the largest a quarter sizes, fell in many parts of north-central South Dakota. Lightning struck a house in Veblen and caused some damage. Glass from a broken window hit a man, and some debris from the ceiling hit a woman. They were taken to the hospital and treated for minor injuries. The torrential rains of 3 to 6 inches fell between Westport and Columbia with cropland and many roads flooded. Also, some basements were flooded. Four, weak F0 tornadoes, also were reported. The first two touched down near Bath causing no damage. The other two occurred near Ipswich, also causing no damage.

1947: An unprecedented late-spring snowstorm blasts portions of the Midwest from eastern Wyoming to eastern Upper Michigan. The heavy snow caused severe damage to power and telephone lines and the already-leafed-out vegetation. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the NWS Office in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

1986: Hailstones over 3 inches in diameter pounded South Shore in Montreal, Quebec Canada causing over \$65 million in damage.

1951 - A massive hailstorm, from Wallace to Kearney County in Kansas, caused six million dollars damage to crops. (David Ludlum)

1953 - A tornado, 600 yards wide at times, killed two persons on its 20 mile path from southwest of Fort Rice ND into Emmons County. Nearly every building in Fort Rice was damaged. The Catholic church was leveled, with some pews jammed four feet into the ground. (The Weather Channel)

1982: Two significant tornadoes ripped through southern Illinois. The most severe was an F4 that touched down northeast of Carbondale, Illinois then moved to Marion. The twister had multiple vortices within the main funnel. Extensive damage occurred at the Marion Airport. A total of 10 people were killed, and 181 were injured. 648 homes and 200 cars were damaged or destroyed, with total damages around \$100 million.

1987 - Thunderstorms in West Texas produced softball size hail at Lamesa, and hail up to twelve inches deep east of Dimmitt. Thunderstorms also spawned seven tornadoes in West Texas, including one which injured three persons at Wolfforth. Thunderstorms deluged the Texas Hill Country with up to eleven inches of rain. Severe flooding along the Medino, Hondo, Seco, Sabinal and Frio rivers caused more than fifty million dollars damage. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - A powerful cold front brought snow and high winds to parts of the western U.S. Austin, NV, was blanketed with ten inches of snow, and winds gusted to 75 mph at the Mojave Airport in California. Strong southerly winds and unseasonably warm weather prevailed in the north central U.S. Glasgow, MT, equalled their record for the month of May with a high of 102 degrees. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Wintry weather gripped parts of the northwestern U.S. for the second day in a row. Great Falls, MT, was blanketed with 12 inches of snow, which pushed their total for the winter season to a record 117.4 inches. Six inches of snow whitened the Cascade Mountains of Oregon. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather from north central Colorado to the northern half of Texas. Severe thunderstorms spawned four tornadoes, and there were seventy reports of large hail or damaging winds. Midday thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 90 mph at Hobart, OK, and produced up to three and a half inches of rain in eastern Colorado in four hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Tue May 29	Wed May 30	Thu May 31	Fri Jun 1	Sat Jun 2	Sun Jun 3	Mon Jun 4
86°F 64°F	81°F 59°F	85°F 62°F	88°F 61°F	80°F 57°F	83°F 59°F	83°F 57°F
SSE 18 MPH Precip 30%	S 10 MPH Precip 40%	NNW 7 MPH	ESE 14 MPH Precip 20%	W 11 MPH Precip 40%	E 9 MPH	SE 13 MPH

## Unsettled Weather Through Wednesday

**Tuesday** Breezy, best storm chances east of the James. H: 78-86° L: 58-65°

**Wednesday** H: 78-84° L: 56-62°

**Thursday** H: 80-88° L: 60-65°

## Additional thunderstorm chances Friday and Saturday

**Friday** Hot and breezy, thunderstorms late. H: 85-90° L: 57-63°

**Saturday** H: 75-80° L: 54-56°

Above average temperatures continue this week, as do opportunities for thunderstorms. Severe weather isn't out of the question Tuesday, but potential is limited.

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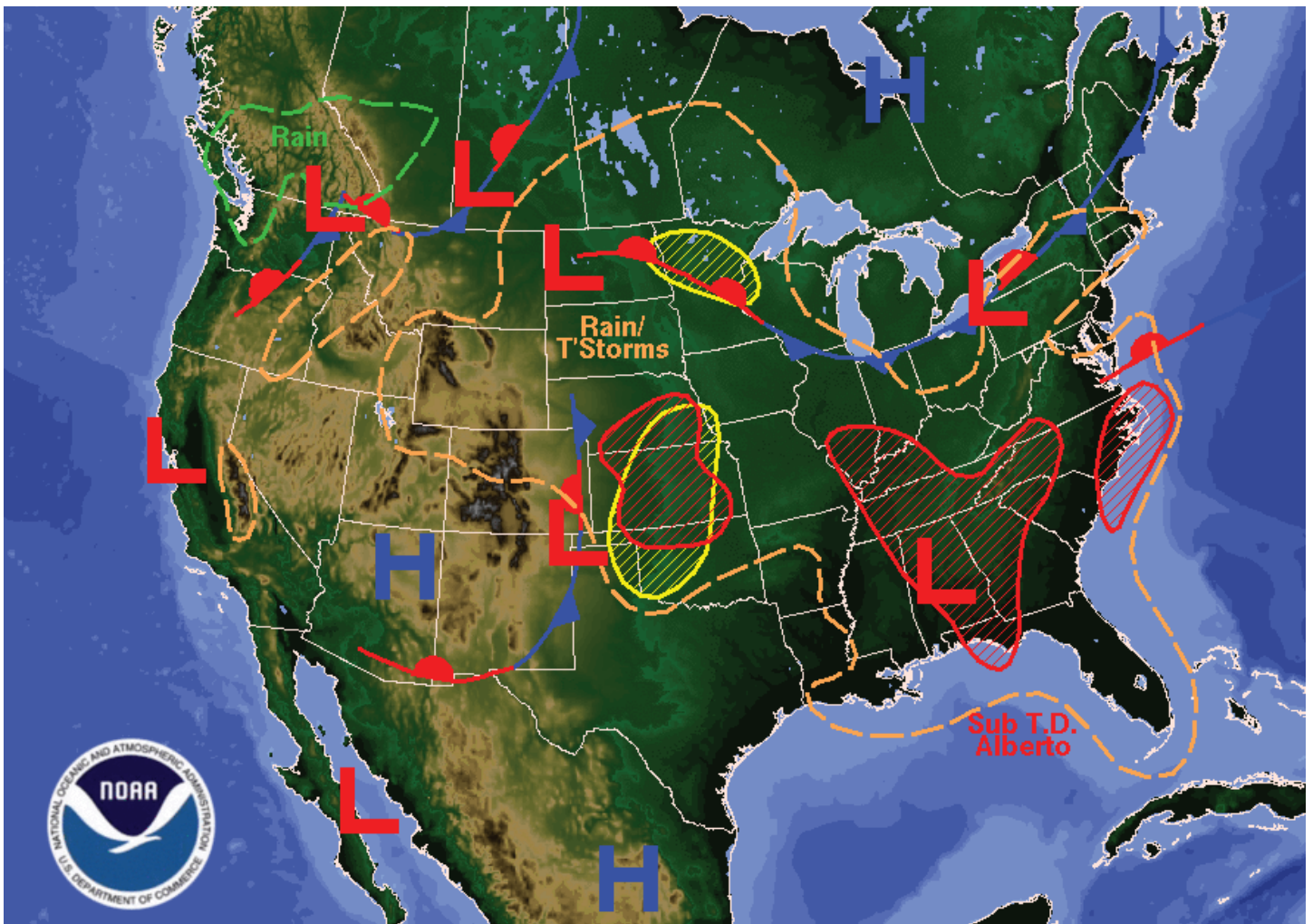
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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 87.8 F at 5:13 PM**  
**Low Outside Temp: 64.8 F at 6:21 AM**  
**Wind Chill:**  
**High Gust: 16.0 Mph at 12:08 AM**  
**Precip: 0.00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 99° in 1934**  
**Record Low: 23° in 1947**  
**Average High: 72°F**  
**Average Low: 49°F**  
**Average Precip in May: 2.91**  
**Precip to date in May: 1.62**  
**Average Precip to date: 6.94**  
**Precip Year to Date: 4.30**  
**Sunset Tonight: 9:12 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:49 a.m.**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, May 29, 2018, issued 4:54 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)**



## GOD'S GREATEST GIFT

Betsy ended her prayer and was about to get in bed. With a puzzled look on her face she turned to her Dad and asked, "Daddy, did I leave anything out? I have so many things to thank Jesus for. I sure don't want to forget any of them. Jesus is really good to us, isn't He Daddy?"

The author of Psalm 116 was also aware of God's goodness. Betsy wanted to make sure that she thanked God for being so good to her. She must have itemized her list in her mind like she had been to a grocery store and wanted to make sure that she remembered everything.

However, the Psalmist must have had a balance sheet in mind when he asked, "How can I repay the Lord for His goodness to me?" How different from Betsy. She simply wanted to offer her thanks for the gifts that He gave her. But the Psalmist looked at what God gave him from a different perspective: He wanted to pay God for what He had done for him. However, it is impossible to repay God! If we could somehow pay God for His gifts they would not be gifts.

This brings us to the very heart of the Bible - a loving God who gives. "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son." God gives and we are to receive.

Suddenly, the Psalmist realized that the Lord is not a salesman who has anything to sell - but a Giver who gives His salvation freely. Rejoicing he said, "I will lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord."

There is nothing that delights our Creator more than for those who He created to accept the Gift of His Son.

Prayer: Thank You, Lord, for the many gifts You lavish on us each day. But we are most thankful for saving us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 116:13 I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

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## 2018 Groton SD Community Events

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

## News from the Associated Press

### Another day of record-breaking heat in Upper Midwest

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Another day of record-breaking heat was the backdrop for Memorial Day ceremonies and holiday picnics in some areas of the Upper Midwest.

In Minnesota's Twin Cities, the mercury climbed to a record-breaking 100 degrees Monday afternoon. The National Weather Service said it is the earliest 100 degree temperature ever recorded for Minneapolis-St. Paul, breaking an old record set in 1934 when a 100-degree temperature was recorded on May 31.

The weather service issued an excessive heat warning for the Twin Cities and area communities. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency warned residents of unhealthy air quality levels Monday that could cause trouble for those with lung diseases.

Record high temperatures were also recorded Sunday across Wisconsin, Minnesota and the Dakotas. Authorities say the heat cause roads to buckle, including Interstate 90 near Chamberlain, South Dakota.

### 5 years, \$93 million to clean up massive North Dakota spill

By JAMES MacPHERSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — It's taken nearly five years of cleanup work, but a farm family in northwestern North Dakota is hoping to plant for the first time since a pipeline break sent some 840,000 gallons of oil oozing across their wheat field.

The spill by Tesoro, now known as Andeavor, was discovered by a Tioga farmer in September 2013. As the end of the cleanup draws near, here's a look at the status of the pipeline break that has been called one of the largest onshore spills in U.S. history:

#### WHAT HAPPENED?

Steve Jensen said he smelled the crude oil for days before discovering that his combines' tires were covered in it. The Texas-based company and federal regulators have said a lightning strike may have caused the rupture in the pipeline, which runs from Tioga to a rail facility outside of Columbus, near the Canadian border. Coincidentally, the spill was not far from where oil was first discovered in North Dakota in 1951.

#### HOW BIG IS IT?

North Dakota regulators initially thought just 31,500 gallons of oil was involved in the spill, but later updated the amount exponentially. They also expanded the affected acreage from about 7 — the size of seven football fields — to about 14 acres. North Dakota Health Department environmental scientist Bill Suess said a total of about 48 acres were affected by cleanup equipment and stockpiles of excavated and treated soils.

#### CLEANUP

Though crews have been working around the clock to deal with the spill since it occurred, less than a third of the 840,000 gallons was recovered. The remaining oil has been cooked from the soil in a process called thermal desorption. Company spokeswoman Destin Singleton said the two thermal desorption units at the site should be shut down within a month. Additional work, including packing up equipment, will continue through the summer.

#### DEEP HOLES AND DIRT

Suess said about 1.2 million tons has been excavated from the site and treated. Crews have had to dig as deep as 60 feet to remove oil-tainted soil. No water sources or wildlife was affected, he said.

#### COST



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The company originally thought it could clean up the site in two years for about \$4 million. It now estimates the costs at \$93 million. The state fined the company \$454,000 for the spill.

## FINALLY, FERTILE FARMLAND?

Patty Jensen, Steve's wife, hopes so. They intend to plant a cover crop this year on the spill-affected area to put nutrients in the soil, with hopes of a cash crop next year.

Patty Jensen said she won't miss the sounds of construction equipment running constantly near the couple's home. And she's hopeful the land will once again be productive.

Yet she says she will miss the cleanup workers, who routinely are treated to her homemade pies. "They've almost become family," she said.

## Prosecutor: Defendant drinking before fatal crash

CANTON, S.D. (AP) — Prosecutors say a man charged with manslaughter in a hit-and-run crash that killed a woman out for a walk in Lincoln County last week admitted drinking before striking the victim.

Twenty-one-year-old Christian Dixon is accused of killing 34-year-old Tessa Jacobs while she was walking near Worthing Wednesday night. Dixon is being held on \$150,000 cash bond.

The Argus Leader reports Deputy State's Attorney Amanda Eden says Dixon also has a prior conviction for driving under the influence in August of last year.

A citizen tip led to Dixon's arrest after parts of his vehicle were found at the scene of the crash. It was not immediately clear if Dixon has an attorney who could comment on his behalf.

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

## Senior N.Korean official's US visit reminiscent of 2000 trip

By HYUNG-JIN KIM, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — A top lieutenant for North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is headed to the United States to discuss a summit between Kim and U.S. President Donald Trump, a sign that preparations are in the final stages. But history shows that such trips don't always lead to summits: The high hopes raised by a similar North Korean mission to Washington to set up a summit 18 years ago ended up dashed.

Trump confirmed in a tweet Tuesday that senior North Korean official Kim Yong Chol is traveling to New York as part of ongoing meetings between the two countries to arrange the summit. South Korean media earlier reported that Kim Yong Chol's name was on the passenger list for a flight Wednesday from Beijing to New York.

Kim Yong Chol, a vice chairman of the ruling Workers' Party who was seen in the Beijing airport on Tuesday by The Associated Press, has been deeply involved in the diplomacy that followed Kim Jong Un's sudden outreach to Washington and Seoul earlier this year.

He is among a small group of North Korean officials who have accompanied Kim Jong Un to all four of his summits with foreign leaders in recent months — twice with South Korean President Moon Jae-in and twice with Chinese President Xi Jinping. He also visited South Korea in February to attend the closing ceremony of the Winter Olympics at the start of Kim Jong Un's charm offensive.

Kim Yong Chol, who is about 72, is a contentious figure outside North Korea.

Before taking up the job responsible for relations with South Korea in 2016 he was a four-star army general and a military intelligence chief who is thought to have been behind a slew of provocations, including two deadly attacks in 2010 that killed 50 South Koreans and an alleged 2014 cyberattack on Sony Pictures. Both Seoul and Washington imposed sanctions on him in recent years.

While in the United States, South Korean media say Kim Yong Chol will likely meet Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who visited Pyongyang, North Korea's capital, twice recently, to finalize plans for the North Korea-U.S. summit. But it's not known what else he'll do there. Media reports said Pompeo could make a third trip to Pyongyang after Kim's U.S. visit.

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His U.S. visit will follow a recent diplomatic back-and-forth that began when Trump on Thursday abruptly backed away from the meeting, citing hostile comments by the North. Trump then announced the summit could still happen in Singapore on June 12, as initially scheduled, after North Korea issued an unusually conciliatory statement about his cancellation of the summit.

Subsequently, U.S. and North Korean officials on Sunday began preliminary talks at the Korean border to set the agenda for the summit. The countries were expected to hold another set of working-level meetings in Singapore to discuss protocol, security and other logistical issues for the summit.

While Kim Yong Chol's trip to the United States could further brighten the prospects for the summit, history shows that things could still crumble at the last minute even after an exchange of high-level officials.

In October 2000, then North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, the late dictator father of Kim Jong Un, sent Vice Marshal Jo Myong Rok to Washington on a then-unprecedented goodwill mission. Jo, who died in 2010, remains the highest-level North Korean official to visit the United States since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War.

Jo's trip came as the two countries were seeking closer ties following North Korea's first-ever summit talks with South Korea in June 2000.

During his Washington visit, Jo met then President Bill Clinton, conveyed a letter from Kim Jong Il and met Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Defense Secretary William Cohen. Jo said that improved relations "will be good for both countries and for peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and the Northeast Asian region as well."

About three weeks later, Albright made a historic reciprocal trip to Pyongyang to try to arrange a North Korea trip by Clinton. Some U.S. critics suspected Clinton was angling for a hasty foreign policy triumph in his last months in office.

During her stay in Pyongyang, Kim Jong Il took Albright to one of the mass games spectacles that included a giant mosaic displaying a rocket flying into the sky. "This will be our last missile," Kim reportedly told Albright at the time, in an apparent reference to a medium-range ballistic missile the North fired over Japan two years earlier, which stunned the region.

The warming ties between the two countries chilled after President George W. Bush took office in January 2001, taking a tough line on the North. The nuclear confrontation deepened in 2002, with the Bush administration accusing North Korea of running a clandestine uranium enrichment program in breach of a 1994 disarmament deal.

Clinton eventually visited North Korea as a former president in 2009 to secure the freedom of two detained American journalists.

## Senior NKorean official heads to NY to plan for Trump summit

By **KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — U.S. President Donald Trump confirmed Tuesday that a top North Korean official is headed to New York for talks on an upcoming summit between Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, as diplomatic efforts also accelerated in Asia.

Trump said in a tweet that Kim Yong Chol was traveling to New York as part of ongoing meetings between the two countries to arrange the summit on the future of North Korea's nuclear weapons.

South Korean media earlier reported that Kim Yong Chol's name was on the passenger list for a flight Wednesday from Beijing to New York. Kim was seen in the Beijing airport on Tuesday by Associated Press Television.

Trump tweeted: "We have put a great team together for our talks with North Korea. Meetings are currently taking place concerning Summit, and more. Kim Young Chol, the Vice Chairman of North Korea, heading now to New York. Solid response to my letter, thank you!"

Kim Yong Chol is a former military intelligence chief and now a vice chairman of the North Korean ruling party's central committee. He would be the highest-level North Korean official to travel to the United States since 2000, when late National Defense Commission First Vice Chairman Jo Myong Rok visited Washington,

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South Korea's Unification Ministry said.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has traveled to Pyongyang, North Korea's capital, twice in recent weeks for meetings with Kim Jong Un, after which he said there was a "shared understanding" between the two sides about what they hope to achieve in the summit. It remained unclear whom Kim Yong Chol will meet in the United States.

Meanwhile, a team of American diplomats involved in preparatory discussions was seen leaving a Seoul hotel on Tuesday, but it was unclear whether they went to Panmunjom, a village that straddles the border inside the Demilitarized Zone, to continue talks with their North Korean counterparts following their first meeting on Sunday. The U.S. officials are led by Sung Kim, the U.S. ambassador to Manila, who formerly was the U.S. ambassador to Seoul and a top negotiator with North Korea in past nuclear talks.

The U.S.-led United Nations Command canceled a press tour of Panmunjom scheduled for Wednesday, saying the decision was related to security preparations to accommodate the U.S.-North Korea talks there. There will be no similar media events at the village until after June 12, the possible date of the summit between Trump and Kim Jong Un, according to the command.

South Korean media also reported that a North Korean delegation arrived in Singapore on Monday night for likely summit preparations with U.S. officials. Seoul did not confirm reports that the North Korean officials were headed by Kim Chang Son, Kim Jong Un's close associate, and that his American counterpart would likely be White House deputy chief of staff for operations Joe Hagin.

South Korea's Foreign Ministry said Washington and Pyongyang were engaging in "working-level" talks to arrange the possible summit, but said it couldn't confirm specifics. Ministry spokesman Noh Kyu-duk also did not say whether Seoul knew of any U.S. plans regarding Kim Yong Chol's visit, such as whether he and Pompeo will meet.

Trump withdrew from the planned summit with Kim Jong Un last Thursday, citing hostile North Korean comments, but has since said the meeting in Singapore could still happen as originally scheduled on June 12. South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who has lobbied hard for nuclear negotiations between Trump and Kim, met with the North Korean leader in a surprise meeting on Saturday in an effort to keep the summit alive.

In their second meeting in a month, Moon said Kim expressed willingness to cooperate to end confrontation and work toward peace for the sake of a successful summit with Trump. But Kim also said he was unsure whether he could trust the United States over its promise to end hostile policies against North Korea and provide security assurances if the country does abandon its nuclear weapons, according to Moon.

At their first meeting on April 27, Kim and Moon announced vague aspirations for a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula and permanent peace, which Seoul has tried to sell as a meaningful breakthrough that increases the chances of successful talks between Kim and Trump.

Their second meeting came after inter-Korean relations had chilled in recent weeks, with North Korea canceling a high-level meeting with Seoul over South Korea's participation in a two-week military exercise with the United States that ended last week. The Koreans have agreed to put high-level discussions back on track with a meeting on Friday. But that did not stop North Korea's state media from continuing its criticism of allied military exercises on Tuesday, saying if Washington "sincerely hopes for the talks, it should stop the acts of threatening its dialogue partner by force."

Since the 1970s, the United States and South Korea have been holding a major summertime exercise called Ulchi Freedom Guardian that involves tens of thousands of troops. South Korea's Defense Ministry said Tuesday there have been no discussions yet between Washington and Seoul on modifying the drills, which usually take place in August.

Despite Kim's apparent eagerness for a summit with Trump, there are lingering doubts about whether he will fully relinquish his nuclear weapons, which he may see as his only guarantee of survival. Moon has insisted Kim can be persuaded to abandon his nuclear facilities, materials and bombs in a verifiable and irreversible way in exchange for credible security and economic guarantees.

U.S. and South Korean officials haven't confirmed the details of the pre-summit negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang at the border.

The officials may discuss bridging the gap between the two sides on what a deal on the North's nuclear weapons would look like. There's also speculation that American officials are trying to persuade the North Koreans to export a certain number of their nuclear warheads overseas at an early stage as proof of their commitment to denuclearize.

U.S. officials have talked about a comprehensive one-shot deal in which North Korea eliminates its nukes first and receives rewards later. But Kim, through two summits with Chinese President Xi Jinping in March and May, has called for a phased and synchronized process in which every action he takes is met with a reciprocal reward from the United States.

Seoul has been advocating an alternative approach in which the North's comprehensive commitment and credible actions toward denuclearization are followed by a phased but compressed process of inspection and verifiable dismantling. Before he canceled the summit, Trump did not rule out an incremental approach that would provide incentives along the way to the North.

## Israeli jets bomb Gaza after mortar shells fired from strip

By ARON HELLER, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli jets bombed Gaza hours after militants from the territory on Tuesday fired more than 25 mortar shells toward communities in southern Israel in what appeared to be the largest single barrage since the 2014 Israel-Hamas war.

The Israeli military said no one was hurt and that most of the mortar shells were intercepted by the Iron Dome defense system, though one of the shells landed near a kindergarten shortly before it opened.

The high volume of projectiles came as tensions have been running high along the Israel-Gaza border and a fierce Israeli response was expected.

"Israel will exact a heavy price from those who seek to harm it and we see Hamas as responsible for preventing such attacks," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said following the barrage.

Shortly after that warning, Israeli jets began dropping bombs at what security officials in Gaza called Islamic Jihad militant training site. Smoke was seen rising near the town of Deir al-Balah in the coastal strip and the Israeli military said the explosions there were related to its activity. No injuries were reported.

Islamic Jihad was believed to be behind the attacks with a green light from Hamas, the militant Islamic group that runs the Gaza Strip.

"We are sticking to the right of return as well as responding to the Zionist crimes," said Khaled al-Batsh, an Islamic Jihad leader in Gaza.

Ismail Radwan, a Hamas official, said the barrage proved that the "resistance is capable of hurting the occupation and it proved this today by responding to its crimes."

Radwan spoke as a two fishing boats carrying students and medical patients set sail out of Gaza City's port, aiming to break 11 years of naval blockade that Egypt and Israel imposed after the militants violently took control of the coastal territory.

The expedition would be a new way of challenging the blockade but also raises the possibility of more confrontation and violence as Israel bars any boats from Gaza reaching farther out than a six-nautical-mile radius into the Mediterranean Sea. Hamas acknowledged it was mostly a symbolic act.

It also marks eight years since Israeli commandos raided a Gaza-bound aid flotilla, killing nine pro-Palestinian Turks and sparking an international outcry against the blockade.

In southern Israel, angry residents complained about how vulnerable they felt after 15 years of rocket fire threats from neighboring Gaza, which will likely put pressure on the government to retaliate harshly.

Adva Klein, a resident of Kibbutz Kfar Aza, said she only got about two hours of sleep because of the frequent incoming fire and the sirens warning of them. Other residents reported machine gun fire from Gaza as well.

"It's been a really scary morning," said Adele Raemer, a resident of Kibbutz Nirim.

Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman said he was convening the top military brass at his Tel Aviv headquarters to discuss the situation.

The border area has been tense in recent weeks as the Palestinians have held mass protests aimed at lifting a blockade imposed by Israel and Egypt after Hamas seized power in 2007.

Israeli fire has killed more than 110 Palestinians, most of them during the Hamas-led protests, which climaxed on May 14.

On Sunday, Israeli shelling killed three Palestinian militants from the smaller Islamic Jihad group after the troops found a bomb planted along the border. The Islamic Jihad vowed retaliation.

On Monday, a tank fired at a Hamas position in the Gaza Strip, killing one man and wounding another, after Israeli troops came under fire on the frontier while apprehending two armed Palestinians.

Hamas has vowed to continue the border rallies. Israel says it is defending its border as well as its communities nearby. It accuses Hamas of trying to carry out attacks under the cover of protests.

Associated Press writer Fares Akram in Gaza City, Gaza Strip, contributed to this report.

## After the floods, locals ask 'should I stay or should I go?'

By DAVID McFADDEN, Associated Press

ELLICOTT CITY, Md. (AP) — After yet another devastating flash flood ripped apart their historic Maryland mill town, hundreds of residents and business owners are again asking themselves: Should I stay or should I go?

Some business owners in picturesque Ellicott City — established in 1772 as a mill town along the Patapsco River surround by hills — say they're determined to rebuild after Sunday's devastation. Their hope: to pull together as a community again after the second terrible flood deluged their downtown in less than two years.

Simon Cortes, owner of La Palapa Grill & Cantina, said Monday it's "a horrible time," and his business took on about a foot (30 centimeters) of water. But he emphasized that the old mill town has been through it all before and he's resolved to do his part to spur another revival.

"I feel like it's our duty to make sure that we rebuild and open back up," said Cortes, whose restaurant is right by the spot where a 39-year-old man was swept away by Sunday's raging floodwaters.

But with floodwaters receded, revealing devastating damage across the downtown of quaint shops and historic 18th and 19th Century buildings, others are stretched to the breaking point. Now they face yet another massive cleanup, serious economic losses and a daunting comeback.

It's particularly trying for folks because Sunday's torrential rains came just as it seemed the town had come back stronger than ever from a dreadful July 2016 flash flood that killed two. Sunday's dramatic flooding tore up streets and swept away dozens of parked cars in the city, which sits in a ravine on the west bank of the Patapsco, about 13 miles (20 kilometers) west of Baltimore.

Getting flood insurance around old Ellicott City was a pricy proposition before. Now, those who are pondering the next comeback don't even want to think about how much it might cost. And many business owners are still paying off the debt they incurred after the last flood smashed their businesses and properties.

Local resident Nathan Sowers, owner of the River House Pizza Co., an outdoor eatery in the old mill town's business district, said that after all the hard work rebuilding from the destructive 2016 flood he's feeling a bit overwhelmed at attempting yet another comeback.

"We'll see. It takes a lot of money and a lot of time, a lot of energy. We'll just have to assess it," he said, speaking near a bridge where several crushed cars were swept into a muddy tributary's banks.

But Sowers also said he saw other hard-hit locals laughing and joking about their troubles first thing Monday morning — a good sign the Maryland town will launch yet another rebirth.

Still, the one man remains missing, and this Maryland town is heartbroken.

The missing man — 39-year-old Eddison Hermond of Severn, Maryland — was last seen trying to help a woman rescue her cat behind a restaurant while seething brown waters surged through the downtown.

Howard County Police Chief Gary Gardner said the missing National Guard member and U.S. Air Force veteran had been with a group at the La Palapa Grill & Cantina when a woman approached, desperately

trying to rescue her pet just outside. "He, along with some other folks, went back to assist her and unfortunately during that effort they saw him go under water," Gardner told reporters.

Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman said his immediate priorities are finding the missing man and assessing the condition of damaged buildings that housed shops, restaurants and families.

"If you look at the devastation and the damage, I would certainly say it's worse than 2016," Kittleman said. "We've had areas that were not even damaged at all two years ago terribly damaged this time."

Ellicott City certainly got the worst of it. But torrential rains led to such bad flooding in Baltimore County, Baltimore City and the capital of Annapolis that Gov. Larry Hogan declared a statewide emergency to better coordinate support and assistance.

Mike Muccilli, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service, said it was too early to make comparisons between the two devastating floods.

In the July 2016 storm, Ellicott City received 6.6 inches (17 centimeters) of rain over a two- to three-hour period. On Sunday, the community received some 8 inches (20.32 centimeters) of rain over a six-hour period, most in an intense, three-hour period, Muccilli said.

"In a normal heavy rain ... you wouldn't see this amount of flooding, where you see cars floating down the road," the meteorologist said. "This was a true flash flood."

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Associated Press writer Brian Witte contributed from Annapolis, Md.

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## Gunman kills 3 in Belgian city before being shot dead

BRUSSELS (AP) — A gunman killed three people, including two police officers, in the Belgian city of Liege on Tuesday, a city official said. Police later killed the attacker, and other officers were wounded in the shooting.

The motive for the attack wasn't immediately clear. State broadcaster RTBF reported that it could be terror-related, citing unnamed police and fire officials. Belgium's prime minister couldn't confirm the report.

"Beyond the attacker, who was shot, there are three dead, two police officials and a passer-by," Michel Firket from Liege city hall told The Associated Press.

State broadcaster RTBF reported that the shooting took place near a cafe on Liege's Boulevard d'Avroy. A passenger in a car driving by was killed. Other police officers were wounded in the exchange of fire, Firket told the AP.

When asked about the report that the attack was terror-related, Firket said: "I know nothing formal about that. The police is doing its investigation. There are no formal conclusions."

RTBF said the gunman fled the scene, taking a female cleaner hostage at a nearby school before he was shot.

A spokeswoman for the city mayor's office, Laurence Comminette, told the AP that the children were all safe.

Speaking on Belgian television, Prime Minister Charles Michel said: "There was a serious incident."

"The information so far is not clear yet," he said. Michel was rushing to the crisis center to get more information.

Video posted on Twitter by a person claiming to be a witness showed people running in the area. About six gunshots could be heard.

Belgian police and military have been on alert since suicide bombers killed 32 people at the Brussels airport and subway system in 2016.

## Alberto, now a depression, dumps heavy rains across South

By JENNIFER KAY, Associated Press

Alberto is a still-menacing depression after its Memorial Day landfall on the Gulf Coast, scattering heavy rains around the South and raising risks of flash floods.

As the first named storm of the 2018 Atlantic hurricane season, Subtropical Storm Alberto lumbered ashore Monday afternoon in the Florida Panhandle and then weakened overnight to a depression centered over Alabama. Now a vast, soggy system, it has been dumping warm waters gathered over the Gulf of Mexico in bursts of rain across the South.

Forecasters said that rain could still kill people caught in flash floods in the coming hours or days in Alabama and large areas of Georgia, Tennessee and the Carolinas.

In North Carolina, a television news anchor and a photojournalist were killed instantly on Monday while covering the weather, when a tree became uprooted from rain-soaked ground and toppled onto their SUV, authorities said.

"Two journalists working to keep the public informed about this storm have tragically lost their lives, and we mourn with their families, friends and colleagues," North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper said in a statement.

"North Carolina needs to take Alberto seriously. I urge everyone to keep a close eye on forecasts, warnings and road conditions, especially in western North Carolina where even heavier rain is predicted."

Strong winds and waves kicked up by the storm were expected to rapidly diminish through Tuesday along the coasts of Alabama and Florida.

Between four and eight inches (10-25 centimeters) of rain could soak the Florida Panhandle, Alabama, and western Georgia before the storm moves on. Isolated deluges of 12 inches (30 centimeters) also are possible in spots as the system heads toward the Tennessee Valley on Tuesday and later this week into the Ohio Valley and Great Lakes region.

Alberto rolled up big waves and tides along the northern Gulf Coast as it moved ashore. Lifeguards posted red flags along the white sands of Pensacola Beach, where swimming and wading were banned and holiday plans were disrupted.

Safety was the priority, but having to cancel was a "heartbreaker," said Tom Rice, a 29-year-old Army veteran who had helped with planning for a ceremony at Beal Memorial Cemetery in Fort Walton Beach.

Some stragglers defied rain to pay tribute at the cemetery's Veterans Tribute Tower. Rice said American flags had been placed Saturday on the graves of all 1,700 veterans buried in the cemetery.

"We got the flags out," Rice told the Northwest Florida Daily News as wind whipped a massive U.S. flag flying at half-staff. "That's what's important."

Jason Powell sought to keep his children entertained with movies and TV, adding he hoped the sun would come out again after Alberto blew over. "So far we've seen a lot of wind and the ocean is really high, covering up the entire beach," Powell remarked.

Janet Rhumes and her group of friends from Kansas had been planning their Memorial Day weekend on Navarre Beach since October. They stocked up on groceries and settled in for card games. "We've never seen one before and we're here celebrating a friend's 20th birthday," Rhumes said. "So how often can you say you rode a storm out?"

As a subtropical storm, Alberto had a less defined and cooler center than a tropical storm, and its strongest winds were found farther from its center.

The large tree that crushed the TV news vehicle Monday afternoon near Tryon, North Carolina, killed news anchor Mike McCormick and photojournalist Aaron Smeltzer of WYFF-TV of Greenville, South Carolina, the station said.

They had just interviewed Tryon Fire Chief Geoffrey Tennant as they covered storms in North Carolina. "Ten minutes later we get the call and it was them," Tennant said at a news conference, his voice cracking.

Tennant said the roots of the large tree tore loose from ground saturated by a week's worth of rain. The men died instantly, their vehicle's engine still running, he said.

Kay reported from Miami Beach, Florida. Associated Press writers Kate Brumback in Atlanta and Jeffrey S. Collins in Columbia, South Carolina, contributed to this report.

## Trump to campaign in Tennessee to thwart Dems' US Senate bid

By KEN THOMAS and DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Diving into the midterm elections, President Donald Trump is seeking to build a stable of Republicans who will help promote his agenda and serve as a check on Democrats aiming to win majorities in Congress.

Trump is traveling to Nashville, Tennessee, on Tuesday to raise campaign cash for Republican Rep. Marsha Blackburn, the party's leading U.S. Senate hopeful in Tennessee, and headline a rally with his most loyal supporters.

Blackburn is expected to face Democratic former Gov. Phil Bredesen to replace Republican Sen. Bob Corker, who is retiring. The Tennessee campaign is among several races crucial to Trump's plans to maintain control of the Senate, where Republicans are defending a narrow two-seat majority.

Trump is planning a series of political rallies and events in the coming months to boost Republicans and brand Democrats as obstructionists to his agenda. The president held a similar rally in Indiana earlier this month, appearing with Republican businessman Mike Braun and ripping Democratic U.S. Sen. Joe Donnelly as a "swamp person" who refused to aid the GOP agenda.

"We're not getting complacent. We can't," Trump said in Elkhart, Indiana. "If we elect more Republicans we can truly deliver for all of our citizens."

Beyond Indiana, Trump has used his Twitter page to boost California Republican gubernatorial candidate John Cox, hoping to strengthen the party's chances of securing a spot on the ballot in November. He has also set his sights on Montana, where Democratic Sen. Jon Tester is seeking re-election in a state Trump carried in a landslide. The two states have primaries on June 5.

The president is raising money later in the week in Texas to benefit Senate Republicans and his 2020 campaign.

Tennessee has a history of electing centrist senators and the race could be complicated by Corker's up-and-down relationship with Trump. Corker once said Trump had turned the White House into an "adult day care center" and the president tweeted that Corker "couldn't get elected dog catcher in Tennessee."

Yet Corker was in the Oval Office on Saturday, receiving praise from the president for his help in securing the release of a man imprisoned in Venezuela. The breakthrough happened after Corker held a surprise meeting in Caracas with Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro.

In his final year in the Senate, Corker has called Bredesen a friend and said he won't actively campaign against him.

Trump, meanwhile, offered an early endorsement of Blackburn in April, calling her on Twitter "a wonderful woman who has always been there when we have needed her. Great on the Military, Border Security and Crime."

Blackburn, who served on Trump's transition team, has embraced the president and called herself a "hardcore, card-carrying Tennessee conservative."

Bredesen, who is attempting to become the first Democrat to win a Senate campaign in Tennessee since Al Gore in 1990, has aired TV ads in which he says that he's "not running against Donald Trump" and that he learned long ago to "separate the message from the messenger."

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## Leader of failed MH370 wreckage hunt hopes to search again

By ROD McGUIRK, Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — The head of a U.S. technology company that scoured the Indian Ocean seabed for more than three months looking for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 said on Tuesday he was disappointed the hunt failed to find wreckage and hoped to take part in some future search.

Malaysia said last week the search by Texas-based Ocean Infinity would end on Tuesday after two extensions of the original 90-day time limit.

Ocean Infinity chief executive Oliver Plunkett said the search would soon end after covering more than 112,000 square kilometers (43,000 square miles) of remote ocean floor — an area more than four times larger than the zone targeted by experts as the most likely crash site.

"I would firstly like to extend the thoughts of everyone at Ocean Infinity to the families of those who have lost loved ones on MH370. Part of our motivation for renewing the search was to try to provide some answers to those affected," Plunkett said in a statement.

"It is therefore with a heavy heart that we end our current search without having achieved that aim," he added.

Plunkett said he was pleased to hear the new Malaysian government had made finding the Boeing 777 that vanished with 239 people aboard a priority.

"Whilst clearly the outcome so far is extremely disappointing, as a company, we are truly proud of what we have achieved both in terms of the quality of data we've produced and the speed with which we covered such a vast area," Plunkett said.

"We sincerely hope that we will be able to again offer our services in the search for MH370 in the future," he added.

Malaysia signed a "no cure, no fee" deal with Ocean Infinity in January to resume the hunt for the plane, a year after the official search in the southern Indian Ocean by Australia, Malaysia and China was called off. Ocean Infinity stood to be paid \$70 million if it had found the wreckage or black boxes. No other search is scheduled.

Australian Transport Minister Michael McCormack said the four-year search had been the largest in aviation history and tested the limits of technology and the capacity of experts and people at sea.

"We will always remain hopeful that one day the aircraft will be located," McCormack's office said in a statement.

Australia, Malaysia and China agreed in 2016 that an official search would only resume if the three countries had credible evidence that identified a specific location for the wreckage.

Flight 370 vanished on March 8, 2014, while flying from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to Beijing. The original search focused on the South China Sea before analysis revealed that the plane had made an unexpected turn west and then south.

Australia coordinated an official search on Malaysia's behalf that scoured 120,000 square kilometers (46,000 square miles) and cost 200 million Australian dollars (\$150 million) before it ended last year.

Experts used drift analysis of wreckage found washed ashore on the west coasts of the Indian Ocean to define the new search area that Ocean Infinity. The most likely crash site was only 25,000 square kilometers (9,650 square miles), roughly the size of Vermont.

Ocean Infinity ship Seabed Contractor made quick progress operating up to eight remotely controlled underwater sonar drones.

Danica Weeks, an Australian resident who lost her husband on Flight 370, urged Foreign Minister Julie Bishop to call on Malaysia's new government to be more transparent about what they knew about the mysterious disappearance.

"There've been so many theories and rumors and ... we don't know what is true and what isn't," Weeks told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

"I want Julie Bishop to say to the Malaysian counterparts now: What do you have? Where is the investigation at?" she added.

The director of the official seabed hunt that ended last year, Peter Foley, told an Australian Senate com-

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mittee hearing last week that he still hoped that Ocean Infinity would be successful.

"If they're not, of course, that would be a great sadness for all of us," Foley said.

Jiang Hui of China, whose mother was on board the plane, said he appreciated Ocean Infinity's efforts but still hoped for more information on the possible reasons for the disappearance.

The recent seating of a new Malaysian government under Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad could offer the prospects of new data becoming available, Jiang told The Associated Press last week.

"I don't believe a corrupted government can be efficient or fair," he said, referring to the administration of Najib Razak, who was Malaysia's prime minister when the flight disappeared and who has been questioned by police in a money-laundering scandal that tainted his government.

## Fire department diver seeking missing boater dies in river

CHICAGO (AP) — A fire department diver looking for a man who fell off a boat into the Chicago River on Monday night was separated from his partner underwater and was killed.

The Chicago Fire Department said that its "prayers go out to the family of Firefighter Juan Bucio." It said on Twitter that Bucio "tragically passed away answering a call of a person in the water."

The man fell off the boat around 8 p.m. Monday, police said. Bucio was killed and two other divers were injured while searching for the man in the river, which flows through downtown Chicago.

Bucio was in the water with a dive partner when the partner lost contact with him, fire Commissioner Jose Santiago said.

"During the search, one of our divers became separated," he said. "Immediate search started with the backup divers."

Bucio was pulled from the water and later was pronounced dead at a hospital, Santiago said.

The man who fell off the boat hadn't been found as of early Tuesday. The two other divers were hospitalized briefly.

Bucio, who was 46 years old, joined the Chicago Fire Department in 2003 and became a member of its dive team in 2007. He had two children, sons ages 7 and 9. He also had nine siblings, including a brother at the fire department and a sister at the police department, Santiago said.

"Please," Santiago said, "keep this family in your prayers."

## Falling tree kills 2 journalists reporting on severe weather

TRYON, N.C. (AP) — North Carolina's governor is urging his state's residents to exercise caution as rains from a subtropical depression spread into his and other Southern states, noting the deaths of two broadcast journalists killed by a falling tree as they reported on the severe weather associated with Alberto.

The television news anchor and a photojournalist colleague were killed Monday in North Carolina while covering the very fringes of the large system whose core made landfall hundreds of miles (kilometers) away on the northern Gulf Coast. Authorities said a tree became uprooted from rain-soaked soil and toppled on the news team's SUV, killing the two instantly.

"Two journalists working to keep the public informed about this storm have tragically lost their lives, and we mourn with their families, friends and colleagues," Cooper said in a statement. "North Carolina needs to take Alberto seriously. I urge everyone to keep a close eye on forecasts, warnings and road conditions, especially in western North Carolina where even heavier rain is predicted."

The dead were identified as working for a station based in Greenville, South Carolina.

WYFF-TV Anchor Mike McCormick and photojournalist Aaron Smeltzer both had worked in the Greenville market for more than a decade, anchor Carol Goldsmith said on air, breaking the news of their deaths Monday.

"Mike and Aaron were beloved members of our team — our family," Goldsmith said.

The men were driving on U.S. Highway 176 near Tryon when the large tree fell on their vehicle, North Carolina Highway Patrol Master Trooper Murico Stephens said.

McCormick and Smeltzer had just interviewed Tryon Fire Chief Geoffrey Tennant. They told Tennant to be careful with Alberto's remnants expected to bring more heavy rains and mudslides to North Carolina. He told them to be careful too.

"Ten minutes later we get the call and it was them," Tennant said at a news conference, his voice cracking.

A woman died in a mudslide on May 19 not far from the area and officials in one especially hard-hit county were asking people living in vulnerable areas to voluntary leave before the weather got worse.

Neither Stephens nor Tennant directly blamed the up to 2 inches (5 centimeters) of rain that fell Monday for the deaths. The fire chief said the roots of a large tree were loosened in ground saturated by a week of rain. The TV vehicle engine's was still running and the transmission was in drive when crews found it. The men died instantly, said Tennant.

McCormick was a weekend anchor for the Greenville station and covered Spartanburg and surrounding areas. He came to the station in April 2007.

Smeltzer worked in Greenville for more than a decade, coming to WYFF-TV from a different station in the market. He touted on his Twitter biography of winning four Emmys.

WHNS-TV reporter Derek Dellinger competed with McCormick and Smeltzer, but also considered them friends. He called Smeltzer a perfectionist and McCormick a hard worker and a nice guy.

"Despite being the competition, I had interactions with (McCormick) both in and out of work, and we would talk about work issues, talk about life — everything," Dellinger said, calling him "a good guy" with a warm heart.

## **Sex-abusing neurologist's patients: No justice in Philly**

**By MICHAEL RUBINKAM, Associated Press**

Patients of a neurologist already facing rape charges in New York and New Jersey say law enforcement officials in Philadelphia are burying nearly identical accusations against him, angering and perplexing women who say they're being victimized twice — first by their doctor, now by a big-city justice system that won't hold him accountable.

A slew of patients who accuse Dr. Ricardo Cruciani of sexual misconduct in Philadelphia have yet to see authorities pursue a felony case against him, even after police in New York City and New Jersey investigated their claims and swiftly filed charges that could put him away for decades.

The Ivy League-trained neurologist faces a total of 30 criminal counts. He has pleaded not guilty and is free on \$1 million bail.

In Pennsylvania's largest city, "they're just turning a blind eye. That's what's so egregious and utterly disgusting," said Hillary Tullin, 46, who saw Cruciani for years and said she was assaulted repeatedly by him in all three states. "That's why people don't come forward, because they don't believe they'll get justice or that anything will happen."

Philadelphia police and prosecutors defend their handling of the investigation, noting Cruciani pleaded guilty to an earlier set of misdemeanor charges that required him to give up his medical license and register as a sex offender. City officials acknowledge Cruciani's latest accusers are frustrated but say some of their cases are too weak to prosecute. Other complaints are still under investigation.

Tanisha Johnson, one of six patients interviewed by The Associated Press about their experience with Philadelphia law enforcement, said she called police multiple times in a fruitless effort to schedule an interview. She recalled a particularly distressing March conversation with a supervisor in the special victims unit.

"What he said to me was, 'The case in Philadelphia has already been dealt with. I suggest you contact New York and New Jersey.' My response was, 'You want me to contact New York and New Jersey about a crime that took place in Philadelphia?' I was offended by that," Johnson said.

Capt. Sekou Kinebrew, a police spokesman, said the department doesn't comment on conversations between accusers and special victims unit investigators.

"It was disheartening and it was disrespectful, and I was disregarded," said Johnson, 43. "When I hung up the phone, I cried for about three hours. I can't believe that's the way you would deal with a victim

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of rape.”

Johnson said she eventually managed to give a statement, but only after she traveled from her home in New York City to Philadelphia and went to the DA's office unannounced.

Cruciani arrived in Philadelphia two years ago as a heralded pain doctor. As chief neurologist at Drexel University's medical school, he saw patients with rare, complicated syndromes and chronic, unrelenting pain.

His accusers say Cruciani used that specialized medical knowledge to trap them in long-term doctor-patient relationships marked by abuse, taking advantage of their desperation. Some of the women say Cruciani forced them to have intercourse and perform oral sex and penetrated them with his fingers.

The neurologist's misconduct first came to light, ironically, in Philadelphia, where he was charged last year and later pleaded guilty to relatively minor groping counts involving seven patients. He received seven years' probation, a punishment some of the victims viewed as a slap on the wrist.

The publicity prompted a round of new, more serious accusations.

A 55-year-old woman who alleges Cruciani abused her for years told the AP that she gave a statement to Philadelphia police in late 2017 but has heard nothing since. The woman said police in New York and New Jersey responded immediately, communicated with her each step of the way and charged Cruciani based on her account.

“There was already so much misery and shame going on, and to have to go through all this is just ridiculous,” the woman, who lives in Dutchess County, New York, said of Philadelphia law enforcement. “Did they not take me seriously? Were they trying to cover it up? All these things go through your head when you're ignored. I was so ignored.”

The Associated Press does not typically identify people who say they are victims of sexual assault unless they grant permission, as Tullin and Johnson have done.

In Philadelphia, a total of 18 accusers have filed police reports since May 2017 — including 10 who came forward after his arrest in September, according to the police department.

Philadelphia police routinely buried rape cases in decades past, a practice exposed by The Philadelphia Inquirer in 1999. The scandal prompted major reforms, including an annual, confidential review of police sexual assault files by outside advocacy groups.

A former prosecutor not associated with the case said he is perplexed by Philadelphia's handling of the Cruciani cases.

“I would find it surprising, regardless of whether he was charged in another jurisdiction, that if they have multiple, overlapping, credible victims who want to see this man prosecuted, that charges wouldn't be filed,” said Dave Zuckerman, a Pittsburgh defense lawyer and former assistant district attorney. “To me, that is not customary.”

Tullin is outraged the DA's office declined her case. She said a prosecutor cherry-picked two statements in a police interview to wrongly imply she had consented to sex acts with Cruciani.

“It was the very first interview I ever did. I didn't have an advocate, I had never talked about this with anybody, I hadn't seen a trauma counselor. You're saying things that sometimes don't make sense,” Tullin said. “And what I was saying was taken out of context.”

New York and New Jersey police both charged Cruciani based on her account.

Ben Waxman, spokesman for District Attorney Larry Krasner, who took office in January, declined to comment on the specifics of each accuser's case. In general, Waxman said, “the ones where we didn't charge are ones where we feel we didn't have a strong enough case.” Prosecutors, he added, “don't have the tools” to file charges in some instances.

Pennsylvania and New Jersey sexual assault laws do not specifically address conduct by health providers, though each state's licensing board prohibits doctors from having sexual contact with their patients, even if it's consensual. In New York, patients are deemed incapable of consenting to sex with their doctor during treatment or an exam.

Jeff Fritz, an attorney for many of the accusers, has asked for a state investigation in Philadelphia.

“These women put their faith in Dr. Cruciani as their doctor, which he betrayed. These women have

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since put their trust in the police and DA's office to fully investigate and prosecute these crimes and are outraged that no additional charges have been brought against Cruciani, or that they were told to seek justice in other states although the crimes took place in Pennsylvania," he said.

"Simply put, these women feel re-victimized."

## American freed from Venezuelan jail returns home to Utah

By JOSHUA GOODMAN and BRADY McCOMBS, Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Nearly two years after a trip to meet the woman he loved turned into an imprisonment in a Venezuelan jail, an exhausted but grateful Utah man arrived home with his wife Monday.

Josh Holt arrived at the Salt Lake City airport to a tearful, cheering crowd holding signs in his favorite color, green, with messages such as: "We never gave up." His grandmother draped an American flag around his shoulders as he exchanged long hugs with person after person while the crowd sang "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Holt spoke briefly to thank everyone who helped him and his wife, Thamara Caleno, get released from jail but said they were exhausted, feeling like they'd gotten "maybe four hours of sleep in four days."

Standing nearby were his parents, celebrating a homecoming they'd worked tirelessly to bring about.

Laurie and Jason Holt woke at 4:30 a.m. last Saturday to a phone call they had been anxiously anticipating for two years.

Their son, Josh Holt, now 26, traveled to Caracas in June 2016 to marry a fellow Mormon he had met online while looking to improve his Spanish. The two were waiting for Caleno's U.S. visa when they were arrested at her family's apartment in a government housing complex.

Josh Holt and his Venezuelan wife were locked in a Caracas jail alongside some of the country's most-hardened criminals — and President Nicolas Maduro's top opponents — for what the U.S. government argued were bogus charges of stockpiling weapons.

The Salt Lake City parents had been through the emotional rollercoaster of believing their son would be released only to watch mediation efforts unravel at the last minute on at least three occasions. So they braced for another disappointment after an Associated Press reporter informed the couple Friday that Sen. Bob Corker, the powerful chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, had popped up unexpectedly in Caracas to push for Holt's freedom.

But then they got the fateful call from Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch's office.

"They called us at 4:30 a.m. and said, 'You need to be on the plane. Josh is coming home,'" said Laurie Holt, recalling how they had to pack and get to the airport in 90 minutes. "This was the first time they actually said: 'Get to DC, he's being freed.'"

Now, Laurie Holt said she can't wait to sit down with her son. While there was a long hug Saturday evening she said they've had very little time to speak to her son. The whole family was whisked away to the White House for a meeting with President Donald Trump before Josh Holt and his wife checked into a government hospital for a battery of medical tests.

Laurie Holt said her son is in good health but lost weight, suffered a number of bronchial problems in prison and has a rotten tooth that needed checking out. Caleno has more serious pain issues on one side of her body.

Experts in treating people who have been held in captivity have debriefed the couple so that they can begin dealing with the emotions from their long ordeal.

"He's not the same Josh that left," said Laurie Holt. "He just doesn't quite have that sparkle back yet in his eyes. He'll come back, I know he will. We just have to give him time."

His Salt Lake City welcoming committee included Caleno's daughter from a previous relationship, 7-year-old Nathalia Carrasco, who has been living at Laurie Holt's home since February. Caleno's other daughter, Marian, traveled with the couple from Caracas.

Laurie Holt said she thinks Maduro — fearing retaliation from the U.S. — decided to finally act after her son appeared in a clandestinely-shot video from jail on the eve of this month's presidential election railing

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against the Venezuelan government, saying his life had been threatened in a prison riot.

After communications between the U.S. senators' offices and the Venezuelan government, "I think his heart was softened," Laurie Holt said of Maduro.

Maduro never publicly mentioned Holt's imprisonment even as it became a major irritant in relations between the already-hostile governments.

Laurie Holt said she's also appreciative of Corker's Venezuelan counterpart in the talks, Rafael Lacava, a governor close to Maduro who escorted the Tennessee senator and Holt back to Washington on a jet belonging to Venezuela's state-owned oil company. In a photograph taken at the airport in Caracas, Holt can be seen standing alongside Lacava holding a Venezuela national soccer team jersey emblazoned with the governor's name.

Trump on Friday night called Corker in Caracas and spoke to Lacava briefly to express his appreciation for Holt's release, according to two U.S. officials with knowledge of the call. They spoke on the condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the private conversation.

Finally, Laurie Holt credits Wilmer Ruperti, a government-connected Venezuelan shipping magnate, with keeping her son safe in jail. Ruperti flew to Salt Lake to meet her family and had been paying for Holt's lawyers. But when his involvement in the case was revealed by the AP it was met with skepticism because he had also been funding the defense of two nephews of First Lady Cilia Flores who were convicted in New York in 2016 of drug trafficking.

Corker said that when Lacava traveled to Washington in March the possibility of the nephews' release was discussed, as well as some sort of sanctions relief at a time Trump was threatening an oil embargo on the OPEC nation.

"All of those things were discussed but we told them it could not happen," Corker said in an interview Monday, insisting that "nothing was asked, nothing was given" in exchange for Holt's freedom.

The nephews are still imprisoned.

Corker said he's not sure where U.S.-Venezuelan relations are heading and declined to comment on bipartisan legislation before his committee that aims to further isolate Venezuela's government and provide humanitarian assistance. But the Republican, who is retiring this year, said it's important for the U.S. to continue to speak out against the "many, many bad things" the Maduro government has done.

Nonetheless, he said the hardliner approach can only go so far and dialogue with adversaries, as demonstrated by the Trump administration's willingness to talk with North Korea's leader, can deliver tangible benefits.

"In my conversations privately, I could not be more strident in my criticisms of the way the Venezuela government has handled itself. I've seen in Venezuela people lined up outside grocery stores just to buy toilet paper," Corker said. "But if we are engaging with Kim Jong Un, who executes his relatives with high-power artillery at close range, then it would seem to me that engaging with Venezuela, while keeping on all the pressure that we have, would also make some sense."

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Goodman reported from Bogota, Colombia. Associated Press writer Lindsay Whitehurst contributed from Salt Lake City.

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This story has been corrected to reflect that Laurie and Jason Holt received the phone call on Saturday, not Friday as originally reported, and that the AP reporter updated them on Friday, not Thursday as originally reported.

## Starbucks to close over 8,000 stores for anti-bias training

By TERRY TANG, Associated Press

Starbucks will close more than 8,000 stores nationwide on Tuesday to conduct anti-bias training, the next of many steps the company is taking to try to restore its tarnished image as a hangout where all are welcome.

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After the arrests of two black men in Philadelphia last month at one of its stores, the coffee chain's leaders apologized and met with the two men, but also reached out to activists and experts in bias training to put together a curriculum for its 175,000 workers.

That has put a spotlight on the little-known world of "unconscious bias training," which is used by many corporations, police departments and other organizations to help address racism in the workplace. The training is typically designed to get people to open up about implicit biases and stereotypes in encountering people of color, gender or other identities.

The Perception Institute, a consortium of researchers consulting with Starbucks, defines implicit bias as attitudes — positive or negative — or stereotypes someone has toward a person or group without being conscious of it. A common example, according to some of its studies, is a tendency for white people to unknowingly associate black people with criminal behavior.

Many retailers including Walmart and Target said they already offer some racial bias training. Target says it plans to expand that training. Nordstrom has said it plans to enhance its training after issuing an apology to three black teenagers in Missouri who employees falsely accused of shoplifting.

Anti-bias sessions can incorporate personal reflections, explorations of feelings and mental exercises. But one expert says training of this kind can have the opposite effect if people feel judged.

According to a video previewing the Starbucks training, there will be recorded remarks from Starbucks executives and rapper/activist Common. From there, employees will "move into a real and honest exploration of bias" where, in small groups, they can share how the issue comes up in their daily work life.

Starbucks has described it as a "collaborative and engaging experience for store partners to learn together."

Developed with feedback from the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, the Perception Institute and other social advocacy groups, Tuesday's four-hour session will give workers a primer on the history of civil rights from the 1960s to present day. Workers will also view a short documentary film.

Alexis McGill Johnson, Perception's co-founder and executive director, says anti-bias training is about awareness.

"The work that we want to do is not say you're a bad person because you have a stereotype about a group, but say this is why your brain may have these stereotypes," she said.

Johnson declined to elaborate on the details of the Starbucks training. But she said Perception's workshops typically include mental exercises to show participants how bias creeps into situations. A session can include personal reflections, she said, such as, "I was socialized to think about a group this way."

Johnson said the real work is for employees to apply what they learn in their everyday lives. She likened it to exercising a muscle. Some ways to practice counter-stereotyping, she said, are to look for something unique about a person that is beyond their social identity.

"It could be having a question that elicits something more interesting than, say, the weather or the traffic," Johnson said, stressing the need to "go well beyond the superficial."

In the Philadelphia incident, Rashon Nelson and Donte Robinson were asked to leave after one was denied access to the bathroom. They were arrested by police minutes after they sat down to await a business meeting. The incident was recorded by cellphones and went viral.

Nelson and Robinson settled with Starbucks this month for an undisclosed sum and an offer of a free education. They also reached a deal with the city of Philadelphia for a symbolic \$1 each and a promise from officials to establish a \$200,000 program for young entrepreneurs.

Starbucks has since announced anyone can use its restrooms even if they are not buying anything. According to documents Starbucks sent to store workers, employees should also think carefully when dealing with disruptive customers. A guide advises staff to consider whether the actions they take would apply to any customer in the same situation. They should dial 911 only if the situation seems unsafe.

Starbucks said the arrests never should have occurred and announced the mass closures of its stores for the afternoon of training.

Calvin Lai, an assistant professor of psychological and brain sciences at Washington University in St. Louis, said people should not place high expectations on this one day.

"We find that oftentimes diversity training has mixed effects, and in some cases it can even backfire and lead people who are kind of already reactive to these issues to become even more polarized," Lai said.

One afternoon wouldn't really be "moving the needle on the biases," especially when it's a company with as many employees as Starbucks, he said. "A lot of those employees won't be here next year or two years or three years down the line."

Starbucks has said Tuesday's sessions serve as "a step in a long-term journey to make Starbucks even more welcoming and safe for all." It is working with volunteer advisers including Heather McGhee, president of social advocacy organization Demos, and Sherrilyn Ifill, president and director-counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

"One of the things Starbucks has to wrestle with is how to incorporate this kind of training into the onboarding of every employee," Ifill said.

That takes a sustained effort, McGhee added.

"We have really made it clear that one training is not enough, and this needs to be part of an ongoing review of their policies," McGhee said. "They really need to commit."

AP Retail Writer Anne D'Innocenzio contributed to this report.

## Not so easy: Trump's trade agenda hits stumbling blocks

By KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's hard-line views on trade, a staple of his message long before he entered politics, are beginning to collide with the cold realities of global geopolitics.

Trade talks on China and the North American Free Trade Agreement have hit stumbling blocks, posing a challenge for a president who vowed to make trade deals more equitable for the United States during his 2016 campaign and who famously tweeted that trade wars are "easy to win."

Trump's trade agenda — at least lately — has not been so easy.

After threatening China with \$150 billion in tariffs, Trump's administration has suspended plans to impose the tariffs for now and the president tweeted Wednesday that a "different structure" would be needed in the trade talks involving the world's two largest economies.

The president has bemoaned the massive U.S. trade deficit with China — \$337 billion last year — as evidence that Beijing has been complicit in abusive trading practices and outsmarted his predecessors.

Pointing to a pause in the trade dispute, the administration pointed to China's plans to "significantly increase" its purchases of U.S. goods and services and make "meaningful increases" in U.S. exports of agriculture and energy products. Financial markets, wary of a calamitous trade war, were relieved.

But Beijing did not agree to any specific dollar amounts, despite the Trump administration's push to lower the U.S. trade deficit by at least \$200 billion. And doubts remain about whether China will address allegations the Chinese engage in cybertheft of trade secrets, force U.S. companies to transfer some of their technology in exchange for market access or back away from its China 2025 plan to dominate emerging technologies.

"Chinese are laughing at us again. They have never delivered on 1 promise in the past. Appeasement is the devil's friend," tweeted Dan DiMicco, a former Nucor steel chairman and trade adviser to Trump's campaign and transition team, last Monday.

Separately, on Friday, the U.S. reached a deal on ZTE Corp. that will allow the Chinese telecommunications giant to remain in business. Under the deal, ZTE will oust its management team, hire American compliance officers and pay a fine — on top of the \$1 billion it's already paid for selling equipment to North Korea and Iran in violation of U.S. sanctions. In return, the U.S. Commerce Department will lift a seven-year ban on ZTE buying components from U.S. companies. The ban, imposed this month, threatened to put ZTE out of business.

Trump said earlier that a resolution would help U.S. firms that supply ZTE with components, but members of Congress, including several Republicans, warned that the U.S. is being too lenient on a company



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that has violated U.S. sanctions.

"ZTE presents a national security threat to the United States — and nothing in this reported deal addresses that fundamental fact," said Sen. Chris Van Hollen, a Maryland Democrat. "If President Trump won't put our security before Chinese jobs, Congress will act on a bipartisan basis to stop him."

Trump's team, meanwhile, has hit an impasse with Canada and Mexico on negotiations over NAFTA. The president has sought to overhaul NAFTA as a way of returning automobile production to the U.S. and reduce America's trade deficit with Mexico.

But the talks are running into the complications of Mexican elections in July and the U.S. midterm elections in November along with a dispute over rules for car production.

Seeking leverage, Trump's administration launched an investigation into whether tariffs might be necessary on car imports, based on national security concerns. The potential penalties could affect Mexico, Canada, Japan and the European Union.

The administration used a similar Commerce Department probe to impose tariffs in March on imported steel and aluminum.

But auto manufacturers said they didn't push for the auto investigation, and members of Congress questioned the validity of the probe.

"The Honda Accord is not a threat to our national security," said Rep. Jeb Hensarling, R-Texas, hours after joining Trump for a bill signing at the White House. But he added that "taxing it with trade tariffs is a threat to the economic security of millions of hard-working American families."

Stephen Moore, a former Trump campaign adviser and visiting fellow at The Heritage Foundation, said Trump remains focused on how the trade policies affect the financial markets and economic growth. But he expects the president to continue to press for a better deal with China.

"As a long-term strategy, I don't see him backing down in his demands on China," Moore said.

The trade talks with China have come against the backdrop of Trump's efforts to hold a June summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, which the president said Friday could get back on track after he nixed it a day earlier. His attempts to push Kim toward denuclearization have required the cooperation of China, something the president acknowledged to reporters earlier in the week.

The president said alongside South Korean President Moon Jae-in, prior to this week's uncertainty over the Singapore summit, that he has a "much bigger picture" in mind as he considers China trade, a reminder that his trade policies are no longer a matter of campaign rhetoric.

"I'm also thinking about what they're doing to help us with peace with North Korea. That's a very important element," Trump said. "So we'll see how it all works out. But in the end, it will work out. Can't tell you exactly how or why, but it always does."

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AP Congressional Correspondent Lisa Mascaro contributed to this report.

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On Twitter follow Ken Thomas at <https://twitter.com/KThomasDC>

## Warriors reach 4th straight NBA Finals with win over Houston

By KRISTIE RIEKEN, AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Stephen Curry and Golden State turned all those Houston bricks into a road back to the NBA Finals.

Needing not only all their firepower but also 27 straight misses by the Rockets during an epic cold streak from 3-point range, the Warriors rallied to keep alive their hopes for a repeat.

Kevin Durant scored 34 points, Curry sparked another third-quarter turnaround, and the Warriors earned a fourth straight trip to the NBA Finals by beating the Rockets 101-92 in Game 7 of the Western Conference finals on Monday night.

The defending champions trailed by as many as 15 in the first half after falling behind 17 in Game 6.

"We know we can make an 11-point lead evaporate with two minutes of good basketball," Klay Thomp-

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son said.

Curry, who finished with 27 points, scored 14 of Golden State's 33 points in the third quarter as Houston's shooting didn't just go cold, it froze. The Rockets missed all 14 3-point attempts in that quarter as part of a 1-for-21 second half from long range.

Curry said someone asked him after the victory if it's still special to get to the finals when it's the fourth time in a row.

"Yes," he said, "because it's really hard."

The Warriors will host LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers in Game 1 on Thursday night in the fourth straight matchup between the teams.

James Harden had 32 points as the top-seeded Rockets' bid to return to the finals for the first time since 1995 fell short without Chris Paul, who was nursing a hamstring injury.

"We just didn't have that extra juice that we needed," Harden said.

The Rockets fell apart in the second half again after doing so in Game 6. The Warriors outscored Houston 122-63 in the second half of the final two games.

"It's amazing how long the NBA game is," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "Forty-eight minutes, it lasts a long time and there's so many opportunities to get yourself going as a team. And with our team, there's just so much firepower that at some point, we're going to get going."

The Rockets finished 7 of 44 on 3-pointers, with Trevor Ariza missing all nine of his attempts, Eric Gordon going 2 for 12 and Harden making just 2 of 13.

Houston was behind by 13 after a 3 by Curry and had missed 27 straight 3-pointers when P.J. Tucker hit one from the corner to cut the lead to 89-79 midway through the quarter.

It was their first 3-pointer since one by Gordon with about 6 1/2 minutes left in the second quarter that put the Rockets up 42-28 during a woeful Warriors start.

"We were lucky to escape out of here," Kerr said.

Tucker's 3 was the first of seven straight points for Houston which cut the lead to 89-83.

But Durant scored six points in a 9-2 spurt after that which left the Warriors 97-85 with about three minutes to go.

Houston finally found a little offense after that, using a 7-2 run to cut it to 99-92, but their rally bid came up short.

Thompson added 19 for Golden State after scoring 35 in the Game 6 win and the Warriors got a fourth straight start from Kevon Looney with Andre Iguodala sitting out again with a bone bruise on his left leg.

After being down by 10 at halftime of Game 6, the Warriors trailed by 11 entering the third quarter on Monday night. Golden State opened the third quarter with a 10-4 run to cut the lead to 58-53 after a 3-pointer by Nick Young with about eight minutes left in the quarter.

Tucker made one of two free throws and the teams exchanged layups before Golden State scored nine straight points, with two 3s from Curry, to take a 64-61 lead.

Harden made two free throws before Curry scored eight points in a row, highlighted by a 3-pointer which bounced high off the rim before falling back in, to make it 72-63 with just over two minutes left in the quarter.

Golden State scored 33 points in the third quarter for the second straight game while Houston managed just 15 points on Monday night after it scored 16 in the third in Game 6.

TIP-INS

Warriors: Curry went to the locker room with trainers between the first and second quarters, but returned to the bench with about 10 minutes remaining in the second quarter and soon returned to the game. ... Thompson picked up his third foul with about 8 1/2 minutes left in the first quarter and sat out most of the period. ... Draymond Green had 10 points, 13 rebounds and five assists.

Rockets: Houston fell to 6-5 all-time in Game 7s and 4-2 at home. ... Capela finished with 20 points and 12 rebounds. ... Tucker had 14 points and 12 rebounds.

PUSHING EACH OTHER

Green and Durant were barking at each other several times during the game when things weren't going

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well for the Warriors.

"I was cussing him out," Green said. "He was cussing me out when I was wrong. I was cussing at him out when he was wrong. But that's what we do. I am the guy who calls him out and he is the guy who calls me out. It's great. You have to have that on your team. To know that you've got guys in your corner means a lot."

UP NEXT

The Warriors host Game 1 of the finals on Thursday and Game 2 on Sunday.

## 6 of a kind: Golden Knights outlast Caps 6-4 in Final opener

By GREG BEACHAM, AP Sports Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — In a single nine-minute stretch of the third period, the Washington Capitals dramatically took the lead before the Vegas Golden Knights replied with two goals of their own. Washington's Tom Wilson also flattened Vegas forward Jonathan Marchessault with a blindside hit that could reverberate through the Stanley Cup Final.

After 10 goals and a Final-record four lead changes overall in a fantastically entertaining opener, it's tough to imagine what these unlikely opponents will do for an encore.

But the upstart Golden Knights have spent their entire inaugural season speeding past all expectations, and their first Final game didn't slow them down in the slightest.

Tomas Nosek scored the tiebreaking goal midway through the third period, and the expansion Golden Knights surged past the Capitals for a 6-4 victory on Monday night.

"We put fun ahead of everything, and you can tell," said Ryan Reaves, who scored the Knights' tying goal in the third period. "Guys have are having fun and they're smiling."

The Eastern Conference champion Capitals hadn't given up this many goals in 29 games since March 18, but they hadn't seen anything like this charmed run by the upstart Knights. With its sellout crowd of hometown fans at deafening volume all night, Vegas put its usual speed and relentlessness on full display while overcoming that third-period deficit to win the opener of a matchup between two franchises seeking their first Stanley Cup titles.

Marc-Andre Fleury made 24 saves in an occasionally shaky performance, but the three-time Stanley Cup winner's new teammates carried the goalie who has so often carried them with a relentless outburst of offense.

"We're a good defensive group, but we weren't tonight," Marchessault said. "They're a team that's very fast in the neutral zone, and we gave them too much respect with the puck. We need to be faster in the defensive zone. We're going to fix that in our game."

The Game 1 winner has won the last six Cups and 61 of 78 overall.

Braden Holtby stopped 28 shots for the Capitals, whose first Stanley Cup Final game in 20 years was a defensive nightmare. Washington still played a strong offensive game and had chances to win, but never slowed the Knights.

"I think next game is going to be different, and all the nervousness, all the bad thing goes away in this game," said captain Alex Ovechkin, who had an assist. "We just have to forget about it and bounce back (in the) next one."

Wilson got credit for the goal that put the Caps up 4-3 early in the third period when Fleury back-heeled a loose puck into his own net, but Reaves evened it 91 seconds later for Vegas.

Nosek then put the Knights ahead after Shea Theodore kept the puck in Washington's zone, sidestepped a defender and fired a beautiful cross-ice pass to the Czech forward, who buried a one-timer for his second goal of the playoffs.

Colin Miller, William Karlsson and Reilly Smith scored early goals before Nosek added an empty-netter for the Knights, who are three wins away from one of the most improbable championships in recent North American team sports history. Just 342 days after the Knights selected the backbone of their first roster

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in the expansion draft, Vegas had another party on the Strip with its remarkable collection of castoffs.

Brett Connolly, Nicklas Backstrom and John Carlson also scored for Washington, but its biggest stars didn't match the Knights' outburst. Along with Ovechkin's quiet night, Evgeny Kuznetsov — who scored a whopping 24 points in the first three rounds — also had just one assist.

The Golden Knights' playoff pregame shows have been a celebration of Vegas showmanship, and their first Final game started with an extravaganza that included archers, a trebuchet and a spectacular light show.

And then the Knights and Caps put on a high-energy production of their own with plenty of fireworks and drama.

With none of the customary caution or high-pressure effects often shown by teams and players in their first game on the NHL's biggest stage, Vegas and Washington jumped right into an up-tempo thriller. Vegas had outscored its opponents 10-0 in the first period at home during the playoffs, but the Caps got two goals.

After Miller scored the Knights' first goal on a power play and ended Holtby's scoreless streak at nearly 167 minutes, Washington calmly surged ahead later in the first period with goals 42 seconds apart.

The wild scoring continued in the third with an own-goal by Fleury, who lost track of a rebound and kicked it backward into his net.

T-Mobile Arena was only quiet for a few seconds before the tying goal from Reaves, who cross-checked Carlson to the ice an instant before the puck unexpectedly bounced to him for an uncontested shot.

Reaves didn't score at all in his first 26 games after joining the Knights in a trade, but the rough-and-tumble forward broke through with the winning goal in the Western Conference finals clincher against Winnipeg.

Wilson delivered his crushing open-ice hit moments later to Marchessault, who was shaken up on the play. The Golden Knights uniformly criticized it as a late hit, while the rambunctious Wilson defended himself.

"I haven't obviously slowed it down and looked at it, but I think he'd probably say he shouldn't have admired his pass, and I'm just finishing my check," Wilson said.

"I think the league is going to take care of it," Marchessault said. "I never see him coming. Puck is away for a couple seconds for sure. But whatever. He's a guy who plays hard, throws big hits out there."

NOTES: Vegas is aiming to be the first franchise in a major North American professional league to win a title in its first season since the 1950 Cleveland Browns, who entered the NFL as a fully formed team after four seasons in the AAFC. ... Vegas D Deryk Engelland had two assists after going scoreless in the first 15 playoff games. ... Vegas improved to 11-1 in the postseason when scoring first.

More Stanley Cup coverage: <https://apnews.com/tag/StanleyCupFinals>

## China approves 13 new Ivanka Trump trademarks in 3 months

By ERIKA KINETZ, Associated Press

SHANGHAI (AP) — Ivanka Trump's brand continues to win foreign trademarks in China and the Philippines, adding to questions about conflicts of interest at the White House, The Associated Press has found.

On Sunday, China granted the first daughter's company final approval for its 13th trademark in the last three months, trademark office records show. Over the same period, the Chinese government has granted Ivanka Trump's company provisional approval for another eight trademarks, which can be finalized if no objections are raised during a three-month comment period.

Taken together, the trademarks could allow her brand to market a lifetime's worth of products in China, from baby blankets to coffins, and a host of things in between, including perfume, makeup, bowls, mirrors, furniture, books, coffee, chocolate and honey. Ivanka Trump stepped back from management of her brand and placed its assets in a family-run trust, but she continues to profit from the business.

"Ivanka Trump's refusal to divest from her business is especially troubling as the Ivanka brand continues to expand its business in foreign countries," Noah Bookbinder, executive director of Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, said in an email Monday. "It raises significant questions about corruption, as it

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invites the possibility that she could be benefiting financially from her position and her father's presidency or that she could be influenced in her policy work by countries' treatment of her business."

As Ivanka Trump and her father have built their global brands, largely through licensing deals, they have pursued trademarks in dozens of countries. Those global trademarks have drawn the attention of ethics lawyers because they are granted by foreign governments and can confer enormous value. Concerns about political influence have been especially sharp in China, where the courts and bureaucracy are designed to reflect the will of the ruling Communist Party.

Chinese officials have emphasized that all trademark applications are handled in accordance with the law. "The brand has filed, updated, and rigorously protected its international trademarks over the past several years in the normal course of business, especially in regions where trademark infringement is rampant," Abigail Klem, president of Ivanka Trump's brand, said in an email. "We have recently seen a surge in trademark filings by unrelated third parties trying to capitalize on the name and it is our responsibility to diligently protect our trademark."

More approvals are likely to come. Online records from China's trademark office indicate that Ivanka Trump's company last applied for trademarks — 17 of them — on March 28, 2017, the day before she took on a formal role at the White House. Those records on Monday showed at least 25 Ivanka Trump trademarks pending review, 36 active marks and eight with provisional approval.

The World Intellectual Property Organization's brand database also shows that her company, Ivanka Trump Marks LLC, won three trademarks in the Philippines after her father took office. Two of them that cover clothing, including lingerie and baby clothes, were filed on Feb. 8, 2017, and registered in June and November. The third, filed on March 1, 2017, covers clothing and footwear and was registered in July.

Companies register for trademarks for a variety of reasons. They can be a sign of corporate ambition, but in many countries, like China, where trademark squatting is rampant, companies also file defensively, to block copycats from grabbing legal rights to a brand's name. Trademarks are classified by category and may include items that a company does not intend to market. Some trademark lawyers also advise clients to register trademarks for merchandise that is manufactured in China, even if it's not sold there.

Ivanka Trump does not have a large retail presence in China, but customs records show that the bulk of her company's U.S. imports are shipped from China.

The brand's secretive Chinese supply chains have been the subject of some controversy. A year ago Monday, three men working for China Labor Watch, a New York-based non-profit group, were arrested while investigating labor abuses at Ivanka Trump suppliers in China. After thirty days in detention, they were released on bail, but continue to live under police surveillance.

Li Qiang, the group's founder, said Monday that he hopes bail will be lifted soon and that the case will not go to trial.

Police in Ganzhou, the southeastern Chinese city where the men were detained, could not be reached for comment. The Chinese law firm that handles Ivanka Trump's intellectual property in China also did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

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Associated Press researcher Fu Ting contributed to this story from Shanghai.  
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## Looming Italian election seen as plebiscite on EU and euro

By **FRANCES D'EMILIO**, Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Italian populists vowed Monday to convert voter anger over their thwarted bid to govern for the first time into a kind of plebiscite on the European Union, financial markets and eurozone membership as the country found itself propelled to fresh elections as soon as late summer.

Amid the political turmoil, Carlo Cottarelli, an economist with International Monetary Fund experience, was asked by the Italian president to assemble a technocrat government to take the country to elections.

With weeks of political uncertainty taking a toll on Italy's bond and stock markets, Premier-designate

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Cottarelli said the return to the polls could come as early as after the August vacation break or, at the latest, at the start of 2019.

Only five days ago, another premier-designate, political novice Giuseppe Conte, stood in the same spot in the Quirinal presidential palace and declared he would work to create a "government of change" in what would have been Italy's — and western Europe's — first populist government.

That dream deflated dramatically Sunday night when President Sergio Mattarella refused to submit to populist demands that he approve their proposed economy minister, who in the past has recommended having a "Plan B" to exit the eurozone if EU strictures become too tight for Italy.

"This isn't democracy, this isn't respect for the popular vote," railed Matteo Salvini, a firebrand populist whose right-wing League was one of the anti-EU parties foiled by Mattarella. "It's just the last gasp of the strong powers who want Italy as a frightened, precarious slave."

"The next elections will be a plebiscite: the people and real life versus the old castes and the 'Lords of the Spread,'" Salvini said, referring to financial speculators.

Milan-based economist Nicola Nobile said it appeared that the upcoming election could shape up as a "de facto referendum on Italian membership in the eurozone."

Sharing Salvini's anger was 5-Star Movement leader Luigi Di Maio, the populist who had hoped to govern with Salvini.

Di Maio repeatedly called for Mattarella's impeachment for vetoing their pick for economy minister.

He also urged those angry like him to rally in Rome on Saturday. The gathering, likely to double as a campaign rally, coincides with a national holiday celebrating the Republic and features a military parade and VIP reviewing stands in the heart of the capital.

Opposition Democrats contended that the populists, by calling the rally, wanted to stage the equivalent of the 1922 March on Rome that paved the way for Benito Mussolini's ascension to power and his Fascist regime.

"The campaign that's being prepared will be frightening," wrote La Stampa political commentator Marcello Sorgi.

The commentator predicted the impeachment threat against the president "who only was defending his institutional role and the Constitution is only a taste of what will come."

When Italians voted March 4, the result was a Parliament with no clear-cut majority. As weeks passed without a government, Mattarella warned he would reluctantly appoint a nonpolitical Cabinet to take the country to fresh elections if a viable coalition could not be forged.

Cottarelli pledged that his government would uphold Italy's "essential" role in both the EU and in the eurozone. And he promised "prudent management of our public accounts."

But markets have remained on edge, with the prospect of anti-euro political sentiment suddenly gaining traction in Italy and Cottarelli's own tenure seen as limited, with another election approaching.

The government's benchmark borrowing rate increased further, the Milan stock market slipped and the euro weakened against the dollar.

Cottarelli, who earned the nickname "Mr. Scissors" with his reputation for finding fat to trim in public spending, said elections could come as soon as "after August" if his Cabinet fails to get the required confidence votes in both chambers of Parliament.

The numbers aren't on his side. Immediately giving him a thumbs-down were the 5-Stars and the League, whose lawmakers together have the votes to sink his government.

Also vowing to vote against Cottarelli were two of Salvini's campaign alliance partners: Forza Italia, the center-right party of former Premier Silvio Berlusconi and a smaller far-right party.

Instead, the populists were already looking to a new attempt to gain power.

Political analyst Massimo Franco said Salvini's attempt to force Mattarella's hand over the ministry appointment appeared to be a "provocation" aimed not at forming a populist government but to "possibly make it fail before it started."

That way, Salvini, whose League has made stunning gains in recent regional elections, could try for a

stronger mandate to govern after new elections.

For his northern base, which traditionally is suspicious of the centralized powers in Rome, Salvini, whom *Corriere della Sera* described as the "undisputed master of public indignation," is likely seen as a hero for refusing to back down from Mattarella.

Di Maio has decreed that 5-Star lawmakers can't serve more than two terms to avoid becoming part of the political "caste." If he applies that to himself, he would be ineligible to run.

But he already broke a big promise to his web-based constituency when he agreed to forge a coalition with Salvini's League. He ran for premier in March with the pledge the Movement would never enter a coalition government.

Waiting in the wings is a more hard-line Movement leader, Alessandro Di Battista, who sat out the March election. That means he's ripe for a run for office and is considered less likely to compromise with those outside the populist fold.

Trisha Thomas contributed to this report.

Frances D'Emilio is on twitter at [www.twitter.com/fdemilio](http://www.twitter.com/fdemilio)

## France: Macron rewards migrant hero who saved dangling child

By SYLVIE CORBET and ELAINE GANLEY, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — President Emmanuel Macron on Monday lauded as a hero a migrant from Mali who scaled an apartment building to save a child dangling from a balcony, and rewarded the young man's bravery with an offer of French citizenship and a job as a firefighter.

"Bravo," Macron said to 22-year-old Mamoudou Gassama during a meeting in a gilded room of the presidential Elysee Palace where Gassama also received a gold medal from the French state for "courage and devotion."

Gassama climbed five stories up the apartment building, moving from balcony to balcony, and whisked a 4-year-old boy to safety on Saturday night as a crowd below screamed. His actions went viral on social media, where he was dubbed "Spiderman"

Gassama said he has authorization to stay legally in Italy, which is where he landed in Europe in 2014 after a more than a year in Libya and a trip across the Mediterranean Sea. He came to France in September to join his older brother, who has lived in France for decades.

Dressed in tattered blue jeans and white shirt, the young man recounted for the president what took place after he and some friends saw a young child hanging from a fifth-floor balcony.

"I ran. I crossed the street to save him," Gassama told Macron. He said he didn't think twice. "When I started to climb, it gave me courage to keep climbing."

God "helped me," too, he said. "Thank God I saved him."

Gassama said he trembled with fear only after he had reached the boy, gotten him safely back over the balcony railing and taken him inside the apartment.

The father of the child was detained overnight for alleged parental neglect, and is to appear in court in September. He left the child alone while he shopped, then lingered to play *Pokemon Go*, Prosecutor Francois Molins told BFM-TV. The whereabouts of the child's mother were unclear.

"You saved a child. Without you, no one knows what would have become of him," the president said. "You need courage and the capability to do that."

Macron offered to begin the naturalization process to make Gassama a French citizen and said, "Because this is an exceptional act ... we are obviously, today, going to regularize all your papers."

Macron is behind a bill toughening French immigration law, and he stressed there is no contradiction between rewarding Gassama for his act of bravery and working to prevent migrants from entering France illegally by stopping the stream of arrivals at its source.

"An exceptional act does not make policy," he told reporters later, vowing to maintain a policy that is

"exigent, respectful of our principles" on asylum and "rigorous" regarding the migratory flux.

The special treatment for Gassama comes as authorities prepare to evacuate some 2,400 migrants from makeshift encampments in the French capital. The forced closure of the encampments is the subject of a heated debate between the Paris mayor, who wants to ensure the uprooted will be sheltered, and Interior Minister Gerard Collomb, who was present Monday at the Elysee.

Gassama told Macron he was arrested and beaten during his long rough stay in Libya, "but I wasn't discouraged."

The French president said Gassama's actions made him deserving of special treatment. Working as a firefighter corresponds with his skills, said Macron, who opened the door for him to do just that.

"You have become an example because millions have seen you" on social media, the president said.

Another Malien, Lassana Bathily, was given French citizenship in January 2015, shortly after he saved lives by hiding people in a freezer and alerting police during a terror attack on a Jewish grocery where he worked.

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An earlier version of this story corrected the 9th paragraph to use naturalization, instead of nationalization.

## Rescuers seek 1 man still missing after Maryland flash flood

By DAVID McFADDEN, Associated Press

ELLICOTT CITY, Md. (AP) — A man remained missing Monday after flash flooding tore down a historic main street in a picturesque Maryland town and left a community heartbroken at seeing more devastation less than two years after rebuilding from another massive flood.

The missing man — 39-year-old Eddison Hermond of Severn, Maryland — was last seen trying to help a woman rescue her cat behind a restaurant while churning, brown waters ripped through Ellicott City's flood-prone downtown.

Howard County Police Chief Gary Gardner said the missing National Guard member and U.S. Air Force veteran had been with a group at the La Palapa Grill & Cantina. He said Hermond was trying to help others by holding a door open as brown floodwaters coursed through the restaurant when a woman approached, desperately trying to rescue her pet just outside.

"He, along with some other folks, went back to assist her and unfortunately during that effort they saw him go under and water and not surface," Gardner told reporters, adding that the others made it out of the area safely.

Simon Cortes, who owns the restaurant, described Hermond as "a super nice guy," who was frequently out in the community showing support when it worked to rebuild from the devastating flooding that ravaged the former mill town in July 2016.

Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman said that his immediate priorities are finding the missing man and assessing the condition of damaged buildings that housed shops, restaurants and families.

For now, the Main Street area remained blocked off Monday, even to residents and business owners, as teams of authorities and engineers surveyed the heartbreaking mess.

"If you look at the devastation and the damage, I would certainly say it's worse than 2016," Kittleman said. "We've had areas that were not even damaged at all two years ago terribly damaged this time."

Ellicott City certainly got the worst of it. But torrential rains led to such bad flooding in Baltimore County, Baltimore City and the capital of Annapolis that Gov. Larry Hogan on Sunday declared a state of emergency statewide in order to better coordinate support and assistance.

With floodwaters receded Monday, revealing the damage in Ellicott City, residents and business owners could see the scope of the next challenge ahead of them: They face another mammoth cleanup and another daunting comeback.

Local resident Nathan Sowers, owner of the River House Pizza Co., an outdoor eatery in the old mill town's business district, said that after all the hard work rebuilding from the destructive 2016 flood he's feeling a bit overwhelmed at the prospect of tackling yet another revival.



Asked whether he's committed to building back anew he said: "We'll see. It takes a lot of money and a lot of time."

But Sowers also said he saw other hard-hit locals laughing and joking about their troubles Monday morning — a good sign the Maryland town will launch yet another rebirth from raging floodwaters.

Sunday's dramatic flooding tore up streets and swept away dozens of parked cars in the city, which sits in a ravine on the west bank of the Patapsco River, about 13 miles (20 kilometers) west of Baltimore.

Mike Muccilli, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Sterling, Virginia, has said it was too early to make comparisons between the two floods. But he said both were devastating. In the July 2016 storm, Ellicott City received 6.6 inches (17 centimeters) of rain over a two- to three-hour period. On Sunday, the community received some 8 inches (20.32 centimeters) of rain over a six-hour period, but most of it fell during an intense, three-hour period, Muccilli said.

"In a normal heavy rain event, you wouldn't see this amount of flooding, where you see cars floating down the road," Muccilli said. "This was a true flash flood."

During the flood a handmade, white flag hung from an upper story of a Main Street building bearing the letters SOS.

"If you are trapped, we are coming," the Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services tweeted at one point.

Ellicott City has been methodically rebuilding since the 2016 flooding damaged and destroyed businesses. Local officials recently said 96 percent of the businesses were back in operation and more than 20 new businesses had again opened in the Main Street area. Just two weeks ago, Hogan announced that the Federal Emergency Management Agency had awarded the state and county more than \$1 million to pay for projects aimed at reducing the flood risk in areas around Main Street.

Some are already asking whether enough was done after the last flood to prevent a similar catastrophe. Hogan said temporary improvements were in place and more things were in the works to reduce the community's vulnerabilities. But he said big changes take time, and no one expected such a huge flood so soon after 2016.

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Associated Press writer Brian Witte contributed from Annapolis, Md.

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## Dismayed Colombians weigh uneasy options in runoff race

By **CHRISTINE ARMARIO, Associated Press**

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — It was the outcome millions of Colombians had hoped to avoid: A bitter runoff between two presidential candidates whose polarizing viewpoints once again leave the nation divided.

In order to win in June, both conservative former senator Ivan Duque and one-time guerrilla leftist Gustavo Petro will need to sway many of the more than 6 million voters who lie somewhere in the middle and are appalled at the idea of voting for either contender.

The vast majority of those centrist votes went to ex-Medellin mayor Sergio Fajardo, who has yet to endorse either candidate, and it remains to be seen where the largely urban, middle class voters who flocked toward his campaign might gravitate.

Some vowed Monday to leave their vote blank when they enter the ballot box in three weeks for the June runoff. Others said they would hold their noses and vote for Duque, too fearful Petro will transform Colombia into another Venezuela. Still others quickly shifted their allegiances left, vowing to support Petro in order to ensure the nation's peace deal with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, known by the Spanish acronym FARC, remains intact.

"Do we really have to choose between Gustavito and Ivancito?" an incredulous Paola Ochoa asked in her El Tiempo newspaper column Monday as the dust from a nail-biting election day began to settle. "Between a future with the FARC in the senate or the FARC firing rounds again in the Colombian countryside?"

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The vote is the first presidential contest since the signing of the 2016 accord to end more than five decades of conflict between the state, leftist rebels and paramilitary groups. The rebels have disarmed and begun transitioning to civilian life, but the accord remains polemic and polls show most Colombians think its implementation is going poorly. Despite the deal, more than 1,000 FARC dissidents are still waging war in remote territories where the state has little presence. Eleven were killed in a clash with the military Monday.

Many Colombians believe the generous terms of the peace accord allowing most guerrillas to avoid any jail time should be changed.

Duque is promising to do just that, telling supporters in his victory speech Sunday night that Colombia needs "peace with justice." He's pledging to introduce a measure in congress that would ensure drug trafficking is not an amnestied crime. He also doesn't believe FARC leaders should be allowed to hold political office without having confessed their crimes and made reparations.

"If we don't have that, the peace will never be lasting," he said.

His criticism of the peace process echoes the refrains of his mentor, powerful former President Alvaro Uribe, who singlehandedly buoyed Duque into frontrunner status with his support. Though still incredibly popular in Colombia, Uribe is polemic. He presided over the government during a time in which the Colombian military committed grave human rights violations.

Some Fajardo supporters said they feared a vote for Duque would be little more than an illegal third term for Uribe.

Petro supports the peace accord, just one of an array of hot-button topics that the two disagree on, and perhaps among the least discussed in the run-up to the first round of the election. Instead, Petro has galvanized supporters with an anti-establishment message pledging to root out corruption and lift millions into the middle class. He wants to overhaul the nation's economic model and drastically increase taxes on unproductive lands. Owners would sell the property to the state, which would then distribute the land to peasants.

His polarizing rhetoric — frequently pitting the Colombian "oligarchy" against the working class — has frightened some voters who worry he'll move the nation toward a socialist model. Critics also highlight his early ties and admiration for the late Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez. Petro says those accusations are unfounded.

"He's Chavez a la Colombian," said Andres Felipe Rojas, adding that he will be voting for Duque. "Better the devil you know than the devil you don't."

With 39 percent of the more than 19 million votes cast, Duque has the numerical advantage going forward. Petro won 25 percent, edging out Fajardo by less than two points.

Delegates with the Fajardo campaign were keeping their cards close to their chests Monday, refusing to reveal who they might endorse, though speculation ran rampant.

Antonio Navarro Wolff, a politician and former rebel with the M-19 movement Petro joined as a teen, himself supported Fajardo in the first-round, saying at the time that he'd chosen the former mayor because he was "moderate, serious and has experience."

"There's less resistance against him," he said of Fajardo.

Now that his first pick is out of the running, he declined to say whether his vote would go toward Petro, as many expect. But he said he would definitely be casting a ballot.

"If you don't win, you still have to participate," he said.

Fajardo, a mathematician credited with transforming Medellin from a hotbed of crime to a growing tourist destination, himself dodged questions Monday on which candidate he might endorse. He told the host of a local radio show that while he'd won nearly 4.6 million votes that could prove consequential in the runoff election, he doesn't consider himself Colombia's new kingmaker.

"It would be disrespectful to say I'm the owner of those votes," he said.

## **US team in NKorea raises expectations of a Trump-Kim summit** **By CATHERINE LUCEY, MATTHEW LEE, HYUNG-JIN KIM and FOSTER KLUG, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. officials worked with North Korea over the weekend on plans for the on-off-on meeting between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, as Trump signaled increasing optimism for the sit-down.

Trump tweeted Sunday that a U.S. team was in North Korea to work on the possible summit. Another delegation was in Singapore to discuss logistics. On Monday, the White House said Trump had spoken with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe about the North Korea efforts, adding that the two planned to get together to coordinate strategy for the “expected meeting” with Kim.

Trump withdrew from the planned June 12 summit in Singapore last Thursday, but quickly announced it could still happen. The president’s Sunday tweet offered praise for the longtime U.S. adversary, another signal that his concerns about the North’s stance toward the summit had been allayed.

“I truly believe North Korea has brilliant potential and will be a great economic and financial Nation one day. Kim Jong Un agrees with me on this. It will happen!” Trump tweeted.

The White House did not say when Trump would meet with Abe. Both leaders are expected to attend the Group of Seven summit in Quebec, Canada, on June 8-9.

Both the State Department and South Korea’s Foreign Ministry said the American and North Korean officials have been engaged in talks at the Korean village of Panmunjom, which straddles the border inside the Demilitarized Zone, or DMZ. The border can be crossed simply by stepping across a painted line, but moving beyond several footsteps into the North at Panmunjom would be rare for U.S. officials.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in gave details about his surprise meeting Saturday with Kim in Panmunjom, saying Kim had committed to sitting down with Trump and to a “complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.”

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo tapped veteran American diplomat Sung Kim, the U.S. ambassador to the Philippines, to handle pre-summit negotiations. On a separate but complementary track was the CIA team Pompeo set up last year when he headed the spy agency. And on a third track was a White House logistical group sent to Singapore on Sunday to prepare in case the summit takes place. It was led by Joe Hagin, White House deputy chief of staff for operations.

The Korean leaders’ second summit in a month saw bear hugs and broad smiles. But their quickly arranged meeting appeared to highlight a sense of urgency on both sides of the world’s most heavily armed border.

The talks, which Moon said Kim requested, capped a whirlwind 24 hours of diplomatic back and forth. They allowed Moon to push for a U.S.-North Korean summit, which he sees as the best way to ease the animosity that had some fearing a war last year.

Kim may see a meeting with Trump as necessary to easing pressure from crushing sanctions and to winning security assurances in a region surrounded by enemies.

Moon told reporters that Kim said he’s willing to cooperate to end confrontation and work toward peace for the sake of the successful summit with Trump.

Moon said he told Kim that Trump has a “firm resolve” to end hostile relations with North Korea and initiate economic cooperation if Kim implements “complete denuclearization.”

“What Kim is unclear about is that he has concerns about whether his country can surely trust the United States over its promise to end hostile relations (with North Korea) and provide a security guarantee if they do denuclearization,” Moon said.

“During the South Korea-U.S. summit, President Trump said the U.S. is willing to clearly put an end to hostile relations (between the U.S. and North Korea) and help (the North) achieve economic prosperity if North Korea conducts denuclearization,” he said.

Kim, in a dispatch issued by the North’s state-run news service earlier Sunday, “expressed his fixed will” on a North Korea-U.S. summit.

During Saturday’s inter-Korean summit, the Korean leaders agreed to “positively cooperate with each

other as ever to improve (North Korea)-U.S. relations and establish (a) mechanism for permanent and durable peace.”

They agreed to have their top officials meet again June 1. Moon said military generals and Red Cross officials from the Koreas will also meet separately to discuss how to ease military tensions and resume reunions of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War.

## Teacher who stopped attack says he had to save students

By KEN KUSMER, Associated Press

NOBLESVILLE, Ind. (AP) — A suburban Indianapolis teacher who was shot while tackling and disarming a student inside his classroom said Monday that his swift decisions “were the only acceptable actions” to save his seventh-grade students.

Jason Seaman, speaking publicly for the first time since the shooting Friday, thanked the Noblesville community for its support and stressed that he wanted the focus to be on the other person shot during the incident: 13-year-old student Ella Whistler, who was seriously wounded.

“Her courage and strength at such a young age is nothing short of remarkable,” Seaman said during a news conference at the school district’s administrative building. “We all should continue to keep her in our minds as she continues to recover.”

School officials said Monday that Ella was improving and making progress while recovering at an Indianapolis hospital. Her family has said she was in critical but stable condition following the shooting, though no other details about her injuries have been released.

Seaman is credited with stopping an armed student who entered his classroom at Noblesville West Middle School. Witnesses said the 29-year-old former college football player ran toward bullets as he tackled the student. Seaman was shot three times, according to his brother.

“I want to make it clear that my actions on that day, in my mind, were the only acceptable actions I could have done given the circumstances,” Seaman said Monday. “I deeply care for my students and their well-being. That is why I did what I did that day.”

Seaman, who was released from the hospital Saturday, didn’t appear to show any pain or other sign of his injuries during the news conference. He spoke for just a few minutes and declined to answer questions from reporters.

He wore a white T-shirt emblazoned with the message: “#NOBStrong. You are the reason I teach.” His shirt also showed the wounded student’s initials, EW.

Police have said the shooter was quickly arrested following the shooting and didn’t appear to be injured. His name hasn’t been released.

“We’re so grateful for Jason’s quick and brave actions,” Noblesville Schools Superintendent Beth Niedermeyer said during the news conference. “He put his own life in danger for his students. That alone tells you about his character and his big heart.”

A school nurse and a school resource officer immediately provided medial attention to the injured, said Noblesville West Middle School Principal Stacey Shaw.

“Jason Seaman is a hero, no doubt. But he is only one of the heroes I saw on this day,” Shaw said.

After the news conference, Seaman attended a Noblesville High School baseball game, high-fiving students, including many who cried when they saw him for the first time since the shooting.

An online fundraiser for Seaman started by a high school student totaled more than \$72,000 by midday Monday, surpassing the original goal of \$55,000. Donations ranged from \$10 to more than \$3,000.

“We endured a horrific and senseless tragedy,” Niedermeyer said, adding that support coming in from across the country has been a “source of strength and beauty during this ugly tragedy.”

The school district will provide counseling throughout the summer and into next school year, Niedermeyer said. The middle school was scheduled to remain closed Tuesday to provide counseling for students, staff and their families.

The Noblesville Police Department said it will have officers at every Noblesville school this week “to offer

some reassurance that we are doing as much as we can to put them at ease as they finish the school year.”

Associated Press reporter Ed White in Detroit contributed to this report.

## On ‘sacred soil,’ Trump lauds those who’ve fallen in service

By CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP) — President Donald Trump paid a Memorial Day tribute at Arlington National Cemetery on Monday, saying he came to “sacred soil” to “honor the lives and deeds of America’s greatest heroes.”

The commander in chief, speaking before an audience of Cabinet members, military leaders, veterans and families assembled in the marble amphitheater near the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, said, “We mourn alongside their families and we strive to be worthy of their sacrifice.”

Trump’s somber tone contrasted with a self-promotional tweet earlier Monday in which he said fallen soldiers would be “very proud and happy at how well our country is doing today,” citing the economy and low unemployment.

During his second Memorial Day trip to Arlington as president, Trump laid a wreath at the tomb before making his remarks. He recognized military figures, including Bob Dole, the former senator and 1996 Republican presidential nominee, who served in World War II. And he spoke warmly about a number of military families in attendance, including a young boy named Christian Jacobs, whose father is buried at Arlington.

Trump said the boy showed him his father’s grave last year, calling it “a moment I will always remember.”

Before heading to the hallowed grounds across the Potomac River from the nation’s capital, Trump tweeted that “those who died for our great country would be very happy and proud at how well our country is doing today.”

But the president then veered from the somber to the self-congratulatory in the tweet, citing what he said was the “Best economy in decades, lowest unemployment numbers for Blacks and Hispanics EVER (& women in 18years), rebuilding our Military and so much more. Nice!” The president also posted quotes in line with his criticism of the Justice Department and investigations into ties between his winning campaign and Russia.

He was criticized for his tone by a number of people, including a former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the Obama administration, retired Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, who wrote, “This day, of all days of the year, should not be about any one of us.”

Memorial Day messages from first lady Melania Trump and Ivanka Trump, the president’s daughter, struck to a theme of remembrance and thanks.

“As we remember our fallen servicemen and women, our hearts are filled with gratitude for their sacrifice and awe of their courage,” Ivanka Trump tweeted.

And Melania Trump thanked service members and their families for helping safeguard the country. “We honor the many Americans who laid down their lives for our great country. As one nation under God, we come together to remember that freedom isn’t free,” she tweeted.

At Arlington, Trump said the heroes who died for America “rest in these hallowed fields, in cemeteries, battlefields and burial grounds near and far, and are drawn from the full tapestry of American life.”

He said they came from “every generation, from towering cities and wind-swept prairies, from privilege and from poverty. They were generals and privates, captains and corporals of every race, color and of every creed, but they were all brothers and sisters in arms. And they were all united then, as they are united now, forever, by their undying love of our great country.”

Gen. Joseph Dunford, the current chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, honored the more than a million Americans he said “gave their last full measure so we could live in freedom and raise our children in peace.”

He also honored the families “they left behind and for whom every day is Memorial Day.”

Those who fought and died for America, he said, “shared a commitment to something greater than

themselves and they were people who understand what we have in this country is worth fighting for.”

Those who attended the Memorial Day tribute included Trump’s chief of staff, John Kelly, whose son, Marine 2nd Lt. Robert M. Kelly, was killed in November 2010 after he stepped on a land mine while on patrol in southern Afghanistan. He is buried at Arlington.

## **Analysis: North Korea sees US economic handouts as threat**

**By ERIC TALMADGE, Associated Press**

TOKYO (AP) — The U.S.-North Korea summit appears to be back on track, but Pyongyang is showing increased impatience at comments coming out of Washington that what leader Kim Jong Un really wants, even more than his nuclear security blanket, is American-style prosperity.

It’s a core issue for Kim and a message President Donald Trump shouldn’t ignore as they work to nail down their summit next month in Singapore.

Kim is as enthusiastic as Trump to see the summit happen as soon as possible, but the claim that his sudden switch to diplomacy over the past several months shows he is aching for U.S. economic aid and private-sector know-how presents a major problem for the North Korean leader, who can’t be seen as going into the summit with his hat in his hand.

The claim is also quite possibly off target.

North Korea is far more interested in improving trade with China, its economic lifeline, and with South Korea, which it sees as a potential gold mine for tourism and large-scale joint projects. Getting the U.S. to back off sanctions so he can pursue those goals, along with the boost to his legitimacy and whatever security guarantees he can take home, is more likely foremost on Kim’s mind.

Even so, the North’s perceived thirst for U.S. economic aid has consistently been the message coming from Trump and his senior officials. All Kim needs to do, they suggest, is commit to denuclearization and American entrepreneurs will be ready to unleash their miracles on the country’s sad-sack economy.

“I truly believe North Korea has brilliant potential and will be a great economic and financial nation one day,” Trump tweeted Sunday. “Kim Jong Un agrees with me on this.”

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has laid Washington’s road map out in more detail.

“We can create conditions for real economic prosperity for the North Korean people that will rival that of the South,” he said earlier this month in a televised interview. “It won’t be U.S. taxpayers. It will be American know-how, knowledge, entrepreneurs and risk-takers working alongside the North Korean people to create a robust economy for their people.”

Pompeo suggested that Americans help build out the North’s energy grid, develop its infrastructure and deliver the finest agricultural equipment and technology “so they can eat meat and have healthy lives.”

Kim has emphatically not agreed to any of that.

Under Trump’s “maximum pressure” policy, international sanctions on North Korea are stronger than ever. Sanctions relief would open the door for more trade with China, South Korea and possibly Russia — partners North Korea trusts more than it trusts Washington — and potentially unlock access to global financial institutions.

The last thing Kim wants is to give up his nuclear weapons only to have his country overrun with American businessmen and entrepreneurs.

To Pyongyang’s ears, that scenario is less an offer than a threat.

Despite its very real need for foreign investment, Kim’s regime has good reason to be wary of economic aid in general. Opening up to aid inevitably involves some degree of increased contact with potentially disruptive outsiders, calls for change, loosening of controls and restrictions — all of which could be seen as a threat to Kim’s near absolute authority.

North Korea’s message on that has been clear.

Almost as soon as Pompeo started talking about his plan to rebuild North Korea’s economy, Kim Kye Gwan, the North’s first vice foreign minister, shot back that Pyongyang has no interest in that kind of help, saying, “We have never had any expectation of U.S. support in carrying out our economic construction

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and will not at all make such a deal in future, too.”

State media unleashed another attack on the idea Sunday, calling Fox News, CBS and CNN “hack media on the payroll of power” for airing programs that featured U.S. officials talking about how large-scale, nongovernmental economic aid awaits North Korea if it moves toward verifiable and irreversible denuclearization.

The North’s media have been careful not to criticize Trump directly.

But the issue is sensitive enough that the North has also stepped up its response in ideological terms, stressing the superiority of the socialist system and the value of independence, while warning against the underhanded scheming of the “imperialists,” which in North Korea speak is interchangeable with “Americans.”

“It is the calculation of the imperialists that they can attain their aims without firing a single shot if they make the people degenerate and disintegrate ideologically and foment social disorder,” said an editorial Sunday in the ruling party’s newspaper.

The commentary went on to call the capitalist way of life “ideological and cultural poisoning” and concluded, “Unless such poisoning is prevented, it would be impossible to defend independence and socialism and achieve the independent development of each country and nation.”

**EDITOR’S NOTE** — Eric Talmadge has been the AP’s Pyongyang bureau chief since 2013. Follow him on Instagram and Twitter: @EricTalmadge

## Shortage of key Hawaii crop expected after rains swamp farms

By **AUDREY McAVOY, Associated Press**

HONOLULU (AP) — Farmers on the Hawaiian island of Kauai say their state should brace for a shortage of its taro crop, a staple of the traditional Hawaiian diet, after record-breaking rains flooded their fields.

The deluge hit the north shore community of Hanalei particularly hard. The region grows most of Hawaii’s taro, a starchy root vegetable used to make poi. The purple, glutinous dish is a traditional part of Hawaiian cuisine, sold at grocery stores and served in homes and restaurants statewide.

The state’s taro crop was valued at \$2.5 million last year, according to the U.S. Agriculture Department.

Farmers say last month’s floods smothered their taro patches with mud and silt, which turns their crop watery and spongy. They suspect they’ll suffer from dramatically reduced yields for at least a year.

The downpour also destroyed seven Kauai homes and badly damaged 65, the state said in a preliminary assessment. It triggered dozens of landslides, including more than 12 on a 2-mile (3-kilometer) stretch of the area’s main artery, a highway traveling through coastal communities.

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue has designated the entire island a disaster area, which makes local farmers eligible for federal assistance, including emergency loans.

Bino Fitzgerald, owner of the Hanalei Poi Co., which both farms and buys taro to make poi, expects a shortage of the crop to emerge as soon as this summer. The company sells its poi across Hawaii at stores like Costco, Safeway, Walmart and the local supermarket chain Foodland.

“So get your poi fix now,” he said.

Taro is perhaps the most important crop in Hawaiian culture. More than part of a meal, it’s a member of the family: According to legend, the taro plant and the boy who became the first human were born to the same parents. This gives taro and humans common ancestors.

Hanalei’s taro fields are a defining part of the landscape on Kauai’s north shore. They evoke a time when taro farming and fishing dominated island life, before sugar plantations diverted stream water and industrialization encouraged migration to cities.

The mid-April floods sent brown mud and water cascading into these fields.

The muck is packed with nitrogen, so it’s as though a big kick of fertilizer walloped taro patches. It’s nourishing for the taro’s stalk and leaves but makes its corm, or underground bulb, watery and spongy. The Hawaiian term for this is “loliloli.”

The perfect taro is heavy and dense and mashes into smooth poi. Loliloli taro produces lumpy poi.

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Taro also can be cut into cubes and simmered in stews or sliced thin and fried to make a snack similar to potato chips.

Newly planted taro won't be ready for harvest for another year to 14 months. Many farmers are still cleaning their fields and won't be able to replant for months, delaying a robust harvest even further.

The floods also took out some of the irrigation systems that bring a steady flow of fresh water to Hanalei's taro fields, many of which are part of a national wildlife refuge for endangered native water birds.

"Rivers have cut new channels to where they want to flow compared to where they had been before, feeding these old, old irrigation ditches, said Fitzgerald, whose company farms 25 acres and manages another 40 farmed by others. The Hanalei Poi Co. also buys taro from 12 area farmers.

Hanalei Valley frequently floods, but last month's deluge was on another scale. Fitzgerald said his mother's shop has gotten 6 inches (15 centimeters) of water in past storms. This time, it got 5 feet (1.5 meters).

The rain may enter the national record books. Preliminary data taken from a rain gauge in Waipa, next to Hanalei, indicates 49.69 inches (126.21 centimeters) of rain fell in the 24 hours through midday on April 15. If a national panel of experts certifies this number, it will smash the existing record for a single 24-hour period of 43 inches (109.22 centimeters) marked in Alvin, Texas, in 1979.

Lyndsey Haraguchi-Nakayama said damage from the flooding was the worst her family has seen — including her 96-year-old grandfather. It did more harm to their 55-acre farm than Hurricane Iniki, a Category 4 storm that slammed Kauai in 1992.

Newly planted fields are washed out. Older fields that survived are suffocating under silt.

Many of the family's tractors are unusable, and all of their trucks are a loss. Her grandparents' home — a farmhouse occupied by her family for over 100 years — looks like a drunken driver slammed into its walls, she said.

She said she doesn't cry in front of her children because she wants them to know the family will pull through.

"You can't stop a huge flood. You can't stop a hurricane from coming. There will always been challenges in life," Haraguchi-Nakayama said. "I just want them to know it's OK to be devastated, but we're going to be as positive as possible."

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, May 29, the 149th day of 2018. There are 216 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 29, 1953, Mount Everest was conquered as Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and Tensing Norgay of Nepal became the first climbers to reach the summit.

On this date:

In 1453, Constantinople fell to the Ottoman Turks, marking the end of the Byzantine Empire.

In 1660, Britain's King Charles II was restored to the throne on his 30th birthday after nine years in exile.

In 1765, Patrick Henry denounced the Stamp Act before Virginia's House of Burgesses.

In 1790, Rhode Island became the 13th original colony to ratify the United States Constitution.

In 1848, Wisconsin became the 30th state of the union.

In 1917, the 35th president of the United States, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, was born in Brookline, Massachusetts.

In 1932, World War I veterans began arriving in Washington to demand cash bonuses they weren't scheduled to receive until 1945.

In 1943, Norman Rockwell's portrait of "Rosie the Riveter" appeared on the cover of The Saturday Evening Post. (The model for Rockwell's Rosie, Mary Doyle Keefe, died in April 2015 at age 92.)

In 1961, a couple in Paynesville, West Virginia, became the first recipients of food stamps under a pilot program created by President John F. Kennedy.



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In 1977, Janet Guthrie became the first woman to race in the Indianapolis 500, finishing in 29th place (the winner was A.J. Foyt).

In 1988, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev opened their historic summit in Moscow.

In 1998, Republican elder statesman Barry Goldwater died in Paradise Valley, Arizona, at age 89.

Ten years ago: The Vatican issued a decree stating that anyone trying to ordain a woman as a priest and any woman who attempted to receive the ordination would incur automatic excommunication. Actor-comedian Harvey Korman, Emmy winner for "The Carol Burnett Show," died in Los Angeles at age 81.

Five years ago: A U.S. drone strike killed Waliur Rehman (wah-lee-UR' REH'-man), the No. 2 commander of the Pakistani Taliban. Minnesota Congresswoman Michele Bachmann, a conservative firebrand and a favorite of tea party Republicans, said she would not run for another term in the U.S. House. The Rev. Andrew Greeley, 85, an outspoken Roman Catholic priest, best-selling author and longtime newspaper columnist, died in Chicago.

One year ago: In his first Memorial Day remarks as president, Donald Trump expressed the nation's "boundless and undying" gratitude to Americans who had fallen in battle and to the families they left behind, hailing as heroes the hundreds of thousands buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Americans turned out by the thousands to celebrate the life and legacy of President John F. Kennedy on the day he would have turned 100. Manuel Noriega, a onetime U.S. ally who was ousted as Panama's dictator by an American invasion in 1989, died at age 83.

Today's Birthdays: Former Baseball Commissioner Fay Vincent is 80. Motorsports Hall of Famer Al Unser is 79. Actor Kevin Conway is 76. Actor Helmut Berger is 74. Rock singer Gary Brooker (Procol Harum) is 73. Actor Anthony Geary is 71. Actor Cotter Smith is 69. Singer Rebbie (ree-bee) Jackson is 68. Movie composer Danny Elfman is 65. Singer LaToya Jackson is 62. Actor Ted Levine is 61. Actress Annette Bening is 60. Actor Rupert Everett is 59. Actor Adrian Paul is 59. Singer Melissa Etheridge is 57. Actress Lisa Whelchel is 55. Actress Tracey Bregman is 55. Rock musician Noel Gallagher is 51. Singer Jayski McGowan (Quad City DJ's) is 51. Actor Anthony Azizi is 49. Rock musician Chan Kinchla (Blues Traveler) is 49. Actress Laverne Cox is 46. Rock musician Mark Lee (Third Day) is 45. Cartoonist Aaron McGruder ("The Boondocks") is 44. Singer Melanie Brown (Spice Girls) is 43. Rapper Playa Poncho is 43. Latin singer Fonseca is 39. Actor Justin Chon (TV: "Deception"; "Dr. Ken") is 37. NBA player Carmelo Anthony is 34. Actor Billy Flynn is 33. Actor Blake Foster is 33. Actress Riley Keough is 29. Actor Brandon Mychal Smith is 29. Actress Kristen Alderson is 27. Actress Lorelei Linklater is 25.

Thought for Today: "A pessimist and an optimist, so much the worse; so much the better." — Jean de La Fontaine, French poet (1621-1695).